



Find Out What's Happening Check out the second section

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

Make that a Double: Gold, That Is

2011 Chronicle Competition Proves Golden for Livermore
By Laura Ness

Hollywood may be reveling in its Golden Globes, but Livermore winemakers are celebrating a great medal haul from the 2011 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition, including some

Once again, Mitchell Katz walked away with Best of Class and Double Gold for his 2008 Sangiovese, this time from Chris Grimes Vineyard. He also won a Gold for 2005 Tawny Port-Livermore Valley, Falling Star.

Wente Vineyards won Best of Class with its 2007 Nth Degree Cabernet Sauvignon in the \$60 and up category. Go, Livermore Cab!

Speaking of Cab, among Concannon's 5 Gold medals was a Double Gold for the 2008 Conservancy Cabernet. Other Concannon Golds went to Select Vineyard 2008 Petite Sirah and 2009 Pinot Noir, as well as to 2009 Conservancy Chardonnay, and to the 2007 Petite Sirah Reserve.

Fenestra came away with a Double Gold for its 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon.

Therapy Dogs Honored For service To veterans

Eighteen therapy dogs who have helped hundreds of military veterans suffering from illnesses ranging from cancer to Alzheimer's to post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) were honored at the Veterans Administration hospital in Livermore last Saturday.

Honoring the animals for their service were the VA, the Valley Humane Society, Congressman Jerry McNerney, Livermore Vice Mayor John Marchand and dozens of other admirers, patients, staff and family members.

Honors included tags showing length of service and honorary military ranks. Navy terminology is used because a Navy vet once suggested that the dogs should have the rank of Petty Officer. The play on Petty Officer stuck. However, as the years passed, the more experienced dogs had to be promoted to higher ranks.

(See THERAPY DOGS, page 5)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen
A hawk surveys the landscape from atop one of the older windmills in Livermore.

High School Trimester Schedule Meeting Goals

By Patricia Koning

Last week, Livermore School District executive director of student services Chris Van Schaack came through on a promise he made three years ago, when he was principal of Granada High School. "When you approved the high school trimester schedule, I said I'd come back early in year three with a progress report," he said.

In Jan. 2008, the Livermore Board of Education approved the new schedule, presented by Van Schaack and Livermore High School (LHS) principal Darryl Avilla. At the time, the schools

were on two different block schedules.

Each trimester is 12 weeks long. Students can attend periods 1-5, 2-5, 1-4, or 1-3, depending on their post-high school goals and extracurricular commitment.

"We had identified many concerns with our program at the time," explained Van Schaack. "Student achievement was stagnant, students were having difficulty fitting electives into their schedule, and there were reports of stress overload." In addition, LHS needed to adjust its schedule to meet the minimum instruction-

al minutes required by the State of California and to provide its teachers with collaboration time within the school day.

Van Schaack reported on the five goals which he and Avilla made back in 2008: to improve student achievement, increase elective offerings and flexibility, create collaborative time at LHS, create a culture that encourages innovation and creativity at both campuses, and unify the high schools.

In an October 2008 report to the Board, Van Schaack made what he termed a "bold prediction" that benefits of the trimester

schedule would result in "significant increases in achievement." The data has proven him correct—standardized test scores in English Language Arts, math, history, and science have improved significantly, as well as the Academic Performance Index (API) for both schools.

From 2008 to 2010, the Hispanic, socio-economically disadvantaged, and English language learners (ELL) subgroups have made tremendous gains on the API, outstripping the 32-point overall increase for LHS and the 62-point overall increase for Granada. Scores for Hispanic stu-

dents increased 69 points at LHS and 82 points at Granada; socio-economically disadvantaged students increased 75 points at LHS and 118 points at Granada; and ELL students increased 90 points at LHS and 104 points at Granada.

"These academic gains are really the most impressive part of this report," said trustee Bill Dunlop. "I was beside myself when I saw these improvements."

A survey of students, staff, and parents showed that the trimester schedule seems to have increased elective options and

(See GOALS, page 4)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

The new rapid buses will make it easier for people to get in and out of them.

Rapid Bus Service Is \$4 Million Under Budget, & Ready to Roll

Wheels' \$14 million Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service, seven years in the making, will begin Jan. 24, linking Livermore to the East Dublin/Pleasanton BART station and also to Stoneridge Mall between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. on weekdays.

What had been called the Dublin/Pleasanton BART station was changed to the new name, because the West Dublin/Pleasanton BART station will open on Feb. 23. It is located near

Stoneridge Mall. When the station opens, BRT will also stop there.

BRT won't run on weekends. The route will shave time off the morning and evening commutes, according to Wheels officials.

The buses will run every 10 minutes at the peak commute times, and 15 minutes at other times. Specially installed readerboards at the newly installed, modern-design shelters will show riders when the next bus is due.

The buses are equipped with clean-burning hybrid engines, producing fewer carbon emissions and delivering better fuel economy. There also are low floors and ramps for easy access by handicapped passengers.

Rep. Jerry McNerney of Pleasanton, who worked for years to obtain federal funding, was joined by Rep. John Garamendi, whose district includes Livermore, in helping to inaugurate the (See RAPID BUS, page 5)

Pleasanton Holding Workshop on Finances

Discussion of items related to new City of Pleasanton employee union contracts was delayed until a future meeting.

Only three councilmembers were present for Tuesday's meeting. Mayor Jennifer Hosterman was in Washington, D.C. attending the Conference of Mayors. Councilmember Cindy McGovern was ill.

In addition to missing councilmembers, finance director Emily Wagner was ill.

Councilmember Cheryl Cook-Kallio suggested moving all of the items pertaining to union contracts, employee compensation, and pension liabilities to a workshop format on Feb. 1. "It is important to have the entire council and staff present," she stated.

Councilmember Jerry Thorne commented, "I'm glad we are going to have the workshop prior to our making a decision on contracts."

Members of the public were invited to offer input into the proposed contracts.

David Miller told the council, "The workshop is a great step forward." He presented a petition signed by 230 residents requesting that a workshop be held to talk about the city's financial situation.

Bart Hughes, who has attended several council meetings to comment on employee pensions, suggested that the council reject the contracts and send them back for further negotiations. He noted that since negotiations were completed there have been

changes announced by Calpers. In addition, the contracts do not address the entitlement process. Hughes expressed disappointment that a 2-tier pension plan was not included in the contracts. He pointed out that other cities have done so.

He mentioned that there is the potential for an initiative to address issues the public is concerned about, particularly the unfunded pensions, if the council does not act.

Brenda Wood, business manager for the Pleasanton City Employees Association, said that the union had negotiated in good faith. "We will talk about the concessions we made in greater detail in two weeks."

The new contracts include a provision for the city manager to pay 8 percent towards his pension; management would pay 4 percent; and employees 2 percent. Currently, the city pays the entire 8 percent contribution for all employees.

Karla Brown, who ran for city council last November, suggested that it is time for employees to recognize that times have changed. Commitments were made in 2000 regarding pensions with the belief that the economy would continue to be fabulous. She urged the council to look at contracts that were fair to both employees and Pleasanton citizens.

Councilmember Matt Sullivan stated, "It is an important issue that we need to work together on to solve."

Residents Taking Thorough Look at Climate Plan

The voting is underway. "Ballots" are expected to be returned in a few weeks to consultants and the City of Pleasanton concerning what future carbon-cutting measures might be good for Pleasanton in its climate action plan (CAP).

The CAP must be put in place to meet state requirements. "Good" here means capable

of being accomplished with residents supporting it. Good also means effective, both in terms of making a significant contribution to carbon reduction, and being cost-effective when it comes to results obtained from dollars spent.

Approximately 60 people picked up their "ballots" at a

meeting sponsored by the city Jan. 11 at the Veterans hall. After an orientation from consultants, they spent an hour poring over the 19 pages of material that lists 300 suggestions in a total of 15 categories.

It was clear from the mass of knowledge available and the many choices to read, that people

needed more time with the lists. They were told to take them home, and return them to city hall in the next couple of weeks.

Other residents can go on-line at pleasantongreenscene.org and download the material. To accomplish that, on the home page go to the box that says "Pleasanton CAP workshop January 11,"

then go to the bottom of the box, where it says "please download the," there will be a choice of two documents in bolder face.

One is the "strategies" document, which explains the overall picture in nine pages. The other is the Draft GHG reduction measures," which is the 19-page (See CLIMATE, page 4)

Wildlife in the Vines

By Mark Browning
Monocultures—where humans plant large areas with a single crop—are typically biological deserts. From cotton to corn, from wheat to soy, wildlife is effectively shut out from the regimented rows that harbor only one plant and perhaps a few attendant pests. Even in banana plantations, nestled amidst tropical biodiversity, little moves except perhaps the occasional tarantula. By contrast, vineyards host a rich and diverse array of wildlife, from large mammals to an impressive variety of birds, reptiles, and amphibians. In response to the rich diversity their lands hold, many vintners have become excellent examples of agriculturalists who encourage wildlife diversity and forge alliances with biologists working to preserve valuable ecosystems and threatened species.

The cornerstone of this diver-

sity is the sweet, nutritive grape. The large clusters of sugar-laden fruit attract a host of insects that feed off of the juices and pulp and lay their eggs among the vines where their larvae hatch by the millions. Songbirds arrive by the droves. Red-shafted flickers, large ground-foraging woodpeckers, consume great quantities of ants. Meadowlarks specialize on beetles, caterpillars, and cutworms. Bluebirds eat a wide array of insects. Yellow-rumped warblers, migrating from Alaska and Canada, find their greatest winter habitat amongst California vines. The impressive harvest of injurious insects by these songbirds is more than enough payment for pilfered grapes.

Below the ground, the root systems of cover crops—grasses and legumes planted between the rows to reduce erosion and (See WILDLIFE, page 12)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

A foggy, damp day didn't keep Pleasanton residents from taking a stroll along the pathway in the Sports Park.

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PET OF THE WEEK

Robin is a seven month old dilute calico who is a bit overweight, but is as cute as a button. She's looking for her chance to shine in a forever home that will help her lose some of her belly blubber. She was rescued as a young kitten from a feral colony and domesticated thanks to her dedicated foster family. To learn more information about adopting her and possibly becoming a foster family for other animals in need, call 925-426-8656 or visit www.valleyhumane.org. Valley Humane Society is located at 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton. Hours are Tues.- Sat. from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Feb. 2 Talk

Noted Author to Address Interplay Of Science and Democracy

One of America's premier science writers will speak next month on the importance of science in the growth and preservation of liberal democracy in the western world.

Timothy Ferris will appear at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore on Wednesday, February 2, as part of the Rae Dorrough discussion series.

Ferris is the author of a dozen books, including *The Whole Shebang* and *Coming of Age in the Milky Way*. He has written more than two hundred articles and essays and made three documentary films for prime time showing on PBS. He produced the phonograph record that serves as an artifact of human civilization on the Voyager spacecraft now exiting the solar system.

He has taught university courses in five disciplines - astronomy, English, journalism, history and philosophy - and is presently an emeritus professor at UC-Berkeley.

His talk will be based on elements of his book, *The Science of Liberty*, published in 2010 by Harper Collins. The book is a detailed account of the rise of science and modern democratic institutions.

In his view, science and democracy have grown hand in hand, overcoming setbacks over the centuries - from religious opposition to Galileo's views of the universe in the early 17th Century to fascist repression of "Jewish science" and Soviet punishment of modern geneticists in the 20th.

As Ferris sees it, science and liberal democracy have a synergistic relationship, meaning one in which the outcome is greater than the sum of what science and democracy can contribute



Author Timothy Ferris to speak in Livermore.

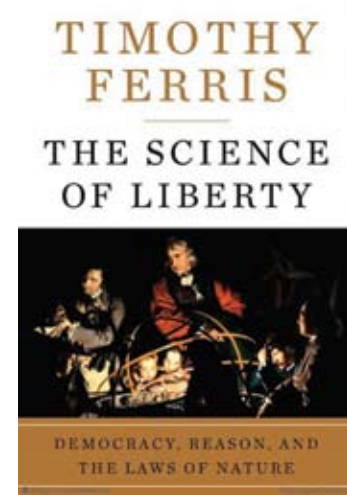
on their own. Science cannot be successful without the kinds of ferment that occurs where people can think and speak freely. Democratic institutions cannot succeed without the evidence-based progress enabled by unbiased science. Working together, the benefits of the two escalate as each makes the other more productive.

To Ferris, the advances are not only academic; they lead to technological progress that enriches society. Conversely, in *The Science of Liberty*, the absence of democracy and modern science

underlies the poverty and frustration of much of the Middle East, where investment in research is far below the international average and dictatorships prevail.

Ferris writes and speaks in nonpartisan language. "I'm proud that you can read my book and not be able to tell which party I belong to," he said in an interview.

He believes that dogma is the enemy of progress. "Most of us hold political beliefs based on what we learned growing up, what our parents told us. It's counter-



intuitive, but the less factual our beliefs are, the more passionately we hold them."

As a current example, he thinks that science has given rise to factual information that helped reduce the severity of the present financial crisis, particularly in comparison to the Great Depression that started in 1929, when government actions sometimes "made things worse."

On a personal note, he wishes that people everywhere would "examine their political beliefs based on empirical facts." He offers a "simple exercise" for determining whether they do.

He states, "Take a minute, write down a few goals that are most important to you. Whatever they are...reducing poverty, improving the financial situation, achieving peace. Then ask yourself what has worked so far in moving you toward those aspirations."

County Teams Up with Kaiser for Wellness Program

Alameda County and Kaiser Permanente last week kicked off a first-of-its-kind wellness program, HealthWorks. The program will utilize traditional and high-tech methods to help County employees improve their health and help Alameda County take a swipe at skyrocketing health care costs.

The 3-year program will provide employees with in-depth health assessments, help them set reasonable goals regarding healthy lifestyle changes and improved health, and provide them with a wide array of support to help them reach their goals. More than 300 employees from three Alameda County departments have enrolled in the pilot program. Participants have either been diagnosed with diabetes or show risk factors such as high body-mass index that could lead them to develop the disease.

At a kickoff rally on Thursday, County Administrator Susan S. Muranishi said the program sets up a "win-win" scenario for Alameda County by aiding employees to become healthier and happier while helping the County to curtail long-term health care costs, and cultivate a workforce that is beset by fewer health problems and is thus more productive.

The HealthWorks initiative grew out of a Health Care Labor-Management Committee convened by Muranishi's office last year to bring County labor leaders and department heads

together to discuss ways to curtail ballooning health care costs. County leaders agreed that partnering with Kaiser - the County's largest health care provider with about 70 percent of employees enrolled - would be a first step to improve employee health and to help the County craft long-term policies to encourage a healthier work force.

Participants are required to be Kaiser members. They also must show a willingness to make lifestyle changes if provided the right assistance.

The program begins with extensive screenings to give each of the participants a thorough assessment of his or her current health. They then are provided online programs that help them make changes to a healthier lifestyle as well as on-site classes focusing on exercise, healthy eating and weight management. Kaiser also provides access to health "coaches" who work with employees one-on-one to gauge their progress and address issues such as smoking and high stress that could be obstacles to healthier living. These and other tools will be provided over the 3-year length of the program in hopes of aiding employees to make positive lifestyle changes that are permanent.

If the program is shown to be successful, the County will be eager to expand it to all of its employees, said Nate Miley, President of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors.

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College Financial Aid Workshops Scheduled

Las Positas College will offer financial aid workshops for high school students and their parents. The workshops will cover the most important basic topics about financial aid and teach attendees how to maximize their opportunities.

Workshop topics will include: types of aid which are available, deadlines, qualifications, "independent" vs. "dependent" definitions, application process, resources for scholarships, important hints for completing a FAFSA, hints to minimize expected family contribution, and time for questions and answers.

The workshop schedule is:
• Thursday, January 27, 7:00 p.m., Granada High School, 400 Wall St., Livermore
• Wednesday, February 2, 6:30

p.m., Dublin High School, 8151 Village Parkway, Dublin
• Thursday, February 10, 7:00 p.m., Livermore High School, 600 Maple St., Livermore

The Cash for College Program is offering a \$1,000 scholarship drawing for each of the three

workshops. High school seniors attending the workshops will qualify for the drawings with winners to be announced in April.

For additional information, please email the Las Positas College Financial Aid Office at lpfinaid@laspositascollege.edu.

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5 Bd 3(1) Ba • 4,500+/- sq.ft., 0.56+/- Acres Formidable, elegant with private location, backing up to open space. Custom built by Jerry Soba Construction. www.3422torlano.com Uwe Maerz 925.360.8758	4 Bd 5.5 Ba • 8,950+/- sq.ft., 16.86+/- Acres Walls of glass, salt water aquarium, wine tasting room. Incredible setting, apartment perfect for in-law or au-pair. 9 car garage. Views and more! Peggy Cortez 925.648.5454	4 Bd 2.5 Ba • 2,553+/- sq.ft., 0.21+/- Acres Popular Sagewood Fir Plan. Extremely well kept home, hrdwood flrs, granite counters, beautiful landscaping, huge sideyard access & much more! Corey Green 925.899.6011	5 Bd 5 (2) Ba • 7,340+/- sq.ft., 0.58+/- Acres Custom home, cul-de-sac w/ unobstructed views. Office, bonus room, controlled walk-in wine cellar, wet bar, large Koi pond, built in BBQ. Uwe Maerz 925.360.8758	4 Bd 2.5 Ba • 2,223+/- sq.ft., 0.23+/- Acres Newly Remodeled Pulte Home. Lrg Bonus Rm. Gourmet Kitchen with SS appl., Braz. Cherry Flrs, Crwn Moldg. Large lot w/ sport pool & side yrd access. Corey Green 925.899.6011	3 Bd 2.5 Ba • 1,723+/- sq.ft., 0.13+/- Acres Open eat in kitchen. Master w/dual sinks & large soaking tub. Stunning hardwood flring, vaulted ceilings & wood burning fp. Lovely covered patio. Stephanie Fordham 925.788.4443
11 LOWER GOLF RD CASTLEWOOD, PLEASANTON OPEN SAT & SUN 1-4 \$1,250,000	1578 BUENA VISTA AVE LIVERMORE MINUTES TO DOWNTOWN \$449,900	6645 AMBER LN CARRIAGE GARDENS, PLEASANTON 1/2 ACRE LOT & POOL \$1,398,000	1225 LOZANO CT RUBY HILL, PLEASANTON ITALIAN VILLA \$4,299,000	523 JOYCE ST LIVERMORE UPDATED \$439,000	1089 AUBURN ST SOUTH-SIDE, LIVERMORE NEW PRICE \$384,900
4 Bd 3 Ba • 2,400+/- sq.ft., 0.33+/- Acres On the 8th fairway of the Castlwood Country Club. Single story w/ separate family room, formal dining. Beautiful plank hardwood floors. Steve & Lorraine Mattos 925.251.2544	3 Bd 2 Ba • 1,705+/- sq.ft., 0.50+/- Acres Perfect Size Country Property in Alameda Co. This house has no immediate rear neighbors and backs to Open Space & Vineyards. Tom E. Chance 925.487.6360	5 Bd 3 Ba • 3,475+/- sq.ft., 0.50+/- Acres Beautifully upgraded custom home features 5 spacious bd, improved 1/2 acre lot. Pool, spa, waterfall, slide, sport court and more. Weiner & McDowell Group 925.251.2585	6 Bd 7(2) Ba • 8,877+/- sq.ft., 0.65+/- Acres Stunning Ruby Hill Estate. Nestled in an unrivaled setting among olive trees and lush landscaping w/ mile long views of vineyards. Uwe Maerz 925.360.8758	4 Bd 2 Ba • 1,853+/- sq.ft., 0.03+/- Acres Newer paint, carpet in the bedrooms, remodeled bathrooms, pergo flooring in the kitchen & family room. Newer appliances, corian counters & sink. Angela Adams 925.583.2186	3 Bd 2 Ba • 1,516+/- sq.ft., 0.14+/- Acres Lovely rancher w/ tiled entry, wood burning fireplace, solid bamboo floors thru-out, tiled kitchen floor w/ granite tiled counters & much more! Michael Swift & Associates 925.251.2589

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

Parking for BART

The new West Dublin/Pleasanton Station is scheduled to open on Feb. 19.

The new station will include development with 1200 parking spaces and eventually 210 housing units, office space and a hotel.

The project cost \$80 million including \$50 million from BART revenue, \$15 million from local and state funding, and \$15 million from private partnerships.

The BART Board of Directors on Thursday formally approved parking fees for the West Dublin/Pleasanton station, which will be served by two parking garages, a 722-space garage on the Dublin side of the station and a 468-space garage located on the Pleasanton side of the station. In each garage there will be designated "permit" and "fee" areas. The "permit" areas in the garages are located on the third floor with easy access to the pedestrian bridges that serve the station. A limited amount of monthly reserved permits for the new station will be available beginning February 1. Monthly permits will cost \$63. All parking permits will be sold online through Parking Carma/Pacific Park Management.

BART encourages customers to sign up for the EZ Rider Parking Program/Clipper card to use when paying a daily parking fee (more info at www.clippercard.com). Customers who sign up for this program will receive a numbered parking hangtag that can be displayed on the rearview mirror of their vehicle when parking in one of the designed "fee" areas. Customers can touch their Clipper card to the Clipper card reader inside the paid area of the station. This action results in the deduction of the \$1.00 daily fee for the dollar value on the Clipper card and activates the hangtag number for that day. Customers without the Clipper parking card will also have the option of paying for their parking with the blue

BART ticket or cash. Those electing this option must park their vehicle in a numbered parking space within the designed "fee" area, and then will have to enter that parking space number into the parking validation/addfare machine prior to paying for their parking with BART blue ticket or cash.

Parking fees are required weekdays from 4 a.m. to 3 p.m. Parking is free on evenings and weekends.

State of the City

Pleasanton Mayor Jennifer Hosterman will deliver her annual State of the City Address on February 8.

The luncheon, hosted by the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, will be held at the Hilton Pleasanton Hotel starting at 11:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$35 for members; \$45 for non-members. Registrations are online at www.pleasanton.org

Murder-Suicide

Livermore police officers responded to a possible murder suicide situation last Thursday. Frances Roberson, 96, and David Roberson, 51, were found by family members and friends who showed up at the home on Canterbury Avenue at about 7:15 p.m., police said.

According to police, both victims had been shot in the head.

Family friends reported they had gone to the house just prior to the call to the police to visit and check on the elderly resident and her grandson.

When police entered the house, they found an elderly woman with severe head trauma as the result of an apparent gunshot wound. Alongside her was her grandson, also with an apparent gunshot wound to the head. Neighbors reported hearing possible gunshots during the early evening hours but were unable to determine their

origin.

Officers were told that the grandson suffered from mental illness and had a history of using illegal drugs. Investigators are trying to determine if there were any connection to the incident.

This investigation is ongoing.



Artist's drawing of monument.

100th Anniversary Monument

A monument is being planned to commemorate the Alameda County Fair's 100th anniversary. The monument will be located at the fairgrounds in Pleasanton.

The anniversary will be part of the 2012 fair. The fair is selling personalized bricks at \$150 to individuals and families and \$300 for corporations and businesses. The purchase includes four tickets to the 2011 Alameda County Fair and an invitation to the dedication ceremony of the monument.

For more information or to purchase a brick visit www.AlamedaCountyFair.com, contact Marketing at 426-7565 or marketing@AlamedaCountyFair.com.

Stockpile Stewardship Assistant

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) welcomed Brig. Gen. Sandra E. Finan (USAF) as Principal Assistant Deputy Administrator for Military Application. Gen. Finan will assist Don Cook, NNSA's deputy administrator for Defense Programs, in directing the Stockpile Stewardship Program, which maintains the safety, security and effectiveness of the nation's nuclear weapons stockpile without underground nuclear testing.

