



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

City Manager To Pay His Employee Contribution

The Pleasanton City Council approved a new contract for City Manager Nelson Fialho.

As part of the new contract, Fialho has agreed to pay the employee contribution towards retirement. This amounts to 8 percent of his annual salary, or approximately \$16,000 annually. The city had been paying the employee contribution.

His decision drew praise from both the city council and members of the public.

Mayor Jennifer Hosterman commented that the decision demonstrates the leadership provided by Fialho.

Resident Bart Hughes thanked Fialho for agreeing to pay for retirement. Hughes and others also continued to raise concerns about the amount the city pays towards employee retirement.

It was suggested by speakers that the city organize a public workshop to help the public understand the issues prior to when the council approves new union contracts.

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT

Both the Livermore and Pleasanton city councils approved resolutions supporting 2012 federal legislation.

Garamendi Denounces Health Insurance Rate Increase

Congressman John Garamendi (D-Walnut Creek, CA), who served for eight years as California's Insurance Commissioner, denounced Blue Shield health insurance for hiking up rates by as much as 59 percent for individuals on private plans.

"Today's egregious rate hike by Blue Shield of California is further proof that we can't trust the insurance industry to stand with consumers," Congressman Garamendi said. "As we climb out of a deep recession, the insurance companies are kicking us back down. Fortunately, for rate increases over 10%, the 2010 health care reform allows the Federal government to review, question, and disclose facts to the public about the increase."

"When Congress passed the Patient's Bill of Rights last year, we instituted important reforms that are helping to rein in the worst abuses of the insurance industry. House Republicans will attempt to repeal these vital consumer protections," Garamendi continued.

"Even with the strong consumer protections found in the Patient's Bill of Rights, insurers like Blue Shield are still exploiting patients for financial gain. This is an argument for more consumer protections, not less. House Republicans want to replace the Patient's Bill of Rights with the Insurance Industry's Right to Discriminate. Let's not start the New Year by exposing consumers to new risks."

Congressman Garamendi thinks that repealing health care reform would hurt children, younger and older adults, and

Brown's Budget Would Wipe Out Redevelopment

If Gov. Jerry Brown's proposal to eliminate the state's redevelopment districts were successful, it would have a significant impact on Livermore.

Under Brown's budget, redevelopment agencies would be phased out, though existing bonds and obligations would be honored. However, no new contracts would be entered into.

Brown is proposing to eliminate redevelopment agencies statewide as part of cost savings to balance the state budget.

Eliminating redevelopment districts, and turning the revenue over to local schools and other agencies would save the state \$1.7 billion, as part of total cuts of \$12.5 billion.

The savings would come from using that local revenue for schools and the other agencies, instead of having to backfill funding from the state.

The school district and other agencies do have pass-through agreements to receive funds from redevelopment, said Livermore

assistant city manager Troy Brown.

In addition, Gov. Brown is proposing a five-year extension of a 1 percent sales tax, a .5 percent vehicle license fee, and an income tax surcharge. Voters would decide on those in June.

If the voters don't go for an extension, he and the Legislature would simply have to do more work on the budget, said Brown.

Between cuts and revenue extensions, Brown would close a

\$26 billion budget shortfall.

In Livermore, the redevelopment agency has helped the city develop new buildings and infrastructure, giving a huge shot in the arm for downtown businesses and related employment, according to Troy Brown.

The revenue from redevelopment's increased assessed valuations has resulted in construction of affordable housing. That's important, because the state assigns cities a certain number of affordable housing units.

Since its start in 1983, the redevelopment district has been involved in the building of 732 housing units, which includes 403 affordable income units.

The city is currently working on another 385 units, with 189 in the affordable category. These are available to seniors, disabled, and low-income families.

Without redevelopment proceeds as a tool, it will be very tough to build enough affordable housing, said Troy Brown.

Troy Brown is the city manager.



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

The annual Polar Bear Slide was a chilling experience for those who were brave enough to take part in the event last Saturday at the Robert Livermore Community Center. The water reportedly 40 degrees. For more photos, see page 12.

Livermore To Look at Dimming Lights

The Livermore City Council authorized a pilot program that will look at the impacts of reduced street lighting in the city.

The goal is savings in both energy use and cost.

The council vote was unanimous. Jeff Williams added a requirement that the police report back on whether there is a significant increase in crime or complaints resulting from reduced lighting.

The pilot program includes the following: deactivate mid-block city street lights in industrial areas, as an energy-saving measure; review private lighting standards for commercial development and modify the on-site private property lighting requirements for commercial areas, initiate a pilot project to reduce street lighting levels in two residential neighborhoods and report back to the council in a year on the impacts.

The residential street lighting would be reduced mid-block and in cul-de-sac areas. Public Works Director Dan McIntyre told the council that no specific neighborhoods had been identified. Streets lights would remain at their current levels on collector streets in the downtown and at intersections throughout the city.

It was pointed out that there are currently

Valley Congressmen Comment on Shooting

By Ron McNicoll

The Valley's two congressional members expressed deep sadness about the news that Arizona Rep. Gabrielle Giffords was seriously wounded along with 13 others. There were six who died in a shooting by a gunman wielding a machine pistol in Tucson.

Rep. Jerry McNerney of Pleasanton issued a statement in which he said, "I am deeply saddened by today's (Jan. 7) tragic events in Arizona. Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords is a true public servant and a dear, unassuming friend. She is open and accessible and dedicated to

the people she serves."

"My thoughts and prayers are with Gabby, her family, staff and all the victims affected by this senseless act of violence," said McNerney.

Rep. John Garamendi, whose district includes Livermore, said, "I was deeply saddened to learn

about the tragic shooting in Tucson. My thoughts and prayers are with all the victims and of this senseless shooting and their family members and friends."

Garamendi has been serving on the House committees on Armed Services, and Science

(See SHOOTING, page 4)

Pleasanton Holds Off on Changing Green Building

The Pleasanton City Council held off on approving staff recommended changes to the city's green building ordinances.

The council wanted to wait until the state has issued specific verification guidelines and definitions for its new green building rules.

The council vote was 5 to 0. The state has approved green

building standards (Calgreen). The law automatically went into effect statewide on January 1. All cities are required to adopt the basic standards. There are options to adopt more stringent standards. The state rules include a minimum basic level and two other tiers. Tier 1 and 2 include the mandatory requirements

(See GREEN, page 4)

County Has Mixed Feelings About State Budget

Alameda County officials responded with mixed feelings about Monday's budget proposal by Governor Brown, saying plans to shift more responsibility for programs to local government have great potential but must be accompanied by adequate resources to operate these programs.

"We support the concept that programs serving local residents can be more effectively managed at the local level," said Susan S. Muranishi, Alameda County

Administrator. "However, we have been through realignment before - and we are concerned that local government will be saddled with additional responsibilities without being provided adequate sources of funding to carry them out."

Governor Brown's plan calls for \$12.5 billion in spending cuts and a 5-year extension of taxes due to expire this year to close a State budget gap estimated at more than \$28 billion. He also

(See COUNTY, page 9)



Musicians perform at last year's Cuban Week.

Spirited Cuban Week to Continue Despite Money Worries

Cuban Week goes into its fourth year at Las Positas College (LPC) in February, with many glimpses into art, dance and music that show what it means to be

Cuban, said the fair's organizer, Catherine Suarez.

The annual festival, which runs from Feb. 22 to 25, is open to all in the community. There is

no admission fee again this year, despite a major shortfall in this year's budget due to past grant sources drying up because of the

(See CUBAN, page 12)

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PET OF THE WEEK

Prada is a five month old brown tabby with a cute paint dipped tail. She kneads her paws all day long and enjoys a nice back scratch. As she is still a kitten though, she is very playful and would love to go home with a feline companion. She was rescued from a local county shelter with her six siblings who have since been adopted; Prada has waited patiently for her own home since the summertime! To learn more about her and fundraisers coming up at Pet Food Express and the American Safety Academy, call 925-426-8656 or visit www.valleyhumane.org. Valley Humane Society is located at 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton and is open Tues. - Sat. from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Photo courtesy of Hannah Walsh

New York City Art Show Opens for Tri-Valley Artist

By Jeff Garberson

A solo art show by a young Tri-Valley artist opens today (Jan. 13) in New York City.

The artist is Jennifer Murray, 28, a 2001 graduate of Granada High School in Livermore. A New York resident since 2005, she has exhibited before with other artists, but this is her first solo show.

Her work, including drawings, mixed media and installation art, will be exhibited through March 5 at the Raandesk Gallery on West 23rd Street, in the Flatiron district of New York. The exhibit is called Displaced Fables, Damaged Dreams, thematically consistent with Murray's personal view that life harbors personal surprises and disappointments.

Murray's work often depicts powerful or threatening animals like wolves and cougars to evoke human experience, placing them in unusual settings whose effect she calls "familiar unreality."

Her animals are often tethered, as if representing a spirit struggling to be free. Sometimes there is an implicit statement about gender roles, as when a small rooster appears dominant over a much larger female wolf.

Other depictions are open to various interpretations, such as an exhibit placard that shows a strong, predatory wolf, mostly hidden under a sheepskin, near a sheep struggling to stand upright under a small wolf's body.

Murray finds the creative process "a sort of exorcism." She hopes that viewers will experience "a personal journey of reflection" that can emerge from the tension created when they find familiar objects in unfamiliar surroundings.

Like most artists, she leaves specific interpretations to the viewer. She embraces ambiguity as "critical to my values as an artist." However, in an email earlier this week, she was willing to say that wolves "represent humanity and what I feel we have lost as a species as we have become more domesticated."

"I think there is a very interesting parallel between human beings as we exist today and our domesticated dogs, with all their various diseases, inbreeding problems, domestic frailties, etc."

What to make of the pessimism of the exhibit's title, "Displaced Fables, Damaged Dreams"? In an interview, Murray said the negativity does not come from anything catastrophic but rather



Jennifer Murray stands in front of one of her pieces of art.

the ordinary stuff of life, the disillusionments that anyone her age might experience.

"'Damaged Dreams' may sound more dramatic than it really is," she acknowledged.

Still, she insists on the personal nature of her work. "It's hard to make good art that's not about yourself. Every one of my pieces has me in it."

After graduating from Granada High, Murray went to Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pa., where in 2005 she earned a fine arts degree in painting, drawing and printmaking.

She had always been good at depicting wildlife, as friends and family remember from her Livermore days. She thinks of the drawings and paintings she created in high school as representing animals the way a photograph does, as accurately as possible. The years at Carnegie-Mellon helped her take the

"next step," from "drawing a photo of a wolf to portraying it metaphorically."

She moved to New York after graduation and took the steps that a new artist has to take to be noticed there. She pounded the pavement, visiting galleries and sending out photographic slides to those who might be interested. She dodged hucksters who would be happy to display her work if only she would pay them \$1,500 up front.

She set herself six-month goals, figuring that if no one took an interest in half a year, "that would be a message." However, some did take an interest, and a lawyer who was looking for art for his office introduced her to Jessica Porter, owner of the Raandesk Gallery where Murray's work is now on exhibit.

The lawyer chose not to display her work in his office - "It was not PC (politically correct) enough," Murray says - but the introduction was useful to

both women. Porter, who can pick and choose among aspiring artists, says that after visiting Murray's studio "I knew right away she was someone I could work with."

Murray seemed feminine and feminist "without being too in-your-face." Her technical skills and ability to work with various media were impressive, as was her intensity. "She puts a lot of herself into her pieces," Porter says.

Porter represents some 15 artists in the U.S. and abroad, all of them emerging and contemporary. As she has seen Murray's work mature over the past two years, she has made arrangements for some of it to show in Australia as well as in New York.

Murray looks at her nearly six years in New York as "great, absolutely fun." She has fond memories of Livermore, and visits her parents, Jim and Lindsey,

there at least once a year. However, she plans to stay in New York so long as her art career seems successful.

"Successful" does not mean supporting herself by art alone. Very few artists do that, anywhere. To pay the bills, Murray has worked several jobs in New York and currently bartends at the upscale W Hotel at Times Square. It isn't always glamorous. The hours can be long and the work rushed. Customers are sometimes rude or stingy.

Still, because of the unusual hours, bartending can be "perfect for someone pursuing art or acting," she says. There can be side benefits. In 2009, she met and for a few months dated Tre Cool, drummer for the rock band Green Day. It was a friendship rather than a romance, she says, and a lot of fun.

The Raandesk exhibit can be seen online at raandeskgallery.com.

Dublin Seeking Nominations

The City of Dublin is accepting nominations for the 2010 Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year and Organization of the Year.

The purpose of these awards is to recognize outstanding individuals and groups who have contributed to the quality of life in Dublin this past year. Nomination criteria for both the Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year Awards are based on the Dublin Pride - Integrity in Action Program's 10 Characteristics: Responsibility, Respectfulness, Caring, Giving, Positive Attitude, Trustworthiness, Cooperation, Doing One's Best, Honesty, and Self-Discipline. The Young Citizen of the Year recognizes the volunteer service of Dublin's

youth in 1st - 12th grade.

All nominees will be recognized at the City Council meeting on Tuesday, February 15, 2011 and then invited to attend a recognition event to be held at the Shannon Community Center on Friday, February 18, 2011, where the winners will be announced. The Organization of the Year will receive a \$500 cash prize, and a \$300 donation will be given to each the Citizen and Youth Citizen of the Year's favorite nonprofit organization.

Nomination can be completed on-line at the City's website, www.dublin.ca.gov, or by calling the City Clerk's Office at (925) 833-6650. The nomination deadline is end of day on Thursday, January 27, 2011.

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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	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	4 Bd 2.5 Ba • 2,553+ sq.ft., 0.21+ Acres Popular Sagewood Fir Plan. Extremely well kept home, hardwood flrs, granite counters, beautiful landscaping, huge sideyard access & much more! Corey Green 925.899.6011	5 Bd 3 Ba • 2,566+ sq.ft., 0.20+ Acres Award winning Mission Schools. New granite kitchen counters & S/S appliances. Brazilian Cherry hardwood floors in kitchen and family room. Todd E. Martinez 925.251.2571	2 Bd 2 Ba • 1,700+ sq.ft., 4.50+ Acres LEVEL Land, clean and nice home. Great investment for the savvy Buyer. Location-Location, Perfect family property and or small business. Kristy and Company 925.251.2536	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
11 LOWER GOLF RD CASTLEWOOD, PLEASANTON OPEN SAT & SUN 1-4 \$1,385,000	5211 CAPARELLI CT AVILA, PLEASANTON RED/BANK OWNED \$629,900	6645 AMBER LN CARRIAGE GARDENS, PLEASANTON 1/2 ACRE LOT & POOL \$1,398,000	1225 LOZANO CT RUBY HILL, PLEASANTON ITALIAN VILLA \$4,299,000	523 JOYCE ST LIVERMORE UPDATED \$439,000	1089 AUBURN ST SOUTH-SIDE, LIVERMORE UPDATED RANCHER \$399,900
4 Bd 3 Ba • 2,400+ sq.ft., 0.33+ Acres On the 8th fairway of the Castlwood Country Club. Single story w/ separate family room, formal dining. Beautiful plank hardwood floors. Steve & Lorraine Mattos 925.251.2544	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 925.251.2559	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	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	4 Bd 2 Ba • 1,853+ sq.ft., 0.03+ Acres Newer paint, carpet in the bedrooms, remodeled bathrooms, pergo flooring in the kitchen & family room. Newer appliances, corian counters & sink. Angela Adams 925.583.2186	3 Bd 2 Ba • 1,516+ sq.ft., 0.14+ Acres Lovely rancher w/ tiled entry, wood burning fireplace, solid bamboo floors thru-out, tiled kitchen floor w/ granite tiled counters & much more! Michael Swift & Associates 925.251.2589

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VALLEY ROUNDUP

House Reduces Its Budget

Congressman Jerry McNerney (CA-11) last week voted for a bipartisan measure to cut office budgets for members of the House of Representatives by five percent. The legislation is estimated to save \$35 million during 2011.

"Tackling the debt is a critical issue facing our country, and we have to take this challenge more seriously than ever before," said Rep. McNerney. "We'll face tough decisions in the coming weeks, months, and years, and it's appropriate that Congress demonstrate its commitment to fiscal responsibility by reducing its operating budget. I was proud to join a bipartisan group of my colleagues and vote for a five percent cut in Congressional office budgets."

During his first two terms in office, Rep. McNerney consistently opposed pay raises for members of Congress and voted against increases to Congressional office budgets.

The resolution to cut Congressional office budgets passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 410-13.

Burglar Interrupted

On Monday, January 10, 2011, at 10:33AM a resident on Cheryl Circle was in his bedroom when he heard his doorbell ring but chose not to respond. Minutes later he was in his second story bedroom, which faces the street, when a

person removed the screen to the bedroom window and attempted to gain entry. The suspect was unaware the home was occupied and was startled when confronted at the window by the resident. The suspect jumped to the ground and fled on foot from Cheryl Circle onto Arthur Drive toward Hopyard Road. Officers immediately established a perimeter and enlisted the support of a helicopter and K9 in their search. The suspect could not be located.

This attempted burglary is similar to several others the Department has been investigating over the past several months in the vicinity of the Sports Park and neighboring areas. The suspect is described as a white male adult in his early 20s, with short cropped blond hair and medium build. He was last seen wearing a black sweatshirt and blue jeans, using white socks on his hands for gloves.

Residents are encouraged to contact the Police Department with any information they may have, referencing Case 11-01477, and to keep their eyes out for suspicious persons or activity in the area. They are also reminded to lock doors, secure windows and set alarms when leaving their homes unattended. With further developments additional information may become available by contacting the Operations Watch Commander at (925) 931-5100.

Lab Physicist Recognized for Studies in Atomic Theory

Kennedy Reed, a physicist at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, has been awarded the distinction of American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) fellow. He is being recognized for important studies in atomic theory, and for many successful efforts to increase minority participation in the physical sciences in the United States and Africa.

Election as a fellow is an honor bestowed upon AAAS members by their peers to recognize distinguished efforts to advance science or its applications. This year, 503 members have been awarded this honor by AAAS because of their scientifically or socially distinguished efforts to advance science or its



Kennedy Reed

applications.

Reed has produced more than 100 publications on his research on atomic collisions in high-temperature plasmas, and his work has contributed to the understanding of indirect processes in electron-impact excitation and ionization of highly charged ions.

He is a prominent leader in national efforts to increase opportunities for minority students and professionals in the sciences, and has helped develop and direct programs that have expanded research and training capabilities at minority serving institutions and enabled students to pursue advanced degrees in physical science disciplines.

Through the auspices of the International Center for Theoretical Physics in Trieste, Italy, Reed has been a visiting scientist in the West African countries of Senegal and Ghana, and through other international scientific organizations has been involved with physical science programs in numerous other African coun-

tries.

He received the American Physical Society's John Wheatley Award for his contributions to physics research and education in Africa – the only time this award has been given for work in Africa.

Reed currently chairs the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP) Commission on Physics for Development. With 60 member countries and 20 commissions, IUPAP is a worldwide organization that fosters international cooperation in physics. The IUPAP commission headed by Reed includes physicists from 15 countries on five continents, and is mandated to help improve the conditions of physics and physicists in developing regions of the world. He also serves on the National Academy of Sciences Board on International Scientific Organizations.

Reed has received high-level recognition for his work. He is a fellow of the American Physical Society. The California-Nevada Section of the American Physical Society established the Kennedy Reed Award, which is presented annually to recognize best theoretical research performed by graduate students. In 2010, President Obama awarded Reed the prestigious Presidential Award for Excellence in Science and Engineering Mentoring.

Reed holds a bachelor's of science degree from Monmouth College in Illinois, and a doctorate in physics from the University of Nebraska.

Reed will be officially honored at the 2011 AAAS Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. on Feb. 19.

COUNCIL

(continued from page one)

the Tri-Valley.

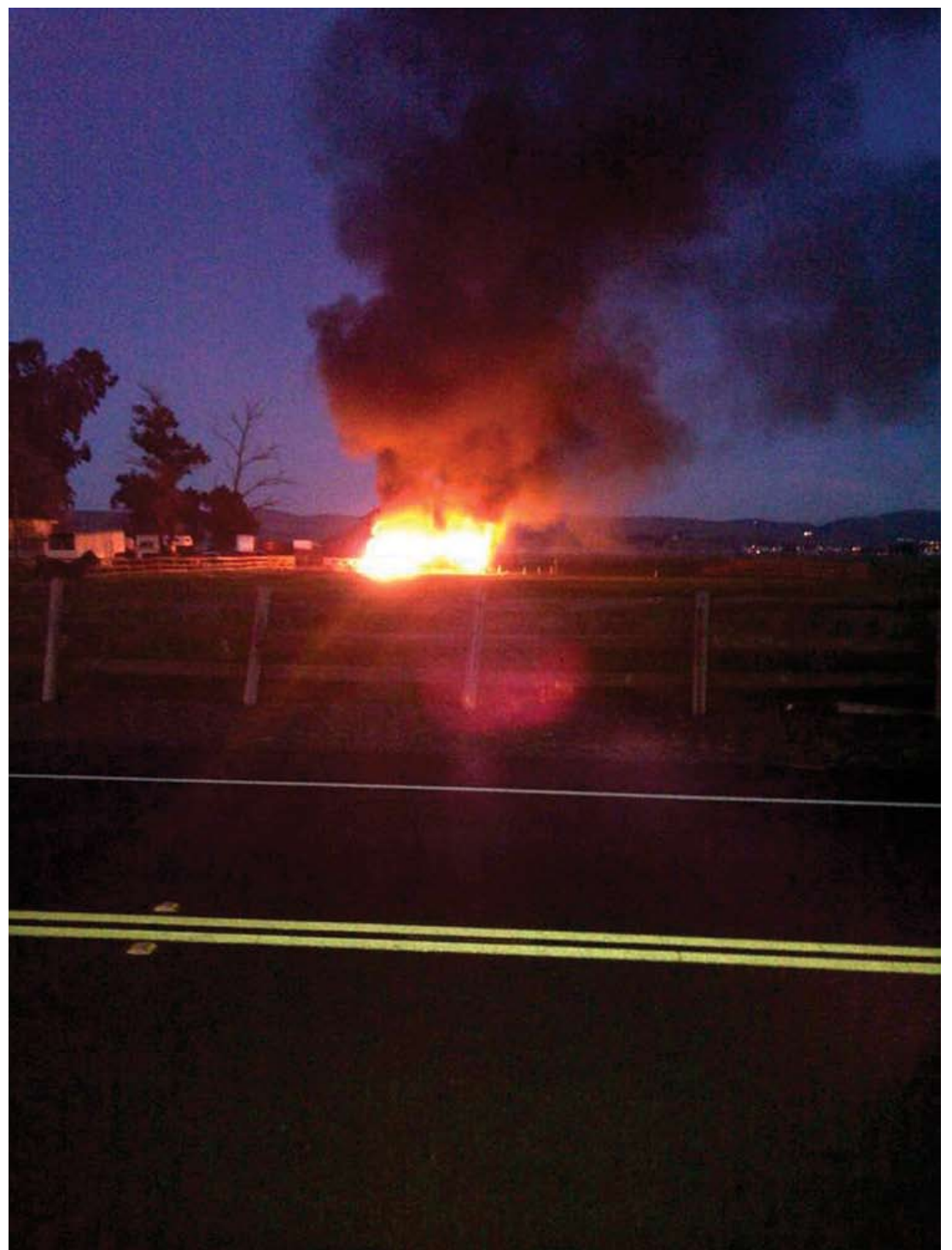
Each year, representatives from Danville, Dublin, Livermore, San Ramon, and Pleasanton work together to develop a federal legislative agenda for area representatives to consider.

