STANDARD CARRIER ROUTE US POSTAGE PAID NLAND PUBLISHING



Photo - Doug Jorgensen Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre is staging the well known musical, "Guys and Dolls" at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., in downtown Livermore. The show opens Jan. 23 and runs Jan. 24, 25, 30, 31, Feb. 1, 6, 7, 8. Curtain time is 8 p.m. on Fri. and Sat. and 2 p.m. on Sun. For tickets, call 925-373-6800 or go online to www.livermoreperformingarts.org. Pictured rehearsing are Chelsea Nenni who portrays Sarah Brown, the upright but uptight "mission doll," out to reform the evildoers of Time Square; and Eric Neiman as Sky Masterson, the slick, highrolling gambler who woos her on a bet and ends up falling in love. Among the many well known songs in the score is "Luck Be a

Library Offers Assistance for Job Seekers

The Livermore Library has taken steps to help job seekers in their search. Among them is the creation of the Free2 Succeed Job Center.

Funded by an innovation grant from the Bay Area Library and Information Services network, the Free2 Succeed Job Center offers free one-on-one career advising sessions where patrons can receive assistance with resumes and cover letters, help in completing online applications, interviewing techniques, career assessment, and more.

The library is hosting a variety of workshops and programs featuring employment-related

In conjunction with the Free2 Succeed Job Center, the Library is now providing the Vault Online Career Library, which provides career information for students and professionals through 71 Vault Career Guidebooks. It also includes over 4,000+ Company Profiles and 50 extended Company Profiles customized to Livermore. Sample resumes and cover letters, and interview tips and over 1000 Career advice articles are included.

Another new database is the Learning Express Test Database. This database provides preparation for career and academic exams and skills remediation. It offers online practice tests that pre-

(See JOBS, page 5)



Pictured hanging new yellow ribbons on the tree at the corner of First St. and Livermore Avenue in downtown Livermore are volunteers Kathy and Kristin. The work was accomplished by Phyllis Hall, Julie Quintal, Linda Myers and Kristin Ekvall, the City of Livermore and Kathy of the maintenance. Kristin, of Operation SAM, notes, "Thanks again to the city and the community for all their support and donations. It would be nice to have our troops home and not have to have the yellow ribbons - but they do look wonderful and hopefully it makes everyone stop and think and appreciate what our troops are doing.'

Livermore School District Braces for the Worst

Imagine learning that you were going to take a pay cut, and that it's six months retroactive. And next year your earnings would be reduced even more. Your employer promises to pay you back at some unspecified date in the future, only your employer has a very spotty record paying back

That's the situation California public school districts are facing with the proposed budget cuts to school funding. California's budget outlook is so bad that the projected deficit—at least \$40 billion by most estimates—is more than the entire budget of most other states. While the news is

very bad, school districts are still guessing and waiting for the final answer from Sacramento.

Stewart Gary, one of two newly elected members of the Livermore Board of Education, commented that in his 35-year career in public service he has never seen Sacramento this politically gridlocked. He urged everyone to contact their representatives and demand that they finalize the state budget immediately.

'We know cuts are coming. We need to know what those are so we can plan for it," he said. "Tell Sacramento to make a decision. Their delays are costing us cash and they are dumping the whole thing onto the local community. Stop fiddling, Rome!"

For a running total of the estimated cost of those delays, look at Governor Schwarzenegger's website (http://gov.ca.gov/).

Susan Kinder, executive director of fiscal services for the Livermore School District, said districts have been advised to stop spending immediately, even in categorical programs, to prepare for the worst.

"We're being told to freeze all spending and hiring except for health and safety issues," she explained at the Jan. 13 Board of Education meeting. "In the past,

we've frozen unrestricted spending in times of fiscal crisis. This time we're stopping categorical spending as well.

Categorical funding has strict stipulations on how it can be spent, such as for class size reduction, textbooks for certain programs, or classroom aides to support English Language Learners. One of Governor Schwarzenegger's budget proposals is to lift many of the restrictions on categorical spending to soften the blow of the drastic funding cuts.

The Governor's proposal for the current school year would cut funding by an additional 5%,

average daily attendance (ADA). State funding is based on ADA, the number of students in seats at school throughout the school year, not the number of students enrolled. This mid-year budget cut would be retroactive to July

The proposal for the 2009/10 school year is where things get really ugly. There is no cost of living adjustment and a deficit factor of 16.161%. In simple terms, a deficit factor takes away funding and replaces it with an IOU that should be paid back in future years. Deficit factors from

(See LIVERMORE, page 4)



Hosterman, Congressman Jerry McNerney, Abram Wilson and John Marchand.

Transportation, Foreclosed Homes, Tech Park Among Issues Raised by Mayors

their annual visit to Washington, and Newell Arnerich from Dan-D.C. to lobby for various projects. Transportation funds, money to rehabilitate foreclosed homes. and a potential technology park were among the topics discussed with Congressional representa-

Making the trip were mayors Jennifer Hosterman from Pleasanton, Tim Sbranti from Dublin,

Local elected officials paid Abram Wilson from San Ramon ville. Vice mayor John Marchand represented Liver-

Congressman Jerry McNerney set up a conference call with the local press to discuss issues raised by the may-

McNerney said talks focused on keeping transportation projects moving forward, increasing public benefit from research at the national laboratories in Livermore, retaining the Livermore va Hospitai, and providing funding for the Tri-Valley Opportunity Center.

McNerney described the Opportunity Center, which provides counseling for potential homebuyers, as a model for other

(See VISIT, page 12)

Pleasanton Schools Seek Parcel Tax Feedback

Pleasanton school trustees want community feedback about going to the ballot for a parcel tax to help cure its \$8.7 million deficit over the next 18 months, and for any future state education budget shortfalls.

The board at its meeting Jan. 13 also heard an objection from an African American parent about the teaching of John Steinbeck's novel, "Of Mice and Men," in a high school classroom. Carla Butler said that she objected to exposing high school students to the cursing and the "N" word in the book's dialogue.

On the parcel tax, trustees

heard assistant superintendent Luz Cazares discuss the district's shortfall resulting from the projected state budget deficit of \$41 billion in the next 18 months.

Board president Chris Grant said that the public needs to let the board know what the education priorities are. "We will also need your energy and passion. The solution probably will include cuts, and all will have effects," he said.

Board member Jim Ott said the district might need \$350 per parcel annually to revitalize the district's budget. He pointed out that every \$100 from the parcel tax raises more than \$2 million.

(See PARCEL TAX, page 3)

McNerney, Local Dems Praise Obama Inauguration

Valley Democrats cheered the inauguration of President Barack Obama and Vice President Joseph Biden on Tuesday.

The Tri-Valley Democratic Club joined the general public in a big- screen TV viewing of the inauguration at the IBEW hall in Dublin. A second get-together happened at 7 p.m. on Inauguration Day, as a rebroadcast of the ceremony occurred from Washington, D.C. It was introduced by 11th Congressional District Rep. Jerry McNerney.

McNerney said in a press release on Tuesday, "President Obama's inauguration renews faith in the power of ordinary Americans coming together to create monumental change."

McNerney added that he looks forward "to working with President Obama to address our country's urgent priorities: reversing the course of our economy, creating millions of new jobs, especially those through new energy technology, making health care more affordable, and keeping America safe and secure.'

"Today, we celebrate an extraordinary moment in American history as Barack Obama becomes America's 44th president, and the first African- American to lead our nation. It is truly a historic day and this is a great new beginning for our country," said McNerney.

(See INAUGURATION, page 3)

Lab Retirees Organizing to Resolve Health Care Issue

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory retirees continue to raise concerns regarding the handling of their medical benefits.

One retiree, Joe Requa, is in the process of organizing an effort to explore legal options as well as converse with University of California representatives and elected officials to resolve a situation they see as unfair.

Requa and others believe that since they retired prior to the change in management at the Lab, they are UC retirees. "We had no relationship with LLNS (Lawrence Livermore National

Environmentalists concerned

about the Alameda Creek water-

shed have submitted their views

of what a habitat conservation

plan (HCP) covering 36,000 acres

in the Sunol Valley should ad-

land as part of its Hetch-Hetchy

water project, had representatives

of its public utilities commission

(PUC) and planning department

at the meeting, which was con-

San Francisco, which owns the

By Ron McNicoll

dress

Security, LLC). It's inconceivable that they would be given control of our medical benefits. It is certainly morally wrong, and I believe it is legally wrong," said Requa.

Lab retirees point out that they spent their entire careers at the Lab and retired prior to the change in management. They stayed at the Lab, although they could have made more money in the private sector, because they liked the affiliation with a university. In addition, they believed that health care benefits

(See HEALTH CARE, page 4)

ducted Jan. 13 at the Dublin

cess of modifying its water

project. The city has drawn up a

30-year plan for the modifica-

tions, maintenance and opera-

tion of its facilities. They in-

clude the Calaveras and San

Antonio reservoirs and their

dams, and a diversion dam up-

stream from the adjacent Little

Yosemite falls in Sunol Re-

(See CONSERVATION, page 4)

San Francisco is in the pro-

Civic Center.

Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Jack O'Loughlin of Pleasanton took advantage of the warm weather and a holiday to practice tricks at the skateboard facility at the Pleasanton Sports Park.

Pleasanton Joins Brief On Housing Numbers

The Pleasanton City Council voted to join an amicus curiae brief to support the city of Irvine's efforts to challenge its regional housing needs assessment.

Irving filed suit in Orange County to challenge the assessment, which constituted 43 percent of the entire Orange County regional housing need. Irving argued that did not represent a fair share. A trial court dismissed the lawsuit on grounds that the court did not have jurisdiction to decide the issue. Irvine has appealed the decision, arguing that the courts do have jurisdiction.

Pleasanton City Attorney Michael Roush recommended Pleasanton join the appeal. "Pleasanton may at some time wish to challenge the regional housing needs assessment. Pleasanton should join this effort in order to preserve the right of cities to have judicial review over this aspect of local planning,' wrote Roush

In his staff report to the council, Roush notes that the disposition of the appeal has serious implications for all California (See BRIEF, page 3)

Inside

Conservationists Want More

Species In Watershed Plan

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PET OF THE WEEK

Look up the phrase "lap cat" and you will find a photo of Baxter! Baxter has never met a lap he does not like. Looking for someone to snuggle with on those chilly winter nights? Baxter is your guy. To sit a spell with Baxter, visit Valley Humane Society's Kitty City at 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton. Open Tues-Sat from 11AM to 5PM. Visit the web site www.valleyhumane.org or call 925-426-8656.

Girl Scouts and Good News Bears Are a Perfect Match

By Patricia Koning

To complete their Bronze Star Award, Camryn Clinton, Alyssa Alvarez, Julie Hamblin, and Shruthi Sukir found themselves staring at a room filled with stuffed animals—548 to be exact. After a week spent sorting and labeled, the four members of Girl Scout Troop 1613 delivered many bags of stuffed animals to a very happy Jeannie Haigh.

"This really helps replenish our supply of bears and other animals after the holidays," says Haigh, the "chairbear" of Good News Bears. "To have their donation labeled and sorted, basically ready to go, is great.'

Good News Bears is a nonprofit organization based in Livermore that distributes "stuffed love" in the form of teddy bears and stuffed animals to children and adults suffering illness, loss, trauma, or loneliness. The organization distributes about 8,000 bears and other animals each year to local agencies and worldwide.

The Girl Scouts decided to make Good News Bears the focus of their Bronze Award because of Alyssa's personal experience with the organization. About three years ago, she spent several weeks in the hospital after having her appendix removed. During that time she received a pink stuffed bunny from Good News Bears.

The Bronze Award is the high-



Girl Scouts (from left) Camryn Clinton, Julie Hamblin, Shruthi Sukir, and Alyssa Alvarez earned their Bronze Award by collecting over 500 stuffed animals for Good News Bears.

est honor that a Junior Girl Scout (ages 8-11) can receive. The award requires the Girl Scout to learn the leadership and planning skills necessary to follow through on a project that makes a positive impact on her community. In addition to earning leadership badges and badges related to the project, the Girl Scout must

spend at least 15 hours planning and implementing the project.

The members of Troop 1613 put a notice in the Altamont Creek Elementary School newsletter just before Thanksgiving, and set up bins in several classrooms. In three weeks, they collected 548 stuffed animals, ranging from small beanie babies to

brand new Webkinz to large

"I was hoping we'd be able to collect over 100 stuffed animals," says Shruthi. "We were amazed by how many donations we got just from our school."

Alyssa's mother Christina Alavarez, one of 1613's troop leaders and a science specialist

at Altamont Creek, offered up her classroom as a storage depot. During lunch and after school the girls sorted the bears by size and then affixed labels with the troop number and Good News Bears logo. They recruited friends to help lighten the workload.

The stuffed animals will go to shelters such as Tri-Valley Haven and Shepherd's Gate, hospitals, hospice, and emergency personnel. Alameda County California Highway Patrol Officers keep two bears in their cars at all time to comfort children and adults involved in accidents. Whenever Good News Bears "MemBEARS" travel, they bring along "stuffed love" to distribute where there is a need.

Beanie babies go into Operation S.A.M. care packages sent to troops overseas. The troops often give those donations to children in places like Iraq and Afghanistan. The Girl Scouts are excited about how far the stuffed animals they collected at their

school might travel.

"These beanie babies might be the first stuffed animal a child in Iraq has ever gotten," says Shruthi. "It's neat to think how far away our donations might

Good News Bears accepts donations of new or very gently used stuffed animals and cash, which is used to purchase new teddy bears. "I think we collected so many donations because evervone has extra, barely used stuffed animals," says Cynthia Hamblin, the other troop leader and Julie's mother.

"I hope more troops support Good News Bears through service projects," says Haigh. "Demand for our bears increases every year. There are more people needing social services than ever."

For more information on Good News Bears, visit www.goodnewsbears.org, email ihaigh@webbearings.com, or call (925) 373-7982.

Workshop to Provide Information on Solar Power

The cities of Pleasanton and Livermore will jointly host a free workshop designed to provide the citizens of all both cities with an overview of solar technology for residential use.

The workshop is scheduled for Thursday, January 29 at 7:00 p.m. at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Avenue in Livermore. The meeting will be held in the Larkspur Room of the community center.

On Tuesday evening January 20, the Dublin City Council planned to discuss joining the Solar Cities program. The decision occurred prior to press deadline for The Independent. If approved, Dublin would also be a host of the workshop.

The presentation will include an overview about residential solar energy—how it works, average costs, how to determine if a home is best situated for its use, and how the State and Federal incentives work. A question and answer session will follow the presentation. A number of solar installers will also be available to speak to the public and answer questions in an informal setting. Building inspectors from Livermore and Pleasanton will be on hand to engage with homeowners about the inspection process for solar installations.

A growing awareness of the developing technology for solar energy combined with a desire to make communities more sustainable has fueled a new interest in solar energy. Research indicates that the solar power industry is expected to see triple digit growth as it approaches \$12 billion by 2012. Locally, in 2007, prior to the implementation of the Solar Cities program, Livermore issued 43 permits for residential solar energy systems. The number of permits rose to 91

an increase in solar energy permits during the year in which the Solar Cities program was implemented. The number of permits in 2007 was 37, jumping to 67 in 2008, marking an 81% increase.

The use of solar energy to power homes is one segment of this overall growth as homeowners tap into sunshine to dividends in several ways, including the environmental benefit of producing your own clean energy. Homeowners can also benefit by increasing the value of their property with a solar installation and, at the same time, avoid future energy rate increases.

For more information about the free Solar Cities workshop, please call (925) 960-4413, or visit www.solarcitiesnow.com/.







Tango Fire

enos Aires' Electrifying Tango Company Founded in 1996 by the distinguished Argentine ballerina and choreographer, Carolina Soler, Buenos Aires' Estampas Portenas is a tango company with a performance that is simultaneously rhythmic, technical and erotic. "Tango Fire is the real deal-sensuous." twists and turns, lightning sharp interaction between a pair of dancers, great music, sexy costumes and glamorous performers make Tango Fire a show that is full of adrenalin and good humor."

Feb 18 • 8pm \$55/\$40/\$35/\$30/\$12 students



Red Grammer Critically acclaimed and Grammy nominated recording artist of children's music

Red Grammer has set the gold standard for writing and performing contemporary children's music. Consistently winning awards for music with uplifting themes, innovative lyrics, and irresistible melodies Red and his wife (co-lyricist Kathy Grammer) have created a treasure trove of music for families and classrooms.

Mar 1 • 2pm 530/825/520/\$12 students

Guys and Dolls Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre Jan 23-Feb 8 + 2/8pm

\$36/\$34/\$26

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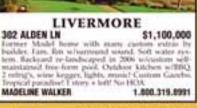


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VALLEY ROUNDUP

Congress at Your Corner

Congressman Jerry McNerney (CA-11) will hold the first two 2009 installments of Congress at Your Corner in Dublin on January 24 and in Manteca on January 31.

"Instead of asking community members to come to one of my offices, I am going to go to them to make it as easy as possible for them to see their Member of Congress," Rep. McNerney

Congress at Your Corner is part of an effort to reach out to residents of California's 11th District. The program is designed to allow constituents to meet and discuss issues with Rep. McNerney in the places where they already shop and recreate.

In Dublin, McNerney will be at Panera Bread, 7030 Amador Plaza Rd. from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Sat., Jan. 24. He will be in Manteca on Sat., Jan. 31 from 3 to 4 p.m. at the Manteca Bowl and Family Fun Center, 1251 E. Yosemite Ave.

Student Funds Available

Students at Chabot College in Hayward and Las Positas College in Livermore, will not have to worry about not receiving spring Cal grant funds due to the delayed state budget. District officials have identified funds that they will use to cover the grants so students will not have to interrupt their education.

"This continues to be a difficult situation for our students. As we did in the fall, we will provide funds to our students so they can continue their progress toward achieving their goals without the stress of worrying about whether or not their financial aid funds will be available," said Joel Kinnamon, district chancellor.

The district is prepared to advance payment to approximately 500 students.

For information about the spring financial aid disbursements, please call Chabot College's financial aid office at (510) 723-6748 or Las Positas College's financial aid office at (925) 424-1580.