Gen. Finan most recently served as the Inspector General of the Headquarters Air Force Global Strike Command (AFGSC) at Barksdale Air Force Base. She was responsible for conducting independent, impartial and professional inspections on all matters affecting AFGSC readiness, discipline, efficiency and economy.

"I am excited to join the NNSA team at this critical time of advancement in our nuclear enterprise," said Gen. Finan. "I am honored to get to work with our nation's foremost experts as we maintain our nuclear stockpile, modernize the complex, and implement national policy."

Finan has a bachelor of arts degree in music education from California State University, San Bernardino; a master of science degree in systems management from the University of Southern California, Los Angeles; a master of arts degree in national defense and strategic studies from the Naval Command and Staff College, Newport, R.I., and a master of strategic studies degree from the Air War College at Maxwell AFB, Ala.

Alameda County Fair Continues to Receive Recognition

In addition to being one of the Tops 50 Fairs in North America by Carnival Warehouse and Venues Today, the 2010 Alameda County Fair took home 47 Western Fair Association (WFA) awards at the 88th Annual Achievement Awards Convention in Reno, NV this week. For the 6th year, the Alameda County Fair received more industry awards than any other Fair in the United States and Canada. The 2010 Fair, which enjoyed a turnout of 418,499 patrons for its 17-day event, received 27 First Place honors, 12 Second Place, 4 Third Place and 4 Honorable Mentions awards.

Among the Alameda County Fair's 27 First Place awards, the Fair was presented with top honors for its Children's Programs, Conservation and Being Green Programs, Fair Promotions, Fair Sponsorship Program, Consumer Protection Program and Agricultural Program.

Additionally, the Alameda County Fair won the exclusive WFA Blue Ribbon Award for being an industry leader and for supporting the many Fairs, partners and related organizations within the Fair industry.

"Winning such awards is a testament to our desire to bring positive recognition to Alameda

County, while giving back to the Bay Area community and the Fair industry. We have become a flagship in our industry and will continue to be a leader in promoting strong community involvement," commented CEO Rick Pickering.

In Recognition of his personal leadership in the Fair Industry, Rick Pickering is serving as Chairman of the California Fair Alliance (CFA). CFA represents the interests and legislative activity of over 80 plus Fairs in California.

The Alameda County Fair also received 6 International Association of Fairs and Expositions

(IAFE) awards for its 2010 Fair marketing programs and continues to be ranked in the Top 50 Fairs in the United States.

Recently released attendance numbers from Fairs across the nation show that the Alameda County Fair is ranked 44 on the list of the Top 50 North American Fairs. This is the highest ranking in history for the Alameda County Fair. Of particular note, 22 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 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 Fair. The 2011 Fair will celebrate the summertime with the theme "99 Ways to Come Out & Play", which will run from June 22 through July 10. For more information, please visit our website at www.AlamedaCountyFair.com or call (925) 426-7600.

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EDITORIAL

Street Lighting Cutback

The Livermore City Council has set in motion a pilot program aimed at reducing the city's budget costs and energy use by dimming the street lighting. Significant savings are envisioned. The program will determine what lower levels of lighting are feasible without adversely affecting crime and street safety.

Deactivation of mid-block lights in both residential and industrial areas is among the proposed reductions.

The program will also attempt to even out residential lighting levels. It's been noted that these levels vary. Some blocks are dim, others are very bright.

Lighting requirements in commercial areas will be reviewed as another component of the program.

City officials pledge that the dimming of the lighting won't be forced on any neighborhood. Meetings with the residents are planned before any lights are turned off.

This program has the promise of being a relatively painless way to cut government spending and reduce the city's energy footprint. The support and participation of the public are necessary if the program is to succeed. We hope that will be given.

CLIMATE

(continued from page one)

material that offers the 300 selections.

City staff and consultants will be looking over the submissions to winnow the document down to the more popular choices, as well as retaining points that the city and consultants see as important.

A final public meeting on the plan will be held sometime in March. After that, the plan will go to the city council, where the public also may comment. After that stop, environmental study will need to be completed, as required by CEQA. The plan is due to be sent to the state by February 2012.

VARIETY OF CATEGORIES

Among the categories for selection are land use and transportation, improvement in transit systems and walking and cycling ease, parking policy and pricing to discourage single occupancy vehicle traffic, and traffic management and pricing to improve traffic flow.

Reducing energy demand, and promoting solid-waste and water-demand efficiency are other categories.

The city's director of operation services, Daniel Smith, emphasized that the suggestions that residents pick from a list developed from earlier sessions will let the city council know what people are thinking, but by no means will it be the determining factor in council policy decisions when it comes to cutting carbon emissions.

Smith told The Independent that the sample size is too small to base policy on it. However, it is valuable for input to the council, so members know what interested public have to say. He noted the public will also be able to have input during the council meeting.

Many of the individual suggestions are designed to work in concert with others. For example, reducing the size of commercial on-site parking would presumably be accomplished using such measures as quicker transit headways, and increased mixed-use development.

In that way, people won't have to use cars as much, and will have increased transit services available to offset car dependency, said Daniel Dunigan, an urban designer with consultant TownGreen.

It's not realistic to think that such action would happen right away. However, the CAP embraces actions that could be completed in the next 10 to 30 years, said Dunigan.

However, the energy efficiencies resulting will help individual residents and business people save energy in their homes and businesses and perhaps with the cost of transportation.

There is a benefit to the community when it comes to individuals saving money, said Smith. It frees income for people to spend in the community, instead of using it to pay energy bills.

LARPD Rejects Ranger Station Bids; Ends Project

Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) won't move forward with a ranger station at Sycamore Grove Park.

The LARPD Board of Directors voted 5 to 0 to reject all of the bids and use the money budgeted for the ranger station for other purposes.

The board also offered comments on the City of Livermore's study of a potential merger of the two agencies.

The proposed ranger station would have included the rehabilitation of a home donated to the district. The idea was to replace the district's 100-year-old ranger station currently located in Veterans Park.

General Manager Tim Barry told the board that the low bid for the project was \$952,951. Funds left in the budget for the project total \$481,623. Adding the usual contingency would have pushed the cost of the station over \$1 million. "I don't see where we could pull additional money from to make this project a go," he stated.

A portion of the remaining funds will be used for demolition and removal of the donated buildings; installation of sewer, water, PG&E service and AT&T phone service; installation of a prefabricated bathroom and storage building in Sycamore Grove with sewer, water and electrical connections; replacement of the existing vault toilets at the Veterans Park parking lot with two turnkey vault toilets; and administrative, inspection, permit, legal and bidding costs. The restroom in Sycamore Grove will have running water. The Veterans park will be a vault type

restroom, because there are no utilities available in the park.

Assistant Manager John Lawrence suggested that the board move forward with installing all of the utilities. All the permits are in place to hookup to water, sewer and electricity. "The utilities will be in place if we decide to add a building in the future," he explained.

Just over \$91,000 will go towards completion of a resource management plan for the Bobba property. The property was purchased by the Tri-Valley Conservancy. The land will be turned over to the park district once a resource management plan is in place. The 74 acre Bobba property is just south of and adjacent to Veterans Park.

Board president Steve Goodman noted that the house had been donated to the district by Jacquie Williams-Courtwright. It will be demolished. "Unfortunately, we won't be able to use it as previously planned. However, we are able to use the money that would have been used for the ranger station to add some amenities to the park. In addition, we now have money to put towards the resource management plan."

MERGER STUDY
The Board also reviewed a staff report regarding the City of Livermore's study of alternatives to LARPD.

The board was asked whether it would like to provide direction to staff regarding the council's study of the potential to change the status of the park district. An initial study approved by the council was to determine if there would be more money if the city were in control. Currently,

LARPD loses close to 50 percent of its budget each year to the state for ERAF (Education Revenue Augmentation Fund).

The initial feasibility study estimated to cost \$25,000 looked at the potential benefits and opportunities. The first phase study predicted there could be between \$1.3 million and \$3.1 million in additional revenue if the district were either merged with or made a subsidiary of the city. However, the revenue is based on all the assumptions and predictions in the study coming to fruition.

After hearing the consultant's report, the city council voted in December to conduct further studies at a cost of up to \$100,000.

Barry pointed out that the district had conducted its own studies. "We determined that the question is very complex without a clear-cut answer, involved legal issues and possible tax-sharing agreements. The final outcome of the answer could not really be determined until an agency actually embarked upon a reorganization process through LAFCo. There could be less money."

Director Maryalice Faltings stated, "I feel the ball is in the council's corner. This board has never been formally addressed concerning any of this. The council heard a request from one person (Director Scott Kamena) to look into the issue and voted to move ahead. This board had the same request from the same person. A study was completed and we decided not to move forward. The findings of the council study are so baseless as to be pie-in-the-sky."

Faltings pointed out that LAF-Co does not have the ability

to change the ERAF formula. It was established by a legislative action. "What this is, is a take-over bid. The premise that there would be more money if the district were to disappear is simply not true. However, if the council is intent on pursuing the issue, the LARPD board needs to be formally contacted so we can have a discussion."

Other directors voiced similar opinions.

Beth Wilson said there has been no public outcry for this action. "The report to the city council does not answer important questions. The consultant did not look at a similar situation in Brentwood. Merger of the park district with the city did not work. There was no additional money. The city is looking for a permanent fix to a temporary problem."

Lauren Turner agreed the council report is flawed. "My biggest concern is the predicted cost savings, which would mainly involve our staff and our land. No one voted for us because they wanted to get rid of district staff or land."

There are several large parks outside the city limits, which could not be included in any merger. East Bay Regional Park District is expected to take them over.

President Goodman said he was quite disappointed that the council had voted to spend more money. "The consultant didn't even get our name right in the report. It's laughable the consultant didn't research the Brentwood situation." He told staff, "Until we are officially contacted, we shouldn't take any action."

Attorney Argues Clients Misunderstood 'Poison Pill' Impacts

In papers filed in Superior Court on January 11, the Lin family attorneys argue that their clients misunderstood the ramifications of the poison pill provision in documents related to developing land owned by the family in southeast Pleasanton.

Jennifer and Frederic Lin, owners of the Oak Grove property, filed a lawsuit against the City of Pleasanton last June in an effort to move forward with a 51-home project. The lawsuit was filed after Pleasanton voters backed a referendum overturning the approval of the planned unit development.

Another ordinance approved at the same time as the development was a development agreement. Each of the documents contains a poison pill provision that says that if one were set aside by a referendum, the other would be void.

In his written response, Lins' attorney referred to a written statement made during a previous lawsuit by the Lins, where City Manager Nelson Fialho was ordered to sign the development agreement.

At that time, the Lins' attorney took the position that the Lins "acknowledged that if the referendum by the opponents were successful in setting aside the PUD ordinance, the poison pill language would have the effect of setting aside the development agreement as well." The statement was signed by the Lins' attorney and by James Tong.

In the current lawsuit, the Lins' attorney argue that the successful referendum does not have the effect of setting aside the development agreement and that it is valid and enforceable. The lawsuit asks the city to

amend the development agreement to remove the poison pill language.

The Lins' Attorney Andrew Sabey writes that at the time of the referendum, the viability of the development agreement in the event of a successful PUD referendum was not at issue and had not been fully considered by the Lins. "Now that the development agreement is at issue and the legal implications of the PUD referendum have been researched, the Lins recognize that they were, in fact, mistaken (in their previous statement)."

He adds that at the time of the decision regarding the lawsuit requiring Fialho to sign the development agreement, there was no pending ballot measure that could implicate the development agreement. The Lins had no

reason to consider or research the full legal impact of the poison pill on their vested rights.

Sabey claims that raising the issue of the poison pill during the previous lawsuit was an attempt on the part of the city manager to delay performance of his ministerial duty.

The city's consulting attorney, Arthur F. Coon, notes that there was no relevant fact or language of which the Lins were ignorant. "It would clearly undermine the integrity of the courts to allow a party to repeatedly, calculatingly and successfully assert one position to obtain relief in one judicial proceeding and then to later disavow that position entirely and assert an exactly opposition position."

A demurrer hearing is set for Jan. 25 in superior court.

Tax Extension is the Big 'If' for Schools

The good news coming from Gov. Jerry Brown's proposed state budget is that it won't mean any cuts for the remainder of this school year, said Pleasanton assistant school superintendent Luz Cázares.

The bad news is that there is still uncertainty about the following school year. Cázares made those observations during the school board of meeting Jan. 11.

The biggest "if" is whether voters would approve new taxes to balance the budget. Brown's plan is to make about \$12.5 billion in cuts to most programs. However, he would spare K-12 education. Brown would raise revenue by close to the same amount through a five-year extension of taxes that already are in effect, but expire this year. Voters would have to approve the extension of the taxes in an election in June.

If voters don't approve the taxes, education likely will suffer cuts, said Cázares.

Trevor Knaggs, president of the Pleasanton teachers union, spoke at his regular report to the board. He said that it is time now for people who support public education to let others know that the tax extensions should be supported in the June special election.

Knaggs said that if the tax extension were not supported,

"There would be little left to cut, but teachers and programs that directly affect the classroom."

On another item, the board recognized 17 semi-finalists from Foothill High School and nine from Amador Valley for achieving National Merit Scholar honors.

The Foothill scholars are Lawrence Atherton, Kimberly Brinckerhoff, Mary Chambers, Jae Choi, Michelle Dickinson, James Ding, Sarah Hadley, Pete Huang, Rayed Khan, Jonathan Liu, Kevin Park, Yoojin Park, Amy Vanderlip, Max Wang, Brian Wu, Stephanie Wu, and Anna Zhang.

At Amador Valley, the semi-finalists are Kunwar Bal, Omsri Bharat, Rahael Borchers, Kevin Bowman, Calvin Brown, Kimberly Grano, Tanay Jaeel, Sarah White, and Ting Zhuo.

Each told trustees a little about their hopes and aspirations. Future college choices among them included Stanford, Northwestern, Davidson, Amherst, MIT, Columbia, Northeastern, and Penn.

Future careers include publishing house editor, electrical engineer, medicine, computer science, and social planning.

Superintendent Parvin Ahmadi commented to the board, "As you see, we will be in great hands in the future."

Impacts of Health Care Reform Repeal Pointed Out

Congressman John Garamendi (D), who served as California's Insurance Commissioner for eight years, released an updated analysis of how the Patient's Bill of Rights helps 497,000 residents of the 10th Congressional District and how they would be harmed if health care reform were repealed. House Republicans planned to vote Wednesday to repeal the health care reform law.

(The vote took place after The Independent's deadline.)

"Consumers gained a lot of protections in the Patient's Bill of Rights. They have a lot to lose

if House Republicans succeed in repealing health care reform. Nearly 500,000 small business owners, seniors, working families, and young adults in our communities would see vital and popular protections taken away," Congressman Garamendi said.

"The same House Republicans who did nothing about skyrocketing health care costs during the years they ruled the House from 1994-2006 now talk about 'repeal and replace,' yet they've offered no alternative proposals," added Garamendi.

According to Garamendi, if

the Patient's Bill of Rights were repealed, it would harm residents of the 10th Congressional District by:

- Allowing insurance companies to deny coverage to 119,000 to 308,000 CA-10 residents, including 9,000 to 43,000 children with pre-existing conditions;
- Rescinding consumer protections for 497,000 CA-10 residents who have health insurance through their employer or the market for private insurance;
- Eliminating health care tax credits for up to 13,100 small businesses and 106,000 families;

- Increasing prescription drug costs for 11,800 seniors who hit the Part D drug "donut hole" and denying new preventative care benefits to 96,000 seniors;
- Increasing the costs of early retiree coverage for up to 8,900 early retirees;
- Eliminating new health care coverage options for 3,200 uninsured young adults;
- Increasing the number of people without health insurance by 24,000 individuals; and
- Increasing the costs to hospitals of providing uncompensated care by \$23 million annually.

GOALS

(continued from page one)

scheduling flexibility. About 75% of students agreed that they have the opportunity to take a variety of elective classes. Over half (54% at LHS and 61% at Granada) agreed that the schedule allows them to balance schoolwork and other activities.

Parent responses to those two questions were more favorable, with about 75% of parents in agreement. However, only 41% of teachers at LHS and 58% at Granada thought scheduling options for students have increased.

Data shows a slight increase in the number of units taken on average. In 2008, LHS students took an average of 66.3 units and Granada students, an average of 62.5. In 2010, those numbers increased to 70.1 for LHS and 67.4 for Granada. Van Schaack said he expects the average student to graduate with 15 more units, or three classes, under the trimester schedule.

Teachers at both schools now have regular collaborative time built into the school day. At 60 to 70 minutes a week, this totals over 40 hours over the course of the year. This new time for teachers to work together, said Van Schaack, has brought some challenges in determining how best to use the time.

He also feels the schedule has encouraged innovation and creativity. "We are creating a culture of trying new things," he said. "For example, there are the

Freshmen in Transition classes and the Biotech and Green Engineering pathways, to which we hope to add culinary arts and digital media communications."

Both principals said that the trimester schedule has unified the two high schools. "We can now tackle common problems," said Avilla. "A great example is two young math teachers, both teaching pre-calculus at different schools, who meet regularly and share ideas."

The trimester schedule has enabled students to take classes at the other high school, which has been a boon for low-enrollment classes. Kathryn Rambo, LHS student Board representative, takes AP statistics at Granada. Marine biology, French, German, and show choir also have drawn cross-town students.

"I'm a little late to my next class, but it's fine," she said. "Otherwise I wouldn't be able to take this class at all." Last year she attempted to sign up for a math class at Las Positas College (LPC), but as a concurrent enrollment high school student. By the time she could register every section and waiting list was full. Budget cuts at LPC have severely reduced opportunities for high school concurrent enrollment.

For teachers, a challenge of implementing the trimester schedule was adapting every course to 12 weeks. This, said Granada principal Philomena

Rambo (and mother of Kathryn), wound up being beneficial. "The schedule change provided the impetus for teachers to scrutinize their practice and continue to make improvements," she said. "Teachers at both campuses developed pacing guides and common assessments."

She likened the whole transition to cleaning out the garage. "You take everything out and when you start to put everything back in, you get rid of what you don't need and become more creative with what you do want," she said.

In the trimester schedule, each course is an independent, 5-unit section. What would have been a year-long class on a traditional schedule is accomplished in two trimesters because classes are 70 minutes long. This has meant that students might have a year-long course with two different teachers. The schedule has also resulted in gaps in a year-long course if a student has one part in the fall trimester and the other in the spring.

In 2008, the ability to take more than a year's worth of courses in an academic year was presented as a benefit of the trimester schedule, especially for math and foreign language. This has borne out for math—struggling students can take a remediation class and not fall behind—but less so for foreign language.

The schedule could allow students to take five years of foreign language or complete the University of California-recommended three years in two academic years, but a lack of student interest may eliminate this option. For the past two years, Granada has offered a spring Spanish 2A class. However, principal Rambo said she plans to discontinue the program because of low enrollment.

Jaimeson Cortez, Granada's student Board representative, suggested that this may be due to lack of awareness. "I wish I'd taken advantage of this because I see how it has freed up some of my friends' schedules," he said. "Maybe not enough people know this is an option."

Originally, the trimester included a fifth-period athletics class for students on sports teams to allow them to start practice earlier. "Budgetary concerns forced us to make difficult decisions and one of those was cutting athletics classes," said Van Schaack. Students do have the option of taking four classes and either starting their school day late, at 9:20 am, or ending early, at 1:45 pm.

Moving forward, Van Schaack intends to form what he called an "issues committee" to address any future problems. "We will continue to gather data and reflect on and refine this program," he said.

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RAPID BUS

(continued from page one)

project at a ribbon-cutting Jan. 13 at the Shrine Event Center in Livermore.

Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty, president of LAVTA, which is the agency that operates Wheels, also received plaudits for his work. McNerney said that Haggerty is well-known in Washington for his work throughout the Bay Area on transportation problems.

Haggerty said in his remarks to the audience that the project came in at 62 percent of the cost estimate, and created 400 jobs.

Leslie Rogers, regional administrator for the Federal Transit Authority, also underscored the cost-savings. He said the project came in at \$4 million under budget.

The federal share of the cost was covered by \$11 million in grants. State funding accounted for \$1.1 million, and local funding, including Measure B money from county sales tax, was \$1.3 million. Another \$450,000 came from clean air grants.

CHALLENGED TO GET MORE RIDING B.R.T.

Rogers offered a challenge to those gathered for the event. He said that not only should they ride BRT themselves, but each person should urge 25 of his or her friends, relatives, and others they know to ride the new buses.

Rogers credited Paul Matsuoka, LAVTA executive director, and his predecessors, Vic Sood and Barbara Duffy, for their leadership on the project. "They have been wonderful partners. We have been pleased to have a longtime partnership in this."

The 14 new BRT buses, sporting distinctive, swirling abstract designs in blue and white to distinguish them from the rest of the Wheels fleet, were made by Gillig in Hayward.

Garamendi noted in his remarks that it was important that



Congressmen Jerry McNerney and John Garamendi join Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty for the ribbon cutting ceremony to launch the new BRT service.

Photo - Doug Jorgensen

equipment for BRT was made in the United States.

"People who are riding ACE to the Rapid bus, and then transferring to BART, riding to Hayward, are employees of Gillig. There is a circle of keeping the money here," said Garamendi.

Such a circle helps keep "incredibly important manufacturing industry in America. Every transportation district ought to buy American," said Garamendi.

He segued that thought into talking about "Make It In America" legislation that he is sponsoring in Congress. "If it's American taxpayer money, let's spend it on things made in America," he said.

B.R.T. WILL IMPACT OTHER SCHEDULES

Wheels will have a new schedule beginning Jan. 22, in preparation for the BRT service's start on Jan. 24. Many lines will

have changed times.

Perhaps the most radical change will be to the No. 10 line, which carries 50 percent of all Wheels passenger trips. BRT does not go through downtown Pleasanton, because the city council chose not to have it there.

As a result, Wheels will split off some No. 10 buses as the No. 10V, and run them only in Pleasanton to the East Dublin/Pleasanton BART. Riders may continue westward into Dublin and to Stoneridge Mall and Kaiser medical offices by transferring to the BRT, which will stop at the No. 10 stops there, and return the same way.

There also will be trips on the current No. 10 line configuration for people who want to travel through downtown Pleasanton and along Stanley Boulevard to Livermore and back while BRT is operating.

This traditional No. 10 route is the one that will operate on weekends and the early and night times when BRT is not running. The new schedules may be obtained by visiting the Wheels web page at <http://www.wheels->

THERAPY DOGS

(continued from page one)

Last Saturday, a nine-year-old black Labrador retriever, cleverly named Lawrence the Livermore Lab, was promoted to Rear Admiral and honored for 1,000 hours of service. Lawrence belongs to Pat Wheeler, volunteer coordinator of the therapy dog program for the Humane Society and the VA. She also brought Albert, a Lab-Border Collie mix, for promotion to the rank of Captain and a 750-hour award.

Newer dogs are ranked as different grades of Petting Officer according to number of hours served.

The therapy dog program at the Livermore VA hospital started in July 2004. It is one of the pet therapy outreach efforts of the Valley Humane Society, based in Pleasanton. The Society runs comparable programs throughout the Tri-Valley for disabled children, elderly residents of assisted living homes, and even libraries, where reading to dogs has helped children improve their reading skills. (The dogs make non-judgmental listeners. The young readers can try harder words and books without fear of embarrassment.)

The various Valley Humane programs comprise more than 100 teams of handlers and dogs. The dogs are screened for disposition and health. Handlers are given training. At the VA hospital, patients and hospital workers alike have found the dogs' presence calming and reassuring. Stories abound of sick, isolated or withdrawn veterans responding to the unconditional

affection offered by the animals. The dogs seem to sense which patients need companionship the most.

