



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.

East Avenue Students Help Their School and Community

By Patricia Koning
Leadership students at East Avenue Middle School are committed to making a difference in their school and community. They are accomplishing these goals through drives to support charities, school-wide recycling and campus cleanup efforts, and community service.

This fall, the leadership class collected nearly 2,000 cans of food for Open Heart Kitchen in a drive at Thanksgiving. They introduced a friendly competition between core classrooms to encourage participation. Ms. Riolo's class collected the most cans of the entire school, followed by Ms. Hoopes and Ms. Lesandro.

Eighth grader Katrina Herweg came up with the idea for a teddy bear drive to support Good News Bears. A nonprofit organization based in Livermore, Good News Bears' mission is to provide teddy bears to hurt, traumatized, or abused children as well as adults. Visit goodnewsbears.org to learn more.

Herweg knows first-hand the impact that a teddy bear can have—in first grade she was the recipient of a Good News Bear. "I was in the hospital for surgery after I broke my arm," she explains. "I loved that bear. It made me feel so much more comfortable at the hospital."

East Avenue students donated 375 gently used bears to Good News Bears. Herweg said she hopes next year's leadership class will make the teddy bear drive an annual tradition.

In the spring the leadership students will initiate a "Pennies for Patients" drive to support the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Beginning Feb. 21, they'll leave collection buckets in classrooms across school for several weeks. "Last year, East Avenue raised about \$250," said eighth grader MacKensie Miller. "Our goal is to raise over \$300 in donations, one penny, nickel, dime, or quarter at a time."

This year the leadership class
(See STUDENTS, page 9)



RABBIT ADOPTION

My name is Maxwell. My outgoing personality saved my life. I was abandoned at a regional park with no chance to survive on my own. The staff concocted an elaborate scheme to catch me. However, when I saw them, I ran over. All they had to do was scoop me up. Needless to say, I'm a friendly boy who loves people. To meet me, call East Bay Rabbit Rescue at 925-519-1723, email ebrabbit@comcast.net, or join us at the adoption event at the Dublin Petco this Saturday from 12-3 pm. The Dublin Petco is located at 11976 Dublin Blvd. Visit www.eastbayrabbit.petfinder.com to see more profiles.

School Budget Scenarios May be Modified by Brown's Expected 'Weighted Funding' Change

By Ron McNicoll

There are two scenarios for next fiscal year's Pleasanton school budget—bad and worse, according to assistant superintendent Luz Cázares.

Beyond that, things may become even more dicey in funding for all California school districts in the next fiscal year, because Gov. Jerry Brown is expected to further modify his state budget by proposing a dramatic change

in statewide school funding for all districts.

Cázares presented her budget report at the school board meeting Jan. 10. With more details yet to be revealed, Cázares provided no definitive bottom-line projections for what the district might be looking at for next year. However, it was clear the picture won't be pretty.

There is a projected increase to education funding compared

to this year. The increase "does not mean new dollars for us," said Cázares.

That funding increase will be \$2 billion more for deferred payments to districts, which will help the district's cash flow. However, it will do nothing to help the district's revenue or fund balance.

It's not certain that even the cash-flow bonus will happen. It depends on whether voters ap-

prove more taxes in November. Brown wants voters to OK a one-half percent sales tax increase and higher income taxes on people making more than \$250,000.

"It would be like the (Pleasanton) district assuming there will be new parcel tax revenue (before a parcel tax vote), and we plug it into the budget. There is no reason for us to do so," said Cázares.

Further, Brown is assuming the two tax increases will produce \$6.9 billion for the entire budget, not just schools. Schools would see about \$2 billion of that amount.

On the other hand, the Legislative Analyst's Office, which provides a neutral budget analysis, says that the tax increases would produce \$2.1 billion less than Brown's projection, said
(See FUNDING, page 10)



Pictured following talks are (from left) National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs Donald Cook, Dublin Mayor Tim Sbranti, Danville Mayor Candace Anderson, Livermore Mayor John Marchand and NNSA Administrator Tom D'Agostino.

Talks with Washington Officials 'Positive'

Tri-Valley mayors spent the day in Washington, D.C. on Tuesday lobbying for funds to finance economic development programs and transportation projects.

Livermore Mayor John Marchand, Dublin Mayor Tim Sbranti and Danville Mayor Candace Anderson met with representatives of the National Nuclear Security Administration, top administrator Tom D'Agostino and Deputy

Administrator for Defense Programs Donald Cook.

Marchand said that the discussion centered around funding for i-GATE and NEST through Agreements for Commercializing Technology (ACT). "The program was proposed by President Obama last fall. It would allow for greater collaboration of industry and the national laboratories to launch new technolo-

gies," explained Marchand.

The goal is to help U.S. businesses create jobs and strengthen their competitiveness by speeding up the transfer of federal research and development from the laboratory to the marketplace. The initiative would remove barriers for businesses and start-up companies that are interested in accessing the research, facilities and scientists available

at the laboratories, catapulting innovative new products to the marketplace.

"They sounded very interested in Livermore's plans," added Marchand.

Another potential program that Marchand said would be of interest to the local laboratories would be the Small Business Technical Assistance Program. It
(See TALKS, page 4)

Pleasanton Schools May Add Drug-sniffing Dog

By Ron McNicoll

Pleasanton school trustees will be asked to consider adding a drug-sniffing dog to police efforts to curb drug use on the city's three high school campuses.

The trustees heard a report on the proposal at their meeting Jan. 10. School staff and police

officers talked about how use of the dog from time to time can discourage students from bringing drugs on campus.

Senior director of pupil services Kevin Johnson said he would go ahead with the plan, if the board agrees to it. The item is scheduled for a vote at the

board's meeting Jan. 24.

No trustees voiced an objection. Valerie Arkin asked how the district would handle false accusations. "It worries people in the community," she said.

Johnson said, "That's a concern. As we presently operate, any time we have a concern, we

investigate it before offering a judgment."

Foothill High School principal John Dwyer said that the level of accuracy when it comes to accusations has been "incredibly correct—90 percent or more."

Dwyer added, "There are very
(See PLEASANTON, page 4)

County Fair Continues To Win More Awards

In addition to now being ranked 39th on the Top 50 Fairs in North America by Carnival Warehouse, the 2011 Alameda County Fair took home 39 Western Fair Association (WFA) awards at the 89th Annual Achievement Awards Convention in Anaheim, CA this past week.

The Western Fairs Association is a non-profit trade association serving the Fair Industry throughout the Western United States and Canada. The WFA offers an Annual Achievement Awards Program to recognize excellence and to share successful fair ideas and programs.

The Alameda County Fair continues its position of being the most awarded Fair in the United States and Canada. The 2011 Fair, which enjoyed an atten-

dance record of 452,746 patrons for its 17-day event, received 24 First Place honors, 11 Second Place and 4 Third Place awards.

Among the Alameda County Fair's 24 First Place awards, the Fair was presented with top honors for the following entries: radio advertising, fairtime website, year round website, social media marketing campaign, cultural marketing campaign - Spice of India weekend, generational marketing campaign - kids programming, printed newsletter, electronic newsletter, America's funniest video - 99 second kissing contest, fair sponsorship program - Budweiser, best new marketing idea - world's largest commercially available hamburger; best new maintenance idea - work
(See COUNTY FAIR, page 9)



Pictured with "Joyful Play," are (from left) Gary Harrington, Jane, Henry, Maggie, John and Oliver Loll and Nancy Hartington. For the story, see page 2.

Inside

Art & Entertainment.....Section II	Roundup.....3
Bulletin Board.....Section II	Short Notes.....8
Classifieds.....10	Sports.....6
Editorial.....4	Obituaries.....9
Mailbox.....4	



PET OF THE WEEK

Meet Thomas—a striking young kitten with good looks and a wonderful personality. His brother John (not pictured) and he are both anxiously awaiting their forever home here at VHS. Both are playful and loving, the perfect fit for any home! To learn more, call 925-426-8656 or visit the website www.valleyhumane.org. Valley Humane Society is located at 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton. Hours are Tues.-Sat. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Photo courtesy of Shireen Deo

A new column, Science Matters, starts today and will run most weeks. Science Matters is written by Jeff Garber, who has covered science in the Tri-Valley for more than 40 years, first as a reporter and then as a public affairs officer at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. The column will focus on science topics with a Tri-Valley connection. Garber retired from the Laboratory in 2003 and has been writing occasional articles for The Independent for the past few years. He can be contacted at the Independent at editmail@compuserve.com



will all contribute skills to the effort. Compared with other research groups that he knows about, Cameron-Smith thinks the three labs bring together a set of skills that is uniquely powerful.

Still, the challenge is significant, he says. There are not enough measurements of the ocean bottom, which is where

the methane clathrates are buried. Ocean bottoms — especially in the methane-rich Arctic — are hostile places to study.

Once in the water, methane forms bubbles and can dissolve. How much stays in the ocean and how much reaches the surface? Bacteria consume methane, but can they proliferate fast enough to consume increased methane releases? What are the details of bacterial growth and methane consumption?

The researchers will focus on these and many other questions, aided by some of the world's fastest computers and most powerful models. Even with the resources available at Livermore and the other DOE labs, the computer time required to run complex, integrated models over long time periods will be daunting and costly, Cameron-Smith says.

COMPUTERS FOR UTILITY EFFICIENCY

Can powerful computers and advanced modeling skills help the three biggest California utilities meet state requirements for cleaner and more efficient operations by the end of the decade?

PG&E, Southern California Edison and San Diego Gas and Electric have proposed a 5-year R&D project with Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory to find out.

They submitted their proposal to the State Public Utilities Commission last July, needing its approval to charge ratepayers \$150 million for their added costs.

Among other goals, the California Clean Energy Plan calls for cutting greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. It requires meeting one-third of electricity sales through renewable technologies and shaving peak electrical demand by 5,000 to 8,000 megawatts, also by 2020.

The utilities are calling the proposed project California Energy Systems of the 21st Century, or CES-21. It would use Livermore Laboratory's Open Campus computers and skills to improve digital systems that have been taking an increasing role in managing gas and electrical supplies in recent years.

Utility statements about the project alternate between praise for the Laboratory's capabilities and not-too-subtle comments about the burden of meeting state green energy requirements. To meet state goals, the utilities will need "about 20,000 additional megawatts of intermittent wind and solar resources," according to a PG&E spokesperson.

Having to rely more heavily on intermittent energy sources will mean anticipating consumer demand, changes in weather and the availability of imported energy, according to utility spokesmen.

Energy supply and demand in the Pacific Northwest or the Rocky Mountain states can influence PG&E's ability to draw on extra power when it needs it; say, a sweltering summer afternoon.

Future computer control systems will have to integrate many factors interactively. Lawrence Livermore, with decades of experience in complex computer modeling, can provide the skills to help the utilities develop and refine the capabilities that they need.

If the project proceeds, computer security will be part of the effort, since a digitally managed electrical grid can be vulnerable to hacking and related challenges.

Whether the utilities will be able to meet state requirements remains open to question.

ABRUPT CLIMATE CHANGE?

The possibility that the Earth's climate could change abruptly and catastrophically, in a few years rather than over decades, has prompted the U.S. Department of Energy to develop a program to examine hypothetical causes for such change.

The argument is not that abrupt change is just about to happen, but that if it were to happen, the effect on the world would be horrific — so it is best to know how likely it is.

The DOE program is called IMPACTS. It is led overall by William Collins of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, who says that abrupt climate change would have "the largest imaginable negative impacts on human civilization."

There is evidence that abrupt change has happened repeatedly in Earth history. Most recently, according to detailed studies of the Greenland ice sheet, the end of the last ice age was actually a several-thousand-year sequence of warming, cooling and re-warming in which the Earth's temperature once rose 10 degrees C. in 10 years.

Researchers have identified and are examining four hypothetical causes of abrupt climate change today.

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory leads a study of a scenario involving the rapid release of methane, a powerful greenhouse gas, from deposits which now are embedded in ice beneath the oceans. Sometimes called methane clathrates or methane hydrates, these deposits may contain as much carbon as all other fossil fuels on Earth.

Other efforts are a Los Alamos-led study of destabilized marine ice sheets; examination of large scale methane releases from warming northern soils (Lawrence Berkeley National Lab); and the study of North American megadrought (Pacific Northwest National Lab.)

The leader of the Livermore study is Phillip Cameron-Smith, an atmospheric chemist, working with colleagues Daniel Bergmann and Subarna Bhattacharyya.

Cameron-Smith discourages risk estimates, pointing out that while the amount of methane in undersea clathrates is "very, very large," so is the uncertainty involved in determining how much of it could find its way to the atmosphere.

It's the goal of his effort to reduce this uncertainty by creating a computer model that integrates the processes, which are not fully understood. These include the melting of methane clathrates and the escape of the gas through the ocean sediment into water. From there the methane rises, interacts with the oceans in complex ways, and may or may not make it to the atmosphere.

The model will be able to test different scenarios of changing temperature, rising and falling oceans and other factors. Model output will be tested against data where possible; for example, historical information on methane concentrations in the atmosphere. (Methane concentrations have more than doubled since the start of the industrial era and are continuing to rise.)

Lawrence Livermore, Lawrence Berkeley and Los Alamos

Lab Scientist to Talk about 'Islam And Muslims' at Interfaith Event

An Interfaith presentation on Islamic Faith will be held on January 22 at First Presbyterian Church in Livermore.

Dr. Abdul Awwal, an engineer associated with the National Ignition Facility (NIF) of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory since 2002, will be presenting a talk on "Islam and Muslims: What do a Billion Muslims Believe?"

The presentation will include a quick overview of the basic tenets of the Muslim faith and address some topics of current interest,

followed by time for questions and answers. Resources for further study will be available for those interested. The public is invited to this fascinating presentation.

The free presentation will be given in Fellowship Hall (accessed through the courtyard from K Street between 4th and 5th streets) at 7:00 p.m., Sunday, January 22.

For more information call the church office at 447-2078 or check out the church's website at <http://www.fpcl.us/adults.html>

Latest Sculpture Unveiled in Pleasanton

The sculpture, "Joyful Play," was unveiled at a ceremony held last Saturday in Pleasanton near Chase Bank.

The stone sculpture of Serpentine was created by Zimbabwe artist Dominic Benhura. It was privately funded through Another H.A.P.P.Y. by the Loll family children, Maggie, Henry and Oliver. It has taken a year to be accepted by the city and approved by Chase Bank and the property owner, because a city contract had to be created because the sculpture would be located on private property.

Another H.A.P.P.Y. (Another Harrington Arts Partnership Piece for You) is a project launched by Nancy and Gary Harrington in partnership with the City of Pleasanton.

Nancy discussed the artist. He used to mold cattle using clay when he and other boys herded the village cattle. He tried his hand at carving, selling his first work to architects at the age of 12. He then joined a sculpture workshop. His work was being noticed more and more. He eventually quit school in order to spend the time necessary to sculpt to help support the family.

In 1987, he started to take his work to Chapunga Sculpture Park, a facility that had begun as a way to assist Zimbabwe artists refine their skills and create larger sculptures to sell. His work began to be featured in major exhibitions.

Dominic says that he wants to be considered as an artist and a sculptor. He says that the only truth is within himself and his own experiences. He shuns lack of formal art training stating, "It is much better that my work is my own. It makes it more original."

Nancy noted that the piece, "Joyful Play," is particularly

appropriate for the children of John and Jane Loll because Dominic Benhura sculptured the young girls using his daughters as models. Their faces are blank, but their body language suggests their youth and the simple joy of a child.

"Gary and I found Dominic's sculptures in a gallery in Laguna Beach. We fell in love with his children and wanted a sculpture of a pair of children playing. The gallery owner said Benhura was sculpting several pieces and they would be shipped in six weeks or so. When the shipment arrive, we drove south to the harbor and watched as the crates were opened revealing Dominic's sculptures. What an exciting adventure for us," said Nancy.

Other pieces located in Pleasanton through the Harrington project include "Poppies" (in front of the Veterans Building), and "Firehouse Red" and "Firehouse Blue" glass marqueees, "Monet's Bench," "Spiral Motion III," and "Dancers" near the Firehouse Arts Center. Inside the Arts Center is a crystal fire bell. Another work, "Eternity" will be dedicated this Saturday in front of the Firehouse Arts Center.

The Harrington Art Partnership works with the City of Pleasanton to recommend, purchase and donate selected pieces of public art. Partnerships are being formed with residents and businesses to purchase art.

The City of Pleasanton is responsible for processing all donations, as well as all contracts, installations and maintenance of the artwork. All donations are tax deductible. Checks should be made payable to the City of Pleasanton and indicate Another HAPPY in the note section. Checks should be sent to the City of Pleasanton, Attn: Susan Andrade-Wax, PO Box 520, Pleasanton, CA 94566-0802.

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925.280.8500

VALLEY ROUNDUP

Funding for Stand Down Preserved

President Obama recently signed a bipartisan law that will protect East Bay Stand Down from funding cuts. East Bay Stand Down is a biennial event held in Pleasanton to provide services to veterans, many of whom are homeless. The event, which takes place over a series of days at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, connects veterans to medical, dental, mental health, and employment services, among others. Rep. Jerry McNerney worked to retain the funding.

"As the war in Iraq comes to a close, it is even more important that we are doing everything we can to provide the resources that our veterans earned and count on," said Rep. McNerney.

At past Stand Down events, members of the Army and Navy Reserve offered medical care and dental, optometry and mental health services to hundreds of veterans.

When the president signed the National Defense Authorization Act, H.R. 1540, Rep. McNerney's efforts became a success. In 2011, as the House first considered H.R. 1540, Rep. McNerney added an amendment to protect funding for East Bay Stand Down and similar programs. His amendment stopped provisions that would have slashed funding for the program.

As the bill moved through Congress, McNerney championed the funding for East Bay Stand Down. The efforts of Rep. McNerney helped to prevent new limitations on funding for Innovating Readiness Training projects, thereby protecting East Bay Stand Down and dozens of other projects across the country from devastating cuts.

"The Vietnam Veterans of Diablo Valley would like to acknowledge the initiative of Congressman Jerry McNerney. Without this important military support, we would not be able to offer the range or level of services, particularly in the critical medical fields, to these most deserving homeless Bay Area veterans," said Jerry Yahiro, Director of East Bay Stand Down.

Collision Involves Racing

The Livermore Police Department received 9-1-1 calls on January 10 reporting a traffic collision in the 6400 block of Patterson Pass Road. When emergency personnel arrived on scene, they located a black Ford Mustang and a red Infiniti G35 with major damage to both vehicles.

Witnesses reported seeing the two vehicles side by side on E/B Patterson Pass Road at Vasco Road. The two vehicles appeared to be engaged in a speed contest when one of the vehicles lost control and collided with the other. This collision caused the red Infiniti to swerve off the roadway, collide with a tree, roll over and come to rest on its wheels against the perimeter fence of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. The driver of the Mustang lost control of the vehicle as it swerved to the left, over the center median and across the opposite lanes of traffic. The Mustang then collided with a fire hydrant, shearing the hydrant off at its base causing a large water leak.

The driver of the Infiniti is an 18 year-old Livermore resident and a student at Del Valle High School. The driver of the Mustang is a 17 year-old Livermore resident and also a student at Del Valle High School. Both drivers admitted

their involvement in a speed contest prior to the collision. The 18 year-old driver and his passenger were later transported to a local hospital with non-life threatening injuries. The 17 year-old driver and his passenger were uninjured in the collision. Both drivers were determined to be "at fault" drivers in this collision and both will be cited.

Teacher Charged

Investigators from the Livermore Police Department received information alleging that Marie Johnson, a forty year old Livermore resident and Granada High School teacher, had engaged in sexual relations with a boy under the age of 15 years.

The Livermore Criminal Investigations Bureau immediately opened an investigation and on January 11, 2012, investigators served a search warrant at Johnson's residence located in the City of Livermore. The sexual encounters reportedly occurred numerous times during a six month period beginning in December of 2010 and ending in May of 2011. The relationship was initially formed through the use of text messaging, Facebook social networking, and via instant messaging on the smart phone application, "Words with Friends."

The Livermore Police Department Investigations Bureau does not believe that there are any additional victims, however; it is recommended that parents speak with their children about the nature of any contacts with Johnson. Any person having knowledge of this crime, or any other crimes involving Johnson, should contact Livermore Police Department Press Information Officer Steve Goad at (925) 294-7531.

Assault with a Deadly Weapon

Pleasanton Police officers were notified on January 12 of a large fight involving numerous patrons inside Club Neo located at 4825 Hopyard Rd. Pleasanton officers responded to the nightclub and encountered a large number of club attendees fighting inside. They were uncooperative with officer and security commands. The people inside the club began to exit the club and go to their cars in the parking lot. The club was estimated to have approximately 450 people in attendance at the time of the incident.

As the patrons from the club were exiting and milling into the parking lot, the fights continued. At approximately 1:30 a.m. officers were made aware of a gunshot in the parking lot and told that a man had been struck by a bullet while in the parking lot. Officers immediately responded to this area and found a 23 year old black male from Fremont lying on the ground with an apparent gunshot wound to his leg. He also sustained an injury to his head. He was taken to Eden Hospital in Castro Valley by ambulance. The victim is in stable condition and his wounds are non-life threatening.

Officers on the scene interviewed security personnel and witnesses in the area. A suspect has not been identified at this time. The investigation is on-going. Anyone who has witnessed the crime or has information pertinent to this investigation is asked to call the Pleasanton Police Department at (925) 931-5100.



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EDITORIAL

Books and Art

Examples of what makes this area a special place to live are provided by two special events planned for this weekend.

In Livermore, the annual Livermore Reads Together kicks off with a talk by Michael Krasney, host of KQED's talk show Forum. He will present his musings on John Hersey's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel "A Bell for Adano," the book selected for residents to read. The presentation will be on January 22 at 2 p.m.

Over the next month and a half, the library will present programs about World War II, ranging from a USO style dance to a perspective on war presented by veterans of different wars. The Friends of the Library are funding these programs.

Most of the programs will be held at the Civic Center Library, 1188 So. Livermore Avenue.

In Pleasanton, the city's art collection continues to grow. Last week, a new work, "Joyful Play," was dedicated. This Saturday, at the culmination of an art walk led by Nancy and Gary Harrington, participants will be invited to view the newest work, "Eternity."

The Harringtons will be offering four walks on the third Saturdays of January through April, with varied routes and sights. Each of these free tours will begin at 9 a.m. in the parking lot of City Hall, 200 Old Bernal Avenue.

Luckily, the events are on different days making it possible to attend both, opportunities we urge residents not to miss.

TALKS

(continued from page one)

is designed specifically to solve technical programs for start-up companies. Although Livermore does not have such a program, we can start looking into the possibility of developing one, according to Marchand.

The funding for i-GATE or NEST would flow from the Economic Development Administration (EDA). Marchand said the response was positive in meetings with representatives of EDA. The city was encouraged to apply for the next round of public works grants in March. The money would pay for capital projects. Other sources of money may be available for operations.

"We also meet with Congressman Pete Stark. He is a big supporter of i-GATE and NEST. He wrote a letter to that effect to the Department of Commerce last year," Marchand reported.

Discussions with Stark also included funding for improvements to I-580, I-680 and Highway 84, as well as the Cable Act

Preservation (CAP) act.

Marchand said the mayors were optimistic that some of the improvements on 580 would be paid for by TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grants. The next round of funding is expected in February.

Another possible pot of money would come from the Department of Transportation to help fund the environmental studies to widen 84.

The CAP act would allow use of public education funds for operations of public cable television access. Currently, the expenditure of the funds is limited to capital projects.

"I believe all of the people with whom we spoke were impressed by the strong partnerships that we bring to the table. There are 45 different partners involved in i-GATE. All of the area mayors speak with one voice in seeking the regional benefits that would result from i-GATE," declared Marchand.

New Year Brings New Districts, Elections

The passing of the old year has brought in new congressional and legislative districts boundaries, which will affect filings for office this spring.

Filing for offices in Alameda County opens Feb. 13, and closes March 9, unless an incumbent fails to file. Then the period will be extended to March 14.

In addition to state and congressional primary elections, Zone 7 Water Agency directors will be chosen in the June 5 primary. The terms of incumbents Dick Quigley and Chris Moore of Pleasanton and Sandy Figuers of Livermore are expiring on the seven-member board.

The primary election was mandated as a "top two" election for Congress and the State Legislature. The top two finishers in June will be on the ballot Nov. 6, even if both are from the same political party.

Congress and the Legislature end their sessions in November. Their replacements will be sworn in during early December.

The only exceptions will be one-half of the state's 40 senators, because senators serve four-year terms.

Senators elected this past November will serve their new districts. Holdover senators who serve districts that will have remnants in the new districts will also be serving those same constituents.

Senate Majority Leader Eileen Corbett will be serving new constituents in the 10th Senate District, which has added more territory south and west of Hayward and the Valley.

The 10th also includes part of Dublin and Pleasanton. They will be served for two more years, until 2014, by Corbett, who is a

Democrat.

Dublin and Pleasanton also will be served by the 7th Senate District, starting after the November election. The incumbent is Mark De Saulnier, who is a Democrat. The 7th district is on the 2012 ballot.

There are no Republican incumbents in the congressional or state districts in the Valley.

Sen. Loni Hancock is finishing her first term. She will be on the ballot in November for a new term in a redrawn district. That district no longer will include Livermore, so there won't be any "senator overlap" for Livermore.