This year, Representative John Garamendi asked that each city council adopt a resolution to demonstrate formal support of the legislative agenda.

The cities have identified the following four priorities that are "shovel ready":

- I-580 projects to reduce congestion through high occupancy vehicle lanes, interchange improvements, and right of way acquisition.
- I-680 projects to mitigate operational problems caused by merging and diverging vehicles between two interchanges.
- State Route 84 project to widen it to four lanes between Pigeon Pass and the I-680 interchange.
- East Bay Regional Communication System that provides the highest level of interoperability to service residents of both Alameda and Contra counties.

The Tri-Valley mayors will officially request federal funding for these projects during meetings with federal officials during the annual Conference of Mayors in January 2011.



A fire destroyed a storage building on a ranch in an unincorporated area near Livermore on Sunday night. No people or animals were injured in the blaze which began around 5:30 p.m. The fire caused an estimated \$30,000 in damages to the building and its contents. The cause of the fire is under investigation. Merlin Newton Sr. sent in the photo of the fire.

HEALTH

(continued from page one)

seniors. The following changes would occur:

- Repeals the ban on discrimination by health insurers based on pre-existing conditions;
- Repeals the ban that prohibits health insurance companies from rescinding coverage when you get sick;
- Repeals tax credits for small businesses and American families;
- Repeals policies that lower costs and expand services for seniors;
- Repeals policies that let young adults stay on their parents' health care plans; and
- Repeals the ban on annual and lifetime limits on covered benefits.

"After a century of struggle, Americans now have a Patient's Bill of Rights," Congressman Garamendi said. "Now that they control the House, Congressional Republicans are trying to shred the Patient's Bill of Rights. My

district residents and Americans across the country would suffer immensely if this were to happen. This would take us back to the days when insurance companies completely controlled health care. Instead of moving back-

wards, we should move forward with implementing health reform, which will empower and protect the American people."

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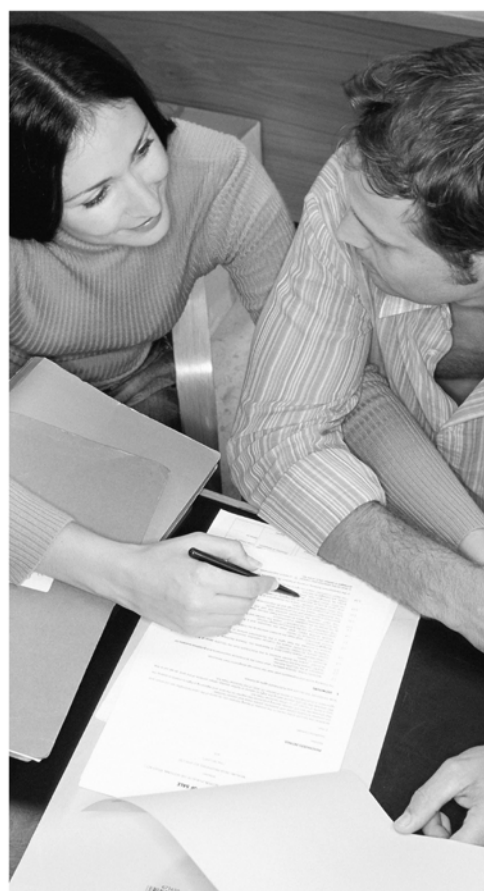
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Time: 6:00 pm

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EDITORIAL

Living History Resource

The Livermore Heritage Guild wants to move the historic Midway School and create a living history site devoted to Livermore's rural heritage.

Located in the Altamont, Midway School was typical of the one-room schoolhouses where the ranchers' children learned the 3Rs. Several such schools existed in the Livermore area.

A local history site is already arising on Olivina Avenue at the Hageman Ranch. The Heritage Guild envisions that once Midway School is moved and restored, the site can be used to help meet the school district's local history requirement.

Tracy has similarly moved and restored an old schoolhouse and has found that it brings local history to life.

Based on Tracy's experience, the moving cost would be relatively small. It's the restoration that would be expensive. No public money is available. Private grants would be necessary.

Despite the difficulties, the idea is a good one. "We can really make the experience (of learning local history) live for them," said Jeff Kaskey, Guild president.

We wish the Livermore Heritage Guild success in its quest for grants.

SHOOTING

(continued from page one)

and Technology with Giffords, and on the NASA subcommittee, which Giffords chairs.

In the Valley, cities lowered their flags to half-staff, by order of President Obama. The flags will remain at half-staff until sunset, Jan. 14. Obama's order covers all public buildings and grounds, all military bases and all naval vessels, as well as all U.S. embassies and consular offices abroad.

Noting that Giffords was just doing her job when the attack happened, Garamendi told The Independent that informal events such as Giffords' Congress on the Corner are a risk that officials take in order to hear from constituents.

GARAMENDI THREATENED SEVERAL TIMES IN PUBLIC

Garamendi himself faced down threats at public meetings years ago. He was meeting in San Joaquin County in 1975 with farmers who were angry about his deciding vote in the Assembly that established the state's Agricultural Labor Relations Act.

"A fellow 15 feet away from me pulled out a gun, pointed it at me, and said, 'I'm going to kill you,'" said Garamendi. The man was restrained by friends next to him. "The sheriff was nearby, but he didn't think it was an assault," said Garamendi.

Another time, Garamendi attended a hearing concerning a regional planning act for Lake Tahoe. Some contractors were not happy about the plan. One rushed toward him with an ax handle.

Garamendi, a former college wrestler who stands well over six feet, said that he told the man that "he would not have continued in good health if he took one more step." The man backed down.

"Many elected officials have found hostility from some in an

audience. Threats of one sort or another are not uncommon," said Garamendi.

Garamendi mentioned an incident that occurred not long ago in Florida, which was caught on tape and broadcast nationally. A man pulled a gun at a school board meeting, and threatened to kill the school superintendent. He fired shots at point blank range, but remarkably, no one was injured.

IMPORTANT TO COOL OFF DISPLAYS OF RHETORIC

Garamendi said that it's important to take additional steps to protect federal employees, especially the congressional aides who work in offices in the district.

It's also important to tone down public rhetoric. "The task for all of us in public office and for the media is to cool it, and bring it down. All of us, Republican or Democrat, liberal or conservative, need to be aware that words have weight," said Garamendi.

McNerney told The Independent via e-mail that "Public safety is a top priority at events. Moving forward, we will look for guidance on this subject from Capitol Police and local law enforcement. I remain committed to being open and accessible to the people I represent."

McNerney said, "Partisan rhetoric has become overheated these days. There is a need to improve civility in our democracy."

McNerney said that the accused gunman, Jared Loughner, apparently was "deranged." "However, we don't yet have a full picture of his motivations. There are still many questions about the cause of the attack that remain to be answered as the investigation continues," said McNerney.

LIGHTS

(continued from page one)

lighting within neighborhoods. Some are fairly dark; others are so bright that cars don't need lights, commented McIntyre. He said one of the goals is to create an equitable lighting system for all neighborhoods.

Williams asked if there were studies that looked at the level of street lighting and crime. He asked if there would be increased enforcement to deal with such potential problems as more homeless sleeping in industrial areas.

Police Chief Steve Sweeney said that studies are all over the board. Some found that lighting is not a deterrent to crime. "We are not eliminating street lighting. We are asking to conduct a study to determine what level of lighting is most feasible. The

concern in residential neighborhoods has to do with pedestrian safety."

Sweeney said that before any neighborhood would be picked to be part of a pilot program, there would be discussions with residents. "We don't want to jump in and turn out all the lights."

Williams asked if the city were considering the use of LED lights. LED lights could change the dynamics as to how much electricity could be saved.

McIntyre explained that while LED lights would reduce consumption, the cost and payback don't make their use feasible at this time. Prices are coming down and the longevity of the lights is being extended. In 3 or 4 years we will consider a pilot program using LED lighting.

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.)

Why an Outlet Mall? Daryl Carlson Livermore

I am not one of those opposed to change in Livermore. I support the Downtown development, the Bankhead Theater, the proposed Regional Theater, and bringing the BART station to that increasingly vibrant area. This type of development is "smart growth" that encourages housing density--the only realistic way that California can sanely prosper without sacrificing precious, dwindling open space. It's all right there: housing, entertainment, restaurants, shopping and mass transit, all in walking distance.

However, the proposed "Upscale Outlet" mall development at El Charro and 580 puzzles sensible beings. We're supposed to take open space where hawks can yet find prey and put up a Neiman-Marcus store where you can buy trendy irregulars, seconds, returns and stale-dated merchandise below traditional retail price.

"Upscale Outlet" is an oxymoron. If status-seeking consumers want to purchase name brand merchandise to impress their friends and neighbors, the least they can do is pay real retail. The only justification that I can find for this project is that it plants an ugly strip mall in full view of Dublin, one of California's true development nightmares with cancerous retail and housing "tumors" scarring open space and the hills, threatening the ages-old mutually agreed buffer area.

Outlet malls are more highly valued in places where the citizenry are not concerned with quality of life and there are certainly plenty of those in this area. People, we can't breathe in the Tri-Valley in the summertime anyway; why on earth would we

foster a shopping center that is totally automobile dependent?

2000 Seat Theater Ken Bradley Livermore

Visitors entering Livermore's downtown on North Livermore Ave are greeted to the glorious rear view of the backside of the Bankhead Theater.

The same group that was behind the Bankhead is pushing an even bigger masterpiece, a building 4 times larger, a structure 9 stories tall, a building with all the architectural charm of the sarcophagus for the Chernobyl reactor. At least this new structure will be partially hidden by the high rise, high density apartments that will surround it.

The proponents of the new theater want their creditors to have unrestricted access to the citizens pockets so if they default, the public will pay. After all most of the money for the theater is already from the public. It is part of the "redevelopment" of downtown.

The proponents say the behemoth theater will be successful with no risk of default. Sure it is, that is why the banks want a cosigner. They say just look at the successful Bankhead Theater. Yes the Bankhead has been successful. It has successfully spent tens of millions of dollars from mitigation revenues from the landfills, it has successfully spent the \$800 extra fee collected from each of the new houses in southern Livermore, it has successfully avoided paying for its share of cleaning the downtown, it has successfully not paid anything significant to the public for the purchase and use of the land.

This is redevelopment Livermore style. Our 2 elected and 3 self-appointed council people already have staff working on the details. No, you will not get to vote on this. Unless you are part of the small group behind this project your opinion does not matter. The council will make it all happen anyway; the massive theater, the public funds for the theater, the cosigned note for the balance of theater funding and operation, the high rise apartments that can be taxed to provide additional theater funding. It is too bad that massive mistakes in the downtown development

will be impossible to correct.

Response to Stein's Letter Kathy Streeter Livermore

I was sadly disappointed to read John Stein's latest letter against LVPAC's proposed Regional Theater, for he again has taken facts and comments out of context to make his doubtful points. For example, John understates projected annual sales tax revenues to the City, ignoring the acknowledged fact that the theater will set in motion several major downtown developments including new shops, restaurants and a hotel that will each contribute to the City's annual sales tax receipts. By LVPAC's modest estimates, over the life of the financing, sales and property tax revenues from these enhancements will total at least three times the Redevelopment Agency's planned tax-increment support for the Regional Theater.

Further, John has LVPAC reporting that the City's guarantee is required because the risk of repayment is too great, when, in fact, the guarantee is needed as "an abundance of caution" because commercial banks today won't lend without it, even though they admit the repayment plan is a reasonable one.

Finally, John raises the specter of closing the Bankhead Theater and the Bothwell Arts Center, knowing full well that LVPAC was conceived to operate and support all three venues and that the proposed financing in partnership with the City is intended to protect and facilitate those operations. In fact, the financial operations of LVPAC will be significantly strengthened by the addition of the Regional Theater's greater ticket sale and fund-raising capacity and amortization of overhead costs across three venues.

It is unfortunate that our public discussion around the future of the downtown seems to be driven by irrational fear rather than a thoughtful and balanced assessment of risks and rewards. The City and LVPAC have, for the past five years, carefully and thoughtfully developed this critical project that will enhance and strengthen our downtown. Now is not the time to inaccurately sec-

ond guess what they've worked so diligently to produce.

Walk to Wellness

W. Ron Sutton (AKA "Mr. Pedometer") President of ACCUSPLIT and World Walk to Wellness Founder

Thank you for your outstanding photo and advance publicity for the World Walk to Wellness Fair held January 8 at the Pleasanton Public Library. Nearly two dozen organizations had booths promoting various methods of staying well in 2011, all well organized by Senior Librarian Penny Johnson.

Dozens of people chose to take a loop walk on Main Street with one of the following "Walk with Me" leaders: Ward Belding; Pamela & Jim Ott; Joan Laursen; Gary Winter; Ron Sutton; Joanie Fields; Jerry & Sandi Thorne; and Cheryl Cook-Kallio. We were pleased to present to Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) Foundation's board of directors \$1,300 worth of donations, including matching funds from ACCUSPLIT, bringing a total of over \$6,000 raised by World Walk to Wellness for grants to local schools.

Our planning team had expected to increase the group walks from one per year to one per month in 2011. However, several people have said that they would like more opportunities to keep moving.

We have a 3.5-mile arroyo walk with Dolores Bengtson planned for February 26. Between now and then, to keep people on track with New Year's Resolutions, we will host walks exploring some of the 47 city parks.

Meet Mr. Pedometer at 9 a.m. this Saturday, January 15, at Mission Hills Park, located at 600 Junipero (south of Bernal Avenue and east of Sunol Boulevard). We will do loop walks, beginning near the children's play equipment.

The following Saturday we will cross town to Moller Park, located at 5500 Pleasant Hill Road (off of Stoneridge Drive, bordered by Foothill Road). These events are free of charge, but donations to PPIE would be gladly accepted.

We hope your readers will Stay Active, Be Well throughout 2011.

GREEN

(continued from page one)

along with a series of electives, with each tier level more stringent.

The city's current code is based on a point system. The state created a list of standards, some are mandatory. Points aren't awarded for the various items on the state list.

The council voted to adopt the basic requirements imposed by the state, as required by law. The council vote would retain the city's current ordinances for six months.

There was concern on the part of the council that the state code does not include definitions, nor

does it provide for verification that builders are following the new code. The Pleasanton council opted to wait until verification procedures were in place before proceeding with adopting the more stringent state standards and creating one building code in the city.

Currently Pleasanton has two codes, one is for public and commercial buildings based on LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standards. The second is a residential code based on BIG (Build it Green) standards.

LEED is a third-party certification program with nationally accepted benchmarks for the design, construction and operation of high-performance green buildings.

In addition, councilmembers wanted to retain the ability to condition development based on what they believe is best for Pleasanton. Two councilmembers, Matt Sullivan and Cindy McGovern, suggested that the city should be looking at more stringent requirements, not continuing to try to meet current codes. McGovern said that as part of the city's new climate action plan (CAP), there would likely changes needed in building requirements.

McGovern stated, "I thought the next time we looked at the code it would consider the CAP and tailor it to Pleasanton's needs. I am having difficulty adopting Calgreen if we can't make changes we think Pleasanton should include." She was also concerned that staff had not provided the list of basic requirements.

City Manager Nelson Fialho said that CAP would identify objectives to reduce greenhouse gases. Some will relate to green building. "We may have to make changes in the ordinance."

Mayor Jennifer Hosterman said she believes that the council

will continue to add green building requirements on a project by project basis.

Sullivan noted that the city had been using the same standards for ten years. "We should be looking at a higher level of requirements. I have concerns about moving away from our tested process to something that is not fully developed. I'd like not to completely drop BIG and LEED until we have more information on verification and figure out how we would use Calgreen. We may be able to come up with a better system."

Jerry Thorne pointed out that the city has to adopt the basic Calgreen requirements. "I'll go along with six months using the state basic and the city's current code. I'm not interested in having multi-systems long term. It's not fair or cost effective."

Representatives from Stopwaste.org agreed with the city council that adoption of tier 1 or tier 2 requirements should await further guidelines from the state. Wendy Summers stated, "There is no assurance under the current rules that structures built meet the level of tier 1."

Wes Sullens, also from Stopwaste.org, said that the requirements aren't clear. For example, when it comes to flooring systems, the list referenced is no longer the standard. He pointed out that most cities are staying with their current ordinances.

Brian Dolan, Community Development Director, told the council that staff had reviewed the various levels of state requirements in order to match as closely as possible Pleasanton's current code.

In comparing the two systems, Dolan said that the tier one option most closely reflects Pleasanton's current code for both commercial and residential development. He proposed that the council adopt the tier 1 level for projects currently covered by city points. He

suggested using only the state's basic requirements for development in the downtown and other projects not covered by the city's ordinance. Currently commercial buildings smaller than 20,000 square feet and housing smaller than 2000 square feet in size are not covered under the city's green building code.

One option that Dolan recommended was to allow for third party verification based on LEED. He explained that some developers have financing that requires such certification. Others find that their product is more marketable if it has a LEED rating.

It was estimated that the basic requirements of Calgreen for residential development would add \$13,000 per unit to the cost of construction.

Sullivan suggested that the city should also look at savings resulting from the use of green building.

Dolan said the payback for a single family home is 10 to 13 years.

Pam Hardy, Ponderosa Homes, asked that the city adopt tier 1. "Our goal is to have predictability and consistency."

She added in response to a remark that the standards appear to be a step backward, "We are building the most efficient houses in the country in the Bay Area. We are moving forward. The cost staff mentioned is more like \$38,000 to \$40,000 to provide green building standards for each home on top of fees and regulatory requirements." She said that the costs will be passed to homebuyers. Generally, people don't stay in the homes long enough to realize the 10 to 13 year payback.

Hardy said she would love to see incentives added to encourage developers to build to higher standards. She urged the council not allow amendments on a project by project basis.

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BUDGET

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of eliminating redevelopment districts "a very short-sighted solution."

That reaction was backed up by John Shirey, executive director of the California Redevelopment Association. He said in a press release that redevelopment agencies are the best local tools to rid communities of blight and to provide jobs.

Statewide, redevelopment has contributed "tens of billions of dollars to our economy and is responsible for more than \$2 billion in state and local taxes each year. It makes no sense to kill this economic engine," said Shirey.

Livermore Mayor Marshall Kamena stated, "Livermore needs to monitor any discussion of modifications to the RDA agencies. I'm optimistic that we can head these off at the pass if we present a rational case for redevelopment as an economic engine. In addition our strategy can be to lock up our Redevelopment Agency tax increment dollars

by committing them to projects that spur development. Once our income source is tied up in bonds or other obligations, the state is prevented from taking it."

The redevelopment agency obtains its revenue from the increase in assessed valuation brought about by the improvements that it helped to develop. By law, it passes through that increase to a total of 11 agencies with which it has contracts. They include Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARP), Zone 7 Water Agency, the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District, and Las Positas College, said Livermore financial services manager Doug Alessio.

Livermore Councilmember Jeff Williams commented, "If the state succeeded in eliminating RDA it would be devastating to a large number of California cities (400 plus). However, there are many things working against it, including Proposition 22 and the political power of large cities. It seems to me that the state is not

going to be able to close RDAs. There is too much political will on the part of all of the cities, not to mention legal limits."

Williams added, "One of the ways to protect RDA funds is by committing RDA dollars. According to city legal advice, that would apparently protect us from the state grab, even if the state could find a way to dissolve RDAs."

OTHER GOVERNMENTS DISTRICTS FARE O.K.

Pleasanton has no problem with Brown's proposed budget "because we don't have a redevelopment agency," said finance director Emily Wagner.

Besides saving \$1.7 billion by eliminating redevelopment agencies, other major cuts proposed by the state would come from \$1.6 billion in Medi-Cal and \$1.5 billion in workfare, and \$1 billion at the state universities and colleges. Community colleges would face a \$10 per unit increase in tuition. A lower take-home pay for state employees,

facing a 10 percent salary reduction, would save \$308 million.

On education, Brown said he is holding K-12 funding levels at the current level. This was good news in the Livermore school district, according to its chief business official Susan Kinder.

"When we looked at our multi-year projection, we assumed no cost of living adjustment for 2011/12. That is what his budget shows. We are still in the same predicament," said Kinder. She was referring to the general low level of funding that has occurred in the past couple of years because the state has cut back on education funding.

One bright spot was that Brown's budget extends flexibility in K-3 class size reduction. It means Livermore can continue to staff at 24.5 students per teacher, instead of having to go back to

a 20 to 1 ratio, which would be more expensive. Schools, which maintain a ratio of one teacher per group of 20 students or fewer, receive a special allocation of funds from the state. In 2009, in response to the economy, state leaders loosened the penalties on districts for exceeding the K-3 CSR program's target student/teacher ratio of 20 to 1. Without the additional funding, Livermore would have to increase its classes sizes.

In the Pleasanton school district, assistant superintendent Luz Cázarez emphasized that next year's Pleasanton school budget will be similar to this year's, provided that voters do approve the tax extensions being requested by Brown.

The district has set its agenda on Jan. 25 for a discussion of school financing, including

thoughts about going out to Pleasanton voters for a parcel tax.

Tim Barry, general manager of LARP, said that his look at the state budget so far does not show any red flags for his district.

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Money Saved Moving Surplus Machines

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and Sandia National Laboratories announced that they have teamed up to successfully dispose of several surplus machine tools, saving the taxpayers more than \$100,000 in the process.

By avoiding the expense associated with characterizing, packaging, transporting and disposing of these tools, Sandia and NNSA demonstrated their shared commitment to being effective stewards of tax dollars.

"The removal of the surplus machine tools has generated sig-

nificant savings to Sandia, NNSA and the American taxpayers," said Ken Powers, NNSA's Associate Administrator for Infrastructure and Environment.