One social worker told the story of a reclusive veteran who refused to leave his room despite the urging of medical staff — until one day he was seen taking a therapy dog for a walk.

A respiratory therapist found that the dogs' presence led to better patient cooperation during tests.

One volunteer accompanying Wheeler and Lawrence the Livermore Lab recalled that Lawrence seemed to know his job, ignoring the petting offered by her hand and going instead "to a veteran lying in bed, waiting until the patient acknowledged him."

Darryl Silva, a social worker who spoke at Saturday's ceremony, described a group substance abuse session in which Lawrence calmed a tense newcomer, a Vietnam vet who was becoming increasingly upset as he described his struggle with PTSD and alcohol. Without Lawrence's calming touch — sensing distress, he went to the vet and laid his head on his knee — he thought the patient might not have been able to continue or to return for further therapy sessions.

A physician's assistant, C. Winn Crannell, now retired, commented, "Therapy dogs bring a great deal of comfort to the participants. With their quiet, gentle ways, their unconditional love, their wonderful sense of what precisely is needed — extra attention or just a quiet presence

— the patients who are agitated are calmed, those who are withdrawn are drawn out, those who need love but don't know how to ask are loved completely."

According to Vice Mayor John Marchand of Livermore, "These service dogs help us to see something other than just the world around us. They help us to see that in that world, there is a gentler side. There is a world of uncompromising acceptance and affection."

To describe the therapy program in greater detail, Wheeler is working on a book that is expected to be published later this year. Rep. McNerney, a strong supporter of the program, is expected to provide a foreword. Although Livermore is not in his district, California's 11th, the connection is a natural one for him as a member of the House Committee on Veteran's Affairs.

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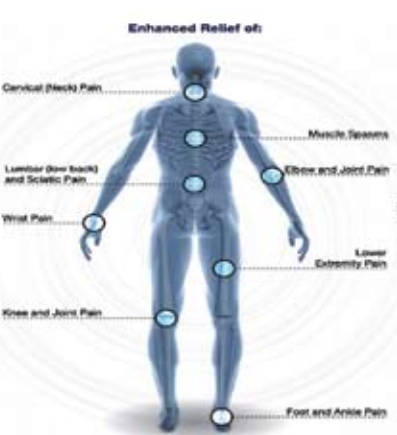
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LIVERMORE CALIFORNIA

Make a difference in your community
The City of Livermore invites applications for membership on the Planning Commission

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

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

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

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

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

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

SPORTS NOTES



Amador Valley High School frosh girls basketball team remained undefeated with their 4th win on Friday, defeating Alameda by a score of 51-11. Small but aggressive, these girls are relentless on the court. Pictured are the AVHS Lady Dons Frosh basketball team Jamie Rinetti, Haley Brodnick, Courtney Pang, Celine Lerouder, Kyla Peinado, Chloe Connolly, Jessica Medina, Lissi Knell, Alaina Urban, Tracy Lem, Rachael Miller, Madison Steele.



The Pleasanton Ballistic United Soccer (BUSC) U12 Premier Team were finalists in the Stanford Winter Turf Tournament played on January 8th and 9th. They defeated Santa Rosa United Juvenis 4-0, tied El Dorado United Crew 3-3, and defeated Sonoma County Alliance 4-1 to advance to the finals. BUSC lost in the finals 5-1 to the Mavericks Cosmos. Pictured are (kneeling, left to right): Nick Carreon, Blake Staniford, Keaton Steuben, Bryce Taylor, Ryan Murray, Ruben McIntosh, Kyle McClanahan, Maysam Sayfurahman. (standing, left to right): Coach Greg Rubendall, Daniel Mubarak, Nathan Fernandez, Garrett Howell, Jared Wilson, Daniel Ferguson, Jacob Guzman, Jimmy Thompson, and Adolfo Trujillo.

Pro Bowling

One A Day Earl Anthony Memorial Classic will take place Wed., Jan. 26 to Sun., Jan. 30 at Earl Anthony's Dublin Bowl, 6750 Regional Street, Dublin.

The City of Dublin has signed on for the second year in a row to be a local sponsor for the Earl Anthony Memorial PBA Open.

The Lumber Liquidators PBA Tour Earl Anthony Memorial is returning to Earl Anthony's Dublin Bowl for its second year in a row, following an 18-year absence. The event is being held from January 26-30 and will conclude with live ESPN television coverage at 11 AM PST on the last day.

"The City is very pleased to offer its support for this exciting event," said Mayor Tim Sbranti. "We believe that this event will help boost tourism in Dublin and the Tri-Valley area, as well as shine a positive spotlight on our community."

The tournament will include pro/am squads on Saturday, January 29, where youth, adult and senior bowlers will have a chance to bowl with the stars of the PBA Tour.

Wednesday, a pro-am event is planned from 7 to 10 p.m.

The round of 64 begins Thurs., Jan. 27, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 to 9 p.m.

The top 32 players bowl Fri., Jan. 28, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. A match play round is 6 to 10 p.m. with the top four advancing to the ESPN finals.

Sat., Jan. 29 will feature Pro-Am events and PBA fan day starting at 9 a.m.

The finals will be broadcast live on ESPN2 starting at 11 a.m. on Sun., Jan. 30.

For more information, call (925) 828-7550

High School Wrestling

Livermore wrestlers finishing third in their divisions were Nico Lang, 114; Tyler Rardon, 142; and Mac Morgan, 162.

Results: James Logan (232.50); Livermore (168.50); Freedom (160.50); Los

Lomas (151.00); Clayton Valley (132.00); Newark Memorial (119.50); Woodland (92.00); Northgate (84.50); College Park (79.00); West Valley (73.00); Terra Linda (68.00); Concord (37.00); Monterey Trail (35.00); De La Salle (32.50); Deer Valley (31.00); Arroyo (28.00); Foothill (24.00); Berkeley (22.00); Clayton Valley B (12.00); Washington (5.00);

CYO Basketball

The St. Michael's/St. Charles (SM/SC) 8th grade girls Wolfpack CYO basketball team worked hard to keep their playoff hopes alive. Playing in their true team spirit the Pack beat St. Joan 35-16 with key plays under the basket, great rebounding by the entire team and everyone putting up attempts. Paige Walker played a key role in the paint locking it down in the second half shutting out the offensive drive of St. Joan. Team Captain, Jordan Volponi, played a solid defense up top while Team Captain, Kelly Borden, sealed the baseline forcing turnovers for St. Joan, bringing down 8 out

of 30 rebounds for the Wolfpack and scoring 6 points. Brandi Meyer played multiple positions along with Alyssa Gonzalez, rotating so that their opponent never knew where they were coming from. Great effort by both girls to keep it all straight and cutting off St. Joan's shot attempts. Sportsmanship leaders, Sarah Partridge, Jessica Elfin and Liz Fleming gave up her own scoring drives to feed their teammates so that everyone was part of the win. Another Wolfpack victory with true teamwork by all.

SM/SC 6th grade Spartans CYO basketball team #604 defeated St. Joan of Arc #606 29-10 in a hard fought game Sunday. Leading the Spartans with 13 points and 5 rebounds was Patrick Schwartz. Frank Gomez and Kavan Bagatelos worked hard on the defensive end with 3 and 4 rebounds respectively while adding 4 points each. Bobby Cantelina also added 4 points while pulling down 2 rebounds and dishing out two assists.

The SM/SC 5th grade girls Swoosh team continues on the road of victory beating

CCOP for the second time this season, 12-6. In true Swoosh form, the entire team contributed with attempts, rebounds, steals and blocked shots. After coming off a 3-month injury, Daniela Walker was a welcomed sight for the Swoosh girls by grabbing 2 steals, 4 rebounds, 2 jump balls and a blocked shot. Her presence was well-known by the CCOP group. Team Captains, Nicole "Tinytels" Bartels and Katie Gomez, along with center Katie Marcel dropped in 8 out of the 12. Guard, Maddy Valone, and forward, Emily March, each added an additional 2 points to secure the win and continue on the playoff road with a 7-0 record.

SM/SC 5th grade boys (#504) lost 28 to 6 to (#502) St. Isidore. SM/SC scored first but just couldn't hold onto the lead. Top scoring players for SM/SC were Jr. Rubio, Grant Blockley and Nicholas Tivey. Marcus Santo Domingo was the top scorer for St. Isidore. Top defensive player for SM/SC were Will Hanson and Colton Morlan. Top defensive players for St. Isidore included Michael Bowen and Griffin Krieger.

SM/SC 408 Gladiators vs (CCOP) 407 (2-42); Nathan Findley scored for the Gladiators with Frankie Silva and Jonathan Nguyen playing hard defense. Antonio Gutierrez, Eliza Duncan and Mason Colwell all played great for CCOP to win 42-2.

In a hard fought game, Catholic Community of Pleasanton (CCOP) 4th grade team came out on top 13-0. Julia Balesteri led the Crushing Orange with 6 points while Allie Simon and Makensie Reese played excellent defense. For the Lazars, Jacqueline Arnold played tough inside with 5 rebounds accompanied by quick steals from Katie Hottinger and strong defence from Jane Abele.

SM/SC CYO 4th grade boys' team (#423), aka Club Penguin, was outscored by St. Joan's (#424), 30-5. Jamie Sprigi and Bryce Stephens were offensive standouts for St. Joan's, while Brett Shapiro was a defensive force with two steals and four rebounds and Elliot O'Grady contributed with three steals and three rebounds. For Club Penguin, the scoreboard didn't do

What Our Readers Are Saying...



My wife Sue and I have been in Pleasanton since 1976 and have been receiving The Independent all those years. It has always done an excellent job of covering subjects and events in the Tri-Valley communities.

I also look forward to The Independent's new online event calendars, which are additional ways The Independent reaches out to this community. In fact, I will try to be sure the meetings and fundraisers of organizations I am involved with are on the Community Events calendar each week.

Tom Fox

Broker Associate with Keller-Williams TriValley Realty, current President of the Rotary Club of Pleasanton, Board of Directors of Rotaplast International, Board of Directors of Children's Emergency Food Bank in Dublin.

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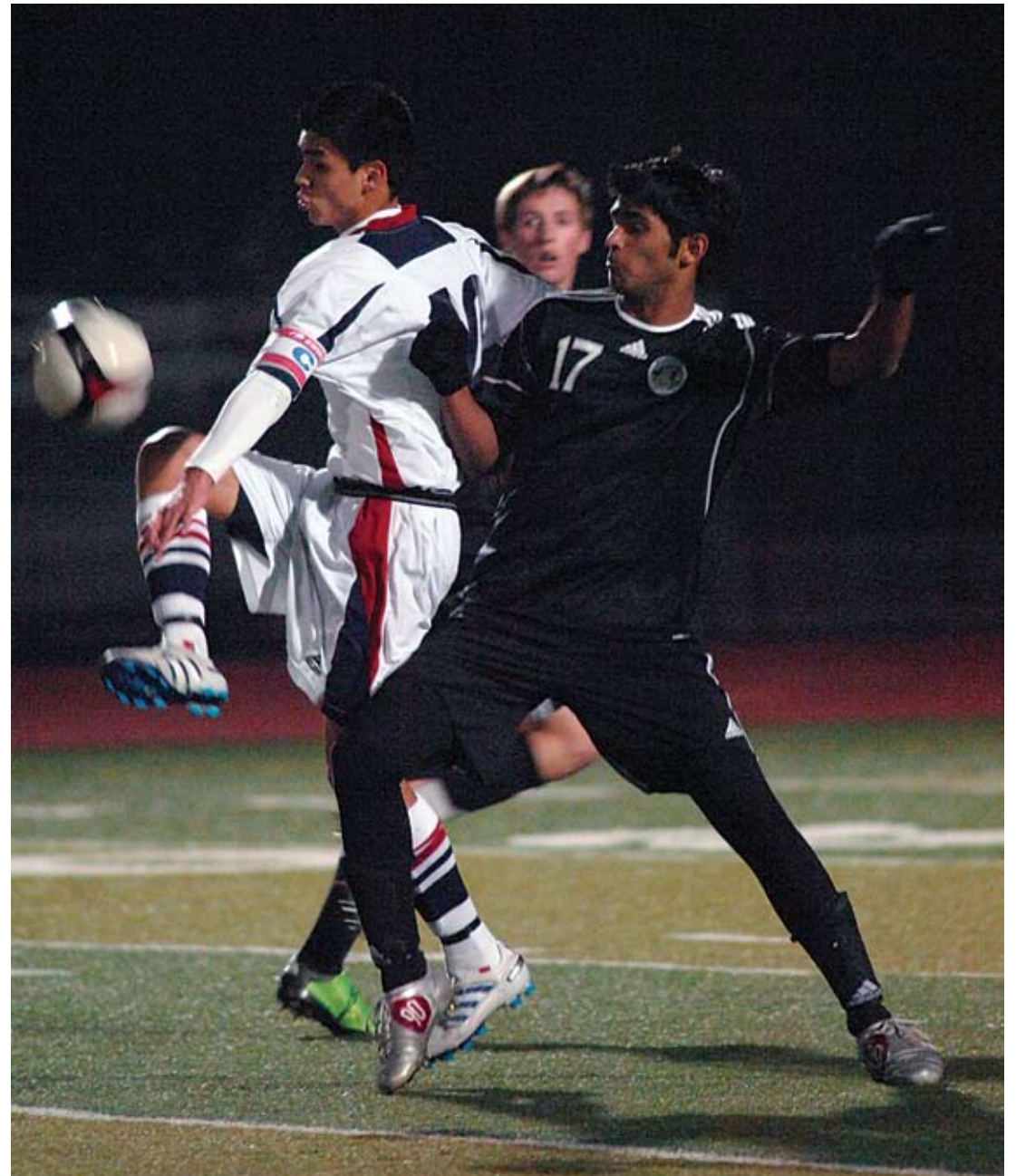
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SPORTS NOTES



Photos - Doug Jorgensen
Granada High School defeated Foothill High School 2 to 1 in EBAL men's varsity soccer action last week. All of the goals were scored in the first half. Christian Clark scored for Foothill; Trevor Long and Garret Foster teamed up for both Granada scores.



Dublin High School defeated rival Dougherty Valley last Wednesday, 3-1. Dublin scored 5 minutes into the match when Oliver Castillo served a perfect pass on a set corner play. Collin Hartland came through a screen and placed a strong shot into the goal. Matt DiGirolamo added 2 penalty kicks as the Gaels dominated the second half of play.

Contreras Is Symbol of Amador's Move Up in Basketball

Jacob Contreras has emerged as a leader on the Amador Valley High School varsity basketball team.

The senior guard has shown steady improvement throughout his high school career, said coach Ralph Field. "Jake definitely is one of our strengths this year. He plays both ends of the court. He is a leading defender and scorer," Fields added.

Field called Contreras "a winner on the court and off. He is taking care of the classroom, and is a captain on the basketball team. I can't say enough good things about him. He is a role model for our younger players."

Contreras' 3.7 grade point average definitely takes care of the academics. He holds down a part-time job as well.

Contreras has been chosen to all-tournament teams in three consecutive high school tournaments. They were the Gold Dust El Dorado High School tourney in Placerville, Amador Valley's ABC Tournament, and the Dublin High School Don Nelson Classic.

In a pre-season game against Alhambra High School, Contreras scored 24 points, collected five rebounds and recorded five steals. Amador Valley won that one 61-36.

The team finished the pre-season with an 8-4 record. As of late last week, they were 3-1 in the regular East Bay Athletic League (EBAL) season. It means they already are ahead of last

year's 2-12 mark for regular season play.

The team has improved, despite the loss of star forward Trevor Guerreri to a torn ACL. Contreras credited the difference to four juniors who have stepped up their play. They are Robert Lewis, Matt Lady, Shaun Hogan and Tyler Lawrence.

Contreras also credits Field for the team improvement. The coach has stressed defense. "We scout a lot of the teams we play. Coach has good stats and film on the best players and plays," said Contreras, who has asked Field to assign him to the opponent's toughest player.

Field is receiving plenty of expert help this year. Steve Cain, his former coach at Milpitas High School, retired, but decided to help Field as an assistant. Field's

Pit Bulls Avenge Earlier Loss; Poised to Make Playoffs

Friday night the East Bay Pit Bulls took on the California Sea Kings on their home floor with a chance to redeem their only home loss handed to them by the Sea Kings on December 12. The game was closely contested until the closing minutes of the fourth quarter when the Pit Bulls pulled away.

The win was led by Tray Britt with 30 points and 5 rebounds. Teohn Conner poured in 29 points with 8 rebounds. Five Pit Bulls were in double figures, in

668 wins over 38 years are more than any other high school coach's in California history.

Chris Morewood, another assistant to Field, also coached at Milpitas. "We had a great run there," said Field. "I'm proud to have him working with me."

Besides Contreras, the other co-captains on the team are Brandon King and Nate Johansen. The trio has played together since the sixth grade. When they were 8th graders at Harvest Park Middle School, they won the 8th grade championship against other schools in Pleasanton, Dublin and Livermore.

Looking ahead, Contreras has applied to Sacramento State and Sonoma State, and plans to study the science of kinetics.

As to college basketball, Contreras said he hasn't looked into it yet, but might decide to play at the college level.

the 122-108 win, doubling the point spread of the previous loss to the Sea Kings.

With the win, the team improved its home record to 8-1 and 8-3 overall, placing Pit Bulls in the top ten of the ABA Nationally and positioning the team to make the ABA playoffs.

The Pit Bulls face rival Bay Area Matrix, this Friday night, January 21st at 7pm and Chico Rage Sunday, January 23rd at Las Positas College, 3000 Campus Hill Drive, Livermore.

justice to highlight the team's admirable efforts. Offensively, Logan Finch and Brandon Harvey scored for the team with three and two points respectively, while defensive honors go to Forest Bishop, Eric Valdez and Ben Legat who all contributed with many rebounds and steals.

The SM/SC 4th grade Boys Ninjas (SMSC409) played against CCOP 414 on Sunday, January 9. While the Ninjas fought hard the entire game, they lost to CCOP 33-14. Lead scorers for the Ninjas were Joshua Collom and Jordan Collom. On defense, Joshua Collom also lead in rebounds and Cameron Schrader lead in steals. The loss brings their record to 5-2 for the season.

2BN4 Warriors vs the 2BN9 Warriors. It was an exciting afternoon of basketball. Dylan Cole scored many baskets for the 2BN4 Warriors. Jacob Bryant and Charlie Latkowski did a super job playing point guard for their team. Top players for the 2BN9 Warriors were Collin McDowell, Jacob Bohart, Dylan Levine and Reggie Wade.

Water Polo

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District held the largest 14 and under water polo tournament yet with twenty teams participating this past weekend. There were 6 games three for level one teams and three for level two.

In the Level one games, LARPD LAZERS played great water polo. They were overpowering on offense. On defense Drew Kobayashi and Joey Kunzler played well. The two newest players, Claire Piazza and Kayley Clark, played really well. Scott Ragatz did an amazing job in the cage and even scored twice in level 2.

Level two players were looking great at the end of the day firing on all cylinders. Jessica Elfin was the shark in the water on Saturday with 8 goals and over 10 steals. Eli Smith was the wall in the cage. He didn't let much get past him and made great passes to the drivers all the way down the pool. Max Zhuang played with great enthusiasm and really helped the team on both offense and defense.

The LAZERS will play again on the January 29th, come out and watch at the

LARPD Community Pool.

Bocce Kits for Rent

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

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

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

The Robert Livermore Community Cen-

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

NorCal Grizzlies Baseball

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

Roller Hockey Signup

Valley Inline Hockey in Livermore is getting ready for Spring with Youth League signups. Signups will be Saturday, Jan 30 and February 6 at the rink 11am-1pm. The rink is located behind Junction Ave. Middle School with parking off Ladd Ave. Leagues include Mites (ages 6 and under) free learn to play and skate class; Squirts (ages 7-8), PeeWees (9-12), and Bantams (13-16). Equipment can be borrowed as long as the participants have skates. Session starts mid-March. For more details on costs and league call us at 925-443-1500 or check the web at www.valleyrollerhockey.net

PGSL Registration

2011 Registration is still open for all divisions in the Pleasanton Phantom Girls Softball League. All girls living in Pleasanton, Dublin and Sunol are eligible to play. Two ways to register: 1) Online

at www.pleasantonsoftball.org; 2) Mail-in: PGSL, P.O. Box 911, Pleasanton, CA 94566 (download a registration form from our website). Late fee of \$25 applied after

11/30/10. For more information or questions, email Christine Tanis at christine.t@pleasantonsoftball.org.



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Livermore High School Senior Kevin Lois Headed to Annapolis in June

By Patricia Koning

For most high school seniors, the days of checking the mail for college admissions letters—and hoping for the fat envelope—are over, as most universities notify applicants by email. However, it was through a knock at the door and a special delivery letter that Kevin Lois, a senior at Livermore High School (LHS), learned he'd been accepted into the United States Naval Academy.

The letter arrived on Christmas Eve. It came as a welcome surprise to the family. In November, Kevin received his Letter of Assurance from the Naval Academy, indicating the intent to extend an Offer of Appointment provided he met all of the remaining requirements—an interview, medical exam, fitness assessment, and nomination.

That last requirement had the Lois family worried. To receive an Offer of Appointment, applicants must obtain a nomination from an official source—a U.S. Representative, U.S. Senator, the President, or the Vice President. Nominations are also available for members of the Navy and Marine Corps and Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC); children of deceased or disabled veterans, including prisoners of war and missing in action; and children of Medal of Honor Awardees.

"We're not politically connected," explains John Lois, Kevin's father. "We're nobodies so we were very concerned about the nomination." Kevin applied for nominations from both U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein and U.S. Representative John Garamendi. The nominations are limited, as each member of Congress



Kevin Lois

can only have five constituents attending the Naval Academy at any time.

When Kevin received his Offer of Appointment, he knew he must have secured a nomination, but he wasn't sure from whom. A few days later, Feinstein's office called to let him know he was her principal nominee. About another week later he learned he was also Garamendi's principal nominee. Kevin declined Garamendi's

nomination so it could go to another candidate.

For Kevin, knowing he'll be inducted into the Naval Academy on June 30 is very exciting and a huge relief. "I've been so relaxed ever since I found out," he says. "Now I can just enjoy my life until it's time to leave."

While Kevin applied to other universities—he received \$40,000 scholarships to the University of California Davis and

the University of the Pacific—he says the Naval Academy was all that he wanted.

When he began thinking about college, John, an Oakland Police Officer, suggested he consider the Naval Academy. "I thought it might be a good fit, so I wanted to expose him to it," John explains. "I just wanted him to have choices."

With a 4.4 grade point average, community service tutoring non-English speakers, Interact Club, and two varsity sports—baseball and cross-country—Kevin likely could have attended any college he wanted. However, he was intrigued by the Naval Academy and began learning more.

Last June he attended the Naval Academy's Summer Seminar, a six-day experience for students entering their senior year of high school. In the Summer Seminar, Kevin lived the life of a midshipman and experienced the academics, athletics, extracurricular activities, and leadership training programs.

"We were woken up at 5 am every morning, exercising like crazy, getting yelled at—everything that happens in the plebe summer—and I loved it," he says. "Everything about that week made me want to go to the Naval Academy."

That began the application process, what Kevin and John term "the journey." As he returned home, Kevin began working on his application, which included obtaining recommendations from teachers, applying for the Congressional nomination, writing essays, and preparing for the fitness assessment, which includes at least 40 pushups and 65

sit-ups in two minutes and a 1.5 mile run in under 10.5 minutes, among other challenges.

Even though he started filling out the application last summer, Kevin feels he's been preparing for the Naval Academy since childhood. "My parents instilled good study habits in me and taught me always to do my best," he says. "I made a lot of sacrifices to achieve straight A's. School doesn't come easy to me. Sometimes my friends didn't understand why I would choose studying over them. But I could see the big picture."