There will be a temporary road closure on E. Airway Blvd. in Livermore. Through traffic will be prohibited on E. Airway between Rutan Drive and Sutter Street now through Feb. 10. Access for emergency vehicles, public services and businesses will be maintained at all times. Traffic will be detoured around the area via Murrietta Blvd. to Jack London Blvd. to Kitty Hawk Road.

The closure will allow for installation of a 42inch water pipeline associated with the Altamont Treatment Plant and Pipeline (AWTP&P) project.

Zone 7 Water Agency is constructing the project, which will provide a reliable drinking water supply to meet the demand of future planned growth in Pleasanton, Livermore, and Dublin through the year 2035. The Altamont Pipeline -Livermore Reach is a 5-mile stretch extending from Kitty Hawk Road to the vicinity of Vasco Road. Ranger Pipelines is installing the 42-inch pipe and expects to complete the job in summer 2009. For more information, contact (925) 455-0110 or visit www.zone7water.com.

Clarification

Pleasanton City Councilmember Jerry Thorne's vote on a Martial Arts Studio permit was as follows: He voted not to allow Mr. Pfund to open until the child care license has been issued. Thorne stated, "However, I differed with my fellow Council members in that I believe that once that license is issued the facility can be modified to comply with our City's codes."

PARCEL TAX

Other districts, such as Livermore, Palo Alto, Berkeley and Piedmont have passed parcel taxes of about \$200 per parcel. "We need to hear from you folks," said Ott.

The district hired a consultant several years ago to study whether a parcel tax could receive the needed two-thirds majority. The conclusion was that it depended on the amount. None of the amounts discussed were as high as \$300.

Trustee Pat Kernan said there is nothing he wants to cut. The district will become inferior if it makes the cuts, he said. "We need to step up as a community, and move with haste, gusto and passion," said Kernan. His remarks drew audience applause.

Trustee Valerie Arkin, who previously served on the district's budget advisory committee, said she doubts a parcel tax "would cover the entire deficit. We would still have to make cuts." She noted a parcel tax is difficult to pass because it requires twothirds approval. "However, we have a lot of bright people here who can get the word out."

Board member Jamie Hintzke said that teachers can help the board with the tax by sharing their vision.

Three audience speakers backed a parcel tax. One lamented that if class size reduction were lost, people would move out of the district to areas that would still have class size reduction.

Superintendent John Casey noted that the bright side of a recent talk by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is that school districts could utilize some of the class-size-reduction money for other uses, and not be penalized if they fails to meet the currently required 20:1 ratio of students to teachers. In other words, the district wouldn't have to hire another teacher if a class went from 20 to 21 students, as it does under the current rules.

Casey said that ideally the district would like a 15:1 ratio. Going back to 32 or 33 students in a class would be unacceptable.

Since the board meeting, the

district has scheduled two public forums so people can ask more questions about the school budget. The first meeting will be at 7 p.m. Jan. 26 at the Amador Valley High School multipurpose room. The second will be at 7 p.m. Feb. 4 at the Foothill High School multipurpose room.

The district also offers facts about the budget, updated weekly, on its web page, www.Pleasanton.k12.ca.us.

In an action related to the budget, trustees approved a contract for teachers for the current fiscal year, which began July 1. It has no raises for teachers.

OBJECTION TO 'OF MICE AND MEN'

Carla Butler, the parent who objected to the teaching of the 1937 literary classic "Of Mice and Men," told the board that she didn't understand why the district was using it. "It's degrading. It uses (the N word) several times. The Lord's name is taken in vain in several places," said Butler, who is African American.

Butler read the book with her daughter, who had been home from school with an illness, and

became concerned.

In an interview with the Independent, Butler said, "I'm here to say, it's not OK. We don't use that terminology in our home. It upset me."

Butler said that she is not trying to censor books. However, the use of characters' cursing and use of the "N" word contradicts what the school district is trying to achieve with its "community of character" theme, said Butler. "We can't pray in school. We can allow (the book's characters) to say Jesus Christ and Goddam," said Butler. It's inappropriate at the high school level, because, unlike the college level, students have no choice in what they read, she said.

The district has a review process with regard to books. District officials said they would make that process available to

She said in the interview that she has been contacted, and will be meeting with someone. "I think they are a fabulous school district. I need to give them an opportunity to respond."

BRIEF

(continued from page one)

cities. Currently, there is no forum in the courts for a city to seek relief in the event the housing assessment process fails to comply with state requirements. "If allowed to become the law of the state, the holding in the Irvine lawsuit could have disastrous consequences for all cities. Furthermore, it could be used to establish a precedent with respect to other obligations imposed on cities by regional councils and the state."

Councilmember Jerry Thorne commented that the idea of joining the brief had been considered

carefully by the city and by the League of California Cities. The League decided not to join. There was concern expressed by some members that if the courts do influence allocations, the numbers have to be moved to another city.

"I support joining the brief. There has to be a system of checks and balances. The allocation system is broken and needs to be fixed," declared Thorne.

Councilmember Cindy McGovern added, "Large numbers of units are allocated for construction without the dollars to build them. This is an unfunded mandate. Cities cannot afford to meet the assigned numbers."

PAINTING PURCHASED

The council approved purchase of the painting, "One Day in May" by Orinda artist Jimmy

The Civic Arts Commission Award for Artistic Excellence selected the painting.

According to a staff report, public input regarding the acquisition of the painting has been highly favorable.

The purchase price is \$2000. The funds come from the city's Public Arts Acquisition Fund.

INAUGURATION

(continued from page one)

The mood Monday night at the Tri-Valley Democratic Club's meeting, which was playing host to a speech by an aide to Assemblyman Tom Torlakson, was equally celebratory.

Ellis Goldberg, president of the club, said, "I can't watch TV or read a newspaper (about the inauguration), without a tear in my eye." He said that a special broadcast at the Lesher Theater in Walnut Creek already had all 1100 seats reserved for the live inaugural broadcast.

Jim Kohnen, the club's treasurer, said, "It's really exciting. Hope reigns supreme. We will see a considered effort to improve the economy, and a thoughtful plan of withdrawal (from Iraq).

Dublin resident Greg Bonata, a club member and also a member of IBEW, said "We're excited. The economics will change. The average person is going to be represented.'

Club member Joy Montgomery, who lives in Livermore, said she expects strong moves ahead in workforce development and clean energy. Noting that Obama broke the color line on White House politics, Montgomery said, "I didn't think it would happen in my lifetime."

Pleasanton Councilmember Matt Sullivan referred to the inauguration during opening remarks of the council meeting on Tuesday. The change offers an "opportunity for all of us to meet the challenges with energy, hope and an understanding that we're all in this together," Sullivan stated.

He quoted from Martin Luther King Jr.'s Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech,""I believe that what self-centered men have torn down, men other-centered can build up. I still believe that we shall overcome."

Youth Court Completes First Year with a Positive Review

The Tri-Valley Youth Court, a diversion program for teenage offenders of misdemeanor or lesser crimes in the cities of Dublin. Livermore and Pleasanton, officially opened its doors January, 8, 2008.

In the past year, the Youth Court has processed 47 cases referred from the Dublin, Livermore and Pleasanton Police Departments and the Juvenile Division of Alameda County Probation.

The Youth Court has assigned over 1400 hours of volunteer service, as well as 33 apologies, Anger Management classes, counseling (family and individual), Life Choices workshops, drug and alcohol counseling, jail tours, and other restitution using restorative justice principles. The Youth Court has over 140 youth volunteers serving as Youth Advocates, Court Clerks and Jurors and 30 adult volunteers serving as Judges, Court Attendants, Case Managers, Jury Mentors and Advocate Mentors.

In an effort to ensure that the Youth Court is an effective tool in working with youth, participants, who have successfully completed the program, and their parents are contacted by an adult volunteer to answer anonymous survey questions regarding their experiences.

One hundred percent of parents who responded to the survey said that they would recommend the Tri-Valley Youth Court to a friend who was in a similar situation and 94 percent noticed an improvement in their child's attitude after the Youth Court experience. All of the participants who answered the survey said that they thought the program was useful and 94 percent said that they would recommend the program to a friend who was in a similar circumstance.

Some complaints were the difficulty in finding community service opportunities, the court only occurring one night a month, the long line to get into the courthouse and jurors dressing inappropriately. The parents said that they believe that the Tri-Valley Youth Court is important to the community, a good process of peer interaction, a good lesson in law and responsibility, and that the kids were treated respectfully and accepted.

In the past year the Tri-Valley Youth Court has also served as a unique learning opportunity. Leadership and Civics classes from Village High School in Pleasanton and the Athenian School in Danville have participated in the Youth Court to actively learn about the United States Court system and Restorative Justice Principles. In addition, the Attorney General from the State of Victoria, Australia, and his retinue visited the Youth Court in August as part of a whirlwind tour through the United States and Canada to discuss Restorative Justice Principles with a view towards importing innovative new approaches to Victoria.

For more information about the Tri-Valley Youth Court, please visit their website at www.trivalleyyouthcourt.com or you can contact Tonya Clenney at (925) 337-7175 tonyaclenney @trivalleyyouthcourt.com.

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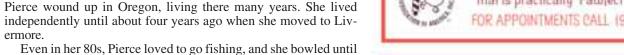
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she was 84. "She loved to go to dances," said Giddings. Pierce had two children, Giddings, and her brother, Eugene Norton, who died in 1990.

Livermore Resident Turns 101

her mother's birthday party last Saturday.

Home in Livermore.

Ruby Giddings, who will be 84 next week, had a good time at

Her mother, Maude Pierce, celebrated her 101st birthday. It was just a short trip from Ruby's home over to the Colleen Street Care

Pierce wasn't available for a phone interview early this week.

Born in Muskogee Oklahoma, Pierce moved with her family to

small towns in rural Oklahoma, where they farmed. Eventually

However, Giddings provided an account of her mom's long life.

Norton lived in Oklahoma and ran a tire store on Route 66. Giddings moved to Livermore in the 1950s with her husband, Glen, who obtained a job in procurement and supplies at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. He had retired from the Navy previously, and retired from the lab in 1978.

Pierce's grandmother lived to be 105.

Asked whether genetics is the key to her mother's longevity, Giddings replied, "We're both part Cherokee. However, I don't know if that had to do it. We both like our wine, but she doesn't get hers anymore. Neither one of us smokes."







Reserve by January 30th:

EDITORIAL

Lab Retirees Shortchanged

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory retirees are protesting changes that have befallen their health care coverage.

Under a program initiated by LLNL's new management, the coverage has been shifted from a University of California group policy to individual

"In theory, we are UC retirees. However, we are not receiving the same treatment as other UC retirees," explained one of those affected.

Under the management contract now governing the Livermore Lab, privatization has come to the institution. Among other moves, health care coverage has been shifted to an entity named Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC, and through subcontracts to three other entities.

LLNL employees have wondered how this system, with four different entities involved, each taking its own administrative fee, will do better than the not-forprofit UC program. It turns out that it's not doing better, but instead is shortchanging the retirees.

It should be noted that many Lab employees, by working at LLNL, made less in wages than they would have earned elsewhere. They accepted the lower pay, in part, because the Lab's health care coverage was so good. They now face being without that coverage, while at the same time drawing less in retirement

Much like loyal soldiers, the LLNL retirees have served their country in their work at the Livermore Lab. They've long expected the UC health care coverage will be there for them when they retire. Now facing their retirement years, they deserve nothing less.

HEALTH CARE

(continued from page one)

balance out the lower salaries during their years at the Lab.

Requa is working with a group of 70 other retirees on the issue. "LLNS has no interest in us. We were foisted on them as part of the new management contract," he added.

Prior to the change in management, retirees were covered by a group plan through UC. The health care coverage was switched to LLNS. Retirees have been placed under a new program, which moves them from a group policy to individual policies. Under the new system, each person (and spouse) with 20 years of service or more at the Lab receives \$2400 placed into a health care reimbursement account. The money, according to some retirees, is not enough to provide the same coverage they currently enjoy. Nor will it cover future increases in health care coverage as retirees age.

Health care management was first subcontracted to Hewett Associates, which in turn subcontracted to Extend Health. Extend Health Inc. acts as a health insurance broker. There is an additional layer of bureaucracy for Lab retirees, YSA (Your Spending Account), which pays the

claims. Many Lab retirees say that neither Extend Health, nor YSA have provided timely information or assistance to retirees. Susan Steinberg said that claim forms were sent out in mid-January. In the meantime, retirees were out-of-pocket if they required medications. In one case, a retiree's records were not entered properly. Even though he had a health care number, the pharmacy would not accept it. He had to pay full price for medications. Steinberg, herself, found that on her 70th birthday, her premiums immediately jumped \$500 per year, even though she had signed up at a different rate in Decem-

A sore point is that retirees from Los Alamos National Laboratory are treated differently. According to Steve Sandoval of the LANL public affairs office, Los Alamos retirees are under a selfinsured group plan.

Los Alamos, while technically managed by a different entity, is overseen by UC and Bechtel National, the same entities that comprise the Livermore's manage-

ment. A self-insured group health plan (or a 'self-funded' plan as it is also called) is one in which the employer assumes the financial risk for providing health care benefits. In practical terms, selfinsured employers pay for each out of pocket claim as they are incurred instead of paying a fixed premium to an insurance carrier, which is known as a fullyinsured plan. Typically, a selfinsured employer will set up a special trust fund to earmark money (corporate and employee

provided after retirement would contributions) to pay incurred

When the Department of Energy (DOE) wrote the Request for Proposal to replace the University of California (UC) as the manager of the Lab, it specified that the new manager would assume responsibility for retiree medical benefits for Lab retirees. UC has taken the position that the requirement absolved them of any responsibility for retiree medical benefits, according to Requa.

Requa points to the original contract between UC and DOE that he believes argues against that view. The contract included a termination section that, among other things, stated that UC would retain responsibility for pensioners and DOE would be liable for any un-reimbursed costs that occurred as a result of contract termination.

There are three different issues with regard to retiree medical benefits. One involves those who are Medicare eligible, the second those who are not, and the third, those who are currently with Kai-

The existence of non-Medicare eligible retirees was caused by a UC policy, established in the 1966 – 1967 time frame, when employees were given the choice of whether or not to coordinate with Social Security. The coordination was offered as a way to let employees exceed the 80% of highest salary cap on pensions in effect at that time. The option was available until the 1990s. Those who took part in the program are not eligible for Medicare.

The Medicare eligible retirees, while having increased and increasing out of pocket expenses, are in a better position than those who are not eligible.

A Medicare eligible retiree is provided a supplement to the base Medicare coverage. A noneligible retiree starts with zero coverage making the coverage much more expensive.

Kaiser is available to retirees this year. However, negotiations continue between Extend Health and Kaiser as to whether the option will be available in the fu-

Requa invites retirees to check the web site at: http:// home.comcast.net/~jrequa/ retiree.htm or send an email to him at llnlretiree@comcast.net

'Turning our medical benefits over to a Limited Liability Company (LLC) simply adds insult to injury," said Requa. He described an LLC as legally an artificial person owning only the resources it has earned and those contributed by its sponsors. It is at risk only for those resources; no claims can be made against its sponsors. It is allowed to dissolve at any time shedding any liability not covered by what it owns. "If the Lab were ever to close, retiree medical benefits would disappear along with LLNS," he stated.

Aide Says Drive For Simple Majority Vote Needs To Be Selective

By Ron McNicoll

If Democrats make an attempt to eliminate the two-thirds rule in the Legislature concerning the budget and taxation, they should be careful which target they pick.

That was the word early this week delivered to the Tri-Valley Democratic Club from a representative of Assemblyman Tom Torlakson.

Craig Cheslog, Torlakson's district representative, spoke to the club about the current state budget deadlock. His remarks covered two major topics: reform of the Legislature's two-thirds voting rule, and short-sighted press coverage of the budget stalemate.

Cheslog started his talk after club president Ellis Goldberg said he wanted the club to be the first to start a statewide petition drive to end the two-thirds rule on passing a budget in the Legislature. However, within the club, members asked whether the

two-thirds should be eliminated just for the budget, or for all bills that would raise taxes. The question was enough to postpone the club's discussion of any initiative movement until next month.

Cheslog said that club members raised an important distinction, with one part of it possibly setting a trap for Democrats. Only two states besides California require a two-thirds vote of the Legislature to pass a budget. If that were eliminated, Republicans would be very happy, he said. The reason is that if only a simple majority is needed, the burden would be put solely on Democrats to cut programs for their own constituencies, such as health care, education and welfare measures.

Under the current setup, the Republicans have some responsibility to compromise, and try to bring about a solution. However, if an initiative got rid of a two-thirds vote for all tax increases, requiring only a simple majority, Democrats would not have to cut their constituencies' needs, he said.

Whether or not such an initiative would pass is not clear. Cheslog noted that a state ballot attempt several years ago to reduce the two-thirds requirement to 55 percent on bonds failed to receive a simple majority. Cheslog also noted that Proposition 13, which has a clause that imposes the two-thirds majority on local tax measures, itself passed by 66.2 percent. It failed to obtain a two-thirds majority, which would have been 66.67 percent.

Cheslog pointed out that some bond measures have garnered a higher percentage than Prop. 13, but failed to attain the two-thirds, he said. Maybe the requirement on bonds should be changed to 66.2 percent, he said.

As for press coverage, especially from pundits, many writers have put Democrats on the same level as Republicans and the governor. That's unfair, believes Cheslog, because Democrats were willing to cut \$18 billion in expenditures and raise taxes by \$17 billion. It amounts to a 50-50 split in the approach to the budget dilemma.

Even budget reform groups, and definitely the press, have put the blame on the entire Legislature for the impasse. The real blame goes to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, said Cheslog. Although he is willing to raise taxes, he doesn't seem to have the leverage with Republicans to obtain the votes in the Legislature to do so.

The governor needs only three votes more in each house. However, his traction with Republicans is nil, said Cheslog.

The governor's visit to the Assembly Republican caucus earlier in the session was greeted by legislators who wore name tags because they felt he probably didn't know their names, said Cheslog

Pleasanton Sees Reduction in Revenues

Pleasanton is seeing less revenue coming in to its coffers. The result is that cuts were needed in the operating budget.