The machine tools were used to support various national defense related projects at Sandia. The tools were used for the demilitarization of sensitive and classified hardware for which there was no longer an intended use. Alternate strategies for managing unneeded sensitive and classified hardware are now being employed, which resulted in these machine tools becoming surplus.

Working with NNSA and a Nuclear Regulatory Commission Agreement State licensed vendor authorized to possess and process items contaminated with radioactive materials, Sandia was able to transfer title of the equipment at no cost to NNSA. The licensed vendor provided all transportation, logistics and dispositioning services as compensation to NNSA for the equipment.

The vendor will reuse this equipment for its intended purpose as machine tools in accordance with its radioactive materials license.

Work Underway on Changes to I-680

Last week Caltrans began work on the Interstate 680 Roadway Rehabilitation and HOV Lane Extension project in Contra Costa County. The project will rehabilitate the freeway from Alcosta Blvd. in Dublin to Rudgear Road in Walnut Creek, and extend the southbound HOV lane from Livorna Road to .2 miles north of Rudgear Road.

Improvements include rehabilitation of the freeway lanes, ramps, shoulders, and some bridge approach slabs. Bay Cities Paving & Grading was awarded the contract with a bid of \$49.9 million.

The contractor will have night time lane closures and also work behind barrier rail during the day.

The contractor has placed a K-rail on the median of northbound and southbound Interstate


680, between Sycamore Valley Road and Alcosta Blvd. On January 5, the contractor began demolition of the median barrier and removal of material at two locations. This work is expected to continue during the week of January 10.

Due to the freeway configuration and project constraints, the demolition is necessary to remove a portion of the barrier used for enforcement by California Highway Patrol between Bollinger Canyon Road and Alcosta Blvd. A second portion of barrier used by the CHP between Sycamore Valley Road and Crow Canyon Road is also being removed. At these locations the median is "flared" to allow California Highway Patrol vehicles access to northbound and southbound Interstate 680. However, construction activities require that lanes be

shifted toward the barrier, so this flare must be removed. These demolition activities must take place at night due to the lane closures required. Traffic will continue to be separated by a median with K-rail barrier on northbound and southbound I-680.

In the weeks and months ahead, the contractor will have crews working during the day and night in many locations on Interstate 680, between Rudgear Road and Alcosta Blvd. Many construction activities are weather dependent. Due to crew safety, backup alarms are required to be operational on all vehicles. However, Caltrans will do everything possible to reduce impacts to residents.

Information about the project may be found at the Caltrans District 4 website: www.dot.ca.gov/dist4.



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Stop by LifeStyleRx on Saturday, January 22!

Listen to discussions from ValleyCare's sports medicine physicians, physical therapists, athletic trainers, and LifeStyleRx's registered dietitian, fitness, Pilates and Yoga instructors. Topics include shoulder and elbow injuries in youth baseball, what to have in a first aid kit, the latest information on concussions, plus information on LifeStyleRx's "Change Challenge," Integrating Fitness and Nutrition into your Life. Activities will also include chair massages, body fat analysis, giveaways, raffle prizes, and more.

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



Women's teams are pictured at left; men's teams on the right.

Annual Ryan Gordon Alumni Games Raises Funds for Soccer Programs

Foothill High School and Amador Valley High School soccer alumni met for the 8th year this past Saturday at Amador Valley High School for the Ryan Gordon Alumni Games.

Ryan was a 2003 graduate of Foothill killed in a Jet Ski accident shortly after graduation. He had planned on attending Santa Barbara City College and to play soccer there.

Despite a cool, foggy day the games were played before an excited, supportive crowd.

The games featured men and women players from the 70's,

80's, 90's 2000's and 2010's. This year 70 players, 48 men and 22 women participated, many of them returnees from prior years. A few of the players originally fought against each other back in the 70's, Dion Hock (FHS, 1978), Kevin Crow (AVHS, 1979), and Joe Carlucci (AVHS, 1976).

All monies raised are donated to the men's and women's soccer programs at the two high schools. This year's games raised \$7000 bringing the total since 2003 to nearly \$50,000. This was the most money raised since the inaugural games in 2003.

In the 1st game the Foothill women extended their win streak to 4 games by winning 5-4. Foothill was leading comfortably 5-1 with 10 minutes remaining when Amador made a furious comeback eventually falling just short. Foothill has now won 6 of the 8 games.

Jillian Sweetnam (2006) scored first for the winners, followed by 3 goals from Kimmie Patrick (1999) and a goal by Ashlyn Mazur (2009). Allie Cefalo (2004), Amanda Luxford (2009), Alicia Lemoine (1988) and Amber Goelz (2001) had

assists. Christina (Nina) Cefalo was outstanding in goal. Scoring for Amador were Valerie Mayer (2002), Beverly Mayer (2004), Jessica Daut (2011) and Tina Peterson (1998). Assisting the goals were Daut, Sheri Kapp (1981), Tessie Wagner-Pease (1981) and Ann Peterson (1981). Laura Burton (2008) was solid as the goalie.

The men's side saw Amador getting by Foothill 2-1 and continuing their series dominance by winning 7 of the 8 games played so far. Amador scored first on a penalty kick by George Mayer

(2008) however the game was soon tied on a spectacular chip shot by Dion Hock. Hock was assisted by Quinn Tomlin (2002) and Corey Caprista (2002). Mayer untied the game with a spectacular blast from the right side with 2 minutes left in regulation avoiding what was beginning to look like overtime.

The halftime intermissions featured youth players from the Ballistic United and Rage Soccer Clubs.

Many friends of Ryan were in attendance. Additionally there were 12 ex-teammates of Ryan's playing in the games.

Volunteers manned the snack bar, collected tickets, announced the action and refereed the games. Additionally, members of the current high school teams chased after errant balls and warmed up the players.

The Hop Yard Alehouse and All Star Sports both contributed to the cause.

Each winning team was provided with a trophy that travels back and forth to each year's winning High School. Next year's games will be at Foothill as the venue changes from Amador to Foothill and back each year.

What Our Readers Are Saying...



I depend on the Independent for coverage of all the local news and issues facing the Tri-Valley. The Independent is the first place I look for balanced and useful input on local elections. The in-depth reporting of important city council meetings complete with quotes from all sides of an issue is informative and most helpful to those unable to attend.

In addition, as a member of the Livermore Cultural Arts Council and the Valley Concert Chorale, I am particularly appreciative of the large role that the Independent has played in supporting and nurturing the arts in Livermore. The Art, Community & Education section does a terrific job promoting, covering and reviewing artistic and theatrical events in the Tri-Valley. The new Web-based Cultural Arts Calendar, thoughtfully developed with full input from the community, promises to be a trusted source of information for local events.

Lee Younker

30-year resident of Livermore, President of the Valley Study Group, Board member and secretary of the Livermore Cultural Arts Council, Member of the Valley Concert Chorale

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SPORTS NOTES



Pleasanton Cavaliers Rugby Club Under-8/10 teams battle it out.

Dons Defeat Mustangs; Now 2 and 0 in EBAL

The Amador Valley High School Dons improved to 2-0 in EBAL action with a 50 to 47 win over the Monte Vista Mustangs. Strong performances by Robert Lewis, Tyler Lawrence and Matt Lady in the front court and seniors Brandon King, Nate Johansen and Jacob Contreras led the way to the victory. Contreras' consistent performance was icing on the cake, as he was recognized as one of the Players of Week for the entire East Bay.

Dons would strike first in the first quarter with Lady draining the 3 pointer front in front of the key. It was a very scrappy and no holds barred defensive style of play for the entire 32 minutes of play. Brandon, Nate, Jacob, and Robert made steals, were tough on defense, deflected passes, and disturbed the Mustang offensive flow. Dons would trail 8 to 5 at the end of the first quarter.

King would be pivotal in dishing assists to Nate Johansen and Jacob Contreras for 3 pointers to open the second quarter. The Dons would take the lead 13-8. Tyler would pass to Nick for a 2 pointer, then followed with a pull up jump shot for 2 points to push the lead at the intermission to 19-14.

At the end of the third quarter, the Dons expanded the lead to 35 to 25. Contreras nailed down a 3 pointer. Lady, with another solid performance in the paint, got in on the act with his own 3 pointer. Robert Lewis and Shaun Hogan combined to play significant minutes in the paint and make post moves to contribute to the scoring drive. Nick Ruotolo

and Jeros Domogas contributed to the tough man to man pressure on the Mustangs guards. Nate Johansen would finish the third quarter with two points.

In the fourth quarter, the Mustangs made their move, working the postmen. However, Robert Lewis, Shaun Hogan, Tyler Lawrence, along with Matt Lady would "D" up.

Jacob Contreras: 18 pts, 5 rebs, 3 assists, 2 stls; Nate Johansen 11 pts, 4 stls, 1 assist; Brandon King 8 pts, 1 reb, 3 assist; Matt Lady 6 pts, 2 rebs, 1 assist, 1 stl

Pleasanton Rage

Pleasanton Rage U13 Premier Orange ended the regular season with a commanding 9-1 win over Alliance FC Devils 98 out of Union City. Julia Densmore scored a hat trick (3 goals). Additional goals were scored by Hannah McGillivray, Ellis Hegarty, Hanna Mallie, Carley Robertson, Sophie Santos and Juliana Leedeman. The NorCal U13 Gold Division champions, for the second consecutive year, Rage U13 Orange continues on the path toward the State Cup.

Youth Rugby

Pleasanton Cavaliers Rugby Club results from last week:

U8/U10s: The Cavaliers' 7 a-side team charged out on the pitch looking like they meant business for their very first game against Lamorinda. Match 1 saw a result of 10-0 to the Cavaliers with Vincent Schollaci scoring both Tries. Match 2 resulted in 15-0 to the Cavaliers with Tries from Vincent Schol-

laci, Kyle Kenny and Angus Hicks-Frazier. Match 3 tied 0-0. The small but united team kept their lines extremely well and defense was definitely their strength. It was a superb show of effort and determination from the club's youngest players which, in addition to the above mentioned included Nathan Comiskey, Colin Miller, Tony Schollaci and Duncan Hicks-Frazier.

U12s: The team showed off their fantastic newly acquired tackling skills with good results in both lineouts and scrums. They moved the ball very well with Tries scored by Jeremy Mast, Liam Bretz and Marc Gauthier. The whole team put up a tough defense. Final result was 15-30 to Lamorinda.

U14s: The older team played hard fast round-robin style multiple matches and soon found their feet in their first game of the season. Superb ball handling was demonstrated as was their organization of defense. Some good power and strength was flashed as the older Cavalier team worked together with Tries scored by Patrick and Ryan.

Wrestling

Livermore High School wrestling team defeated California High School 57-18 in a match held at California High School.

Results: 103 - Cortez (L) p. Toth :58; 112 - Barker (C) d. Conley 3-1; 119 - Lang (L) f.; 125 - Disbrow (L) f.; 130 - Eastman (L) f.; Peterson 1:15; 135 - Fulton (L) d. Anaya 5-4; 140 - Bohland (L) p. Pricco 1:14; 145 - Rardon (L) p. Rogers 2:14; 152 - Baxter (L) p. Whitaker 1:20; 160 - O'Callaghan (L) f.; 171 - Lin (C) d. Morgan 9-4; 189 - Pricco (C) p. Mitchler 1:34; 215 - Galasso (C) p. McNaney :47; 285 - Neale (L) f.



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Foothill High School's Chris O'Neill (2) goes up for a shot in a game against Livermore High School last week in men's varsity basketball action. Foothill held on for a 63 to 61 victory over the Cowboys.

In earlier competition, Tyler Rardon won 8th place at the Sierra Classic in Reno with 95 schools from 4 states attending.

CYO Basketball

St. Michael's/St. Charles (SM/SC) 6th grade Spartans CYO team #604 defeated St. Joan of Arc 29-21 in a close, well played game Sunday in CYO basketball. St. Joan of Arc came out fast with an excellent press that continued throughout the entire game. The Spartans combated the press with impressive play by P.J. Kalcic scoring 9 points and playing a great defensive game. Helping to break the press, Jacob Murdoch scored 8 points, had 8 rebounds and 6 steals while Patrick Schwartz added strong defensive play

with 6 rebounds and 2 steals plus chipping in 4 points. Brandon Agcong and Joshua Blaha added to a tough defense while Kavan Bagatelos played an aggressive defense with 4 steals and 3 rebounds.

SM/SC 5th grade boys (#504) lost 56 to 8 to (#503) St. Joan. St. Joan took an early lead and held their opponents. Top scoring players for SM/SC were Grant Blockley and Jr. Rubio. Nick Soto and Brandon Victoriano were top scorers for St. Joan. Top defensive player for SM/SC were Vincent Dixon and Zach Yeremian. Top defensive players for St. Joan included Andrew Chen and Dennis Florentines.

SM/SC CYO 4th grade boys' team

(#423), aka Club Penguin, in what turned out to be a thrilling game, was outscored by St. Joan's (#420), 29-20. The final period was especially exciting as Club Penguin rallied to score one hoop after another. For St. Joan's, the win was the result of a team effort, with eight out of the nine players scoring. Rico Guevara and Evan Gasol each scored six points for St. Joan's, and Ho Sung and Eric Cho deserve defensive recognition. For SM/SC, offensive credits go to Logan Finch and Drew Braudrick who scored nine and eight points respectively, while Forest Bishop deserves acclaim for being assist leader. Brandon Harvey and Dylan Jess were outstanding defensively, pulling six and four rebounds off the boards respectively.

In an intense and competitive game the SM/SC Lazars 4th grade girls edged St. Joans 12 - 11. Taylor London, Caitlin Willard, Lindsay Lyford and Megan Zink lead St. Joans with excellent speed and shooting. For the Lazars, Justyne Thomas halted St. Joans' runs with steals and stellar defense. Jeannie Bae came through with clutch shots and Jacqueline Arnold played tough at center.

SM/SC 408 Gladiators vs (CCOP) 401 (2-30): RJ Mata scored the Gladiators only basket. Nathan Findley, Cameron McGee and Jonathan Mulrooney played tough defense. CCOP's Tommy Goon, Paul Holley and Nathan Williams played tough offense for the win. 30-2

The 1st/2nd grade CYO SM/SC Monarchs vs. Warriors played an energized game today. Everyone put forth solid efforts. Monarchs Top Players: Erin Schrader, Olivia Turner, Emma Kello and Anna Leary; Warriors Top Players: Charlie Latkowski, Brandon Pillon, Joey Villarreal and Ben Wiesner.

SMSC 1st/2nd grade girls -- The Shooting Sharks played a fantastic game against The Shooting Stars on Sunday 1/9. Top players for Shooting Sharks: Hannah Whitelock (Defense), Britany Pettit (Offense) and Gianna DeMayo (All Around). Shooting Stars top players: Stephanie Dixon (Defense), Kelen Bronziel (Offense) and Julia Passannante (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 (continued on page 8)

New Paintball Park Opens in Livermore

By Patricia Koning

On any given weekend, there is plenty to do in Livermore—go wine tasting, play a round of golf, take in a show at the Bankhead Theater, visit the Centennial Lightbulb, and now, spend the day playing paintball.

In December, Clifton Mathews fulfilled a personal dream when he opened the American Paintball Park on Greenville Road. For the past several years he's been looking for the right property, but it's really a project he's been pursuing since his college days.

"Paintball is so much fun. However, it's about more than just fun," he says. "Paintball develops team work, leadership, decision-making, and individual pride. At American Paintball Park we feel you can have a great time getting exercise and becoming closer with friends and family."

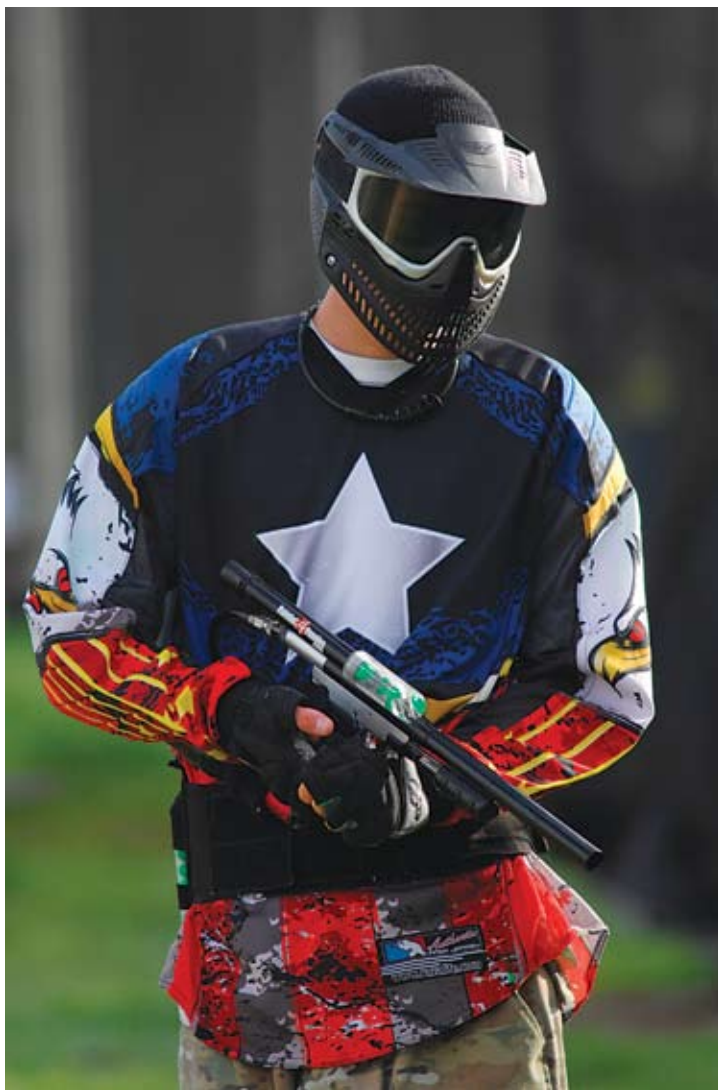
About two years ago, Mathews quit his job in the financial industry to pursue his paintball passion full-time. "The economy made this property affordable to me. It's perfect, located close to the freeway but not in anyone's way," he says. "I'm the luckiest guy in the world, because I get to do something I love every day."

Paintball is a fast-paced team game that combines elements of tag, hide and seek, and capture the flag. Using a paintball marker that shoots paintballs, players attempt to take their opponents out of the game by tagging them while trying to capture a fort or other strategic objective.

"Paintball is a great equalizer," says Mathews. "Being the biggest or the fastest doesn't necessarily make you the best." The sport has been described as similar to chess, where the ability to think quickly and decisively is rewarded.

He envisions American Paintball Park as a community resource that could support fundraising efforts. Maybe next year the Girl Scouts will be selling cookies at the fields or a school might host a fundraising day of play. "It's the perfect place to do unorthodox things," says Mathews.

American Paintball Park is situated on 6.6 acres and has five playing fields, which Mathews plans to expand to eight. Each



field is filled with large obstacles—spools, hay bales, dirt mounds, or barrels—that surround a central fort.

He used 240 loads of dirt to build the dirt mound field, also known as the "Dirt Mounds of Doom." The hay bale fields are constructed from 1,300 bales of hay, obtained from local pumpkin patches after they closed for the season.

One of the new fields will be an attack and defend style bunker fort on top of huge dirt pile. Mathews is looking for a sponsor for an old west town field that will have a main street with buildings along both sides. He's taking suggestions from players for the theme of the third new field.

He first played paintball in college and then became a ref-

eree in southern California. "I play paintball the way some people play golf. I've traveled the country playing recreational paintball on different fields," he says. "This field was perfectly flat when I bought it, so I got to design my ultimate field from the ground up, using everything I liked about other fields I'd played."

The fields are designed at different levels of challenge, but typically teams will play on all five fields. A day of paintball usually lasts six hours or more, starting before 9 am and ending after 3 pm. A game consists of



Photos - Doug Jorgensen

Paintball is described as a great way to exercise. Pictured are scenes from the new American Paintball Park in Livermore. For more photos, go to the online edition of The Independent at www.independentnews.com.

two matches on one field, with the teams switching sides of the field.

Mathews says he separates beginning players from advanced when possible or creates balanced teams. "Experienced players will help the new players because it makes it more fun for everyone," he says. "The level of teamwork between people who have never met is pretty amazing."

American Paintball Park is open from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm on weekends and holidays and available for rental on weekdays. Private events require at least 10 participants. The minimum age is 12 and players under 18 years of age need a waiver signed by a parent.

A day of paintball with a full rental is \$60, which includes the paintball marker, high pres-

sure air tank, hopper, and a new VForce mask that the player can keep. If players return with their masks, they can save \$5 off future rentals. For fully equipped players, the rate is \$20.

Paintballs are not included in either rate. Players can bring their own or purchase paintballs from American Paintball Park, which guarantees that no paintballs will be broken inside the box.

For more information, visit www.americanpaintballpark.com or call 925-565-3118. American Paintball Park is located at 1230 Greenville Road in Livermore.

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SPORTS NOTES

Las Positas to Offer Intercollegiate Swimming and Diving

Beginning this spring semester, Las Positas College will offer men's and women's swimming and diving intercollegiate teams.

"There is a lot of excitement about the season," said Head Coach Jason Craighead. "We have an outstanding college, and we are one of the few community colleges with new facilities. Everybody who's been up here has been wowed." The new Aquatic Center, which is also used by community organizations, features a pool house, 13-lane competition pool, and six-lane instructional pool.

Craighead described benefits of joining the new teams, "At Las Positas, students have the opportunity to learn about the college experience both athletically and academically before they transfer. This is a natural progression and it is much easier for a student to come here and transfer and be successful. Students get a great education at a great price."

He also predicts success in the teams' future. "Three to five years from now, we will have an extremely competitive swim and dive program that will be in the top five or 10 in the state. This area has a tremendous amount of aquatic experience and talent, and it is one of the most sought after areas for high school athletes in the country."

Craighead, who joined the Las Positas College faculty in August 2009, followed a transfer path from community college to a four-year college. Born and raised in Santa Rosa, CA, Craighead was a seven-time All-American swimmer and All-Conference water polo player at Santa Rosa Junior College.

Pit Bulls at Home; Record Improves to 7-3

East Bay Pit Bulls hosted the Chico Rage on Sunday night, coming back from a 12 point deficit in the beginning of the 4th quarter to win 119-115. The win was led by Teohn Conner's double double, with 24 points, shooting an amazing 5 of 7, 2 pointers and 75% from the 3

point line and 12 rebounds. The Pit Bulls continue to improve their record to 7-3 overall and 7-1 at home.

The next home game is this Friday, January 14, 8pm at Las Positas College, 3000 Campus Hill Drive, Livermore.