Sports, he thinks, made him mentally tough. John coached Kevin in baseball for three years, on a travel team that won a National Championship in 2004. "As a catcher, I get beaten up a lot," says Kevin. "But I love being that person who can do something no one else can."

John and his wife Colleen feel they made sacrifices as parents too. "It was tough love. My children have known training and discipline from an early age," says John. "They know the important thing is to try your best. It was not an easy thing to do, but as parents, we also had to see the big picture."

Kevin's identical twin sisters Jessica and Ashley, both sophomores at LHS, say he is an inspiration. "He made it look so easy. We understand how hard it was to get into the Naval Academy," says Jessica.

Ashley adds that Kevin is a role model and she's proud to be his sister. "I tell everyone that he's going to the Naval Academy, not in a bragging way, but because I'm so happy," she

says. "It makes me want to go there too."

Hearing the siblings talk, it's not clear who is inspiring whom. "They inspire me every day. They work so hard at school and are amazing soccer players," Kevin says. "I wanted to be a role model, to set a good example for them."

After four years, Kevin will graduate with an engineering degree. He will owe the U.S. military four years of service. His dream is to become a fighter pilot—flying an F-18 he says, would be the icing on the cake. Every additional year of education means another year of service, so if he attends the two-year flight school, his service requirement will be six years.

For anyone interested in attending the Naval Academy, Kevin recommends starting early and becoming familiar with the program. "Look at online sources, talk to people who have been there or know someone who attended the Naval Academy," he says. "The Summer Seminar was amazing. It's what sealed the deal for me. I thought I knew what the Academy was about. I had no idea what it entails until I'd been there."

John says parents should be aware that everything their children do counts, even from an early age. "Stay out of trouble, because they (the academy) look at everything," he says. "The Naval Academy expects perfection everywhere. It's really a lifelong journey."

For more information, visit www.usna.edu.

SHORT NOTES

Red Cross

The American Red Cross Northern California Blood Services Region was honored by both the Pleasanton and Livermore City Councils at their recent meetings.

Mayor Marshall Kamena presented a proclamation to the Red Cross in recognition of National Blood Donor Month. He encouraged Livermore residents to donate blood and thanked the members of the community who already donate for others in need.

Councilmember Cindy McGovern read the proclamation in Pleasanton.

January is typically a difficult month for the Red Cross to meet its commitment to local hospitals due to a lack of blood donors. This is often attributed to holiday fatigue, illness and bad weather. Since 1970, January has been recognized as National Blood Donor Month. To help ensure an adequate blood supply, the Red Cross stresses the importance of donating blood to help save lives.

Thomas Petty, a Livermore resident, community blood drive sponsor and member of the Red Cross regional Board of Directors, accepted the proclamation and informed the City Council of an upcoming blood drive at

Emma C. Smith Elementary School on Thursday, Jan. 27 from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. The school is located at 391 Ontario Drive in Livermore.

In Pleasanton, he mentioned the blood donor center at 5556-B Springdale Avenue Pleasanton as a location where those who wish to could donate blood. Information is available at (925) 468-1800.

Every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood. More than 38,000 blood donations are needed every day. This year alone, as many as five million patients will require blood transfusions, as accident victims, people undergoing surgery, and patients receiving treatment for leukemia, cancer and other diseases.

Call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org to schedule an appointment.

Individuals who are at least 17 years old (16 with parental permission), meet height and weight requirements (at least 110 pounds based on height) and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood.

Nature Programs

Two programs are planned for Saturday, Jan. 22 by the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District ranger staff.

The first, Predators, will take place starting at 10 a.m. at Veterans Park. They kill for a living—all branches of the evolutionary tree have them: Predators. Birds, mammals, insects and even plants all have killers in the family. Join this ranger program to learn about a few of the predators that have existed in the past and those that rule today.

At 2 p.m., there will be a Winter Compass Course at Veterans Park. This time of year, the creeks are flowing and the ground is soft. Come explore the less-traveled areas of the park in search of the illusive markers along the way. No prior experience or compass required. This program will include an approximate two-mile cross-country walk, so hiking-appropriate shoes are recommended.

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

Police Academy Enrollment

Enrollment is now open for the Spring 2011 session of the Pleasanton Police Department Academy. The session begins February 17 and concludes May 26. There are four meetings each

held on Thursdays from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Pleasanton Police Department.

The Citizen Academy is a classroom setting with a mixture of lectures, demonstrations, and learn-to-do activities. The goals of the program are to create closer partnerships with the community, explain law enforcement procedures, and to discuss the importance of public involvement in the policing process. Topics of instruction include community policing, patrol procedures, radio communications, SWAT, narcotics/voice, crime prevention, traffic enforcement, K9, evidence collection, use of force, animal services, and DARE. This is a free course.

The program is open to adults only. Applicants will be carefully screened. Participants must live or work in the City of Pleasanton.

Applications are available at the front counter of the Pleasanton Police Department by contacting the Academy Coordinator Sgt. Leigh Ridgers at 931-5169 or lridders@ci.pleasanton.ca.us.

Native Gardens

Registration for the Sunday, May 1, 2011 Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour is now open! Register now at <http://bringingbackthenatives.net/> to

receive a garden guide in the first mailing. A variety of bird- and butterfly-friendly, pesticide-free, water conserving, low maintenance gardens that contain 50% or more native plants will be open on Sunday, May 1, 2011, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at various locations throughout Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

More than 40 garden talks will be scheduled throughout the day. Visit "Preview the Gardens" <http://bringingbackthenatives.net/preview-2011-gardens> to read garden descriptions, view garden photos, and download plant lists.

Native plants will be sold at numerous locations over the course of the week-end in the Tour's Native Plant Sale Extravaganza; details will be added soon at <http://bringingbackthenatives.net/native-plant-sale-extravaganza>.

The Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour has been free since its inception because we want to get the word out far and wide about the benefits to all of us that come from gardening with native plants. However, given decreasing public agency support in this era of budget cutting, we find it necessary to turn to you, our participants and supporters, to help us keep the tour going

and to help keep it free to those who cannot afford to pay. It takes time and money to put on the tour and prepare all of the materials. If you are able to help defray the expense of putting on this annual educational and inspirational event, we would truly grateful for your assistance. Please follow the instructions in the registration form to make your contribution, or you can donate here <http://bringingbackthenatives.net/please-donate>.

Teen Career Development Fair Planned in February

The City of Pleasanton has partnered with the cities of San Ramon and Dublin and the Dublin/San Ramon Women's Club to present a Teen Career Development

Fair on Saturday, February 5. This free event will take place from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Pleasanton Senior Center, located at 5353 Sunol Boulevard in Pleasanton.

Teens ages 14 through 19 will have the opportunity to attend a series of workshops on Finance Management; Social Networking and Use of Media; Job Search,

Research, and Applications Process; Public Sector Jobs; Interview Techniques; How to be a Great Volunteer; and Resume Development.

The event will also feature panel discussions on College Preparation and Skills/Trades, and a mock interview session.

For more information, please call (925) 931-3432.

Openings in Jr. Ranger Program

It's not too late to sign your kids up to make a connection with the outdoors this winter and spring.

The Junior Rangers program for the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District invites youth ages 9 to 13 to join the park rangers for a program filled with fun, nature exploration and adventure.

The program meets two

Saturdays a month from January to June in Sycamore Grove and Veterans parks. In addition to regular meetings, there will be two overnight campouts in the park.

The Junior Rangers hike, play games and do nature studies while learning about maps, compasses, plants, animals and more. This year, the group will also do a field trip to Morgan Territory Regional Preserve north

of Livermore.

Past participants in the Junior Rangers program exhibit a lifelong love for nature, with careers such as environmental education teacher, oceanographer, environmental law, wilderness guides and park ranger—including two of LARPD's own staff rangers.

The six month program is now \$10 off and costs a total of \$215. The next meeting will be held Saturday, Jan. 22. For more information, call the LARPD Ranger Office at 925-960-2400. Registration can be done online at www.larpd.dst.ca.us or by calling 925-373-5700.

Relay for Life Begins 10th Year in Livermore

A kick-off event for the 10th annual Livermore Relay For Life will be held January 27 at 6:30 p.m. at Cattleman's Restaurant in Livermore.

Relay For Life is the American Cancer Society's flagship annual fundraiser. Relays take place all over the country. For the tenth consecutive year, Livermore will have its own Relay. Last year over \$216,000 was raised for cancer research at the Livermore Relay.

To learn more on how the

event works, how to start a team, and how much fun the event can be, please come attend the kick off on January 27 at 6:30pm at Cattleman's Restaurant in Livermore. There will be plenty of people there to talk about the event. There will be some very special stories shared.

For questions, please contact Vicki Tan at or firstmeow@fantastictan.com. You may also find information or register at www.LivermoreRelayForLife.com.

LIVERMORE CINEMAS		2490 FIRST STREET 443-SHOW
NO STRINGS ATTACHED (R) DLP THX	1:20 4:15 6:55 9:40	
THE SOCIAL NETWORK (PG13) DLP	12:55 3:50 6:30 9:20	
THE GREEN HORNET 3D(PG13) DLP D-BOX	1:05 4:00 6:45 9:30	
THE GREEN HORNET 3D(PG13) DLP THX	12:10 3:00 6:05 8:45	
THE DILEMMA (PG13) DLP	1:00 4:25 7:05 9:40	
THE KINGS SPEECH (R) DLP	12:45 4:10 6:50 9:35	
TRUE GRIT (PG13) DLP	11:50 12:35 2:20 3:15 4:50 6:10 7:20 8:40 9:50	
LITTLE FOCKERS (PG13) DLP	12:05 2:25 4:55 7:15 9:45	
TRON LEGACY 3D (PG) DLP	12:20 4:00 7:00 9:45	
TANGLED 2D (PG) DLP	1:10 4:00 6:40 9:00	
THE FIGHTER (R) DLP	12:50 4:05 7:10 9:50	
SEASON OF THE WITCH (PG13) DLP	6:50 9:10	
CHRONICLES OF NARNIA-DAWN TREADER(PG) DLP	12:45 4:05	

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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.)

Theater Funding Patricia Grimes Livermore

The people behind the Bankhead Theater want to build a 2000 seat 9-story high theater in the Livermore downtown area. They believe that even with the economy so depressed, there will be sufficient moneyed patrons to fill such a huge space and make it a viable project. Unfortunately, they have been unable to find any lenders with such an optimistic view, so they have asked the City of Livermore to use the general fund (source of police, fire, libraries and other city services) to guarantee their loan for the next 30 years.

Citizens who believe that gambling with the general fund is fiscally irresponsible and should not happen have created an on-line petition to be sent to the city council. It may be read and signed at www.ipetitions.com/petition/protectlivermorepublicservices.

This petition asks the council to refrain from risking the city's money unless that action is supported by a vote of the public. If

you support this view, please let the council know by going to the address above and adding your name to the petition.

Community Thanked Operation: S.A.M. (Supporting All Military) P.O. Box 2992 Livermore, CA 94551

Operation: S.A.M. would like to express a sincere thank you to our community for its continued support. Even when times are tough, there are those who can have continued to support our deployed troops with their heartfelt generosity and kindness. With your help, Operation: S.A.M., "Supporting All Military" has been able to support in excess of 27,000 men and women currently serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and other overseas countries. We could not have accomplished this without the dedication from our community and our volunteers. Thank you for helping Operation: S.A.M. to assure our troops, on a continuous basis, that our communities' thoughts and prayers are with them and they have not been forgotten. The need for this support is great and the troops on the receiving end are more than appreciative - they are humbled. . . . We are very proud to say SAM and our supporters have become the extended family for some and sadly the only family for many.

Operation: S.A.M. is a Livermore based all-volunteer 501(c)3 not-for-profit group of concerned citizens dedicated to the on-going support of our troops. We meet

every other week all year long - rain or shine, assemble comfort packages and ship to our deployed service members. We are honored to serve as the avenue of our community's kindness bringing our troops reminders from home.

In these dangerous and sometimes very austere conditions, it is incredibly important our troops can remain confident and focused. Just receiving a note or letter from a child can provide the sometimes needed encouragement and hope - a tangible glimmer that America is aware and feels blessed to have so many men and women protecting our Freedom.

We appreciate your unconditional support so Operation: S.A.M. can continue our mission. Be assured, SAM proudly stands committed to our troops and to our community until they all return home. Information is available at www.operationsam.org

BioSafety Beverly King Livermore

Livermore Lab has been operating a high level BioSafety Level-3 Laboratory in a prefabricated building for two years without ever completing a thorough Environmental Impact Statement. In this facility researchers experiment on some of the most dangerous pathogens known to man, such as anthrax, bubonic plague, Q fever and botulism.

Since the Anthrax attacks of 2001 (which were found to have

originated at a federal biolab at Fort Detrick, MD) many new biological agent research facilities have been authorized and funded by the Feds. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report finding that the total number of labs in the US was not even known. Additionally, GAO found that many of the facilities are redundant and do duplicative research. How of these potentially dangerous facilities do we need? Does it make sense for LLNL, traditionally a nuclear weapons research lab, to have this program?

In my opinion, our community does not need it. We already deal with the environmental and human health impacts of having radioactive materials experimented on in our community; this just adds insult to injury. And now I hear that DOE is planning to construct another biolab at Los Alamos Lab. Thankfully, Tri-Valley CAREs, our local environmental advocacy group, is using every legal means to challenge these dangerous facilities. I urge others to support their work to stop this.

Economic Recovery Aaron Latkin Livermore

Our present economic condition is much worse than we have been led to believe. We borrowed too much, we spent too much, we owe too much, and we expect too much. There is no free lunch, no free dinner, and no free wars. To believe that a recovery from the present recession would be

similar to the Great Depression is wishful thinking. Now we are encouraged to continue the policy of unlimited spending, which was one of the major contributors to the present recession.

After World War II we had everything going for us to enable our recovery from the Great Depression. Our production facilities were intact while the rest of the world was in shambles. We had pent-up domestic demand for goods and services that could be paid for with the savings of war production workers wages, much of the savings were invested in war bonds. Even many of our armed forces put a significant amount of their meager wages into war bonds. At the same time, foreign demand for our products was gathering steam from markets all over the world, much of it encouraged by the Marshall Plan, which gave the European countries the wherewithal to support our industrial production.

We came out of the war with a spirit of cooperation and sacrifice. We were endowed with a kinder, gentler and functioning government that would take care of its veterans with adequate monetary, educational, and medical benefits. It was a different world from the mean spirited one in which we now live. Unless we make some drastic changes in our life-style we may never recover.

State Budget Kenneth Nather Livermore

For the past 35 years California Governors, Senators and

Assemblymen have acted like the Treasury held an infinite amount of money and that it was their duty to spend as much as possible. The elected and self-anointed thought they could continue the spree and that there would never be repercussions to their outrageous actions. Surprise! There are repercussions!

California is bankrupt, but the elected self-anointed still will not cut the budgets. You elected and self-anointed must cut every budget. No sacred cows allowed. The budget sent out by "Moonbeam" protects the unions and the pension plans, raises taxes. Somehow you elected and self-anointed folks must wake up.

Businesses and retiring people are leaving California in great numbers.

Their replacements are Illegal Aliens, whoops correction Undocumented Workers, who essentially pay no taxes. They are a terrific drain on the California Treasury.

Please cut every budget by 10% this year and plan a 5% reduction per year for the next ten years. No new taxes or fees. Protect Proposition 13.

We seem to outsource many things. I recommend that we outsource the California's penal system. I bet that the prisoners could be housed in Siberia or China for about 65% of the cost of keeping them here. I believe if we out-sourced them, when their terms were up we would see fewer repeat criminals.

OBITUARIES

Grayson Hund

Grayson Anthony Hund passed away Friday, January 14, 2011, surrounded by his loving family who adored him. Grayson was 16 years old. He was a Livermore resident.



Grayson was born in Walnut Creek, California, on September 9, 1994. Grayson attended several schools in his lifetime in the Dublin and Pleasanton School Districts. All of them had a tremendous positive impact on Grayson's life and his family. Grayson also attended Easter Seal's Kaleidoscope after school program in Dublin with many classmates. He made many new friends while participating in this wonderful and enriching program.

During many summers, Grayson attended Camp Arroyo, in Livermore, through the Exceptional Needs Network (ENN) camp program. ENN was established by Grayson's mother and other parents of special needs children. ENN is where Grayson and his family established a network of lifetime family and friends.

Most recently, Grayson attended Foothill High School in Pleasanton. It is there where Grayson was treated with absolute kindness and compassion by an incredible and loving staff, for which Grayson's family is forever grateful.

Grayson is survived by his loving mother and father, Valerie and Tony Hund, his sisters, Ashley and Vanessa Hund, his grandparents, Rene and Mimi Vedrine, Jerry and Marie Hund, many aunts, uncles and cousins, and an abundance of loving friends.

Grayson taught his family more about life and love than they ever knew was possible.

Grayson had a smile that could light up everyone's day and had an unforgettable infectious laugh. Many say they can still hear Grayson's joyful laughter. Those who knew him well will never forget his hearty appetite and genuine love of good food! Grayson found himself most at peace in the water. This is where he spent many happy hours in his swimming pool, right in his own back yard.

Bubby, you will always be our gentle giant who gave us a precious gift that we will carry with us "to infinity and beyond."

Mass of the Christian Burial will be celebrated on Thursday, January 20, 2011 at 11:00 am at St. Michael Catholic Church, 458 Maple St., Livermore, CA, with burial to follow at St. Michael Catholic Cemetery 3885 East Ave, Livermore.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations be made to the Exceptional Needs Network in memory of Grayson Hund. www.ennnetwork.org P.O. Box 3149 Livermore, CA 94551.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

Christino B. Tejada

Christino B. Tejada died January 8, 2011. He had been a resident of Livermore since 1945.

Chris was born in Ilocos Sur, Luzon, Philippines on July 21, 1912. He served in the US Navy, and was a World War II Veteran.

He married Ruth Harding 1945. Chris retired from the Livermore Radiation Lab in 1967. He enjoyed gardening and enjoyed passing on his knowledge of roses.

He is survived by a son and his son's wife, Bernie and Karen Tejada of Napa; grandson and wife Steve and Sheri Tejada of Discovery Bay, granddaughter and husband Christine and Clark Morris of Salinas, and great grandchildren Colin and Jared Tejada and Jacqueline and Jake Morris. He was preceded in death by his wife Ruth and a daughter

Nancy.

Services will be held at Roselawn Cemetery, North Livermore Avenue, at 1:30 p.m. on Thurs., Jan. 20.

In lieu of flowers please send donations to St. Jude's Children's Hospital or Shriners Hospital in Sacramento, CA.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

Theresa Maria Pavlick



Today we celebrate the life of Theresa Maria Pavlick as she gently passed on December 30, 2010. Her five loving children Stephen, Karen, Michael, Frank, and Chrissy, her grandchildren Henry and Charlie; her sisters Rosemary Pensyl and Dolores Schwartz; along with extended family and friends will miss her gentle, caring, generous, and enormous heart. All of those she met, she touched.

Originally from Dallas, PA, Theresa made her home in Pleasanton, CA which became her favorite town, before moving to Melbourne, FL. Her zest for life was apparent when she went to college in her forties, joined the Forensic Team, won numerous awards for her speeches and graduated with honors. She expressed her life through poetry, drawings, paintings, piano, singing, volunteering, floral arrangements, and gardening. However, her greatest joy was being the best Mom ever. She now returns home to be with Jesus, along with her husband Frank and loved ones. She is forever in our hearts.

Arrangements entrusted to South Brevard Funeral Home, Melbourne, FL (321) 724-2222.

Her Funeral Mass was at Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church, Indialantic, FL on January 6, 2010. The family will then honor Theresa's life at Mountain View

Cemetery, 5000 Piedmont Avenue, Oakland, CA on January 18, 2011 at 1 p.m. Share memories and sign the family guestbook at www.affuneral.com

John Edward Flatley

Pleasanton resident John Edward Flatley passed peacefully on Dec. 22, 2010 of heart failure. He was born on Jan. 6, 1930 in New York City to John and Beatrice Flatley.

He was raised in the Bronx, the second of seven children. He is survived by his wife, Eleanor, children Michael, Ann and Joseph; son-in-law Ken; grandchildren James, Claire, Matt, Tim, Luke, Amy and Lizzie; sisters Helen and Irene; brothers Thomas and Peter.

Jack began his military career in 1948 as an aircraft mechanic in the Army Air Corps during the Berlin Airlift. He was accepted into the Naval Aviation Cadet program to become a pilot and officer. He and Eleanor met soon after his arrival at his first duty station in Coronado. Jack flew and served as a line officer until his retirement as a Commander in 1970. He thoroughly enjoyed his second career at the Lawrence Livermore Lab as an electronic technician.

Following his retirement, Jack and Elli took their RV to the desert to prospect, the beach for sunsets and the mountains for hiking and stargazing. He was often found tinkering in his garage and could improve or repair just about anything. His grandkids saved their broken toys for his next visit, because they knew he could fix them. He ran long before it was popular and took up windsurfing in his 70s. He loved fishing, cooking, talk radio, politics, tools, flashlights, and growing tomatoes.

Most of all he loved his

friends and neighbors and their families, and his own. He is sorely missed.

A Memorial Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. on Sat., Jan. 22 at St. Elizabeth seton Catholic Church, 4001 Stoneridge Dr., Pleasanton. Interment will be at Sacramento Valley National Cemetery in Dixon, CA.

Colonel Dan Thomas Muat, USAF (Ret)



Dan passed away peacefully, surrounded by family and the incredibly compassionate and caring staff at the Livermore VA Hospital on January 10, 2011. He was a resident of Livermore. Dan was born in Long Beach, CA on February 19, 1923. He graduated from Fremont High in Oakland in 1940.

During WWII Dan co-piloted B-24 bombers completing 30

missions with the 8th Air Force in England including the D-Day attack. Subsequently he joined the Oakland Fire Department serving 28 years at Engine#4 Truck#2 at East 14th and 12th Ave. He served in the USAF Reserves until 1973 retiring as a full Colonel. He piloted C-119, C-124, C-141 in support of the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Berlin Crisis, and the Vietnam War.

Dan was preceded in passing by his loving wife of 62 years, Helen Katherine. They are survived by their children, Dan Jr, Roger, and Susan Osborn, 6 grandchildren, and 5 great grandchildren. Dan and Helen were a devoted and loving couple and parents. They enjoyed family, extensive world travel and life-long friends in their retirement.

Friends and family are invited to visit with Dan on Friday, Jan 21, 2011 from 12pm - 2pm, with funeral service to follow at the Chapel of Callaghan Mortuary 3833 East Ave, Livermore.

Dan will be laid to rest with his beloved Helen Katherine at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, VA

In lieu of flowers, Dan would appreciate your donation to the Oakland Children's Hospital, www.childrenshospitaloakland.

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Grayson Hund

Mass of Christian Burial, Thurs., Jan 20th, 11AM
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Burial to follow at St. Michael Cemetery

Dan Muat

Visitation, Fri., Jan 21st, 12-2PM with
Funeral Service to follow, 2PM at Callaghan's Chapel
Interment at Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia

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Marshburn Burton

Inurnment at San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery

Linda Mitchell

Inurnment at Roseburg Memorial Gardens, Oregon

Mieko Roessler

Memorial Service, Fri., Jan 21st, 4PM at Callaghan Mortuary

For all of your funeral pre-need questions and answers, please call Teri @ (925) 447-2942 for your personal appointment.
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Lam Research Corporation held a ribbon cutting ceremony at its new facility in Livermore.

Lam Introduces Itself to the Community

Lam Research Corporation hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony at its new Livermore facility last Friday. The occasion further signaled the company's growth, as it expands both its market share and manufacturing capacity.