The Assembly is uncomplicated for the Valley. The 16th Assembly District encompasses all of the Valley and the I-680 corridor to Walnut Creek and cities along Highway 24. Joan Buchanan represents the 16th. She will be running this November. Gone will be districts now represented by Assemblymembers Mary Hayashi and Bob Wieckowski.

In Congress, Rep. Pete Stark of San Leandro will be running again in a Hayward-based district, which now includes the Valley. Gone after this year will be Reps. Jerry McNerney of Pleasanton and John Garamendi, whose district had included Livermore.

Both congressmen will run again in portions of their reconstituted districts. McNerney said he plans to move to Stockton and represent his same district, which has much of the current Central Valley population in it. There is a higher Democratic registration.

Garamendi will run from a Central Valley district that spreads westward and includes his home in Walnut Grove.

PLEASANTON

(continued from page one)

few false accusations, but they do happen. The way we operate is with great courtesy." School officials tell the students the program is for their own safety and that of the campus. The dogs will not sniff students. "We always call parents after a search, and we apologize if there is any kind of issue," said Dwyer.

Police representatives at the meeting, including Chief David Spiller, said that the idea of using a drug-sniffing dog is not to encourage more arrests, but to discourage students from bringing drugs to campuses.

Johnson said that using a dog on campus would not accomplish anything when it comes to students' drug use on weekends or evenings. However, it's important to make the school-day atmosphere as drug-free as possible.

Johnson said that he and Amador Valley principal Jim Hansen met recently with a student who said how hard it is to stop using drugs when they are being sold or shared at school.

"It would be naive to think that we are catching even a small percentage of kids who have drugs. This won't completely eliminate drug use at schools. However, the (district administration) feels it would be a strong step," said Johnson.

Johnson said that the administration checked with the district's attorney. The use of the drug-sniffing dog is permitted by law.

Arkin asked whether other districts are doing it. Johnson replied, "Livermore has been involved in this problem with their police. Dublin contracts out with a different organization to conduct their searches."

The dog, which would join the police department's current two police dogs, can detect a wide variety of drugs. It would be used to sniff automobiles and lockers, but not people.

Courts have said that sniffing inanimate objects such as cars or lockers does not constitute a search, which would violate 4th Amendment privacy rights. Sniffing a student for drugs would cross the line and be unconstitutional, said one of the police officers at the presentation.

CONTINUING DISCUSSION ON DEVELOPER FEE

The board also heard further from David De Bonis about what the district should have charged him for a developer school mitigation fee.

De Bonis said that he wanted to meet again with superintendent Parvin Ahmadi concerning the issue. She agreed to do so after his presentation.

The district contends that because it charges a gift fee agreement, it can charge the lowest capped fee of \$2.97 per square foot, plus the gift fee agreement, which now brings the total up to \$6.74. It had been \$8.62. However, the board reduced it at its meeting Dec. 13.

Staff said the reduction was an effort to help development during the sluggish economy. The district's attorney, Robert Kingsley, told the board that a study the district undertook in early 2010 could justify the \$6.74 total.

Although De Bonis received a refund of the \$1.88 per square foot difference between the old fee and the new one, he contends that he should be paying only \$2.97 per square foot for the home he is building in Serenity Terrace near Happy Valley Road. He told the school board on Dec. 13 that his reading of state law allows an amount that high, and no higher.

De Bonis quoted fees from other districts. He pointed out that San Ramon Valley, Palo Alto and Livermore charge \$2.97 per square foot to developers.

LIVERMORE FEE TOOK DRAMATIC DROP JAN. 1

The fee in Livermore is a big

discount from what the city had been charging until Jan. 1 of this year. Susan Kinder, the Livermore school district's chief business official, said that the district had been using a flat fee of a little more than \$14,000 per home.

For a developer to pay \$14,000 today on a home, at the new \$2.97 per square foot rate, that home would have to cover approximately 4900 square feet. The typical home built today in Livermore is 2200 square feet, said Kinder.

So a developer of that typical size home of 2200 square feet is paying \$6534, a savings of \$7466, or 53 percent, compared to the \$14,000 flat fee.

Kinder said the city council made the change last year, effective Jan. 1, 2012, to try to help stimulate residential building during the recession.

The new \$2.97 fee for Livermore is the maximum that a district can charge under a three-tiered state system. Districts must conduct studies of projected student population over the next five years, then compare the number to school facilities available now and needed in the future.

If the dollars and cents pencil out to more than \$2.97 per square foot, the districts may go to Level 2, which has a cap of \$4.91 per square foot. The Fremont school district is an example of a nearby district that charges the Level 2 cap of \$4.91.

BROWN HOPES FOR STATE SCHOOL BOND

Anything justified above the Level 2 cap enters Level 3, which has no cap. However, Gov. Jerry Brown's budget for FY 2012-13 proposes elimination of Level 3. Instead, Brown would like the Legislature to place a school construction bond measure on the ballot.

The state has not approved a bond measure available for school construction for a few

years. Traditionally the bond had been part of what educators called the "three-legged stool." All three "legs" working together supported school construction.

One leg of support on the stool was a school district bond measure. Another leg was developer fees, and the third was the state bond money.

Pleasanton has experienced bad luck with state bond money. The district was one of the first in line in the late 1990s for state bond money to help build Neal elementary school on Vineyard Avenue. However, the property owner there was slow in resolving his property disposal issues. The district did not want to sue to condemn the land, fearing protracted and expensive court proceedings.

By the time the property owner was ready to sell, the state changed its policy. Instead of allocating the state bond money on a first-come, first-served basis, the state said it would give preference to the largest school districts, in this case the Los Angeles school district.

Los Angeles needed many construction projects. Some of the projects were motivated by the need to upgrade earthquake standards and clean up chemically infested sites.

As Neal school funding from the state receded away, Pleasanton acquired the Bernal property. The district then decided to build Hearst elementary school adjacent to the Bernal site before Neal with funding it would receive. Meanwhile, Signature Properties said it would build Neal at a cost of \$8 million. When the estimate went up to \$13 million, the developer and district disputed who would pay the \$5 million cost overrun. The suit dragged through the court, and Signature eventually won. Now the district has no plans to build the Neal school.

Deep Cuts in Programs for Families and Children

Alameda County officials are expressing concern over Governor Brown's latest budget proposal and its focus on deep cuts to welfare, health care, child care and in-home care programs that will disproportionately impact the community's most vulnerable residents.

While crediting the Governor with offering a balanced approach of voter-approved tax increases and program cuts to close the State's \$9.2 billion shortfall through FY 2012-13, Alameda County Administrator Susan S. Muranishi noted that the County has faced deficits totaling more than \$465 million over the past three years - shortfalls resulting in part from State cuts to local government funding.

"Years of challenges to the State's financial health have meant services critical to our most vulnerable populations have

been pared to the bone," Muranishi said. "It is therefore quite disheartening to learn that 2012 brings yet another round of bad news for people suffering most during these tough economic times, including families and children."

Governor Brown's budget plan calls for \$4.2 billion in spending cuts this year, with an additional round of "trigger" cuts should his \$6.9 billion tax initiative fail at the ballot box in November. Cuts proposed in the Governor's plan include human services reductions that would impact thousands of low-income Alameda County residents. These include:

- Deep cuts to the CalWORKS welfare-to-work program that would strip benefits from people who cannot find adequate work after two years, rather than four,

and a 20 percent reduction in monthly benefits paid to families with children

- A reduction of almost 40 percent to child care subsidies for low-income families.

- Cuts to the State's In-Home Support Services program that include the elimination of funding for disabled, frail and elderly recipients living with other people, along with a 20 percent across-the-board reduction enacted last year that has been blocked by the courts.

- Reductions totaling \$842 million in the Medi-Cal program that would be obtained by moving all recipients into managed care.

- The elimination of the Healthy Families program that provides health insurance to children in low-income families. These children would be moved

into the more restrictive Medi-Cal program.

The budget proposal also calls for the eventual elimination of California's youth prison system, a process that would begin in January 2013 when the State would stop taking new wards into its custody. Counties would at that time begin taking custodial responsibility for these higher-risk juvenile offenders. Brown hopes many of the budget reductions he has proposed will begin taking effect in March. In addition, yet another round of cuts can be expected next January should his tax initiative fail at the polls in November. Local government leaders have expressed concern about the initiative's prospects, particularly as dozens of other citizen-launched initiatives appear to be headed for the same ballot.

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. Letters should be submitted by e-mail to editmail@compuserve.com.)

Foreign Aid Donald King Livermore

Ron Paul has some great ideas, particularly with regard to our bloated military. But I was appalled to hear him say that America should cease all foreign aid.

The case for wealthy nations giving aid to the impoverished ones, especially in Africa, is articulated extremely well in a book by Jeffrey D. Sachs, "Commonwealth: Economics for a Crowded Planet" (2008). Sachs was a special advisor to United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon with regard to a UN effort to address the terrible suffering endured by nations afflicted with extreme poverty, overpopulation, prolonged drought, famine, inadequate supplies of clean water, inadequate sanitation, virtually nonexistent health care facilities, etc.

He credits the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation and Warren Buffet with having done wonders, but the need exceeds the capacities of private philanthropies.

The more favored nations, such as the US and Canada, European nations, Japan and others have a moral obligation to help the impoverished ones. Sachs describes in some detail just how this imbalance can be rectified.

Pleasanton Schools Mary Ellen Huey Pleasanton

Many good things are happening in Pleasanton. One of them is a Listening Project launched by Pleasanton Unified School District Superintendent Parvin Ahmadi, along with her cabinet and school board members. They are going out in pairs to present the school district's vision for the future and to listen carefully to what various groups think of the ideas set forth.

I am pleased to report that Superintendent Ahmadi will be the guest speaker at the monthly VIP luncheon held at the Senior Center in Pleasanton on Monday, January 23. This is an opportunity for the older residents of our community to be heard. The luncheon will take place at 11:30 p.m., followed by Mrs. Ahmadi's presentation at 12:25.

Those who would like to par-

ticipate must make a luncheon reservation by Friday, January 20. Cost of the luncheon for seniors is only \$3, payable at the event. To reserve a space, call the Senior Center at 931-5385. This is a good time to learn about what is planned for local public schools.

The Senior Center is located at 5353 Sunol Boulevard (across from Raley's).

Transit Robert S. Allen Livermore BART Director, District 5, (1974-1988); Retired, Southern Pacific Railroad Western Division (Engineering/Operations)

The key to one Bay Area: integrated rail rapid transit (BART) around the Bay and reaching out. Form a joint powers agency (JPA) of the five BART and Caltrain counties ringing San Francisco Bay. (BART's kick-off came with a voter-approved bond issue in 1962 - when San Francisco had only two building more than about ten stories high. The bonds were paid off over a decade ago.)

The JPA - building on Caltrain and BART strengths - would develop a BALANCED plan for voter approval. (A five-county bond issue equal to that for then-novel BART in 1962 - adjusted for population and inflation - would raise about \$16 billion!) Among its elements, as

I conceive them:

- Grade separate Caltrain (Millbrae-San Jose), with 3 tracks (2 pass., 1 freight).

- Keep the freight track on the east (water) side, with its heavy industry.

- Convert the two passenger tracks to BART.

- Complete Berryessa-Diridon loop as BART (best under San Fernando Street).

- Convert Caltrain north of Millbrae/SFO to an SF Muni airport line.

- Extend BART via I-580 and the former SP to beyond the Altamont (Grant Line Rd.)

- Extend BART in an I-80 median from Del Norte to a Crockett intermodal station.

- Install a turnback beyond Civic Center up Oak Street in Downtown San Francisco.

- Extend BART further up Oak and to the Presidio and Golden Gate Bridge.

- Reroute the Capitol Corridor in the East Bay to the much shorter Mulford line.

- Grade separate East Bay Capitol Corridor tracks.

- Relocate the proposed Union City intermodal facility to Coliseum.

- Develop a BART-like governance structure.

I would be happy to discuss the reasoning for each of these elements. Upon voter approval and appropriate funding, merge
(More MAILBOX, page 5)

THE Independent
(INLAND VALLEY PUBLISHING CO.)

Publisher: Joan Kinney Seppala
Associate Publisher: David T. Lowell
Editor: Janet Armantrout

The Independent is published every Thursday by Inland Valley Publishing Company, 2250 First St., Livermore, CA 94550; (925) 447-8700. Mailed at Periodical Postage Prices at the Livermore Post Office and additional entry office: Pleasanton, CA 94566-9998. The Independent is mailed upon request. Go to www.independentnews.com to sign up and for more information. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Independent, 2250 First St., Livermore, CA 94550.

Advertising rates and subscription rates may be obtained by calling (925) 447-8700 during regular business hours or by fax: (925) 447-8212.
Editorial information may be submitted by editmail@compuserve.com.

MAILBOX

(continued from page 4)

BART and Caltrain governing boards for a smooth transition.

This is the way to make ours one Bay area. If High Speed Rail comes, the Caltrain roadway should be widened to allow a pair of HST tracks between Caltrain/BART and the freight track. CA HSRA's share would be mostly for the extra roadbed width and grade separation costs.

Freedom to Choose

**John Baum
Pleasanton**

Let's be hypothetical... Just imagine, you live in Livermore and you decide to move to Pleasanton. You do some research and find that Pleasanton residents have a totally different food distribution system.

In Pleasanton, you are assigned a specific food market based on where you live. In your case that assigned market will be the Amador Safeway. You must buy all your groceries at Safeway. You cannot drive over to Gene's to buy fish because Gene's is not in your district.

Furthermore, you find out that all the markets in P-Town are controlled by the Pleasanton Food Market District (PFMD). Recently over 1000 Pleasanton residents petitioned the PFMD to approve a new Whole Foods in Pleasanton. But after 6 months of study the PFMD denied the Whole Foods' application. They stated that a new Whole Foods would be bad for the community because it would "take away shoppers and revenue from Safeway and cause Safeway to lay off 50 employees."

After thinking about all this you turn to your family and announce "we are staying in Livermore!" Your reasons are clear. The Pleasanton system is a monopoly. The Pleasanton markets are vastly inferior to those in Livermore because there is no competition. You simply want to be able to purchase good food for your family at reasonable prices. You refuse to live under a system where government tells you where you must buy food.

So, if this hypothetical system in Pleasanton is so bad, why do you allow the same type of system to actually control the schools in Livermore? You have no choice in Livermore. There is no competition between schools.

A student is assigned a school based on where the student lives. And even if there are over 1000 students who want to attend a new charter school, your school district (LVJUSD) denies the building of a new charter school because it would "likely mean a loss in revenue to the District."

Think of that! Over 1000 students are clamoring for a better school to attend and the District is more concerned about a loss in revenue and maintaining the school monopoly. The "quality" of education is not even mentioned.

Just imagine how much better the schools in Livermore would be (for both teachers and students) if parents had the freedom to choose a school, just like they do a food market.

LARPD Board Vacancy

**Bob Baltzer
Livermore**

With the vacancy created by the election to the City Council of Laureen Turner, this is an excellent opportunity for the Board to appoint longtime advocate for open space and trails Robert (4 wheel Bob) Coomber to the LARPD Board. As a dedicated park & trails user, Bob is an excellent representative of the general public, but he would also be a fine liaison with the underserved and underrepresented handicapped population of the district. Without being an "insider," he is certainly very knowledgeable about both recreation in general and the issues faced by those with physical challenges.

Someone who would seriously dream of climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro in a wheelchair is my idea of who I would want to have represent me on the Park District Board.

Studies Look at Improving Efficiency of Wind Power

By looking at the stability of the atmosphere, wind farm operators could gain greater insight into the amount of power generated at any given time.

Power generated by a wind turbine largely depends on the wind speed. In a wind farm in which the turbines experience the same wind speeds but different shapes (such as turbulence) to the wind profile, a turbine will produce different amounts of power.

This variable power can be predicted by looking at atmospheric stability, according to Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory scientist Sonia Wharton and colleague Julie Lundquist of the University of Colorado at Boulder and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

In a paper appearing in the Jan. 12 edition of the journal, Environmental Research Letters, Wharton and Lundquist examined turbine-generated power data, segregated by atmospheric stability, to figure out the power performance at a West Coast wind farm.

"The dependence of power on stability is clear, regardless of whether time periods are segregated by three-dimensional turbulence, turbulence intensity or wind shear," Wharton said.

The team found that power generated at a set wind speed is higher under stable conditions and lower under strongly unsteady conditions at that location. The average wind power output difference is as high as 15 percent less wind power generation when the atmosphere is unstable.

While turbulence is a relatively well-known term in assessing turbine efficiency, wind shear — which is a difference in wind speed and direction over a relatively short distance in the atmosphere — also plays an important role when assessing how much power a turbine generates over certain time scales.

Wharton and Lundquist said that wind farm operators could better estimate how much power is generated if the wind forecasts included atmospheric stability impact measurements.

Though earlier research looked at atmospheric stability effects on power output, few studies have analyzed power output from modern turbines with hub heights of more than 60 meters.

In the new research, Wharton and Lundquist gathered a year of power data from upwind modern turbines (80 meters high) at a multi-megawatt wind farm on the West Coast. They considered turbine power information as well as meteorological data from an 80-meter tall tower and a Sonic Detection and Ranging (SODAR), which provided wind profiles up to 200 meters above the surface, to look at turbulence and wind shear. Looking at upwind turbines removed any influence that turbine wakes may have

on power performance. The team found that wind speed and power production varied by season as well as from night to day. Wind speeds were higher at night (more power) than during the day (less power) and higher during the warm season (more power) than in the cool season (less power). For example, average power production was 43 percent of maximum

generation capacity on summer days and peaked at 67 percent on summer nights.

"We found that wind turbines experienced stable, near-neutral and unstable conditions during the spring and summer," Wharton said. "But daytime hours were almost always unstable or neutral while nights were strongly stable."



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Interviews Set for Three Finalists for LARPD Board Vacancy

The three finalists for a seat on the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District board will be interviewed Jan. 25 by current board members.

The Board will select the new director at the meeting to be held at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Avenue starting at 7 p.m.

The vacancy was created when Laureen Turner was elected to the city council last November.

The three to be interviewed are Bob Coomber, Barbara Kraybill and Dale Wilkins.

Bob Coomber has previously run for a seat on the board. He describes himself as a park user and fitness advocate.

He says of the district, "LARPD reaches every corner of our community. Parks, trails, kid's sports programs, senior programs and so many other services all are integral and vital pieces of Livermore's social fabric. I believe I can enhance the board's ability to cope with the financial challenges presented to all special districts in today's economic climate."

Coomber works for Techno-

logy Credit Union as a loan adjustments manager. He previously worked for Wells Fargo Bank and Transmuth Financial.

In 2010, Coomber was appointed to the State of California Recreational Trails Program Advisory Board and in 2007 was inducted into the California Outdoors Hall of Fame.

In answer to questions asking why a candidate was seeking the board on the seat, Coomber wrote that he has been a supporter of LARPD since moving to Livermore 22 years ago. "The number of classes, programs, parks and trails supported by the district add substantially to our quality of life."

Barbara Kraybill has lived in Livermore for almost 40 years. She was employed by LARPD for 30 years, retiring in 2007.

She writes in her application, "I believe I am qualified to hold the position and perform the duties of the job due to my past experiences as an employee of the district and as an active member of the community."

While working for LARPD, Kraybill was employed as a preschool teacher/coordinator and

special classes instructor, among other positions. In addition, she supervised teen programs. She is currently an instructor in early childhood education classes at Las Positas College.

In the past, she has served as a board member of the Alameda County Child Care Planning Council and a member of the California Park and Recreation Society. She is currently a member of Community Association for Preschool Education (CAPE).

In explaining why she would like to be appointed, Kraybill focused on her experience in working for the district. She said that she would like to work with staff to look for possibilities that may become available to create opportunities to stay fiscally healthy in a period of reduced government support and economically uncertain times. "I also have an interest in the district as a whole, not just one program. I see parks, social services, building maintenance, programs and administration as a whole entity working together for the benefit of all."

Dale Wilkins has extensive experience in the area of parks and recreation management. He worked as a park ranger for the National Park Service in various parks. He is currently a managing attorney for Zenith Insurance Company, where he manages the in-house legal department.

Wilkins writes that he is interested in the board position because he feels his background in parks and recreation management and as a managing attorney would be important assets to the district. "I have a special understanding of parks and recreation management due to my undergraduate degree in Natural Resources Management from Cal Poly. My experience as a park ranger and in other naturalist capacities for various governmental agencies demonstrates my commitment to the importance of preserving these important natural and historical resources for generations to come."

He previously served on the City of Menlo Park Parks and Recreation Commission and its Environmental Beautification Commission.

Wilkins adds, "Even while we lived in Pleasanton, we spent a great deal of time enjoying the offerings of the Livermore community, including the Bankhead Theater, the redeveloped downtown area and restaurants, the wineries, and of course, the excellent parks including Sycamore Grove and others. We are now excited to reside in this wonderful community and are anxious to give back to the city and pay it forward to others."

SPORTS NOTES



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Amador Valley High School shot down Livermore High, 5 to 0, in a men's varsity soccer EBAL match last week. Amador's Dane Shaffer scored three unassisted goals.

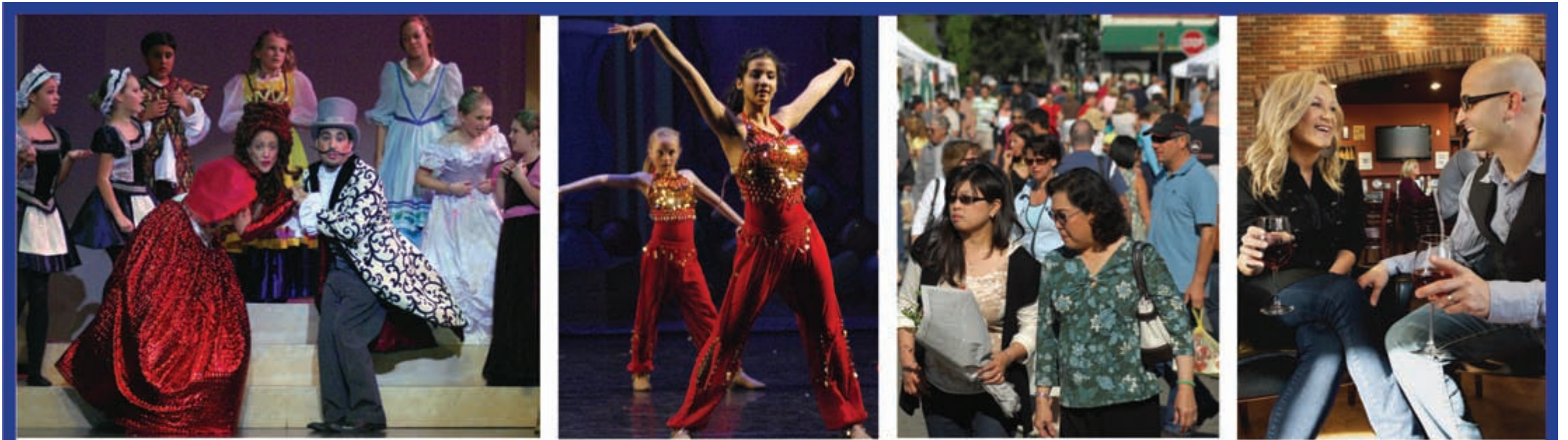


Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Dublin High School Gaels defeated Dougherty Valley Wildcats 1 to 0 in a conference match-up last Friday. Alex Marshall scored the winning goal with an assist by Collin Hartland.



Young Champions Livermore Cougars' Cheer Team came in 1st place in their division at last week's competitionat Newark Memorial High School This is Livermore's 1st time in the competition. All of the teams from Livermore came home with first place finishes. Pictured are Smith School 5th graders Natalie Hoffman, Amber Sufkin and Jaci Hammons and 4th grader Cheyene Brown (2nd from the left).



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SPORTS NOTES



West Coast Wildfire team members pictured are (front row) Jenna Tidwell, Amanda Zeck, Chloe Brickwedel; (middle row) Sydney Schultz, Isabella Barbero, Tory Diehl, Kiley Beard, Melinda Miller, Katelynn Funsch; (top row) Coach Marlon Fernandez, Meghan Giamona, Kira Karter, Courtney Haubert, Brianne Radliff, Keili Prenton, Jennifer Gibson, Alexandria Porter, and Coach Paul Giamona; not in the photo Maddie Stewart and Taylor Sullivan.



Livermore Fusion S/C U11 Black Team battled hard in Woodland against the Gryphon's Soccer Club Red of San Francisco as part of the Nor Cal State Cup seeding tournament. Both teams came out fighting hard for the win but it was Fusion who took the victory home. Thanks to a beautiful power shot from outside the eighteen by Camille Le Blanc, assisted by Emily March. The Fusion defense of Cassidy Bates, Taylor Kirkpatrick and goalies Kayla Jones and Stephanie Boschee denied the Gryphon's any chance at a goal. Pictured is defender Kaitlin Krakoski as she fights for control of the ball.

High School Basketball Games on Television

Tri-Valley Community Television (TVCTV) plans to broadcast four Tri-Valley high school basketball games on TV 30. The games will be taped on Friday nights and air the next day. The first game airing on Saturday January 28 at 7 p.m. will be the Dublin at Dougherty Valley game. Tri-Valley Sports Final personalities Ian Bartholomew and George "Dr. B" Baljevich will be providing commentary.

Dates and air times are as follows for the full game schedule:

January 28, 7 p.m. Dublin at Dougherty Valley

February 4, 7 p.m. Foothill at Livermore

February 11, 7 p.m. Amador Valley at California

February 18, 7 p.m. Granada at Livermore

"TVCTV promotes positive activities that students are involved in," said Melissa Tench-Stevens, TVCTV Executive Director. "We just finished our third year of televising high school football games and are pleased to be able to offer these four basketball games in our lineup."