Las Positas College offers students eight intercollegiate team sports: men's and women's soccer, cross country, basketball, and, now, swimming and diving. "We have some of the best athletic facilities in the state of California," said Dean/Athletic Director Dyan Miller of Physical Education, Athletics, Health, and Wellness. In addition to the Aquatic Center, the new state-of-the-art facilities include a gymnasium, an all-weather turf soccer field, and an all-weather track and multi-use field. The new facilities and other campus capital improvements have been made possible by the Measure B facilities bond.

Las Positas College is located at 3000 Campus Hill Drive in Livermore.

Las Positas College offers an extensive selection of classes in Physical Education, Athletics, Health, and Wellness. For more information about the athletic program and team sports opportunities at Las Positas College, please call (925) 424-1274 or visit the website at www.laspositascollege.edu/athletics/index.php. For information about spring semester classes, please see the class schedule link on the homepage at www.laspositascollege.edu.

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Nils Carlson of Livermore Valley Charter Wins City MATHCOUNTS Title

By Patricia Koning

Over 100 Livermore middle school students spent the morning of Dec. 8 mulling over percentages, primary numbers, and perimeters at the 15th annual Livermore City-wide MATHCOUNTS Tournament. The students represented Christensen Middle School, East Avenue Middle School, Junction Avenue K-8 School, Livermore Homeschoolers, Livermore Valley Charter School (LVCS), and Mendenhall Middle School.

"It's my honor and pleasure to celebrate your achievements today," said Livermore School Superintendent Kelly Bowers. "You are remarkable and will have a bright and shining future. Last year's valedictorian of Granada High School, who is now attending Harvard, was a member of Mendenhall's MATHCOUNTS team. It is very cool to be smart."

In 1985, teacher Mary Anne Beilke started Livermore's MATHCOUNTS program at Mendenhall Middle School. Ted Perry, a Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory physicist and father of six school-aged children, was the coach. All of his children have outgrown MATHCOUNTS, which is for middle school only, but he has remained involved, helping run the annual city-wide tournament each year.

Kathy Coyle, an independent

Internet consultant and designer, also has been involved in Livermore MATHCOUNTS from the start. She represents the National Society of Professional Engineers (NPSE) Livermore Auxiliary, which each year provides awards for the winners.

"It's wonderful that MATHCOUNTS is open to every student in middle school," she said. "Not every school competition is like this, where every child who wants to participate is welcome."

Also in attendance were Livermore School Board members Bill Dunlop, who coaches Christensen's MATHCOUNTS team, Chuck Rogge, and Anne White.

Nils Carlson, an eighth grader at LVCS, took home top honors for the second year in a row, winning the 7th/8th grade individual competition and, with Hayden King, Kristen Young, and Max Zhuang, the team competition as well. Last year he was a member of the winning 7th/8th grade team and placed tenth in the individual competition.

Jordan Combitsis of LVCS won the 6th grade individual competition and the East Avenue team of Archai Sinha, Joseph Sandholtz, Ryan MacDonell, and Janna Picket won the 6th grade team competition.

MATHCOUNTS is an extracurricular middle school program to promote math achievement. At

regular club meetings, students practice math problems that involve several concepts, making them more complex and difficult than what is taught in regular math classes. Teachers, parents, and community members volunteer as coaches at the individual school sites.

The tournament consists of two individual written components: the sprint round which tests speed and accuracy, and the target round of multi-step problems that engage mathematical reasoning and problem-solving processes. In the team round, groups of four students work together to solve ten problems in twenty minutes. Scores from both the individual and team components determine the winning teams.

The final piece is the countdown round, in which the top ten individuals, based on scores from the sprint and target rounds, compete against each other and the clock to determine final placement. Only seventh and eighth graders participated in the countdown round.

Each school can send one team and four additional students (seventh and eighth grade only) to the Diablo Chapter Competition next month. The California State Competition will take place in March in two locations, one in northern California and one in southern California. The Raytheon MATHCOUNTS Na-

tional Competition will be held in Washington, DC, on May 5-8.

The winners of the 2011 Livermore City-wide MATHCOUNTS Tournament are:

Individual, grades 7/8: 1) Nils Carlson (LVCS); 2) Megan Kristovich (East); 3) Peter Lalor (Christensen); 4) Jane Wu (Mendenhall); 5) Ethan Epperly (Christensen); 6) Katie Johnston (East); 7) Kristina Brown (East); 8) Summer Rose (East); 9) Hayden King (LVCS); 10) Max Zhuang (LVCS).

Individual, grade 6: 1) Jordan Combitsis (LVCS); 2) Anchal Sinha (East); 3) David Wang (Mendenhall); 4) Ryan MacDonell (East); 5) Pranav Raja (LVCS).

Team, grades 7/8: 1) LVCS (Nils Carlson, Hayden King, Kristen Young, Max Zhuang); 2) East (Katie Johnston, Megan Kristovich, Summer Rose, Dannielle Sun); 3) Christensen (Ethan Ha, Anish Prabhu, Peter Lalor, Jonas Elam).

Team, grade 6: 1) East (Archal Sinha, Joseph Sandholtz, Ryan MacDonell, Janna Picket); 2) LVCS (Zach Hrdlicka, Jordan Combitsis, Pranav Raja, Kaavya Nimmakayla); 3) Mendenhall (David Wang, Kyle Wohlgenuth, Vincent DiNicola, Cameron Priest).

For more information MATHCOUNTS, visit <http://www.mathcounts.org>.

Asante Africa Foundation: A Home Grown Solution to Global Issues

When Erna Gras and her husband Mark Newton set out to climb the icy peak of Mt. Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa, they had no idea they would return home from their travels inspired to accomplish yet another feat.

Grasz, a former engineering employee who worked in the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's National Ignition Facility (NIF) Directorate, and her husband Mark Newton, a Lab Engineering Division Leader currently working in the NIF and Photon Sciences Directorate, were warmed by the people they met in local villages and communities who lived without access to basic resources like food and water, not to mention education.

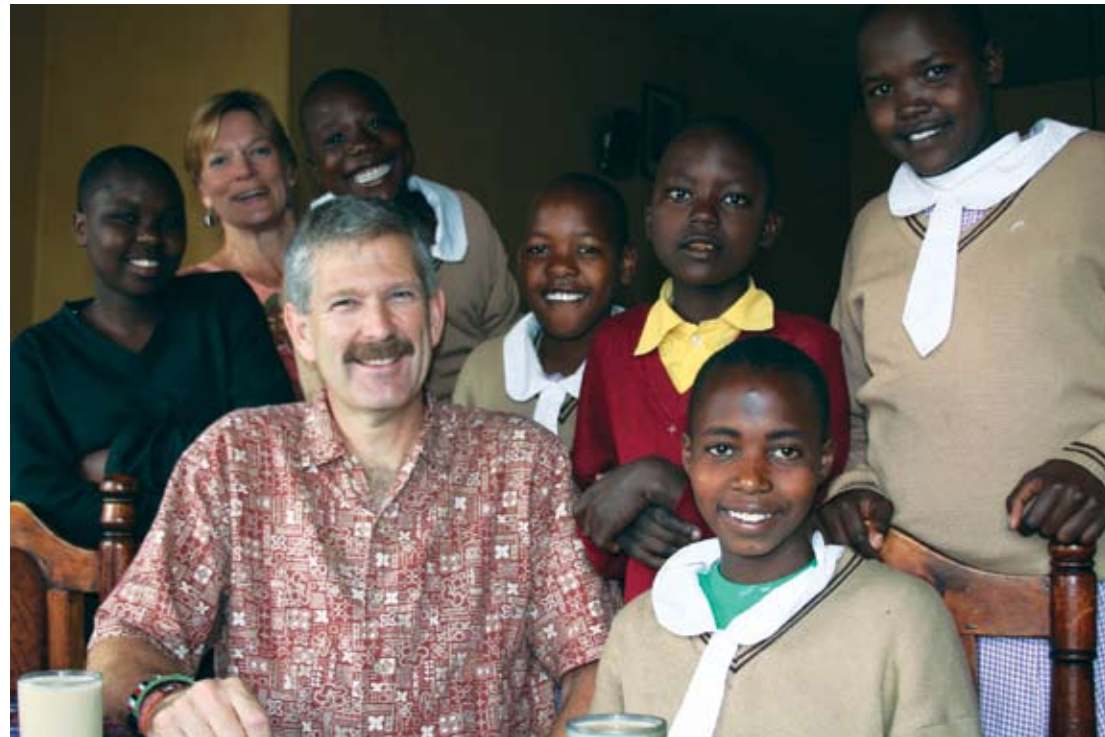
Back home in Livermore, when they met with local people who were interested in helping in Tanzania and Kenya, they couldn't find just what they were looking for. So they simply started their own mechanism to help and that's when Asante Africa Foundation was born. The purpose of Asante is to provide quality education for children in East Africa so that they can improve life for themselves and their families.

When Gras is asked, "Why not address HIV, or poverty, or economics?" She replies, "Education provides the essential tools for tackling all other big tough challenges. When you have enriched minds and empowered leadership and creativity, solutions will be found to other problems."

Asante Africa Foundation is grounded on the belief that every child deserves access to quality education, regardless of the longitude or latitude in which they are born. Education empowers children to make informed decisions, to turn dreams into reality, to reduce their families' struggle, and to facilitate the process of their communities becoming self-sustaining.

Asante is one of the organizations receiving donations from the Lab's HOME fund.

Last year alone, Asante Africa Foundation has provided 125 student scholarships in elementary through high school,



Erna Gras and Mark Newton with children in Africa.

funded the completion of three primary schools, piloted two new enhanced learning programs for improving grades and performance, graduated 13 high school students from Kenya and Tanzania, and graduated two teachers in advanced training programs. Since the organization began, they have touched the lives of 19,000 students across 18 schools.

Nancy (Global Security) and Greg (Science & Technology) Suski became involved in the organization when their son, Matthew came home from school last year and said he was going to start a club to raise money to help children in Africa. There was a guest speaker that day at his junior high school who talked about how hard life is for many impoverished African children.

With the help of some his friends, he started "Believers In Action." In just under three months he raised more than \$2,000. As Matthew Suski and his parents started thinking about next steps, they called Gras to learn more about what it meant to start a charitable foundation. After talking with Gras and Newton, the next step was easy — go to Africa and see how it works. Matthew Suski gathered up his

Believers In Action friends. They put together more than 200 bags of school supplies to deliver to children at the Asante-Africa-supported Kwamaku Primary School in Tanzania.

"Of all the organizations in the HOME Campaign, Asante Africa is a unique because it helps people in our local community build bridges with our global communities," Nancy Suski says. "Asante Africa broadens the knowledge of how the rest of the world lives and allows us to actually make a difference across the world, from our HOME to theirs. The power of education

is transforming lives of children in East Africa. Supporting education there, particularly for girls, is one of the best investments we can make to increase economic growth, improve public health, reduce violence, and break the cycle of poverty in our world. And with ever-increasing global interdependency, the more we do to improve the education of our global neighbors, the better off we all will be in terms of freedom, economy and peaceful existence."

Go to www.asanteafrica.org for more information about the Asante Africa Foundation.

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.

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 tong@norcalgrizzlies.org. Schedule an evaluation at www.norcalgrizzlies.org/2011springballreg.html.

Track & Field

St. Michael's CYO Track & Field team is holding sign ups for the Spring 2011 season on 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.

Aikido Seminar

Kevin Choate Sensei 6th Dan Chief Instructor Choate Aikikai will present a seminar on Feb. 4 to 6 in Livermore at Aikido of Livermore-Shimrei Dojo.

Events are offered Friday, 6:30 to 8 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 2 to 4:30 p.m. and on Sunday 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Starting Aikido in 1976 with Shiguru Suzuki Sensei, a senior student of Saotome Shihan, Choate Sensei has earned a reputation for authentic and profound instruction. Choate Sensei was awarded his 6th dan by Saotome Shihan in 1998 and has continued to study with Saotome and Ikeda Shihan as well as expanding his martial arts repertoire as a certified instructor in the Russian martial art Systema. Choate Sensei's seminars, while firmly rooted in Aikido tradition, reflect the depth and breadth of his study of the martial arts. As a senior instructor for Aikido Schools of Ueshiba he travels frequently to conduct Aikido seminars across the country and overseas.



Kevin Choate

Training fees range from \$100 for the full seminar to \$40 for a single session. All martial arts affiliations are welcome. A sliding scale is available for those who need financial assistance.

The dojos located at 3985 First St., Suite C, Livermore. For information, call 925-447-4220 or go to www.aikilivermore.com.

PGSL Registration

2011 Registration is still 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 the website). Late fee of \$25 applied after 11/30/10. For more information or questions, email Christine Tanis at christine.t@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.

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BLUE VALENTINE COMING JAN. 28

Livermore Mothers Starting Charter Home Schooling

Two Livermore women are leading a drive to form a charter school devoted to homeschooling under the name Mount Parnassus.

The Alameda County Board of Education is scheduled to hear their presentation at 10 a.m. March 8 at its headquarters at 313 West Winton Ave., Hayward. A decision is expected at a subsequent meeting.

Karen Roddy and Kim Cameron Smith have been homeschooling their children for years. The children have never been enrolled in the community's public schools. Roddy and Smith have been very satisfied with the results of homeschooling.

Parents are the important teachers of children in homeschooling, especially in the early grades, with some regular supervision and advice from credentialed teachers to ensure that state standards are met.

Enrichment classes are also needed, as are lab and lecture classes for middle school and high school students. Group interactions are another aspect. Some of lab, lecture, etc. already is being fulfilled by a non-profit organization started by Roddy. It is called Outstanding Academic Opportunities (OAOpp).

Roddy makes no money from the organization. In fact, she said that she has lost some money.

However, she has been able to transfer money from parents to credentialed teachers who teach the science labs and other courses and tutors that the students need.

If Mount Parnassus' charter is granted, she will merge the two non-profits to benefit from the structure already in place with OAOpp. The merger will occur so that she does not have any conflict of interest, said Cameron Smith, who is an attorney. She is putting the legal underpinnings together.

Roddy and Cameron Smith have used the services of a charter school for homeschooling. It is operated by a commercial firm, which has branches elsewhere.

However, both mothers have been dissatisfied with that firm over what they consider to be a lack of communication with parents about their rights concerning the hiring of vendors. In home schooling, a vendor is a tutor in Latin or a music teacher, or anyone else who might be able to provide educational services.

Instead of just being dissatisfied with the learning corporation's lack of communication, Roddy and Cameron Smith decided to do something about it. The "Aha!" moment came one day in a Livermore park, where the two mothers took their children on a play date.

Roddy was complaining about the situation. Cameron Smith said something along the lines of "Well, why don't you start your own homeschooling non-profit?" She meant it in jest. Roddy took it seriously, thinking that it was really the only way to accomplish something. It would be a home schooling non-profit run by the parents themselves.

It won't be a parents' co-op, but rather the parents in charge will be Roddy and Cameron Smith, who will run the non-profit with their peer parents' interests in mind. They will follow the state public education rules for the school, which they

call Mount Parnassus Charter Academy.

They selected the Parnassus name because it is a symbolic inspiration in the arts and learning.

The charter schools web page explains that it is the climb up Parnassus that is important, because of the transformation of the person during the climb. "Knowledge in itself does not justify the sweat; the climb itself

transforms our very nature, cultivating insight and wisdom," says their statement.

Since most of the potential clients for the school are already home schoolers, Roddy doesn't see the school taking students away from public schools in Livermore or anywhere else in Alameda County.

COUNTY

(continued from page one)

outlines a strategy to shift many services away from the State and to local government so that these services are closer to the people they serve. The plan calls for wholesale changes in the way programs such as foster care, welfare, food stamps and some law enforcement functions are delivered to the public.

Supervisor Keith Carson, who chairs Alameda County's Budget Workgroup, said, "Too often in the past the State has shifted

programs to the local level along with funding sources that are adequate when the economy is healthy and insufficient during periods of economic slowdown," Carson said. "Eventually, this means that funding dries up when services are needed the most. It has a crippling effect in the community — one we cannot allow in terms of other vital programs the State proposes to shift to local government."

However, Alameda County officials say they find the philo-

sophical underpinnings of the Governor's budget plan to be refreshing given that they recognize that local government can be more effective with more control and flexibility in administering programs that serve local communities. Furthermore, they said they are heartened to see a budget plan that acknowledges that cuts alone will not resolve the State's fiscal mess, but must be accompanied by government reform and new, stable revenue sources.

OBITUARIES

Albert V. Larimore

Albert V. Larimore died peacefully in his daughter's home on December 29, 2010, after briefly joining his family on Christmas to lovingly express, "We have a wonderful family."

Albert was born in Stockade, Montana, on November 1, 1917, to Jeanette and John Larimore who was postmaster of the small town. Following a divorce, he and his mother moved several times throughout the western states, eventually settling in Oakland where he lived for two years in Fred Finch Orphanage before graduating from Oakland High.

Working as a mechanic, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1941, where he was trained as an airplane mechanic specialist working on the Allison and Rolls Royce fighter plane engines. During the war years he was stationed primarily at Drew Field, Florida, but he traveled extensively to bases throughout the United States. Our favorite family story was when he was on furlough from the Army in 1943 hitchhiking home to California. He was picked up outside of El Paso by a Texan heading for Judge Roy Bean's Ranch. After spending the day with him at the ranch, he introduced himself as Lyndon B. Johnson, State Senator.

In November of 1947, he met the love of his life, Rene Sachau. They married three months later and shared in the raising of two children from a previous marriage, Gary and Lori Miles. Enjoying camping, boating, and skiing as a family, they eventually built their dream cabin in the mountains of Lake Almanor in 1963.

After the war, Albert settled in Livermore, California, where he worked as a station manager for Standard Oil. Returning to Laney Trade School in 1956, he earned his AA degree in Mechanical Technology. Shortly thereafter, he was hired at Lawrence Livermore Lab as a machinist where he worked for ten years before transferring to Lockheed Martin in Sunnyvale until his retirement in 1977.

Albert and Rene enjoyed fifty-six years of life together until her death in 2004. He is survived by his son, Gary Miles of Mountain View, California, and his daughter and son-in-law, Lori and Hal Sinclair of Lake Almanor, California. He is also survived by six grandchildren, Scott Miles, Jackie Piela, Greg Sinclair, Keith Sinclair, Brian Sinclair, and Chris Sinclair. He also has twelve great-grandchildren living in California and Idaho.

Albert, Rene and their dog, Tippy, enjoyed many years of cappuccinos and cookies, at Starbucks on East First in Livermore. Our family wants to express our thanks to all those caring employees who have been so thoughtful and considerate of our dad especially after our mom's death. They were like a second family to him. A special thanks, also, to his wonderful neighbors, Al and Debbie and Will and Maya, who watched over him these last few years. We so appreciate their loving concern.

As our dad always said, "It's a wonderful life."

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

A graveside service for Albert was held on Friday, January 7, 2011 at St. Michael's Catholic Cemetery, 3855 East Ave., Livermore.

Nancy Strunk

A Celebration of the Life of Nancy Lou Patton Strunk will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 22 at Centerpointe Presbyterian Church in Pleasanton.



She was 74.

She was born June 17, 1936 in Atlanta, GA where she lived until she graduated from high school. She met her husband-to-be, Harold K. "Hal" Strunk as a 15-year-old sophomore in high school when she went to a fraternity social with a long-time friend and Hal's fraternity brother.

Hal was an 18-year-old sophomore at Georgia Tech when they met and already had served three years in the Army National Guard. They married at Peachtree Methodist Church a week after Nancy graduated from high school. They celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary in 2010.

Shortly after they were married, Hal was drafted into the Army where he served two years on active duty. After he was discharged, they moved to Southern California where they lived and worked for a number of years while Hal completed his undergraduate studies and earned three graduate degrees at UCLA.

In 1972, they settled in Pleasanton. Hal recalls how they knew it was the right place when on their first morning in town, they went to Dean's Café, a downtown Pleasanton institution for decades and had a hearty breakfast. They walked out to read the headlines in the local paper that touted the arrest of cattle rustlers.

Nancy invested most of her life in serving her family. She worked for a number of years after the kids were in school as a library assistant at Dublin High School. Earlier, while Hal was attending UCLA, she worked part-time for the university.

Hal and Nancy traveled wide-

ly, visiting 24 countries during their life together. They lived for five years in Saudi Arabia when Hal was a Hospital Administrator for the Saudi military. Nancy's favorite trip was a two-week photo safari to Kenya that fulfilled a life-long dream.

Nancy had been a member of the Centerpointe Presbyterian Church since 1973 and particularly liked volunteering to serve the children at the annual Vacation Bible School. She served many years on the Mission Committee. She also was a member of the Livermore-Amador Valley Assistance League.

She is survived by her husband of 56 years, retired Navy Captain Harold K. "Hal" Strunk of Pleasanton; her three children, Karen Pearson and her husband, Roy of Discovery Bay, Melanie Adams and her husband, Douglas, of Rancho Murieta, and Wayne Strunk of Sacramento; as well as grand-children Benjamin Adams, Daniel Adams, Cassandra Jane Kelly, Ryan Pearson and Erick Pearson and his wife Geena; and great grandchildren Tyler Pearson, Maddox Pearson and Joshua Kelly.

In lieu of flowers, the family prefers gifts in her memory to the Centerpointe Church Building Fund, 3410 Cornerstone Ct., Pleasanton, CA 94566.

Karen Kay Shannon

Longtime Livermore resident, Karen Kay Shannon (nee King), passed away unexpectedly on January 2, 2011. She was 70 years old.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Michael Joseph Shannon, and leaves behind a loving daughter and her family and a loving son and his family. She also leaves behind a brother and three sisters, who loved her and will miss her dearly.

Karen was vivacious and smart, able to do anything she wanted to do once she put her mind to it. She garnered many, many dear friends over the course of her lifetime through her many activities and hobbies. She loved to dance, work in stained glass, travel the world, knit, paint watercolors, play with her cats, grow and show roses competitively, take long walks with her dog P.D., and play with her grandchildren. There was no interest or task she could not tackle and succeed at.

While she was a savvy businesswoman in her own right, she was also extremely successful in real estate as well as in performing her duties as a dental

hygienist.

Her loss will leave an empty place in all of our hearts. It is our hope that the memories of her smile and laugh, as well as reflection on all of the joyful times she created and generously shared in this life will help bring some solace to all who knew and loved her and have been deeply aggrieved by her loss.

Private services for family and close friends will occur at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in Karen's name to one of two charitable organizations: the American Cancer Society at 800-227-235 or by going to her personal memorial mosaic page <http://main.acevents.org/karen.shannon>; and/or Children's Hospital & Research Foundation at 510-428-3814 or go to the website www.chofoundation.org, entering your information, checking the "in memory" box and following instructions. All donation amounts remain anonymous and are greatly appreciated by the family as a tribute to a beautiful woman and are a wonderful way to celebrate Karen's life.