The facility, which includes 110,151-square feet of manufacturing and office space will serve as the primary hub for the volume manufacturing of the company's state-of-the-art etch systems that are used in the production of

semiconductor devices.

Lam Research employs approximately 450 full time, part time and temporary workers at its Livermore facility, and another 250 people are working in support of Lam Research at a new 191,000-square foot parts warehouse operated by its outsourced service provider, Menlo Logistics.

As a new resident of Livermore, and in keeping with its long history of community in-

volvement, Lam Research made a \$10,000 grant to the Project Roadrunner food pantry at the Marilyn Avenue Elementary School. The company also announced today that it is teaming with Livermore's local high schools—Granada and Livermore High—awarding a \$10,000 scholarship to a graduating senior every year at both of these schools.

Bridgelux Appoints Chief Sales & Marketing Officer

Bridgelux Inc. has announced that David W. Plumer, Jr. has joined the company in the newly created global role of Chief Sales & Marketing Officer. Plumer brings to his new position more than 30 years of multinational sales, marketing, operations, and general management experience across the information technology, clean technology, and energy management industries.

Bridgelux, located in Livermore, is a leading developer and manufacturer of LED lighting technologies and solutions.

Plumer comes to Bridgelux from American Power Conversion (APC), as President of their Asia Pacific/Japan Region and Senior Vice President of the company's global IT Business Unit reporting to the CEO. Plumer was responsible for leading sales, marketing and services. He grew their Asia business dramatically over the past 5 years, securing APC's position as one of the world's leading IT/Energy Man-

agement companies by focus on delivery of exceptional customer value through highly innovative, energy efficient and low cost solutions combined with rapid expansion of channel partners and development of long-term, strategic customer and alliance relationships. The overall growth and business success of APC culminated in its \$6B cash acquisition by Schneider Electric Corporation, a worldwide specialist in energy management.

"The lighting industry is at an inflection point where the introduction of a disruptive technology, solid state lighting, into a large, legacy market is presenting tremendous opportunities for the creation of new markets and applications, said Bill Watkins, Bridgelux CEO. "David has spent his entire career with world-class corporations that successfully built entire businesses by introducing disruptive technologies into incumbent

markets, owning those markets and then leveraging that technology into new applications. He has developed significant talent and an excellent track record of performance in the areas of strategic customer relationships, market penetration and expansion, team management and overall business operations. I am confident that he will be a tremendous asset to the Bridgelux team."

Prior to joining APC, Plumer was with IBM where he held a number of executive management positions in sales, marketing, product management and technology operations and invested half his career based in Asia, leading rapid growth in those emerging markets.

Plumer has an MBA from the Amos Tuck School of Business, Dartmouth College, NH with distinction as an Edward Tuck Scholar and a BA summa cum laude in Economics from Union College, NY.

Hydrogen Driven Taxi Shuttle Service On the Road at the Lab

Employees at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory may notice a new look to two of the vehicles that provide taxi shuttle service at the Lab's main site: As the banners on these taxis indicate, they run on pure hydrogen. This results in near zero CO2 emissions at the point source.

These hydrogen taxis are part of a Department of Energy (DOE) funded deployment of hydrogen powered vehicles and fueling infrastructure at nine federal facilities across the country to demonstrate this market-ready advanced technology. Produced and leased by Ford Motor Company, one 12-passenger bus and one nine-passenger bus with wheelchair capability will complement LLNL's existing diesel-fueled taxis. They are part of LLNL's strategy for an energy sustainable future and a cleaner environment.

With very few cost and technical issues limiting commercialization and deployment, hydrogen-powered vehicles can help create the demand needed



Hydrogen driven shuttle service at the Lab.

to support the development of a hydrogen refueling infrastructure. The taxis will be refueled on site using technology supplied by Air Products.

The DOE is actively engaged in market transformation efforts to demonstrate hydrogen and fuel cell technologies and educate the public about the safety, energy security and environmental

advantages of hydrogen as a transportation fuel.

The project is a collaboration between Lawrence Livermore and Sandia national laboratories. The taxis will offer the opportunity for Lab personnel and the public to learn more about hydrogen fueled vehicles. Several educational community outreach activities are being planned for the future.

GOLD

(continued from page one)

Sirah from Ghilmetti vineyard. Relative newcomer, Nottingham Cellars, scored a Double Gold for its 2009 Chardonnay, unoaked. This is a desirably crisp, clean, breezy and totally sunny wine in its disposition. Good fruit, like gals with naturally awesome skin, can go without makeup.

Murietta's Well scored a Double Gold for the 2008 Livermore Valley Zazueta Tempranillo, as well as for the 2007 Livermore Valley Los Tesoros Red Meritage.

Wente received a Double Gold for 2009 Livermore Valley Morning Fog Chardonnay, as dependable as the fog itself. They doubled up again with Double Gold for the 2007 Arroyo Seco Reliz Creek Pinot Noir. Karl and team also struck Gold for the 2009 Livermore Valley Louis Mel Sauvignon Blanc, and for the delightfully complex and rich 2008 Arroyo Seco Nth Degree Pinot Noir.

Cuda Ridge was among the few multiple Gold winners for strictly Livermore Valley fruit, with a Gold for the 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon, marking the second year in a row that the winery's Cab has won Gold at this competition, and the other for the 2008 Cabernet Franc. The 2008 Cuda Ridge Malbec won Silver.

Darcie Kent scored two Golds, both for whites, from Monterey. Darcie Kent Vineyard 2009 Monterey County Rava's Black Jack Sauvignon Blanc, and 2009 Rava's Black Jack Gruner Veltliner. She really showed well, with medals for every entry, including Silvers for the 2009 De Mayo Vineyard Chardonnay and the 2008 Livermore Valley Maden Ranch Cabernet Sauvignon. A great debut, and kudos to her and The Wine Group.

Congratulations to Jaime Dowell of Crooked Vine/Stony Ridge for Gold in the Petit Verdot category for the 2008 Livermore Valley Del Arroyo Petit Verdot, \$28.

Overall, Livermore scored very well in the Petite Sirah category; Fenestra and Concannon scored Golds, and the 2008 Charles R took Silver, as did Stony Ridge, Bent Creek, Ruby Hill and Crooked Vine entries. John Christopher Cellars and Concannon took Bronzes.

Nottingham Cellars also brought home Silvers for the '09 Reserve Chardonnay, '07 Viognier, '08 Syrah, '08 Cabernet Sauvignon and the '08 Ralph's Red Blend.

For Fenestra Winery, it was Hi-ho, Silver! - especially for wine made of fruit sourced from

Ghilmetti Vineyard. Brent Amos and team scored many Silvers, including for the 2009 Livermore Valley Chardonnay, 2008 Livermore Valley Estate Mourvedre, 2007 Livermore Valley Ghilmetti Vineyard Cabernet Franc and 2008 Livermore Valley Ghilmetti Vineyard Malbec. They also had an impressive haul for wines made of Lodi fruit, including Tempranillo and Alvarelhao.

Mitchell Katz Winery showcased strictly Livermore, with Silvers for the 2008 Ghilmetti Shiraz, the 2008 Falling Star Merlot and the 2009 Butner Vineyards Pinot Gris. Mitch and his vineyard artist partners also hauled in Bronzes for the 2008 Abbous Acres Shiraz, the 2009 Chardonnay Shadow Hills Chardonnay and the always impressive Cracker Box Sangiovese, this time, the 2008 vintage.

Retzlaff Estate Winery won Silver for the Livermore Valley Estate NV Cabernet Port, while Red Feather Winery was awarded Silver for its Dry Rose made from Estate Cabernet Sauvignon, a well as a Silver for the 2008 Estate Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon.

Other Livermore Wineries that hauled in medals include Bent Creek, Charles R, Cuda Ridge, Chouinard, Concannon, Crooked Vine & Stony Ridge, Fenestra, Mitchell Katz, Nottingham, Page Mill, Picazo, Red Feather, Retzlaff, Rodrigue Molyneux, Ruby Hill, and Thomas Coyne. Poetic Cellars, in the Santa Cruz Mountains, with Katy Lovell at the winemaking helm, garnered several medals with her Livermore Valley fruit as well.

Congratulations to all the winemakers and winegrowers who continue to elevate the stature of Livermore Valley in the minds and hearts of wine lovers everywhere.

Complete wine competition results are at winejudging.com

BUSINESS NOTES

Grand Opening

La La La Salon will host a grand opening on Thurs., Jan. 20 from 3:30 to 10 p.m. at 291 South Livermore Avenue, on the corner of 3rd and S. Livermore Ave.

On hand will be members of the fire and police departments. The ribbon cutting will take place at 4 p.m. There will be a hair showing featuring local heroes. Prizes will be given away.

For information go to www.lalasaloon.com.

Distressed Property Expert

Madeline Walker of Intero Real Estate Services in Livermore has earned the prestigious Certified Distressed Property Expert (CDPE) designation, having completed extensive training in foreclosure avoidance, with a particular emphasis on short sales. At a time when millions of homeowners are struggling with the possibility of foreclosure, the skills and education amassed by Walker will help benefit Livermore area residents and surrounding communities.

Today, more than 13% of homeowners are delinquent on their mortgage or in the foreclosure process. This is occurring across all price ranges, and the fastest-growing category of homes in foreclosure is the luxury home market.

"My goal is to help as many homeowners as possible," said Walker, who has demonstrated a commitment to struggling homeowners, a commitment that can provide much-needed stabilization to the community.

Brentwood Office

East Bay mortgage banker, Landmark Mortgage Group kicked off 2011 with the opening of a downtown Brentwood location. This represents the fourth branch in the Landmark network, with a much-anticipated San Ramon location due to open doors also in early 2011.

Landmark is also looking to populate the office with highly motivated and knowledgeable staff. A branch manager is the first order of business. The ideal candidate is someone currently in the mortgage industry with a strong

set in people-skills, current loan program and product knowledge, and is highly motivated and able to lead the strategic direction for the branch. Creating brand awareness in the Delta region through hosting branch functions and continuous community involvement are responsibilities of the position as well. A minimum of five years in the mortgage industry is preferred.

Inquiries from experienced professionals interested in the position should be directed to info@imglending.com to the attention of Todd Allen. All responses will be promptly and discreetly handled.

LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

www.independentnews.com

LEGAL NOTICES

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

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

FILE NO. 438838 The following person(s) has (have) abandoned the use of the Fictitious Business Name: My Fur and Feather Friends Pet and Home Siting Services, 474 McLeod St Apt A, Livermore Ca 94550 The Fictitious business Name Statement for the Partnership was filed on May 21, 2010 in the County of Alameda. The full name of Registrant: Christine L'Heureux, 474 McLeod St Apt A, Livermore Ca 94550 This business was conducted by: Christine L'Heureux Signature of Registrant: /s/Christine L'Heureux This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 22, 2010. Expires December 22, 2015. The Independent Legal No. 2910, Publish December 30, 2010, January 6, 13, 20, 2011.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 446223

The following person(s) doing business as:Sycamore Family Dentistry Dental Practice of Lori Ross Tijerino, DDS, Inc., 1262 Concannon Blvd. Bldg1,

Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lori Ross Tijerino, DDS, Inc., 1262 Concannon Blvd. Bldg1, Livermore Ca 94550

This business is conducted by:a Corporation The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name (s) listed above on November 2010 Signature of Registrant: /s/Lori A Tijerino This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 28, 2010. Expires December 28, 2015. The Independent Legal No. 2913, Publish January 6, 13, 20, 27, 2011.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 446120

The following person(s) doing business as: Opparel, 6911 Corte Madrid, Pleasanton Ca 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Yomi Oyesiku, 6911 Corte Madrid, Pleasanton Ca 94566 Kim Johnson - Oyesiku, 6911 Corte Madrid, Pleasanton Ca 94566 This business is conducted by a General Partnership Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed. Signature of Registrant: /s/Kim Johnson - Oyesiku This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 22, 2010. Expires December 22, 2015. The Independent Legal

No.2914. Publish January 6, 13, 20, 27, 2011.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 446474

The following person(s) doing business as:Steven David Gallery, 1467 Portola Meadows Rd., Livermore Ca 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Steven David Mattos, 1467 Portola Meadows Rd., Livermore Ca 94551 Autumn Williams, 1467 Portola Meadows Rd., Livermore Ca 94551 This business is conducted by:Co-partners Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed. Signature of Registrant: /s/Autumn Williams This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 6, 2011. Expires January 6, 2016. The Independent Legal No.2916 Publish January 20, 27, February 3, 10, 2011.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 446063

The following person(s) doing business as:Mainland Leis, 738 Alexander St., Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Vivian Garcia, 838 Mayview Way, Livermore Ca 94550 Victoria Foster, 2484 Robinson Circle, Livermore Ca 94550 Shenay Jorgenson, 1081 Laguna St., Livermore Ca

94550 This business is conducted by:a General partnership Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.

Signature of Registrant: /s/Vivian Garcia, Victoria Foster, Shenay Jorgenson This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 21, 2010. Expires December 21, 2015. The Independent Legal No.2920 Publish January 20, 27, February 3, 10, 2011.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:

WILLIAM M. TRIMBLE Case No. VP10546698 1. To all Heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: WILLIAM M. TRIMBLE 2.A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by: BARBARA T. CARLINO in the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda County 3.THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that: BARBARA T. CARLINO be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. 4.THE PETITION requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. 5.THE PETITION requests authority be administer the

estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The Independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. 6.A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: Date:February 8, 2011 TIME:9:30am DEPT: 201 at: Superior Court of California, County of Alameda 2120 Martin Luther King Jr. Way Berkeley, Ca 94704 7.IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. 8.IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will

not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above. 9.YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (Form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. 10.Attorney for Petitioner: Heather R. Stoneman, Esq. (SBN 214917) 220 Montgomery St., Suite 484 San Francisco, Ca 94104 (415) 394-8800 The Independent Legal No. 2919 Publish January 20, 27, February 3, 2011.

2:00 p.m. - General Services Agency, 1401 Lakeside Drive, Conference Room 1107, 11th Floor, Oakland, CA Responses Due by 2:00 pm on March 07, 2011 County Contact: Kai Moore (510) 208-4882 or via email: kai.moore@acgov.org Attendance at Networking Conference is Non-mandatory. Specifications regarding the above may be obtained at the Alameda County GSA Current Contracting Opportunities internet website at www.acgov.org. 1/20/11 CNS-2023397# The Independent Legal No. 2917. Publish January 20, 2011

ANIMALS

2) CATS/DOGS

ADOPT 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 PetCo in San Ramon 11 to 3. TVAR at (925) 803-7043 website at www.tvar.org

ADULT CAREGIVERS NEEDED for elder care. Light housekeeping errands transportation meal prep personal care. Please fax resume (925) 371-8118

4) FOUND

FOUND AN ANIMAL? FREE SECTION. Call Barbara 925 243-8000 to let 33,000 households know!

8) LOST

LOST A FAMILY PET? FREE SECTION. Call Barbara 925 243-8000 to let 33,000 households know!

AUTOMOTIVE

10) AUTOS WANTED

DONATE YOUR CAR: Children's Cancer Fund! Help Save A Child's Life Through Research & Support! Free Vacation Package. Fast, Easy & Tax Deductible. Call 1-800-252-0615. (CAL*SCAN)

DONATE VEHICLE: RECEIVE \$1000 Grocery Coupon. Your Choice.

Noahs Arc - No Kill Animal Shelters. Advance Veterinary Treatments. Free Towing. IRS Tax Deductible, Non-Runners. 1-866-912-GIVE. (CAL*SCAN)

EMPLOYMENT

56) ADULT CARE

LOGISTICS TRAINEE Earn as you learn. Good pay, medical/dental, \$ for school. No experience needed. HS grads ages 17-34. Call Mon-Fri 1-800-345-6289. (CAL*SCAN)

60) BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

BE WARY of out of area companies. Check with the local Better Business Bureau before you send any money or fees. Read and understand any contracts before you sign. Shop around for rates.

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71) HELP WANTED

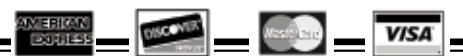
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118) FREE/GIVEAWAY GOT OLD JUNK FREE/GIVEAWAY SECTION

125) HOUSEHOLD GOODS Place your household items here for sale. Call 925 243-8000 or go on-line at www.independentnews.com

127) LOST/FOUND LOST or FOUND AN ITEM FREE SECTION

LOST WEDDING RING Sat January 8th Evening at Chili's in Livermore REWARD 415 516 4199

130) PRINTERS/MISC 1 Used Epson FX-1170 Wide-Carriage Printer in Working Condition \$50 OBO

140) WANTED TO BUY WANTED DIABETIC TEST STRIPS. Cash Paid. Unopened, Unexpired Boxes Only.

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NOTICES/ANNOUNCEMENTS 155) NOTICES

"NOTICE TO READERS: California law requires that contractors taking jobs that total \$500 or more (labor and/or materials) be licensed by the Contractors State License Board.

REAL ESTATE The Federal Fair Housing Act, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and state law prohibit advertisements for housing and employment that contain any preference, limitation or discrimination based on protected classes.

157) APT/DUPLEX/HOUSE RENTALS GOT A HOUSE FOR RENT? Let the 33,000 households/businesses that receive The Independent know about it.

160) BOAT/RV and RETAIL LOOKING FOR RETAIL OR STORAGE SPACE? Great Location Off Hwy 580 On Kitty Hawk Road

162) HOMES FOR SALE By advertising with The Independent, you can reach over 33,000 homes and businesses with your message.

165) HOUSE/ROOMS/RENTALS TO SHARE RENT YOUR EMPTY LIVING SPACE. Advertising in The Independent where you can reach over 33,000 homes and businesses with your message.

172) LOTS & ACREAGE/OUT OF STATE Advertise with The Independent and reach over 33,000 homes and businesses with your message.

EVERYTHING MUST GO! \$1,000 an acre. Priced less than the developer paid. 90 minutes north of Phoenix. 36 acres with electric, reduced to \$36,000.

177) BUSINESS SERVICES CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING. 240 California community newspapers reaching over 6 million Californians.

ADVERTISING-BEST KEPT SECRET. A business card sized display ad. 140 California community newspapers. Reach 3 million+ Californians.

The California Press Release Service distributes news releases electronically to 500 California newspaper editors.

178) FINANCIAL SERVICES CASH NOW! Cash for your structured settlement or annuity payments. Call J.G. Wentworth.

185) SCHOOLS/EDUCATION HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA! Graduate in 4 weeks! FREE Brochure. Call Now!

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190) TIMESHARES/RESORTS SELL/RENT Your TIMESHARE for CASH!!! Our Guaranteed Services will Sell/Rent Your Unused Timeshare for CASH! Over \$78 Million Dollars offered in 2010!

Advertisement for Brad Slabaugh, Realtor. Features a photo of Brad and text: "Pleasanton Rare Find! Views! Huge .34 acre (approx) private lot that backs to Kottinger Park/Trails. Well maintained 4bdrm/2.5bath, updated through-out including kitchen w/ island & granite. Huge SYAccess possible. Must See! 627 Rowell Lane. Offered at \$865,000"

Large advertisement for Professionals Choice Real Estate Directory. Includes logos for Fracisco Realty & Investments, Ivy LoGerfo, Sandee Utterback, Gail Henderson, Bill Groth, The Fabulous Properties Team, and Phyllis Catania. Text: "Local guide to the Valley's Leading Real Estate Professionals & Services"

Advertisement for REAL ESTATE NEWS AND NOTICES. Text: "One Feature Homebuyers Seek: Energy Efficiency"

By Cher Wollard Home builders predict 2011 will be great year for their business. The National Association of Home Builders met last week in Orlando for the annual International Builders Show. The mood was upbeat, according to reports in Realtor magazine and Consumer Reports. "This year's spring selling season will be better than last year's," said David Crowe, chief economist at the NAHB, told the assemblage. Crowe said job growth and the 2 percent cut in Social Security taxes enacted by Congress last month will result in more discretionary spending, spurring home sales. So what will all those new-home buyers be looking for? Smaller, more energy-efficient homes. Buyers are already seeing reductions in home sizes. Forty years ago, the average single-family home was 1,500 sq. ft. At the peak, in 2007 and 2008, the average new home was 2,520 sq. ft. Last year, the U.S. Census Bureau data shows the average size of a new single-family home was 2,377 sq. ft., down slightly from 2,438 square feet in 2009, Rose Quint, assistant vice president of survey research for NAHB told the assemblage. Quint predicted the trend will continue, with the 2015 new home size currently projected at 2,150 square feet and containing fewer bathrooms and smaller garages. The U.S. population is aging. Older homeowners are generally unwilling to care for large spaces, Quint said. Additionally, larger homes use more energy. Younger buyers tend to be very energy conscious. "People are coming to realize, 'Let's buy what we need,'" said Quint. Both the Census Bureau and NAHB predict buyers will demand and builders will incorporate more "green" features in homes built during the next five years: low-energy windows; water efficient features; engineered wood beams, joints, or trusses; and Energy Star rated appliances. We'll also see changes in home design, with larger living rooms and incorporation of more electronic features into appliances and other household goods, as well as universal design features that will make it easy to adapt homes for future improvements, said Quint. Among the electronic features on display: • A thermostat that can be programmed remotely and also works as a digital picture frame • A refrigerator with Wi-Fi enabled 8-inch LCD screen which allows cooks to view recipes while cooking • A digital device that lets homeowners fill the bathtub or turn on the shower remotely • A single machine that will both wash and dry clothes • An oven with a removable partition As for current homeowners, the show highlighted trends in home-improvement, too. The kitchen remains the most important room for upgrades, but Jill Waage, executive editor with Better Homes and Gardens, presented some surprising data. The most important features for home owners, according to her magazine's recent consumer preferences survey, are: • Indoor laundry room • Additional storage • A home office • Creating connections to outdoor living space Other trends Waage noted: built-in TVs and gaming systems, and areas of the home wired for technology. In kitchen design, "conscientious consumption" edges out "conspicuous consumption," meaning more attention to value, efficiency and flexibility. Gone were heavy molding and oversized appliances. According to presenters at the show, kitchen trends for 2011 include: • Clean-lined cabinetry • Cabinet-depth refrigerators or enclosing freestanding refrigerators • Combination kitchen/dining spaces for flexible entertaining • Ceiling treatments to define spaces • Energy- and water-efficient appliances and fixtures • Accent colors on walls, fabrics and tiled back splashes • Hands-free faucets • Low-cost LED light bulbs that save energy • Fixtures in light, matte-finished bronze as a warmer alternative to chrome or stainless steel. (Chrome and stainless were still definitely on display) Both white and warm wood finishes in cabinets and floors were shown, as were window and door features to connect kitchens to the outdoors. Complete reports on the homebuilders' show can be found at www.consumerreports.org

Upping Speakers at R.E.A.L. Guest speakers from the Bay East Association of Realtors will address the Real Estate Alliance of Livermore (R.E.A.L.) at upcoming meetings.

On Jan. 20, Dave Stark, director of government affairs for the Bay East Association of Realtors, will present a review of the 2010 real estate market.

On Feb. 10, Bay East CEO Tricia Thomas will address the group. R.E.A.L., a marketing group open to Realtors and professionals in affiliated fields, meets Thursday mornings at the First Street Alehouse, 2106 First Street, Livermore. The doors open at 8 a.m. for networking and refreshments. The meeting runs 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Admission is \$4. For more information, see the website at www.realestateallianceoflivermore.com

Interest Rates Fall Slightly Interest rates on conventional 30-year fixed-rate mortgages nudged slightly lower to 4.9 percent this week, while rates on other popular mortgage products held steady or dropped slightly.

The average 15-year fixed mortgage rates tumbled one point to 4.4 percent. The average 30-year jumbo mortgage rate fell less than one point to 5.4 percent, while 15-year jumbo rates were down to 4.7 percent.