Tri-Valley TV will be broadcasting the games on Comcast TV 30, AT&T U-Verse via channel 99 and streaming at trivalleytv.org. For complete air dates and times, visit the Tri-Valley TV website at www.trivalleytv.org. In addition, the games may be viewed via Video on Demand at the website the following week. DVDs of the games may also be purchased via the website.

CYO Basketball

With a win last week, the 6th grade St. Michael's/St. Charles (SM/SC) Warriors were looking to get two wins in a row going into this week's play against St. Isidore's in CYO basketball. Point guard Tyler Langowski opened up the game for the Warriors scoring 4 quick points. St. Isidore's answered back by scoring 6 straight points, giving them a lead of 6-4 at the end of the quarter. The Warriors defense kicked in led by Riley Van Trease and Lefawo Mahloe in rebounding, and Langowski, Seth Davis and Lukas Owen in creating St. Isidore turnovers. The Warriors tied the score 6-6 as they held St. Isidore's scoreless going into the half. The upbeat tempo of the game continued in the 2nd half as both teams were determined to get the upper hand offensively. By the end of the 3rd quarter, St. Isidore's held a slim lead of 10-9. That changed in the fourth. The Warriors scored 12 points, including 2 crucial free throws each from Owen and Van Trease in the last 48 seconds of the game. The victory went to the Warriors with score of 21-16. Leading the scorers was Langowski with 6 points, Van Trease with 5 points, and Owen with 4. Mahloe, Davis, and Kade Gomes chipped in with 2 points each. Van Trease was top rebounder with 6.

It was a great game between two evenly matched squads as the SM/SC 7th grade

girls STOMP! team succumbed in the final seconds to St. Isidore 13-16. Down by 5, Taylor Peterson dropped in two free throws with 8 seconds left. A steal and a 3 pointer was all they needed to send the game into O.T. St. Isidore got the ball by STOMP! and the buzzer blew. LeRhae Sanders had 7 steals, a rebound and grabbed 3 turnovers. Shannon Meyer has come out strong the 2nd half of the season with a stellar performance as a power forward with 4 attempts, 2 rebounds and 2 steals in this game, but it's her defense that has really caught her opponents off-guard. Not a shot has been scored against her in 2 straight games. Taylor scored 7 points, led her team with 7 rebounds, 2 blocked shots and a steal. Jessica Stahl didn't let a head injury stop her from giving her all in the game as she also had 7 rebounds, 2 steals and caused 5 turnovers. Rounding out the scoring for STOMP! were Chloe King for 2, Robyn Kammeier for 2 and LeRhae and Jessica for a point each.

The SM/SC 6th grade Flyers flew to a 7-1 record, clinching a playoff spot by defeating St. Raymond's 15-11. Both teams put up a fight to steal the final basket from the other team to break a tie. The Flyers were on a mission to knock out St. Raymond's from a 3-way tie for first place. They did that in the final minutes with Kate Marcel and Katherine Gomez teaming up and scoring 6 points in the 4th quarter to pull away with the win. Gomez shot a solid 36%, sinking 8 points for the Flyers. It was the defense that won this game. Stopping St. Raymond's from penetrating the key, was key. Marcel went very big with 7 blocked shots, 3 rebounds, 2 steals, an assist and 50% from the field. Not allowing the opponent to score from inside the paint proved to be a tough battle. Lauren Rodgers and Jessica Bennet were solid as they kept St. Raymond's from scoring under the basket and combined for 11 rebounds. With 55 seconds left, Lauren grabbed the last rebound from St. Raymond's and moved the ball up the floor and kept it in the Flyer's hands until the final buzzer. Vanessa Barone played a tough guard position with Katie Fournier to assist the defense in keeping the ball away from the hoop.

SM/SC CYO 5th grade boys, the Gladiators, were overcome by St. Isidore's

39-12. Scoring for St. Isidore's were Connor Kniereim and Jack Castillo with 10 and eight points respectively. For the Gladiators, who played with unquestionable determination, Logan Finch scored eight points, while Eric Valdez and Ian Partridge each landed two points. Colton Morlan and Ian Partridge were commendable defensively, demonstrating excellent rebounding skills.

It was another great battle for the SM/SC 3rd grade Thunder as they took on their crosstown rivals. Thunder came alive in the 2nd half scoring 8 points, but came up a little short on the scoreboard in the final score. Fantastic defensive efforts were turned in by Jenessa Lee with 7 rebounds and Kelly Lineveber in the key with 3 rebounds, 3 steals and causing 3 turnovers for the Thunder. Erin Schrader went 2 for 3 and had 2 steals, 2 rebounds and secured 3 turnovers. Lauren Gonzalez played a tough defense down low. Allyah Anderson was strong on top sinking the final basket at the buzzer.

West Coast Soccer

The U12G West Coast Wildfire went on the road to play in the Palo Alto Winter Turf Tournament. The girls played four tough

matches against top gold teams from Northern California, Mill Valley, Sonoma Alliance, Sacramento United, and Palo Alto.

In the first game against Mill Valley, the Wildfire took command of the game with precision passing skills. Midway through the second half, Forward Sydney Schultz scored the go-ahead goal to win the match 1-0. Later that night, the Wildfire met the Sonoma Alliance. The Wildfire kept the pressure on to take the lead. Forward Meghan Giamona scored first off a penalty kick from mid-field. Sonoma came back late in the second to tie the match. In game three, the Wildfire played the undefeated Sacramento United team. The game was scoreless through the first 55 minutes. Sacramento scored off of a penalty kick to take the match.

Going into game four, the Wildfire knew they had to score at least three goals and earn a shutout to bring home the trophy. The Wildfire dominated the first half against host team Palo Alto. The score was 0-0 at the half. Wildfire came out firing to open the second half. Forwards Kira Karter and Tory Diehl were on the attack, breaking down the goal for several shots on goal. Defender Chloe Brickwedel was pulled forward to

apply her speed to the front line. Within a minute, Chloe was able to sink the first goal with an assist from Amanda Zeck. Goal number two was a penalty shot by Meghan Giamona. With momentum building, goal number three was made by Sydney Schultz with another assist from Amanda Zeck. The final score, with seconds on the clock, was sunk on a break-away led by Isabella Barbero with assistance from Melinda Miller, Davi Porter, and Jenna Tidwell. The Wildfire mid-field led by Keili Prenton, Courtney Haubert, and Katelynn Funsch shut down the middle. The defense, led by Kiley Beard, Chloe Brickwedel, Jennifer Gibson, Maddie Stewart, and Goalie Brianne Radliff, gave up only two goals in the tournament.

Spring Rollerhockey

All new players will get free league fees for their 1st session at Valley Inline Hockey in Livermore. Equipment is available to borrow as long as a player provides his or her own skates. No experience is necessary; free lessons on Sundays. Ages divisions 8 and under (Squirts), 9-12 (PeeWee), 13-16 (Bantam) for boys and girls. Signups at the rink Saturday Jan 28th 10am-1pm. 925-443-1500. The rink is located behind Junction Ave Middle School, in Livermore with parking off Ladd Avenue.

Corrections

The Independent reported the score of the girls varsity basketball game between Granada and Amador Valley incorrectly in last week's newspaper. The correct score is 52-43. The Granada player, who was not identified, is Theresa Keaney.

Track & Field

St. Michael CYO Track & Field Team is holding sign ups for its Spring 2012 Season on Friday, 1/20 from 7-8 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 2/6 at 4 PM on the Granada High School track. For more information go to www.smistrack.org.

Bocce Kits for Rent

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.

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NEW EXCITING PROGRAMS FROM WEST COAST SOCCER CLUB

Pre-Tryout Academy, Competitive Soccer Tryouts, We Can Soccer, Spring Recreation League

Event	Date	Time	Age	Location
Pre-Tryout Academy	1/17-2/16	4:30-6pm	U8-U14 B&G	Ernie Rodriguez Park
Spring Rec Sign-Ups	1/21 & 2/11	12pm-3pm	U5-U18 B&G	Livermore Library
We Can Soccer	1/21 & 2/11	12pm-3pm	U5-U18 B&G	Livermore Library
Tryout	2/19 & 2/26	9am-11am	U9 B&G	Robertson Park
Tryout	2/19 & 2/26	9am-11am	U10 B&G	Robertson Park
Tryout	2/19 & 2/26	11am-1pm	U11 B&G	Robertson Park
Tryout	2/19 & 2/26	11am-1pm	U12 B&G	Robertson Park
Tryout	2/19 & 2/26	1pm-3pm	U13 B&G	Robertson Park
Tryout	2/19 & 2/26	1pm-3pm	U14 B&G	Robertson Park

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www.westcoastsoccerclub.com



BINGO

JAN. 21, 2012 • 6:30PM

Join PLEASANTON SEAHAWKS at Bingo Ranch Hall, 3070 Pacific Ave, Livermore.

*Buy in less than \$20.
Pay outs from \$175-\$500.
Flash game payouts up to \$1,199.*

One free HOT DOG for first 75 players with buy in.

COFFEE, TEA, and SNACKS are free. 18 yrs. & older.

Granada High School Dance Team's Seventh Annual Dance Clinic

Saturday, February 4, 2012

3:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Granada's Main Gym

Jazz/Hip-Hop Dance Clinic

Clinic includes:

- Dance Instruction (separate routine and performance for middle and elementary)
- Snacks
- Dance Team T-Shirt
- CD with music & video to practice at home
- Invitation to perform at a Granada J.V. Basketball Game on Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2012

Clinic Cost is \$50.00 per person, bring water bottle

Please wear comfortable clothes and appropriate shoes (sneakers, dance shoes), hair tied back

Questions: Jamie Fugundes, Coach GHS Dance Team (925) 518-7978 or ochaos@sbglobal.net

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full bed/bathroom downstairs.

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CALL FOR PRICE AND APPOINTMENT TO PREVIEW.

SHORT NOTES

Educators' Scholarship

Up to six scholarships, each worth \$2,000.00, 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, 2012, c) community college applicants must be qualified to transfer as juniors to a four-year institution in fall, 2012, d) 4-year college applicants must be sophomores who will continue as juniors in fall, 2012.

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.ca.lra.org/. Application deadline is March 9, 2012.

Jungle of Jewels

The American Cancer Society Discovery Shop in Pleasanton is requesting donations of costume or precious jewelry for its annual jewelry event, "Jungle of Jewels" on March 9, 10 and 11, 2012. Donations are accepted at the shop during open hours: Monday to Friday 10-6, Saturday 10-5, Sunday 12-5.

This special jewelry event will feature precious and semi-precious gems, costume jewelry, jungle-themed items, animal-print clothing, and much more.

The Discovery Shop is located in the Mission Plaza Shopping Center at 1987-A Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. Contact Monda Wiseman, Mgr. at (925) 462-7374 for more information.

All proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society's programs of research, education, service and advocacy.

Nature Programs

New Year's Resolution Hike will be hosted on Sat., Jan. 21 by the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District ranger staff. Meet Ranger Jamie Greco at 10 a.m. at Holdener Park, eastern end of Hansen Road.

Join this vigorous two mile hike through the new trails of Holdener Park. Wear sturdy hiking shoes and be prepared for some steep terrain. The trails may be muddy, but we are hiking rain or shine. Park near the water tanks at the east end of Hansen Road.

After the Burn is the topic for the Sun., Jan. 22 program. Meet Ranger Amy Wolitzer at 10 a.m. at Sycamore Grove Park, 1051 Wetmore Road.

In the fall, the Park District conducted some prescribed burns in the upper part of Sycamore Grove Park. Join this program to learn about how fire can be used as a resource management tool and to see what's growing in the areas that were burned. This will be a slow-paced hike of about four miles with some wandering off the trails into the areas that were burned.

There is a \$5 per vehicle parking fee at either entrance to Sycamore Grove Park. A \$2 donation is requested to help support the programs, unless other fees are specified. Participants may call 925-960-2400 for more information.

Diabetes Series

San Ramon Regional Medical Center is offering an educational series on Diabetes Self-Management. The classes will be held on four Wednesday afternoons—February 8, February 15, February 22, and February 29, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. The classes will be held in the West Day Room in the hospital's South Building, located at 7777 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon.

Classes will present an overview of Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes, healthy eating, exercise, and complications. A physician referral is required. Medicare and other insurances may accept payment. To enroll in the class, call Barbara Reis, R.D., Certified Diabetes Educator, at 925.275.6018.

Coldwell Banker

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage announced that Barbara Clemons has joined the company as a sales associate in its Livermore office. In her new position, Clemons will specialize in residential sales primarily in Alameda County and the San Joaquin Valley.

"Barbara will be a great addition to our sales team, and I couldn't be more

excited to have her join us," said Mike Riley, manager of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage's Livermore office. "She is bright, energetic and works tremendously hard to meet and exceed the expectations of homebuyers and sellers."

Prior to joining Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, Clemons worked for Crown Valley Properties in Tracy. She also worked at Sun Microsystems, Inc. for more than 20 years, where her most recent responsibilities included project management of a new iProcurement Oracle system into Sun Microsystems that allows for the electronic transfer of purchase orders and invoices.

Clemons is a supporter of the California League of Conservation, which focuses on educating the public about environmental issues affecting California. She earned her associate's degree in liberal arts and went on to study mass communications at California State University, Fresno. Clemons has also attended many real estate training classes and, along with her focus on retail home sales, plans to add distressed properties to her portfolio of specialties.

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Livermore is located at 2470 N First St. and can be reached at 925.371.2100. Clemons may be reached directly at 408.933.8180 and via e-mail at Barbara.Clemons@cbnocal.com.

Hikes Offered

Save Mount Diablo is offering several hikes this month:

A Family Hike to view Mangini Ranch's rare desert olive grove will be led by David Ogden on Sat., Jan. 28, 10am-1pm. Save Mount Diablo's 208-acre property includes the headwaters of Galindo Creek with rolling grasslands, oaks, buckeyes, and a rare desert olive grove. Visit a secret spring and keep your eyes out for bobcats and coyotes looking for breakfast, plus burrowing owls, quail, and many other feathered friends. This is a two hour, four mile hike with one strenuous climb. Meet at SMD's Mangini Ranch. From Ygnacio Valley Rd head south on Crystall Ranch Dr. in Concord. We'll meet at the hiker gate on Crystall Ranch Dr between Autumn Oak Cir and Rolling Woods Way.

On Sun., Jan. 29, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. David Ogden will lead a tour of a new addition to Morgan Territory, Moss Rock. Join us on a unique opportunity to tour land recently preserved by Save Mount Diablo between Morgan Territory Regional Preserve and Mount Diablo State Park. Located just south of Morgan Red Corral, SMD's "Moss Rock" property is crossed by a section of Marsh Creek. Moss covered rocks line the creek bank below a dense canopy of oak-bay woodland. The property will be transferred to the East Bay Regional Park District this month. The trail quickly rises 600 feet from the creek bed up the toe of Highland Ridge. This 5 mile loop hike has 900 ft. elevation gain/loss. There is avoidable poison oak. Meet at the Clayton park-n-ride located at the corner of Peacock Creek Dr and Clayton Rd in Clayton. Directions are available on the Hike Calendar. Wear sturdy shoes and bring plenty of water.

For information, go to www.save-mountdiablo.org, see hike calendar.

College Prep Help

The Pleasanton Public Library is offering a free workshop series, "College Prep Help."

Claire Strassbaugh MA has eight years of university experience as a department chair, professor, academic advisor and student mentor. She shares tips and insider knowledge on the following topics:

The first is Mon., Jan. 23, "Applying," the ins and outs of applications, essays, visits and decisions.

"Paying" is the topic for Jan. 30,

the mysteries of the FAFSA, loans and private scholarships.

The final is "Studying" on Feb. 6; what to expect in college, time management, and strategies for success.

The programs is free and open to all. It is recommended for parents of students that will be applying to college next year! Its never too early to get started in the right direction.

No registration is required.

For more information, call Teresa Parham, Teen Services Librarian 931-3404 or email: tparham@ci.pleasanton.ca.us College Prep PR

Coat & Blanket Drive

Deb and Bob Cilk are conducting their 13th Annual Coat & Blanket Drive to benefit 'neighbors in need'. Donations of new and 'gently used' coats, blankets, socks and warm clothing can be dropped by the office at Northern California Brokers, 349 Main Street, Suite 202. (directly above Tully's!) in downtown Pleasanton.

Items that are donated are never sold. They are distributed directly to families and individuals in need of a helping hand. We will be collecting items through the end of February. If anyone has questions they can contact Bob & Deb Cilk at (925) 487-8735.

Diablo Area Grants

Kaiser Permanente Community Benefit provides financial support to local nonprofit, public health, and human service organizations that serve vulnerable communities.

Diablo Area grants are made to organizations serving East and Central Contra Costa County and the Tri-Valley Area of Alameda County and are for one-year only.

The deadline for online application is March 1, 2012 at 5 p.m.

In 2011, Kaiser Permanente's Diablo Community Benefit grants program contributed \$745,000 to local non-profit and public agencies working in East and Central Contra Costa County and the Tri-Valley Area of Alameda.

Funding priorities through 2013 include:

- Increase access to health insurance coverage and health care services

- Increase the number of low-income people enrolled in or maintaining health insurance coverage

- Increase access to health care services for low-income and uninsured individuals (primary care and early prenatal care)

- Reduce obesity rates

- Decrease caloric consumption (e.g. soda/sugar-sweetened beverages, portion sizes, snacking)

- Increase consumption of fruits and vegetables

- Increase physical activity in community settings (e.g. safe walking, bicycling, swimming, and other physical activities)

- Increase physical activity in institutional settings (e.g. school, after-school sites, worksites)

- Improve adolescent health

- Increase the number of young adults receiving Chlamydia screening and treatment

- Decrease rates of teen pregnancy

Those interested in applying should contact Darlene Roth at (925) 313-4694 or Diablo-Area-Community-Benefit@kp.org to make a brief appointment to discuss the process. Proposals that are a good match for Diablo Area priorities will then be directed to an on-line application.

Grants will be awarded for projects and programs beginning July 2, 2012.

Congressional Interns

Congressman Jerry McNerney (CA-11) has openings in each of his district offices for Congressional Interns. The interns will be engaged in the civics process and get first-hand

experience in the daily operations of a Congressional office.

"I encourage students who have an interest in the legislative process to apply for the positions in both of my offices. This is a great way to learn more about the government, and to give back to our community," said Congressman McNerney.

College and post-graduate students are encouraged to apply. High school students will be considered on a case-by-case basis. All internships are unpaid and are designed to provide the student with educational and professional experience. The Congressman's office will partner with institutions that offer academic credit for internships.

To apply for one of the positions, students can mail or fax a cover letter and resume to Pleasanton Office, Attn: Internship Coordinator, 5776 Stoneridge Mall Blvd. #175, Pleasanton, CA 94588; (925) 737-0727 (phone 1); (408) 744-0727 (phone 2).

Energy Forum

Energy Upgrade California in Alameda County will present a free Tri-Valley Home Energy Forum on Thursday, January 19, 2012 at the Amador Recreation Center located at 4455 Black Avenue in Pleasanton. The forum is scheduled from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Participants will learn how to obtain up to \$4,000 in rebates from PG&E on a home energy efficiency upgrade and will have the opportunity to meet local participating contractors and ask questions. A local Pleasanton homeowner will also describe the experience of securing an energy upgrade.

Energy Upgrade California is a new, statewide program that offers incentives to homeowners who complete select energy-saving home improvements on a single-family residence. These incentive packages encourage customers to take a "whole house" approach by combining several related improvements at once to increase a home's overall energy efficiency and achieve greater savings.

Homeowners may select from one of two upgrade packages that include such upgrades as air sealing, attic insulation, duct sealing, hot water pipe insulation, thermostatic control valve, low-flow showerhead, and combustion safety testing. OR, high-efficiency furnace, energy-efficient cooling, water heater system, energy-efficient windows, duct replacement, wall insulation, and other custom energy saving measures. Additional rebates and incentives are also available for Tri-Valley homeowners.

To RSVP to this free workshop, please visit tri-valleyenergyforum.eventbrite.com or call (510) 891-6528. To learn more about Energy Upgrade California, please visit www.EnergyUpgradeCA.org.



Firefighters battle blaze.

Firefighters Battle Two House Fires; One Car Fire

The Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department (LPPFD) responded to two residential structure fires in the early morning hours of January 17, 2012. The unrelated fires, one in Pleasanton and one in Livermore, at one time committed 8 of the 10 LPPFD units leaving one available in each City as both fires burned simultaneously.

The first fire was reported at 01:26 on the 3000 block of Staples Ranch Drive, Pleasanton. Fire Department units arrived on scene at 01:33 and located a small fire contained to the attic and chimney chase. The fire extended into the home's attic insulation and required extensive overhaul to extinguish all burning materials. The two residents, two dogs, and two cats evacuated safely on their own. They were not injured. Two firefighters suffered minor injuries due to icy conditions on the exterior walkways. The probable cause of this fire was heat escaping the chimney flue. The estimated damage was \$5000. The residents were able to return to the home.

While multiple LPPFD units were still working at the Staples Ranch incident, the LPPFD received a report of another fire in the 800 block of Catalina Drive. This fire was reported at 02:26. The first LPPFD unit arrived on scene at 02:30. This fire occurred in a single family residence that

was furnished but unoccupied at the time of the fire. Extensive damage to the attic, living room, one bedroom, roof, exterior, fence and three trees in the adjacent yard occurred as a result of this fire. No injuries were reported at this incident. LPPFD units remained on scene for over 4 hours. The estimated damage to this home was \$100,000. The probable cause of this fire was exterior electrical wiring igniting due to a short. The home was not habitable after the fire. The homeowner was on scene and working with her insurance company.

A third fire occurred earlier in the night at 10:51 p.m. on January 16, 2012 in the parking lot of the Hilton Hotel at 7050 Johnson Drive. This fire was confined to one vehicle, and was quickly extinguished by one LPPFD fire engine crew.

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RED TAILS (PG13) DLP	12:35 3:55 6:50 9:45	
BEAUTY AND THE BEAST 3D (G) DLP	12:05 2:20 4:35 6:45 9:00	
CONTRABAND D-BOX (R) DLP	1:10 4:00 7:05 9:45	
JOYFUL NOISE (PG13) DLP	12:40 4:05 6:40 9:20	
THE IRON LADY (PG13) DLP	1:20 4:25 7:15 9:40	
ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS: CHIPWRECKED (G) DLP	2:45	
WE BOUGHT A ZOO (PG) DLP	12:00 6:35 9:25	
THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO (R) DLP	12:15 4:15 8:15	
MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE GHOST PROTOCOL (PG13) DLP	12:50 3:50 6:50 9:55	
SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS (PG13) DLP	1:00 4:10 7:00 9:50	
THE ADVENTURES OF TINTIN 3D (PG) DLP	1:35 4:05 6:40 9:10	

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STUDENTS

(continued from page one)

is also spearheading recycling and waste diversion efforts across campus. Every Friday, the leadership students collect bins of recycling from classrooms; the funds earned go back into leadership.

They've also begun picking up trash in the athletic field behind the school. Each week three or four leadership students spend the entire class period on trash duty. "It really does help," said Miller. "I think students are less likely to litter when the field is clean and they've seen us out there picking up the trash."

This month, East Avenue initiated collection of green trash for the school's environmental science compost bins. Leadership students man the green waste bin at lunchtime to help other students properly sort their trash and deliver the contents to the compost bins. The environmental science class uses the compost for its class garden and other landscaping projects around the school.

Eighth grader Emma Baier joined leadership because as a newer student - she moved to Livermore at the start of sixth grade - she wanted to help her school. "It's a really fun elective," she said. "By helping our community, I feel like a better person and I've made so many great friends."

ValleyCare Breast Center Granted Three Year Accreditation

ValleyCare Health System's Breast Center of Excellence has been granted a three-year/Full accreditation designation by the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC), a program administered by the American College of Surgeons, and designation as a Breast Imaging Center of Excellence by the American College of Radiology. ValleyCare is the only Breast Center in the Tri-Valley to achieve either of these

accreditations. Achieving NAPBC accreditation means that ValleyCare has demonstrated a firm commitment to offer patients every significant advantage in their battle against breast disease. Accreditation by the NAPBC is only given to those centers that voluntarily undergo a rigorous evaluation process and review of their performance. During the survey process, ValleyCare demonstrated com-

pliance with standards established by the NAPBC for treating women who are diagnosed with the full spectrum of breast disease.

Receiving care at a NAPBC-accredited center ensures that patients have access to:

- Comprehensive care, including a range of state-of-the-art services
- A multidisciplinary team approach to coordinate the best

treatment options

- Information about clinical trials and new treatment options
- Quality breast care close to home.

The American College of Radiology (ACR) requires accreditation in mammography, breast ultrasound, ultrasound guided breast biopsy, and stereotactic breast biopsy prior to being named a Breast Imaging Center of Excellence. The ACR is the

leader in quality programs for breast imaging.

ValleyCare's Breast Center of Excellence offers patients multidisciplinary care including: a breast cancer patient navigator, support services, women's imaging center, tumor board, clinical trials, targeted radiation and chemotherapy, and advanced breast surgery.

COUNTY FAIR

(continued from page one)

order system, best new exhibits idea - Alameda County's largest classroom, new innovative use of technology, community outreach program - Alameda County historical monument, online competitive exhibit handbook, new conservation or being "green" program - red worm ranch, and theme program - 99 ways to come out and play.