The city council on Tuesday approved several actions needed to balance the budget. These included moving \$3 million from the capital improvement project reserve to the recession reserve this would bring the account up to \$10.9 million. Other actions include reducing contributions to the replacement fund, and keeping non-essential positions

City Manager Nelson Fialho told the council, "Most, if not all, California cities are experiencing a reduction in general revenues. Pleasanton is not immune to the situation. We have not yet seen the impacts of the state budget. The worst impacts may not be felt until next year."

Fialho said the city would slowdown spending, in general, maximize the use of current personnel, and make greater use of technology to achieve efficien-

David Culver, the city's financial director, noted that while there is a decline in revenues and spending, there would be no reduction in services. The city has

seen a \$4.9 reduction in revenues, including a reduction of \$650,000 in property taxes, \$1.7 million in sales tax, \$1.1 million in development services fees.

Several of the council members expressed concern about reducing the contributions to the replacement fund. Fialho said that it is over-

funded by about \$5 million now. It is possible to slow the contributions at this time.

Councilmember Sullivan said he supported moving the \$3 million to the recession reserve. "All of the proposals seem to be short-term ap-

proaches. What is the strategy for the future," Sullivan asked.

Fialho said that staff would prepare a five year cash flow explaining how to balance the budget and retain core services. There would be a fiscal forecast prepared based on the new general plan, once it is approved. Technology, spending reductions, and development of cost recovery fees for some services are under consideration.

Councilmember Jerry Thorne urged staff to look at worst case scenarios and prepare options to deal with those situations if

CONSERVATION

(continued from page one) gional Wilderness.

Instead of preparing pieceports as various projects occur over the 30 years, the HCP will cover the entire plan. It will authorize the taking of certain endangered animal and plant species caused by operation and maintenance of the San Francisco project. It will spell out mitigation requirements for those

As proposed, the HCP would list five federally listed endangered species, all familiar to people who follow species protection in the Valley. They are the callippe butterfly, Alameda whipsnake, California red-legged frog, California tiger salamander, and steelhead trout.

Other species, which are not endangered, but may be on watch lists that may indicate they are heading toward an endangered status, should be added to the HCP, said Doug Bell. He is the wildlife program manager for East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD), which operates Sunol Regional Wilderness. He noted that the area has 30 habitats that support golden eagles

Bell said, in support of including the eagles on the list, "Our golden eagles are your golden eagles."

The HCP would have an effect on adjacent species, he said. In addition to including golden eagles, San Francisco should add several more species, including bald eagles, peregrine falcons, and a fish called the hard head, said Bell.

MORE NATIVE PLANTS ASKED FOR H.C.P.

San Francisco is falling short on listing enough endangered native plants, said Lech Maumovich, Eastbay conservation analyst for the California Native Plant Society.

The HCP lists five species. However, Alameda and Contra Costa counties have a combined 24 endangered native plant species, he told the San Francisco staff representatives. He said the number boils down to many times the national average for a county.

Maumovich named several species that he said should be added. Some of the area has not been explored for species very well, especially in the Santa County portion, Maumovich later told the Independent.

Maumovich also urged San Francisco to outline in the HCP how, as a neighbor, it will take on the approved Apperson Quarry, when that goes into op-

DAMS HAVE IMPACT ON **FISH SPECIES**

Jeff Miller, director of the Alameda Creek Alliance, which has 1700 members, said the organization has been working for 12 years on restoration of the creek environment. Miller said the HCP should include impacts

of the three dams on fish species. They interrupt the whole ecosystem of the creek, he pointed out. They affect water temperature downstream, and also have an impact on necessary spawning gravel for steelhead.

Miller also wants the HCP to include the native rainbow trout population, not just steelhead. It's virtually impossible to say which fish are native rainbow trout and which are steelhead, since the only determining factor is which fish go out to sea,

The creek alliance wants removal of the diversion dam near Little Yosemite falls, something it has called for in the past. "I hey ignored us before. This time, they need two federal agencies and one state agency to issue them permits that will authorize them for all of their impacts on species. The mitigation has to be significant. It has to contribute to the recovery of the species," said

Miller also commented on a herd of tule elk, which sometimes grazes on PUC land, south of the San Antonio reservoir. There is extensive cattle grazing there. That should be eliminated or reduced, he said.

PEER REVIEW OF SCIENCE IS ASKED

The issue of peer review was raised by Jessie Raeder, Bay Area organizer for the Tuolumne River Trust. The trust is one of many regional conservationist groups that work in concert in the Bay Area on water habitat issues.

Raeder said that the applicant PUC is using only the science findings of its consultant. She called for a peer review by a panel of scientists that would be designated. Extension of the commentary deadline on the scoping report was asked. Comments are due Jan. 22.

Miller said the PUC still hasn't released the final analysis report, which contains the proposed conservation strategy.

Chris Kern, environmental planner for the San Francisco Planning Department, said at the meeting that his department also had not received it. Kern agreed with Miller that it is important to obtain the conservation strategy. "We are all waiting for that. At this point, it (the conservation strategy) is only hypothetical," he said.

Kern told the Independent, it is not true that there is a need for further review of the mitigation plan beyond the PUC'S consultant. The consultant is an independent entity itself, he said.

Miller said that having the science in a report from only one source, the department's consultant, isn't really peer review. He agreed with Raeder that a panel of scientists should be appointed by mutual agreement.

LIVERMORE

(continued from page one) past years have never been fully paid back.

Those reductions add up to a drop in funding of over \$1,000 per ADA from what the District should receive from Proposition 98. This translates into about \$9.4 million less state revenue in the current and 2009/10 school years than what was projected last month. "That leaves us with a negative ending balance of over a million dollars at the end of the 2009/10 school year if we don't make adjustments to the budget," said

The outlook is so bad for California schools that the Alameda County Office of Education may not have the personnel to provide fiscal oversight to the number of school districts expected to have negative budget projections. School districts must show they can meet their financial obligations for three years; this means a positive ending balance after meeting the reserve requirement. When school districts can't do this, the Alameda County Office of Education provides fiscal oversight, which is what happened to Livermore several years

The Governor has also proposed reducing the required re-

serve for economic uncertainty from 3% to 1.5%. "I don't think that's a good idea," said Kinder. "It's a Band-Aid and one-time

savings. To add insult to injury, school districts have also been advised that their February funding allotment will likely be deferred to July, and July likely deferred to October. School districts are scrambling to secure lines of credit and loans to cover the gap in funding.

The Livermore School District is looking into a Tax Revenue Anticipation Note (TRAN) to maintain cash flow. "We need to be able to pay our employees," said Kinder. "Our salaries and benefits alone are about \$8 million a month.'

The primary concern for the administration at the Livermore Valley Charter School (LVCS) is putting financing in place to cover the anticipated delays in funding. Charter schools are funded differently from school districts, so the budget cuts may be less severe for LVCS. Charter parison." schools do not have access to many of the loans and lines of credit, such as TRAN, that are

available to school districts. We believe we can weather the budget cuts, this year and

next year. Fortunately we've budgeted very conservatively, built up a healthy reserve, and had good attendance numbers to date," said Bill Batchelor, chief operating officer of the Livermore Charter Learning Corporation (LCLC), which operates LVCS. "However, a three month delay in funding could eat through those reserves pretty quickly, so we're securing an additional line of credit to ensure any delay from the state doesn't impact our day-to-day operation.'

Livermore School Superintendent Brenda Miller acknowledged the gravity of the situation. "When superintendents get together now, the only thing to talk about is the budget," she said. "It's hitting us all hard. I don't think many of us are sleeping well at night."

She asked the audience to 'keep in mind that we are presenting you with the worst case scenarios. We don't know where the final budget will fall in com-

Knowing that severe cuts could happen, Miller said the District is putting itself in a position of greatest flexibility by freezing all spending and hiring. Many district employees will receive layoff notices in mid-March. The notice does not mean a teacher is being laid off, but it is required if the District wants to continue down that path.

Anyone paid with categorical funding will be notified. This includes 49 teachers at the elementary level and 13 middle and high school teachers funded by Class Size Reduction, as well as seven counselors not funded through the parcel tax.

The trustees were stunned by the dire situation. "I can't even comment on this," said trustee Bill Dunlop when the Board discussion began.

The District has already held two special Board meetings to study the budget situation. "We have two new board members to bring up to speed. The meetings are also a refresher for the rest of us. We're going through the budget line item by line item," said Board president Kate Runyon. 'We're not talking about cuts. We're just finding out what we have and what those things cost."

The next special Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 29 from 11:30 am to 1 pm. Check the District's website at http://lvusd.ca.schoolloop.com for information on future meet-

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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

Pleasanton Reads needs volunteers, new tutor training and orientation will be Sat., Feb. 7 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Adult volunteers provide free tutoring to adults who want to improve reading, writing, and English speaking skills. Tutor qualifica-tions are: at least 18 years old; interest in helping another adult; no teaching experience needed. Please call to register for the Project Read orientation. For more information, call Janice Bauman, 931-3411 or email jbauman@ci.pleasanton.ca.us

Annual Rummage Sale, First Presbyterian Church, 451 South K St., Livermore. Feb. 6 and 7. Hours 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Friday and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.

Bingo bash, Fri., Feb. 20, 7 p.m. St.

Michael's Parish Hall, 372 Maple St., Livermore. \$10 per person (includes one packet for ten games). Music by DJ Joe Buonsante, JB Smooth Sounds Productions, plus Sunrise Entertainment. Reservation deadline Feb. 17. Call Rose S., 846-4227 or Helen W., 462-3798. Fund-raiser for Children's Hospital Oakland Cooley Anemia Research and Schol-

arship.

Livermore Valley Business and Pro**fessional Women** invites public to a dinner meeting on Thurs., Jan. 29 at the Stoneridge Mall Nordstrom Cafe. Guest speaker Nona Belous, financial advisor with David White & Associates, will discuss money attitudes and strategies in a talk, "From Crisis to Confidence." \$20 for dinner/program. Registration and networking 5:45 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m., program 7 p.m. Call Mona for reservations and choice of menu at 828-3006

Ohlone Audubon meets 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 3 at Pleasanton Middle School. Scott Smithson, the new Executive Director of the S.F. Bay Bird Observatory, will discuss how weavers and finches from Africa and Asia survive in the urban jungles of the Los Angeles Basin. Refreshments. For information call 510-507-3383

St. Michael School, 345 Church St., in Livermore will be holding an information night on February 5. Anyone interested learning about grades K-8th please meet in the Kindergarten classroom at 7 p.m.

Valley Spokesmen Bicycle Touring Club, Sat., Jan. 24, 25 miles Cinderella training ride from Shannon Center in Dublin to end of Bollinger Rd., meet 9 a.m., http:/ /sports.groups.yahoo.com/group/ pedlpushers/. Sat., Jan. 24, 33 miles from San Ramon to Walnut Creek, meet 10 a.m. at Central Park, Paul Yamshon, 829-4923. Sun., Jan. 25, 30 miles meet 10 a.m. at Livermore Cyclery in Dublin for roundabout path to Peet's in Danville, Bob Heady, 980-7989. Wed., Jan. 28, 30 miles Chilly Hilly + chill in Benicia, meet 10 a.m. at Military, Barbara Wood, 707-745-6353. Fri., Jan. 30, 25 miles north Livermore section of Cinderella, meet 10 a.m. at Livermore Airport, Bob Goodwin, 487-0521. Anyone planning to go on a ride is asked to contact the leader for

details on where to meet and what to bring. **Livermore Library Board,** meets Jan. 29 at 7 p.m. at the Civic Čenter Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave. An agenda will be posted

at the library 72 hours prior to the meeting. **Epic Recession and Global Financial Crisis**, will be top of a lecture on Sat., Jan. 24 at 7 p.m. at the IBEW Hall. Jack Rasmus, noted author and professor of economics and politics at St. Mary's College and Santa Clara University, will show his 60 minute lecture on this topic. Afterwards, he will conduct a question/answer discussion. This event is open to the public, free/\$3.00 donations appreciated, refreshments are served, and the hall is wheelchair accessible. Meet and greet begins at 6:30 PM. Now is the time to ask those burning questions you may have about what's going on with our economy and what can be done. For more information, call 925-

Livermore Peripheral Neuropathy Support Group, meets Tues., Jan. 27, 10 a.m. at Heritage Estates Retirement Community second floor conference room, 900 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore. All are welcome. Contacts are Lorene Stack, 447-6158 or Ann Laye, 443-4098.

Book Sale, Friends of the Livermore Library will hold their monthly book sale on Sunday, February 1, from noon to 4 p.m. in front of the former Library at 1000 South Livermore Avenue in Livermore. Fiction and non-fiction books, magazines and audiovisuals are sold at deep discounted prices. There will be a table of free books. From 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. books will be sold for \$ 2.00 a shopping bag full of books.

Book club discussion idea. Join the Livermore community by selecting Michael Pollan's *In Defense of Food*, the featured book for 2009's community-wide reading program *Livermore Reads Together*. This powerful, well-researched and elegant manifesto proposed this simple maxim: "Eat food, not too much, mostly plants." Book club kits are available at the Livermore Public Library Civic Center, 1188 S. Livermore Avenue. Kits consist of copies of the book *In Defense* of Food, discussion questions, and tips for leading book discussions. Livermore Reads Together: In Defense of Food is sponsored by The Friends of the Livermore Library. For additional events check the library's website at www.livermore.lib.ca.us. For more information contact Rosemary Dukelow at 925-

Fibromyalgia "Plus" Support Group,

meets first Thursday of every month 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Valley Care Health Library, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., Suite 270, Pleasanton Provides support for those (and family members) with fibromyalgia and similar conditions. Information Teresa 443-5707 or JoAnna 510-276-0530. Please come fragrance free. Information at 734-3315.

East Bay Women's Network (EBWN), meets Feb. 4 at 1151 Harbor Bay Parkway, look for signs to the conference room in Alameda. 11:15 am to 1:30 pm The movie "Glow" will be shown. Meeting cost is \$25 for guests, \$15 for members Membership to join EBWN is \$90 for twelve months. For more information contact Gail Chadbourne Bark Busters Home Dog Training at pr@EBWN.org or 510 228-8973'

Beer judging seminar, grand master beer judge David Teckam will present seminar, Sun., Feb. 15, 1 p.m. beginning class, 3 p.m. advanced. The Englander in San Leandro. \$25 for either session, \$45 for both. Hosted by Mad Zymurgists homebrew club and Beer By BART. RSVP is required. Brian Cooper brewerbrian@sbcglobal.net.Provide a phone number and class or classes planning to

Dessert Dance, Jan. 23, 6:30 to 9 p.m. Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Entertainment provided by live band - Blue Moon Swingers. Reservations recommended. Admission: In advance \$7R/\$8N, at the door \$8R/\$9N. Call 925 - 931-5365 for reserva-

Day Trippers - Great Mall in Milpitas, Jan. 28, 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Advance ervation required. Pleasanton Senior Cen-5353 Sunol Blvd. Cost is \$20R, \$23N. Call 925-931-5365 for reservations.

American Sewing Guild meets Sat.,

Jan. 23, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Walnut Creek United Methodist Church, 1543 Sunnyvale Ave., Walnut Creek. Installation of officers, apron challenge results, and sew and show. Information www.asgwalnutcreek.org or 925-

Girls' Youth Group Informational Event held by Job's Daughters Bethel One of Dublin on Sunday, January 25, 2-4pm in the Dublin Library Program Room located at 200 Civic Plaza Dublin. The International Order of Job's Daughters is a organization for young women from ages 10 to 20. Members learn important skills that benefit them now, as well as in the future, such as leadership, organization, teamwork and self reliance. For more information or questions, please contact Jennifer Christensen at haavejl@yahoo.com or 925-371-1648.

Rabbit Adoption and Education, sponsored by Dublin Tri-Valley SPCA, House Rabbit Society, Harvest Home Animal Sanctuary, and Martinez Rabbit Rescue, held at the Dublin Tri-Valley SPCA, 4651 Gleason Drive, Dublin on the 1st Saturday of each month (Feb 1st, 2009, March 1, 2009, etc) 11am - 4pm. Meet abused or abandoned bunnies who are looking for new homes; get answers to all your rabbit care questions; find out if a rabbit is the right companion for you; bring your bunny in for a date; buy toys and treats for your critters; or just come play with the bunnies! For information, go to www.eastbayspca.org/eventsorcontactKaren Johanson at kjohanson@menke.com or 510-727-1589.

Take Charge of Your Health, four week class sponsored by the Senior Support program of the Tri-Valley. Wed., Feb. 4 to Wed., Feb. 25, 1 to 2 p.m. No charge. Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd.

Read Project tutor, volunteers sought. Training sessions, Jan. 26 from 7 to 9 p.m. and Jan. 31 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Livermore Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave. Information or to register, 373-5507 or jahardin@livermore.lib.ca.us.

Service news, Air Force Airman Ryan T. Coakley has graduated from basic military

training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. He is the son of William Coakley of Livermore. Coakley is a 2008 graduate of Granada High School, Liver-

Tri-Valley Rotary Club presents: Health, Healing and Happiness: A Guide to Optimal Health & Weight Loss. Thurs., Jan. 27, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Girasole Restaurant, 3180 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. \$20 includes meeting/dinner/talk - pay at the door. www.trivalleyrotary.org. Pamela McDonald, author of "APOE Gene Diet Book," 28 years medical experience, Primary Care Provider,

Nurse Practitioner, is the speaker.

Widowed Men and Women of Northern CA., Crab feed dinner in Lviermore, St. Michael's School, Jan. 24, 5 p.m., \$40 open event, call Hilda 398-8808 with payment ASAP. Lunch in Sunol at Bosco's Bones and Brew, Jan. 28, 1 p.m., call Ginny 656-5625 by Jan. 26.