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

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Grid of business directory advertisements including: HEALTH (ValleyCare Health System), PET SITTING (Meow's Pet & Home Sitting Service), EYE CARE (Valley EyeCare Center), HANDYMAN (Handyman Services), PLUMBING (New Age Plumbing), COMPUTERS (Tri-Valley PC Medic), FEED SUPPLY (EJ CATTLE & FEED SUPPLY), INSURANCE (BayView Insurance Services, LLC), Icemaker FILTERS (15% OFF DUBLIN PLUMBING), and a section for PLACING AN AD IN THE BUSINESS DIRECTORY.

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WILDLIFE

(continued from page one)

increase nitrogen— provide a rich environment for pocket gophers, ground squirrels, voles, and rabbits, which in turn support healthy populations of bobcats, foxes, coyotes, hawks, and owls.

It is this very biodiversity that creates the greatest challenges for vintners and wildlife officials, for not all vineyard practices are good for wildlife, and not all wildlife is good for vineyards. Gophers busily create complex burrow systems and high mounds that interfere with harvest and other machinery. Worse, they can decimate a vineyard by chewing on roots, weakening or killing the vines. Flocks of the introduced European starling descend as the fruit ripens late in the season. They can gather in the thousands and, uncontrolled, can wipe out large swathes of grapes. Deer graze on the leaves and young vines and can cause significant damage in a short period of time.

Sarah Swenty, External Affairs specialist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, points out that when vineyard owners overreact to these pressures they too can become impoverished of biological diversity. "The overuse of pesticides, clearing of wildlife corridors along creeks and rivers, draining of wetlands, and the use of fumigants can be as harmful to the land as the agriculture," she says.

Fumigation is the practice of pumping poison gases into rodent burrows to kill the resident pests. Because a whole host of other species utilizes such burrows, the damage to wildlife can be devastating. Likewise, strychnine used in baited pellets implanted in the soil also works its way through the food chain.

"Some of the most vulnerable species on vineyards are those dependent on vernal pools," says Swenty. At first glance, it is easy to underestimate the importance of vernal pools, pools that hold standing water only during the winter and spring and dry up in the heat of summer. Such pools were early victims in the history of California agriculture, but the temporary nature of these ecosystems is what makes them unique: such pools cannot support fish, and that makes them perfect breeding places for a number of creatures such as fairy shrimp, tadpole shrimp, spadefoot toads, and tiger salamanders, one of the most managed animals in California.

Listed as threatened, and protected by both state and federal law, the California tiger salamander is large, averaging six to eight inches in length, and boldly striped with yellow like its namesake. It remains underground in rodent burrows most of the year, and only emerges during spring rains to breed. It has lost over half of its original range in the state due to wetlands loss, so remaining vernal pools are highly



Western Bluebird

important to this species.

In recent years many vintners have cooperated with wildlife biologists to protect such pools, even going so far as to create more on their lands. Across the board, vintners are increasingly utilizing more natural methods. "By reducing pesticides, using raptors for controlling rodents, setting aside parts of the land for wildlife corridors, and restoring areas alongside rivers and streams, agriculture can be instrumental for healthy wildlife populations," says Swenty. "The key is reducing damage to acceptable levels, where the farmer learns to accept a certain amount of crop loss in exchange for a balanced ecosystem that in the long run provides more sustainability for the future."

Such practices are not necessarily new to vintners. Wente Vineyards, with over 5000 acres in the Livermore area, possesses a long heritage of working with the needs of wildlife and harvesting its benefits. Kevin Zollinger, Vice President of Grape Growing Operations, proudly describes the vineyard's early participation in forming the South Livermore Valley Area Plan that was established to prevent encroaching development of agricultural lands. He agrees that wildlife issues create the need for a balancing act. "Our most problematical animals are rodents such as ground squirrels and pocket gophers that chew root systems, and deer that eat a lot of young growth on the vines. Wherever possible we use non-invasive techniques such as the erection of hawk and owl boxes to help suppress rodent populations, and deer fences that keep out deer but allow smaller wildlife access." Zollinger points out that farming for balance is a basic and common sense concept.

"You don't farm the same land with the same family for 128 years without a strong commitment to sustainability."

Other vineyards have concentrated on improving the health of wildlife corridors by removing invasive species of vegetation and planting native species such as oaks, willows, cottonwood, and berry producing shrubs. Dead trees placed in streams and rivers encourage salmon and other fish to breed. Nest boxes for ducks, hawks, and owls bolster these beneficial predators.

One of the more secretive avian predators among the vines is a bird that vintners have come to fully appreciate: the barn owl. No other animal is more welcome on the vineyard than this white-faced, golden winged bird. Producing large numbers of young, and often more than one brood per year, barn owl families can account for the removal of up to 2000 or more rodents per year from the vines. Vintners erect boxes in and near their fields for this reason. At dusk these birds can be observed fluttering slowly over the fields, hunting their favorite vineyard prey: pocket gophers.

Such natural methods and cooperative efforts are growing. The East Alameda Conservation Strategy, a partnership between a number of government agencies including the City of Livermore, Alameda County, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will soon be implemented across the area. The strategy centers on the preservation of endangered species and ecosystems and seeks to forge common ground among all involved.

A second initiative, the Partner's Program under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, has been working throughout the

state since 1987, establishing cooperative alliances with landowners willing to engage in voluntary efforts to improve natural habitat on their land. The program provides cost-sharing funds for habitat restoration and technical assistance in implementing sound strategies.

"Although the Fish and Wildlife Service is not currently working with many vintners in the Livermore area, we certainly would like to," says Sarah Swenty. "All that it takes is a phone call or email."

Property owners interest-



Barn owls can be attracted to nest boxes.

ed in participating can contact the program through their website at www.fws.gov/partners/contactus.html or call 703-358-2201.

Mark Browning is a widely-published nature writer, researcher, and photographer. He can be reached at marksbrowning@verizon.net.

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Art, Community, & Education



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Pictured are (upper left) Wesla Whitfield, who will present her romantic Valentine show at the Firehouse Arts Center; (lower left) Zoe Ferraris, author of *City of Veils* and *Finding Nouf*; (upper right) Classic rock guitarist Dave Mason performing at the Bankhead Theater, and (bottom, center) work by local potter Erin Davis.



Zoe Ferraris

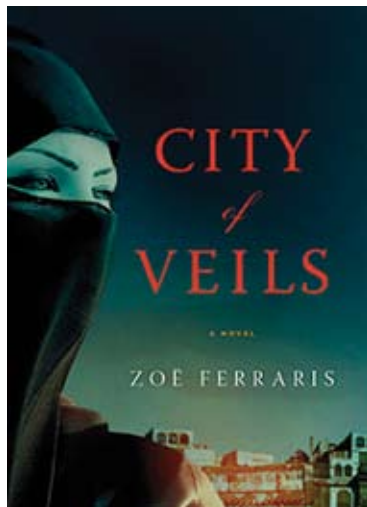
Author Presents Program at The Pleasanton Library

Zoe Ferraris, author of *City of Veils* and *Finding Nouf* will be at the Pleasanton Library on Sun., January 23 at 2 p.m.

In *City of Veils*, the body of a brutally murdered and severely disfigured woman is found on the beach in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Detective Osama Ibrahim dreads investigating another unsolvable housemaid murder—unpleasantly common in a city where the veils of conservative Islam keep women as anonymous in life as the victim is in death. Digging deeper, however, an ambitious lab-tech named Katya discovers that the body is not that of a disobedient servant, but Leila Nawar, a rebellious young filmmaker who has made more than a few enemies with her probing documentaries on religious hypocrisy and sexuality. *City of Veils* was chosen as one of the best books of 2010 by the Guardian, the San Francisco Chronicle, and the Florida Sun Sentinel.

In *Finding Nouf*, novelist Zoë Ferraris offers up a literary page-turner and a fascinating portrait of a society she knows well—contemporary Saudi Arabia. Loosely inspired by Ferraris's own life in Jeddah with the Saudi-Palestinian family of her then husband, *Finding Nouf* asks how would a male detective investigate a woman's murder—in a country where men and women are forbidden to converse?

Zoë Ferraris moved to Saudi Arabia in the aftermath of the first Gulf War to live with her then



husband and his extended family of Saudi-Palestinian Bedouins, who had never welcomed an American into their lives before. It first occurred to her to write a mystery set in Saudi Arabia at the jacket bazaar in Jeddah, where her ex-husband bought a "Columbo" coat and proposed setting off to solve mysteries together. She lives in San Francisco. See her website at www.zoeferraris.com

Towne Center Books will sell Ms. Ferraris' books at the event. For presale, please call 925/846-8826.

The program is free and open to all. No registration required. For more information, call Penny Johnson, 925/931-3405. The library is located at 400 Old Bernal Ave., Pleasanton.



Daniel Glover

Pianist Performing Benefit Concert

Concert Pianist Daniel Glover will perform a piano recital to benefit the Valley Concert Chorale on Saturday, February 5, 2011 at 7:30 p.m., at the First Presbyterian Church in Livermore. The church is located at the corner of 4th and L Streets.

Mr. Glover, who is the accompanist for the Valley Concert Chorale, is an internationally known concert pianist who has performed extensively throughout the world.

Of Mr. Glover's talent, the San Jose Mercury News said, "Glover is an incisive, exciting, and apparently tireless player...a natural for hyper-virtuosic challenge."

The San Francisco Classical Voice remarked, "Brilliant, tender, whimsical, sparkling...Glover brought everything together into a well balanced, evenly measured

medium... The elegance and civility of Glover's approach was musically unimpeachable..."

Mr. Glover's program will feature compositions by Franz Liszt to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the great Hungarian pianist and composer's birthday. Additionally, Mr. Glover will play Schumann's First Piano Sonata, Bartok's Suite, and works by the lesser-known Russian composer Sergei Liapunov, written in the style of Liszt, one of which will be his stirring *Elegy in Memory of Liszt*.

Tickets are \$25. Tickets may be purchased in advance by calling the Valley Concert Chorale's general information line at (925) 866-4003, or via the Chorale's website at www.valleyconcertchorale.org, or at the door. Tickets are also available at Towne Center Books in downtown Pleasanton. Visit

the Chorale's website for more information.

Pianist Daniel Glover has performed in 42 states and 22 countries throughout Europe, Asia, North America and the Caribbean. He holds a master's degree from New York's Juilliard School, where he attended as a scholarship student. Among his numerous competition awards is first prize in the prestigious *Liederkrantz* Competition in 1990.

He has trained with such luminaries as Eugene List, Abbey Simon, Jerome Lowenthal, Nancy Bachus and Thomas LaRatta. Mr. Glover has recorded eight CDs, including Liszt, *The Profound and the Profane* (2008), *Spanish Impressions* (2006), *Romantic Russian Encores* (2005), and a recording of live performances of works for piano and orchestra by Mozart, Strauss and Prokofiev (2005).

Traditional Music and Dance of Poland Featured at Library

Experience the traditional music and dance of Poland as Lowiczanie Polish Folk Dance Ensemble performs at the Pleasanton Public Library on Saturday, January 22 beginning at 3:00 pm.

Lowiczanie has toured throughout the western U.S. The group features music and dance forms

from both the nobility and countryside, with dancers in vibrant, museum-quality costumes. This will be the first performance in Pleasanton.

This performance is part of the library's ongoing Dance & Sing Around the World series, celebrating the many cultures

which make up the Pleasanton community. These free programs are open to all ages, and no registration is required. For information on these and other family events, visit the library website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/library/programs-and-events.html or call the Children's Desk at (925) 931-3400 ext. 8.

Rock Guitar Legend to Appear at Bankhead Theater in Only Bay Area Performance

Classic rock guitarist Dave Mason rolls into the Bay Area for a single performance in downtown Livermore on February 9, 2011.

Mason has entertained audiences for over 37 years as a guitarist, singer and songwriter with hits such as "Feeling Alright" and "We

Just Disagree." In 2004, he was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as a founding member of the group Traffic.

Dave Mason and his band will revisit classic rock favorites and showcase newer songs at the Bankhead Theater for one night only on Wednesday, February 9 at 7:30 p.m.

Mason began his long and successful career at a young age. He was just 18 years old when he joined with three other British musicians, including Steve Winwood, to form the rock band Traffic in 1967. The following year, he wrote "Feeling Alright," which appeared on the band's second album, but grew to even greater popularity in later decades when it was performed and recorded by dozens of other artists. It became a hit for both Joe Cocker and Grand Funk Railroad and has long been considered a rock and roll anthem. Although the original members of Traffic disbanded after a few years, the group's style had a long-reaching influence on the evolution of rock and roll. As a solo artist, Mason went on to achieve a top 10 single with his version of "We Just Disagree" and has scored several gold and platinum album releases.

In addition to his successful solo career, Mason's talent as a guitarist has been sought after by many other top artists. In 1968, he brought his acoustic guitar sound

to the legendary recording of "All Along the Watchtower" with Jimi Hendrix, and went on to record with the Rolling Stones and Paul McCartney. Mason also toured and recorded for several years as a member of the band Fleetwood Mac in the mid-1990s. While still performing 80-100 shows annually to enthusiastic audiences across the country, Mason continues to write new songs, including those of his most recent studio album, "26 Letters and 12 Notes," described as an eclectic blend of old classic rock with a blues-tinged rhythm.

Tickets for the Dave Mason concert at the Bankhead Theater range from \$29 to \$51, with \$12 student tickets available.

The evening with Dave Mason is part of the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center's LVPAC Presents series which features

acclaimed performers in music, dance and other performing arts across a wide range of musical styles and genres. Following the Dave Mason concert will be the voices of the famous Vienna Boys Choir making their only California appearance on Friday February 11, 2011 at 8:00 p.m. The Vienna Boys Choir will perform a diverse repertoire that spans musical styles from traditional Austrian melodies and medieval chant, to familiar pop songs.

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



Dave Mason

Program Kicks Off Livermore Reads Together

A special kick-off event for Livermore Reads Together – 1906: A Novel will take place from 2-4pm on Sunday, January 23, 2011 at the Livermore Public Library Civic Center, 1188 S. Livermore Avenue.

James Dalessandro, author of *1906: A Novel*, will be the featured speaker. He will also show his documentary film *The Damnedest Finest Ruins*, followed by refreshments and turn-of-the-century music provided by keyboardist Greg Pane.

James Dalessandro was born in Cleveland, Ohio in 1948. While attending Ohio University, he watched a documentary about the Beat Poets, read *Howl*, and decided to hitchhike to California to make his name as the next Gary Snyder. Dalessandro was too late

to become a Beat, but he did join Lawrence Ferlinghetti in co-founding the Santa Cruz Poetry Festival, a renowned annual literary event that attracted the likes of Charles Bukowski, William Burroughs, and Ken Kesey. Dalessandro also worked as a writer at Columbia Pictures, and he currently teaches screenwriting at Academy of Art University of San Francisco.

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

Keyboardist Greg Pane has played improvisation music for the silent film showings at The Niles Essanay Silent Film Theater and Museum for 5 years and grew

up in Livermore playing music he mocked off the family player piano rolls starting at age 5.

This program is part of *Livermore Reads Together*, a community-wide reading program featuring James Dalessandro's book, *1906: A Novel*, about the San Francisco earthquake and fire. 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 2011. 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.livermore.lib.ca.us

BANKHEAD THEATER

Dirty Rotten Scoundrels
Jan 21-Feb 6
2:00 & 8:00pm
\$37.50/Senior \$35.50/
Student \$27.50
Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre

Timothy Ferris
The Science of Liberty
Rae Dorough Speakers Series
Wed Feb 2 7:30pm
\$30/\$12 Students
The Best Science Writer of His Generation

Dave Mason
Wed Feb 9 7:30pm
\$29/\$40/\$51/\$12 Students
Rock 'N' Roll is an Attitude... Not an Age

Vienna Boys Choir
Fri Feb 11 8:00pm
\$39/\$51/\$62/\$12 Students
Timeless Music with Universal Popular Appeal





TICKETS 925.373.6800 or www.bankheadtheater.org
2400 First Street, Downtown Livermore



Photos - Doug Jorgensen

Diavolo entertained audiences at the Bankhead Theater last week. The company is comprised of dancers, gymnasts and actors. The sets created are an intrinsic part of each piece of work. Everyday items such as doors, chairs and stairways provide the back-drop for dramatic movement that is used to create metaphors for the challenge of relationships, the absurdities of life and the struggle to maintain our humanity in an increasingly technological world.



Museum on Main's 2011 Ed Kinney Lecture Series kicked off with a sold out event (standing room only) on Wednesday evening, Jan. 12, with "The Relativity of Einstein" at a new venue the Firehouse Arts Center. Character portrayals are often the highlights of the lecture series. Veteran Broadway and film actor Duffy Hudson earned high praises from the audience that included local scientists, educators, and even young students for his portrayal of Einstein. Hudson developed the one-man show with careful attention to detail to portray Einstein's personality and thought processes. He returns to the close the annual lecture series in October in a portrayal of the mysterious Edgar Allan Poe. The next lecture in the series will be Wednesday, February, 16, 7 p.m., Meet President and Mrs. Lincoln. President Abraham Lincoln and Mrs. Mary Todd Lincoln portrayed by Roger and Colleen Vincent, stop by on their way to the theater. The Firehouse Arts Center is located at 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. No reservations are required. Tickets are available at the door on a first come first served basis at \$10 general admission, \$5 members and seniors, and \$3 students/teachers with ID.

Christian Songwriter-Storyteller in Pleasanton

Well-known Christian songwriter and storyteller Justin McRoberts will lead worship Sunday, Jan. 23 at Centerpointe Church, 3410 Cornerstone Court, Pleasanton.

McRoberts travels widely, appearing before audiences ranging from small rural church congrega-

tions to college campus crowds. He is a music ambassador for Compassion International, a leading Christian organization offering sponsorship of children in Third World countries.

He will lead worship at Centerpointe's contemporary service be-

ginning at 10:30 a.m. He will share one of his songs at the church's blended worship service that begins at 9 a.m. Centerpointe Senior Pastor Mike Barris will deliver the message at both services.

For more information, please call 925-846-4436 or see www.centerpointechurch.info.

Ballet Dancers at Borders

The award-winning Diablo Ballet of Walnut Creek brings to life the popular children's book Angelina Ballerina at several Saturday morning story times.

Diablo Ballet dancers will

be in costume to read the book. Following the readings, complimentary photos with the dancers are available.

Story time in Pleasanton will be Sat., Jan. 22 at 10 a.m. at Borders

Bookstore, Rose Pavilion.

The events are free and great for children ages 3 - 10 years old.

For more information, please visit www.DiabloBallet.org or call 925.943.1775

Donations of Jewelry Sought

The American Cancer Society Discovery Shop in Pleasanton is requesting the donation of costume or precious jewelry for its annual jewelry event, "Find a Treasure: on March 11 and 12. 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 themed pieces, precious and semi-precious gems, and much more.

The Discovery Shop is located in the Mission Plaza Shopping Center at 1987A 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.

Yesterday into Today

Happy, Happy Birthday . . .

By Sarah Bobson

Happy, Happy Birthday Baby . . . Boomers. This year, 2011, the first crop born during the years 1946 to 1964, turns 65.

It seems like yesterday when we were young people in college or otherwise, determined to change the world for the better. Wasn't it only yesterday that I was standing in the middle of the Columbia University campus, listening to a handsome young man named Mark Rudd fire up protestors in support of students occupying the office of the president inside Low Library?

Now many of us are grandparents, or old enough to be grandparents, collecting our first social security checks, carrying Medicare and AARP cards, and asking, uncomfortably perhaps, for the senior discount at movies, motels, and museums.

Where has the ride taken us and where are we now?

Often, I find myself thinking about my life, going back over the events, personal and historical, trying to make sense of it all, and wondering whether I've come full circle, or whether I'm at a different place from where I began.

I was born in conservative times. I feel I'm now living again in conservative times. I was never a radical, although I took part in a few protests. I changed my perspective, or raised my consciousness as we used to say back then.

I coasted through the peaceful, prosperous '50s, got swept up in the turbulent, troubling '60s, and slid through what seemed like the unwinding, de-escalating '70s. I witnessed many moments (too numerous to mention here), some of them wonderfully monumental, and some of them horribly devastating. Man first stepped on the moon. A president, a presidential candidate, and a religious leader were assassinated, and a president resigned.

Recently, I told a friend (she's in her late 50s) about this column, that it would be primarily for boomers and seniors who might like to review the '60s (and possibly the '50s and, for some, the '40s). She immediately responded: "But my daughter [who is 30] is also interested in learning more about the '60s."

The '60s was a seminal time that changed the course of history in our country. Today, it seems to hold a mystique for young people

who want to learn more about the time when their parents were young, the time that was labeled – and perhaps also limited by – the phrase, "the decade of sex, drugs, and rock and roll."

My friend added: "You know, my daughter takes for granted the rights we had to fight for, rights addressed in Roe v. Wade (the 1973 Supreme Court decision regarding abortion), the Equal Rights Amendment, Brown v. Board of Education (the landmark Supreme Court decision that made unconstitutional "separate but equal schools"), and the Civil Rights Act."

I started to rethink the '50s as a time of not-so-peaceful undertows, when separate drinking fountains in Miami, Florida, where I grew up, were labeled for "White" and "Colored." It was a time when African-Americans could only occupy the back of the bus behind the rear door, even if that meant they had to stand in cramped conditions in the sweltering, humid heat while the front section remained empty. Now, in 2011, with the first African-American president in the White House, that era belongs in a different millennium.

When I remember the '60s, I not only think about the protestors who marched to the tune of a different drummer as they brought an end to a war bogged down in mud and blood. I also think about the music, the books, the films, and the pop culture of the times.

What would the movements and the marches have been, after all, without the accompaniment of the folk tunes that gave the beat to the idealistic hearts and minds of young people who wanted to make love, not war.

Without these Dylan lyrics from "Blowin' in the Wind":

"How many roads must a man walk down before you call him a

man?"

Or "How many years can some people exist before they're allowed to be free?"

Or this protest for justice from "If I Had a Hammer" by Peter, Paul and Mary:

If I had a hammer
I'd hammer in the morning
I'd hammer in the evening
All over this land

Or the angst of growing up, as expressed in the Simon and Garfunkel tune, "Sounds of Silence:"
"Hello darkness, my old friend

I've come to talk with you again"

Or the ever-inventive rock music of the Beatles, the mop-heads who swept the U.S. by storm.

Road films like "Easy Rider" took us on a trip through the American South and Southwest. Books like *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* warned us about the lobotomizing effect of Big Brother, while *In Cold Blood* showed us something was wrong in the heartland.

However, the times that were a-changin', that gave us those politically and socially charged commentaries, also introduced us to the Barbie doll, the Hollywood Walk of Fame, the first heart transplant, the first touchtone telephone, the Arpanet (the prototype of the Internet), and so much more.

In this column, dedicated to baby boomers, we will revisit the pop culture, events, and people of the '60s as well as the '40s and '50s. We will try to figure out what it all meant then, where the ride has taken us, and what in hindsight it means now. We will ask ourselves: Have we come full circle, or have we ended up in a different place from where we began?

(Look for Sarah's column the third week of each month in The Independent.)



Big Band Plans Swinging Performance in Pleasanton

The swinging sounds of Silver Moon Band will fill the Pleasanton Library during a concert on Sun., Jan. 30 from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Silver Moon Band will perform favorite ballads sung in the style of Old Blue Eyes, Bobby Darin and others. The musicians in this eleven-piece all star group have appeared with such notables as: Steve Allen, Ray Charles, Paul

Anka, Tito Puente, Jack Jones, Maynard Ferguson, The Drifters, and many others.

The concert is sponsored by the Friends of the Pleasanton Public Library.

All library programs are free and open to the public. No registration is required.

For more information, please call Penny Johnson, 931-3405.