"Thanks to the overwhelming support of the public, the Alameda County Fair has become a model of success in America's Fair industry. Fairs across the nation now seek to emulate our creative programming, marketing and community outreach," commented CEO Rick Pickering.

In recognition of his personal leadership in the Fair Industry, Rick Pickering was elected to serve a second term as Chairman of the California Fair Alliance (CFA). CFA represents the interests and legislative activity of over 80 plus Fairs in California. Additionally, Pickering serves on the Western Fair Association (WFA) Board, California Authority of Racing Fairs (CARF) Board and California Fair Services Authority (CFSA) Board.

The Alameda County Fair also received 5 international awards from the International Association of Fairs and Expositions

(IAFE) for its 2011 Fair marketing programs. Recently released attendance numbers from Fairs across the nation show that the Alameda County Fair is ranked 39th on the list of the Top 50 North American Fairs and the 6th largest Fair in California. This is the highest ranking in history for the Alameda County Fair. Of particular note, 17 of the Fairs larger than the Alameda County Fair are State Fairs, while the Alameda County Fair is successfully operated by the nonprofit Fair Association, without any tax funding from the government.

Over the past five years the Alameda County Fair has been

host to close to 3 million fairgoers, 30,000 part time employees and hundreds of thousands of exhibitors, artists, performers and participants. Providing an educational, competitive and fun venue for patrons and participants is serious business; rising to the top of the Fair industry is the result of commitment, leadership and prudent financial management.

Historically, the nature of the Fair has always been to promote education and showcase community talents and achievements. Couple that historic foundation with a continued drive to provide new, as well as traditional, all-

aged entertainment and you get a venue that will always have a place in the heart of America. Repeatedly taking home a large number of industry awards simply supports the Alameda County Fair's principal to be one of the best all-around entertainment venues for residents of Alameda County and the broader region.

Planning is currently underway for the next award-winning annual Fair. The 2012 Fair will celebrate the Fair's 100th year milestone with a theme of "100 Years of Memories Made Here," which will run from June 20th through July 8th, closed on Mondays.

OBITUARIES

Becky Greist Fellerman

April 19, 1954 - Dec. 21, 2011

December 21, 2011 marked both the shortest day of the year and the early end to a life cut too short as Becky Fellerman passed away on the Winter Solstice.

Born April 19, 1954 in San Francisco, Becky was the last but by no means the least of five children of Elwood

and Elizabeth Greist. Becky grew up in Livermore, CA, and graduated from Granada High School and, later, Cal State University at Hayward. In August 1983 she married Donald (Chip) Fellerman, and they were blessed with a son and a daughter, Julian and Caitlin, who were unequivocally Becky's greatest love in life. Her unwavering support and utter delight in them reflected her great pride and pleasure she gained from them.

Becky and Chip raised their young family initially in Los Angeles and Brentwood, CA, before relocating to Vancouver, WA in 2000; Becky embraced life in the Pacific Northwest and soon formed tight, deep bonds with a group of friends whom she cherished and adored.

Early on in her life Becky's natural creativity and artistic eye led her to a stint at the California Art Institute; although she ultimately decided to finish her studies through a more conventional route at Cal State, her unwavering enthusiasm and talent for the arts would continue to be present in many facets of her life going forward. As the years went on, her primary outlet of artistic expression, as well as place of absolute comfort, became the kitchen.

Becky channeled her artistic prowess into concocting delightful dishes with complex and intricate flavor; the presentation always reflective of that artistic flair she carried in all she did. Her love of cooking and her talent for creating foods that feed the body and nurtures the soul come directly from her mother, with whom she loved to compare recipes and culinary secrets. Not only did Becky enjoy cooking "for cooking's sake," but more importantly, she loved it as a means to draw people together. To put it simply, she derived great pleasure from serving her friends and family gourmet meals cooked with full engagement of her heart and soul.

As a result, neighborhood gatherings, most notably "Bunco Nights" along with seasonal events, would each become an opportunity for her to show-

case her newest recipe, all the while building some very special friendships in the process. Becky was always thankful to be a part of such a remarkable network of friends, from the wonderful people of the Teal Pointe neighborhood to her close friends from her high school days.

She was a lifelong lover of animals, and had a special connection with dogs. Her Chows and later her Aussies enjoyed her unconditional love and devotion. Scarlet and Sadie, her cherished Aussies, enjoyed many a romp to the dog park with Becky, and returned her love with a fierce loyalty.

She was preceded in death by her beloved father, Elwood C. Greist, M.D., with whom she had a special connection. Like her father, Becky had a strength of conviction and powerful beliefs which led her to speak her mind passionately and articulately on topics ranging from the simple issues of daily life to the most profound of human values. Also like her father, Becky had a deep, unwavering sense of family, immediate and extended.

Becky is survived by her husband Chip, son Julian, daughter Caitlin; mother Elizabeth; her brothers Steve and David; her sisters Marty and Polly; as well as numerous cousins, uncles, aunts, nieces and nephews. We are all at a loss!

Her vibrancy, zest and passion; her flair and style; her deep convictions and intense devotion to friends and family will be sorely missed. The world already seems less colorful, less fanciful, less spicy. A celebration of life for Becky was held January 14, 2012, at the Family of Christ Lutheran Church, 3500 NW 129th St., Vancouver, WA.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests remembrances in Becky's name to the local chapter of the Humane Society.

Betty MacGuire

May 24, 1922 - November 5, 2011

Betty MacGuire (nee Elizabeth Jane Veronica Crow), of Livermore, California passed away peacefully on Saturday, November 5, 2011, at age 89, from chronic lung disease.

Betty was born in Cleveland, Ohio on May 24, 1922, a daughter of William and Margaret (Carey) Crow. As the last member of the Crow family, Betty was predeceased by her brothers William, Charles, Anthony and Buddy, and her sister

Margaret (Peggy).

After graduating from high school, she enlisted in the Women's Army Corp (1944). Following an Honorable Discharge she briefly attended the School of Design in Cleveland, Ohio. On December 1, 1945 she married John MacGuire of Bronx, NY. They raised five daughters: Karen, Elizabeth (Lisa), Joan, Paula and Frances in New York, Connecticut, Arizona and California. For many years Betty was a stay-at-home mother actively involved in her daughters' Scout troops, PTA and various community activities. As her children became more independent, Betty returned to the workforce and a variety of office and retail positions. With her background in design she became an excellent seamstress for her family. With the arrival of her first child she learned to knit. She continued this creative expression throughout her lifetime producing many beautiful afghans, sweaters, scarves and mittens, baby blankets and other useful items. While living in Southern California, she was very active in her local church in Yucaipa. She was an active volunteer in many programs such as Reading to the Blind, Citizens' Patrol, and with the Yucaipa Senior Center. In earlier years she was an avid traveler, loved music and loved to dance. In more recent years she loved to read, work the daily crossword puzzle, and to visit with family and friends. All her homes had beautiful gardens and that passion for gardening was passed on to all her daughters.

A Mass was held for Betty on November 21st at St. Michael Roman Catholic Church in Livermore, which was attended by family and friends. She is survived by her five daughters and six grandchildren.

Her enjoyment and love of life lives on in the many people she touched with her generous spirit.

Contributions in her memory may be made to Vitas Hospice Charitable Fund, 365 Lennon La., #140; Walnut Creek, CA 94598; Livermore Fire Dept, Livermore, CA 94550, or a charity of choice.

John G. Fletcher

Oct. 28, 1934 - Jan. 8, 2012

Dr. John G. Fletcher, a 50-year resident of the Tri-Valley, died peacefully at his home in Livermore, California, on Sunday, January 8, 2012, after a ten-month battle with cancer. He was 77.

John, an only child, was born to Howard and Linda Fletcher on October 28, 1934, in Aberdeen, South Dakota. His father's profession as a G-man (FBI agent) frequently moved the family around the country; John had

lived in 15 states by the time he was 19. John, always an honor student, received his BS from the George Washington University,

Washington, DC, in 1955, and earned his MA (1957) and Ph.D. in physics (1959) from Princeton University. He was a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Society.

He married his high school sweetheart, Margaret "Jill" Thompson, in the summer of 1956. Their three children, two girls and a boy, were born while the couple were living in Princeton. After graduate school, Dr. Fletcher spent a year teaching physics at Princeton.

In 1960, John (along with astronomer Carl Sagan) received an appointment as a post-doctoral Fellow of the Miller Institute for Basic Research in Science at the University of California at Berkeley. In August the family of five moved to the San Francisco Bay Area; renting a house in Oakland, before settling in Pleasanton in 1962.

John accepted a position at the University of California Radiation Laboratory (later the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory) in Livermore in 1962, beginning a 31-year career at the "Rad Lab." He began work as a physicist, but soon shifted to the relatively new computer sciences. Throughout his years at the lab he worked on and programmed the most advanced computers of the day, writing operating systems, becoming a group leader, and working on pioneering projects such as the "Octopus" computer network, at the time one of the largest concentrations of computing capability in the world. Many of his algorithms, such as "Fletcher's checksum" (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fletcher's_checksum), have become standards still in use today. He also taught computer science at the Department of Applied Science, UC Davis Extension at Livermore. John retired on October 31, 1993.

In retirement, John lived in Livermore with his second wife, Gail Shearer, whom he married in August 1987. A lifelong environmentalist and humanitarian, John donated generously to many benevolent organizations. He spent his retirement hiking, traveling, working in the family vineyard, and enjoying his interest in movies and music. A thoughtful agnostic, John

explored his philosophy of life in regular articles that were published on the internet.

John is preceded in death by his daughter Linda (d. 1965) and wife Jill (d. 1986). He is survived by his daughter Barbara, son David, wife Gail, stepsons James and Peter, Peter's wife Susan, and their daughters Rachel, Hannah, and Sarah. Remembered as an infinitely fair and generous man with a wonderful wit, he was loved and will be sorely missed by all.

A memorial service to celebrate his life will be held at 2:30 p.m. on January 29, at the Robert Livermore Community Center, Palo Verde Room, 4444 East Avenue, Livermore.

John requested that donations be made to the Center for Inquiry, P.O. Box 741, Amherst, NY 14226 (www.centerforinquiry.net/support).

*Under the wide and starry sky,
Dig the grave and let me lie.
Glad did I live and gladly die,
And I laid me down with a will.*

*This be the verse you grave for me:
Here he lies where he longed to be;
Home is the sailor, home from the sea,
And the hunter home from the hill.*

-RLS

Harold John Coons, Jr.

Harold John Coons Jr., beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather passed away on January 13, 2012 at the age of 91 after a long, eventful and fulfilling life. He was a Livermore resident.

He was born January 27, 1920 in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. He spent most of his early years in Massachusetts and Connecticut with his family. He loved to travel the rural roads of New England, especially western Massachusetts. As a boy growing up in the 1920's he met his



boyhood idol Lou Gehrig. He would often take the family to see both the Boston Red Sox and the New York Yankees. Even with two young sons at home, he proudly answered the call to serve and joined the U.S. Navy during WWII.

He moved his family to sunny California during the 1950's and lived for many years in Whittier, California. With his family grown, he spent the past 21 years in Las Vegas with his wife, Betty, where they both became members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, faithfully serving where needed.

He is survived by his sweetheart of nearly 72 years, Betty; their sons, Hal (Francine) of Livermore, Ca, David (Sharon) of Weatherford, TX and eight grandchildren: Andy, Mickey, Paul, Stephanie, Tina, Cindy, Brian, Tami and eight great grandchildren.

There will be a Funeral Service for Harold on Saturday, January 21, 2012 at 10:00 am at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 1501 Hillcrest, Livermore, Ca. Interment service with Military Honors will be held on Mon., January 23, 1:30PM at San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery, Santa Nella, Ca.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.



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ONE BAY AREA

(continued from page one)

counties and 101 cities that would be impacted by the plan.

The Dublin session was just one in a series of meetings to be held in each county.

The opponents of the plan said they want to let the free market determine where and what type of housing would be built. One man stood up and shouted, "If we need stack and pack housing because there's a sufficient market for it, and people are willing to pay for it, it will get built without your intervention."

Five alternative scenarios have been proposed (see end of story). The final draft would likely be a hybrid with provisions for land use and transportation development, and protected areas. It would also include information on how to grow the economy, and how to ensure social equity.

These scenarios place varying degrees of growth in priority development areas (PDA)s, which are defined as land near public transit that local officials have determined to be most suitable for development. Likewise, the scenarios also recognize priority conservation areas, places local officials have deemed worth keeping such as undeveloped farm land, parks or open space. The first two scenarios assume stronger economic growth and financial resources, along with a higher level of housing growth to meet forecasted demand. The remaining three scenarios fall somewhat short of meeting future housing demand but reflect input received from local jurisdictions on the level of growth they think can reasonably be accommodated.

The preferred scenario would be submitted in March 2012. Following public hearings, the preferred scenario would be adopted in May 2012. A final plan would be prepared and considered for adoption in the spring of 2013.

In the plan, each community is expected to retain its unique quality. Seventy percent of the development would take place on 4 percent of the land located in PDAs.

In Dublin, growth is proposed around the two BART stations and in eastern Dublin; preferred development in Pleasanton is to be located within the Hacienda Business Park; in Livermore, the downtown and BART stations would accommodate development.

Hosting the event were Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty (MTC president) and Union City Mayor Mark Green (ABAG president).

Haggerty said of One Bay Area, "There is a lot of stuff I don't agree with in the plan; a lot I do agree with." He was concerned that the plan could abandon the suburbs and rural areas by focusing on the inner Bay Area.

Green added that this is the first time that transportation and housing planning is merged in the Bay Area. "Something needs to come out of the process to provide a better future for the Bay Area. It is not about usurping individual rights or local control. Problems are not confined in one area. They cross county lines. The best way to solve issues is by working on solutions together."

That led people to shout such things as, "I've been to two or three of these. The staff is so ill prepared." "People are not listening." "They are coming with an agenda." "Start over with real public input."

One of the factors that angered some of those in attendance was that the evening's agenda did not include a specific public comment period.

Haggerty and Green agreed to stay after the meeting for as long as it took to allow people to speak who wanted to do so.

During a break-out meeting on housing, it was pointed out that agencies do not build houses or create jobs. The plan articulates a process that would support a healthy economy that produced housing and jobs. It is anticipated there would be one million jobs by 2040. Development would not be anticipated to proceed at the same rate as seen in previous decades.

Concerns raised about where housing might be located included the following: many development areas are next to the Bay and are predicted to be underwater as a result of climate change; schools need to be part of the planning; if communities accept housing and jobs, there should be a requirement for more open space to offset the impacts.

A speaker questioned the wisdom of a plan that tries to deal with issues in such diverse communities as Oakland and Livermore. "They are totally different populations with totally different issues."

Some suggested there should be more investment in livability before additional density is added. "One of the things activists in the 60s and 70s wanted were

limits to growth. Nowhere in this process has there been talk about limits. The assumption is always that we will grow and figure out where to put people."

In talking about transportation, Lydia Barrington asked, "You're going to make it harder for the middle class to use their cars. Their cost of living is going to go up, and so how are low income people going to move up, have upward mobility?"

Another suggested the best way to provide transportation would be to privatize buses; let the free market determine what works.

One speaker said he was willing to give up his car in order to reduce pollution from greenhouse gas emissions.

Among the targets of the One Bay Area plan are the following: reduce per-capita CO2 emissions from cars and light-duty trucks by 15%; provide 100% of the needed housing for all income levels; direct all non-agricultural development (100%) within the urban footprint (existing urban development and urban growth boundaries); increase gross regional product (GRP) by 90% — an average annual growth rate of approximately 2% (in current dollars); and decrease automobile vehicle miles traveled per capita by 10%.

The five scenarios are:

1. Initial Vision: Housing and job growth is concentrated in the PDAs, based on local land use priorities, available transit service, and access to jobs. The scenario is based on input from local jurisdictions on the level of growth they can reasonably accommodate given resources, local plans, and community support. 70 percent of the housing would be accommodated in PDAs. More than half of job growth is expected to occur in the region's 10 largest cities.

2. Core Concentration: Housing and job growth is concentrated in locations that are served by frequent transit services and within a 45-minute transit commute of Oakland, San Francisco, and San Jose. Several "game changers," or places with capacity for a high level of growth if coupled with supportive policies and resources are also identified. These areas include the Tasman Corridor in Santa Clara County, lands east of Oakland Airport to the Coliseum, the Concord Naval Weapons Station, and the

San Francisco Eastern Waterfront, among others. Overall, 72 percent of the housing and 61 percent of the job growth is expected within the PDAs.

3. Focused Growth: Distribution growth most evenly throughout the region's transit corridors and job centers, focusing most household and job growth within the PDAs. 70 percent of the housing production and around 55 percent of the employment growth would be accommodated within PDAs. Provides more housing near transit stations and more local services in existing downtown areas and neighborhood centers.

4. Constrained Core Concentration:

FUNDING

(continued from page one)

Cázares.

The most significant unknown right now, though, is the governor's proposal to restructure school funding, beginning with the coming budget, said Cázares. She called it "a very big red question mark for us."

It would be the most significant shift in funding since the late 1970s, when the Serrano-Priest state Supreme Court decision rearranged school financing. Previously, wealthy districts fared well with their property tax revenue. Districts that were poor in assessed valuation did not do well. Serrano-Priest changed the funding so that school tax money went to Sacramento. The funds were redistributed on a formulaic basis to all districts, with more money going to poorer districts.

Brown's plan is an update of Serrano-Priest, which observers say became less effective as changes occurred in the funding of various programs.

Brown proposes to have weighted distribution of money to all districts. Those high in low-income students and English language learners would receive more revenue, and those with fewer would be given less.

One example is provided by John Fensterwald in an article published on the Silicon Valley Educational Foundation's web page.

When the new system would be fully phased in five years from now, "districts in which nearly 90 percent of students are either low-income or English learners

Places more household and job growth in those PDAs situated along several transit corridors ringing the Bay in San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, and in portions of Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Some 79 percent of the housing production and 58 percent of the employment growth would be accommodated within PDAs. By concentrating more growth in the major downtowns and along key transit corridors, this scenario goes even further in trying to maximize the use of the core transit network and provide access to jobs and services to most of the population.

5. Outward Growth: Closer

(such as Long Beach Unified and Los Angeles Unified) will receive \$3,000 more per student than districts where only 20 percent of students are disadvantaged (like Poway and Irvine)."

The funding system would be phased in 20 percent each year until 100 percent is reached in five years.

The formula would have different levels, so that districts in one range of low-income and English language learners receive a base amount, while those in a higher level receive more, and so on up the scale.

A district with 90 percent disadvantaged students would receive \$9,596 per student, compared with \$6,444 for a district with only a 20 percent combination of English learners and low-income children. The formula assumes base funding of \$6,000 per pupil," says Fensterwald.

Brown's idea comes from a 16-page paper written in 2008 for the Earl Warren Institute on Race, Justice and Diversity at UC Berkeley's Boalt Hall law school.

The three authors are Alan Bersin, a secretary of education in the Schwarzenegger administration, Michael Kirst, emeritus professor of education and business administration at Stanford University and former president of the state Board of Education, and state Supreme Court associate justice Goodwin Liu.

Both Cázares and Livermore chief financial officer Susan

to recent development trends, places more growth in the cities and PDAs in the inland areas away from the Bay. Most housing and employment growth would still be accommodated in areas closest to the Bay, but with clusters of jobs and housing in key transit-served locations in the inland areas away from the Bay. Some 67 percent of housing production and 53 percent of employment growth would be in PDAs. While increased use of public transit would be limited in inland areas, some shorter commutes could be expected as jobs are created closer to residential communities.

Kinder, who spoke to The Independent, said that Brown's plan would do away with funding for most categorical programs, such as Regional Occupational Programs (ROP) and adult education. The funding would be replaced with what amounts to a block grant. That would leave it up to local districts to determine how much money they want to put into ROP, adult education and other programs.

Funding of special education and any other federal mandates would not be altered.

Kinder said that she has not been able to pin down specifics about the Livermore budget yet, "but if we can finally get some money, it would be a good thing."

Livermore has more low-income students and English language learners than Pleasanton. Theoretically, Livermore would fare better under the redistribution plan than Pleasanton.

In his article, Fensterwald says that the state would calculate a base grant level for all districts, then use a multiplier, depending on where each district's statistics of disadvantaged students fall.

Districts will be waiting to hear the real-world details about the revenue redistribution in February, when Brown is supposed to reveal them.

February is the month that districts must firm up their new budgets so they will have time in early March to send out warnings to teachers who might be laid off in May.

More Good News for Livermore Valley Wine Country

By Laura Ness

There's even more good news regarding Livermore's results in the Chronicle competition. I omitted a few, not the least of which is a Gold medal for Rhonda's Wood Family "Muy Bueno" Zinfandel, and the fact that all four of the Wente "entwine" wines scored medals, including a Gold for the Merlot. Mitch Katz also scored Gold for his 2009 Livermore Valley Abboud Acres Shiraz, \$24.00. Growers Bill and Sandy Harris also wanted to share the news that their 2007 Harris Tesla Cab won a Silver medal in the contest, and their 2006, which scored Silver last year, took home a Bronze. Again, congratulations to all those who entered and help polish Livermore's star on the state's wine region map to a brighter lustre.

Further to the SF Chronicle excitement of last week, I had the great pleasure of sitting down with Jim and John Concannon to taste through their four gold medal winners. We had some fun pairing them with the new winter menu at Underdog Wine Bar, where there's always something new in either the wine or food departments. The best soup is amazing, with a rich texture due to its blending with cabbage. Since it's topped with zesty

horseradish, the soup was delectable with the Gold medal 2010 Sauvignon Blanc from Monterey, which is crisp, grapefruit and limey, with a lovely snap of pineapple and crisp pippin apple. This is such a refreshing wine. Next up was the trio of sliders. This is really the way to go if you are not sure of what to order. The crab topped with spicy aioli is divine with the Gold medal 2010 Estate Chardonnay, which has the lithe, jazzercised-tuned body to match. This is a Chardonnay to love. That beef burger topped with roasted onions and blue cheese is a tough one to tame, but the 2008 Mother Vine Cabernet (also a Gold Medal winner and from the Estate property) is just the ripe, bold ticket that can wrap all those flavors up in its own mouth-pleasing bun. By the way, the sliders are served in very tasty little brioche-type rolls. A winning pairing is the Gold medal 2008 Syrah, from the Estate property as well, with the pulled pork slider — ooh, baby! I particularly liked it with the butternut squash ravioli, topped with chicken and peppers and a saucy sauce that made the meaty, smoky, blackberry-filled Syrah sing in just the right key.

The Concannon's have some grand plans for 2012, but admit

it's hard to top a huge 50-year anniversary for Petite Sirah, capped off with Jim's 80th birthday and the release of their first Petite-Sirah-based blend. They've got some bragging to do around "Crimson and Clover," which was released in Jim's honor on his birthday last year, and has gone on to be the single best seller Concannon has made to date — it sold through the entire year's projected target in 90 days. So, yes, they are making more. Jim was happily signing a bottle for me, using his trusted silver Sharpie.

He mused, "Do you think there's anyone in the wine business today that has signed more bottles than I have over the years?" He admits to always insisting on personalizing the bottle, which causes people to say, "How could I ever open that?" to which he replies, "Buy two!" He still enjoys stalking the aisles of Safeway, checking out the wine selection, talking with people, suggesting wines to go with what's in a customer's cart. He was even in Safeway on Thanksgiving eve, helping those last minute shoppers go home with a bottle of Crimson and Clover. He always has that silver pen in his pocket, ready to write you a prescription for happiness.

John shared an image that captured my imagination. "On Christmas Eve, I was wondering if you could light up every bottle of Concannon wine on earth that my Dad and I have ever autographed, would you be able to see them from space?" This might be a new way to illuminate Santa's path, although if you could light up every bottle of The Wine Groups wine that's been sold around the world, you definitely would get into light pollution territory!

FLIPFLOP NO FLOP

Can you believe that The Wine Group's Flipflop flipped 600,000 cases in its first year? Selling for under \$10 a bottle, Flipflop debuted last January with Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay, Merlot, Moscato, Pinot Grigio, Pinot Noir and Riesling offerings, all from California, except for the Riesling, which contains Washington state grapes. The labels are a huge hit. This month, Malbec and Sauvignon Blanc varietals from Chile, as well as Sweet Red, Bubbly Chardonnay, Bubbly Moscato and Bubbly Pinot Grigio wines from California, are being added. Flipflop is also currently expanding distribution of its 1.5-liter format to several new states, including Connecti-

cut, Massachusetts, Maryland, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Tennessee.

Flipflop joins Underdog's Cupcake Vineyards brand as a steamrolling growth engine. Cupcake, along with E&J Gallo's Barefoot, has been among the hottest brands in the wine industry. According to Impact Databank projections, Cupcake (\$9-\$10 a bottle) sold 1.8 million cases across its wine offerings in 2011—up from 1 million cases in 2010—washed down with 150,000 cases of its new Cupcake Vodka label (around \$17 a 750-ml.), which includes Original, Frosting, Chiffon and Devil's Food flavors.