Health, Healing and Happiness, Jan. 22, 7 p.m. A free seminar with Pamela McDonald, author of "The Apo E Gene Diet"

at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. The APO E Gene Diet will be on sale at the event. For more info regarding the program call Penny Johnson at 931-3405. The program is free and open to all. No

registration required. Crab Feed, Sat., Jan. 24, 6 p.m. White Crane Winery, Livermore. Benefit for the Kids YMCA Camp Arroyo outdoor school. \$40 per person. Live music and dancing after dinner. For reservations, go to www.WhiteCraneWinery.com.

Livermore Lunch Bunch Toastmas-ters Open House, Feb. 2, noon to 2 p.m. at the Livermore Civic Center Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave. Open to all. Drop in. Information at www.livermoretoastmasters.org. Questions? call Jill 209-914-8449 or Cindy 449-2125.

Managing Your Career in these Turbulent Times, Institute of Management Accountants (IMA) joint technical meeting (Amador Valley & Diablo Valley chapters), Tuesday, January 27, check-in/networking 5:30 p.m., Dinner 6:30 p.m.; Guest Speaker

7:30 pm: Dilip Saraf, Author-Speaker-Career Coach-Life Coach; Sheraton Hotel, Pleasanton. Dinner reservations required (925) 443-5662; dinner cost (members & non-members) \$35 (cash or check; pay at the door).

Dealing with loss, of loved one, sessions second and fourth Thursday, 7:30 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Dr., Pleasanton. Dates are Jan. 22, Feb. 12 and 26 and March 12 and 26 Meetings open to all regardless of religious orientation. Call Mary at 846-5377 with

The Third Jesus, Deepak Chopra's best-selling new book, will be the focus of a study group by Rev. Steve Maynard of Tri-Valley Unity in Dublin. The class will study and discuss not only the book but also the DVD interview series between Dr. Chopra and Rev. Wendy Craig-Purcell, which was recently featured on KQED. The book/DVD study will be held six Tuesday mornings, starting Jan. 20, from 10 to noon, or alternately on Wednesday evenings starting Jan

21, from 7:00 to 9:00. The classes are held at TVU's Gathering Place, 7567 Amador Valley Blvd., #120, Dublin. The classes are on a love-offering basis. The book is available at Towne Center Book Store in Pleasanton or in class. Call if interested in attending or for more information (925) 998-0038.

Stretch Ministry 2009 Winter Bootcamp, Softball/Baseball Camp and Leadership Skills January 23, 4-8:30PM January 24 8-8PM January 25 8-4:30PM

January 24 8-8PM January 25 8-4:30PM Valley Community Church 4455 Del Valle Pkwy Pleasanton Sing Up and more info @ GoStretch.org, \$125.

Tri-Valley Unity Church, The Third Jesus' Sermon Series - Rev. Steve Maynard applies concepts from Deepak Chopra's latest best-selling book in his Sunday morning talks. This week focuses on Jesus' teachings. talks. This week focuses on Jesus' teachings about transforming our self-image through increasing our God-consciousness. TVU meets at the Dublin Radisson, 6680 Regional St., at 10 a.m. Sundays. Ongoing classes and groups available. All are welcome. Call 829-2733 or see www.trivalleyunity.com

JOBS

(continued from page one)

view the official exams such as Federal clerical worker, Firefighter, Postal Worker, Real Estate broker, Catholic High School Entrance, AP chemistry as well as self-paced courses for certification exams, placement tests, and academic assessments such as Business Writing, GED, GRE, TOEFL, English Grammar and Math Skills (Spanish) and computer skills tutorials. These databases can be used both in the library and remotely with a Livermore Public Library card.

Upcoming events include the

• Create the Perfect Electronic Resume; Sunday, January 25 -1:00 PM - 3:00 PM. Participants will create an electronic resume, learn how to store it so it's always available, and have it reviewed by a career advisor to ensure that it is perfect and ready for employers. Participants must have a web-based e-mail account and be comfortable using a com-

• Job Interviewing Essentials; Wednesday, January 28 – 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM. Become familiar with frequently asked question and how to best answer them. Attendees will receive tips through lecture, discussion, class activities, and handouts.

• Mastering Online Job Boards; Sunday, February 1 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM. In this hands-on class, participants will learn how to register and post resumes on major job boards, search and ap-

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ply for jobs, set Job Alerts, and more. Participants must have a web-based e-mail account and an accessible electronic resume.

• Employer Meet & Greet Night, Tuesday, February 3 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM. Similar to a small Job Fair, Meet & Greet Night will provide an opportunity to connect with local employers looking to hire. Bring plenty of resumes, dress professionally, boast a positive attitude, and get ready to network your way to a new job. Event will be held the first Tuesday of every month with different employers.

• Get Your Act Together in Uncertain Times, Thursday, February 105:30 PM - 7:00 PM. Presented by Lee Zulman, Career Coach, Reach4u.com. In this class, which is conducted through informal discussion, participants will learn ways to overcome the stress of job search,

stay focused, organized, and healthy for the best possible out-

For further information about the Free2 Succeed Job Center or to set up an appointment, contact Career Counselor Megan Pittsley at (925) 373-5500 Ext.

Video-on-Demand at www.GrassrootsIssues.com John Stein

with his view on City Council activities.

LIVERMORE'S GOT TALENT

featuring Maurie Louis & Heather Quarterman

HIP AND KNEE PAIN FREE EDUCATION SEMINARS



Presented by:

Aaron Salyapongse, MD Medical Director of the Joint Replacement Institute at ValleyCare Fellowship Trained in the Treatment of

Hip and Knee Pain Orthopedic Surgeon

January 29, 2009

February 5, 2009 Hip Replacement: Advances in Surgical Techniques and

Current Technology February 12, 2009 Knee Replacement: Advances in Pain Control, Surgical

Techniques, and Implants. Customized Surgery, Rotating Knees, and Partial Knees: No longer just one option.

Causes of Hip/Knee Pain

and Options for Treatment

Time: 7:00PM

Location: ValleyCare Medical Plaza 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd 2nd floor Conference Room Pleasanton

two blocks west of hospital

We invite you to register for these seminars by calling our Health Information and Physician Referral Line at 1-800-719-9111 or visit our website at www.valleycare.com - go to the Education/Events tab and click on the education/support link.



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SPORTS NOTES



The Amador Judo and Jujitsu Studio team members pose with their trophies.

Under-13s Reach State Cup Semi-Finals

Out of a starting field of 33 teams, the Pleasanton U13 Boys' Division 3 Ballistic Black soccerteam, coached by Pablo Espinosa, is advancing to the final four of the CYSA Northern California Association Cup Tournament on the strength of two more victories at the Morgan Hill Soccer Complex this weekend

In second round play on Saturday, versus Los Gatos FC, regulation time ended in a 1-1 tie. Ballistic Black scored five consecutive goals in the penalty kick tie-breaker to win the game with an official final score of 2-1. In Sunday's quarter-finals, Ballistic Black defeated the Mission SF Chivas Rayadas 3-0.

feated the Mission SF Chivas Rayadas 3-0.
During the first two weekends of tournament play, the team out-scored its opponents by 12 goals to one, a tribute to a well-organized offense and tenacious defense. Ballistic Black next meets the Rohnert Park Cougars in the semi-finals on Jan. 24 at 8:30 AM at the Mustang Soccer Complex in Danville, with the winner playing in the Association Cup finals on Jan. 25.

Kata Championships

The Amador Judo and Jujitsu Studio in Livermore recently hosted the annual Jujitsu Kata Championships. Placing at the top for Amador were the following: 3-4 yrs. Beginning Division: 1st Delilah

3-4 yrs. Beginning Division: 1st Delilah VanderBeck, 2nd Josh Bach and Matai Faiapau; 3rd Dominic Knisella and Kurt Khaustov; 3-4 yrs. Advanced: 1st Loudan Philbrick and Jacjames Fagundes; 2nd Alexa Firestone and Janae Heusinkveld;

5-6 yrs. Beginning: 3rd Katherine Khaustov and Tristian Wood; 5-6 yrs. Advanced: 2nd Devani Scott and John Lawrence; 7-8 yrs. Beginning: 1st Anna Roure and

7-8 yrs. Beginning: 1st Anna Roure and Julia LeDesma; 2nd Remington Wood and Saimaan Sayeed; 3rd Isiah Heusinkveld and Elijah Joseph; 7-8 yrs. Advanced: 1st Aaron Toothman and Vincent Dixon;

9-10 yrs. Beginning: Garrison Groves and Cassandra Dorrance; Intermediate: 1st Matthew Myers and Xavier Pelican; Advanced: Josie Martinex and Allison Dahling;

11-12 yrs. Beginning: 1st Amber Toothman, Allison Dahling; Intermediate: 1st Arjun Gill and Joe Villarreal; Advanced: 1st Paige Hawkey and Charlemagne Pelican; 13-14 yrs. Intermediate: 1st Michael

Myers and Alex Ball; Advanced: 1st Emily Bachleda and Sarah Bachleda; 15-16 yrs. 1st Zach Chapman and Dayne Sasaki; 2nd Niki Movaghar and Roxanna Utpadel; 3rd Mack Mooney and Gabriel Pasillas; 4th Matt Clark and Brian Perry;

Utpadel; 3rd Mack Mooney and Gabriel Pasillas; 4th Matt Clark and Brian Perry; Best overall combative scene: Paige Hawkey and Charlemagne Pelican.

CYO Basketball

St. Michael's/St. Charles (SM/SC) 6th Grade Girls American League Team hosted their counterparts from St. Isidore's Sunday in a battle for first place in CYO basketball. In a low-scoring game dominated at both ends by solid defense, SM/SC took a slim early lead and managed to hang on throughout. A strong effort neutralized St. Izzie's inside game with quick transition and swarming defense, forcing the green team outside where they managed to keep the game close, getting within one point midway through the 4th quarter with excellent perimeter shooting. In a game where every member of the team played well, Rachel Braun and Samantha "Bruiser" Trask provided outstanding perimeter defense and combined to run the offense efficiently, and Dana Anex was a rock down low at both ends. Down the stretch, St. Isidore's opted to put SM/SC on the line (where they had not fared well to that point). However, clutch free throws and continued strong defense at the end allowed SM/SC to pull out a 19-14 win.

In 6th grade CYO boys action Sunday, SM/SC #627 fell to St. Joan's #625, 33 to 23. Justin Weir was top scorer for SM/SC with 12 points as well as top rebounder with 7 rebounds. Liam Radecke chipped in 6 points, had 2 steals, and 3 assists. Jordan Murdoch led the defense for SM/SC with 8 rebounds and 2 steals.

SM/SC 5th grade boys (#503) defeated St. Raymond's (#507), 31 to 23. SM/SC took an early lead and never relinquished it. Top scorers of the game were Ben Parker - 10, Max - 10 and Sean Stavert - 7. Scores were also made by David Harmison, Lance Rietveld, Jason Whitney and Aaron Spiller. SM/SC played great defense lead by Sean Stavert, Aaron Spiller and Jason Whitney.

SM/SC 5th grade girls lost to St. Joan

of Arc by a basket. The score was neck and neck throughout the game. Top scoring players for SM/SC were Saba Salari, Cameron Ott, and Kirsten Floyd. Excellent defensive plays by Kelcie Norton and Lauren Bueno. For St. Joan the fantastic offense for the game were Sarah Hagan and Pooja Kini. The defensive players were Katelyn Grimmer and Natalie Bakaldin.

SM/SC 5th grade boys (514) took on. St. Joan's (511), with a final score of 8 to 31. Scoring points for SM/SC were Dominic Mingione and Ryan Eckles. Sparking SM/SC effort were Tyler Stanley and Chris Ayon. Playing well for St. Joan's were Ivan, Connor and Tony.

The 4th grade boys SM/SC Timberwolves fell to St. Raymond's 29-24 in a close, hard fought battle on Sunday. Ben Kerling and Ryan Nunes shared scoring honors with 8 points each for the Timber Wolves. Jacob Murdoch led the defense with 7 rebounds, 2 assists, 2 steals, as well as adding 6 points.

On Sunday, 1/19/09, SM/SC 4th Grade Girls A Team (#4004) took CCOP (#4001), winning 19 to 7. Tiaja Andrews led SM/SC in scoring 7 points. Missy Nunes was next with 6 points, MacKenzie Farro scored 4 points, and Isabella Neads scored 2 points to round out the scoring for SM/SC. Excellent defense was played by Kiara Arias, Riley Heffron, Claire Abele, Katelyn Johnson and Adriana Sblendoria getting 20 steals during the game. Emily Trinidad (#25) led CCOP in scoring with 4 points, and CCOP #33 scored 2 points with #15 making 1 free throw to complete their scoring.

CYO 4th. grade girls Catholic Community of Pleasanton (CCOP) Bulldogs and Saint Joan of Arc were involved in a fierce battle resulting in a 9 over 8 win for the Bulldogs. The entire game was a defense struggle with Orla Lamont and Jenna Defasio setting the standard. Buckets were hard to come by with Reya Paulos, Elena Angst, Alexa Blair, and Alexis Simmons all with one. Paulos hit one from the charity stripe mid-game to add an additional point. Defasio from St. Joan scored 2 hoops while Katrina Flores and Allison Smith added one each. Bulldogs full court press ended up making the difference with Laura Belichak and Daniela Block applying instant heat and Larsen Perry acting as an invaluable resource under the rim with a number of critical denies.

SM/SC 4th grade girls (#4004) battled St. Raymond's (#4006), coming away with a 32 to 16 victory. Both teams started out with solid defense in the first half. The offense for both teams got going in the second half with some outstanding ball movement and shot selection. Mila Steinberg led SM/SC in scoring with 7 points; following by Taylor Peterson (6 points) and Jennifer Gibson (5 points). Madison Jackson, Alex Lonsinger and Holly Julson each had 4 points and Emily Hawkins finished the scoring with 2 points.

SM/SC 4th grade boys (#4BA) took on St. Isidore (#42), losing 20 to 15. In the first half, SM/SC jumped out to an early lead due to their strong defensive play. During the second half, St. Isidore regained the lead and held on for the win. Top scoring players for SM/SC were Wesley Katz 4 and Logan Cole 4. Top defensive players for SM/SC were Jordan Buranis and Lucas O'Brien.

SM/SC Wildcats [#3014] had a tough game against CCOP {#3013} at Hart Middle School. Final score was 13 to 16. Sierra Marshall led SM/SC scoring with 7 points; Gianna Cole scored 4 points and Gianna Paden 2 pointse. Kailyn Stow and Georgia Higgins were the top defensive players. Gianna Cole, Gianna Paden, Sierra Marshall, Cassidy Herbeth, Emily Ilharreguy, and Sarah Wenzel displayed great teamwork in steals, assists, and rebounds.

After trailing only 6-4 at halftime, the Hot Shots (SM/SC, 3015) lost a hard fought game 20-8 to SM/SC (3016). Kira Karter led the Hot Shots with 4 steals and 4 points, which included an impressive spin move and basket. Alyssa Silva scored 2 points and was the top rebounder for the Hot Shots while Maddie Stewart also contributed 2 points.

their trophies.

In the 1st/2nd SM/SC girls division, the Wildcats (2GN2) took on the Super Shooters (2GN1). Both teams gave it their all. For the Wildcats, Amber Thomas and Caitlyn Quartaroli led the offensive charge with buckets and rebounds. Brianna Wheelock and Kate Hottinger also kept up the strong defense for the Wildcats. The Super Shooters played a hard game. Megan Wharton, Tina Asemi, Emma Hyde, and Shelby Williams all did a great job on both defense and offense.

SM/SC 1st/2nd grade boys Warriors vs. Other Team. Great match up and performance by both teams. Warriors team offense was led by Kevin Lee, Owen Dawson and Connor Livingston. Net protection was led Skyler Ferguson-Rosa, Jesse Wolfson and Ryan Anderson. The away teams offense was driven by Andrew Aruda, Chad Madrid and Wesley Williams, defense by Bradley Archer, Jarret Baucke and Tyler Morano.

SM/SC 1st/2nd grade boys Wildcats met the Terminators on Sunday afternoon and played a great game. Darren O'Neill of the Wildcats played great defense against the Terminators. Jason DeSantis and Colton Vardell also played well. The Terminators were led by Jack Hansen, Dalton Johnson and Jake Johnston, who all helped their team score points.

Bowling News

In the Friday Night Cheyenne League, James Murphy scored a 786 series with games of 246-299-241 and Dave Milichichi rolled a 246-195 along with a perfect "300" to end with a 741 Series at the Granada Bowl in Livermore.

Also in the Cheyenne League, Bob Hicks rolled a 265 game. In the Generation Gap on Sunday, Darrell Irving scored 56 pins over average with a 237 game. Tim Weiland, in the Balhorn/O'Dell Match Point league, bowled a 237 game. In the Four Season's Mod. Guys & Dolls, Martin Allen rolled a 267 and Maria Lockridge shot a 256. Thursday night Kings & Queens bowler Tim Springer had a nice set with games of 244-188-268 for a 700 series, Todd Winer rolled a 267 game, Eric Trunnelle a 246 game and Ron Fujishige a 223. Keith Wilson, in the Reno Getaways, rolled 86 over average with a 254 while Renard Graham shot a 234 game to end the night.

Senior Bowler, Don Tunison rolled a 226 game in the Monday Primetime Seniors league and Bobbie Brtram a 201 game. Rich Lukes shot a 234 in the Sirs & Sirettes League.

Youth Bowler, Bryan Bumanlag rolled a 244 game in the Friday Family Affair league.

Gymfinity Gymnastics

The girls team from Gymfinity Gymnastics competed along with more than 1,200 gymnasts from around the country in the Lady Luck Invitational held January 16-18 in Las Vegas. Gymfinity came home with a first place team trophy in the prep-optional division with a 110.15 team score and placed fourth in the level 7 competition with a 108.8. They also brought home 3 all-around and 10 individual event titles. The girls from Gymfinity dominated the prep-optional

competition.