Granville A. Epps

On November 27, 2010, Mr. Granville A. Epps of Pleasanton, CA went to be with the Lord. Mr. Epps passed away peacefully at the Livermore VA Hospital after a long illness.

Mr. Epps was born in Booneville, AK on August 15, 1920 and grew up in Oklahoma during the

Great Depression. A longtime bachelor, Mr. Epps was twice-married, first to Mrs. Zula Henry, of Eufala, OK and then to Mrs. Geraldine Baker of CA. Mr. Epps was a WWII veteran who was assigned to the 893rd Medical Clearing Company where he served in the Philippines at Leyte Gulf. After the war, Mr. Epps worked in the automotive industry as a car painter, eventually becoming the owner of his own successful auto body and paint shop in San Leandro which was a fixture on East 14th Street for many years.

Somewhere along the way, Mr. Epps became involved in the Shriner's organization, eventually attaining the level of 32nd degree Mason. For nearly 25 years, Mr. Epps was an avid "Jeep" who participated in the annual "Jeepers Jamboree" event (also known as the Rubicon) in Georgetown, CA. Mr. Epps had a wonderful smile and a great sense of humor was which was always evident at annual family gatherings in

which he would open his home to all who could come. He had a big heart and was always ready to help others.

Mr. Epps was preceded in death by his son Donald A. Epps and his daughter Rebecca (Becke) A. Viada. He leaves behind daughter Michelle Dempster of Shoshoni, Wyoming; son-in-law Charles F. Viada of Mazatlan, Mexico; grandsons Michael Barros, of Rosamond, CA and Donald M. Epps of Dublin, CA; granddaughter-in-law Valerie A. Barros of Rosamond, CA; great-grandsons Charles G. Barros of Kennewick, WA and Donald J. Epps, of Reno, NV; great-granddaughter Justina M. Canales of Rosamond, CA; grandniece and great-grandniece Monica and Amber Granato of Pleasanton, CA as well as several extended family members. Mr. Epps is greatly missed by those who knew and loved him.

A Memorial Service will be held on Jan. 18, 2011, 2:30 p.m. at Callaghan Mortuary.

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DUI Arrests Down During Holidays

No one died in Alameda County at the hands of a drunk driver in the 17-day Avoid the 21 winter holiday crackdown that ended Sunday. Three people died last year.

DUI arrests were down by 17 percent in the county.

Police officers, sheriff's deputies and California Highway Patrol officers brought in 763 DUI suspects, compared with 897 last year and 1270 two years ago, said Avoid the 21 coordinator Lt. Ava. Garavatti of the Livermore police.

"This is very good news," she remarked, citing the still-down economy and heavy rains for keeping people home. "We had city and university police

officers, sheriff's deputies and CHP officers out in force all over the county looking for dangerous DUI suspects, but we found fewer of them. We congratulate the public on making the wise decision to drive stone-cold sober every single time."

Deputies made 45 percent of the arrests with a total of 333, followed by the Oakland squad of the CHP with 125 and Livermore police with 56. Other departments made 28 or fewer arrests.

The crackdown included sobriety checkpoints, maximum freeway enforcement by the CHP, an opening-night DUI strike team, another for the Oakland Raiders game against the Denver

Broncos and a DUI warrant team along with in-city DUI patrols in many communities.

Officers and deputies made 65 DUI warrant arrests, half of them during and after a warrant sweep held Dec. 30, said Livermore Officer Traci Rebiejo, who coordinated the effort.

Avoid the 21 will hit the streets again for Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 6.

The campaign is Alameda County's law enforcement anti-DUI crackdown and is named after the number of police agencies in the county. The California Office of Traffic Safety funds it through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

FormFactor to Keep It Largest Manufacturing Operation in Livermore

FormFactor, Inc. (NASDAQ: FORM) announced it is ceasing its transition of manufacturing operations to Singapore. The manufacturing activities that were scheduled to be transitioned to Singapore will remain in Livermore.

Livermore will continue as the largest manufacturing operation for the company.

Founded in 1993, FormFactor, Inc. (NASDAQ: FORM) manufactures wafer probe cards, which are used by semiconductor manufacturers to electrically test ICs. The company's wafer sort,

burn-in and device performance testing products move IC testing upstream from post-packaging to the wafer level, enabling semiconductor manufacturers to lower their overall production costs, improve yields, and bring next-generation devices to market.

In the second quarter of fiscal 2010 the company announced a series of corporate initiatives that represented a renewed focus on streamlining and simplifying its operations as well as reducing its quarterly operating costs. Those

corporate initiatives included consolidating certain manufacturing operations by moving the assembly and testing operation from Korea to Livermore. The company's decision to cease the Singapore manufacturing transition is consistent with its plan to simplify business processes and get back to basics in order to return the company to profitability.

FormFactor is headquartered in Livermore, with operations in Europe, Asia and North America.

SHORT NOTES

Parenting Teens

Parents of teenagers are invited to join Cynthia Ross, M.S. for a free seminar on how to help children with their emotional / psychological development; How you can parent effectively. How you can improve parent-teen relationship and learn art of listening to your kids and be compassionate. This is an opportunity to discuss concerns and ask questions.

The program will be presented Sat., Jan. 22 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Pleasanton Library.

Cynthia Ross is a developmental psychologist, and is currently a tenured professor at Las Positas College in Livermore. She has been teaching at the college level for 16 years.

Cynthia has recently offered seminars on "The Millennial Generation (1982-2000)" which focus on the special attributes, attitudes and behaviors of teens and young adults. In addition, she served as a consultant for the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District in Livermore between January 1996-January 2001, teaching parenting classes.

The program is free and open to the public. For more information, call Teresa Parham, 931-3404 or e-mail tparham@ci.pleasanton.ca.us

Mushroom Madness

Mushroom Madness is the topic of a nature program to be presented on Sat., Jan. 15 by the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District ranger staff.

Meet Ranger Amy Wolitzer at 1 p.m. at Veterans Park. Ranger Amy and Debbie Veiss from the Bay Area Mycological Society will lead LARP's annual mushroom hunt. Be prepared to crawl around the upper portion of Veterans Park to see how many different types of fungi can be found - last year there were more than 30. Some possibilities include Puffballs, Turkey Tail, Witches Butter and more.

There is a \$5 per vehicle parking fee. A \$2 donation is requested to help support the programs. Participants may call 925-960-2400 for more informa-

tion.

Library Storytimes

Livermore Public Library storytimes are underway and will continue through the week of May 9. A variety of storytimes will be held at the Civic Center and Rincon branches:

Civic Center Library -
• Baby/Toddler: Mondays and Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.

• Preschool: Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m.

• "Pajama-time" Family storytimes: Mondays at 7:00 p.m.

• Special series of "Babies Only" storytimes: Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m., February 1 through March 29.

Rincon Branch (Hora del Cuento Familiar Bilingüe) -

• Baby/Toddler: Fridays at 10:30 a.m.

• Preschool: Fridays at 11:00 a.m.

All ages are welcome to these free library programs. Contact Youth Services at (925) 373-5504 for more information or pick up a storytime schedule at any one of the Livermore Public Libraries.

Pajama-time Storytime

"Pajama-time" Family Storytimes will be held at the Livermore Civic Center Library every Monday night beginning in January 2011 through May 9, at 7 p.m. Following are the themes for Family Storytimes through the end of February:

• Monday, January 24: Storytime Longs for Summer: Enough with this cold, cold winter! Let's share some stories about fun in the sun.

• Monday, January 31: The Itsy-Bitsy Storytime: an evening of stories and songs about little things, enjoyable by people big & small!

• Monday, February 7: Dino-Night: a trip back in time—way back! No special equipment necessary, but feel free to wear your pajamas!

• Monday, February 14: Best Friends: Bring your friends, bring your neighbors, and certainly bring your family to a storytime all about best buddies.

• Monday, February 28: A

Very Seuss-y Storytime: celebrate the fun world of Theodor "Dr. Seuss" Geisel by reading some of his wonderful works. Crazy hats encouraged.

These programs will be held in the Children's Craft Room of the Civic Center Library. All ages are welcome to these free library programs. Contact Youth Services at (925) 373-5504 for more information or pick up a storytime schedule at any one of the Livermore Public Libraries.

The Library will be closed Monday, January 17, for Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and Monday, February 21, for Presidents' Day.

White Elephant Sale

Shop till you drop at the 2011 White Elephant Sale (WES), the biggest and best treasure hunt in Northern California, Saturday, March 5, and Sunday, March 6. Sale hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. both days and admission is free.

The Preview Sale, a destination point for serious shoppers, is Sunday, January 30, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tickets are \$15 in advance (see WES website) and \$20 at the door. Children under 12 are free when accompanied by an adult.

The sale is held in a 96,000-square-foot warehouse near the Oakland Estuary, at 333 Lancaster St. (at Glascock), near the Fruitvale BART. There is a free shuttle service from the Fruitvale BART to the Sale warehouse. For complete details call 510-536-6800 or visit www.whiteelephantsale.org.

Organized and presented by the Oakland Museum Women's Board to benefit the Oakland Museum of California (OMCA), the legendary White Elephant Sale features quality used items for sale, including an extensive offering of Vintage clothing, fine jewelry, Asian collectibles, tools, furniture, sporting goods, and more.

Distraction Driving

During the month of January, the Livermore Police Department will be focusing its efforts on vehicle safety as it pertains to distracted driving.

Drivers who use hand held devices are four times as likely to get into crashes serious enough to injure themselves. Using a cell phone while driving, whether its hand held or hands free, delays a driver's reactions as much as having a blood alcohol concentration at the legal limit of .08 percent. (Source: University of Utah.)

There are three main types of distracted driving:

• Visual: Taking your eyes off the road

• Manual: Taking your hands off the wheel

• Cognitive: Taking your mind off what you are doing.

Texting, cell phone use, eating/drinking, grooming, talking to passengers, using navigation devices, changing the radio station or a CD are all examples of distracted driving that can cause a collision.

During the month of January the Livermore Police Department will be focusing on distracted driving and will be conducting several targeted enforcement days, where officers will have an emphasis on distracted driving.

If there are any questions regarding illegal equipment contact the Livermore Police Department Traffic Division at 925 371-4850.

Fitness and Health Fair

Iron Horse Nutrition will host a free fitness and health fair on Saturday, January 22, 2011 from 12pm to 3pm offering the community an opportunity to participate in a day of activities focused on fitness and health. The store is located in the Rose Pavilion in Pleasanton at 4270 Rosewood Drive.

"We have a great day planned with many activities, product giveaways and special product discounts," says Tim Massie, owner of Iron Horse Nutrition. "We'll have vendors from top supplement companies, free product samples and nutritional advice to name a few."

Event activities include the following: Supplement vendors and sample giveaways. Vendors

from top name brand supplement companies will be available to provide information about the latest nutritional supplements and offer free samples. Health and wellness providers will be on hand to offer free services including chair massage, nutritional advice by a licensed nutritionist and more.

John Muir Renovations

The renovation of the visitor center at John Muir National Historic Site in Martinez is scheduled to begin in January 2011. The project will create a larger lobby, as well as provide space for new exhibits to educate the public about the life and achievements of conservationist John Muir. The house and grounds will remain open during the three month renovation. The visitor center and bookstore will be temporarily moved into a trailer in the parking lot.

The renovation is the result of a partnership between the National Park Service and the John Muir Association, a nonprofit organization that provides support at the historic site. The completion date is April 16, 2011, the date of the site's annual "Birthday - Earth Day" celebration.

Other changes planned for the site will be based on several long term studies of the land, house and furniture at the site. The studies resulted in recommendations on the best way to represent Muir's ideas, life and work during his time of residence. For example, in 2010, several trees were removed and replaced with peach trees to match the locations of peach trees in his original orchard.

The John Muir National Historic Site is located at 4202 Alhambra Avenue, Martinez. The house is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information go to www.nps.gov/jomu/index/htm or call 228-8860.

Cutest Kid

Local photographer, Chris of Chris Tobeck Photography, is participating in the 2011 Inter-

national Charity Model Search to select *North America's Cutest Kid* and to raise funds for the non-profit Now I Lay Me Down To Sleep Foundation (NILMDTS.org). The last two years featured over 2,600 model's images and raised \$184,775 for the NILMDTS organization.

Now I Lay Me Down To Sleep (NILMDTS), is a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization committed to assisting parents and families who experience the tragedy of an early infant loss. NILMDTS connects families with volunteer photographers and provides them with a professional portrait session and reproducible CD of the images of their baby at no cost to the family. For further information on NILMDTS, visit their website at www.nowilayme-downtosleep.org.

Participating photographers submit portraits of local kids to an international online voting gallery. Parents let friends and family know about the event and encourage them to vote for their child. Each vote is \$1. All proceeds from votes benefit Now I Lay Me Down To Sleep (NILMDTS.org). Finalists are determined by online votes, and all finalists move to an independent judging round.

The grand prize international winner will be determined from the 50 regional finalists. The winners are selected from the finalists by photography industry experts.

The winning child receives a \$2500 savings bond, a \$2500 travel package, and a \$100 Target gift card. The second and third place runners up each receive \$500 savings bonds, and a \$100 Target gift card. Winning photographers also receive valuable prize packages.

People who want to enter their kids ages birth to 18 years into the contest may do so by calling Chris Tobeck Photography at 925-456-4048 or email: chris@christobekphotography.com. The contest is open to residents of the US and Canada. For more information, visit http://www.charitymodelsearch.org.

LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

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LEGAL NOTICES

FOR INFORMATION PLACING LEGAL NOTICES
CONTACT BARBARA @ 925 243-8000

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 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/SOUTH COUNTY BIDDERS CONFERENCE RFP #900774 for Medical Consulting and Quality Assurance Review, Thursday, January 20, 2011, 2:00 p.m. - Castro Valley Library, 3600 Norbridge Avenue, The Canyon Room, Castro Valley, CA NETWORKING/NORTH COUNTY BIDDERS CONFERENCE RFP #900774 for Medical Consulting and Quality Assurance Review, Friday, January 21, 2011, 10:00 a.m. - General Services Agency, 1401 Lakeside Drive, Room 1107, 11th Floor, Oakland, CA Responses Due by 2:00 pm on February 23, 2011 County Contact: Ann Marie Romero (510) 208-9742 or via email: AnnMarie.Romero@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. 1/13/11 CNS-2019626# The Independent Legal No. 2915. Publish January 13, 2011

NOTICE OF INVITING BIDS

Notice is hereby given that sealed competitive bids will be accepted at the Alameda County Social Services Agency Contracts Office, 2000 San Pablo Avenue, 4th Floor, Oakland, CA 94612.

NETWORKING/NORTH COUNTY BIDDERS CONFERENCE RFP# SSA-PEP-FY10/11 - Parent Engagement Program, Wednesday, January 26, 2011, 9:30 a.m. - Alameda County Social Services Agency, 675 Hegenberger Road, Joaquin Miller Room 113, 1st Floor, Oakland, CA

NETWORKING/SOUTH COUNTY BIDDERS CONFERENCE RFP# SSA-PEP-FY10/11 - Parent Engagement Program, Wednesday, January 26, 2011, 1:30 p.m. - Alameda County Social Services Agency Edna Area Center, 24100 Amador Street, California Poppy Room 225, Hayward, CA Responses Due by 3:00 pm on February 15, 2011 County Contact: Brenden Anderson at (510) 208-0990 or via email: banderso@acgov.org

Attendance at Networking Conference is Non-mandatory. Specifications regarding the above may be obtained at the Current Contracting Opportunities Internet website at www.

acgov.org.

1/13/11 CNS-2019669# The Independent Legal No. 2916. Publish January 13, 2011.

ANIMALS

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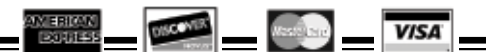
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REAL ESTATE NEWS AND NOTICES

New Laws Impact Buyers, Sellers, Homeowners

By Cher Wollard

Several new state real estate laws passed last year will take effect in 2011. These changes affect buyers, sellers, homeowners, landlords, tenants and real estate professionals.

Many of these changes are aimed at protecting consumers against fraudulent practices. For example:

- The California legislature expanded the law regulating foreclosure consultants. The California Foreclosure Consultant Law of 2009 already forbids consultants, including licensed real estate agents, from charging upfront fees for assisting homeowners whose homes are in default to avoid foreclosure. (The exception is attorneys licensed in California, who may charge advance fees.)

Real estate agents, mortgage brokers, financial consultants and others can collect fees upon successful completion of a loan modification or other work-out.

Some consultants have been offering "forensic audits" of residential properties to their list of services, and charging in advance for those. This law extends the prohibition against upfront fees to include fees for these audits.

If there is not yet a Notice of Default on your home, foreclosure consultants may ask for advance payment if they provide you with a written contract that satisfies certain specific statutory requirements.

- AB 1373 requires that any mailed offer to provide a copy of a homeowner's grant deed or other title records for a fee must include a disclosure that this service is not associated with any governmental agency and that the homeowner can obtain such records from the county recorder. These solicitations often look quite "official." You can order a copy of your grant deed at <http://www.acgov.org/auditor/clerk/index.htm>. If you need help, contact the title company that handled your purchase or your Realtor. Most will happily assist you free of charge.

- Another new law - AB 1800 - seeks to counter a type of fraud that has unfortunately become increasingly prevalent in recent years: falsely renting out a home without the owner's consent. Criminals look for homes that have been vacated due to foreclosure or other problems, and list it for lease, sometimes collecting thousands of dollars from unsuspecting tenants. Sometimes the tenants actually move into the property and pay rent, other times the miscreant collects a hefty deposit and then disappears. This new law increases the maximum criminal punishment to one year imprisonment plus a \$2,500 fine.

Other new laws are designed to improve public health and safety. The most visible of these is likely to be the Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act of 2010, which requires the installation of carbon monoxide detector devices in new and existing homes.

A companion law revises seller disclosure forms to include a statement regarding carbon monoxide detection devices before homes can be sold or rented out.

A carbon monoxide device must be installed near bedrooms in any single-family home that is sold or leased. Violations are punishable by a maximum fine of \$200 for each offense. Tenants are responsible to notify the owner of an inoperable or deficient carbon monoxide device. Similar laws are in effect in 17 other states, as well as New York City and the Canadian province of Ontario.

Detectors must be installed on or before July 1, 2011 for existing single-family dwelling units and on or before Jan. 1, 2013 for all other existing dwelling units.

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, tasteless and odorless gas which is highly toxic when inhaled. Detectors retail for \$20-\$60 and are widely available. They may be battery-operated or hard wired, and some are combination smoke and CO detectors.

The California Association of Realtors also identified several other new regulations likely to have big impacts on consumers, such as:

- As of Jan. 1, homebuyers may request an energy efficiency audit as part of a home inspection. Realtors are strongly encouraged to inform clients of this right through the delivery of a Home Energy Rating Systems booklet.

- Residential tenants, who are living in a home after a foreclosure sale, must be provided with statutory notice of tenant rights when given a notice to terminate. This requirement, which runs through the end of 2012, remains in effect for one year after a foreclosure sale. The tenant's rights must be on a separate cover sheet or, for a 90-day termination, incorporated into the notice to terminate. Other provisions of the law protect tenants' credit reports.

- The legislature, with backing of C.A.R., passed legislation to exempt all first mortgages on dwellings of one to four units from deficiency judgments after short sales. It prohibits deficiency judgments on dwellings of 1 to 4 units. The law applies only to first trust deeds on primary residences.

What this means is, when homeowners sell their primary residences through short sales, the lender holding the first must accept the sales proceeds as full payment on the loan and cannot go after the sellers for the balance.

- Mortgage specialists, including those with real estate licenses, must hold a state-issued Mortgage Loan Originator license, effective Jan. 1. This law also gives the Department of Real Estate the authority to deny or revoke a MLO license endorsement or take other action, and licensing requirements for finance lenders and residential mortgage lenders under the Department of Corporation.

Other new California laws include revisions to the mechanics' lien law; clarification of the rules prohibiting discrimination of tenants based on source of income; extension of the CalVet Home Loan program for veterans to include multi-family dwellings of two-to-four units; and lien enforcement by a municipal utility district for a tenant's delinquent charges.

For more information, contact your local Realtor.

Chief of Police to Address Livermore Realtors

Steve Sweeney, the chief of the Livermore Police Department, will address the Real Estate Alliance of Livermore this week.

The group, which is open to all Realtors and real estate affiliates who do business in Livermore, meets Thursday morning at the First Street Alehouse, 2106 First Street, in downtown Livermore. The doors open for networking at 8 a.m., followed by the meeting from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

For information about upcoming programs, see the group's website at www.realestateallianceoflivermore.com.

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

CUBAN

(continued from page one)



Pictured are scenes from last year's events: (above) the opening of the art show; (below, right) an altar to Oggun.

recession.

There is no fee because Suarez wants to make sure the public has maximum access to the event.

The lack of reliable grant funding is making it tough to cover the event financially, despite cutting costs to a fraction of past festivals.

Suarez has been told by several foundations that she could be placed on the funding-eligible list by "moving Cuban Week to the other side of the (Caldecott) tunnel." The perception is that it would have a bigger audience there, and be closer to the funding sources.

However, Suarez, who is chair of the foreign languages department at LPC and lives in Livermore, is firm about keeping the festival on the LPC campus. She founded the festival expressly to introduce the Tri-Valley to Cuban culture.

Suarez hopes she will be able to attract corporate sponsors and donations from the public to cover the festival costs.

The college does not make cash donations, although it does



support Cuban Week by providing the facility and related maintenance.

ART TRANSCENDS POLITICAL VIEWS

The fair contains no political

slant. It's strictly a cultural sharing of Cuba's lively artistic traditions in music, dance and visual art, including photography.

The performers and artists, who will be sharing their craft in

the new Barbara Fracisco Mertes Performing Arts Center, are accomplished. Most have attended arts universities in Cuba.

The lucrative part of their market in Cuba was selling to tourists. Some left Cuba because they could do better here with their sales, and also felt the atmosphere was more conducive to creativity.

Raphael Arzuaga is the festival's artistic director. A painter while he was in Cuba, he now earns a living as a graphic designer in the Bay Area. He estimated that there are about 5000 Cubans living in the Bay Area. Those numbers are dwarfed by the New York and Miami Cuban communities.

Because Arzuaga has kept up ties with artists, he is able to bring in some good talent to the show. Suarez has been able to make contacts, too.

Suarez visited Cuba in each of the past two years. The last time, she brought five duffel bags packed with school supplies, because she learned on the previous trip that kids there needed them.