MARVEL OVER PINOT

La Rochelle is always changing up the offerings in the elegant Tasting Room experience. I was supremely lucky to be able to taste the entire vertical of Deer Park Pinots from the Santa Cruz Mountains, covering 2005 through 2008. Must admit I am still dreaming about the 2005 and 2007 vintages from this lovely vineyard that basks in the warm sunshine of an apple belt, just off the coast in Corralitos. The 2005, which includes the rare Wadens-

ville and Mariafeld clones of Pinot, is fabulously developed, with a texture that is divinely smooth and memorable, with hints of mushrooms, duck pate, cranberry and pomegranate. This might be one of the best 05 Pinots I've tasted from that region. The 2007 has flavors of dark rye bread and apple butter, some tobacco leaf and mint chocolate layered over a great mouthful and awesome finish. It has some of the heritage Jackson clone, unmistakable in its dark rye and dark chocolate notes. There are less than two cases of these outstanding Pinots remaining.

The new Reserve Room lineup includes the 2008 Russian River Valley Pinot Noir (\$42); the 2008 Sonoma Coast Pinot (\$42), which is wonderful; the 2006 Deer Park Vineyard Pinot Noir, Santa Cruz Mountains (\$55), the ripest of the group and filled with meaty, peppery flavors — I wrote "wowie zowie!" in my notes; the Library Selection, which is the extremely limited 2005 Wadensville Clone Pinot Noir from Mission Ranch, Monterey (\$45). Get thee over to La Rochelle and enjoy some fine Pinot: because, after all, you can. You live in Livermore Valley Wine Country. Your choices have never, ever been better.

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LEGAL NOTICES

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ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. HG11608881
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF ALAMEDA
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

1. Petitioner:
Lauren Jessica Hamann filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present Name:
Lauren Jessica Hamann
Proposed Name:
Lauren Jessica Elmer
2. THE COURT ORDERS that

all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING
a. **Date:** 02/03/2012
Time: 8:45 AM **Dept:** 504
b. **The address of the court is:**
24405 Amador Street,
Hayward, CA 94544
Hayward Hall of Justice
3.a. A copy of this Order To Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:
The Independent
Dated: December 19, 2011
/s/: D. Clemons
Deputy, Clerk of the Superior Court

The Independent Legal No. 3150. Published December 29, 2011 January 5, 12, 19, 2012. Expires December 12, 2016.
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 459176
The following person(s) doing business as: Jacketback Embroidery and Jackets, 2456 Armstrong Street, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s):
CMCG LLC, 671 Village Dr., Galt, CA 95632
This business is conducted by a limited liability company
The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 11/28/2011.
Signature of Registrants: Chester R. Gould - Managing

Member
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 12, 2011. Expires December 12, 2016.
The Independent Legal No. 3153. Published December 29, 2011, January 5, 12, 19, 2012.
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 459223
The following person(s) doing business as: At Ease, 764-C Hayes Ave, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s):
Mary Elizabeth Binder, 764-C Hayes Ave, Livermore, CA 94550
This business is conducted by an individual
The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed

above on 7/26/1995.
Signature of Registrants: Mary Elizabeth Binder
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 13, 2011. Expires December 13, 2016.
The Independent Legal No. 3155. Published January 12, 19, 26, February 2, 2012.
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 459503
The following person(s) doing business as: Fire Stations 4 Hire, 3147-A Independence Drive, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s):
Wicktonville Fire Department, Inc., 3147-A Independence Drive, Livermore, CA 94551
This business is conducted by a Corporation
The registrant began to trans-

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act business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrants: Paul M. George, Senior Vice President, Operations. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 21, 2011. Expires December 21, 2016. The Independent Legal No. 3157. Published January 12, 19, 26, February 2, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 460015-16
The following person(s) doing business as: (1) NDura - Corp (2) Changio.com, 3028 Gardella Plaza, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): NDura - Corp, 3028 Gardella Plaza, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 1/9/2012. Signature of Registrants: Carlos D. Aguilera - President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 9, 2012. Expires January 9, 2017. The Independent Legal No. 3158. Published January 12, 19, 26, February 2, 2012.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION for CHANGE in OWNERSHIP OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE
Date of Filing Application: January 9, 2012
To Whom It May Concern: The Names(s) of the Applicant(s) is/are: DIAMOND PLEASANTON ENTERPRISE INC
The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at: 4825 HOPYARD RD STE F10 PLEASANTON, CA 94588-2772
Type of license(s) Applied for: 48 - On-Sale General Public Premises
Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control
1515 Clay St. Ste 2208 Oakland, CA 94612 (510) 622-4970
The Independent Legal No. 3159. Published January 19, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 460100
The following person(s) doing business as: D. B. Services, 2487 Wellingham Dr., Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Douglas Brenzel, 2487 Wellingham Dr., Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 1/10/2012. Signature of Registrants: Doug Brenzel, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 11, 2012. Expires January 11, 2017. The Independent Legal No. 3160. Published January 19, 26, February 2, 9, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 459983
The following person(s) doing business as: Luke's Custom Pool Service, 856 Olivina Ave, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lukas Swift, 856 Olivina Ave, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 12/28/11. Signature of Registrants: Lukas Swift, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 6, 2012. Expires January 6, 2017. The Independent Legal No. 3161. Published January 19, 26, February 2, 9, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 459901
The following person(s) doing business as: Virtual Polymers, 2447 Rivers Bend Circle, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): (1) Marshall Scott Jones (2) DiAnne Clark Jones, 2447 Rivers Bend Circle, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by Husband and wife. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/01/1999. Signature of Registrants: DiAnne C. Jones, Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 5, 2012. Expires January 5, 2017. The Independent Legal No. 3162. Published January 19, 26, February 2, 9, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 459676
The following person(s) doing business as: Kitty Hawk Dental Care, 53 Wright Brothers Ave., Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kimberly King, 95 Windward Commons Unit 4, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 02/25/2002. Signature of Registrants: Kimberly King, DDS

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 30, 2011. Expires December 30, 2016. The Independent Legal No. 3163. Published January 19, 26, February 2, 9, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 460001
The following person(s) doing business as: Mind Your Own Business, 6906 Village Pkwy, Dublin, CA 94568, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Mitzi Parr, 3350 Santa Rita Rd, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrants: Mitzi Parr. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 9, 2012. Expires January 9, 2017. The Independent Legal No. 3164. Published January 19, 26, February 2, 9, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 460031
The following person(s) doing business as: The Good Earth Candle Company, 4610 Cross Road, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jeanette Maurer, 4610 Cross Road, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrants: Jeanette Maurer, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 9, 2012. Expires January 9, 2017. The Independent Legal No. 3165. Published January 19, 26, February 2, 9, 2012.

ADOPTE A DOG OR CAT, for adoption information contact Valley Humane Society at 925 426-8656.

Adopt a new best friend: TVAR, the Tri-Valley Animal Rescue, offers animals for adoption every Saturday and Sunday, excluding most holidays. Saturdays from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm, dogs and cats are available at the Pleasanton Farmers Market at W. Angela and First Streets. Two locations will showcase cats only: Petsmart in Dublin noon to 4 and the Pet Food Express in Livermore 1 to 4. Sundays, cats are at Petsmart in Dublin 1 to 4, and PetCo in San Ramon 11 to 3. TVAR at (925) 803-7043 website at www.tvar.org

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REAL ESTATE NEWS AND NOTICES

Down Payments: Coming Up with the Cash to Buy a Home

By Kelly DeYoreo
You've decided you want to buy a home, and would like to take advantage of interest rates which are remarkably low. There's just one thing standing between you and your dream home: the down payment. Many home buyers, especially first-time buyers, don't have large cash reserves, and would like to make as low a down payment as possible. Unfortunately for buyers, the traditional 20 percent down payment- which was rarely required during the real estate boom years of the last decade- has made a comeback. Lenders have become more cautious, and like to see a 20 percent down payment as well as high credit scores and stable employment. There are some advantages to making a 20 percent down payment: it reduces the size of your loan, giving you a lower monthly mortgage payment. You also avoid paying monthly mortgage insurance (known as MI or PMI) which is usually required on loans with less than 20 percent down.

If, however, you don't have 20 percent for a down payment, what are some of your other options?
• 0 Percent Down Payment Loans
If you are a veteran, a member of the military, or a surviving spouse, and are eligible for a Veteran's Administration (VA) home loan, you may be able to benefit from this zero down payment home loan program. In addition to no required down payment, VA loans also have no monthly mortgage insurance (MI).
• 3 Percent Down Payment Loans
Local loan broker, Andy Aguilar, advises that the Fannie Mae Home Path program is a great 3 percent down payment program, for purchases of homes owned by Fannie Mae. This loan program also has no monthly MI.

Aguilar says, "The main challenge with this excellent program is there are a limited number of these homes. A list of available homes can be found at www.homepath.com. There are more available houses in areas with higher foreclosure rates."
• 3.5 Percent Down Payment Loans
The Federal Housing Administration (FHA) home loan program allows for mortgages with as little as 3.5 percent down. FHA loans do have mortgage insurance premiums (MI), but provide a popular, widely-used alternative for home buyers who don't have a large down payment.

• 5 Percent Down Payment Loans
Aguilar advises, "As far as non-FHA loans, there is a conventional type loan which requires as little as 5 percent down on loan amounts under \$417,000. While the borrower will still pay monthly MI, the MI on this type of loan is often less than with an FHA loan."

If you're just beginning, or still trying, to save for your down payment, there are a few ways to come up with the cash for your home purchase. Bankrate.com recommends some tried and true strategies to accumulate your down payment savings:
• Pay Off Your Credit Cards, and Begin Saving
Paying off your bills will help you in your hunt for down payment money. When you carry a credit card balance, the ever-accumulating (and usually high) interest charges mean more of your money goes to the card company each month. Keep that cash for yourself by cutting your debt load. Prioritize your debts and pay off the one with the highest interest rate first. Once that's paid, shift your focus to the next highest rate and so on. Make your payments on time to avoid expensive late fees. You'll free up more of your income to go toward building your savings.

Once you've paid off your high-interest rate debt, set up an automatic savings plan to set aside a certain amount per week. If you can save \$100 a week, that's \$5,200 in a year, plus earned interest. Author and financial advisor Suze Orman tells current renters to calculate how much owning a home they'd like to buy will cost them on a monthly basis (mortgage payment, taxes, insurance, plus a reserve toward home maintenance and periodic repairs). Assuming this will be more than what you are paying in rent, put the difference between the cost of your rent and the cost of owning that home into a savings account each month. After a year, not only will you have saved money towards your down payment, but you will have gained a better understanding of what your monthly budget will feel like after you buy that home.

• A Gift from a Family Member
Family, especially parents and grandparents, will sometimes offer to help with home purchases. As a practical matter, the gift should come from a close family member — the lender involved in the rest of the deal won't trust that gifts from distant family members or friends are not secret loans. Gifts up to \$13,000 per year per person can be given without worrying about filing a gift tax return. This means, for example, that every year your mother and father can give you and your spouse a total of \$52,000 without having to file a gift tax return.

• Tapping Into Your IRA
If you're buying your first home (meaning you've had no ownership interest in a primary residence for the two-year period up to the date you enter into a purchase contract to buy the home), you can withdraw up to \$10,000 from an individual retirement account (IRA) for a down payment. (You'll avoid the penalties that most others will have to pay). However, you may have to pay income tax on the withdrawal. Also, this \$10,000 is a lifetime limit — and it must be used within 120 days of receiving it. Ask your tax accountant for details, or contact the IRS (800-829-1040, www.irs.gov).

• Borrowing From Your 401(k) or 403(b) Plan
Check with your employer's plan administrator to see whether your plan allows for loans. Conditions like loan term, loan amount, interest rate, and applicable loan fees are set by your employer. The tax code says you must repay the loan, with interest, within a "reasonable amount of time." Find out what happens if you leave the company before fully repaying this loan. If it would become due immediately upon your departure, you might have to pay income tax and penalties on the outstanding balance. But you may be able to avoid this by repaying the loan before you leave.

• Down Payment Assistance Programs
Depending on the city and county where you live, and your personal situation, there may be down payment assistance programs available to you. Check with your city and county to see what, if any, down payment assistance programs they might be offering, and if you qualify. Your local real estate and lending professionals are good sources of detailed advice on this topic; consult them for guidance on your specific situation.

Kelly DeYoreo is a Realtor with Prudential California Realty, Livermore

Researchers Hear about the Importance of Their Work on Cancer

By Carol Graham

Tamika Felder admits she likes the wow factor. "We cannot talk about cervical cancer without talking about sex, right? I may say stuff just to see your faces go crazy," she told the 130 Roche Molecular System scientists, researchers, and executives gathered at their Pleasanton campus on January 12 to hear her story - giving a human face to the technical work they conduct in molecular diagnostics.

At the time of her diagnosis more than a decade ago, Felder had never heard about the connection between human papillomavirus (HPV) and cervical cancer. "I couldn't even pronounce human papillomavirus. I was like, 'Human papa-what?'" said Felder. "This is a disease that's preventable. We have to talk about HPV."

Almost all cervical cancers are caused by HPV, the most common sexually transmitted infection in the U.S. Both men and women may get the virus and pass it on without knowing it. There are more than 40 different kinds of HPV. Although not all of them cause health problems, some strains lead to genital warts (papilloma) while others are associated with cervical, vaginal, penile, and anal cancers.

In 2005, Felder founded the advocacy group Tamika and Friends. "No survivors were talking about the issue. They felt the same way I felt: like they were lepers, that people would think they were sleeping around, or were bad people," said Felder, who had been diagnosed at the age of 25. "I created Tamika and Friends for two main reasons: so no cervical cancer patients would ever feel alone, and so we could

make sure that women are aware of the link between HPV and cervical cancer."

Although there is no cure for HPV, in most cases it tends to go away by itself within two years likely because the immune system fights the virus naturally. It is only when certain strains of HPV stay in the body for many years that it can lead to cancer.

"Now we have HPV testing and HPV vaccines," Felder said. "You talk about a war on cancer. We can end cervical cancer; we have the tools to do so."

One tool is the Pap test, named after the doctor who invented it - Georgios Nicholas Papanicolaou, a prominent Greek pioneer in early cancer detection. He astonished an audience of doctors in 1923 with his technique of gathering cellular debris from the lining of the vaginal tract to microscopically examine as a way to identify cervical cancer.

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists recommends that women undergo Pap tests beginning at the age of 21 (unless sexually active earlier). Depending on results, they are advised to repeat the test at one to three year intervals. Cervical cancer usually develops very slowly, starting as a precancerous condition that is 100% treatable.

"Unfortunately, I was one of those people who skipped my Pap," said Felder. "Pap smears are not fun. You don't want to go, it's uncomfortable, it can be unpleasant. Plus, it wasn't important to me. I had just finished school, moved to a new city, and was a television producer working at a big political network. I wasn't thinking about my Pap

test." In order to reach more women consistently, a Roche audience member asked, "One of the things we're considering is self-collected swabs. Are women curious about that?"

"It would be quick and easy," replied Felder. "I think women would say, 'yes.'"

An HPV test for women is also available. It may be recommended by a doctor for a patient whose Pap test is abnormal or is over age 30.

Another weapon in the war against cancer is HPV vaccines. The first vaccine to prevent infection from the four types of HPV most commonly linked with cancer was licensed in 2006. It requires a series of three shots. It is recommended for females from 11 to 26 years old.

In 2009, a vaccine for males between the ages of 13 and 26 was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. From a public health point of view, vaccinating males as well as females decreases the virus pool within the population, as well as reduces the likelihood of those men developing anal and penile cancers.

"I was not one of those people who said, 'I survived cancer. I'm going to start a nonprofit, I'm

going to become a health advocate," said Felder. "I just wanted to go back to work and hang out with my friends. But I had this nagging thing tugging on me. Why isn't anyone talking about cervical cancer? Why are people still suffering in silence?"

One of Tamika and Friends' signature awareness programs is House Party of five (HPV) - a

mix of girl talk and festivities designed to help women talk comfortably about their sexual health. With a minimum of five guests, the host chooses a party theme along the lines of karaoke, poetry, or the risqué games that Felder helped create including HPV Bingo, HPV Taboo or, her favorite, Sex-tionary. "We talk about a very serious thing, but

we also have to laugh at it," said Felder. "We empower women with information so they can go out and schedule their Pap appointment."

Roche Molecular Diagnostics president Paul Brown said, "These are the stories that make us want to come to work every day and do what we do."

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LARPD Updates Parks Rules and Regulations

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District Board voted last week to initiate procedures for amending the district's rules and regulations governing conduct and use of parks and other facilities.

Periodic updates are required to reflect revisions in federal, state and county laws; to clarify or correct existing rules and regulations; and to add provisions for new District facilities, programs or services. Proposed amendments include adding details regarding the new off-leash dog area and planned artificial turf playing fields for Robertson Park.

There was also a proposed speed limit for bicycles. Director David Hutchinson suggested that the 15 mph speed would be too low in some areas.

Assistant General Manager John Lawrence explained that there are people walking on the trails, some with strollers. Some trails have sharp turns. The idea was to select a speed that works for all conditions.

Board President Beth Wilson commented that she rides a tandem bike. Normally, speeds of 10 to 14 mph are achieved on a standard trail. Fifteen mph is a logical number, she stated.

The text of the proposed amendments is available to the public at the Robert Livermore Community Center and online. The Board will hold a public hearing and vote on the amendments at its Jan. 25 meeting. The amended ordinance would become effective 30 days from the date of approval.

Janice Pementel
"Thanks Dad"
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Art, Community, & Education



Students perform "The Secret Garden," page 6.



International Guitar Night at the Bankhead, page 2.



Patsy Cline tribute, page 3.



Comedy series kicks off at Firehouse, page 4.

Guitar Night Set at the Bankhead Theater

The Bankhead Theater will host International Guitar Night, a celebration of virtuosity and musical diversity that brings together four of the world's foremost acoustic guitarists to perform both individually and in collaboration during a single evening.

Credited as "one of the most important showcases for the contemporary guitar" by The San Francisco Chronicle, this annual event is a long-standing Bay Area tradition. International Guitar Night will arrive at the Bankhead Theater on Tuesday, January 24, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets range from \$18 to \$40 for adults and just \$14 for students.

Founded by guitarist Brian Gore more than 15 years ago in a small eclectic nightclub in Berkeley, International Guitar Night (IGN) began as a series of small concerts featuring local acoustic guitar masters. The event grew quickly into larger venues and, in the space of a few years, began to tour across North America. Each year, Gore invites a new group of premier talent from around the globe to showcase the range of diverse styles and genres within the acoustic guitar world, from classical and jazz, to folk and contemporary. IGN's success is attributed in part to Gore's ability to foster a spirit of collaboration rather than competition between these talented guitar masters. The participants, who typically tour solo and often hail from different musical genres, appreciate the camaraderie they find on tour with IGN, which one guitarist described as an opportunity for a cultural exchange between peers. The evening opens with individual recital

performances by each guitarist, followed by various combinations and ends in a finale that brings all four together. IGN's intimate format generates an excitement and synergy between players and exposes audiences to a remarkable breadth of outstanding guitar music in a single night.

Gore has been acclaimed as a guitar poet, one of the most interesting and influential guitar stylists today with a unique blend of classical and percussive techniques and a strikingly beautiful tone. For the 2012 IGN tour, he is joined by three internationally-famed guitar virtuosos. Adrian Legg from England displays a technical brilliance and musical sensibility that has earned him the title Best Fingerstyle Guitarist by readers of *Guitar Player* magazine for four years straight. German guitarist Lulo Reinhardt has carried on Django's Gypsy Swing legacy, making it his own by adding a creative and elegant flair that explores musical influences from Spanish flamenco to South American jazz. Born in Brazil but classically-trained in Paris, Marco Pereira is one of the most fascinating composers and performers in contemporary guitar music. His inspired compositions incorporate a variety of instruments and techniques to bridge multiple styles and genres.

International Guitar Night is part of the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center's LVPAC Presents featuring acclaimed performers in music, dance and other performing arts across a wide range of musical styles and genres. In the five years since it opened, the Bankhead Theater has established a reputation as a popular



Performing will be (above, left) Brian Gore; (top to bottom at right) Adrian Legg, Marco Pereira and Lulo Reinhardt.



destination for guitar enthusiasts and music lovers. Recent appearances by guitar greats Eric Johnson, Ottmar Liebert, Leo Kottke, Robert Cray, and others have attracted audiences of all ages from throughout the Tri-Valley area and beyond. The fourth annual LVPAC

Guitar Fest LIVE!, a celebration of all things guitar, is scheduled for September 2012.

The Bankhead Theater is located at 2400 First Street in Downtown Livermore. To purchase tickets call 925-373-6800 or visit www.bankheadtheater.org

Art Walk, Art Dedication Planned in Pleasanton

Despite icy, foggy weather last month, the first-ever Art Walk led by philanthropists Nancy and Gary Harrington attracted a record crowd for World Walk to Wellness, with 70 people showing up to participate in a narrated tour of some of Pleasanton's public art pieces. That has inspired the Harringtons to offer four more Art Walks, the third Saturdays of January through April, with varied routes and sights. Each of these free tours will begin at 9 a.m. in the parking lot of City Hall, 200 Old Bernal Avenue (adjacent to the public library).

On Saturday, January 21, the

2-hour walk will swing south to Centennial Park on Sunol Boulevard, then loop back to conclude at the Firehouse Arts Center in time for the unveiling of the newest Another H.A.P.P.Y. ("Another Harrington Art Partnership Project for You") at 11:15. Walkers are invited – but not required – to stay to see the new sculpture, "Eternity."

"Since purchasing public art for Pleasanton has brought such pride, enjoyment, and excitement to our lives, we invite other individuals, businesses corporations, and organizations to join us in this effort," said Gary Harrington, adding,

"All donations are acceptable." To make a donation, make checks payable to City of Pleasanton, with "Another HAPPY" in the memo section. Mail to City of Pleasanton, Attention: Susan Andrade-Wax, P.O. Box 520, Pleasanton 94566-0802.

World Walk to Wellness was founded by W Ron Sutton, AKA "Mr. Pedometer," who is the CEO of ACCUSPLIT, makers of certified accurate pedometers and stopwatches. A Pleasanton resident, Sutton believes that individuals can "Change 1 Thing"

toward a healthier lifestyle – and using the "buddy system" to walk with a friend or a group could be that one thing.

Every Saturday, World Walk to Wellness hosts either a one-hour walk or a two- to three-hour hike, visiting local city parks and trails, plus parks in Sunol and Livermore. To receive free e-mail notification of walk locations, send a request to walks@WorldWalkToWellness.org. No reservations are required for participation.

"Most of the outdoor art in Pleasanton is best appreciated and

absorbed while walking," said Sutton. "Riding by in a car does not do justice to the art – it goes by in a blur. Join the Harringtons and your neighbors on the World Walk to Wellness art walks. You not only will see some wonderful works of art, but you also will hear the good stories that go along with them."

Participants on any of the Saturday walks are encouraged to wear comfortable shoes, dress in layers, and bring along water. The January 21 walk will be on paved sidewalks, suitable for strollers or wheelchairs.

Singer Performs Tribute to Patsy Cline

Singer Joni Morris returns to the Firehouse Arts Center February 5 with her tribute to country music legend, Patsy Cline. The show is known for its humor and audience interaction, along with all songs Cline made famous.

The performance will be at 2 p.m. at the Firehouse Arts Center located at 4444 Railroad Avenue in downtown Pleasanton.

The show celebrates the music of Patsy Cline, the first woman to be inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame. She was the "glamour girl" of country music, who captivated fans with her soul-stirring voice and flamboyant personality. Morris emulates that passion and personality in her renditions of such songs as "Crazy," "Sweet Dreams," and "I Fall to Pieces." In addition to paying homage to country music of the late 1950s and early 60s, the genre's "golden years," Morris adds the quick-wit-



ted humor and audience interaction for which she has become known. Morris says, "Patsy Cline recorded some of the most beautiful songs I've ever heard in my life. I never get tired of singing them."

Morris has traveled nationally for the past fifteen years with her four-piece band, "After Midnight", and has appeared before enthusiastic audiences at colleges, festivals, dinner theaters, conventions, casinos, and private parties. The San Francisco Chronicle wrote, "Morris is more than just an imitator. She has the tremendous talent of

her own which comes through with each song and sounds even better than Cline."

Tickets to Joni Morris' tribute to Patsy Cline are adult \$15, \$20 and \$25; child \$12; senior \$20. Group discounts are available.

Tickets may be purchased online at www.firehousearts.org up to three hours prior to the performance, by phone at (925) 931-4848, or in person at the Firehouse Arts Center Box Office.

The entrance to free parking is on Spring Street near First Street.

'Gondoliers' a Gala Romp

by Susan Steinberg

The Lamplighters will be presenting Gilbert and Sullivan's sunniest musical, "The Gondoliers," for only two weekends – one in San Francisco and one in Walnut Creek.

This rollicking good-humored show pokes irreverent fun at all the usual subjects: political maneuvering, inept government officials, and that favorite target, the social class system, all as relevant to our own world as to Victorian England.

Performances at SF's Yerba Buena Center, only 3 blocks from the Montgomery Street Bart Station will be Friday, January 22 at 8 PM, Saturday, January 21 at 2 PM and 8 PM, and Sunday, January 27 at 8 PM. For tickets call (415) 978-2787 or go to www.YCBA.ORG. Leshar Center shows will be Friday, January 27 at 8 PM, Saturday, January 28 at 2 PM and 8 PM, and Sunday, January 29 at 2 PM. For tickets call (925) 943-7469 or go to www.lesherartscenter.org.

Artists Reception Planned for New Exhibit at the Firehouse

"Scenes of Yosemite" will be the theme of an exhibit at the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton.

Featured will be paintings by Charlotte Severin and Larry Gipson and photographs by Mark Davis.