Competing in the intermediate level, Mariel Chiong placed first on vault, bars and floor. Rachel Pombo brought home the beam title with a 9.35. Moira Andrews won the intermediate all-around title with a 36.525. In the advanced level competition, Sara Vukojevic led the way on bars, placing first with a 9.15. Gabriella Lemoine brought home the advanced level beam and floortitles on her way to winning the all-around with a 36.6

In level 4 competition, Megan Hebert won vault and floor on her way to finishing second in the all-around with a 35.7. And Kaylee Brist placed on every event. Valentina Barbalinardo dominated her level 8 session. She had the highest all-around score of her session, a 37.25. Allison Honig led the way for the Gymfinity level 7 team. Honig placed third on beam on her way to 36.225 all-around, good enough for third place. Kelley Hebert brought home second place medals in vault and floor with scores of 9.3 on each. And Michelle Shallit placed 3rd on floor in her age group with a 9.25.

Real Estate Market update available at www.Livermorehomes.com

After 25 Years in Business!!

Family Illness Forces Liquidation

Due to family illness- Murphy Auctioneers has been asked to sell at public auction a complete inventory of western saddles and horse equipment from Rocky Mountain saddles shop. This is a great business liquidating a very nice collection of high end and top quality saddlery. Including over 60 top quality saddles -Billy Cook, SimCo, Big W, Texas Saddlery, Saddle King, Silver Royal, King, Outback, Wintec, and more! Saddles from 12' to 18' in seat size. Over 100 Wolf Creek and Yucca Flat wool saddle blankets, and Equisport memory core saddle pads. Winter blankets: Canvas and StormBuster. Leather goods of all kinds, over 100 bridles by, Billy Cook, Billy Martin, Silver Royal, McPherson, and others! Nylon and leather halters, lots of nice roping breast collars, Cowboy Up bridle and breast collar show sets, over 40 silver bits and spurs. This auction has about 400 lots making it impossible to list every item. Lots and lots of new and used, plus many unique and 1 of a kind items! This is a very complete inventory. To be sold to the highest bidder, piece by piece.

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Wednesday, Feb. 4th

Auctioneer Shaun Murphy - ph. (541) 592-6292

Full results: Level 4, age grp 2 - vault: Megan Hebert, 9.05, 1st; bars: Hebert, 8.75, 5th; beam: Hebert, 8.85, 2nd; floor: Hebert, 9.05, 1st; all-around: Hebert, 35.7, 2nd. Age grp 4 - vault: Kaylee Brist, 8.95, 9th; bars: Brist, 8.65, 8th; beam: Brist, 8.525, 8th; Brist, 8.03, oil; reall. Brist, 8.325, oil; floor: Brist, 8.674, 5th; all-around: Brist, 34.8, 8th. Level 7, age grp 1 - vault: Kelley Hebert, 9.3, 2nd; Isla Andrews, 8.675; bars: Andrews, 8.95, 6th; Hebert, 8.75, 8th; floor: Hebert, 9.3, 2nd; Andrews, 8.25; all-around: Hebert, 35.35, 6th; Andrews, 34.675, 9th. Age grp 2 - vault: Rebecca Meister, 8.8, 9th; Michelle Shallit, 8.725; Amy Morrison, 8.6; bars: Meister, 8.95, 5th; Morrison, 7.85; Shallit, 7.55; beam: Meister. 8.8. 6th: Shallit 8.35, 8th; Morrison, 8.3; floor: Shallit, 9.25, 3rd: Meister, 9.0, 4th: Morrison, 8,425; allaround: Meister, 35.55, 5th; Shallit, 33.875; Morrison, 33.175. Age grp 3 - vault: Kaitlin Hausmann, 8.3; bars: Hausmann, 8.4, 9th; beam: Hausmann, 8.3; floor: Hausmann, 7.8; all-around: Hausmann, 32.8. Age grp 4 vault: Haley Brott, 9.175, 6th; bars: Brott, 8.4, 9th; beam: Brott, 7.8; floor: Brott, 8.4, 9th; beam: Brott, 7.8; 1100r: Brott, 8.775, 9th; all-around: Brott, 34.15. Age grp 5 - vault: Allison Honig, 9.35, 4th; bars: Honig, 9.075, 5th; beam: Honig, 8.85, 3rd; floor: Honig, 8.95, 6th; all-around: Honig, 36.225, 3rd. Level 8, age grp 2 - vault: Valentina Barbalinardo, 9.4, 1st; bars: Barbalinardo, 9.225, 3rd; beam: Barbalinardo, 9.265, 3rd; beam: Barbalinardo, 9.275, 3rd; beam: Barbalinardo, 9.275 9.425, 1st; floor: Barbalinardo, 9.2, 5th; allaround: Barbalinardo, 37.25, 1st. Prep-optional, intermediate - vault: Mariel Chiong, 9.15, 1st; Moira Andrews, 9.0, 2nd; Rachel Pombo, 8.65, 3rd; bars: Chiong, 9.125, 1st; Andrews, 9.1, 2nd; Pombo, 9.05, 3rd; beam: Pombo, 9.35, 1st; Andrews, 9.25, 2nd; Chiong, 8.95, 3rd; floor: Chiong, 9.2, 1st; Andrews, 9.175, 2nd; Pombo, 9.15, 3rd; all-Andrews, 9.173, 21d, Folioto, 9.13, 3td, andrews, 36.525, 1st; Chiong, 36.425, 2nd; Pombo, 36.2, 3rd. Advanced level - vault: Sara Vukojevic, 8.9, 3rd; Gabriella Lemoine, 8.8, 4th; bars: Vukojevic, 9.15, 1st; Lemoine, 9.05, 2nd; beam: Lemoine, 9.35, 1st; Vukojevic, 7.85; floor: Lemoine, 9.4, 1st; Vukojevic, 9.125, 2nd; all-around: Lemoine, 36.6, 1st; Vukojevic,

CYO Track and Field

35.024, 4th.

St. Michael's CYO track and field will hold sign-ups Fri., Jan. 30 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the St. Michael's Parish Hall on the corner of Maple and 3rd Streets. The program is open to boys and girls 3rd through 8th grade. Practice is Monday through Thursday from 4 to 5 p.m. at the Granada High School track. The season runs Feb. 9 through the beginning of May. For information, visit, www.smisctrack.org.

Little League Sign-up

Livermore National Little League is still accepting registrations for the 2009 Season. For more information on registration and tryouts, check out the new website www.eteamz.com/LNLL or call the League Line at (925) 443-5655.

Football/Cheer Signup

Livermore Youth Football & Cheer Livermore Youth Football & Cheer (LYF&C) is starting registration for the upcoming season.

This is a full contact football league that has been established for 36 years. The league's motto is "children first, game second." The goal is to teach the fundamentals of both football and cheer needed to make the transition into high school. The league works together with the local high schools to ensure its participants are learning the fundamentals needed for their very competitive football & Cheer programs. LYF&C's emphasis is on proper technique and fundamentals, responsibility, accountability, and most importantly being a good person and teammate.

All coaches are required to attend coaching clinics each year to strengthen their knowledge of the game.

Football and cheer squads have been very successful in the highly competitive Diablo Valley Youth Football Conference (DVYFC). Registration will be held Feb. 12, March 12 and April 16 from 6-8 pm at Round Table Pizza 1024 East Stanley Blvd. Discounts are available at January and February dates. Information go to website www.eteamz.com/lyfc or email lyfc@onebox.com/lyfc

The league is currently accepting applications for both football and cheer coaches for the uncoming season

Run or Walk

The 14th Hats Off America Red T-Shirt 10K Run/5K Run or Walk will be held on Saturday, February 7, beginning at 10 a.m. at Sycamore Valley Park, 2101 Holbrook Drive, Danville, rain or shine. Entry fee is \$35 per person

per person.

There is no entry fee for volunteers. All runners and volunteers will receive a red t-shirt, and lunch donated by El Balazo Restaurant. Hats Off America will present Rachelle Arroyave with a check for \$1,000, bringing the total to \$12,100 to the family from HOA.

For information or to register or volunteer, contact Sparky George at (925) 855-1950 or thebearflagrunner@yahoo.com. The site includes links to other organizations that support troops. Hats Off America is a nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c) (3) organization.

Water Polo Registration

Registration is now open for Stoneridge Water Polo's spring season. The group is accepting both experienced and beginner girls and boys ages 9-14. This is a fun opportunity for returning players as well as those brand

new to the game to learn new skills and compete in this exciting youth sport. The season begins March 2 and continues through April 29. Practices are held at the Dolores Bengston Aquatic Center in Pleasanton. For more information, visit www.stoneridgewaterpolo.com or call (925) 484-0172.

Adult Sports

Livermore Area Recreation and Park District is taking registration now for winter and spring adult sports leagues.

Starting first is the LARPD Adult Volleyball League. Two coed leagues are offered, a high and a low. The cost is \$460 per team, based on a six-team league, 10 games and playoffs for the top four teams. Individual players can be placed on a "free agent" list for teams looking for players. Volleyball games will be played at 6:30,

Volleyball games will be played at 6:30, 7:30 and 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays beginning March 3. Playoffs are scheduled for May. All games will be held at the Robert Livermore Community Center gymnasium.

Drop-in volleyball is also available to the

Drop-in volleyball is also available to the public during the month of February. Dropin times are from 7 to 9 p.m. Feb. 3 and 10, and from 6 to 9 p.m. Feb. 17 and 24. Dropin volleyball is \$3.

The Spring 2009 Adult Softball Leagues

registration deadline is Feb. 27. The cost is \$695 per team or \$650 per Tuesday coed business team. Players must be age 18 or older, with no more than 20 players on a roster. Leagues are based on 10 games plus playoffs for the top four teams.

Games will tentatively begin April 3, and will be played at Robertson Park Softball

Complex (1717 S. Livermore Ave.) and Max Baer Softball Field (1310 Murdell Lane). Men's leagues will play Monday, Wednesday and Thursday; coed leagues will play Friday; and business coed league will play Tuesday.

Registration packets for all LARPD

Registration packets for all LARPD adult sports leagues can be picked up at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. Packets can also be emailed and mailed by request. For more information, call Beanie Lucivero at 925-373-5732 or visit www.larpd.dst.ca.us.

Superbowl Party

Beeb's Sports Bar & Grill in Livermore will host a Superbowl party on Sun., Feb. 1.
There will be reserved seating, all you can eat buffet, drink specials and give-aways. Doors open at 2 p.m. Cost is \$25 per person. For reservations, call 455-7070. Beebs is located at 915 Clubhouse Drive.

Jr. Football Signup

Registration is underway for the upcoming Livermore Junior Football League (LJFL) season.

Due to its success over its two-year existence and the support of LARPD and the high football programs, LJFL is expanding to all children aged 9 through 14 (as of December 31, 2009.) All football participants will learn the fundamentals of contact football in a safe and positive environment and play regardless of talent level or ability. All cheer participants will learn the fundamentals, cheer at games and compete locally.

All games will be played in Livermore at the high schools. All practices will take place in Livermore. The season begins on August 1 and concludes in early November.

Early, discounted registration will occur on Sunday, February 1, 2009 at the Robert Livermore Community Center, Cresta Blanca Room, 4444 East Ave., during the Super Bowl (2 to 7 pm.) On-line registration will open on February 2, 2009 at www.LivermoreJuniorFootball.com. In persons sign-ups will occur on Wednesday, February 18, 6 to 8 pm, Wednesday, April 22, 6 to 8 pm, Saturday, April 25, 2 to 4 pm, Saturday May 9, 2 to 4 pm and Wednesday, May 20, 6 to 8 pm at Round Table Pizza, 4098 East Ave, Livermore.

The registration cost is \$265 for football and \$100 for cheer. Registration will close when the league reaches 260 players. Players who are not able to register with LJFL will be given instructions to Pleasanton Junior Football League registration. LJFL intends to expand in the future to accept all Livermore children who wish to play contact football or to cheer.

For additional information, interested parents should visit: www.LivermoreJuniorFootball.com. President and Vice-President of LJFL are Jim Burke and Bob Adelman.

PGSL Registration

The 2009 season is quickly approaching. 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 PGSL softball. Two ways to register: 1) On-line at www.pleasantonsoftball.org; 2) Mail-in: PGSL, P.O. Box 911, Pleasanton, CA 94566 (download a registration form from our website). For more information, please contact Chris Tanis at chris@tanisfamily.com. or visit the PGSL website at www.pleasantonsoftball.org.



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Solar Cities is a joint project of the cities of Livermore, Pleasanton, and now Dublin, focused on educating consumers with information about residential solar energy. Join us at a free workshop to learn more about solar technology for the home. In addition to city and PG&E staff, solar installers will be on hand to meet with you and answer questions.

Free Solar Cities Workshop

Thursday, January 29, 2009 7:00 p.m.
Robert Livermore Community Center
Larkspur Room
4444 East Avenue, Livermore



For more information about the free Solar Cities workshop, call (925) 960-4413 or visit www.solarcitiesnow.com

OBITUARIES

Elmo H. Turner

Elmo Henry Turner, a 54 year resident of Livermore and Topock, AZ died Saturday, January 3, 2009 at ValleyCare Medical Center in Pleasanton. He was

90 years old. Elmo was the youngest of 12 children of Andrew J and Martha (Ambrose) Turner of Green Forest, Arkansas. At the age of 13, Elmo rode a freight train to California seeking adventure and a life away from dairy farming. On Sept. 1, 1944, Elmo enlisted in the Army and served in Burma as a heavy truck driver until the end of WWII. He returned to Hayward to marry the love of his life, Mary Lou Cooper on Sept 7, 1946. Mary and Elmo moved to Livermore in 1955. They purchased a retirement home in Topock, AZ in 1974. They were happily married for 57 years before Mary's death Nov. 3, 2003 in Topock, AZ.

Elmo was employed as a truck driver for Alameda County through the 1960s when he bought his own tractor and became an owner/operator leasing himself and his Peterbuilt to Warren Transportation in Union City, CA. He continued as a teamster until his retirement in 1983.

Elmo loved retirement, rock hunting in the desert, gardening, fishing and telling tall tales to his grandchildren.

Elmo is survived by his sons, Donald E. Turner (partner Brian Fernandez) of Livermore, Gary W. Turner of Newark and Dale R. Turner of San Bruno. He leaves four grandsons including Donald B. Turner (Michelle) and Jeffrey A. Turner both of Pleasanton and two great grandchildren, Trevor and Auburn Turner also of Pleasanton.

A Celebration of the Life of Elmo Turner will be held Thursday, January 22 at 6:30 pm at the First Presbyterian Church, 2020 Fifth Street in Livermore in the Chapel.

Memorial gifts are suggested to the First Presbyterian Church, Livermore.

Funeral arrangements by Graham-Hitch Mortuary, 4176 First Street, Pleasanton. Private inurnment in Topock, AZ.

Eugene Joseph Hammerel

Eugene Joseph Hammerel went home to be with the Lord on January 12, 2009 at the age of 84 years old.

Eugene, a Livermore resident, was a man who loved mixing cement and working with tools; he was always building or fixing something. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, bowling and traveling; especially to Boomtown.

Eugene loved spending time with his children and grandchildren, all of whom were very dear to him.

Eugene was preceded in death by his wife Elizabeth who passed away in 2006. He is survived by his children Gene (Pam) Hammerel of New Mexico, Ken (Kim) Hammerel of Brentwood, Dale Hammerel of Livermore and Bettygene (Mark) Egan of Livermore. Eugene is also survived by five grandchildren Ryan and Jeffery Hammerel of New Mexico, Kelsey Hammerel of Brentwood, Katrina Hole and Travis Egan of Livermore.

Funeral Mass was celebrated Jan 16 at St. Michael's Catholic Church, Livermore. Burial followed at St. Michael's Catholic Cemetery in Livermore Livermore

Memorial donations can be made to the American Diabetes Association, P.O. Box 11454, Alexandria, VA 22312.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

Richard Cook Jr.

Richard Cook, 80, died peacefully in his home on Tuesday, January 13, 2009 in Livermore. He was born June 10, 1928 to Richard Cook Sr. and Katherine Cook in Puyallup Washington.

He was an avid fisherman and

especially enjoyed fishing in the Sea of Cortex, Mexico. His fishing adventures began early fishing with his parents throughout the Olympic Peninsula. He always remembered their favorite spot which was Nolan Creek near

Olympic National Park. Richard was an active 4-H leader and also helped advising the Livermore FFA Chapter. Swine Projects were his specialty and he was very involved with Show Pigs at the Alameda County Fair. He enjoyed passing on his swine knowledge to everyone in the county especially his son, daughter and grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his stepson Kent Cook of Livermore. Richard is survived by his wife of 46 years Nanee Cook of Livermore;; sister Betty Stack of Spokane, WA; son Brian Cook of Livermore; daughter Sheryl Clark of Oroville; and grandchildren Wesley Cook, Sarah Peterson, Haley Cook and Garren

He graduated from both Washington State University and the University of Washington with Civil and Mechanical Engineering degrees. He served in the US Army and then worked for Sandia National Laboratories for 34

Family and friends are invited to attend a memorial service on Friday, January 23, 2009 at 1:00 pm at Callaghan Mortuary Chapel, 3833 East Avenue, Livermore. A reception will follow the service at the Cook's family residence.

Memorial donations can be made to Valley Vista 4-H club, 4-H Resource Center, 1131 Harbor Bay Parkway, Suite #131, Alameda, Calif. 94502, Telephone: 510/639-1370 or a charity of choice.

Hazel (Gramma) Waltjen

Pleasanton resident Hazel Waltjen died January 16, 2009. She was born August 24, 1913 in Berkeley. She was raised in Oak-

After living in Atwater for twenty years she moved to Casa Sandoval, where she enjoyed numerous activities with her many friends who were her extended family.

Hazel was preceded in death by her husband Bill of 64 years. She is survived by her daughters Diane Brittain (Jim) and Linda Draa (Dan), grandchildren Kris (Brittain) and Dave Snyder, Sheri (Brittain) and Ross Kapp, Jenny and Mitch Laible; and great grandchildren Emilie and Rachael Kapp and Ryan Snyder.

She was a devoted mother, grandmother, great grandmother, aunt and a wonderful friend to many. The family wishes to thank the staff at Kaiser Hospital in Antioch for the compassion and special care in her final days.