The donations are the other aspect of Cuban Week. It's Tri-Valley residents way of thanking the Cubans for their display of artistic skill.

Among performing artists invited to the festival is Jesus Diaz, a jazz musician who has performed at the San Francisco Jazz Festival. He will play the bata, a traditional Cuban drum.

Ivan Cambor will play a traditional Cuban guitar, which has an odd number of strings on it.

There will be a Skype phone interview with Odette Alonso Yodu, a Cuban poet, who lives in Mexico City.

Arnolkis Turro, a Cuban native who lives in Miami, will

be showing his paintings in the gallery of the Mertes Center. He also will create a work while he is present there during the week.

Schedule of events:

La Semana Cubana/Cuban Week 2011 Yemaya: Embracing the Earth: Feb. 22-25, Las Positas College, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. Events are in the evening.

Feb. 22: Meet the Artists; Exhibit: Filling the Space/Llenando el Espacio; Artist in Residence: Alnolkys Turro and Photography by Eira Arrate; Batá Music: Somos 3 Jesús Díaz, Sandy Pérez and Eric Barbería.

Wed., Feb. 23: Cuban Words/Palabras Cubanas, The Poetry of Nicolás Guillén performed by Joel and Ana María Oliver; Cuban Author Odette Alonso Yodu

Streaming Live from Mexico City via Webcam.

Thurs., Feb. 24: Cuba Café/Café Cuba: Abel Magritte: Cuban Singer and Song Writer Lara Greene: Presentation: The Sound of Son; Rick Moniz and Catherine Suárez: Presentation: Cuba Through My Eyes.

Fri., Feb. 25: Discussion Panel: Feminine Voices/ Voces Femeninas followed by Cuban Guateque/ Guateque Cubano, Trío Pasión Habanera, Dance Performance by Yussef Breffe Cuban Dance Instructor and Choreographer

For more information please visit the website lasemanacubana.org, the Las Positas College home page laspositascollege.edu or call Catherine Suárez at (925)424-1212

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Former Lab Director Announces Retirement

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) recognized Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Director Michael Anastasio for his dedicated service as part of the nuclear security enterprise. LANL announced that Anastasio would retire from the lab after serving as Director for the last five years.

Prior to taking the job at Los Alamos, Anastasio served as director of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory from 2002 to 2006.

"I want to personally express my deepest appreciation to Mike Anastasio for his exceptional service to Los Alamos National Laboratory, to the National Nuclear Security Administration, and to the country," said NNSA Administrator Thomas D'Agostino.

"As director of Los Alamos National Laboratory, and of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory before that, Mike has led two of the nation's premier national security research facilities at the frontiers of science and innovation. Under his leadership, Los Alamos has made major contributions to our national security, and helped keep the American people safe.

"I am incredibly grateful for his counsel over the years and consider him a true servant to the nation."



Photos - Doug Jorgensen

Participants in the annual Polar Bear Slide head into the 40 degree water.



Janice Pementel

"Thanks Dad"

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Art, Community, & Education

Author James Dalessandro to Kick Off Livermore Reads Together 2011: *1906: A Novel*

The kick off event for Livermore Reads Together 2011 will be held Sunday, January 23 at the Livermore Public Library starting at 2 p.m.

Livermore Reads Together is a community-wide reading program featuring James Dalessandro's book *1906: A Novel*, about the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire. The community of Livermore is encouraged to read *1906*, and participate in book discussions and free events for children and adults during the month of February 2011. Copies of books and event schedules will be available at all Livermore Public Library locations.

James Dalessandro's novel *1906* vividly depicts San Francisco before and after the earthquake, as viewed through the eyes of Annalisa Passarelli, a spirited music critic for the *Evening Bulletin*. Determined to free the city from the grip of a powerful political syndicate, Annalisa joins forces with a group of like-minded cops, fellow journalists, and citizens. Enrico Caruso, Shanghai Kelly, and some Barbary Coast thugs round out the colorful cast of characters in Post-Victorian San Francisco, a place Annalisa describes as "part Paris and part Dodge City." Dalessandro deftly weaves historical figures and fictional characters in *1906*, and includes surprising facts that present a fresh look at one of the worst natural disasters in the history of the United States. When asked why he writes, Dalessandro says, "I can think of no other endeavor that demands more and returns less in terms of material things, or security, or pension and health benefits...if you don't truly, truly love writing, if you don't think it's the most invigorating, inspiring of all human activities, you can't do it." Dalessandro's enthralling, well-researched novel *1906* reflects both his passion for writing and his enduring love for San Francisco.

Dalessandro's historical novel *1906* showcases his versatility and



serves as a love letter to San Francisco, his adopted city. Hailed by *Publisher's Weekly* as "an imaginative and dense interplay between fact and fiction," *1906* uncovers the political scandal that prevailed in the City by the Bay at the time of the great earthquake and fire. Dalessandro's documentary film *The Damned Finest Ruins* also chronicles the events surrounding the 1906 natural disaster, particularly a drastic fire containment policy that destroyed thousands of buildings. In 2005, Dalessandro and Gladys Hansen, Curator of the Museum of the City of San Francisco, successfully petitioned the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to increase the official death toll from 478 to over 3,000.

James Dalessandro was born in Cleveland, Ohio in 1948. While attending Ohio University, he watched a documentary about the Beat Poets, read *Howl*, and decided to hitchhike to California to make his name as the next Gary Snyder. Dalessandro was too late to become a Beat, but he did join Lawrence Ferlinghetti in co-founding the Santa Cruz Poetry Festival, a renowned annual literary event that attracted the likes of Charles Bukowski, William Burroughs, and Ken Kesey. Dalessandro also worked as a writer at Columbia Pictures, and he currently teaches screenwriting at Academy of Art



Author James Dalessandro will be on hand to talk about his book.

University in San Francisco. He is the author of *Canary in a Coal Mine* (a volume of poetry), *Bohemian Heart* (a detective novel), and *Citizen Jane: A True Story of Money, Murder, and One Woman's Mission to Put a Killer Behind Bars* (a true crime book).

Book discussion clubs are invited to select *1906* as their book choice for February. Book club kits, available for check out, include copies of the book, discussion questions and tips for leading book discussions.

Future events include the following (unless noted, events are held at the Civic Center Library):

February 1, 7pm. *Livermore 1906: During and After the Big*



Quake. Local historians and Livermore Heritage Guild members Anne Homan and Richard Finn will talk about the effects of the huge 1906 earthquake on Livermore, what the citizens of Livermore did to help each other, and the big effort to help those in need throughout the Bay Area.

February 5, 10:30am. *Quakes and Shakes for Kids*. Become a junior seismologist and explore the inside and outside of our planet, find out what instruments are used to measure earthquakes, and piece together a proper safety kit to make sure you're prepared—not scared—the next time the ground starts to quake and shake! Presented by the Lawrence Hall of

Science.

February 10, 7pm. *Are You Ready? How to Survive the Big One*. Find out all you need to know to survive the next Big Quake, and other disasters. Genevieve Pastor-Cohen, certified emergency manager, will give an overview of the hazards faced by the Livermore area, emphasizing the four pillars of preparedness: making a kit and a plan, plus being informed and involved.

February 12, 10:30am. *Readers' Theater for Children of Lizzie Newton and the San Francisco Earthquake*. Under the general direction of Dr. Philip Manwell, Dean, students from the Arts and

(continued on page 3)



Pictured are (at right) Angela Johal with collage, photo by Bill Hackett; (above) Christine McCall's "Bankhead Theater."



Artists to Show Work at the Bankhead Theater

Livermore artists Angela Johal and Christine McCall will be showing their colorful collections of art at The Bankhead Theater from January 12 - February 14. Angela Johal is displaying her abstract collages made with tissue paper and paint color-samples. Christine McCall is showing her Livermore Kaleidoscope collection, featuring the historic buildings and iconic sights of Livermore.

Angela Johal is a local award-winning artist who displays her work in national and local shows, wineries, galleries and businesses. She is a local art teacher, art show

judge, and is vice-president and liaison of shows for the Livermore Art Association.

Her latest abstract works draw from pop culture, consumerism and the sea of images and choices that tend to leave one void. "Embrace them, infuse them with the natural world, rearrange and decode them, give them a soul."

Christine McCall is a local software engineer and artist, who is publicity chair for Livermore Art Association. Her kaleidoscope project is a fun and interesting

way of looking at the landmark buildings in town. A slice of a photograph is mirrored many times until the result looks like it's being viewed through a kaleidoscope. Some of the buildings featured are the Donut Wheel, Panama Red Coffee, Vine Cinemas, and the Bankhead Theater.

The exposition will continue through February 14. Most artworks are for sale. The event will be open during the Bankhead Theater's regularly scheduled events. The Bankhead Theater is located at 2400 1st Street, Livermore.

Student Art Show at Cal State

Thirteen advanced Bachelor of Fine Arts students will be showing their work in an exhibition opening Jan. 10, and continuing Jan. 11-Feb. 12 in the University Art Gallery, Art and Education Building, on the Cal State East Bay campus, 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., Hayward.

The opening will be from 5-7 p.m., regular hours are Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Fridays from 6-9 p.m., and Saturdays from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Admission is always free.

"Each year we look forward to new and exciting works from

our students," said Jill Ringler, art gallery manager. "Among our interesting pieces this year is an installation by Donghoon Han composed of several old televisions running VHS video, and an interactive piece from Michael Wallace that will enable the viewer to have his photograph taken while sitting beneath images of people in chairs," she said.

Participants are: Victor Hugo Arce showing mixed media, "Hormiga Atomica;" Eyael Fisseha, nine small abstract images; Maria Fulmer, photograph, "Veins II;" Donghoon Han, video and

television installation; Kenneth Hung, painting, untitled; Elizabeth Zunino, painting, "Unknown Territory," and needlepoint, "Monarch Butterflies;" Pat McCabe, paintings, "Mataka Henkmaalmaan (Spirit Journey), #2, #4, #5;" Paolo Mejia, installation; A.W. Parker, photo, "Missing Clothes;" Melanie Grayrain Sharr, paintings, "Nurse Series;" Andy Wallace, four paintings, "Simple Representation, Complex Idea, No. 1;" Michael Wallace, installation, photographs and chair, "Leaf-Spring Chair;" and Justin Reece, photography.



"Portrait Drawing" by Thomasin Dewhurst, charcoal on paper, 22" x 24", 2010

Solo exhibition in Cincinnati for Livermore Artist

Livermore artist Thomasin Dewhurst has been awarded a solo exhibition entitled *The Emergent Body: Paintings and Drawings* by Thomasin Dewhurst at the well-respected Manifest Gallery in Cincinnati Ohio.

The exhibition will run from January 21 to February 18, 2011. The Manifest Gallery is known for its exhibitions of insightful, thought-provoking art and design. It also functions as a hub for creative research and innovation at all levels of artistic endeavor. It includes a Drawing Center which promotes, features, and explores drawing as a rich and culturally significant art form through the pursuit of scholarly activities. The Manifest Gallery attracts artists from all over the USA and around the world.

Dewhurst's exhibit ties in with the Manifest Gallery's exploration of the human figure, including the nude in contemporary art. It also provides a snapshot view into the near-side of the lineage of painting by women. Dewhurst's works are inevitably current, but also share a bond in time to those of Gentileschi, Cassatt, Morisot, Kollwitz, Nourse, Saville, and others.

Of her work Dewhurst states, "The human form, through its contours, texture and the stretch of skin over muscle and bone, conveys an emotional and philosophical aesthetic that is the driving force behind my painting and drawing practice. This aesthetic finds expression in the depiction of tactility: the painted or drawn body presented closely within the viewer's personal space and giving the viewer a sense of being able to touch the rendered flesh.

"The body thus becomes emotive. At this point in the development of a work there is a feeling, on my part, of commitment to the work and a fidelity to the story that is presenting itself... The figure is the central means of realizing the narrative."

Thomasin Dewhurst was born in Lancashire in the United Kingdom and moved to South Africa as a young child. She received her B.A.F.A. with distinction in Painting from Rhodes University and her M.A.F.A. with distinction in Painting and Theory of Art from the University of the Witwatersrand. She moved to the USA 10 years ago. Her work has been exhibited in various locations including the Everard Read Gallery and the iArt Gallery (Johannesburg & Cape Town, South Africa), Hodnett Fine Art (Vancouver, Canada), the Blackheath Gallery (London, United Kingdom) and at various galleries in the USA. Her work is part of a number of permanent collections including the Gauteng legislature in South Africa and Ericsson South Africa (with around 20 of her watercolors). Currently Thomasin works as an artist and art instructor, teaching both children and adults in Livermore.

For more information about Thomasin's work and art instruction, please visit her website: www.thomasindewhurst.com

Restaurant Week Includes a Multi-Winery Dinner

More than a dozen Tri-Valley businesses will celebrate the inaugural Taste of Tri-Valley Restaurant Week, January 23-30, 2011, announced Amy Blaschka, president and CEO of the Tri-Valley, California Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB).

"Taste of Tri-Valley Restaurant Week is an incredible opportunity to experience the best wine and food from the destination at a value not available any other time of the year," Blaschka said. "January is also a great time to get hotel deals and experience the diversity of what our destination offers, from wine tasting to shopping and much more."

Chefs and restaurants in the Tri-Valley will showcase their

culinary styles and signature dishes for diners. The event will feature an array of restaurants, casual dining establishments and local purveyors that will provide one of a kind dining experiences offered during this week only. Visitors can also experience the bounty of Tri-Valley by visiting Livermore Valley wineries, farmers markets and local farms.

Participating restaurants in Tri-Valley offer a variety of specials, including prix fixe dinners starting at \$19, complimentary appetizers or desserts, and waived corkage on Livermore Valley wines. Each individual restaurant has the opportunity to create a special offer unique to their establishment. No tickets are necessary, but restaurant



reservations are encouraged. For more information on participating restaurants and specials, visit www.trivalleycvb.com/tasteoftrivalley.

More than a dozen restaurants have committed to participate including Amber Bistro, Ballybunion Bar & Grill, Basil Leaf Café, Blackhawk Grille, Blue Agave Grill, Campo Di Bocce, Eddie Papa's American Hangout, Garre

Vineyard & Winery, Laurus Southern European Bistro, Little Home Thai Cuisine, Mama Rosa Pizza & Pasta, Nonni's Bistro, Porters Restaurant at Poppy Ridge, Royal Tofu House, Stomp!, Swirl on the Square, Terra Mia, The Farmer Restaurant at the Pleasanton Hotel, The Peasant and the Pear, The Restaurant at Wente Vineyards, Tomatina, and Underdog Wine Bar.

Taste of Tri-Valley Restaurant Week is part of California Restaurant Month, designated by the California Travel & Tourism Commission (CTTC). More than 20 destinations across California, from the desert and coast to wine country and High Sierra, are hosting restaurant weeks this January.

For more information go to www.trivalleycvb.com/visitors/restaurants/restaurantweekoffers/ **MULTI-WINERY DINNER**

As a part of CA Restaurant Month, Livermore Valley Wine Country is offering its first multi-winery Winemaker Dinner featuring winemakers and wines from Concannon Vineyard, Murrieta's Well, Page Mill Winery, Picazo, Ruby Hill Winery, and Wente Vineyards.

This 6 course dinner will feature pairings from Executive Chef Eric Berg of Wente Restaurant. All winemakers will be in attendance, sharing their intimate winemaking tales.

The dinner is Thurs., Jan. 27 beginning with a reception at 6 p.m. It will be held at The Restaurant at Wente Vineyards, 5050 Arroyo Rd., Pleasanton. Cost is \$120 per person plus tax/gratuity.

For reservations, contact the Wente Restaurant at 925-456-2450.

LIVERMORE READS

(continued from front page)

Communication Division at Las Positas College will offer a special



presentation of the children's book *Lizzie Newton and the San Francisco Earthquake*, the story of ten-year-old Lizzie Newton, who having

helped take her grandmother to the hospital after the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, sets off on her own to find her parents. Come experience the earthquake from a child's perspective.

February 13, 2pm. *Frisky Frolics: Tin Pan Alley Troubadours*. With a ukulele-driven program of such Tin Pan Alley-era classics as "Cake Eatin' Man" and "My Canary Has Circles Under His Eyes," the Frisky Frolics quintet revels in the outdated, dusty gems from our grandparents' 78 rpm record collections.

1906 San Francisco— part Paris, part Dodge City— corruption, bravery, a journalist, a runaway, a Chinese slave girl ... and Enrico Caruso!

February 19, 12 noon, Vine Cinema. *Classic Movie Screening – San Francisco*. View a special showing of the classic 1936 movie *San Francisco* starring Clark Gable, Jeanette MacDonald, and Spencer Tracy, nominated for best actor.

February 20, 2pm. *The 1906 Earthquake: Lessons Learned, Lessons Forgotten, and Managing Earthquake Risk*. The 1906 earthquake marked the birth of modern earthquake science. For the first time, the effects of a major seismic event were systematically investigated and documented. As earthquake sciences evolves, re-analysis of the 1906 quake yields new insights. Mary Lou Zoback, former Chief Scientist of the US Geological Survey, will bring us up to date on what we've learned.

February 22, 7pm. *San Francisco's Lost Landmarks with Author James Smith*. San Francisco's earthquakes, 1906 and prior, will be presented in an illustrated discussion of how the city earned its seal and what really happened.

February 24, 7pm. *The Miles Brothers: Before and After the Earthquake*. David Kiehn, Historian of the Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum will show short films and

photographs by the Miles Brothers, pioneers in American cinema, including their 1906 film *A Trip Down Market Street*, an historic 13-minute journey shot just days before the earthquake.

February 26, 1:30am. *Aftershock!: Teens Prepare for Disaster Assistance*. At *Aftershock!*, teens will learn first aid for earthquake and fire disasters through a special American Red Cross training course designed for teens. Other topics include first response topics and techniques, and a look at teen volunteer opportunities with the American Red Cross.

February 26, 2pm. *Jack London: Eyewitness to the Great Quake*. *Jack London: Eyewitness to the Great Quake* is a dynamic portrait of California through the eyes of the renowned author, adventurer and social crusader, Jack London, as performed by Michael Oakes, artistic director of Live Oakes Educational Theater. Follow London as he journeyed throughout the region documenting the devastation of the 1906 earthquake—one of the most articulate of the eyewitness accounts.

Livermore Reads Together – 1906: A Novel is sponsored by The Friends of the Livermore Library. For additional events check the library's website at www.livermore.lib.ca.us.

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Foreverland Performing a Benefit Concert For San Ramon High School

Community Concerts & San Ramon Valley High School present the San Ramon Valley High School Winter Benefit Concert featuring Foreverland with special appearances by SRVHS Instrumental Music Students

The performance will be Sat., Jan. 29 at the SRVHS Performing Arts Center, 501 Danville Blvd. in Danville. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. The show begins at 7 p.m. with Foreverland performing starting at 8 p.m.

Foreverland is a 14-piece tribute to Michael Jackson.

Based in San Francisco, the group was formed in March of 2009 to honor Michael's musical genius and legendary showmanship.

With four lead vocalists, four horns and a six-piece rhythm section, the ensemble is best described as a "Remarkable and Rocking

Michael Jackson Revue."

The band has been packing people in at some of the bay areas hottest spots including Bimbos 365 Club, Slims, Red Devil Lounge, Mezzanine, Last Day Saloon Santa Rosa, 19 Broadway and many more. In addition, the band was lucky enough to open for Kool and The Gang in December 2009.

Rather than be limited by a MJ impersonator and pre-recorded backing tracks, the band's approach is to celebrate the larger than life performances, imagination and infectious spirit of this legendary artist.

Proceeds will benefit the San Ramon Valley High School Instrumental Music programs.

Tickets are \$25 adv/\$30 door, Gold Circle: \$40, SRVHS students and staff: \$10. For tickets or information call 707-869-9403 or go to www.communityconcerts.com



Pictured at right is the Michael Jackson Tribute Band, Foreverland.

Grant Provides for Student Presentation

The Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center (LVPAC) announced a partnership with Target in recognition of its efforts to provide students and schools access to performances and artists that will impact young people's lives. The grant, along with contributions from LVPAC's Education Fund, will be used to underwrite a special student presentation of the highly acclaimed Diavolo Dance Theatre at 10am on Friday, January 14 at the Bankhead Theater. Field trip tickets are \$7 per person. They are available to elementary through college age students who attend private, public or home school programs as well as parent chaperones and teachers.

Diavolo was founded in 1992 in Los Angeles by Jacques Heim to create large-scale interdisciplinary performances which examine the funny and sometimes frightening ways individuals act with their environment. Constantly changing the image presented to the



audience, Diavolo has developed a movement vocabulary that creates an almost cinematic experience of powerful images that develop abstract narratives of the human condition.

The company is comprised of dancers, gymnasts and actors who create performances collab-

oratively under the guidance of Heim. The sets created are outrageous and surrealistic and form an intrinsic part of each piece of work. Everyday items such as doors, chairs and stairways provide the back-drop for dramatic movement – leaping, flying, twirling – that creates metaphors for the challenge

of relationships, the absurdities of life and the struggle to maintain our humanity in an increasingly technological world.

"We are delighted that Target has awarded this grant to help LVPAC provide exciting and enlightening performances for young people. Attractions like Diavolo offer an opportunity to explore new performance techniques and experience a wide range of artistic creativity and expression" commented Len Alexander, LVPAC's Executive Director.

This grant is part of ongoing efforts by Target to strengthen families and communities throughout the country. Since opening its doors, Target has given 5 percent of its income to organizations that support education, the arts, social services and volunteerism. Today that equals more than \$3 million every week.

"At Target, our local grants are making a difference in the communities we serve," said Laysha

Ward, president, community relations, Target. "We're proud to partner with LVPAC as part of our ongoing commitment to give back to the communities where our guests and team members live and work."

Additionally, Target also gives through signature programs that are designed to inspire learning in children and families.

Full Diavolo performances for the public will be presented on Friday, January 14th and Saturday, January 15th at 8pm with ticket prices ranging from \$39-\$62 for adults and \$12 for students.

The Bankhead Theater is located at 2400 First Street in Downtown Livermore. The ticket office is open Tuesday through Saturday from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m. On performance days the ticket office remains open through intermission. To order Diavolo tickets or for more information, call 925-373-6800 or visit www.bankhead-theater.org.

Saturday Salon Meets January 15

4th Street Studio invites writers to read and listeners to listen at its monthly Saturday Salon on Saturday January 15 at 7:30 p.m. 4th Street Studio is located at 2235 Fourth Street in Livermore. Everyone has up to ten minutes to read. The public is welcome.