The exhibit will be on view January 19 through February 15 at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton.

Paintings and photographs depicting Yosemite and environs will be shown in the lobby and hallway galleries. An artists' reception will be held on Thurs., Jan. 19 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

Featured in the Harrington Gallery is the Blue Bay Press exhibit, a group of East Bay printmakers. This show will be available for viewing January 19 to February 18.

Gallery hours are Wed.-Fri.



'Milkweed Meadow - Yosemite' by Charlotte Severin.

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LVCP Students Express Themselves through Urban Art

By Patricia Koning

Livermore Valley Charter Preparatory High School (LVCP) students in Justin Guerra's Urban Art class turned a downtown gallery space into an expression of urban art on Thurs., January 12. The students filled the Bothwell Downtown Art Studio, located at 62 L. Street, with provocative pieces on media-driven eating disorders, excessive taxes, homelessness, treatment of disabled students, child soldiers, gay rights, simplicity, and domestic violence, among other themes.

The show was the culmination of a two-month unit on urban art, in which students studied famous urban artists like Shepard Fairey and Banksy, researched social justice issues, developed themes, and created two acrylic paint-

ings on canvas expressing those themes. They also watched the 2010 documentary "Exit through the Gift Shop," which explores the work of Fairey, Banksy, and other urban artists.

All of the paintings were themed in red and black in the spirit of Fairey's propaganda work. Students wrote an artist statement explaining their cause and artwork, which was hung beside the paintings in the exhibition. In class, each student gave a 10-minute presentation on their painting and social justice issue.

Royal Moline explored the impact of media images of unattainable thinness and beauty in her painting titled "Cover Girl." The piece depicts a semi-silhouette of large woman behind a slender woman in chains. "I wanted to por-



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Lauren Kelly, principal, looks over the work by students.



Maggie Newcomb performs on the bill with headliner Andrew Norelli.



Comedy Series Kicks Off at Firehouse

Pleasanton's Firehouse Arts Center will debut its new comedy series, Comedy @Firehouse Arts, on Thursday, February 9, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. with comic Andrew Norelli.

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

Norelli has appeared on Jimmy Kimmel Live, The Byron Allen Show, Live at Gotham on Comedy Central and The Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson. He was the winner of the inaugural Las Vegas World Series of Comedy and placed second at the Boston Comedy Festival.

Letting audiences in on his frustration and excitement with the world around him, Andrew's material is adult, sophisticated and insightful as well as entertaining and inoffensive.

Opening for Norelli will be Maggie Newcomb, a tall, sassy blond who is known to delight audiences with her clever, original and clean comedy. She was the winner of the 2004 Battle of the Bay Comedy Competition and a Semi Finalist in the 2005 California's Funniest Female competition. She has opened for many national headliners.

The Comedy @Firehouse Arts

series will continue on the second Thursday of each month with comedians Mike Pace in March and Darren Carter in April, 2012.

Tickets are \$15 for general admission on a first-come, first-served basis. Tickets may be purchased online at www.firehouse-arts.org up to three hours prior to the performance, by phone at (925) 931-4848, or in person at the Firehouse Arts Center Box Office. Box Office hours are Wednesday-Friday, 12 noon-6:00 p.m., Saturday 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., and for two hours prior to the performance. The entrance to free parking is on Spring Street near First Street.

tray how the 'big girl' of your mind is controlling you and because it's controlling you, it's making you look unhealthy and zombie-like," she wrote in her artist statement.

Claire Petersen's piece, "The Mental Wheelchair," used a 13-inch ruler rather than the standard 12-inch ruler to symbolize students with learning disabilities and the ability to exceed in other areas. The centerpiece of Nick Coumou's painting is a homeless man holding a sign that reads "keep your coins, I want change." This statement, he wrote, refers to the change needed which is to end homelessness.

While many of the works featured bright colors and complex images, Joey Cholewiak went in the opposite direction with his piece, "Simplicity." His painting is a white canvas with "Excellent! Steve Jobs" written in black ink on one corner.

"With a canvas you always want to put something on it, not

just white paint. But there is nothing else like it here," he explained. "Everything in our society is become more complicated, but I think simplicity is beautiful."

The words were a last minute addition. Cholewiak says he was inspired by Steve Jobs and the simple beauty of Apple products. Despite the starkness of the canvas, Guerra says the painting met the project requirements; in fact, in his instructions he told the students that there can be a lot of power in simplicity.

The Urban Art class will soon work on a mural for the front of their school using paints that were donated by Chevron through DonorsChoose. The mural will be moveable, so it can be transferred to LVCP's proposed new campus near Costco. Guerra also plans to take the students on a field trip to San Francisco to view famous street art locations.

Artist's Reception at Prudential California Realty

A collection of works by expressionist painter Marco Rosales Shaw are on display at Prudential California Realty through March 15.

The public is invited to attend a reception for the artist on Saturday, Jan. 21, 5-7 p.m. Local wines and hors d'oeuvres will enhance this free event.

Prudential California Realty is located at 1790 First Street, Livermore.

The show is open for viewing during regular business hours or by appointment. Contact Cher Wollard at 925 824-4824 or cherw@cherw.com for information.

Yesterday into Today

Before the “Arab Spring,” there was another uprising called the “Prague Spring,” a brief protest against communist totalitarianism that occurred 43 years ago in Czechoslovakia.

In January of that year, Alexander Dubcek, the newly elected head of the country, began a liberalizing campaign to institute, among other things, economic reforms. The Soviet Union, which maintained a tight fist of control over its satellite nations beginning with the end of World War II, did not take the changes lightly. In August, seven months later, Soviet tanks rolled into Prague to flatten the reforms and reinstate control.

In 1974, Nora, a woman who had become as dear to me as my own mother, asked me to join her on a trip to Prague. She spent every summer at a world-class health resort in the south of Czechoslovakia and knew the country well. I leapt at the opportunity to visit the city that experienced such historic events in the 60s.

From the moment we arrived, I began observing how “things were done” in a communist country. For example, exchanging dollars for local currency was not a straightforward matter. When the airport customs clerk asked how much money we wanted to exchange, Nora blurted out, “\$20.”

At lunch, which cost \$5.00, leaving us \$15 to spend for the rest of the trip, I asked Nora if she thought \$20 would be enough for food, lodging and souvenirs for our three-day stay. She said it would.

The next day, we were walking the ancient city when a conservative-looking woman approached us on the street and began speaking in German, Nora’s native tongue. Half way down the block, the woman slipped us into a hallway with a number of

shops and restaurants sprouting off it, and then into a public restroom, where she pulled Nora and me into a tiny stall. Nora handed the woman a wad of dollars and told me to do the same. The woman handed us back a wad of koruny, the local currency, and rushed out. Back on the street, free of any possible surveillance bugs, Nora explained that we had just traded on the black market. The woman had given us four-times the official exchange rate in order to obtain American dollars, the most valued tender of the day. I voiced my concerns about this illegal activity, but Nora reassured me it was alright.

A couple of days later, Nora left for the resort and I left for Vienna to meet Andrew, an Austrian and a fellow student at Columbia who was visiting his father for the summer. He found me a hotel room that was super clean and orderly but, as I discovered, had an unusual setup. When I went down to the dining room the first evening to get a glass of tea, I saw four women sitting around a table, scantily dressed, popping out of their blouses, doused in make-up and hairspray, who looked like prostitutes. The next day, I chastised my friend for getting me a room in such a place.

“You Americans!” he said. “You’re so innocent. Many hotels in Vienna reserve the ground floor for business.”

From Vienna, I took a round-trip bus excursion to Hungary. We toured the capital city of Budapest and then a traditional village where Hungarian-style cowboys wearing gaucho pants, hats, and short leather boots cracked whips, and women wear-

'Prague Spring'

by Sarah Bobson

ing colorful, traditional dresses with white aprons served lunch.

On our way back to Vienna, our bus stopped at the border. The driver collected our passports, handed them to a soldier waiting outside, and told us to remain in our seats. Before too long, a soldier entered the bus, exchanged words with the driver, and then began walking down the aisle. When he came to me, he stopped, addressed me sternly in Hungarian, then dragged me off the bus, pressed me against the side, and began shouting in my face. I answered in English that I didn’t understand him. He shouted back in Hungarian. This volley continued for several minutes. I’ve never been so scared in all my life. I was near tears. I wondered whether soldiers in communist countries routinely picked a passenger from the West and harassed them, just for show, to maintain the Cold War tension.

After what seemed an eternity but probably lasted no more than a few minutes, a passenger got off the bus and asked what seemed to be the trouble. I told him I didn’t know. He began talking to the soldier, in Hungarian I supposed. The exchange heated up so much that I feared the man might get himself into trouble as well. More agonizing minutes filled with shouting went by until the man put his arm on my shoulder and told me to get back on the bus.

As soon as we crossed the border into non-Soviet-bloc Austria, my protector explained that the soldier had said my visa and papers indicated I had cashed only \$20 in Czech currency, but that during my stay so far I had

clearly spent well beyond that amount for hotels, food, and excursions, which meant I had traded on the black market. The man, my defender as it turned out, told the soldier that that couldn’t possibly be true.


“Look at that sweet, innocent face,” he had said. “She’s an American. She doesn’t know how to trade on the black market.”

He was right, I didn’t, but Nora did.


When I joined her at the spa, she greeted me looking tan, healthy, rested, and rejuvenated from luxuriating in the mineral waters and eating organic foods. She asked about my trip to Hungary and I told her.

“I never had that trouble,” she said.

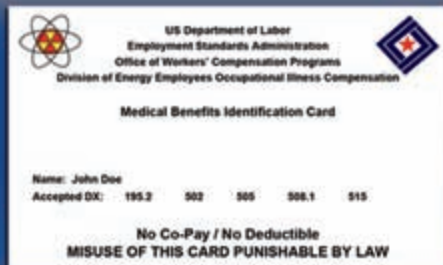
But then Nora wasn’t a naïve American. She was a worldly European, someone who had fled the Nazis in 1940, using her wits to cross the Alps at night. She knew how to maneuver totalitarianism. She knew how “things were done.”



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and M.A. degrees from Ohio University, where he is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, and his Ph.D. degree from The University of Wisconsin.

This program is part of *Livermore Reads Together*, a community-wide reading program featuring John Hersey's book *A Bell for Adano*, which takes place in Italy during World War II. The community of Livermore is encouraged to join their neighbors by participating in the *Livermore Reads Together* free events for children and adults during the month of February 2012. Copies of books and event schedules are available at all Livermore Public Library locations. *Livermore Reads Together* is sponsored by The Friends of the Livermore Library. For additional events check the library's website at www.livermorelibrary.net.

Celebrity Jeep On Display

A "celebrity" jeep will make an appearance at the Livermore Public Library, 1188 S. Livermore Avenue, on Saturday, January 21, 2012 from noon to 4 p.m. in the library plaza.

This 1944 GPW Ford Jeep is owned by Dave Miller from San Ramon, and has starred in the TV series *M*A*S*H*, and the movies *Patton* and *Tora! Tora! Tora!* Dave, a retired Oakland firefighter, will be available to answer questions about his famous jeep, to chat about its history and discuss the role of jeeps in World War II.

This event is part of *Livermore Reads Together*, a community-wide reading program featuring John Hersey's book *A Bell for Adano*, which takes place in Italy during World War II. The community of Livermore is encouraged to join their neighbors by participating in the *Livermore Reads Together* free events for children and adults during the month of February 2012. Copies of books and event schedules are available at all Livermore Public Library locations.

Pictured is guest speaker Michael Krasney (above), at right is author John Hersey.

Livermore Reads Begins with Guest Speaker

A special Kick-Off Event for Livermore Reads Together 2012: *A Bell for Adano* will take place at 2 p.m. on Sunday, January 22, 2012 at the Livermore Public Library Civic Center, 1188 S. Livermore Avenue. Michael Krasney, host of KQED's popular talk show *Forum*, will present his musings on John Hersey's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *A Bell for Adano*.

Attendees are encouraged to arrive early for best parking and seating opportunities, as space within the room is limited and not guaranteed.

In 1942 reporter Hersey was sent to the Mediterranean theater of war, where he filed a story for *Life* on the American military government in Licata, Sicily. A year later he transformed his magazine article into a debut novel. Each person mentioned in the article became a character in the novel, and each incident he reported became a plot point. Hersey added a character based on General Patton, changed the name of the town, and created the central motif of the village bell. *A Bell for Adano* was published on February 7, 1944.

Before coming to KQED Public Radio in 1993, Krasny hosted a nighttime talk program for KGO Radio and co-anchored the weekly KGO television show *Nightfocus*. He hosted Bay TV's *Take Issue*, a nightly news analysis show, programs for KQED Public Television, KRON television, and NPR, and did news commentary for KTVU television. He has also served as host of NPR's *Talk of the Nation*.

Since 1970, he has been a professor of English at San Francisco

State University and has taught at Stanford University and University of California, San Francisco. He is the author of *Spiritual Envy: An Agnostic's Quest*, and *Off Mike: A Memoir of Talk Radio and Literary Life*, coauthor of the textbook *Sound Ideas*, and creator of the DVD presentation *Masterpieces of Short Fiction*. He is a widely published scholar and literary critic, a fiction writer, and a guest and frequent interviewer on the City Arts & Lectures stage. He has worked widely as a facilitator and host in the corporate sector and as moderator for a host of major nonprofit events.

Krasny has interviewed many of the leading newsmakers and cultural icons of our time, including former President Jimmy Carter, Cesar Chavez, Noam Chomsky, Hilary Rodham Clinton, Francis Ford Coppola, Don DeLillo, Newt Gingrich, Vice President Al Gore, Norman Mailer, Toni Morrison, President Barack Obama, Rosa Parks, Nancy Pelosi, Robert Redford, Philip Roth, Salman Rushdie, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, John Updike, and countless others. He is the recipient of many awards and honors, including The S.Y. Agnon Gold Medal for Intellectual Distinction, The Eugene Block Award for Human Rights Journalism, The Inclusiveness in Media Award from The National Conference for Community and Justice, and a Koret Foundation Fellowship. He has also been named best talk show host by *Focus* magazine, a number of Bay Area newspapers, The San Francisco Publicity Club, and Citysearch. Dr. Krasny received his B.A. (Cum Laude)

Arroyo Seco and Missoula Children's Theatre present "The Secret Garden"

By Patricia Koning

This Saturday, a cast of 60 students from Arroyo Seco Elementary School will perform "The Secret Garden" at 3 and 5:30 pm at the Livermore High School Theater. This performance is like no other, however – the entire production, from auditions to dress rehearsal, took place in just five days.

On Monday afternoon, two directors from Missoula Children's Theatre (MCT) held auditions to cast approximately 50-60 Arroyo Seco students in the musical. The cast then rehearsed for four hours after school each day, Tuesday through Friday. On Saturday morning, the cast will have a dress rehearsal a few hours before the first performance.

For over 37 years, MCT, based in Missoula, Montana, has been touring the globe to provide a week-long residency starring up to 60 students in a full-scale musical. All of their shows are original adaptations of children's stories and fairy tales.

It's a unique concept, compressing what is normally a two- to three-month process into an intense week, but one that works well with limited resources for the arts and busy schedules. Last year, Arroyo Seco parent Kristi Carter began looking into adding a theatrical component to the school's PTA-run after school program.

She heard about MCT from Jill Hornbeck, another Arroyo Seco parent. "I was excited for the opportunity our students could have with a professional company conducting a theatrical experience. We decided to give them a try, rather than having inexperienced parents putting together a program," explained Carter.

Hornbeck learned about MCT from a friend in Washington State whose daughter had participated in an MCT show at her school. "Her daughter had a fabulous time. I loved the fact that MCT came with all the props and costumes and did all the hard work to get the play started," she said. "Having one week for a total focus on performing was also appealing. With all the other activities that kids are in, it is hard to find time to commit for weeks or months at a time."

The mission of MCT is the development of life skills like creativity, social skills, goal achievement, communication, and self-esteem in children through participation in the performing arts. MCT provides two professional tour actors/directors and the scenery, costumes, props, make-up, and basic lighting.

"They bring everything it takes to put on a play, except the cast," said Carter. "We provide the actors, a piano, and accompanist." Aimee Shaw is the accompanist for the Arroyo Seco shows.

At first the parents considered holding the play at the school's multipurpose room, but then decided to hold it at the Livermore High School Theater and open the performances to the public. "These performers may be back on that stage in six years in the drama program at Livermore High," said Hornbeck. "We are hoping that kids and families who don't normally visit the theater will find this show appealing."

Admission to the show is \$5 for students and seniors and \$10 for seniors and will be collected at the theater before each performance. The show will last approximately 60 to 70 minutes with no intermission.

For more information on MCT, visit www.mctinc.org.

Do You Remember?

By Anne Homan



F.A. Schrader's Blacksmith Shop

Blacksmith Square is a delightful area at Railroad Avenue and South Livermore Avenue with two restored buildings separated into small shops that sell, among other merchandise, local olive oil and wines. The main building was originally a blacksmith shop built by Fred Schrader in 1914. Made of brick manufactured by the Livermore Fire Brick Company, it has a false front with a massive cornice.

The single story structure was built in a simple rectangle design with four-over-four rectangular windows. A small addition to the south front served as an office and main entrance for customers. Two large industrial doors are on the north and south sides of the building. The other structure is a frame building and was used for storage. The Blacksmith Square developer has faced the structure with brick closely matching the older brick of the other building and created a pleasant patio between the two buildings.

Rostock, Germany is an important port on the Baltic Sea north of Berlin. Frederick "Fred" August Schrader was born there on 29 August 1851. He immigrated to the United States with his parents at age 10.

The family lived in Elgin, Illinois, where Fred learned to be a wheelwright. In 1871 he started

working in a Chicago wagon factory. Three years later he crossed the continent to California and continued his chosen occupation in Hayward and Dublin. He traveled to Guatemala; between 1884 and 1886 he worked in railroad shops as the Guatamala Central Railroad was being built.

Following that job he came to Greenville and began running the Greenville Blacksmith Shop near the intersection of Greenville Road and Old Altamont Pass Road.

After six years, he purchased the blacksmith shop of James Bezell on South Livermore Avenue south of the present Blacksmith Square location. On May 17, 1890 Fred had married Augusta Kruger in Stockton. They built a home on Livermore Avenue and in 1892 celebrated its completion with a party for 100 guests.

Everyone enjoyed the good food, and the Higuera brothers played music for dancing until five in the morning. Augusta died in 1900 at the German Hospital in San Francisco as a result of surgery for stomach problems; Fred married again in December 1901 to Amelia Gochee. In February 1907 he bought two lots at the intersection of Fourth and I Streets, where he built a large home, which still stands at 713 South I Street. Probably, they hoped for a family, but they had had no children when she died in March 1908. Annie H. was his third wife (we don't know her maiden name)—he married her about 1909, and she outlived

him, not dying until 1942.

Fred made many improvements to the old Bezell shop in 1904. He had electricity installed as well as new machinery. A three horsepower electric motor furnished power for a blower connecting the shop's three forges. The shop's drills, emery wheel, grindstone, and a new bolt-cutting device were also connected to the power source. He installed a new bandsaw for woodworking.

Schrader was elected by the Livermore Board of Town Trustees to succeed retiring trustee D.J. Murphy in 1909; he remained in office for four and a half years. His *Livermore Echo* ad in 1907 said that horseshoeing was his specialty and that he was the agent for Studebaker wagons, Milwaukee Mowers, and the San Leandro Monarch Hay Press. Another ad in January of the same year listed the prices for horseshoeing charged by all nine of the Livermore blacksmiths; they varied from \$1.25 to \$2.00 and up for a stallion. In 1912 Schrader entered into a partnership with blacksmith C.M. Montgomery. Together, they built the new brick blacksmith shop in 1914. Previously, Schrader's shop, the old Bezell shop, had been part of block one owned by C.J. Stevens, Livermore's original mill owner, but after Stevens' death, his estate would not renew the lease. Block one ran along Livermore Avenue from First Street to the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks. Schrader wanted to stay in the same area, so he bought a lot far-

ther north on Livermore Avenue, between the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks and the Western Pacific tracks and built his new brick shop and his frame storage warehouse there.

Fred Schrader died quietly without a struggle in the chair in his brick blacksmith shop office on February 10, 1915. According to the *Herald*, "he had been on the street only a few minutes before and seemed in good health and spirits," although he had been under a doctor's treatment for heart trouble. He belonged to the German fraternal order, Hermann Sons, and the Masons. His funeral took place from Livermore's Masonic Hall on Sunday. He was buried in Roselawn, the Masonic Cemetery.

In April 1916 Annie H. Schrader announced that she had bought M.C. Montgomery's interest in the Schrader/Montgomery business. For several years, she leased the shop to V. Pierotti; the last record of the lease was in 1923, when it was called a "machine shop." Pierotti's shop was a cross between the traditional blacksmith shop and the newer style combination of automobile dealer and repair shop. Below the name Pierotti, the old painted words advertising his business are still barely visible on the bricks of the front façade: "blacksmithing, shoeing, autos." A number of other businesses followed in the same buildings.

My husband has restored a number of old cars. He always went to D&G Mufflers, run by Gene and Mark Hutto, which was the last business at the site before its conversion to Blacksmith Square.

(Readers can reach me at am50homan@yahoo.com.)

Voices of the Valley Anthology to Debut



Towne Center Books will host a book launch party for the California Writers Club Tri-Valley Branch's anthology, *Voices of the Valley: First Press*. The public is welcome.

Refreshments will be served. There will be author short story, memoir, and poetry readings.

The event will be Saturday, January 28, 2012 from 2-4:00 p.m. at the bookstore, located at 555 Main Street, Pleasanton. Books will be available for purchase.

Reservations helpful but not necessary. Call 925-846-8826 or email to orders@townecenter-books.com

Jazz/Hip-Hop Clinic Set

The Granada High School dance team will present its 7th annual dance clinic on Sat., Feb. 4 from 3 to 6 p.m. in Granada's main gym, 400 Wall Street, Livermore.

Featured will be jazz/hip-hop dance. The clinic includes dance instruction with separate routine and performance for middle and elementary age, snacks, dance team t-shirt, CD with music and video to practice at home, and an invitation to perform at a Granada JV basketball game on Tues., Feb. 7.

The clinic cost is \$50 per person. Bring water bottle, please wear comfortable clothing and appropriate shoes (sneakers, dance shoes). Hair should be tied back.

Parents are invited to preview dancers at 5:45 p.m. the day of the clinic. For information or to register, call Jamie Fagundes at 518-7978 or send an email to ochoa@sbcglorbal.net.



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ART & ENTERTAINMENT

ART/PHOTO EXHIBITS

Livermore Art Association Gallery, located in the Carnegie Building, 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.

Blue Bay Press: Eloquence in Printmaking, Harrington Gallery, Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. January 19 - February 18, 2012. Exhibit will include several styles of printmaking —etching, monotype, chine colle, and woodblock, on handmade paper, canvas, and other surfaces, for example. It will also include a small collection of marble sculptures made by Maj-Britt Hilstrom. www.firehousearts.org.

Livermore Art Association Winter Show, January 4-31, Robert Livermore Community Center at 4444 East Avenue is hosting an art exhibit by Livermore Art Association (LAA) artists during the month of January. Located on first floor, the show will include various mediums such as watercolor, acrylics, and photography. The community center is open 8-6M-Th, 8-5 Friday, and 9-noon Saturday.

Judy Rice Exhibit, January & February 2012, Garre Winery Restaurant, 7986 Tesla Rd., Livermore. Watercolor landscape and flower paintings at this exhibit. The restaurant is open Monday through Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and for some dinners. 925-371-8200.

MEETINGS/CLASSES

Everything Poetry (in two parts), Second Saturday Soup-workshops 2nd Saturday of every month, 10 a.m.-12 noon Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton; Third Tuesday Trope-poetry critiques 3rd Tuesday of every month, 7 p.m.-9 p.m. Towne Center Books, 555 Main Street, Pleasanton. Contact Cynthia Bryant at PleasantonPoetry@ci.pleasanton.ca.us.

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. Barbara Stanton for more info about the workshop, 925-373-9638 - microangelo@earthlink.net.

Art in Public Places, join a local group of artists and paint on selected Friday mornings around town. ACC/Art Critique & Coffee invites artists to express themselves in watercolor, acrylic, oil. For more details check out the website for Poetry On Canvas Pleasanton or contact Claudette at PoetryOnCanvas@Mac.Com ~ ACC Meets each Friday at various locations.

Tuesday Afternoon Art Classes for Grades K - 5 in Livermore, includes introduction to history of art. Tuesdays, 3:30-4:30/5 p.m. Some materials included in fee. Ongoing. thomasin_d@hotmail.com ; (925) 216-7231; http://childrensartclassesprojects.blogspot.com

Art Classes for teens and adults, Livermore Saturdays 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and Mondays 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Some materials included. Please email instructor a materials list to purchase supplies. Watercolor, oil paints, charcoal, pastel, colored pencil, collage, printmaking. Classes also introduce the History of Art to students. thomasin_d@hotmail.com ; (925) 216-7231; http://childrensartclassesprojects.blogspot.com.

LARPD Friday morning Art Classes for Homeschoolers 4-10 years, Livermore, Fridays 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Some materials included. Please email instructor for a materials list to purchase supplies. thomasin_d@hotmail.com ; (925) 216-

7231; http://childrensartclassesprojects.blogspot.com/.