A celebration of her life with a visitation at Graham-Hitch Mortuary, 4167 First St., Pleasanton, will be held from 9 to 9:30 p.m. Thurs., Jan. 22. A Funeral mass will follow at 10 a.m. at St. Augustine Catholic Church, 3999 Bernal Ave., Pleasanton. Private burial will be at St. Mary's Cemetery in Oakland.

At her request, in lieu of flowers, please send contributions to the Shriners Hospital, 2425 Stockton Blvd., Sacramento, CA

Bernice Waddell

Bernice Lucille Peterson Waddell, a resident of Livermore for more than 50 years, passed peacefully on January 16, 2009, at the age of 89.

Bernice was born in South Dakota on July 14, 1919, to Emil and Mavis Peterson. She attended school in Clark County and thereafter maintained a strong work ethic while working various jobs. She was taught that no one owed you a living and as long as it was an honest job it didn't matter what you had to do to help with the expenses at home. Her dad worked very hard for very small wages but always had a few cents and time to help friends or anyone that was in need. Her mom was just as active and had a great compassion for people. The local doctors always knew that if they had to make a house call but no one was available that Mavis would help out. The City of Clark in those days celebrated the national holidays with such honor and on those special days her family would follow the band down Main Street. She had fond memories of her dad playing the sliding trombone in the band. She loved music and enjoyed dancing and playing the organ and accordion for her family. Family, friends, doctors and even strangers were entertained and touched by her fabulous sense of

She married Frank Waddell on March 1, 1940. They lived on a farm in South Dakota until 1956 when they moved to Livermore. She worked at Gussie's Fabric Store for 5 years and began a long career at JCPenney, retiring after 25 years with several life-long friends. For years, the "Penney" girls have enjoyed each other's company meeting every week.

She was a member of the Springtown Women's Club and ValleyCare Hospital Auxiliary Club where she volunteered to work at the Thrift Shop weekly. She enjoyed being around people and keeping busy by involving herself in a number of activities. Her favorite hobbies included endless card games, baking, crossword puzzles, crafts, and traveling. Many summers were spent with her family at Lake Berryessa and traveling the country in the motor home and always stopping in Reno or

Tahoe to play a little Keno. She is survived by a son, Franklin, and wife, Dale, of Florida; three grandchildren, her granddaughter Debora Marchant and her husband, Jim Marchant, of Santa Rosa, her grandson Eric James Waddell and his wife, Suzanne, of Arkansas, and her granddaughter Wendy Waddell from San Ramon; her six greatgrandchildren, Danielle Krause, Nick Krause, Jett Waddell, Tyler Krause, Jenna Krause and Sarah Waits; her two loving sisters, Gertrude Beavers and Odella Tibbetts, from Arizona, several nieces, nephews and cousins, and long-time special friend, Genny

She was preceded in death by her husband of 60 years, Frank Waddell, two infant daughters, Kay Frances and Myrna Jean, her

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father and mother, and a brother Eugene. She has been an active member of Asbury United Methodist Church from 1956, transferring her membership from her church in Garden City, South

A funeral service will be held at 3 p.m. on is Thurs., Jan 22, at Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., Livermore. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be sent in her name to Asbury United Methodist Methodist Church or a charity of choice.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

Brent Bradley, Sr.

Brent Bradley, Sr., 86, of Pleasanton, passed away peacefully in his home on January 17, 2009. He was born June 18, 1922 to Ora Niegel and Ed Bradley in Waukena, CA.

He is survived by his wife Josephine, sister Aloha Adams of Cool, CA, and seven children Brent Jr. of Mt. Shasta, Sharon Clarke and husband Michael of Reno, Mark and wife Debi of Concord, Scott and wife Lisa of Pleasanton, Glen of Los Angeles, Barbara Flores and Ron of Livermore and Dave and wife Carrie of Livermore, as well as sixteen grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

Brent was a loving husband and father. He grew up in Ft.. Bragg, CA and lived there until his high school graduation. He worked for Bank of America in Danville where he met and fell in love with his wife Josephine. He joined the Marine Corps during World War II and was very proud of being a Marine. Afterward, he attended Cal Berkeley and graduated with a degree in business administration. He was employed at General Motors for 31 years, most of the time in labor relations. He enjoyed spending time at the many family gatherings. His favorite activities were playing golf, traveling, playing bridge and reading. He served as a lector at St. Augustine Catholic Church. During his retirement, he and his wife traveled extensively. He was a member of the SIRS and Pleasant Living Trailer Club. One thing he often said was, "I love the life I lead."

A funeral mass will be celebrated at noon on Fri., Jan. 23 at St. Augustine Catholic Church, 3999 Bernal Ave., Pleasanton. Burial will follow at St. Augustine Cemetery, 5750 Sunol Blvd., Pleasanton.

Arrangements by Graham-Hitch Mortuary.

Teens to Host Workshop on Depression and Suicide

The Teen Health Education Club (THE Club) at Foothill High School is hosting a workshop on depression and suicide on Jan. 29.

The workshop, held in conjunction with the Pleasanton Library, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The workshop includes guest speakers such as, Mercedes Coleman from Teens For Life coordinator Crisis Support Services of Alameda County, with an introduction by Mayor Jenni-

According to Nidhi Mastey, president of THE Club, "The purpose of our event is to make teens aware of the growing problem of depression and suicide and also to let the community know that resources are available. We hope to teach teens the warning sings of suicide and depression so that this knowledge will help them deal with situations they might face in the future.

THE Club received a \$1000 grant from the Youth Venture Organization to fund events to help teens.

The evening will include snacks, door prizes and games. For more information, contact Teen Services Library Teresa Parham at 931-3404. The library is located at 400 Old Bernal Ave.

Pleasanton Teen at Inauguration

Ashley Rodondi, a junior at Amador Valley High School, attended the inauguration of President Obama in Washington, DC as a member of the Presidential Youth Inaugural Conference (PYIC).

Ashley was invited to participate in the five-day program, which focuses on the study of the electoral process and various activities associated with the presidential inauguration.

During her weeklong visit, she attended lectures from keynote speakers such as Former Secretary of State and Founder of America's Promise Alliance, General Colin L. Powell, USA (Ret.); former Vice President and Nobel Peace Prize Winner Al Gore; Nobel Peace Prize winner and Human Rights Activist, Archbishop Desmond Tutu; Doris Kearns Goodwin, Pulitzer Prize Winner, assistant to President Lyndon Johnson and author of the recently released Team of Rivals; and special correspondent to the National Geographic, Lisa Ling.

In addition to attending the inauguration and viewing the inauguration parade, the week concluded with a private black tie gala held for the PYIC at the Air and Space Museum, featuring the group



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Varicose veins and spider veins can be more than a cosmetic concern. They can lead to night cramps, leg swelling, itching, fatigue, and even ulcers. An estimated one in 10 people has varicose veins. Most are women, particularly those who sit or stand for long periods of time, have been pregnant, or do anything else that places pressure on the veins and restricts blood flow. In the past, vein stripping surgery was the only solution. Today we perform minimally invasive laser treatments that usually result in mild discomfort and fast recovery. Vascular Specialist Dr. Soohyun Kim will discuss surgical and non-surgical treatments for varicose veins and how to reduce pain and discomfort. She will be available for your questions.

SPEAKER

Soohyun Kim, M.D., R.V.T. Vascular and Endovascular Specialist

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PUBLIC WORKSHOP

Joint Planning Commission and Design Review Committee Workshops

Regional Performing Arts Theater

Tuesday, January 27, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. • City Council Chambers, 3575 Pacific Avenue

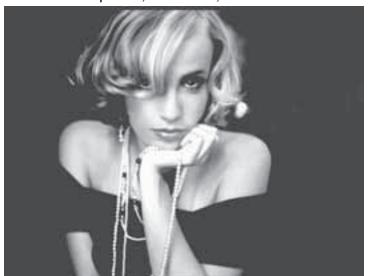
The purpose of the workshop will be to study a potential design for a 77,854± square foot multi-purpose Regional Performing Arts Theater with a 41,500± square foot footprint within the former Lucky's Shopping Center site on the west side of South Livermore Avenue between First Street and Railroad Avenue. No actions will be taken by the Planning Commission or the Design Review Committee.

Barry Swenson Builders proposed mixed use project

Thursday, January 29, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. • City Council Chambers, 3575 Pacific Avenue

The purpose of the workshop will be to study a proposed mixed-use redevelopment project on an approximately 4-acre site at the northwest corner of First Street and South L Street. No actions will be taken by the Planning Commission or the Design Review Committee.

For more information, please call the City of Livermore Planning Division, at (925) 960-4450.



Sophie Milman

Jazz Vocalist on Calendar

Up-and-coming jazz vocalist, Sophie Milman, will be performing on Friday, February 6, at 8:00 p.m. in Pleasanton.

The performance, hosted by City of Pleasanton Civic Arts Presents, will take place at the Amador Theater, located at 1155 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton.

During the show, children whose parents are attending the concert are invited to participate in Kids Create a Night of Musical Fun at the nearby Amador Recreation Center as part of Civic Arts' Parents' Date Night program. Children (grades 1-5) will be treated to music, food and games, no performing required.

Since her self-titled debut was released in 2004, the 25-year-old Milman has sold nearly 100,000 albums worldwide, occupied the Billboard Top 5 in Canada and the Top 15 in the United States, and topped the iTunes jazz charts in five different territories. Her most recent release, Make Someone Happy, won a JUNO award for Best Vocal Jazz album, 2008. Since then, Milman has toured extensively, headlining sold-out shows in Canada, the United States, Japan, and throughout Europe. She continues to balance her burgeoning music career with her commerce studies at the University of

After emigrating from Russia to Israel with her family at the age of seven and then moving again at 16 to a new life in Canada, Milman transitioned from bookish teenager to glamorous jazz ingénue. After a very few professional singing engagements, she was offered a recording contract and soon found herself on the cover of Voir, Klublife, Wholenote, and The Globe & Mail. She was featured in publications worldwide including Hello!, Q, Jazz Times, Elle Magazine, and the San Francisco Chronicle, and appearing on Entertainment Tonight, CBC, CTV, the BBC, BET Jazz, NPR, and several NBC and Fox affiliates across the United States.

Tickets to the Sophie Milman concert are \$20, \$25 and \$30. They may be purchased online at www.civicartstickets.org up to three hours prior to the performance, by phone at (925) 931-3444, or in person at the Amador Theater Box Office. Box office hours are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and for two hours prior to the performance. Group discounts are available.

For information about Parents' Date Night and Kids Create A Night of Musical Fun, call (925) 931-5340.

Pleasanton Musician Garners Award

The Fremont Symphony has announced the winners of its 43rd Annual Young Artist Competition for brass and woodwind players, which took place on January 10, 2009.

First prize of \$1000 and an opportunity to perform with the orchestra were awarded to flutist, Laura Bergmann of San Francisco. She will play Carl Nielsen's Flute Concerto at the Symphony's February 7, 2009 concert.

Second prize of \$500 went to bassoonist, Michael Severance of Benicia. Michael will play one movement of the Bassoon Concerto in F Major by Carl Maria von Weber at the Symphony's free Children's

The Nafisa Taghioff prize for competitors under 16, was won by 12 year old flutist Annie Wu from Pleasanton, who performed the Chaminade Concertino for Flute. She has studied flute for over four ars, the past two with Esther Landau. Annie, a seventh grader at Pleasanton Middle School, has won several competitions, including the California State Junior Woodwinds Competition. She recently performed with the Fremont Flute Ensemble.

The Fremont Symphony Orchestra hosts a Young Artist Competition each January. Next year's competition will be for string players.

The concert will be performed Sat., Feb. 7 at 8 p.m. at the Smith Center for the Performing Arts. For ticket information, call 510-659-

Exhibit Features History of EBRPD

A new exhibit at the Contra Costa County History Center in Martinez features the history of the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD). The exhibit will be open from January 20 to April 23, 2009 at the Center, 610 Main Street, Martinez. The center hours are 9-4 Tuesday-Thursday. The phone number is 925-229-1042. The exhibit can be viewed from the sidewalk, with more to see inside.

The opening reception is Sat., Jan. 24 from 1-4 pm. The public is

Established in 1934, the Park District is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year making it the oldest and largest regional park district in the nation. It is currently nearly 100,000 acres in size and includes 65 regional parks and over 1,100 miles of trails throughout Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

Featured in the exhibit are artifacts from the history of various parks. There are items from the ranching and blacksmithing past (Las Trampas Wilderness, Briones, Morgan Territory), the Rose Hill Cemetery and coal and sand mines (Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve), the Giant Powder Company (Point Pinole Regional Park), skulls from animals in the parks and fossils. Clothing worn by CCC workers in early park history (Tilden) and recent park uniforms will

Photographs taken by Bob Walker will be on display as will historic images from the District's past.

Brochures, stewardship reports, master plans and campaign posters will be displayed. A timeline which traces the evolution of the regional park from its beginning in 1934 is particularly interesting.

The exhibit committee which put the display together includes: Jerry Kent, Beverly Lane, Traci Parent, Jeff Wilson, David Zuckerman, Carol Johnson and Betty Maffei. Many others from the District have contributed with ideas, energy and artifacts.

CELEBRATE THE BOUNTY OF THE BAY! Our Savior Lutheran Ministries 11th Annual Crab Feed Saturday, February 7, 2009, 6-9 p.m. All-You-Can-Eat Crab, Caesar Salad, Pasta, Garlic Bread, and Ice Cream There'll be Music and Dancing! The cost is \$40. (Kids ages 4 and under are free.)

Beverages (beer, wine, and soft drinks) will be available for purchase.



For details, call 925-447-1246, ext. 222

Holm Family Cookbook Not Your Normal Cookbook

By Susan Mayall

A recipe for Rattlesnake Appetizers is not something normally found in a cookbook. But as soon as I opened "The Holm Family Cookbook" I realized that this attractive volume was much more than its title. It's the distillation of a family and an era, a compendium of anecdotes, photographs, newspaper cut-

tings, drawings and paintings. I started dipping into it while I was watching TV, and became so absorbed I completely forgot about the program! I loved the book – it made me feel envious of all these brothers and sisters, cousins, aunts and uncles and friends, so rooted in a particular place and so conscious of their heritage.

When "Tilli" Holm Calhoun was a little girl the Livermore Valley looked very different from the way it does now. "Golden fields of grain grew from one end of the valley to the other and were patchworked with farmhouses and barns, vineyards, and small orchards of walnuts and almonds." Tilli's grandparents, Carl and Ida Holm, had settled and farmed in the Valley and built a large farmhouse, Fairview, in the area between Stanley Boulevard and Alden Lane. Tilli's illustrations convey a feel for the landscape in those times.

Both sides of the family were of Danish stock. They formed part of the large and gregarious Danish community in the valley. Fairview was home to three gen-

erations, and the scene of great gatherings of family and friends, when quantities of food were cooked and consumed.

After Dick and Ione Holm, Tilli's parents, moved to Mines Road and built a house on the Circle H Ranch in the sixties the traditions continued. There were deer barbecues and Christmas feasts, parties for all occasions, hunting and berry picking. Dick Holm kept a huge vegetable garden, and Ione fed anyone who turned up on her doorstep. Links with the Danish community and with new friends and family members continued. The gatherings expanded. And there were always grandchildren at the ranch, watching Ione cook, weeding the garden, riding the horses, setting out with their grandpa 'Papa' to round up the cattle. The kitchen smelt of strong coffee and baking, and 'Granny' Ione was always there, in her apron, presiding over her empire.

With a background like this, it's not surprising that Tilli and her daughters wanted to preserve some memories of this family in print. And what better way to do it than to produce a cookbook full of familiar recipes, dishes made by Ione or introduced by friends and descendants.

Now for the recipes – the rationale for the book. They in themselves reflect the area and the changing tastes of each era. Some of them resemble those in my 1950s Fannie Farmer Cookbook, being heavily dependent

on packaged mixes or canned goods. Doesn't mean they won't taste good, though! Gradually we see the change to an emphasis on all fresh ingredients, though it's always obvious that the produce of ranch and garden were available to Ione and the other cooks. Some are more unusual than others – 'Rattlesnake a la Mines Road (Number of servings depends on the size of the snake)' for instance. And we're cautioned that it's only available in sum-

Another obvious example is 'Mountain Oysters'. Here the advice is "First you need a rancher to provide the required ingredients (Calf testicles). After any roundup you find yourself with a bucketful, and they are too good to waste'. That makes one realize how unadventurous our eating has become, despite all the 'nouvelle' ideas!

Don't get me wrong – there are some terrific recipes here with more general appeal, particularly if you have a large gang to feed. Like 'Granny's Cowboy Beans' from Ione. And I'm intrigued by 'Vivian's Meringue Shell' contributed by Becky Calhoun Foster, which contains vinegar and crushed saltine crackers as well as the usual ingredients. Susie's 'Poached salmon with Sour Cream Dill Sauce' is one that I've tried, and it's delicious.

The book is beautifully produced on heavy stock paper, pleasing to the eye as well as the spirit and intellect. It's good to know that the family links and traditions fostered by the hospitality at Fairview and the Circle H Ranch continue on. Sometimes one feels that strong extended families are disappearing. The Holm Family Cookbook gives evidence that this isn't so.

It also shows what an important part food and hard work have to play in maintaining the necessary links. This would make an excellent gift for anybody who loves food, history, and nostalgia. It should have a place on any Valley bookshelf.

'The Holm Family Cookbook. A Culinary Tale of Danish Tradition and Western Lore in the Golden State of California' Authors: Tilli Calhoun, Nancy Mueller, Susie Calhoun, Wendy Howe, Patsy Neely, Merry Calhoun.Published by the Circle H Cowgirl Press, \$29.95

Available at Alden Lane Nursery, Baughman's, Christensen's, Firehouse Bistro & Books, Livermore Heritage Guild Gift Shop, Livermore Downtown Inc., Piazza for Hair, Retzlaff Winery, Towne Center Books, Wente Vineyards, or online at www. Wentevineyards.com

Valley Concert Chorale, will hold auditions by appointment on Mon-day, January 26, at the First Presbyterian Church of Livermore. The church is located at the corner of 4th and L Streets. The Chorale is seeking experienced singers with sightreading skills who enjoy singing exciting and challenging music. The Chorale performs a wide variety of music ranging from classical to contemporary, and folk to jazz. To schedule an appointment, call (925) 462-4205

Broadway Chorus, a community chorus located in the Tri-Valley area, seeks new members to join the 80-member group. No prior singing experience is necessary although an ability to read musical scores and experience singing within a chorus is preferred. Those interested should attend the first practice session for the 2009 season which will be held Sunday, February 8, 2009 at 6:00 PM at the Ridgeview Dining Commons, 5200 Case Ave., Pleasanton. The room is located directly across Case Ave. from Pleasanton Middle School. Broadway Chorus is part of the Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre, formerly known as Pleasanton Playhouse. www.broadwaychorus.org.