This month's Salon, the first in a planned year-long focus on American authors, is "A River of Incoming Tide on a Different Road Kind of Night" to celebrate the American fiction writer Elizabeth Strout (born on January 6th, 1956). Strout was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 2009 for *Olive Kitteridge*, a novel in stories.

Strout once wrote, "The act of writing requires some element of revealing oneself." At 4th Street Studio's Saturday Salons, writers of all kinds are invited to reveal themselves before a sympathetic audience: fellow writers and other lovers of the literary arts as spoken word. The Salons provide an opportunity for writers to read their work — so they can hear how it sounds when read aloud, and so others can listen to what they have written. All literary forms are welcome: fiction, literary non-fiction, memoir, poetry, monologues, and short dramatic works. The evening also marks the 7th birthday of the Salons, which began in January of 2004.

Bring a nosh and something to drink to share.

Saturday Salon at 4th Street Studio is sponsored by Fourth Street Studio. The Salons, now beginning their eighth year, are held on the third Saturday of each month at 4th Street Studio, 2235 Fourth Street.

New World Music Academy Participating in Collaborative Music Day

Concert pianist Mark Anderson and his New World Music Academy in Pleasanton will take part in the first International Day of Collaborative Music (IDCM), on January 22, 2011.

The Music Teacher's National Association (MTNA) and partner organizations, such as Anderson's academy, are currently in the midst of celebrating the Year of Collaborative Music (YCM). Programming, publications, and special events mark the joy of playing music together. One such event was the academy's Holiday Recital on December 11th in which

piano students performed with violin students in the chamber music format.

Anderson states, "Chamber, or collaborative, music has always been a passion for me as a student and a professional musician. I feel as though my musicianship came into true maturity only after much experience as a chamber musician and collaborating with other artists. There are few opportunities for music students to take part in musical collaborations simply because private lessons do not condone it. This is why I have made musical collaboration one

of the tenets of New World Music Academy from its inception."

To celebrate the International Day of Collaborative Music this coming January 22, Anderson will hold an open house at his academy's new location at 4430 Willow Rd. in Pleasanton, directly across the street from Hart Middle School. Anderson and a number of instructors from the academy and guest performing artists will provide free concerts between 1pm and 4pm. According to Anderson, "This local-level initiative is meant to involve many different instruments or vocalists in making

music; we anticipate hundreds of performances happening that day from coast to coast and around the globe."

In addition to Anderson himself, performers will include academy instructors soprano Cass Panuska, guitarist Didier Bouvet and violinist Rodin Akerman as well as visiting teachers and artists from various locations throughout the Bay Area.

More information about New World Music Academy classes and instructors can be found at www.NewWorldMusicAcademy.com

Fashion Designer and MTV Star to Host Defining Girl Academy

Award winning fashion designer and star of MTV's *House of Jazmin*, Jazmin Whitely, will be in Pleasanton to host a special event for local teen girls. Teaming with Debbie Mitchell, Twisted Silver founder and designer, the Defining Girl Academy is an event to help enable girls to start living out their own dreams. The day will consist of activities, workshops, and speakers aimed at encouraging the girls in attendance to embrace their individuality.

The Defining Girl Academy will be held at the Ruby Hill Golf Club in Pleasanton, California on January 22, 2011. Interested teen girls are encouraged to visit facebook.com/defininggirl for application information and to join Defining Girl. Applications are due January 14, 2011.

Fashion designer Jazmin Whitely at age 19 was the youngest person to show at New York Fashion Week at Bryant Park. After putting on a fashion show in high school, she received enough support from the community around her to pursue her dreams all the way to success. With two show rooms in Los

Angeles, her designs can be seen all over the red carpets at events such as the MTV Movie Awards, the Teen Choice Awards, and the Emmy Awards. "I look for situations where I can inspire younger girls to start now in accomplishing their dreams, this is just that kind of opportunity" says Whitely.

Following the event the community is invited to meet the designer from 2-4 pm for a sample sale at Orghipchick located on 2074 1st St. Livermore.

Mitchell started Defining Girl for young women just starting to explore their passions and dreams. "Pop culture has a loud voice. It has a way of drowning out our

quiet but very important inner voice. This event is geared to helping them tune into what is unique and innately different about them. This very thing is what will allow a person to have unlimited success in this world." Says designer Debbie Mitchell. Defining Girl acts as a community of women and girls who support one another and strives to inspire and encourage individuality. The community is fueled by each Defining Girl and her own, one-of-a-kind journey. Mitchell attributes her success to the fact that she had an incredible support system and she wants to give the same opportunity to the girls today.

Program Offers Look at Becoming a Teacher

Teens in grades 6-12 are invited to attend the fourth in a series of career workshops, So You Want to Be a Teacher. This free event will take place on Saturday, January 22, 2011, from 1:30pm to 3:00pm in the Storytime/Craft Room of the Civic Center Library.

Experts from a variety of teaching fields will be on hand to talk about their professions and answer questions. Cal State University East Bay and Las Positas College representatives will be available to answer questions about the college journey to becoming a teacher.

For more information, please visit TEEN SPACE on the library's website: www.livermore.lib.ca.us or contact Sandy at 925-373-5500 extension 5583.

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Music Review

Audience Applauds American Premiere by the Ying Quartet

By Nancy O'Connell

The Ying Quartet gave a superb performance at Livermore's Bankhead Theater in an evening concert on Sat., Jan. 8. It looked as though every seat was taken. No one was disappointed. This exciting and vibrant quartet captured everyone's admiration. The four musicians exuded youth and vitality. For 13 years they've been the Quartet in Residence at Eastman School of Music. The group has won many awards. Originally all four were siblings from the Ying family, but their brother recently retired, and a new first violinist, Anano Ninomiya, joined them in September.

Philip Ying, the violist, announced that their first work would be the most famous string quartet composed by an American, Samuel Barber (1910-1981). The *Adagio for Strings*, which is often played by a string orchestra, and performed at many national ceremonies, was originally composed as the 2nd movement for his String Quartet, Opus 11. Just as the Ying quartet has commissioned some 40 contemporary works to be written for it, Toscanini requested that Barber arrange the adagio movement

for a string orchestra. Artists have encouraged artists for centuries. It is a rich tradition.

Barber's first movement began with a strident unison passage stating the main theme. Rapid 16th notes with striking rhythmic patterns followed, but then gave way to a lyrical choir like sound. A low cello passage was answered by the viola. Then another whirlwind of 16th notes alternated with the beautiful sonorities of the second subject.

The famous Adagio was beautiful in this pure form for four voices instead of many. Its eloquent theme was played by the cellist, David Ying, while the others played accompanying figures.

Towards the end of the movement, the intensity grew as all four players climbed up in the stratosphere with the cellist in high thumb position very near his bridge. A quiet *Coda* concluded the Adagio. The *Molto Allegro* presented a very brief reprise of the first movement.

Livermore was honored by hearing the American premiere performance of John Novacek's *Three Rags for String Quartet*, composed in 2010. The Ying

Quartet commissioned this work and first played it in China. The cellist told the audience, "The Chinese like American ragtime."

Novacek wrote, "Ragtime is a complex hybrid of African-American dance tunes filtered through the procedures of the polka, march, and minstrel song."

He took the themes and ideas from his earlier piano pieces for this work, but greatly expanded them for the quartet. The first Rag was delightful and lively, with all four performers keeping time with their feet. It was "toe tapping" music. The audience could hear the cellist's foot slapping the floor. By this time, several heads among the listeners were nodding. The second Rag was very melodic; the third lightning fast and complex. Driving rhythms, glissandos and foot stamping brought the third Rag to an exciting and dynamic conclusion. Many in the audience stood and wildly clapped, bringing the group back for two curtain calls.

After intermission Beethoven's Quartet in B-flat Major, Opus 130 was heard, closing with the complex *Grosse Fuge*, Opus 133. By the time he wrote this, Beethoven

was totally deaf and living in poverty. Yet he could still create magnificent music. In the program notes, Glenn Gould is quoted. "... for me, the *Grosse Fuge* is not only the greatest work Beethoven ever wrote, but just about the most astonishing piece in musical literature."

Instead of the usual four movements this quartet has six. His opening *Adagio* was followed by an *Allegro* which had a difficult unison spiccato section. Running 16th notes contrasted with a slow melody. Then a cello and viola theme was picked up by the first violin - so many contrasts in Beethoven's mastery of the string quartet!

In the fifth movement, the *Cavatina*, glorious melodies filled the hall, and although the "house was full," not a sound came from the audience. Everyone was spellbound.

Then the Quartet played the great *Grosse Fuge*, a musical challenge for every string player. The first violinist spread out all four pages across her stand to avoid awkward page turns. Each player in turn performed a fiendish passage as he or she introduced the

subject. As the theme was developed contrapuntally, the intensity increased. After the storm of notes, a calm descended, and slow sustained melodies were heard. Two grand pauses were followed by a return to the earlier frenzy of the first subject.

The audience stood as one body, clapping and cheering, a moving tribute to this virtuoso quartet, and brought the performers back for two curtain calls.

These four players were superb. The cellist, who played on a 1695 Rogeri instrument, produced a deep rich sound and flawless intonation. The violist had a wonderful sonorous tone. The two violinists were equally remarkable. The quartet almost played as one with their crescendos and diminuendos, their changes in dynamics. Perfectly attuned to one another, each player was sensitive to the other three. We are so fortunate to have the Bankhead Theater with its excellent acoustics which attracts a quartet of this quality. The concert was brought to Livermore by Del Valle Fine Arts and its discerning board. Reserve tickets for the next concert in the series, "Sotto Voce" Brass Quartet on April 16, 2011.

Learn to Play Medieval and Renaissance Music

The Tri-Valley Medieval & Renaissance Collegium will begin weekly sessions on Monday, January 24, at 7:30 PM. Shira Kammen, widely recognized for her interpretation of Medieval and Renaissance repertoire as well as for her teaching, will coordinate the collegium's weekly session.

Shira will alternate leading weekly sessions with her colleagues Greg Ingles, Peter Maund, and David Morris.

Each week, one of these leading early music performer-teachers will provide an opportunity for nonprofessional musicians to study and perform period music.

Participants will explore the rich musical history of Medieval and Renaissance music with each conductor emphasizing a unique aspect of early music practice.

The Collegium welcomes all



Shira Kammen

musicians who can read music, including voice, strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion. If you have sung or played early music in the past and have wanted to reconnect with your musical self, this is your opportunity.

Anyone wishing to experience the joy of performing with a variety of instruments and a fresh approach to music-making, join the Collegium on Monday nights beginning January 24. Bring your instruments and a music stand. The pitch will be A=440 Hz.

The class fee is \$25.00 per week or \$200.00 for the entire nine-week session

Contact Marilyn Marquis for further information at collegium2011@gmail.com or 925.424.1209

The Tri-Valley Medieval & Renaissance Collegium is a not-for-profit affiliate member of the San

Francisco Early Music Society.

Greg Ingles is new to the Bay Area and has already emerged as one of the leading performers and teachers of sacbut and recorder. Greg is a member of PIFFARO, The Renaissance Band and of Ciaramella, a wind band, which specializes in 15th century renaissance music.

Shira Kammen has spent well over half her life exploring the worlds of early and traditional music as a multi-instrumentalist, vocalist, and teacher. She has performed and taught violin, vielle, and voice in nationally, internationally, and on the Colorado and Rogue rivers. She is a member of medieval ensembles Fortune's Wheel and Tapestry, and the California Revels, among many others.

Peter Maund specializes in hand percussion from the Middle

East and North Africa. He has performed and recorded with various early music, contemporary music, and world music ensembles throughout North America, the U.K., and Europe, including Jordi Savall's Hesperion XX in a program of medieval Spanish music. He also enjoys teaching and presenting lectures, workshops and classes.

David Morris performs and teaches baroque cello, viola da gamba, and bass violin. He is a member of Musica Pacifica, the Sex Chordae Consort of Viols, and NYS Baroque. He has performed and recorded with numerous early music ensembles, and has been a guest instructor in early music performance-practice at UC Berkeley, UC Santa Cruz, the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, Mills College, among others.

Musical Comedy, Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, Opens at Bankhead

Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre is off to the Riviera with Broadway's smash-hit musical comedy, Dirty Rotten Scoundrels.

The play opens at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore on Friday, January 21. The show is based on the film starring Steve Martin and Michael Caine.

It is the story of two very funny con men who try to out-con each other. When it becomes apparent that the Riviera isn't big enough for the both of them, they make a winner-take-all wager over the fortunes of a naive American soap heiress: the first one to "clean her out" can make the other clear out and keep the Riviera and its unsuspecting tourists to himself.

Book is by Jeffrey Lane; music and lyrics by David Yazbek.

The musical comedy is directed by John Maio, vocal direction by Sierra Dee, choreography by Kevin Hammond, musical direction by JoAnn Fosselman, and producer Kathleen Breedveld. Costumes were created by Patricia Krohn-Pope. Lighting is by David Lam and sound design by Scott Johnson

The cast includes - Lawrence (Dan Kapler), Freddy (Robert Lopez), Christine (Anne Milbourne), Andre (Joseph Brunicardi), Muriel (Amy Lucido), and Jolene (Christi Wallace). Featured dancers are Lindsay Rousseau Burnett, Julie Collins, Jay Crispell, David Irving, Aaron Lindstrom, Steph Peek, Sarah Schori, Sally Shoebridge, Amy Sloan, Wesley Sonido, Danielle Santisteven, and Christi Wallace. Additional ensemble is comprised of Joan Evans, Maren Haws, Marsha Howard, Rikki Juster, Sharon Kantor, Victoria King-Bowman, Martie Muldoon, Ross Murray and Tim Nolan.

Performances are 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays January 21 through Feb. 6 at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore.

Tickets may be purchased at www.livermoreperformingarts.org, by phone at 925-373-6800, or by visiting the Bankhead Theater ticket window at 2400 1st Street, Livermore.

Visit the Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre website for more information: www.trivalleyrep.org.



Dan Kapler, Robert Lopez and Anne Milbourne rehearse for Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre's next production.

Teens Invited to Submit Work in Teen Art Exposition and Contest

The Livermore Public Library invites teens to participate in the 2010 Teen Art Exposition and Contest. The Friends of the Livermore Public Library is sponsoring unique opportunity for teens to share their artistic talent with local artists and the citizens of Livermore.

Livermore residents in the sixth through twelfth grades are encour-

aged to submit a piece of original art. Works eligible for this exhibit are limited to visual media including painting, sculpture, photography, textiles and collage. Entries will be accepted Tuesday, March 1, 2011 through Thursday, March 31, 2011 at the Civic Center Library. The first five entrants will each receive a \$10.00 gift certificate

generously donated by Way Up Art and Frame in Livermore.

Teen artwork will be on display from April 1 through April 30 in the Civic Center Library Art Gallery during the library's regular hours. Artwork will be shown as space allows. On Tuesday, April 2, 2011, artwork will be judged and ribbons awarded.

The community is invited to attend the Artist's Reception that takes place on Tuesday, April 26, 2011 from 6:30pm to 8:00pm in Community Room A of the Civic Center Library.

For more information and to access entry forms, please visit TEEN SPACE on the Livermore Public Library's website at www.livermore.lib.ca.us or contact Sandy at 373-5500 ext. 5583.

Panel to Discuss Financial Planning for Women

The Livermore-Pleasanton-Dublin Branch American Association University Women (L-P-D AAUW) has brought together a panel of four experts in the area of financial planning: Norma Foss, Enrolled Agent; Felice Price, Certified Financial Planner; Nancy Ubaldi, VP-Investments, UBS Financial Services; and Shirley M. White, Attorney.

The primary focus of the seminar will be the preservation of income and estate planning. The panel will use a question and answer format. The seminar will be

held from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Saturday, January 22, at Valley Medical Center, room 2W in the hospital building, 5555 West Las Positas Blvd., Pleasanton.

The seminar is open to the public. There is no charge; however, space is limited. An RSVP to 484-3321 is requested. Coffee and refreshments will be served.

The L-P-D AAUW also holds a monthly Stock and Investment Group meeting at the Livermore Library, room 131 at 10:00 a.m. on the third Friday of the month. The next meeting will be Friday, January 21.

For further information call 443-7901.

According to Jeffrey Immelt, CEO of GE, the global collapse of financial markets in 2008 represented "an emotional, raw, social, economic reset. People who understand that will prosper. Those who don't will be left behind." The goal of AAUW is to help its members, and other interested women, understand.

AAUW has a long history of advancing educational and professional opportunities for women in the US and around the globe. For further information about L-P-D AAUW, call 484-0839.



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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.

Believe/Achieve Art Exhibit, Diablo/Alameda Branch of the National League of American Pen Women (NLAPW) at the John O'Laue 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.

5th Annual "East Meets West" exhibit through January at the Livermore Library Gallery, 1188 S. Livermore Ave, features paintings, photographs and sculptures by seven different artists, plus works by a half-dozen local poets. The art represents both Eastern and Western traditions, as well as contemporary work. Artists are: Lily Xu, Eugenia W. Zobel, Linda Sargent Beach, Walter E. Davies, Zhiping Zhang, Jason Robert Griego; poets: Charan Sue Wollard; Connie Post, Deborah Grossman, Ronnie Holland, Jim Curcuro, and David Wright. There is no admission charge.

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

Pushpa Dalal, abstract photo show, "Color, Light and Movement" gallery in the Barbara Mertes Center for the Arts at Las Positas College, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. Reception Jan. 19, 5 to 7 p.m. Paring fee \$2. Information 424-1000.

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.

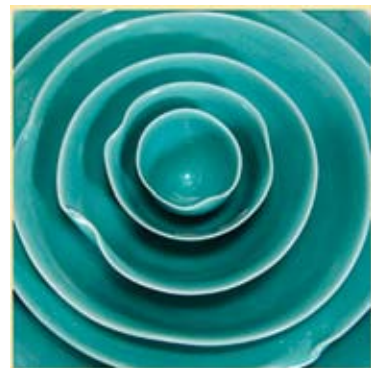
Art Crawls merge with Second Saturdays Open Studios, starting in February, downtown Livermore. Planned monthly from 1pm-4pm with several participating venues on every second Saturday (2/12, 3/12, etc.). Info and applications at www.lindaryanfineart.com. Artists interested in exhibiting should ensure that they sign up well in advance.

Bankhead Theater will be exhibiting the Intersecting Color works of Angela Johal and kaleidoscopic local images created by Christine McCall through February 14th. Generally open to ticketed theater patrons only, the Bankhead is located at 2400 First Street, Livermore. The Bankhead's performance calendar can be found at www.bankheadtheater.org.

Wild Vine art exhibition program in February features husband-and-wife team Ken Ball and Victoria Whyte Ball. The exhibit includes Ken's special take on nude photography and Victoria's evocative work with the camera. Reception Thursday, February 10th from 6-7:30 pm. Wild

Vine, 2187 First Street, Livermore, also participates in Second Saturday Open Studios/Art Crawls.

MEETINGS/CLASSES



Livermore Art Association, Pleasanton Art League, meeting Mon., Jan. 24, 7:30 p.m. Almond Ave. School, 1401 Almond Ave., Livermore. Potter and instructor Erin K. Donohue-Davis will present the program. No admission charge. Public is welcome.

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. Information available at poetryoncanvas@mac.com.

Journal Writing Club for Young Adults, young adults ages 12-21, are invited to join the Journal Writing Club for Young Adults at the Livermore Public Library, Civic Center, on Thursday evenings, January 20, February 10 and March 3, 2011 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm, for a fun-filled evening of writing with author J.L. Powers. Those attending will learn about publishing their works and how to expand their writing horizons. For more information, please visit TEEN SPACE on the library's website: www.livermore.lib.ca.us or contact Sandy at 925-373-5500 extension 5583.

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 Albiani (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.red-featherwinery.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.

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

Concert by Folk Singer John McCutcheon, Monday January 17, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. St. James' Episcopal Church Fremont (37051 Cabrillo Drive - off Thornton Ave. in Fremont). \$25 for Adults, \$15 for kids 5-12, kids under 5 free. Call 510-797-1492, ext. 4 for tickets or email events@saintj.com (cash/check/credit card OK). Benefits the operations and community outreach efforts of St. James Episcopal Church, Fremont.

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

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

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 fund-raiser 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

Arsenic and Old Lace, Asbury Players, March 18, 19, 20, 2011. Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., Livermore. Curtain time is 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday. Doors open 20 minutes prior to show time. Tickets are \$10 general admission, \$8 for seniors and children under 12. For additional ticket information, please call 455-1048.

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@itsalldancing.com.

AUDITIONS/VOLUNTEERS

City of Pleasanton Youth Music Festival Auditions, Jan. 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 Francisco 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 17, at the First Presbyterian Church of 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.

ART & ENTERTAINMENT

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: Jo Ann Fosselman. Performance dates: July 22, 2011 through August 7, 2011, Bankhead Theater, Livermore.

MOVIES

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.

The Good Soldier, the movie will be playing 7 p.m. Jan. 22 at the IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin. This film asks five different veterans from five different conflicts what their experiences were like or are like after coming home from war. Did they receive the support and help they needed? How do you go from being a trained killer to fitting back into society? This moving documentary is 79 minutes. This event is unaffiliated, open to the public, free or \$3.00 donations are welcomed, and wheelchair accessible. Meet & greet potluck begins at 6:30 PM, while a short discussion follows the film. For more information, you can call 925-462-3459.

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: 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

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 artwork 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 Dirx 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.

Charity Fashion Show, Thursday, January 20, 7 to 10 p.m. Sapphire Restaurant and Lounge, 2300 First Street, Livermore. Presented by Esteem Productions as a fundraiser for the Taylor Family Foundation. Tickets \$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. 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.

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 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 ts-tier@ymcaeastbay.org.

Annual Burns Supper, Hosted by Pleasanton-Blaigowrie-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.

Truffles, Tidbits and Wine Tasting, Thursday, February 3, 2011 from 6 to 9 p.m. at participating downtown Pleasanton businesses. Event begins 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. Only eight hundred (800) tickets will be offered for this event and will be available for advance purchase 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).