Girls Night Out Classes, Make family memories by attending a class together. Painting, jewelry making & paper art are now available to experience locally. Classes led by artist Claudette McDermott. For more information e-mail or call to sign up for classes 510 543-4776 PoetryOnCanvas@Mac.Com ~ Individual and group classes available.

Make It & Take It, Thursday nights, with guest artists and demos: January is "Fused Birthday Plate" only \$15. Art Glass Studio, 174 South L St., Livermore. For more information contact Roberta Jones at: 925-447-1962 www.artglassstudio.weebly.com

Beginning Stained Glass, start and finish a small stained glass window (14" x 14") using cutting and manufacturing skills. Learn how to use basic glass tools. Limited to 8 students. Additional studio hours are available at a daily, weekly or monthly rate. Tools and supplies are \$174. Does not include glass. 5 week class, 2.5 hours each. Weds 10-7, Thurs-Sat 10-9, Sun 10-4. Classes are ongoing. Art Glass Studio, 174 South L St., Livermore. For more information contact Roberta Jones at: 925-447-1962 www.artglassstudio.weebly.com

WINERY EVENTS

Charles R Vineyards 3rd Annual "Cab-Stravaganza" Saturday, January 21, noon to 4:30 p.m. Lots of Cab-fun - special tastings, opportunities to purchase library wines, warm-your-belly food and much more. 8195 Crane Ridge Rd., Livermore. (925)454-3040, www.charlesvineyards.com.

Winter Barrel Tasting Weekend, Jan. 21-22, Murrieta's Well, 3005 Mines Rd., Livermore; Silver Spur Wine Club Members complimentary; \$5 for all other guests at each location: Tamás Estates Tasting Room, 5565 Tesla Road, Livermore; Wente Vineyards Vineyards Tasting Room, 5050 Arroyo Rd.; Wente Vineyards Estate Tasting Room.

Charles R Pays a Visit to Swirl, Thursday, January 26, 6-8 p.m. Swirl on the Square, Downtown Livermore exclusive pouring event at Blacksmith Square in downtown Livermore. There is a nominal charge to taste. Swirl is located at 21 S. Livermore Avenue in downtown Livermore at Blacksmith Square. (925)454-3040, www.charlesvineyards.com.

Port and Chocolate Weekends, Tamás Estates, 5565 Tesla Road, Livermore, each weekend throughout February, 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sample Tamás Estates Barbera Port with a specially selected chocolate truffle.

Valentine Port & Chocolate Affaire at Charles R Vineyards, Saturday, February 11, noon to 4:30 p.m. Old-fashioned Valentine Day with Bonnie's Port Fudge and Decadent Chocolate Cake. Pairing the chocolate treats with VINO de Amor (Port), chilled and room temperature, and a Dad's special port tasting for Club Members. Ask how to become a Club Member. 8195 Crane Ridge Rd., Livermore. 454-3040. www.charlesvineyards.com.

Amor de Les Chenes, Sat., Feb. 11 and Sun., Feb. 12, noon to 4:30 p.m. Les Chenes Estate Vineyards, 5562 Victoria Lane, Livermore. Famous Jacqueline Kennedy Chocolate Souffle paired with our new Petite Sirah Port. \$5 fee. www.leschenesvine.com

Chocolate Fondue paired with McGrail Cabernet Sauvignon, Sun., Feb. 12, noon to 4 p.m. Taste award winning Cabernet Sauvignons with delicate desserts dipped in chocolate fondue. McGrail Vineyards and Winery, 5600 Greenville Road, Livermore. \$25. www.mcgrailvineyards.com

Romance Wine & Chocolate, Feb. 12, 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. sessions, Wente Vineyards. Five decadent chocolate dessert and wine pairings, learn fun facts and trivia

about the Valentine's Day Holiday, love and romance. Wine Club and Nth Degree Club Members \$30, all other guests, \$35. Call the Vineyard Tasting Room at 925-456-2405 to purchase tickets.

Eagle Ridge Vineyard is celebrating Valentine's Day with "Love is in the Air." Special vendors with gift items; sample the imported chocolate fountain with special goodies. Spend the day in Livermore Wine Country at Eagle Ridge Vineyard. 10017 Tesla Road, Livermore; (925) 447-4328. eagleridgevineyard.com

Thomas Coyne Winery Winter Open House, Feb. 18, 19 and 20, noon to 5 p.m. at the historical tasting room at 51 E. Vallecitos Road Livermore. Four new wines will be released: Reserve Quest, Sweet Emillie, Petit Verdot, VINO Tinto Reserva. A selection of fine fruits and cheeses will be served. Bring a picnic and enjoy sweeping views of the Livermore Valley. "Bottle Your Own Wine," selling VINO Tinto Barato at the open house. Bring a clean bottle, we will fill, cork and label it for \$6.00 per bottle. Use our bottle for \$6.50; or may bottle, label and cork it yourself. Available only on Feb 18. Limit of six bottles per person.

MUSIC/CONCERTS

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

Tri-Valley Medieval & Renaissance Collegium playing session for amateur musicians, Peter Maund, director. Mondays 7:30-9:30 p.m. 7600 Dublin Blvd., suite 370, Dublin. \$25. Information collegium2011@gmail.com or 925-424-1209 or 925-984-4395

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,

California Symphony concert The Romance of the Cello, with world-renowned cellist and classical music "rock star" Joshua Roman, 4 p.m. January 22, 2012 at the Leshler Center for the Arts. Conducted by internationally renowned conductor Robert Moody. Tickets (\$20-\$69) can be purchased by calling the Leshler Center ticket office at 925-943-7469 or by visiting www.californiasymphony.org.

International Guitar Night, Jan. 24, 7:30 p.m. LVPAC Presents, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

The Special Consensus, 7:30 p.m. Wed., Jan. 25, Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.

Open Mic Night, covers or originals, Sun., Jan. 29, 5 to 8 p.m. at Coffee Ali, 3550 Bernal Ave., Pleasanton. Sign-ups start at 4:30 p.m. Bring instrument and songs prepared for playing. Stage time allotted on a first come, first served basis. Host and featured act will be Wish Inflicted. Information www.wishinflicted.com.

Patsy Cline Tribute with Joni Morris, 2 p.m. Sat., Feb. 5. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.

Celtic Nights, Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m. LVPAC Presents, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Led Zeppelin Experience starring "Heartbreaker," Friday, February 10, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Ravi Coltrane, Grammy-Nominated Saxophonist, Fri., Feb. 10, 8 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.

Livermore Amador Symphony, concert Sat., Feb. 11, 8 p.m. featuring two winners

of the annual Competition for Young Musicians. Program features Something for Everyone. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Tribute to Glenn Miller, Feb. 12, 2 p.m. LVPAC Presents, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Cypress String Quartet, 3 p.m. Feb. 12, Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.

Music of ABBA, winter gala, Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m. LVPAC Presents, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Hanson and Glover Piano Duet (four hands, one piano), Feb. 18, 8 p.m. Del Valle Fine Arts Concert, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

An Evening in Roma with Naresh Michael, Feb. 18, 8 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.

Don't Fence Me In, country and western, Feb. 23, 7:30 p.m. LVPAC Presents, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Dan Hicks and the Hot Licks, Feb. 24, 8 p.m. LVPAC Presents, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

San Ramon Symphonic Band, Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m. "Latin Spirit," Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, 10550 Albion Rd., San Ramon. www.sanramon.ca.gov

Pacific Chamber Symphony, a professional symphony orchestra, concert 8 p.m. Feb. 25, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Program: Bach to Brahms - Brandenburg Concerto #6 for woodwinds, Mozart Serenade #12, Brahms Serenade #2. \$39/\$34/\$29 \$7 students. www.bankheadtheater.org

Ho'olaule'a o Mana'olana: A Celebration of Hope, Feb. 25, 7 p.m. Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, 10550 Albion Rd., San Ramon. www.sanramon.ca.gov

Salute to the Rat Pack, Sun, Feb. 26, 2 p.m. A Swingin' Tribute to Frank, Dean, Sammy & The Legends of Las Vegas. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Sunol Repertory Theatre Melodrama, "Rogue of the Railway," Fri. and Sat., 8 p.m. March 9-24. Sunol Glen School, 11601 Main St., Sunol. Tickets go on Sale at Grape Times Wine Bar, 4469 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton from 12-5 p.m. on Sat., Jan 21. Tickets by mail go to sunol.net/srt or call 925.862.0664

ON THE STAGE

Laura by Vera Caspary and George Sklar, January 13 - February 4, Role Players Ensemble, 8 p.m. Th., Fri., Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Village Theatre, 233 Front St. Danville, www.ci.danville.ca.us

The Last Five Years, Jan. 20, 21, 27, 28 8 p.m., Jan. 22, 29 2 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.

Annie, Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre production, weekends Jan. 21 to Feb. 3. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Gilbert & Sullivan's, The Gondoliers, Lamplighters Music Theatre production, Leshler Center for the Arts, Walnut Creek, Fri., Jan. 27 and 28 at 8 p.m. and Jan. 28 and 29 at 2 p.m. www.lamplighters.org.

Love Letters - Valentines Production, Friday to Sunday, Feb. 3 to 5 and 10 to 12, 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Dublin Heritage Park and Museums, Donlon Way, Dublin. First theatrical production in the new Kolb Barn Theatre by Tri-Valley Performers, Love Letters by A. R. Gurney, for two consecutive

weekends. www.ci.dublin.ca.us.

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, Civic Arts Stage Company, Feb. 24, 25 and March 2 and 3 at 7:30 p.m.; Feb. 25 and 26 and March 3 and 4 at 2 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.

COMEDY

Creators of Impulse Improv Face-Off, Feb. 2, 3 and 4, 7:30 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.

Comedy @ Firehouse Arts with Andrew Norelli, Thurs., Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.

DANCE

Moscow Festival Ballet Presents Sleeping Beauty, Feb. 19, 4 p.m. Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, 10550 Albion Rd., San Ramon. www.sanramon.ca.gov

AUDITIONS/COMPETITIONS

Auditions - Shout! the Mod Musical, Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre production directed by Min Kahng, Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m. with callbacks Wed., Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m. 1048 Serpentine Lane, #309, Pleasanton. Co-Creator Phillip George and David Lowenstein, Continuity Peter Charles Morris Rated PG. Please bring 32 bars of 60's Pop. Accompanist provided. No capella or tapes allowed. Be dressed for and prepared to dance. All roles open, ages 18 and older, no pay. Rehearsals begin on February 27. Information at www.trivalleyrep.org.

Auditions, The Odd Couple, San Ramon Community Theater production, auditions February 7, 2012 at 7 p.m. with call-backs on February 9, 2012 at 7 p.m. 6 men and 2 women from ages 20 to 60. Rehearsals begin in February with performances for 3 weekends beginning April 27, 2012. Auditions and call-backs are at the Front Row Theater in San Ramon, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Rd., San Ramon (located inside the Dougherty Station Community Center). www.sanramoncommunitytheater.org or call (925) 389-7529

Acoustic Night, San Ramon Parks and Community Services Department is hosting Acoustic Night for high school students on Friday, March 30 at the Loft, in the Dougherty Station Community Center (17011 Bollinger Canyon Road). The event starts at 7:30 pm and costs \$5 to attend. The Department is looking for talented musicians to perform during this event. The Acoustic Night is open to all high school students. Interested performers should contact Jennifer Gault at 973-3375 or email jegault@sanramon.ca.gov. Visit www.SRTeen.org for more information.

MOVIES

Classic films at the Pleasanton Library, Las Positas College and the Pleasanton Public Library present the series. Theme this year is "Three Great Directors." Admission is free. The series is hosted by Candace Klaschus, Professor of Media Studies at Las Positas College. Klaschus offers a brief talk about each film prior to the screening. The three great film directors featured in this year's series are Howard Hawks, John Ford and Alfred Hitchcock. Refreshments are served. A complete list of the "Three Great Directors" films is available at the Pleasanton Public Library. Movies will be shown the first Thursday of each month through June 7, 2012. No registration required. The library is located at 400 Old Bernal Ave., Pleasanton. For more information, call Penny Johnson, 931-3405.

OPERA

20th Anniversary Season Celebration, Livermore Valley Opera, Sat., Jan. 28, Duo of Divas: Mezzo-soprano Zheng Cao

ART & ENTERTAINMENT

and LVO Advisory Council member Eric Mills. Ruby Hill Golf Club, Pleasanton. www.livermorevalleyopera.com

Broadcast from the Met, Dublin Regal Hacienda Cinema, Enchanted Island, Jan. 21; *Götterdämmerung*, Feb. 11; *Ernani*, Feb. 25 and March 14; *Manon*, April 7 and 25; *Turandot*, April 14, May 2. First date is a morning showing, second date afternoon. Check for exact curtain time. 560-0900.

MISCELLANEOUS

Political Issues Book Club meets the 4th Tuesday of each month, and reads books about issues and trends that are driving current affairs in both the national and international arenas. Topics that have been covered include politics, governance, economics, military affairs, history, sociology, science, the climate, and religion. Contact Rich at 872-7923, for further questions

We're Talkin' Books! Club is a member-centered book group led by a small group of book club veterans, with reading selections based on member recommendations and consensus. No homework required—share your insights or just listen in! Contact Susan at 337-1282 regarding the *We're Talkin' Books! Club*.

Book Launch Party, Towne Center Books will host a book launch party for the California Writers Club Tri-Valley Branch's anthology, *Voices of the Valley*: First Press. The public is welcome. Refreshments; author short story, memoir, and poetry readings. Saturday, January 28, 2012 from 2-4:00 p.m. at the bookstore, located at 555 Main Street, Pleasanton. Books will be available for purchase. Reservations helpful but not necessary.

Call 925-846-8826 or email to orders@townecenterbooks.com

Museum on Main, preschool pre-literacy program, M.o.M.'s Reading Time. For ages 2 to 5 and families, free reading program, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Reading at 10 a.m. with theme crafts following. Donations appreciated. No reservations required. Large groups or playgroups please phone in advance: 925.462.2766 or email: education@museumonmain.org. 2012 M.o.M.'s Reading Time Dates and Themes: February 8, The Day it Rained Hearts; March 14, The End of the Rainbow; April 11, Art Smart; May 9, Please & Thank You; June 13, Flag Day; July 11, We All Scream for Ice Cream; August 8, It's A Circus; September 12, Fiesta; October 10, Creepy Critters; November 14, Thank You, Veterans; and, December 12, Light Up the Seasons. The Museum on Main is located at 603 Main Street in historic downtown Pleasanton.

Science on Saturday, Feb. 4, 9:30 and 11:15 a.m., The Gamma-Ray Spectrometer at Mercury: A Seven Year Journey to the Innermost Planet; Presenter: Morgan Burks, Teacher: Dan Burns. Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's lecture series for middle and high school students, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. No admission charge. www.bankheadtheater.org

Ed Kinney Lecture Series, 7 p.m. An Evening with President Roosevelt, Tues., Feb. 7. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. \$10 General Admission, \$5 Members & Seniors, \$3 Students/Teachers with ID. All tickets are paid at the door. All tickets are open seating. Information www.museumonmain.org or (925) 462-2766.

Science on Saturday, February 11, 9:30 and 11:45 a.m., Sleuthing Seismic Signals: Understanding Earthquake Hazard and Monitoring Nuclear Explosions; Presenter: Sean Ford, Teacher: Ken Wedel. Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's lecture series for middle and high school students, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. No admission charge. www.bankheadtheater.org

Science on Saturday, February 18, 9:30 and 11:45 a.m., Space Junk: Traffic Cops in Space; Presenter: John Henderson, Teacher: Tom Shefler. Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's lecture series for middle and high school students, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. No admission charge. www.bankheadtheater.org

Paul Alan Cox, Director of the Institute for EthnoMedicine, Wed., Feb. 22, 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. LLNL Presents The Rae Dorough Speakers Series: Something in the Water? www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Livermore Reads Together, *A Bell for Adano*, events (Civic Center Library, 1188 So. Livermore unless indicated otherwise): Jan. 22, 2 p.m. kick off event featuring speaker Michael Krasny; Feb. 3, 7 to 9 p.m. The Barn, 3131 Pacific Ave., USO Dance, Music of the 1940s by the Royal Society Jazz Orchestra; Feb. 4, 10:30 a.m. The Joy of Handbells featuring the Alleluia Ringers; Feb. 7, 7 p.m. Viola Buitoni presents program on the Italian Heart of a California Cook; Feb. 9, 1:30 p.m. Armchair Travelers: Sicily and the Amalfi Coast with Dale Schauer; Feb. 9, 7 p.m. National Park history Stephen Haller will discuss the

legacy of World War II in the Bay Area; Feb. 11, 10:30 p.m., children's program sing, ring, listen and paint; Feb. 11, noon, Vine Cinema, 1722 First St., screening of movie, *The Secret of Santa Vittoria*; Feb. 12, 2 p.m. panel of veterans will provide their perspectives on war, moderated by Jim Ott, veterans are John Shirley, John Sarbararia, Doug Bell and Joe Cook. Feb. 14, 7 p.m. Sicily Now and Then: A traveler's journey presented by Jo and George Caporaso; Feb. 16, 7 p.m. The

Swingin' Blue Stars of the USS Hornet sings music of the 1940s; Feb. 23, 7 p.m. everyday life and everyday resistance in Southern Italy during WWII presented by Laura Ruberto; Feb. 26, 2 p.m. dramatic reading from *A Bell for Adano* by readers from Shakespeare's Associates. Livermore Reads Together 2012 is sponsored by Friends of the Livermore Library. For additional events check the library's web-site at www.livermorelibrary.net.

Casks, Kegs and Cupids, Fund-raiser for Museum

Museum on Main's Valentine fundraising dinner, *Casks, Kegs and Cupids*, is coming up. It will be held at Handles Gastropub in the Pleasanton Hotel on Saturday, February 11 at 6 pm. This lively evening includes a gourmet dinner paired with fine wines or beers, live auction and popular two-bit auction.

Tickets for this event are \$80 per person and include dinner choice of beef, fish or vegetarian and a choice of wine or beer pairings. Make your selection when purchasing tickets. Tickets are for purchase at Museum on Main, 603 Main Street, Pleasanton, or by phone at 925-462-2766. Cash, checks, Visa or MasterCard accepted. It's an evening not to be missed!

The Museum on Main is located at 603 Main Street in historic downtown Pleasanton. It is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sunday from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. For more information about current exhibits and programs, visit the Museum's web site at www.museumonmain.org or phone (925) 462-2776.

Livermore Couple Donates to the Arts

The recently developed Cal State East Bay Arts Events Sponsorship Program has its first major gift of \$2,500 from Gary and Ann Roads of Livermore in support of the Music Department's 13th Annual Night of Jazz at Yoshi's in Oakland.

Their son, Matt, earned a B.A. in music at CSUEB last spring. The gift is a direct response to the level of teaching and educational experiences Matt had during two years at CSUEB.

"Our decision to contribute to the program was born from our witnessing through Matt CSUEB's commitment to music, and most importantly, to the students. If the arts are to survive, it will take that level of professionalism from teaching institutions to inspire students to not just get through the program to receive their degree, but to also mentor them, helping them to reach their full potential," said Gary Roads.

They were particularly impressed that this level of attention to teaching came at a time of severe budget cuts to all areas of the University.

"We think the Yoshi's show is an excellent venue to showcase the level of talent that comes from CSUEB's programs. We know that



Music alumnus Matt Roads inspired his parents to become first major arts sponsors. Their gift goes to this year's Yoshi's concerts

when Matt and his friends played there they were in awe at being able to play on the same stage as musicians they admire," said the elder Roads.

Matt is currently teaching bass, drums and guitar at two music schools, one in Hayward and one in Livermore. He also performs with several local bands playing music ranging from jazz, to Latin/jazz, reggae/rock, and modern punk. He's also applying to graduate schools through the guidance

of mentor Johannes Wallmann, CSUEB assistant professor of music and director of jazz studies.

"The arts at CSUEB enhance the campus and the community with outstanding performances, plays, and exhibits," said Kathleen Rountree, interim dean of the College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences. "In a time of increasingly tight resources, individual financial support is imperative to help underwrite production costs, so that performers and audiences are able to enjoy the beauty and communicative power of the arts. I am delighted that the Arts Sponsorship program is off to such a strong start," said Rountree.

The Arts Events Sponsorship Program was created in fall 2011 to support art, music, and theatre and dance programs. Depending on the size of the gift, sponsors can be recognized on the department web site, in promotional materials, in the event program, in on-site signage, at a student and faculty reception, with a guided backstage or exhibition tour, and with free tickets to the sponsored event

Information on the Arts Events Sponsorship Fund is available at www20.csueastbay.edu/class/files/docs/sam/arts-sponsorships-final.pdf

Towne Center to Host Talk on Topic of Church and State

Historian John Barry will speak on the relationship of church and state and individual and state at a program to be presented at 7 p.m. on Mon., Jan. 30 at Towne Center Books in Pleasanton.

This free event is co-sponsored by Towne Center Books and the Museum on Main.

John M. Barry is a prize-winning and New York Times best-selling author whose books have won more than twenty awards. In 2005 the National Academy of Sciences named *The Great Influenza: The story of the deadliest pandemic in history, a study of the 1918 pandemic, the year's outstanding book on science or medicine*. In 2006 the National Academy also invited him to give its annual Abel Wolman Distinguished Lecture; he is the only non-scientist ever to give that lecture. In 1998 *Rising Tide: The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 and How It Changed America* won the Francis Parkman Prize of the Society of American Historians for the year's best book of American history. Two of his books led to active involvement in policy making with both the Bush and Obama administrations.

Barry will be speaking at Towne Center Books about his latest book, *Roger Williams and the Creation of the American Soul: Church, State, and the Birth of Liberty*. Two fault lines have divided America throughout our history: how we define the relationship between church and state and between the individual and the state. This book explores the genesis of those fault lines. It is an intellectual history, but that history is not of abstruse theory. It is a story of power, revolution, the beheading of a king, and the emergence of the ideas of separation of church and state and of individual liberty. At the center of the story lies Roger Williams, a pioneer in religious freedom and the first man to describe individual liberty in modern terms, and who created in America the first government on earth informed by those beliefs. Williams and his fellow colonists, who had fled intellectual, political, religious, and social upheaval in England, sought to establish an entirely new kind of society, a beacon unto the world.

Reservations are helpful, please call 846-8826 or townecenterbooks@sbcglobal.net. Towne Center Books is located at 555 Main Street in downtown Pleasanton.

Asante Africa Foundation Receives Grant from Social Capital Foundation

A thriving partnership with Social Capital Foundation is solidified by an \$11,000 grant to help fund Asante Africa Foundation's education programs in Tanzania. Both global organizations recognize that the value of education is naught without life skills and the opportunity to apply knowledge.

The grant will address much needed support at Tloma Primary School, by contributing significantly toward creating a positive and conducive learning environment for students. Like many primary schools in East Africa, Tloma Primary School's biggest challenge has been the inability to provide basic and fundamental classroom needs for their overwhelming student body of more than 600 students. The school's textbook to student ratio is currently one book for every 8-10 students. Another obstacle is the lack of desks, forcing many students to sit on dirt floors. Meanwhile, a dilapidated classroom has made students vulnerable to the elements and native wildlife, such as bats and other rodents. With the local community's commitment and support, the collaborative effort is expected to effectively remedy these immediate issues.

"The Asante Africa Foundation and Social Capital Foundation partnership begins to address the broader needs of education; what extends beyond academics. As these young people finish school we want their knowledge to be the

catalyst for going back into their communities and creating positive change." – Erna Grasz, CEO/Founder, Asante Africa Foundation.

Asante Africa Foundation seeks to create safe and healthy learning environments, strengthen teaching quality and enhance learning, and provide education through merit-based scholarships. The Social Capital Foundation identifies organizations whose programs have proven to be effective, viable and sustainable, with the means to nurture and help create programs that will guide local Tanzanian communities towards the alleviation of poverty, and into self-sustaining, income-generating growth. The partnership will provide a collaborative foundation to provide education that is nourished with applicable life skills and resources that can empower impoverished communities.

"Asante Africa is an excellent example of the type of organizations that Social Capital Foundation looks to partner with. Their record of achieving results through working directly with local educators and student leaders is outstanding. Tloma Primary School is an example of a Tanzanian school that through the dedication of its students and the commitment of its headmaster and teachers, have been achieving excellent results in spite of serious limitations. We are pleased to partner with Asante Africa to further support this



Tloma Primary School students and teachers

school and its students." – Laura DeVere, Director Social Capital Foundation

Asante Africa Foundation envisions African communities and families in which all children have the opportunity to receive quality education to illuminate their paths toward brighter futures. Asante Africa Foundation is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization with global headquarters in the U.S.A. (1334 Carlton Place, Livermore, CA

Community

94550). Asante Africa Foundation's mission is to provide child-centered education through three guiding avenues of impact: Create safe and healthy learning environments, strengthen teaching quality and enhance learning, and provide education through merit-based scholarships. Since its inception in 2006, Asante Africa Foundation has stewarded the completion of fifty infrastructure projects, provided thousands of valuable

teaching supplies and resources to classrooms, and awarded hundreds of scholarships. Asante Africa Foundation's current partnerships with forty-one schools and collaborations with twenty-two villages have flourished, directly impacting nearly 39,000 children and their communities in Tanzania and Kenya.

To learn more about Asante Africa Foundation or to make a tax-deductible donation, please visit us at www.asanteafrica.org

Amador Valley High's Janel Lee Wins Rotary Speech Contest

Janel Lee, a freshman at Amador Valley High School, Pleasanton, has won Pleasanton North Rotary Club's Youth Speech Contest.