The Underpants, Role Players Ensemble, Danville, Jan. 16-Feb. 7.

www.danvilletheatre.com. ScrapArts Music, five musicians play over 140 instruments fashioned from industrial scrap. Jan. 23, 8 p.m. Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. Civic Arts Presents, tickets available at 931-3444, caboxoffice@ci.pleasanton.ca.us. Guys and Dolls, Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre (formerly Pleasanton Play-

house), Mainstage Musical, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., downtown Livermore. Jan. 23, 24, 25, 30, 31, Feb. 1, 6, 7, 8. Fri. and Sat. 8 p.m., Sun. 2 p.m. 925-373-6800, www.livermoreperformingarts.org. Crab Feed, Sat., Jan. 24, Elks Lodge, 940 Larkspur Dr., Livermore. Cocktails 6 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. Music by

the "Singing DJ." \$35 per person by advance dale only. No ticket sales at the door. 455-8829. 6th Annual Tri-Valley Chinese Cul**ture Day Celebration,** Sat., Jan. 24, 7 p.m. Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. Presented by

the Chinese American Cooperation

Council. www.cacusa.org. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Fellow**ship Breakfast,** Mon., Jan. 26, 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. at Radisson Hotel, Dublin. Tri-Valley YMCA will co-host with Guy Houston and Mayor Tim Sbranti of Dublin. Keynote speaker: Bernard J. Tyson, executive vice president for Health Plan and Hospital Operations for Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc. Also entertainment, reflection and prayer. Proceeds benefit YMCA programs. Information, contact Tim Stier, 475-6107.

The Best of Doo Wop, Thursday, January 29, 8 p.m., with original Coaster Leon Hughes, the Vibrations and tribute groups playing the hits of the Drifters and Del Vikings. Tickets \$55/\$40/\$35/\$30/\$12 students. \$55/\$40/\$35/\$30/\$12 students. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets 925-373-6800, www.livermoreperformingarts.org

Punch Brothers featuring Chris Thile of Nickel Creek fame, Sun., Feb. 15, p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First Street, Downtown Livermore. The acoustic bluegrass Punch Brothers formed by mandolin player Chris Thile of Nickel Creek fame, serve up bluegrass with modern classical composition. The quintet includes Thile, Gabe Witcher on fiddle, Noam Pikelny on banjo, guitarist Chris Eldridge and bassist Greg Garrison. The quintet performs to sold-out audiences across the U.S. playing selections from "Punch," their latest album. \$55/\$40/\$35/\$30/\$12 students, 925.373.6800 or online at www.livermoreperformingarts.org.

Tango Fire, Wed., Feb. 18, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First Street, Downtown Livermore. Featuring a quintet of brilliant young musicians ten torrid dancers and one of Argentina's finest singers, Tango Fire traces the history of Tango, from its origins in the red light district of Buenos Aires to the glamour of the Roaring Twenties, and its evolution world of contemp room, accompanied by the music of Astor Piazzolla and many others. \$55/\$40/\$35/\$30/\$12 students. 925.373.6800 or online

www.livermoreperformingarts.org.
New Orleans Bash at the Bothwell, 2466 8th Street, Livermore, Friday, February 20, 5:00 to 10:00 p.m. Street artists, boas and masks for sale, fortune-telling, a la carte Louisianastyle dining, hurricanes at the Pirate's Corner bar, and a street-style party featuring Big Money in Gumbo. New Orleans jazz club experience in limited-seating "Preservation Hall." All proceeds benefit the Bothwell Arts Center. Purchase tickets in advance at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First Street, Livermore, call 925-373-

6800, or online at www.livermoreperformingarts.org. Do you want to help decorate, handpaint art, make paper mache float décor? Call Linda at 925-447-ARTS. \$15 - admission; \$25 - admission and Preservation Hall Concert; \$3 to \$10 - Drinks and Dinner a la Carte. **Mask** Yourself - Earlybird Mask Shopping & Mask Making Event, Sunday, February 15, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. The Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 8th Street, Livermore. Free - Earlybird Shopping; \$15 - Mask Making.

Lamplighters Music Theatre, fully staged version of Iolanthe, Gilbert & Sullivan's subversive political satire on how a government should be run Iolanthe. Performances Jan. 30-Feb 1 at the Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Tickets \$11-943-6469

www.lesherartscenter.org. **Book signing,** Author Brian Yaeger, "Red, White and Brew," Thurs., Feb. 12, 6:30 p.m. The HopYard Alehouse in Pleasanton. Hosted by Mad Zymurgists. Towne Center Books of Pleasanton will have books available for purchase. RSVP to Brian at brewerbrian@sbcglobal.net if planning to attend.

Cosi fan tutte, San Jose Opera, comedy by Mozart performed Feb. 7, 12, 14, 17, 20 at 8 p.m. and Feb. 8, 15, 22 at 3 p.m. California Theatre, 345 South First St., San Jose. \$69, \$81 and \$91. 408-437-4450 or



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UNDERWORLD 3: THE RISE OF THE LYCANS (MIDU)								
12.05	2:35	4:55	7:10	9:35				
INKHEART (PG) DLP	12:45	3:55	6:25	9:05				
GRAN TORINO (R) DUPTION	1:10	4:00	6:50	9:30				
MY BLOODY VALENTINE 3D(R) DLP	1:20	4:30	7:20	9:45				
PAUL BLART: MALL COP (PG) OLP	12:15	2:30	4:50	7:05				
				9:25				
HOTEL FOR DOGS (PO) DEP	1:15	4:10	6:35	9:10				
BRIDE WARS (PGIDLP 12:10	2:20	4:45	7:15	9:25				
REVOLUTIONARY ROAD (PLDL)	1:30	4:05	6:45	9:30				
THE WRESTLER (R) DUP	1:05	4:10	7:00	9:40				
BEDTIME STORIES POIDLE	12:00							
THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAM	IN BUT	TON P	G13) DLP					
			3:30	7:00				
LAST CHANCE HARVEY (POTI) DUP	12:50	4:15	6.55	9.15				
DEFIANCE (R) DLP	12:20	3:20	6:20	9:20				





SCIENCE ON SATURDAY

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Science on Saturday is a five-week series of free lectures and demonstrations intended for middle and high school students. The program runs January 31 – February 28.

January 31: AEROGELS: The Materials Science of Empty Space Alex Gash, LLNL Scientist

Dean Reese, Teacher, Tracy High School

February 7: CHAOS: The Birth of the Solar System John Bradley, LLNL Scientist

Dan Burns, Teacher, Los Gatos High School

February 14: AVOIDING ARMAGEDDON: Diverting

Asteroids with Nuclear Explosives Dave Dearborn, LLNL Scientist

Tom Shefler, Teacher, Granada High School

February 21: STAR POWER ON EARTH: The Path to a Limitless Clean Energy Future Ed Moses, LLNL Scientist

February 28: Using the Wind to Power Our Future Julie Lundquist, LLNL Scientist Bret States, Teacher, Tracy High School

The series will be held at The Bankhead Theater located at 2400 First Street, Livermore. Two 1-hour presentations starting at 9:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Seating is first come, first served. No pre-registration. For more information see http://education.llnl.gov/sos Contact: Richard Farnsworth, Education Outreach Manager, Science Education Program, e-mail: farnsworth1@llnl.gov









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Pleasanton's Museum on Main Offers 'Once Upon a Time'

"Once Upon a Time," presented by Pleasanton's Museum On Main, will be held from 5-6:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 25, at the museum, 603 Main Street. The theme is exploration.

The program is designed for pre-school to third graders. The program includes a historical reading and an activity program. The evening weaves three stories through two activities/games and ends with a treat.

The fee for each date is \$5 per child due on date of event, along with forms. Parents or guardians must fill out the Educational Program Registration, Agreement and Release of Liability, and Photograph Permission Forms prior to the event. Forms can be found on the Pleasanton's Museum on Main web site under Public Tours Administrative forms or at the museum, 603 Main Street.

All events are at the museum on Sunday from 5-6:30 p.m. Future dates and themes are as follows: February 22, Presidential Study; March 29, Spring Fling; April 26, Heroes; May 24, Remembrance; June 28, Nature's Cycles; July 26, Transportation; August 23, The Sky and Stars.

Harpist in Concert at Pleasanton Library

A free concert by harpist Angel Firestar Simmons will be presented at the Pleasanton Library on January 25 at 2 p.m.

Angel Firestar Simmons is a performer, teacher and composer celebrating 40 years experience. Her one-hour library concert will feature Celtic harp folk music from around the world. The program is suitable for all ages. Angel has appeared on television and radio and has toured extensively nationally and internationally.

Copies of her award winning CDs will be available after her performance. The program is free and open to all. No registration re-

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

Jazz Benefit Concert Scheduled

The San Ramon Valley High School Winter Jazz Benefit Concert featuring Carlos Reyes with special appearances by SRVHS Instrumental Music Students will be held Sat., Jan. 31. They will perform Latin jazz and traditional folkloric music.

Reyes is an instrumentalist of the highest caliber, equally virtuosic on the Paraguayan harp and the electric violin. His original songs are compositions ranging in styles from beautiful Latin folkloric material, to full-blown Latin fusion rockers. His band, The Electric Symphony, are all veteran performers of both the SF and LA music

Doors open at 6:15 p.m. with show at 7 p.m. at the SRVHS Performing Arts Center; 501 Danville Blvd. in Danville General admission is \$25 adv/\$30 door, gold circle: \$40, SRVHS students and staff: \$10. For information call 925-229-2710 or go to www.communityconcerts.com.

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

Student Marches in Inaugural Parade

The Virginia Military Institute participated in the 2009 Inaugural Parade in Washington, DC on January 20, 2009. it was the 13th Inauguration in which VMI cadets have marched. The first was in 1909, when President William Howard Taft was sworn in. Cadet Stephen G. Buescher of Livermore will be participating in the pa-

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Livermore **Reads Together** Opening **Event Set**

A special Kick-Off Event for Livermore Reads Together: In Defense of Food will take place from 2-4pm on Sunday, January 25, at the Livermore Public Library Civic Center, 1188 S. Livermore Avenue.

Christine Wente, part of the fifth generation of the Wente family and Senior Vice-President of Hospitality at Wente Vineyards, will speak on the Wente family's leadership role in sustainable agriculture, land use and related sustainable winegrowing practices in the Livermore Valley. The Restaurant at Wente Vineyards' philosophy of highlighting locally and estate grown in-

well. Local food producers will offer samples and sell products at a Mini Food Festival following Wente's presenta-

gredients throughout its

menu will be discussed as

This program is part of Livermore Reads Together, a community-wide reading program featuring Michael Pollan's best-selling book *In* Defense of Food: The Myth of Nutrition and the Pleasures of Eating. The community of Livermore is encouraged to join their neighbors by participating in the Livermore Reads Together book discussions and free events for children and adults during the month of February 2009. Copies of books and event schedules are available at all Livermore Public Library locations. Livermore Reads Together: In Defense of Food is sponsored by The Friends of the Livermore Library.

For additional events check the library's website at www.livermore.lib.ca.us. For more information contact Rosemary Dukelow at 925-373-5514.

Chamber to Hand Out Honors at Gala

The Livermore Chamber of Commerce is honoring "builders and innovators" for their talents and leadership in the Tri-Valley at the Chamber's 83rd Board Installation and Awards Gala on Saturday February 7, 2009 at The Robert Livermore Community Center. The event will be emceed by Faith Alpher, noted actress and personality.

Each year the Livermore Chamber of Commerce honors individuals who have made an impact on Livermore and the Tri-Valley community.

Honorees this year include the following:

John Chen, Chairman, Chief **Executive Officer and President** of Sybase since 1998. Located in Dublin, Sybase is a leader in developing and expanding innovative database technology. Today Sybase is the largest enterprise software and services company exclusively focused on managing and mobilizing information. John, a recognized technology industry leader and corporate turnaround specialist, was named Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the year in Northern California for his outstanding leadership in building and leading a dynamic Sybase; John also serves on the board of directors for the Walt Disney Company, Wells Fargo & Co and the U.S Chamber of Commerce.

Barry Shames, Chief Executive Officer of Shames Construction Company is another recipient of an award for excellence from the Chamber. Shames Construction has built several exciting projects in the area including the new Concannon Winery, UNCLE Credit Union headquarters, Zephyr Grill and Bar, Castlewood Country Club Valley Course Clubhouse, Club Sport in Pleasanton, California Speed Sports and the Livermore Valley Tennis Club. Barry is past president of the Retail Contractors Association, a current Board member of the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association Foundation, and is active in numerous charitable organizations throughout the community.

Brian Gates, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Top Grade Construction will also be receiving an award of distinction. Top Grade Construction has been a leader in the grading and paving industry since its founding in 1990. Through a history of innovation and intense customer dedication, the company has become the premier general engineering contractor in California. Brian has over 15 years of business experience and has been instrumental in defining the Top Grade's long-term vision. This includes the adoption of a new business unit model, the hiring of key personnel and the implementation of Oracle's industry leading J.D. Edwards enterprise software sys-

Honoree, Ed Moses is the Principal Associate Director of the National Ignition Facility and Photon Science at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. The Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory is the "go to" laboratory for science and technology solutions to the toughest and most important problems affecting national and global security. They are a leader in transforming scientific breakthroughs and cutting-edge engineering into solutions to real-world problems. Ed is responsible for building and bringing into operation the National Ignition Facility

(NIF), the world's largest and most energetic laser system. Ed is also recognized in laser and optical sciences and holds seven patents in laser technology and compu-

tational physics. The Chamber Gala also include the installation of their Board of Directors. This year the board will be chaired by another nationally recognized Chief Executive Officer, David Kent of The Wine Group. The Wine Group is the third largest wine producer in the world and the first major producer to make a new investment in the Livermore Valley. Under David's leadership The Wine Group has become the world's most cost and carbon efficient vintner and has become the global leader in low waste/ light weight packaging and local bottling. David's work with The Wine Group and in the Livermore community continually brands this area as a great wine country.

Everyone is invited to attend Livermore Chamber of Commerce's 83rd Annual Installation Gala; Mardi Gras- A Celebration of New Beginnings being held on February 7. Cocktail reception beginning at 6 pm, dinner and program beginning at 7 pm at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave. The cost is \$115 per person, black tie optional. Reservations may be made by calling the Livermore Chamber Office 925-447-

VISA

Gregory Keith Dennett, 2218

Bluffs Ct., Livermore Ca 94551

This business is conducted by:an Individual

Registrant has not yet begun

to transact business under the

fictitious business name of

This statement was filed with

the County Clerk of Alameda on January 8, 2009. Expires

The Independent Legal No. 2434. Publish January 15, 22,

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS

FILE NO. 419220

The following person(s) doing

business as:Free To Be Me

Child Care, 542 Junction Ave.

Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby

registered by the following

Janette Billingsley, 880 Grace

Street, Livermore Ca 94550

This business is conducted

Registrant has not yet begun

to transact business under the fictitious business name or

This statement was filed with

the County Clerk of Alameda

on December 24, 2008. Ex-

The Independent Legal No. 2435. Publish January 22, 29,

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS

NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 419883

The following person(s) doing

business as:Planet Auto

Wholesale, 575 C Street #D.

Hayward Ca 94541 is hereby

registered by the following

Michael John Herrera,

138525 Athy Ct., Fremont Ca

This business is conducted

Registrant has not vet begun

to transact business under the

pires December 24, 2013.

February 5, 12, 2009.

Signature of Registrant:

/s/:Janette Billingsley

by:an Individual

names listed.

Signature of Registrant: /s/:Gregory Keith Dennett

names listed.

January 8, 2014.

29, February 5, 2009.

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> FICTITIOUS BUSINESS FILE NO. 418928

The following person(s) doing business as:Good Fuels, 5565 Tesla Road, Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Portico Arts, Inc., 5565 Tesla Road, 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 February 8, 2008. Signature of Registrant:

/s/:Karl Wente This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 15, 2008. Expires December 15, 2013. The Independent Legal No. 2428. Publish January 1, 8, 15,

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 419420-419421 The following person(s) doing business as:1)Intellifos, LLC 2)Intellifos, 333 Lloyd St., Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by the following

owner(s): Intellifos, LLC, 333 Lloyd Street, Livermore Ca 94550 This business is conducted by:a Corporation The registrant began to trans-

act business under the ficti-tious business name (s) listed above on January 1, 2009. Signature of Registrant: /s/:Jo Ellen Neuman This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda

on January 2, 2009. Expires January 2, 2014. The Independent Legal No. 2430. Publish January 8, 15, 22, 29, 2009.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 419587 The following person(s) doing

business as:Pampered Vintage Standy Wood

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Pooches & Puddy Tats, 7400 Highland Oaks Dr., Pleasanton Ca 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s)

Kristen Clay, 7400 Highland Oaks Dr., Pleasanton Ca 94588 This business is conducted

by:an Individual The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name (s) listed above on December, 2006.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 7, 2009. Expires

January 7, 2014. The Independent Legal No. 2432. Publish January 15, 22, 29, February 5, 2009.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 419400

The following person(s) doing business as: Tasty Hoops, 528 Fontonett Ave., Livermore CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): John Conkle, 528 Fontonett Ave. Livermore CA 94550 Jennifer Severo, 528 Fontonett Ave., Livermore CA

94550 This business is conducted by:Husband and wife The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name (s) listed above on January 1, 2009. Signature of Registrant:

/s/:John Conkle This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 2, 2009. Expires January 2, 2014. The Independent Legal No.