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.tv-ar.org, through PayPal or by mailing a check to TVAR, P. O. 11143, Pleasanton, CA 94588. For more information about TVAR, e-mail contact@tv-ar.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 www.HealingTherapiesFoundation.org. Tickets

are \$75 per person. 1-866-862-7270.
La Semana Cubana/Cuban Week 2011 Yemaya: Embracing the Earth, Feb. 22-25, Las Positas College, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. Events are in the evening. Feb. 22: Meet the Artists; Exhibit: Filling the Space/Llenando el Espacio; Artist in Residence: Alnoklys Turro and Photography by Eira Arrate; Batá Music: Somos 3 Jesús Díaz, Sandy Pérez and Eric Barbería. Wed., Feb. 23: Cuban Words/Palabras Cubanas, The Poetry of Nicolás Guillén performed by Joel and Ana María Oliver; Cuban Author Odette Alonso Yodu Streaming Live from Mexico City via Webcam. Thurs., Feb. 24: Cuba Café/ Café Cuba: Abel Magritte: Cuban Singer and Song Writer Lara Greene: Presentation: The Sound of Son; Rick Moniz and Catherine Suárez: Presentation: Cuba Through My Eyes. Fri., Feb. 25: Discussion Panel: Feminine Voices/ Voces Femeninas followed by Cuban Guateque/ Guateque Cubano, Trío Pasión Habanera, Dance Performance by Yussef Breffe Cuban Dance Instructor and Choreographer For more information please visit our web site lasemanacubana.org, the Las Positas College home page laspositascollege.edu or call Catherine Suárez at (925)424-1212

County Taking Applications for Art Grants

The Alameda County Arts Commission has released the 2011 Alameda County Supervisors' ARTSFUND Grants Program Guidelines and Application for Alameda County-based nonprofit organizations. Information can be found at the Arts Commission website www.acgov.org/arts (click on "Programs"). Standard grants awards are \$1,000 each. The application deadline is March 1, 2011.

The ARTSFUND Grants Program supports all types of arts programming such as dance, literature, media arts, music, theater, visual arts, and multidisciplinary arts programs presented in Alameda County by Alameda County nonprofit organizations. Last year's ARTSFUND program awarded grants of \$1,000 to \$1,500 to 42 nonprofit organizations throughout Alameda County. During the 2011

funding cycle, between 45-55 arts organizations may be awarded grants. The Alameda County Arts Commission, a division of the County of Alameda, is dedicated to improving the quality of life in Alameda County by nurturing a thriving environment for the arts, promoting economic opportunities for Alameda County's artists and arts organizations, and encouraging public participation in the arts.

The Arts Commission staff will host two free workshops to assist organizations in preparing their grant applications. Reservations are required. Workshops will be held on Wednesday, January 19 from 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the Fremont Main Library in Fremont and Wednesday, January 26 from 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the Alameda County Lakeside Plaza Build-

ing in Oakland. Contact the Arts Commission at artscommission@acgov.org or phone (510) 208-9646 to RSVP to attend a workshop at least seven days prior to the workshop date.

Funding for the ARTSFUND Grants Program is provided by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, individual contributions submitted with County property tax payments, and donations to the Foundation for the Arts in Alameda County.

Further details are available within the ARTSFUND Grants Program Guidelines and Application available at the Arts Commission website www.acgov.org/arts (click on "Programs") or contact the Alameda County Arts Commission by sending an email artscommission@acgov.org or phone at (510) 208-9646.

Ballet Dancers to Read 'Agelina Ballerina'

The Diablo Ballet will be visiting several Contra Costa locations for some fun, children's Saturday story times. Join them as they read the popular book Angelina Ballerina on: Saturday, January 15 at 11 AM at Borders San Ramon - 120 Sunset Drive; Saturday, January 22 at 10 AM at Borders Pleasanton - 4575 Rosewood Drive; and Saturday, February 12 at 10:30 AM at the Walnut Creek Library - 1644 N.

Broadway (Storybook Room).

These events are free and open to the public. One of Diablo Ballet's apprentice dancers will be in costume to read the story to children. After the reading, a complimentary picture can be taken with the dancer by the Diablo Ballet staff.

These readings are part of Diablo Ballet's new youth outreach

program, the Prima Ballerina Club, which is open to children ages 3 - 13 and free to join. The club provides free, member-only events where children can get up close to the action of Diablo Ballet.

For information on the Angelina Ballerina story times and Diablo Ballet's Prima Ballerina Club, please visit www.DiabloBallet.org or call 925.943.1775 extension 0.



Carnegie Building in downtown Livermore (file photo).

Tea to Launch Carnegie Building Centennial Year

The Livermore Heritage Guild will launch the Carnegie Building's centennial year with an afternoon tea. Tea will be served Sat., Jan. 29 at 1 p.m.

There will be freshly baked scones, delicate tea sandwiches, and delectable desserts supplied by Filigree Bakery and accompanied by freshly brewed loose-leaf tea. Learn about the origins of western tea traditions from a local tea enthusiast.

The tea will be held at a private home on Old Oak Road.

Tickets are \$40 per person or \$70 per pair (no children under 12, please).

Tickets may be purchased at the Carnegie Building, 2155 Third St., Livermore Wednesday-Sunday 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. or call 449-9927. Proceeds will benefit the Livermore Heritage Guild and its projects to preserve history.

Future events celebrating the centennial include a benefit on Thurs., May 12 at Veterans' Hall, 7 to 9:30 p.m. and a Carnegie Centennial Art and History Fair on Sat., May 14 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Carnegie Park.

Community



Janet Lockhart



Roy Dronkers

Awards to Be Given During Annual Fellowship Breakfast

Tri-Valley YMCA will host the 11th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Fellowship Breakfast on Jan. 24 at the Marriott Pleasanton Hotel.

The event will be from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Co-host for the event will be Dublin Mayor Tim Sbranti and Guy Houston.

The keynote speaker will be Monte Poole, long-time sportswriter and columnist for the Bay Area Newspaper Group. The Breakfast will also include fellowship, entertainment, awards, and prayer in celebration of the life and legacy of Dr. King. This celebration will take place one week after Dr. King's birthday holiday. Proceeds from this event will benefit Tri-Valley YMCA programs such



Bob Shapiro

as Summer Day Camp, Youth & Government and Model UN.

The Y seeks to strengthen communities through programs and services for youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. For more information on this Fellowship Breakfast, please contact the Tri-Valley YMCA at 925-475-6107, or tstier@ym-caeastbay.org.

Brandon Lin First Baby Born in 2011

Brandon Lin was the first baby born in 2011 at Valley-Care Medical Center, Pleasanton on Saturday morning January 1, arriving at 12:07 a.m. He shared the honor of being the first baby born in Alameda County with a baby girl born at Alta Bates Summit Medical Center.

Brandon weighed 6 pounds, 14 ounces at birth and measured 19.4 inches. He is the son of Su-Lyn and Peter Lin and joins a three year old brother Keshin. The Lins reside in San Ramon.



Finishing Line Press has nominated the book by Connie Post for a Northern California Book Award. Post served as the first poet laureate for the City of Livermore.

Hear What You Have Been Missing



Kenneth Billheimer
Audiologist/Hearing Aid Specialist

Most Insurance Companies Accepted including Members of Hill Physicians

Hearing Services

Pleasanton
4460 Black Ave, #F
484-3507

Livermore
1524 Holmes St, #D
960-0391



Jacque Pedraza
Hearing Aid Specialist

Mr. Rooter Plumbing Listed in Top 200 Franchises

Franchise Times magazine recognized Mr. Rooter Plumbing, which has a franchise in Pleasanton, in its Top 200 list for 2010.

This annual list ranks the top 200 franchises based on worldwide sales. Mr. Rooter Plumbing ranks No.186.

"Providing this community with professional and courteous plumb-

ing services is our top priority, and it's rewarding to be recognized," said Dave Ferguson of Mr. Rooter Plumbing of Tri-Valley franchise. "We are honored to be included in this select group of companies."

To qualify for this ranking, a company must be a U.S. franchise with at least 15 percent of its total

units owned or operated by independent franchisees. Companies must also be based in the United States or have at least 15 percent of its total units in the United States.

Featured in the October issue, the Top 200 list is online at www.franchisetimes.com.

Milestones

Community

Military



Air Force Airman Ayla R. Grajeda (above) graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training

in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills. She is the daughter of Stephanie Zenker of Livermore. Grajeda graduated in 2010 from Granada High School, Livermore.

Army Pfc. Kevin J. Calhoun has graduated from Basic Combat Training at Fort Sill, Lawton, Okla. During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission and received instruction and training exercises in drill and ceremonies, Army history, core values and traditions, military courtesy, military justice, physical fitness, first aid, rifle marksmanship, weapons use, map reading and land navigation, foot marches, armed and unarmed combat, and field maneuvers and tactics. He is the son of Paul Calhoun of Pleasanton. Calhoun graduated in 2005 from Amador Valley High

Community

Macintosh Selected as SPIE Fellow

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory astrophysicist Bruce Macintosh has been named a 2011 fellow of SPIE — the international society for optics and photonics.

SPIE fellows are members of distinction who have made significant scientific and technical contributions in the multidisciplinary fields of optics, photonics and imaging.

Macintosh recently was part of a team of astronomers who discovered a fourth giant planet, joining three others that, in 2008, were the subject of the first-ever pictures of a planetary system orbiting a star other than our sun.

The solar system, discovered by a team from LLNL and the National Research Council of Canada (NRC) Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics with collaborators at the University of California, Los Angeles and Lowell Observatory, orbits around a dusty young star named HR8799, which is 129 light years away. All four planets are roughly five to seven times the mass of Jupiter.

Using high-contrast, near infrared adaptive optics on the Keck II telescope in Hawaii, the astronomers imaged the fourth planet (dubbed HR8799e) in 2009 and confirmed its existence and orbit in 2010. Macintosh is an expert in using adaptive optics to image astronomical phenomena.

Macintosh also heads a team that is constructing the Gemini Planet Imager, a new system that will be up to 100 times more sensitive than current instruments and able to image planets similar to our own Jupiter around nearby stars.

Each year, SPIE promotes members as new fellows of the society. Fellows are honored for their technical achievement, for their service to the general optics community and to SPIE in particular. More than 800 SPIE members have become fellows since the society's inception in 1955.

Macintosh will be recognized and receive a certificate at the Photonics West conference, which will be held Jan. 23-27 in San Francisco.

Four Lab Scientists Named Fellows of the American Physical Society

Four Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory scientists have been selected as 2010 fellows of the American Physical Society (APS).

Less than half of a percent of the APS members are fellows. It is a distinct honor because the evaluation process, conducted by the fellowship committees of individual divisions, topical groups and forums, relies on nomination and recommendation by one's professional peers.

Among the LLNL winners are:

- **Jon Eggert**, a physicist in the Physical and Life Sciences Directorate, was cited for significant achievements in linking dynamic and static compression of condensed matter in the Shock Compression of Condensed Matter category.

"I feel very honored to be selected, and I am happy," Eggert said. "However, I also feel a bit odd as I get older and find my position in, and contribution to, the field changing. I often feel no different than I did 25 years ago

as a new graduate student in awe of my professors and senior colleagues. Except that now I realize that I am becoming one of those senior colleagues, as are all of my friends and contemporaries."

Hye-Sook Park, a physicist in the inertial confinement fusion and high energy density physics division of the National Ignition Facility, was cited for development of seminal experimental techniques to create and probe plasmas with extreme density and temperature in the Plasma Physics category.

Ramona Vogt, a staff scientist in the Physical and Life Sciences Directorate, was cited in the Nuclear Physics category for her contribution to the science community's understanding of the dynamics of heavy quark and charmonium production in collisions with nuclei and providing guidance for using these probes in experimental investigations of hard dynamics in collisions with nuclei.

"It's nice to be recognized," said Vogt, who is vice-chair of APS's Topical Group on Hadronic Physics and the first woman to

serve in this position. "I like being involved with APS. It's important for us to remember that we are part of a larger community and we have a chance to influence what goes on in physics."

Olgica Bakajin, a former LLNL chief scientist, was cited in the Biological Physics category for her contributions to the development of new instrumentation for studies of protein folding and for fundamental understanding of transport and selectivity at nanoscale. Bakajin's work also could lead to a better understanding of membrane channels. She now serves as chief technology officer of Porifera, which licensed an LLNL carbon nanotube technology that she helped develop.

APS fellowships are a distinct honor given after extensive review. Election to APS fellowship is limited to no more than one half of one percent of APS' membership for a given year. Receiving a fellowship reflects the honor and approbation of one's professional peers. This year, more than 200 members were elected APS fellows.

Local Builder to Chair Golden Gate Chapter of ABC

Debora (Debbie) Allen, CFO of W.E. Lyons Construction Co., has been named the 2011 Chair for the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) Golden Gate Chapter. In her role, Allen will lead the organization and its approximately 600 member companies representing thousands of construction industry professionals. The local ABC chapter serves contractors, subcontractors, suppliers and associates in Northern California.

"Debbie is an exceptionally intelligent business leader with a true passion for the construction industry in Northern California and her role in it," said Toby Cummings, President of the ABC Golden Gate Chapter. "We are

thrilled to have Debbie lead our organization in 2011 and have no doubt she will accomplish great things for ABC, our members and California's construction community."

Allen joins eight additional Directors including: Ken Kreisler (Treasurer), Western Water Contractors, Inc.; Craig Brueckner (Secretary), Brueckner Insurance & Financial Services; James Fitzgerald, Market One Builders, Inc.; John LeNeve, LeNeve Painting Company, Inc.; Steve McCutcheon, Cook Brown, LLP; Steve Jeffress, Jeffco Painting & Coating, Inc.; George Luther, Santa Maria & Company Risk Insurance; Sid Slatter, Slatter

Construction, Inc.

Associated Builders and Contractors represents merit shop contractors, affiliates, and service providers that perform major commercial, industrial, and public works construction. It also operates five state-approved apprenticeship programs in the plumbing, carpentry, painting, construction craft laborer, and electrical trades.

The 2011 Board of Directors will take Oath at the Annual Board Installation and Apprentice Graduation on Friday, January 21, 2011 in Livermore. Please contact Elena Moxon at elena@abc-ggc.org or (925) 960-8515 for interview and photo opportunities available during the event.

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 7 pm 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 8 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.

Truffles, Tidbits and Wine Tasting, Thursday, February 3, 2011 from 6 to 9 p.m. at participating downtown Pleasanton businesses. Event begins 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. Only eight hundred (800) tickets will be offered for this event and will be available for advance purchase 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).

GNON (Girls Night Out Networking) group - 2011 Post Holiday Kick Off Mixer, Thurs., Jan. 20, 5 to 8 p.m. at TGIF's Pleasanton (Rosewood Pavilion). \$15/pp (includes heavy appetizers/no host bar). Women in the Tri Valley that want to have some fun and network in an informal way. Information, contact Frances Hewitt, founder, at (925) 487-4748 or gnoners@gmail.com.

Valley Spokesmen Bicycle Touring Club, Sat., Jan. 15, 17 miles Blackhawk on a loop through Danville and San Ramon, meet 9:30 a.m. at Draegers Market in Blackhawk Plaza, Kathy Burke, 408-209-8471. Sun., Jan. 16, 31 miles Palomares loop, meet 9:30 a.m. at Shannon Center in Dublin, Mark Dedon, 828-9183. Wed., Jan. 19, 32 miles Lafayette, Moraga, Grizzly, Orinda loop, meet 10 a.m. at Olympic Blvd. trailhead, Edith Norby, 707-771-0483. Anyone planning to go on a ride is asked to call the leader for details on where to meet and what to bring.

The Good Soldier, the movie will be playing 7 p.m. Jan. 22 at the IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin. This film asks five different veterans from five different conflicts what their experiences were like or are like after coming home from war. Did they receive the support and help they needed? How do you go from being a trained killer to fitting back into society? This moving documentary is 79 minutes. This event is unaffiliated, open to the public, free or \$3.00 donations are welcomed, and wheelchair accessible. Meet & greet potluck begins at 6:30 PM, while a short discussion follows the film. For more information, you can call 925-462-3459.

Armchair Travelers, a monthly program, will take place at the Livermore Civic Center Library on Thurs., Jan. 13, from 1:30 to 2:30 pm. Barbara Mallon will show digital photographs of her trip to China. Adults are invited to this free program on the second Thursday of each month in the Community Meeting Rooms of the Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Avenue, Livermore. For additional information please call 925 373-5500.

Charity Fashion Show, Thursday, January 20, 7 to 10 p.m. Sapphire Restaurant and Lounge, 2300 First Street, Livermore. Presented by Esteem Productions as a fundraiser for the Taylor Family Foundation. Tickets \$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. 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.

Free e-waste recycling, Sat., Jan. 22, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Granada High School - 400 Wall Street - Livermore - at the front of the school. Items accepted: all electronic equipment (computer, monitor, hard drive, keyboard, printer, fax machine, cell phone, TV, DVD/VCR, microwave oven, satellite equip, stereo, speakers, camera, electronic wires/cables, etc.). This event supports the 2011 Granada High School Safe and Sober Grad Night.

Tri-Valley Animal Rescue's 6th Annual Claws for Paws crabfeed fund-raiser dinner and auction is set for Feb. 5, 2011, 6 to 10 p.m. Shannon Center, 11600 Shannon Avenue, Dublin. All the crab that you can eat plus Caesar Salad, pasta, French bread, dessert and coffee/tea. A no host bar will be available. In addition to dinner, there will be raffle baskets, silent auction items, along with a Kindle raffle. Dinner tickets are \$45 prior to 1/15/11 and \$50 thereafter until tickets sell out. Dinner tickets may be ordered online at www.tvar.org, through PayPal or by mailing a check to TVAR, P. O. 11143, Pleasanton, CA 94588. For more information about TVAR, e-mail contact@tvar.org, or call the message line at 925-803-7043. Visit TVAR on the web at tvar.org.

Tri-Valley Democratic Club, meets 7 p.m. Mon., Jan. 17 at the IBEW Hall, 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.

Crab Feed, Livermore-Pleasanton Elks Lodge #2117, Sat., Jan. 22, 6 p.m. cocktails, 7 p.m. dinner, 8 to 11 p.m. dancing to music by The Singing DJ. Tickets \$35 per person advance sale only, deadline is January 17. 455-8820. Elks Lodge, 940 Larkspur Dr., Livermore.

Retired Teachers Association, Tri-Valley Division #85, luncheon meeting 11:15 a.m. Tues., Jan. 18 at The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Union Hall (IBEW), 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin. A presentation will be given by Anne Homan and Dick Finn on the history of the Holdener Dairy in Livermore. Cost \$13. Guests welcome. Information, 443-9913.

From Idea to Entrepreneur, free seminar Marketability and Pricing, 7 p.m. Jan. 31 at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., Pleasanton. Pleasanton business and patent attorney Gerald Prettyman will discuss creating an inexpensive prototype, confidentiality and nondisclosure agreements, market studies, small group testing, the Rule of Thirds, and market differentiation. Registration is appreciated to allow sufficient seating. Call 600-7342 or visit www.GotABrightIdea.com.

Diapers needed, Livermore residents can help the local Pregnancy Center by dropping off diapers on (most needed are Newborns, 4 & 5's) on Thursday, January 20, 2011 from 3pm - 6pm at the Livermore Pregnancy Resource Center, 4200 East Ave., Suite 104. Annual Diaper Dash on Thursday, January 20, 2011. For information: (925) 447-1111 or hiscenter@yahoo.com ~ myspace.com/livermorepre

International Association of Administrative Professionals, Las Positas Chapter, meeting Jan. 19. Registration 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m., presentation 7 p.m. - 8 p.m. Hilton Pleasanton, 7050 Johnson Dr., Pleasanton, in the Wimbledon Room. Guest speaker is Sheryl Guistolise from Avery Dennison. She will discuss the newest in office organization and how to best use the latest techniques for the new year. Information Colleen at <http://iaaplaspositas.org>

Tri-Valley Communities Against a Radioactive Environment (Tri-Valley CAREs) was founded in 1983 in Livermore, California by concerned neighbors living around the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, one of two locations where all US nuclear weapons are designed. All are welcome at the monthly meeting at the Livermore Civic Center Library on Thursday, January 20 from 7:30pm to 9pm. For more information call Tri-Valley CAREs at (925) 443-7148 or visit our website

at <http://trivalleycares.org>

Scholarship applications. The applications for Livermore students for college scholarships from the Pedrozzi Foundation are now available online at www.pedrozzi.org. 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.

Volunteers sought, for over thirty years, Tri-Valley Haven, a non-profit agency, has provided shelter and counseling for survivors of sexual assault and battered women and their children in the Tri-Valley area. The Haven is looking for dedicated, enthusiastic volunteers who are interested in training to be sexual assault, crisis line, or legal clinic advocates. The Haven's 65-hour domestic violence and sexual assault volunteer training course will begin on Tuesday, January 18, 2011. Classes will be held every Tuesday and Thursday evening until March 31, 2011. Volunteers who successfully complete the training will be certified and required to volunteer one shift per month for one year. Volunteers must be 21 years of age or older. Volunteer applications and advocacy descriptions can be found at www.trivalleyhaven.org - click on Volunteer. Contact Geneal at (925) 449-5845 X2711 or geneal@trivalleyhaven.org for more information and to schedule an interview prior to January 18th, 2011.

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 greegno@pacbell.net or call 925-443-6097. Application packets for the scholarships can be downloaded at the retired educators' website www.div85.caltta.org/. Application deadline is March 7, 2011.

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.livermoreadulted.org.

Widowed Men and Women of Northern CA., 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.

City of Pleasanton nature programs: Wondrous Universe Series, 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, 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 kwdowding@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.tamay@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.

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 anariscoco@comcast.net or phone 510-507-5509.

RELIGION
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.

United Christian Church, celebrating 50 years in the Tri-Valley. 1886 College Ave. at M St., Livermore; worship on Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. Children's program on Sunday morning and first Fridays. The com-

munity is welcome. United CC is an Open and Affirming ministry. Call 449-6820 for more information.

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.

Tri-Valley Unity Church, 2260 Camino Ramon, San Ramon. Class for children, ages 1-10, during church service, 10 to 11:15 a.m. Ongoing adult classes and small groups. All are welcome. (925) 829-2733. www.trivalleyunity.com

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.livermoresda.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 pre-registration required. Open to all regardless of religious affiliation. Please call Mary Hagerty, 846-5377, for more information.

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.

Love Never Ends: An afternoon for married couples, Sun., Feb. 13, 2 to 6 p.m. St. Michael Catholic Church, 458 Maple St., Livermore, in the parish hall. Couples from World Wide Marriage Encounter will share testimonials on refreshing marriages, faith in the home and celebrating life together. Information, Debbie Post, Faith Enrichment Team Coordinator, DebbieJaneStineman@yahoo.com, 443-5314.

Divorce Care, Valley Bible Church, 7106 Johnson Dr., Pleasanton, 13-week seminar and support group for people going through divorce or separation. Video shown each night featuring experts on various topics such as controlling anger, forgiveness, caring for kids, and managing finances. The group meets on Tuesdays 7 to 9 p.m. starting Feb. 8. There is a one-time charge for the workbook and other materials of \$25. Pre-registration is required. Contact Mark Porter at 846-9693 or mporter@hotmail.com.