Ms. Lee's five-minute speech was judged the best of three five-minute presentations Jan. 6 at the Rotary chapter's weekly meeting at the Hilton Hotel at the Club, Pleasanton.

The speeches addressed the theme of "Reach within to embrace humanity," and included at least one mandatory reference to the principles of the Rotary Four-Way Test that guides the organization's commitment to community service and fellowship.

Ms. Lee considered how the personal pleasure playing the violin spread across audience creating a special experience for elderly



Pictured are, from left, Janel Lee, a freshman at Amador Valley High School, has won the 2012 Youth Speech Contest, sponsored by Pleasanton North Rotary. Lee is shown with competition chair Kevin Greenlee and PNR president Ronda Henstorf.

residents who heard her perform at local specialty nursing facility.

Ms. Lee was awarded \$100 and has qualified to compete in area finals of the Rotary District 5170's Richard D. King Annual Youth Speech contest in Livermore. Regional and district competitions will follow.

Amador sophomores, Sally Kim and Samuel Lyou were awarded \$50 and \$25, respectively, for their second and third place finishes.

All three contestants are members of Amador High's Mock Trial Team.

Kevin Greenlee, PNR's youth services coordinator, chaired the local competition. Susan Dupree, PhD, a clinical psychologist in Dublin, Jim Ott, chief financial

officer of iGATE, Livermore, and Teresa Parham, teen librarian at the Pleasanton Public Library judged the competition.

Greenlee informed the audience that local chapters of District 5170 annually sponsor the contest with three goals in mind. The first objective is to increase student awareness about the value of public speaking. The second aims at increasing public knowledge about Rotary's objectives and principles. The third objective awards student participation with monetary prizes.

Ms. Lee now qualifies for regional competition in Livermore. The winner of that contest will move on to district finals in San Jose this spring.

Milestones

Military

Haggerty Son and Daughter Serve in the U.S. Navy

Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty has every reason to be a proud parent. Haggerty's daughter Jennifer and son Sean are both involved with the U.S. Navy. "I cannot express in words just how deeply proud I am of both Jennifer and Sean," said Supervisor Haggerty. "My daughter is working hard to accomplish her goals in the Navy and has become a role model, inspiring my son to follow in her footsteps at an early age."

Jennifer Haggerty enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 2011 and completed her boot camp training at the Great Lakes Naval Station, Recruit Training Command in Waukegan, Illinois in September. She was stationed in Pensacola, Florida where she completed her training as an Aviation Boatswain Handler to work on the flight deck of aircraft carriers before reporting



Pictured (from left) are Sean, Scott and Jennifer Haggerty.

to her duty station in San Diego, California. With the rank of Airman Apprentice, Jennifer has been

assigned to the U.S.S. Bonhomme Richard and will be deployed to Japan in February for six months.

Army Pfc. Yunhua Hsia 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.

Hsia is the daughter of Kangtan Hsia of Pleasanton. She is a 2010 graduate of Foothill High School, Pleasanton.

Education

The University of Wyoming has announced its 2011 fall semester President's Honor Roll. The President's Honor Roll consists of regularly enrolled undergraduates who earned a 4.0 ("A") grade point average for the semester. To be eligible, students must have been enrolled for a minimum of 12 credit hours taken for letter grades. Among those on the list is Janice Correll Potts of Livermore.

President Bonnie L. Humphrey has announced that Eric Carrillo of Livermore is a December graduate of Missouri Valley College. Carrillo earned a BS degree in Psychology. Missouri Valley College will confer degrees at its 123rd commencement ceremonies on May 5, 2012 at Gregg Mitchell Field on the MVC Campus.

Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland, has announced its Dean's List for the Fall 2011 semester. Dominic Lathos of Pleasanton, Freshman, son of Mr. Thomas V. Lathos, Mrs. Victoria E. Lathos, was recognized for academic excellence and achieving a grade point average of 3.4 or higher for the semester.

The Dean's List for Rocky Mountain College includes 221 honor students for Fall Semester 2011. The list includes students who earned a 3.6 - 4.0 grade point. Among them are Livermore residents Morgan Bowe and Shauna Ketcham.

This month 14-year old Sean Haggerty graduated from the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps (NSCC) in Port Hueneme, California. Youth from throughout the continental U.S., the State of Hawaii and Guam participated in the NSCC training. Sean completed training at the end of December and finished number 1 out of a class of 243 cadets. He was singled out as Honor Cadet receiving the NSCC Meritorious Recognition Ribbon as "he presented himself to be a positive role model to cadets and officers alike. The outstanding performance of Cadet Haggerty is in keeping with the highest tradi-

tions of the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps, and Winter Training Command." Cadet Haggerty will continue advanced training during summer break and will be assigned to the SCUBA School.

For more information about the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps unit at Parks Reserve Forces Training Area (PRFTA), Camp Parks in Dublin visit <http://www.usnsc.webs.com/>.

A resident of Dublin, Scott Haggerty represents the cities of Dublin, Fremont and Livermore on the 5-member Alameda County Board Supervisors.

Community

Two Named Optical Society Fellows

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory employees David Fittinghoff and Edward Moses have recently been elected as fellows of the Optical Society of America (OSA).

Fittinghoff, a physicist in the Physics Division, has been recognized for his "foundational work in optical field ionization using ultrashort pulses and innovative engineering in ultrafast optics and outstanding contributions to OSA."

His work on optical field ionization was performed at LLNL while he was a graduate student in the UC Davis Department of Applied Science. He also was one of the key developers of frequency-resolved optical gating (FROG) for the measurement of ultrashort laser pulses.

Fittinghoff has served on OSA committees continuously since 2000. In 2007, he helped restructure the Science and Engineering Council into three committees: the Frontiers in Optics Committee, the

Board of Meetings and the Meetings Council. From 2008 to 2011, he served as a member of the OSA Board of Directors and as the chair of the OSA Board of Meetings. He is currently the past-chair of the OSA Board of Meetings and a member of the C. E. K. Mees Medal Committee.

Moses, principal associate director for the NIF and Photon Science Directorate, has been recognized for his "outstanding technical leadership of the construction, completion and use of the world's largest and most energetic laser system, the National Ignition Facility."

He has 20 years of experience developing Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration laser systems and 30 years of experience developing and managing complex laser systems and high-technology projects. First as project manager for NIF and then as principal associate director for the NIF and Photon Science Directorate at LLNL, he has been

responsible for completing construction and bringing NIF -- the world's largest optical instrument -- into full operation. He also is the program director for the National Ignition Campaign, an effort aimed at achieving ignition in the laboratory for the first time.

The OSA fellow designation is awarded to members of distinction who have made significant contributions to the advancement of optics. Fellows are selected based on a number of criteria, such as record of significant publications or patents related to optics, achievements in optics, management ability and service to OSA or the global optics community. The number of fellows is limited to no more than 10 percent of the total OSA membership.

The OSA consists of more than 13,000 members from 175 countries, working to promote the science of light and the advanced technologies made possible by optics and photonics.

BULLETIN BOARD

(Organizations wishing to run notices in Bulletin Board, send information to PO Box 1198, Livermore, CA 94551, in care of Bulletin Board or email information to editmail@compuserve.com. 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.)

Christensen Middle School (CMS) Wrestling team hosting Bingo, Thursday, January 19. Doors open at 4:00, play begins at 6:30, Bingo Ranch, 3070 Pacific Ave., Livermore. Complimentary nachos, cookies and coffee will be available for all players. Door prize drawing will be held. Proceeds from this night will help support the CMS Cougar Wrestling Team. Future CMS nights at the Bingo Ranch: Sat. Jan 28, Thurs. Feb 16, Sat. Feb 25. Contact Deanna at bingo4cms@gmail.com for more information.

Business and Professional Women, meeting Jan. 25, 6 p.m. at Applebees in Livermore. Cost is \$20 for dinner and the program. There will be a fun raffle to benefit BPW's scholarship program. Carolyn Francis, MA and MFT intern at Axis Community Health, is the guest speaker. Her topic is "Messy Purse Girls," women who have had ADHD. Contact Sally Frahm at 413-6065 or sallyfrahm@aatt.net by January 23 if planning to attend.

Become a volunteer literacy tutor and make a real difference in someone's life. Over 75 people are waiting for help. A free tutor training workshop will be held at the Livermore Library on Saturday, January 21, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Once trained, a volunteer can tutor any day or any time. To register, or for more information, call 373-5507. The READ Project is a service of the Livermore Public Library.

Livermore Library Board, meets 7 p.m. Thurs., Jan. 26 at the Civic Center Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave. An agenda will be posted at the library 72 hours prior to the meeting.

Livermore Peripherical Neuropathy Support Group meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at Heritage Estates Retirement Community, 900 E. Stanley Blvd. Livermore. All are welcome. Contacts are Sandra Grafath, 443-6655 or Lee Parlett, 292-9280. The next meeting is Tuesday, Jan. 24 at 10 a.m. in the second floor conference room.

Bingo Bash, Italian Catholic Federation, Branch #285 is holding its annual "Bingo Bash," a fund-raiser to aid the Cooley's Anemia research at Children's Hospital-Oakland and the college scholarship fund. The event will be held Saturday, Feb. 18, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Michael's Parish Hall, 372 Maple St., Livermore. There will be 10 games of bingo, dancing to the music of DJ Joe Buonsante, a raffle and a dance exhibition by Grace & Bryan Bandong. Cost is \$10.00 per person. Beverages, pizza and snacks available for purchase. Reservation deadline: Feb. 13. Call Rose S. 925-846-4227 or Elaine M. 925-846-0897. If unable to attend, a donation would be appreciated. Mail donations to ICF c/o E. Meier, 6597 Lansing Ct., Pleasanton, Ca. 94566.

Valley Spokesmen Bicycle Touring Club, Sat., Jan. 21, 26 or 36 miles, weekly conditioning ride for Cinderella Classic, meet 9 a.m. at Pleasanton Hill BART station, Marty Lenzi, 324-3804. Sun., Jan. 22, 30 miles from Martinez Marina to Redwood Park, meet 10 a.m. Richard Ward, 389-6738. Wed., Jan. 25, 30 miles to Lake Del Valle, meet 10 a.m. at the Livermore Airway Park and Ride, Alberto Lanzas, 510-825-9581. Anyone planning to go on a ride is asked to call the leader for details on where to meet and what to bring.

Pedrozz Scholarship Foundation has opened their application for graduates of accredited Livermore schools. The Pedrozz Scholarship Foundation will award thousands of dollars this year for continuing education to four year college, community college, graduate schools, technical and vocational schools. The Pedrozz Scholarship Foundation uses an electronic application that requires all applicants to apply on-line. No other application will be accepted. Learn more about the eligibility requirements, selection criteria and how to apply by selecting the details for the scholarship type by going to www.pedrozzfoundation.org. In addition to the on-line application, the required official transcripts must be postmarked or hand delivered to our office on or before March 1, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.

Annual Rummage Sale, First Presbyterian Church, 451 So. K Street, Livermore. Fri. and Sat., Feb. 3 and 4, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on

Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday.

Tri-Valley Animal Rescue (TVAR), Claws for Paws, Saturday, February 4, 2012, from 6-10 p.m. This fund-raising event will serve up all-you-can-eat Crab, Caesar Salad, Pasta, Rolls, Dessert and Coffee/Tea. Raffle baskets; no-host bar (beer and wine). The event is being held at the Shrine Event Center, 170 Lindbergh Avenue, Livermore. Tickets are \$50. Order tickets on-line at www.tv-ar.org, or mail a check to TVAR, PO Box 11143, Pleasanton, CA 94588. Please include e-mail address so ticket confirmation can be sent electronically to save on mailing costs. For more information, please contact Susan Ruxton at itsmsrsuz@aol.com or 925-337-4946.

4th annual "Ragin Cajun" Mardi Gras themed dinner and dance, silent and live auction fund-raiser for the Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation (SJWHFF), on Friday, March 2, at 6:30 p.m. at the Palm Event Center in Pleasanton. Tickets are \$85 per person. The event will be hosted by Jessica Aguirre and Mike Inouye. Bring your dancing shoes, beads and masks to the event. Help us, help cancer patients. Last year's event sold out, purchase tickets early. Visit www.healingtherapiesfoundation.org or call (866) 862-7270.

7 Secrets to a Good Night's Sleep, Shannon Williams from Successful Health will be the presenter, Pleasanton Unified School District Presents GNON 2012 Speaker Series. Thurs., Jan. 26, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Harvest Park Middle School, 4900 Valley Ave., Pleasanton. Register for class at www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/adulted Click on enrichment courses or call (925) 426-4280. Free for current paid GNON members, \$15/pp nonmembers.

Crab Feed: The Knights of Columbus Council 6043, 43rd annual Crab Feed 5 p.m. to midnight, Saturday, January 21, 2012. In addition to spectacular crab, pasta and salad, the Knights will sponsor a silent auction beginning at 5:00 PM. Tickets are \$40 per person and must be purchased by Saturday January 15, 2012 either by emailing: crabfeed@comcast.net or calling Brad Schieferstein @ 925-846-7181. Credit cards are accepted and proceeds will benefit local charities Alameda County Food Bank, Open Heart Kitchen, Tri Valley Haven, Hope Hospice, to name a few. St. Augustine Church Hall, 3999 Bernal Ave., Pleasanton.

Free Electronic Waste Recycling Fund-raiser, Sat., Jan. 28, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Granada High School - Parking Lot, 400 Wall Street, Livermore. Benefit for Granada High School Safe & Sober Grad Night. Raising money so that the Granada Class of 2012 can have "the time of their lives" without risking their lives. By providing a Safe and Sober Grad Night, the risk of harm to graduates, and the community at large on a night when the risk is unusually high can be greatly reduced. Information, Yvonne Herbeck 925-352-4622.

Creating a Happier, Healthier You, series of free seminars at the Pleasanton Library presented by Dr. Christine Dickson. They are held on the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. Topics include: Jan. 19, free yourself from emotional eating; Feb. 16, dress yourself in love; March 15, go on a low information diet; April 19, build your emotional intelligence; May 17, move beyond your mind; June 21, become an optimist. Dickson holds a Dual Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology and Industrial-Organizational Psychology, and received her training at the National Naval Medical Center's Department of Internal Medicine where she specialized in preventive medicine and chronic disease. Library programs are free and open to everyone. Call Penny Johnson at 925/931-3405 for information.

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. Tri-Valley CARES monitors nuclear weapons and environmental clean-up activities throughout the US nuclear weapons complex, with a special focus on Livermore Lab and the surrounding communities. Monthly meeting at the Livermore Civic Center Library Thursday, January 19 from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. For more information call Tri-Valley CARES at (925) 443-7148 or visit our website at trivalleycares.org

Annual Crab Feed, Elks Lodge #2117. Sat., Jan. 21, cocktails 6 p.m., dinner 7 p.m. Tickets \$35 per person advance sale only,

reservations required by Jan. 16, 455-8820. 940 Larkspur Dr., Livermore.

It's a New Year...Make it a New You! WIGS (Women In GNON Seminars). Deanna Hinkins, owner of Hairlights Salon, and her team will talk about how to achieve a new look. Mon, Jan. 30, 5:30 p.m. Hairlights Salon (4307 Valley Ave., #F, Pleasanton). RSVP to gnoners@gmail.com by January 27. Free to GNON members, \$10 for non-members.

Livermore Historymobile, Artifacts needed. The Heritage Guild is in the process of updating the Livermore Historymobile, which is used to teach local history to Livermore third graders and also is a resource for the community. If you should happen to have any Livermore artifacts you might be willing to donate, please call and I'll be happy to pick them up. This would include any items referring to local Native Americans, early Spaniards and missionaries, ranchers, early days at LLNL, wineries, etc. If you have any questions or would like to donate, contact Nancy Mulligan, 925-443-3076.

Writing Club for Young Adults, ages 12-21, are invited to join The Writing Club at the Livermore Public Library, Civic Center. The Writing Club will meet once a month on Thursdays, January 26, February 23, March 29, and April 26, 2012, from 6:30 to 8:00 pm, for a fun-filled evening of writing with author J.L. Powers. This free event will take place in the Storytime Room of the Civic Center Library, 1188 South Livermore Avenue, Livermore. Learn about publishing your works and how to expand writing horizons. Write and edit each other's work. For more information, please visit TEEN SPACE on the library's website: www.livermorelibrary.net, or contact Sandy at 925-373-5500, extension 5583.

Match Key Mixer, Single professionals of all ages are invited to meet new friends, Friday, January 27, 2012, 8 p.m.-midnight, at the Marriott Hotel, 11950 Dublin Canyon Rd., Pleasanton. The cost of the party is \$20 at the door, which includes the Match Your Key Mixer, plus dancing to your favorite hits. This event is co-sponsored by The Society of Single Professionals, the world's largest nonprofit singles organization; and by MatchYourKey.com. Anyone wishing more information about this and many other singles parties may call 415/507-9962 or visit www.ThePartyHotline.com.

Crab Feed, Sat., Feb. 11, Aahmes Event Center, Livermore. 6 p.m. doors open, 7 p.m. dinner, 8 p.m. dancing to "Country Flavor Band." Menu of crab and prime rib, pasta, salad, French bread and dessert. No host bar. Silent auction. Fund-raising for Shrine nonprofit. Tickets \$40 per person, table of ten \$375. Contact the Shrine Event Center Office at 373-4880 for tickets and/or information.

Widowed Men and Women of Northern CA., Lunch in downtown Danville, Jan. 26, 11:30 a.m., RSVP by Jan. 22 to Marsha, 830-8483. Brunch/lunch in Pleasanton, Jan. 29, 11:30 a.m., RSVP by Jan. 26 to Ruby, 462-9636.

Livermore Adult Community Education is celebrating 88 years serving the Livermore Valley's Adult Learners. The following classes coming up: Microsoft Office 2010, QuickBooks, English as a Second Language, Adult High School Diploma, GED, Yoga and Art. Call 925-606-4722 or visit www.livermoreadulted.org for information.

Annual Crab Feed for Forest Home Farms Historic Park, 6 p.m. Sat., Jan. 28 at the Dougherty Station Community Center, 170011 Bollinger Canyon Road, San Ramon. Price is \$42 per person. Contact Carol Lopez at 925-828-0586 or any Board Member of the San Ramon Historic Foundation. No host social hour 6 p.m. with complimentary hors d'oeuvres; wine and beer for sale; dinner served at 7 p.m. Fun cake auction planned. All proceeds are used to provide programs, special events on the farm and maintenance for Forest Home Farms Historic Park and the Glass House.

Beginners Internet classes at the Pleasanton Library, monthly four-class series to learn to surf the Internet and send emails. Absolute beginners are welcome. Classes are held at 9:00 am with a choice of Tuesday or Thursday sections. Registration is required. Reserve a spot at the Reference Desk, or call 925/931-3400, extension 7. Library programs are free and open to everyone. Call Merry Luskin at 925/931-3400 for information. 400 Old Bernal Ave., Pleasanton.

Crab Feed, Friday, January 20, starting at

6:30 p.m. at the Shrine Event Center located in Livermore. It will be a benefit for CAST -the charity that helps children with autism. White Crane Winery is hosting the event. Cost is \$41 for wine club members, \$45 for nonmembers, plus tax and gratuity. Dinner includes: Crab, Garlic Bread, Caesar Salad, Pasta, and Dessert. A wine and beer bar will be available for purchases. Dance to the "The Gabe Duffin Band" playing songs from the 70's, 80's & 90's. Reservations can be made at www.whitecranewinery.com.

Operation: S.A.M. "Supporting All Military" is a 501(c)3 non profit military support organization based in Livermore. S.A.M. has been in operation since January 2004. It is dedicated to the continued support of deployed troops. Preparation of comfort packages takes place every other week - all year long. Providing morale support for those deployed. All information provided is confidential and is not shared for security purposes. To submit a name and address, inquire about donations or helping, please visit www.operationsam.org, email operationsam@comcast.net or call 925 443-7620.

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 and referrals and provide community education at senior centers and affordable housing complexes to residents of Southern Alameda County. The Tri-Valley office is located at 3311 Pacific Avenue, Livermore 94550 and can be reached by phone at (925) 371-1531, by FAX at (925) 373-5034 or by e-mail at abril.tamayo@cril-online.org. All services are free.

RELIGION

Our Savior Lutheran Ministries, 1385 S. Livermore Avenue, Livermore. 8:30 a.m. worship (semiformal); 9:45 a.m. adult Bible study/Sunday school; 11 a.m. worship (informal). For information, call 925-447-1246.

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; workshops on Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. Children's program on Sunday morning and first Fridays. The community is welcome. United CC is an Open and Affirming ministry. 449-6820.

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.

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.

Faith Chapel Assembly of God, 6656 Alisal St., Pleasanton, Sunday School for all ages 9:15 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m., Children's Church 11:15 a.m. Women's Bible study Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Intercessory prayer 1st and 3rd Wednesdays. Please call office at 846-8650 for weekly programs.

Trinity, 557 Olivina Ave., Livermore. Sunday worship at 8:30 and 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday school or Bible study for all ages at 9:45 a.m. Awana is Sunday at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday nights there is adult Bible study at 6:45 and NRG and Re.Gen for youth, and children's choir for kids. Child care during all events. 447-1848, www.trinitylivermore.org.

Tri-Valley Unity Church, 2260 Camino Ramon, San Ramon. Class for children, ages 4-8, plus new preteen and teen program, during church service, 10-11:15 a.m. Sundays. Ongoing adult classes and small groups. All are welcome. Rev. Harriet Hawkins, minister. www.trivalleyunity.com (925) 829-2733.

St. Charles Borromeo, 1315 Lomitas Ave., Livermore. Meditation groups following the John Main tradition, every Monday 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. For details, contact Claire La Scola at 447-9800.

Stepping Stones on Grief Journey workshop, bimonthly event. St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Dr., Pleasanton. 2nd and 4th Thursday at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 26, 2012 Feb. 9 & 23, 2012 and March 8 & 22, 2012. No preregistration is necessary. These sessions are open to all, regardless of religious affiliation. Please call Mary Hagerty at 925-846-5377 for more information.

Catholicism, St. Michael Catholic Church in Livermore will screen all ten episodes of Father Robert Barron's groundbreaking "Catholicism" series, followed by a question and answer session led by Suzanne Slupesky, Catholic theology scholar. One episode will be featured per night for 10 consecutive Mondays through March 12, 2012, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in St. Michael Parish Hall located on the 300 Block of Maple Street, Livermore, California. Admission is free. Learn what Catholics believe and why. Discover the full meaning of the faith. For additional information on Father Barron's series visit www.catholicismseries.com. St. Michael Parish, 458 Maple Street, Livermore, 925-447-1585.

Centerpointe Church, 3410 Cornerstone Court, Pleasanton. Services: 9 a.m. blended-style with choir and band, family worship. 10:30 a.m. contemporary led by band, Sunday School for children and middle-schoolers. www.centerpointechurch.org; 925-846-4436.

Comedy Show. Nazareth USA, Proud 2 B American, Friday, January 20, 7:00-8:30 p.m.. A ninety-minute family-friendly comedy show with internationally-known comedian Nazareth, who will entertain and encourage the audience. CrossWinds Church, 6444 Sierra Court in Dublin. \$10 per person (free seating for local active service men and women). Ticket price includes show, dessert, and gourmet coffee. For information on registering, contact Samantha Leggat, 925-560-3822 or email sleggat@crosswindschurch.org.

St. Charles/St. Michael's Bible Study, beginning Monday, January 9 and running through February 20, St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Community at 1315 Lomitas Ave., Livermore; 7:30-9:00 p.m. in the Pope Room. The topic for this session is Jesus and the Gospels. All are welcome, beginners to the experienced. For more information about this even contact Julie at 925-447-4549 ext 114 or at upcatholic@aol.com.

St. Innocent Orthodox Church, 1040 Florence Rd., Livermore. Sunday service at 10 a.m. For details please see our website at www.stinnocent.net or call Fr. Leo Arrowsmith at 456-0845.

Join in conversation about "The Shack" Wednesday evenings at 7:30 and Thursday mornings at 10:30. Pastor Chuck Johnstone will be hosting a discussion group on the most impactful Christian writing of our time. "The Shack" has sold over 15 million copies and tackles questions about God's role in human tragedy and how guilt, shame and issues of God's judgment shape our views about God. Drop-in participants welcome. Location: 4743 East Avenue, Livermore, for more information contact the church at 925- 447-1950. Copies of the book available at the class. Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Avenue in Livermore.

Adult Inquirer's Class, St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, adult inquirer's class, Sunday mornings January and February. Learn about the Episcopalian faith. Rev. Carol Cook will be the guide. For more information call the church office 925-462-4802. Sign up on the church kiosk or on the web site: www.stclarespleasanton.org.

Crab and Pasta Dinner, Feb. 4, 6 to 9 p.m. St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton. Tickets are \$50.00 per person (includes beverages) and \$40.00 for those under 21. (No take home baggies, please.) Reservations required by Sunday, January 29. No tickets will be sold at the door (crab must be pre-ordered to assure there is enough). Child care will be available. For more information contact the church office at 925-462-4802.

Tri-Valley Cultural Jews will be hosting Tu B'Shvat at the Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center. Tu B'Shvat Seder in honor of the New Year of the Trees and taste the seven species of fruits in Israel; learn about the shoreline area and pick up litter in the area. All necessities will be provided. 10:30-12:30. February 5, 2012. A donation of \$5 per non-member over 13. This is a child and adult friendly event. Any questions, please call Jamie Ireland at 510-888-1404