'The Lion in Winter' Opens in Danville

Role Players Ensemble will present "The Lion in Winter" starting January 21 in Danville.

The play received three Tony Awards. The film adaptation earned seven Academy Awards, including Katharine Hepburn's Best Actress.

RPE's artistic director Eric Fraisher Hayes will direct The Lion in Winter. Eric last directed The Hairy Ape at the Village Theatre. Featured will be Mark Jordan as Henry, Sylvia Burboeck as Eleanor, Cin Seperi as Richard, Chris Dewey as Geoffrey, David Kahawaii as John, Dekyi Ronge as Alais and Percival Arcibal as Philip.

"Well—what shall we hang? The holly or each other?" To celebrate Christmas 1183, King Henry

II of England springs his captive wife, Eleanor of Aquitaine, from prison. Their three sons jostle for position as Henry's successor. Eleanor schemes to land son Richard in the throne, while Henry plots to make young John his heir.

Dungeons and daggers; political machinations; sibling rivalry and love-hate relationships - with delicious wit and a dash of treason, this royal family puts the fun in dysfunction.

Performances will continue weekends through Feb. 12 at the Village Theatre, 233 Front Street, Danville. Curtain is at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. For information, go to www.danvilletheatre.com. Tickets may be purchased at Village TheatreShows.com.

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Valentine Show Features Top Cabaret Singer

Called the “best cabaret singer in the world” by the N.Y. Daily News, Wesla Whitfield will present her romantic Valentine show at the Firehouse Arts Center on February 13 in Pleasanton.

Her appearance is part of the Firehouse Arts Center Cabaret Series. Her show, *Isn't It Romantic?* will be performed during a 2:00 p.m. matinee

Whitfield will sing her repertoire from the Great American Songbook, which include selections from her recordings on the HighNote Records label by

Art Crawl is Moving to Second Saturdays

On February 12, 2011, from 1 to 4 p.m., Art Crawl joins with Bothwell Arts Center's Downtown Art Studios' Open Studios for an afternoon of art. As a result, there will be no crawl on January 28. Crawls will continue on the second Saturday of every month, except October, when Art Crawl steps aside for the much larger art tour, ArtWalk.

Art Crawl is a free tour of open studios, art displays and exhibitions, easily accomplished within the 3 hour event time. An addition to the Crawl will be Artistic Edge at Blacksmith Square, as well as the new Downtown Art Studios.

Some of the sites already exhibit or create artwork on a regular basis, such as UltraSpectives and the Art Glass Studio, Panama Red Coffee Company, Wild Vine Lounge, Outside In, Proctor's and Ryan Fine Art.

Those who don't will work with artists who will set up temporary displays on the shop's property. Such exhibit sites include ABC Music Source, Outside In, Main Street Designs, Not Too Naughty, It's All About Dancing, Sanctuary Ultra Lounge, orghipchick and more.

For more information about the Crawl, please see www.lindaryanfineart.com.

composers Cole Porter, George Gershwin, Irving Berlin, Rodgers & Hart, and more. Whitfield has amassed awards and accolades coast to coast, prompting the New York Daily News to call her “the best cabaret singer in the world.”

Whitfield has performed from New York's Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center to the White House at the invitation of Hillary Clinton. Her annual engagements at San Francisco's RRAZZ ROOM are among the highlights of the Bay Area music scene. She has

performed in concert with such notables as Michael Feinstein, George Burns and Frankie Laine and has appeared on television on Live! with Regis & Kathie Lee, Charles Osgood's CBS Sunday Morning and repeat appearances on Garrison Keillor's “Prairie Home Companion and The Charles Grodin Show.

Wesla's pianist and arranger, Mike Greensill, is also her husband and a celebrated performer in his own right. He is a two-time winner of Outstanding Jazz Pianist by the San Francisco Council on Entertainment.

Tickets are Adult-\$15, \$20 and \$25; Child-\$15 and Senior-\$22. They may be purchased online at www.firehousearts.org up to three hours prior to the performance, by phone at (925) 931-4848, or in person at the Firehouse Arts Center Box Office, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton.

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. Series and group discounts are available. Entrance to free parking is available on Spring Street near First Street. More information is available at www.firehousearts.org.



Wesla Whitfield

You're a Good Man Charlie Brown Performances Slated

Tri-Valley Young Performers Academy (TVYPA) will present performances of the musical comedy “You're a God Man, Charlie Brown.” This family friendly, award winning musical is the first production of TVYPA's by-audition-only Upstage Group. It features an elementary-age cast (Snoopy Cast) as well as a more mature, middle and high school age cast (Charlie Brown).

This musical comedy is a funny and touching collage of scenes and characters based on Charles M. Schultz's popular Peanuts series, including Charlie Brown, Lucy, Snoopy, Linus, Sally and Schroeder.

Performances are Friday, Feb. 4 at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 5 at 2 p.m. (Snoopy Cast) and Saturday, Feb. 5 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 6 at 7 p.m. (Charlie Brown Cast) at Livermore High School, 600 Maple Avenue.

Advance tickets are adults \$10 and students \$5 (available at website); at the door adults \$13 and students \$8. Please bring a food donation for Alameda County Community Food Bank.

For tickets or information visit the website at www.TriValleyYPA.org.

Cast members are pictured at right.



A Year in Review: Jaime Dowell of Crooked Vine Looks Back at 2010

By Laura Ness

Winemaker Jaime Dowell of Crooked Vine and Stony Ridge is about to embark on the adventure of a lifetime next month. She'll hit Fiji first, and then we'll see what happens thereafter. She hopes to work the harvest in the southern hemisphere, probably Australia, coming up in the March and April timeframe.

It's been a rock n' roll time at Crooked Vine/Stony Ridge with the Corbetts, and they've achieved much to be proud of, and much to build on as they continue to build the brands.

Before Jaime packed her bags, though, we caught up with her for a brief summation of 2010 harvest, which she said was longer than normal, but overall, went very smoothly.

Of the "first" highlights, Jaime was excited about the Pinot Noir Rosé Sparkling she was making for Crooked Vine (to be released for Valentine's Day), and a Rosé wine called "Razzle Dazzle," under the Stony Ridge (to be released in May).

Crooked Vine is also making a Late Harvest Viognier for the 2010 vintage, after a three year hiatus. She says, "We harvested at 34 Brix and actually used our feet to crush this one!! How fun!!"

They paid a little bit more attention to Petite Sirah this vintage as well. Says Jaime, "We added back stems to the fermentation after destemming on a couple of bins... to see if we can't coax out a little more meatiness...so far there is a distinct difference."

Barrel tasting will tell in the spring.

Syrah is always a fun animal to play with. This fall, they added a little Viognier (2%) to a couple of bins of Syrah. "We decided to create a co-fermentation, hoping to make the mid palate a little more complex. We added a little PS to one of the Zin fermentations to beef up the spiciness a little. We'll see if it makes a difference."

Vineyard-wise, Del Arroyo continued on a high-quality path, despite what could have been a disastrous growing season.

She notes with relief, "We were



Jaime Dowell works on this year's vintage prior to taking off on a new adventure.

ahead of rot and sunburn all season, so there were really no losses like so many other vineyards saw. Because of the long, cool growing season, I think the wines will be even richer this vintage. With great color on most everything and good intense flavors through out the wines, it may be Livermore's year!!"

All in all, Jaime is excited about the prospects for the 2010 vintage for Crooked Vine and Stony Ridge: it's hard to leave this place behind, but she is bound and determined to go out and see the world. They've been interviewing some great candidates, with people from all over the world, including Yugoslavia, Italy, and Australia. They'll probably choose someone who had roots a little closer, from somewhere in California.

Meanwhile, checking in on the

early results from the 2010 harvest, we did some barrel sampling, and the whites are shining. The 2010 barrel-fermented Viognier is filled with pineapple and banana, with a wonderful texture of apple butter.

The 2010 Charvay is a co-ferment of Chard and Viognier, with lovely apricot, banana, pineapple and apple flavors. There's a definitive minerally edge, and decent acid, a watchword of this vintage.

The 2010 Fumé Blanc shows considerably less tutti-fruitedness than the decadent, tropical heat wave immersion of the 2009. Lovely kieffer lime, tangerine and subtle floral notes, with a predominance of candied grapefruit and citron promise that this wine will be amazing.

Probably a perfect example of this young lady's handiwork is the 2010 Rosé, called "Razzle

Dazzle," which happens to be a saignée of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. There is nothing shy about this wine, and the color is gorgeous and reddish pink, like the midpoint of a fall sunset. There's guava, strawberry, mango and Jolly Roger candy. I loved the rich, lasting finish of strawberry bubble gum. Yum. This one will be ideal for summer: it's filled with strawberry shortcake deliciousness.

Turns out that this was Jaime's first attempt at Rosé, and she was, somewhat needlessly, fretting over the color. Someone with red hair shouldn't get so stressed out about pigment in wine.

Hope she finds some fun Grenache and Mourvedre to work with Down Under. Maybe she'll come back inspired to create Livermore's finest GSM.



Erin Davis works on wheel (above). Below is some of her finished work.



Potter Presents Program at Meeting

The Livermore Art Association (LAA) and Pleasanton Art League (PAL) invite members and the public to attend the joint monthly meeting, featuring local potter Erin Davis. She will demonstrate throwing techniques and talk about manipulating porcelain.

Erin Davis is a self-taught potter and instructor. A landscape painter in the past, she has always drawn inspiration from the outdoors. Her pottery embodies the "perfect" imperfections found in nature. Working primarily in porcelain, all of her pieces are thrown on the wheel and then gently shaped into a softer, more natural form. To see examples of her work visit www.ekdpottery.com.

The meeting is on Monday, January 24, 7:30 pm at the Almond Avenue School, 1401 Almond Avenue in Livermore. Additional parking is at the rear of the school. This is a free event and the public is welcome to attend. Refreshments available. For more information visit www.livermoreartassociation.org.

ART & ENTERTAINMENT

ART/PHOTO EXHIBITS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wild Vine art exhibition program in February features husband-and-wife team Ken Ball and Victoria Whyte Ball. The exhibit includes Ken's special take on nude photography and Victoria's evocative work with the camera. Reception Thursday, February 10 from 6-7:30 pm. Wild Vine, 2187 First Street, Livermore, also participates in Second Saturday Open Studios/Art Crawls.

MEETINGS/CLASSES

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

Figure Drawing Workshop, every Friday 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Artists bring their

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

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

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

WINERY EVENTS

Wine Medals, SF Chronicle Wine Competition, the largest contest of American wines in the world, has just released the results of its 2011 judging. Charles R Vineyards was awarded three medals this year. The '07 Quail Creek Cabernet Sauvignon brought home Gold while the '08 Petite Sirah took Silver and '09 Chardonnay came away with Bronze. Come out and try these award winning wines at our tasting room (Petite Sirah is coming soon!) anytime Friday thru Sunday from Noon to 4:30pm. 8195 Crane Ridge Road in Livermore.

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

2nd Annual Cabstravaganza, Charles R Vineyards, Saturday, January 22 from noon to 4:30pm – Calling all Cabernet Sauvignon lovers! We're hauling out the big (Cab) guns again this year. Includes the Gold Medal winning '07 Quail Creek Cab. Charles R Wine Club Members can also taste the '06 Reserve Cabernet (which is seldom poured.) Limited number (just 361) of 3-bottle gift packs featuring two library wines – the legendary '05 Cab and the '06 – along with a special sneak preview of the upcoming '07 Walker Cab. 8195 Crane Ridge Road in Livermore.

Winter Barrel Tasting Weekend, Murrieta's Well, Tamás Estates, Wente Vineyards Estate, Jan. 22 and 23, 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sample wine directly from the barrel as well as current release wines in Murrieta's Well's historic barrel room as well as at our sister wineries in Livermore Wente Vineyards and Tamás Estates. Complimentary for club members, \$5 for guests at each location. Murrieta's Well, 3005 Mines Road, Livermore. www.murrietastwell.com;

Wente Vineyards, 5565 Tesla Road, Livermore. www.wentevineyards.com; Tamás Estates, 5489 Tesla Rd., Livermore, www.tamasesates.com.

Murrieta's Well events: Vineyard Tour and Tastings, every Saturday at 1 pm; Library Tasting Weekend, February 19 and 20; Big Red Wine Tasting Event, March 12. Murrieta's Well, 3005 Mines Road, Livermore. www.murrietastwell.com

Lavish Laines Winery, grand opening, of new tasting room, 2481 Buena Vista Ave., Livermore, January 29, 10 a.m. to 10 .m. Wine tasting and food pairings, live music and new release of 2008 Gewurztraminer. Raffle begins at 5 p.m. (925-487-3208 for raffle tickets). Event is free, tasting is \$5, which goes toward the purchase of a bottle. Information go to www.LavishLainesWinery.com.

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

Thomas Coyne Winery winter open house Feb. 19, 20, 21, noon to 5 p.m. at the historical tasting room at 51 E. Vallecitos Road, Livermore. Release of new wines including the Livermore Cabernet Franc 2006. Selection of fine fruits and cheeses served. "Bottle Your Own Wine" We will be selling VINO Tinto Barato at the Open House. Bring a clean bottle, we will fill, cork and label it for you for \$6.00 per bottle. Use our bottle for \$6.50. Or you may bottle label and cork it yourself. This is available only on Feb 19 and 20. Limit of six bottles per person. For more info call (925) 373-6541 or visit <http://thomascwynewinery.com>

Romance Wine and Chocolate Event, February 13, Wente Vineyards. Sit down and enjoy five chocolate and wine pairings prepared and selected by Wente Vineyards. Learn how chocolate and wine can combine and create a romantic and sensual experience. 1 p.m. or 4 p.m. Wine club members \$30, guests \$35. Call 925-456-2405 to purchase tickets.

MUSIC/CONCERTS

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

Faculty Recital, 8 p.m. Feb. 3. Barbara Mertes Center for the Arts, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. Performing Arts Events Line at 925.424.1100 or go to www.laspositascollege.edu/performingarts

Valley Concert Choral, benefit concert featuring Dan Glover. Sat., Feb. 5, 7:30 p.m. Trinity Lutheran Church, Pleasanton Ticket information at www.valleyconcertchorale.org

All District Jr. High Orchestra Concert, Feb. 5. Barbara Mertes Center for the Arts, 000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. 925.424.1100 or go to www.laspositascollege.edu/performingarts

Dave Mason, rock 'n' roll legend, Wed., Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.livermoreperformingarts.org or 925-373-6800.

36th annual Campana Jazz Festival, Sat., Feb. 12, Amador Valley High School, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. Competitions and performances throughout the day. www.amadormusic.org.

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

tickets.com.

Livermore-Amador Symphony, concert, Youth Soloists, Tell, and Till, Feb. 12, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Youth Soloists featured, "Tell and Till. Prelude talk 7 p.m. Tickets at 925-373-6800, www.livermoreperformingarts.org

Early Music Concert, Farallon Recorder Quarter, February 12, 2011, 7:30 pre-concert talk, 8:00 concert. Early Music Concert Series. The Morning Star - music from Northern Europe. Barbara Mertes Center for the Arts, Las Positas College, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. Works from medieval England through Renaissance Germany and the Low Countries to the courts of Versailles and the Thomaskirche of Leipzig. Tickets are \$15 for individual concerts. www.lpeearlymusic.org or www.laspositascollege.edu/performingarts

Swing, Swing, Swing, Pied Pipers, Polly Podewell and Gene Krupa Tribute Band, Sun., Feb. 13, 3 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.livermoreperformingarts.org or 925-373-6800.

Wesla Whitfield, Feb. 13, 2 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. Tickets and information www.firehousearts.org

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

America, Feb. 18, 8 p.m. Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, 10550 Albion Rd., San Ramon, 973-3343 or SanRamonPerformingArts.com.

Youth Music Festival, Sat., Feb. 19, 2 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org

Peter Fletcher - Classical Guitarist, Sun., Feb. 20, 3 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org

Pacific Chamber Symphony, concert Feb. 25, features master flutist Sheridon Stokes rejoins PCS for a program of works for flute and orchestra: Vivaldi's Concerto for Two Flutes, the Adagietto from Mahler's Symphony #5, and the world premier of a work by Los Angeles composer Christopher Caliendo. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets or information www.LivermorePerformingArts.org or 925 373-6800.

The Music of Doris Day, with Jim Martinez Trio and Laura Didier, Sun., Feb. 27, 2 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.livermoreperformingarts.org or 925-373-6800.

ON THE STAGE

Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre musical comedy production. Performances weekends Jan. 21-Feb. 6, 2011, 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Call 462-2121 or go to www.trivalleyrep.com for information.

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

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

Reach for the Stars! An Evening of the Arts for the Arts, Livermore Valley Education Foundation presents a spe-

cial evening fund-raiser featuring arts showcase performances by elementary, middle and high school students enrolled in Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District's music, drama, dance and visual arts programs. Thurs., March 31 at 7 p.m. at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore. Tickets are \$25 for reserved seats; students tickets are \$12.50 with the purchase of a reserved seat in any section. www.livermoreperformingarts.com, or at the Bankhead box office, 2400 First St., Livermore.

Bat Boy: The Musical, Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre. Studio Theatre, 1048 Serpentine Lane, Suite 309, Pleasanton. Weekends Feb. 18-March 13. Call 462-2121 or go to www.trivalleyrep.com for information.

Little House On The Prairie, Feb. 19-27. Presented by Bay Area Children's Theater, Front Row Theater, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Rd., San Ramon, 973-3343 or SanRamonPerformingArts.com.

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

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

The Yeomen of the Guard, Lamplighters Music Theatre. 8 p.m. Sat., Feb. 19 and 2 p.m. Sun., Feb. 20. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.livermoreperformingarts.org or 925-373-6800.

Queen of Bingo, theater a go-go, Feb. 24-26, 8 p.m. Feb. 27, 2 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org

Livermore 2011 Talent Finals, Sat., Feb. 26, 7 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St. Presented by the Rotary Clubs of Livermore as a fund-raiser. www.livermoreperformingarts.org or call 925-373-6800.

COMEDY

Creatures of Impulse, Pleasanton's teen improv troupe, presents their most popular short-form show to date on Thursday, February 3 and Friday, February 4 at 7:30 p.m. Performances are 7:30 p.m. on Thurs., Feb. 3 and Fri., Feb. 4 at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. Tickets are \$5 in advance for students with valid ID, general admission \$8 advance/\$10 at the door. For tickets, please visit www.firehousearts.org.

Girlfriends Gala, The Four Bitchin' Babes revue starring Sally Fingerett, Debi Smith, Nancy Moran and Deidre Flint. Mon., Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets or information at www.livermoreperformingarts.org or 925-373-6800.

AUDITIONS/VOLUNTEERS

Solo Piano Competition for young artists, sponsored by Las Positas College Music Department, open to ages 14 through 24. The winner will perform George Gershwin's, "Rhapsody in Blue" at the May 4, 2011 Orchestra Concert as part of the inaugural season for the new Barbara

ART & ENTERTAINMENT

Fracisco Mertes Center for the Arts. The application deadline is February 10, 2011. The selection will take place in February. To request application forms and information, please contact Music instructor Mary Campbell, mcampbell@laspositascollege.edu, (925) 424-1118.

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

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

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

MOVIES

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

Going Places: A Classic Film Series, shown the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Pleasanton Library's meeting room through June 2, 2011. The program is a partnership of Las Positas College and the Pleasanton Public Library proudly present. Candy Klaschus, film historian and Coordinator of the Humanities Program at Las Positas College, is the host. There is no admission charge. 400 Old Bernal

Ave., Pleasanton. 931-3400. No registration required.

CHORAL

Vienna Boys Choir. Fri., Feb. 11, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets or information www.livermoreperformingarts.org or 925-373-6800.

OPERA

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

MISCELLANEOUS

Charity Fashion Show. Thursday, January 20, 7 to 10 p.m. Sapphire Restaurant and Lounge, 2300 First Street, Livermore. Presented by Esteem Productions as a fund-raiser for the Taylor Family Foundation. Tickets \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. Admission includes a raffle ticket and a complimentary glass of champagne. Besides a "Catwalk Fashion Show" that will showcase local boutiques, the event will include a silent auction. Music will be provided by Amos Productions. For more information on the event and how to get tickets, email us at EsteemProductions@gmail.com or visit our website at www.EsteemProductions.net.

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

11th annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Fellowship Breakfast, Mon., Jan. 24. Marriot Pleasanton Hotel from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. The Tri-Valley YMCA will co-host with Dublin Mayor Tim Sbranti and Guy Houston. Keynote speaker will be Monte Poole, longtime sportswriter and columnist for the Bay Area Newspaper Group. Proceeds from the event benefit the Tri-Valley YMCA programs. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact the Tri-Valley YMCA at 475-6107 or tsstier@ymcaeastbay.org.

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

Timothy Ferris, award-winning author, makes a passionate case for science as the inspiration behind the rise of liberalism and democracy. Wed., Feb. 2, 7:30 p.m. Rae Dorrough Speakers Series, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets or information www.livermoreperformingarts.org or 925.373.6800

Science on Saturday, February 5, Proton Therapy for Cancer, 9:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., downtown Livermore. Presented by the Lawrence Livermore National Labora-

tory. Information at www.livermoreperformingarts.org or 925-373-6800.

Truffles, Tidbits and Wine Tasting, Thursday, February 3, 2011 from 6 to 9 p.m. at participating downtown Pleasanton businesses. Event begins at Chase Bank, 561 Main Street. Tickets must be redeemed by 7:30pm. If there are any tickets available the day of the event, they will be sold at Chase Bank beginning at 5:45pm. Wine strollers will receive a commemorative wine glass and map. Advance purchase \$25.00 at the following locations: Clover Creek (670 Main Street); Studio 7 Fine Arts (400 Main Street); Towne Center Books (555 Main Street); and the Rose Hotel (807 Main Street).

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

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

Science on Saturday, February 12, It's Gust about Time: Harnessing the Wind, 9:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., downtown Livermore. Presented by the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Information at www.livermoreperformingarts.org or 925-373-6800.

Museum on Main, 2011 Ed Kinney Lecture Series. Wednesday, February, 16, 7 p.m., Meet President and Mrs. Lincoln. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. No reservations are required. Tickets are available at the door on a first come first served basis. The Firehouse Arts Center is located at 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. Tickets are \$10 general admission, \$5 members and seniors, \$3 students/teachers with ID. Information, contact Jennifer Amiel, Director of Education at (925) 462-2766 or education@museumonmain.org.

A Toast to Heroes: A Literary Evening on the Myth & Reality of the Hero & the Un-hero. Fri., Feb. 18, 8 to 10 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. Poet Laureate Deborah Grossman and Livermore Poet Laureate Cher Wollard will co-host the first Literary Evening at the new Firehouse Center. Narrator Robert Eastwood, award-winning poet, author and artist from San Ramon, will weave his perspective on the mythology of the heroic and un-heroic with other invited Bay Area writers. \$5, students free. www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us

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

the evening, Feb. 22: Meet the Artists; Exhibit: Filling the Space/Lenando el Espacio; Artist in Residence: Alnolkys Turro and Photography by Eira Arrate; Batá Music: Somos 3 Jesús Díaz, Sandy Pérez and Eric Barbería. Wed., Feb. 23: Cuban Words/Palabras Cubanas, The Poetry of Nicolás Guillén preformed by Joel and Ana María Oliver; Cuban Author Odette Alonso Yodu Streaming Live from Mexico City via Webcam. Thurs., Feb. 24: Cuba Café/ Café Cuba: Abel Magritte: Cuban Singer and Song Writer Lara Greene: Presentation: The Sound of Son; Rick Moniz and Catherine Suárez: Presentation: Cuba Through My Eyes. Fri., Feb. 25: Discussion Panel: Feminine Voices/ Voces Femeninas followed by Cuban Guateque/ Guateque Cubano. Trío Pasión Habanera, Dance Performance by Yussef Breffe Cuban Dance Instructor and Choreographer For more information please visit our website lasemanacubana.org, the Las Positas College home page laspositascollege.edu or call Catherine Suárez at (925)424-1212.

Science on Saturday, February 19, Withstanding Climate Change: You Can Change the World, 9:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., downtown Livermore. Presented by the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Information at www.livermoreperformingarts.org or 925-373-6800.

LIVERMORE READS

February 1, 7pm. *Livermore 1906: During and After the Big Quake.* Local historians and Livermore Heritage Guild members Anne Homan and Richard Finn will talk about the effects of the huge 1906 earthquake on Livermore, what the citizens of Livermore did to help each other, and the big effort to help those in need throughout the Bay Area. *Livermore Reads Together - 1906: A Novel* is sponsored by The Friends of the Livermore Library.

February 5, 10:30am. *Quakes and Shakes for Kids.* Become a junior seismologist and explore the inside and outside of our planet, find out what instruments are used to measure earthquakes, and piece together a proper safety kit. Presented by the Lawrence Hall of Science. *Livermore Reads Together - 1906: A Novel* is sponsored by The Friends of the Livermore Library.

February 10, 7pm. *Are You Ready? How to Survive the Big One.* Find out all you need to know to survive the next Big Quake, and other disasters. Genevieve Pastor-Cohen, certified emergency manager, will give an overview of the hazards faced by the Livermore area, emphasizing the four pillars of preparedness: making a kit and a plan, plus being informed and involved. *Livermore Reads Together - 1906: A Novel* is sponsored by The Friends of the Livermore Library. For additional events check the library's website at www.livermore.lib.ca.us.

February 12, 10:30am. *Readers' Theater for Children of Lizzie Newton and the San Francisco Earthquake.* Under the general direction of Dr. Philip Manwell, Dean, students from the Arts and Communication Division at Las Positas College will offer a special presentation of the children's book *Lizzie Newton and the San Francisco Earthquake*, the story of ten-year-old Lizzie Newton, who having helped take her grandmother to the hospital after the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, sets off on her own to find her parents. *Livermore Reads Together - 1906: A Novel* is sponsored by The Friends of the Livermore Library.

February 13, 2pm. *Frisky Frolics: Tin Pan Alley Troubadours.* With a ukulele-driven

program of such Tin Pan Alley-era classics as "Coke Eatin' Man" and "My Canary Has Circles Under His Eyes," the Frisky Frolics quintet revels in the outdated, dusty gems from our grandparents' 78 rpm record collections. *Livermore Reads Together - 1906: A Novel* is sponsored by The Friends of the Livermore Library.

February 17, 7pm. *A Dramatic Reading from 1906: A Novel.* A cast of volunteer readers from Shakespeare's Associates will bring James Dalessandro's book *1906* to life with a dramatic reading. With an introduction by Dr. Philip Manwell, the featured selections will provide a glimpse of 1906 San Francisco—part Paris, part Dodge City—corruption, bravery, a journalist, a runaway, a Chinese slave girl ... and Enrico Caruso! *Livermore Reads Together - 1906: A Novel* is sponsored by The Friends of the Livermore Library.

February 19, 12 noon, Vine Cinema. *Classic Movie Screening - San Francisco.* View a special showing of the classic 1936 movie *San Francisco* starring Clark Gable, Jeanette MacDonald, and Spencer Tracy, nominated for best actor. *Livermore Reads Together - 1906: A Novel* is sponsored by The Friends of the Livermore Library.

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

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

February 24, 7pm. *The Miles Brothers: Before and After the Earthquake.* David Kiehn, Historian of the Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum will show short films and photographs by the Miles Brothers, pioneers in American cinema, including their 1906 film *A Trip Down Market Street*, an historic 13-minute journey shot just days before the earthquake. *Livermore Reads Together - 1906: A Novel* is sponsored by The Friends of the Livermore Library.

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

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

For additional information check the library's website at www.livermore.lib.ca.us.

Community



Members of the Tri-Valley chapter of DBE (Daughters of the British Empire) ended their 2010-year of fund-raising by presenting a check to Sue Compton, Director of Axis Community Health. Additional donations made locally by the chapter included over twenty toys to the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department's Toys for Tots drive, and sponsoring of a local family through the Salvation Army's holiday drive. Ladies from the group also donated to the British Home for Senior Citizens in Sierra Madre, California. DBE, founded in 1909, is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization in the USA made up of women with a common bond of British or British Commonwealth heritage and ancestry. Members join together in philanthropy and fellowship by contributing significantly to local charities and supporting four retirement homes for seniors in California, Illinois, New York, and Texas, that were established by the DBE. Local chapter members meet monthly and encourage ladies with similar heritage and ancestry to join their group, help with fund-raising activities, enjoy social interaction, and form long-lasting friendships. For additional information about DBE in the Tri-Valley area please contact Edith Caponigro at 925-462-1960.

Chamber Announces Community Service Award Winners

The Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce has announced the recipients of its 48th annual Community Service Awards program. The 2010 recipients listed below will be honored at a dinner on January 28, 2011 at Pleasanton Marriott Hotel. The public is invited to attend.

Business Philanthropy Award: This goes to businesses that have provided philanthropic service beyond the scope of normal business activity. Honoree: Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund

Unlike most other fund-raising drives by individual organizations, the Holiday Fund has no administrative expenses or other overhead. The Pleasanton Weekly donates all the support services and marketing expenses so all money raised can support local nonprofit groups.

Over the past seven years, the fund has raised more than \$450,000 from donors in direct contributions. Since the first campaign, the Tri-Valley Community Foundation has provided 1:1 matching funds, so more than \$900,000 has been given to Tri-Valley non-profits in non-restricted funding. Axis Community Health Center and Open Heart Kitchen have been on the list of beneficiaries since the beginning.

The 2009 Holiday Fund set a record-high \$93,346 raised in direct contributions from the public, apart from the match. Seven nonprofit organizations received close to \$20,000 each.

Excellence in Business Award: Given to businesses that have made a positive impact in the Pleasanton community through their achievement within the scope of normal business activity. Honoree: Spring Street Studios

In 20 years in Pleasanton, Jerry Pentin of Spring Street Studios has donated numerous videos at a value of hundreds of thousands for initiatives and non-profits. Here are a few of the recipients of his volunteer talents: Firehouse Arts; Pleasanton Partners in Education; Tulancingo Sister City; Cycling for Civics to support Mock Trial and Competition Civics at Amador and Foothill; Veteran's Hall - Pleasanton; Pleasanton North Rotary and many more.

Excellence in Service Award: This goes to a non-profit organizations that have contributed to Pleasanton. Honoree: Child Care Links

For the past 30 years Child Care Links has been dedicated to the children and families in Alameda County acting as a leader in the

community advocating for quality child care and resources for families. Child Care Links is committed to offering a variety of services at no cost to the community. The agency helps to enrich the lives of children in the Tri-Valley by providing educational workshops for parents and childcare providers.

Child Care Links acts as a link between the government and families in Alameda County who are seeking assistance for child care. Income eligible families can receive funds to help pay for child care as well as learn how to find quality child care in their community. The agency offers free child care referrals to parents in the Tri-Valley.

Distinguished Individual Service Award: The award is given to individuals who have contributed to Pleasanton through exceptional service to the community or philanthropic efforts. Honoree: Joyce Shapiro.

Joyce Shapiro has been a consistent volunteer and leader for the community since moving to Pleasanton in the mid 60's. She has been a downtown business owner, property owner, chamber officer, director and president.

In the 70's she served on the Planning Commission and was

Military



Army 1st Sgt. Jeremy L. Wright (right) was one of 90 Army active duty, Reserve, or National Guard soldier heroes honored during the pre-game activities at the 2011 Army sponsored "All-American" Bowl in San Antonio, Texas. Shortly before the kickoff of the nationally-televized game, each soldier hero was matched to an All-American high school athlete, who represented the East and West squads on the field. Wright was paired with his half-brother George Atkinson III for Bowl. Their Dad, George "Butch" Henry Atkinson, a former Oakland Raiders player, is also attending Bowl Week, along with George's twin brother Josh. Both twins have committed to Notre Dame in South Bend, IN. During the past year, the soldier heroes have participated in various military deployments, and because of their dedication, leadership, and teamwork skills, received various medals for their distinguished service to our country. Wright is assigned to the 95th Civil Affairs Brigade, Fort Bragg, Fayetteville, N.C. Wright is the son of George Atkinson of Livermore. He is a 1986 graduate of Tompkins High School, Savannah, Ga.

instrumental in the forming of the BID for the downtown area. She began the organization now known as the Pleasanton Downtown Association and was the first president of the organization in 1979. She remained active on the Planning Commission through 1985 and during the 90's; she was voted best overall CEO at the Valley Volunteer CEO dinner. She helped raise funds and organized the first fundraiser for the new senior center and the City of Pleasanton's Centennial in 1994.

Most recently, for the past five years, Joyce has served as Program Manager of the Leadership Pleasanton Program, a volunteer position. Joyce chaired the first successful fund-raiser for the Firehouse Arts Project and joined the Tri-Valley YMCA Board of Directors in 2009. She chaired the Annual Partners Campaign and raised the largest amount in their recent history.

Green Business Award: The awards goes to businesses that are small or large that promotes sustainable environmental business practices throughout their organization for the benefit of employees, customers or the community. Honoree: Ponderosa Homes

Ponderosa Homes ensures every home within The Village at Ironwood community has a solar (photovoltaic) roofing system and

the residents have the ability to track energy performance of their Eagle Solar Roofing system online. The innovative storm water treatment system is designed to be integrated into the community which includes a permeable paving system in the private streets, bio-swales and retention basins in landscaped areas, and an advanced underground detention facility to restore clean water to the environment.

In addition, the front yards are designed to maximize water conservation by featuring drought-tolerant plants and eliminating the use of turf areas to lessen the need for fertilizers/herbicides and maintenance. The high-efficiency irrigation system which includes a satellite-based controller also reduces water use by tailoring water consumption to the local conditions.

UNCLE Credit Union will once again sponsor this annual chamber tradition. The evening will feature live music and networking beginning with a no-host cocktail reception at 6:00 p.m. and dinner program at 7:00 p.m. Cost to attend is \$75 per person; tables of 8 available, event is open to the public. RSVP by January 24. Reservations can be made online at www.pleasanton.org/chamber_store.html or call (925) 846-5858 ext. 201.

Milestones

Community

Pleasanton Police Department Announces Award Winners

The Pleasanton Police Department has announced the 2010 Officer of the Year and Professional Staff Employee of the Year, as part of its long-standing annual recognition program for superior performance. Employees throughout the organization nominate their peers for their contributions, which are then reviewed by a committee. The final selections are made by the Police Chief.

Officer Matthew Kroutil has been selected as Officer of the Year for his proactive contributions in keeping Pleasanton safe. Officer Kroutil has been described as a dedicated professional with an intrinsic motivation to do quality police work. His hard work and tenacity was further demonstrated in July while making one of the several hundred traffic stops he made during the year. While on patrol in the City of Pleasanton, Officer Kroutil stopped a vehicle for having a cracked windshield. During the stop he contacted a 35 year-old male driver from Nebraska, and inquired about the juvenile female passenger with him in the vehicle. Officer Kroutil's investigative instincts and intuitive skills lead him to believe something was unusual about their relationship. Regardless of their independent claims to mitigate his doubts, he continued to ask probing questions and investigate for the truth. Because of his determination, Officer Kroutil unraveled a significant and particularly despicable crime against a child and arrested a sexual predator who had traveled across state lines after meeting the juvenile on the Internet and who was later determined to be a wanted fugitive. Because of this arrest additional victims were discovered. The arrest of this predator has removed him from our communities and will likely prevent him from causing further victimization to others for many years to come.

Pleasanton Police Department prides itself on high visibility and proactive patrols to serve its community and work with citizens to reduce crime. This is an excellent example of the kind of outstanding police work that can be accomplished when officers remain engaged in routine traffic enforce-

ment and investigative stops. Officer Kroutil started with the Modesto Police in 2007 and joined the Pleasanton Police Department in 2009. He is commended for his commitment to law enforcement and outstanding performance of his duties.

The Professional Staff Employee of the Year is Records Clerk Vanessa Schlehuber. Ms. Schlehuber is consistently optimistic, up-beat and enthusiastic about her career and the department. Always willing to assist others, Ms. Schlehuber embraces providing strong customer service to achieve the best possible resolution and many co-workers seek out her assistance and expertise on a variety of issues. She is primary to assist with processing juvenile arrests in the CABS and Livescan systems, and is a facilitator to train our employees on both the criminal and applicant uses for Livescan. Her background and experience with our permitting process has helped those new to this role. Ms. Schlehuber is a true asset, having garnered a well-versed knowledge base of the many aspects within our department she is always ready and willing to take on new challenges.

In addition to her many contributions as a paid employee, Ms. Schlehuber gives generously of her own time and volunteers and serves President of the Pleasanton Police Officers Association Charitable Foundation. Over the past several years, she's provided countless hours of personal time planning and organizing the "Giving Tree Program" for during the holiday season. She meticulously solicits and reviews applications, organizes press releases and communications with citizens to ensure a successful outcome for the families in need. She also oversees donations made by the foundation during the year and gives generously to local causes. The overall success of the program is a true reflection of her ownership, dedication and leadership in this role.

She has been with the Pleasanton Police Department since July of 2005 and is married to her husband Kurt, who is a Sergeant with the PPD.



Greg Soyka is shown with the bleachers he built.

Greg Soyka Earns Eagle Rank

Greg Soyka of Troop 948 in Pleasanton recently earned the rank of Eagle Scout from the Boy Scouts of America. Greg completed his Eagle project this past August and recently passed his Eagle Board of Review. His Court of Honor will be held this coming summer.

For his Eagle project, Greg designed, managed and participated in the construction of two eight foot long wooden bleachers for use inside the adobe structure at

the Alviso Adobe Park on Foothill Blvd. in Pleasanton. The bleachers will be used by school children and others attending field trips and nature seminars at the park.

Beginning as a Cub Scout in second grade, Greg has been in scouting for over 10 years. As a Webelos Scout he earned the Arrow of Light, the highest rank a Cub Scout can earn. During his time in Troop 948 (sponsored by the Centerpointe Presbyterian Church in Pleasanton), Greg

served as Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Den Chief, Instructor and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. He completed Brownsea National Youth Leadership Training, was on Brownsea staff and is a member of the Order of the Arrow.

Greg logged over 75 nights camping and more than 300 miles hiking while in Scouting, including two trips to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico.

Greg is a graduate of Foothill High School and is currently a student at the University of Nevada, where he is studying Civil Engineering.

Education

Mendenhall Students Named to Honor Band

The Northern California Band Association has announced that Jane Wu, Jared Maranon, Emily Gary, Brett Bernstein and Genevieve Bussell from Mendenhall Middle School have been selected through auditions to be participants in the 2011 Northern California Band Association All-Northern

California Jr. High Band.

The Honor Band is a select group of musicians from all of the California counties north of the Tehachapi Mountains. The Director for the 2011 All-Northern Jr. High Honor Band will be Mr. Michael Boitz.

The selected students are mem-

bers of the Mendenhall Middle School Advanced Band directed by teacher, Randy Watson. The Board of Directors of the Northern California Band Association congratulates these students for their successful efforts in becoming a part of the All-Northern Honor Band.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

Team KC Red Cross Blood Drive, Sunset School, Frankfurt Way, Livermore on Thurs., Jan. 27, 1 to 7 p.m. To sign up, go to www.redcrossblood.org and enter Sponsor Code TeamKC. This blood drive is in support of Team KC and in memory of Korrine Croghan.

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

Truffles, Tidbits and Wine Tasting, Thursday, February 3, 2011 from 6 to 9 p.m. at participating downtown Pleasanton businesses. Event begins at Chase Bank, 561 Main Street. Tickets must be redeemed by 7:30 p.m. If there are any tickets available the day of the event, they will be sold at Chase Bank beginning at 5:45 p.m. Wine strollers will receive a commemorative wine glass and map. Only eight hundred (800) tickets will be offered for this event and will be available for advance purchase for \$25.00 at the following locations: Clover Creek (670 Main Street); Studio 7 Fine Arts (400 Main Street); Towne Center Books (555 Main Street); and the Rose Hotel (807 Main Street).

Friends of the Vineyards, annual meeting to be held at 7:00 pm on Jan. 27 at the Livermore Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave. All are welcome. Light refreshments will be provided. Guest speaker will be Dick Schneider from the Sierra Club. www.fov.org

Rummage Sale, First Presbyterian Church annual event. Feb. 4 and 5 (Fri. & Sat.) 0 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Friday and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday. 451 South K St., Livermore.

Livermore Library Board of Trustees, meets 7 p.m. Thurs., Jan. 27 at the Civic Center Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave. An agenda will be posted at the library 72 hours prior to the meeting.

Livermore Valley Business and Professional Women, honoring Woman of the Year, Joanne Abey, Jan. 26 at Castle Rock Restaurant, 1848 Portola Ave., Livermore. Abey was an educator in Livermore schools, specializing in Early Childhood, reading specialist and home economics. She was also the owner of Tutorage Learning Center for 29 years before retiring. Her new passion is establishing the Community Gardens in Livermore. Registration 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner and the program at 6 p.m. The public is invited to attend. Cost is \$20 for dinner. Please RSVP by Jan. 24 to Sally at 413-6065.

Valley Spokesmen Bicycle Touring Club, Sat., Jan. 22, 20 miles Feather Pedals training ride for Cinderella, meet 9:30 a.m. at Shannon Center, Dublin, Marty Lenzi, 283-1037. Sun., Jan. 23, 47 miles Dublin to Moraga loop, meet 9 a.m. at Shannon Center, Peter Rathmann, 336-0973. Wed., Jan. 26, 30 miles Heather Farm to Diablo junction and back, meet 10:30 a.m., Henry Lam, 708-4066. Anyone planning to go on a ride is asked to call the leader for details on where to meet and what to bring.

Livermore Adult Community Education is currently accepting enrollment for the following classes; SAT/PSAT Preparation, English as a Second Language, GED, Adult High School Diploma, CAHSEE Preparation, Microsoft Office 2007, Phlebotomy, Clinical Medical Assistant, Pharmacy Technician, Clinical Nursing Asst., Hemodialysis Tech., Physical Therapy Aide, Sterile Processing Tech., Estate Planning, Retirement Planning, CPR/First Aid, Art Classes and Health & Fitness Classes. Call 925-606-4722 for more information or visit us at www.livermoreadulted.org.

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

San Ramon Valley Newcomers Club

invites new or long-time residents to its monthly luncheon on February 17 at Blackhawk Grille, 3450 Blackhawk Plaza Cir., Blackhawk. 11:30 - 2pm. Cost is \$21. Speaker will be Terry Monday, Volunteer Program Mgr. for Med-share, which recovers & distributes surplus medical supplies. Call Susan, 925-718-5214, for reservations & information.

Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA) Pleasanton, meets 7:15 to 8:45 p.m. St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton (not affiliated with the church. www.dballiance.org/pleasanton or contact chapter leader, Al Pereira, 462-6415.

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

Charity Fashion Show, Thursday, January 20, 7 to 10 p.m. Sapphire Restaurant and Lounge, 2300 First Street, Livermore. Presented by Esteem Productions as a fund-raiser for the Taylor Family Foundation. Tickets \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. The price of admission includes a raffle ticket and a complimentary glass of champagne. Besides a "Catwalk Fashion Show" that will showcase local boutiques, the event will include a silent auction. Music will be provided by Amos Productions. For more information on the event and how to get tickets, email us at EsteemProductions@gmail.com or visit our website at www.EsteemProductions.net.

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

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

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

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

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

Scholarship applications, The applications for Livermore students for college scholarships from the Pedrozzi Foundation are now

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

Retired Educators' Scholarship: Up to six scholarships, each worth \$1,500.00, are offered by the Tri-Valley Retired Educators Scholarship Foundation. The awards are offered to high-school graduating seniors and college/university students. All applicants must be planning a career in education. Requirements are: a) applicants must be residents of the Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin or Sunol area, b) high school applicants must be seniors planning to attend a four-year college in fall, 2011, c) community college applicants must be qualified to transfer as juniors to a four-year institution in fall, 2011, d) 4-year college applicants must be sophomores who will continue as juniors in fall, 2011. Questions about the scholarship should be sent to greegno@pacbell.net or call 925-443-6097. Application packets for the scholarships can be downloaded at the retired educators' website www.div85.ca.rta.org/. Application deadline is March 7, 2011.

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

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

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

Widowed Men and Women of Northern CA., Birthday champagne brunch in San Ramon, Jan. 23, 11:45 a.m. RSVP by Jan. 20 to Marsha, 830-8483. Lunch in Fremont, Jan. 26, 1 p.m., RSVP by Jan. 24 to Vickie, 510-656-1166. Crab feed dinner in Livermore, Jan. 29, 5 p.m. RSVP by Jan. 23 to Hilda, 398-8808.

City of Pleasanton nature programs: Wondrous Universe Series, Winter Skies, Sat., Feb. 5, 2011, 7:30 to 9 p.m. Alvisio Adobe Community Park, 3465 Old Foothill Road. How big is our galaxy? How far is the nearest star? How was our solar system made? Explore the universe as we try to answer these questions and more. Games and hands-on activities will aid us as we search for the answers. Then, if the skies are willing, we'll take a peek at the wonders above through a telescope. For all ages. Fee: \$9 for residents/\$12 for non-residents. **2nd Annual California Newt Festival**, Augustin Bernal Park, Sat., Feb. 12, 2011, 9 to 10 a.m. Learn about the natural history of amphibians, particularly the spectacular California Newt and its interesting cycle of life. Participants will help take a count of newts as part of an annual survey on this unique adventure for all ages. Fee: \$9 for residents/\$12 for non-residents. Call (925) 931-5340 for information or to register, or register online at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/recreation.html.

Pleasantonians 4 Peace, Peaceful War Protest will be held on the fourth Wednesday of the month, January 26 between 5 - 6 at the corners of First and Neal Streets. Please join us if you can. Questions?? Call Cathie Norman at (925) 462-7495; Matt Sullivan at mjs7882@gmail.com; or kdowling@pacbell.net. Please see our New P4P web site www.Pleasantonians4Peace.org

Daughters of the American Revolution, Josefa Higuera Livermore Chapter, meets 9:30 a.m. on the first Saturday of the month between Sept. and May at the Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., Livermore. DAR is a women's service organization. The women are descended from a patriot of the American Revolution and are dedicated to pa-

triotism, preservation of American history and securing America's future through education. Information, contact Maris at 443-3087.

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

Birthright Pregnancy Support Service, For information on a variety of volunteer opportunities, please call John Kupski evenings at 606-8230. We are presently open M-Tu-Fri 10 am-2 pm, Thurs. eve. 6-9 pm. Birthright offers free pregnancy tests, guidance, adoption and medical referrals, baby and maternity clothing, and more. Livermore office at 1520 Catalina Ct., just behind the Granada Shopping Center, or call 449-5887. 1-800-550-4900 Hotline number is staffed 24 hours a day. All Birthright services are free and confidential. www.birthright.org

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

RELIGION

United Christian Church, celebrating 50 years in the Tri-Valley, 1886 College Ave. at M St., Livermore; worships 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. Call 449-6820 for more information.

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

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

Spiritual Reiki Group The Japanese system of Reiki is a spiritual practice which uses meditations, chanting, visualizations, and hands-on energy group work so that we can connect to our true nature. No prior Reiki experience is necessary. On the first and third Saturdays of every month, 10-11:45 a.m. at Tri-Valley Unity's Gathering Place, 7567 Amador Valley Blvd., #120, Dublin. Contact Gayle at gstaehle@comcast.net.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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