2433. Publish January 15, 22, 29, February 5, 2009. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 419643

INTO Marky area predictor (mark T100 ag 15)

The following person(s) doing business as: Greg's Hardwood Floors, 2218 Bluffs Ct., Livermore Ca 94551 is hereby registered by the following

fictitious business name or names listed. Signature of Registrant: /s/:Michael John Herrera This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 14, 2009. Expires January 14, 2014. The Independent Legal No. 2436. Publish January 22, 29, February 5, 12, 2009.

94536

by:an Individual

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)

CASE NO. 39-2008-00183365-CU-BC-STK

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(Aviso a Acusado): DAN LARSEN, individually

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(www.courtinfo.ca.gov/ selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken

the court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be elligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Ľegal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/ selfhelp), or by contacting bar association

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The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y direccion de la corte es) SUPERIOR COURT OF **SAN JOAQUIN** 475 East 10th Street Tracy, California 95376 Tracy Branch - Unlimited Civil Division

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selfhelp/espanol/) o

abogados locales

The name, address, and telephone number of Plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombra, la direccion y el numero de telefono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, esì DANIEL H. MCLINDEN #109597 Attorney at Law 616 So. Él Camino Real,

San Clemente, Ca 92672 (949) 492-2529 DATE: (Fecha)

December 17, ,2008 Clerk (Secretario) Rosa Junqueiro Deputy (Adjunto) Polly Khieu

The Independent Legal No. 2429. Publish January 1, 8,

15, 22, 2009. **ANIMALS**

1) 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. On Saturdays from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm, both 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 from noon to 4 and the Pet Food Express in Livermore from 1 to 4. On Sundays, cats are available at Petsmart in Dublin from 1:00 to 4:00, and PetCo in San Ramon from 11:00 to 3:00. For more information, call TVAR at (925) 803-7043 or visit our website at www.tvar.org.

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4)FOUND

FOUND MALE CAT Approx 3yrs, White w/Black Tail and 2 Black Spots on side. Found near Frazee Paints in Livermore New Years Eve. Call David 245-9700

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50)ACCOUNTING We are looking for: Male or Female repres ative in this Position:

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60) BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY 100% RECESSION PROOF Do You Earn \$800 in a Day Your Own Local Vending Route Includes 25 Machines and Candy for \$9,995. MultiVend LLC, 1-888-625

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71) HELP WANTED

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90)SALES/MARKETING

NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS











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

FREE/GIVEAWAY SECTION Call 925 243-8000 Barbara **GIVEAWAY FUTON BED**

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121)GARAGE/FLEA

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125)HOUSEHOLD GOODS

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127) LOST/FOUND

LOST or FOUND AN ITEM FREE SECTION Call Barbara 925 243-8000 FOUND Ring corner of 1st &

So. Livermore January 5th Call

to Identify. 926 787-0889 NOTICES/ANNOUNCEMENTS 151)ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

155) NOTICES "NOTICETO 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. State law also requires that contractors include their license numbers on all advertising. Check your contractor's status at www.cslb.ca.gov.or 800-321-CSLB (2752). Unlicensed persons taking jobs less than \$500 must state in their advertisements that they are not licensed by the Contractors State License Board." 156) PUBLIC NOTICES

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160)BOAT/RV and RETAIL

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185)SCHOOLS/INSTRUCTION

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Alain Pinel Realtors website is at www.apr.com.

NEWS AND NOTIC How Buyers Find Homes to Purchase

By Cher Wollard

With the stock market volatile more buyers are taking another look at real estate.

Lower prices have boosted the affordability index in the Bay Area to nearly 30 percent. Interest rates are hitting their lowest marks in years – about 5 percent for 30-year fixed conventional mortgages up to \$417,000 for buyers with good credit.

In fact, statewide real estate sales rose 12 percent in 2008 from the year before, and are expected to make similar gains in 2009. December to December sales comparisons show an increase of 14 percent in sales of single-family homes for Livermore and 25 percent for Dublin. Pleasanton sales have decreased slightly. However, that's because they did not experience as strong a downturn as the rest of the Tri-Valley.

So if buyers are back, how are they finding the properties they

A few years ago, the California Association of Realtors started surveying residential buyers on their search habits. The findings offer a fairly clear indication of the pathways buyers follow in find-

As might be expected, an increasing number of buyers begin their search online - in 2008, 78 percent said they browsed real estate sites before taking the plunge. This compares to 72 percent in 2006 and 20 percent in 2000.

Where are they looking? Google is the entry point of choice for most internet searchers (35 percent begin here). But most visitors used the site to find a specific real estate agent or property. For indepth searches, Realtor.com, the NAR site that feeds directly from the nation's MLS systems, is by far the most popular site. However, buyers also look at sites such as trulia, aol, yahoo, zillow, as well as proprietary sites of Realtors and real estate companies.

Increasing numbers of newspapers, including this one, also feature online sites with real estate listings, with many moving major components of their advertising to these sites.

Only 12 percent of buyers said they find properties through print advertising, including newspapers and real estate magazines. Buyers also still drive through neighborhoods they like looking

at yard signs and attending open houses. One statistic that has stayed fairly consistent is the percentage of buyers who find their homes through a real estate agent. Over 90 percent in surveys conducted during the past nine years.

This makes sense. Even those buyers who find properties on their own rely on the expertise of professionals to help them sort through the hundreds of offerings to determine the house style, neighborhood and price point that suits their needs.

For residential sellers, this means that it is important to place their properties in the paths that buyers utilize: Make sure their house is listed on the local MLS and presented at local marketing meetings, where other professionals will be made aware of their property.

Most marketing groups also host brokers' tours, a consistent 3-4 hour window each week in which new listings are held open for agents and other real estate professionals to tour. In the Tri-Valley, Livermore and San Ramon hold tours Thursday

mornings. Pleasanton and Dublin tours are scheduled for Friday

mornings. Touring the homes provides agents with a stronger sense of the features and condition of those properties than they would know simply from seeing them on the MLS. It also helps them compare

Signage, lockboxes and, of course, a strong internet presence are also key to ensuring that a property receives the best possible expo-Increasing numbers of brokerages are even creating unique URLs to display photos and information about the properties. Most are

using e-mail blasts to disperse electronic flyers of their listings to agents both in and out of their MLS. A few are experimenting with television ads, mostly real estate

specific cable programs. Open houses too can be beneficial. While some properties – notably country property and houses in need of extensive repairs - may not benefit from generating traffic through well-conducted open

Even if many open house visitors are "nosy neighbors" and "looky loos," those folks often know other people who are seriously look-

ing for a new home. Buyers can take advantage of all of these avenues to gain a sense of what is available in their price range. Smart sellers will work with agents who know and utilize many of the most effective resources

for marketing their property.

help jump start the credit markets.

Senate Approves Next Phase of Bailout Plan The House of Representatives is expected to vote on the Emergency Economic Stimulus Act approved by the Senate on Jan. 15 to

The action will allow soon-to-be President Obama to allocate \$350 billion in Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) funds to programs that will help borrowers avoid foreclosure. The Senate action is similar to a House bill introduced on January

9. Charles McMillan, president of the National Association of Realtors, testified before the House last week, urging passage of the bill, introduced by Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass). 'Realtors agree that by re-focusing TARP on housing finance and that by creating additional incentives for potential homebuyers, we can put our nation's economy on the path to recovery," he said,

384, to help unlock the housing market, and for including provisions to address credit problems in commercial real estate. He also encouraged the House to eliminate the repayment feature of the first-time homebuyer tax credit and extend it to all homebuyers; reinstate higher mortgage loan limits for FHA, Fannie Mae and

adding, "We thank Chairman (Barney) Frank for introducing H.R.

Freddie Mac; and lower mortgage interest rates through a buy-down The National Association of REALTORS® and our more than 1 million members stand ready to work with Congress and the new

Administration on these proposals," he said. Cher Wollard is a local Realtor with Windermere Welcome Home.

Alain Pinel Expands

Alain Pinel Realtors (APR) has expanded its presence in Northern California with the opening of two offices in Marin County. Steve Dickason, a 32-year real estate sales and management veteran, will lead the new offices as Vice President, Marin Manager along with Craig Silvestri who brings 22-years of experience to the position of Marin County Operations Manager. The new offices reinforce the company's commitment to serving its clients throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. There are now 26 Alain Pinel Realtors offices in Northern California and over 1,350 agents. The new Marin County offices are located in Corte Madera at 101

phone number for both offices is 415.755.1111 Paul Hulme is APR's Founder, Chairman and CEO. Tim Murray is APR's Vice President and Regional Manager of San Francisco and

gage lending institution Private Mortgage Advisors, which is an affiliate of Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

SHORT NOTES

Drug Trends in Livermore

The Livermore Police Department Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association (CPAAA) next community education presentation is, "Drug Trends in Livermore." The presentation will be Wed., Jan. 28 at 7 p.m. at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444

The presenter will be made by Sergeant Jim Conley who has extensive experience in narcotics enforcement.

He will be discussing a variety of topics related to illegal drugs. Current drug trends, signs of influence, drug identification, drug paraphernalia identification and intervention will be covered. What signs to look for if you believe a family member is using illegal drugs? There will be an opportunity for the audience to ask questions of Sergeant Conley and to share drug related concerns.

"Any opportunity to spend time with community members discussing drug problems is an opportunity to provide education and guidance" said Sgt. Conley. "I know it is important that our community members learn about the types of drugs that are prevalent in our area and what we are doing to combat them. Parents need to be aware of current drug trends and how to be aware of warning signs that their children may be using drugs.

Reservations are required, as seating is limited to the first 70 registrants. To register for the class, please call LARPD at 373-5700.

Newcott-Caldebery Contest

Children, kindergarten through eighth grade, are invited to submit entries in the Livermore Library's Newcott-Caldebery Writing and Illustrating Contest.

Books submitted will be judged by local

authors. Medals will be awarded at each grade level for best writing and for best illustrations. A best book for 2009 will also be

Can you tell me how

to get rid of small non-refillable

propane gas cans—the type

A You can keep the environ-

unwanted non-refillable

propane gas cans and other

waste to Alameda County

at 5584 La Ribera Street in

Household Hazardous Waste

Livermore. The facility is open

the 2nd and 4th weeks of each

month on Thursday, Friday and

Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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and stoves? Vicki

chosen. Children may work on a book by themselves or with a friend. Entry forms listing each author and illustrator must be

attached to the book when submitted. Entry forms are available at all Livermore libraries or on the library's website. All books entered in the contest will be added to the library's collection and be available to be

The deadline for entries is Sat., March 7 at 5 p.m. Contest winners will be announced at an awards ceremony to be held on Thurs., April 23 at the Civic Center Library at 7 p.m.

For more information about this program, call the Youth Services Deck at the library, 373-5504 or log on to www.livermore.lib.ca.us.

Nature Programs

Mushroom Madness is the topic of a nature program offered by the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District ranger staff on Sat. Jan. 24. Meet Ranger Amy Wolitzer at 2 p.m. at Veterans Park.

Special guest Debbie Viess, from the Bay Area Mycological Society, will lead the annual search for the "blooms" of the rainy season. The group will hunt along trails, on dead logs, in fields and under trees for weird and wonderful fungi. Boletes, bluets, elfin saddles. puffballs, slime molds and fairy rings Participants will also learn a little about the things that make mushrooms and their kin so different from plants and animals. The walk will probably be less than a mile but will involve some offtrail searching on potentially wet and muddy ground. Mushrooms like the rain, so the program will be going rain

Green Corner

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NATIVE GRASSLANDS
There will be a discussion of Ecological Restoration: Native Grasslands on Tues., Jan. 27 at 7 p.m. at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore.

Rangers will discuss what restoration means and how to approach at-

tempts to restore degraded habitats. The slide show is intended to be a follow up to November's "Ghosts of the Grass" program and is a precursor to upcoming opportunities for handson volunteer projects this spring and summer. It should also be of value to anyone interested in learning about protecting and restoring native habitats. Please call 925-960-2400 to sign

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

Beef Cook-Off

The California Beef Council (CBC) has announced that the American National CattleWomen, Inc. (ANCW) will be hosting the 28th National Beef Cook-Off (NBCO) in Sonoma, on September 21-23, 2009. Home cooks nationwide, and local professional restaurant chefs working in the San Francisco Bay area and Sacramento area counties are encouraged to enter original, newly-developed, best beef recipes by March

31, 2009. Fifteen home cook finalists will be selected to compete for prizes totaling \$70,000 on September 23, 2009. One grand prize winner will receive \$25,000, three category winners will each receive \$10,000 and three runner-up winners will each receive \$5,000 in cash prizes.

Professional restaurant chefs working in the San Francisco Bay area and Sacramento area counties can submit their original, newly developed beef dishes. Recipes should yield 24 serv-ings. Six professional restaurant chef ings. Six professional restaurant cher finalists will be selected to compete on September 21, 2009, when they will prepare and present their original "Best of Beef" dish in a private Chef/Media Team Challenge, for prizes totaling approximately \$5,000. One grand prize winner will receive one paid registra-tion and trip to the December 2009 Texas A&M University "Beef 101 Seminar;" one People's Choice Award winner will receive one paid registration to the 2009 Culinary Institute of America's Worlds of Flavor International Conference & Festival; and four first place winners will each receive \$500 in cash

prizes.
The National Beef Cook-Off requires entrants to enter recipes on-line at www.beefcookoff.org or by postal mail to: National Beef Cook-Off En-tries, ANCW, P.O. Box 3881, Englewood, CO 80155 by March 31, 2009. Mailed entries must be post-marked no later than March 31, 2009, and received on or before midnight April 7, 2009. To view the complete contest rules and explore winning recipes from past contests, please visit www.beefcookoff.org.

Backyard Bird Count

Local residents are invited to join the 12th annual "Great Backyard Bird Count" on Feb. 13-16.

A joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society, this free event is an opportunity for families, students, and people of all ages to discover the wonders of nature in backyards, schoolyards, and local parks, and, at the same time, make an important contribution to conserva-

"Anyone who can identify even a few species can contribute to the body of knowledge that is used to inform conservation efforts to protect birds and biodiversity," said Audubon Education Vice-President, Judy Braus.

Volunteers take part by counting birds for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the event and reporting their sightings online at www.birdcount.org. The data help researchers understand bird population trends across the continent, information that is critical for effective conservation. In 2008 participants submitted more than 85,000 checklists, a new

Participants submit thousands of digital images for the GBBC photo contest each year. Last year's winners have been chosen and are now posted on the web site. Participants are also invited to upload their bird videos to YouTube tagged "GBBC." Some of them will also be featured on the GBBC web site. All participants will be entered in a drawing to win dozens of birding items, including stuffed birds, clocks, books, feeders, and more. Businesses, schools, nature clubs,

Scout troops, and other community organizations interested in the GBBC can contact the Cornell Lab of Ornithology at (800) 843-2473 (outside the U.S., call (607) 254-2473), or Audubon citizenscience@audubon.org or

(215) 355-9588, Ext 16. The Great Backyard Bird Count is made possible, in part, by support from Wild Birds Unlimited.

Nominations Sought

The deadline for nominations to the 2009 Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame has been extended to February

The deadline has been extended by three weeks to give the public more time to nominate women from the community to receive this honor. This vear's inductees will be honored at the 16th Annual Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame awards luncheon on Saturday, April 25, 2009, at Hs Lordships restaurant in Berkeley. The event is hosted this year by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors and the Alameda County Commission on the Status of

Nominations are being accepted for outstanding women in each of 11 categories: Business and Professions; Community Service; Culture and Art: Education; Environment; Health; Justice; Non-Traditional Careers; Science; Sports and Athletics and Youth

This year's Women's Hall of Fame inductees will be announced in late February, with the winners to be honored at the April 25, 2009 event. Tickets to the luncheon and awards ceremony are \$75, with proceeds going to programs that help women in Alameda County. Nomination forms can be obtained at www.acgov.org, or by calling the Alameda County Commission on the Status of Women at (510) 259-3871.

ZooMobile at Library

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

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

No registration is required for this 30 minute program, which will be

offered at 10:30 and 11:30 a.m.. Free tickets will be distributed at the Children's Desk 30 minutes prior to each show. Attendance will be limited to 100 per session. Doors will be closed to late arrivals once the program begins. For more information about library programs and events check the

website www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services or call the Children's Desk at (925) 931-3400 ext. 8.

Education Luncheon

Sister Pat Davis, Executive Director of the Learning and Loving Education Center, will be the featured speaker at the American Association of University Women Tri-Branch (Livermore-Pleasanton-Dublin, Hayward-Castro Valley, Fremont) Education Foundation Luncheon on Saturday, February

Sister Davis received an AAUW 2007-8 Community Action Grant for her work since 1994 to improve the plight of immigrant women and their small children who live in the southern region of Santa Clara County. Her program provides weekly educational, vocational, and language-acquisition training and technology-based classes to low-income, ethnic, immigrant, refugee, and limited-English-speaking women and their children who are entering a learning environment for the first time.

The Learning and Loving Education Center is a nondenominational women-focused nonprofit organization, partially sponsored by the Sisters of the Presentation. The Center was established to teach skills, foster hopes, and provide direction to marginalized immigrant students who are limited by illiteracy, poverty, and lack of access to educational opportunities and services to improve their lives and the lives of their families. The programs teach skills that assist under-served populations in overcoming the multiple barriers to education, literacy, employment and

The February 7 luncheon will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Sunol Valley Golf Club, 6900 Mission Road, Sunol. Reservation checks for \$32 should be made out to AAUW Fremont Branch and mailed to Carolyn Hedgecock, 4677 Sterling Ct., Fremont, CA 94536. Specify chicken, salmon or tortellini and mail by January 23. For further information, contact Anne Les, (925) 454-1763.

Rummage Sale

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District has added a second Rummage Sale to the lineup this winter. Anyone interested in starting spring cleaning early this year is invited to sign up to be a seller at Rummage Sale 2 to be held on Feb. 28. For \$35, sellers can rent a 10-foot-

by-10-foot space with an 8-foot table to showcase their unwanted treasures. Items brought to the Rummage Sale must be of garage sale variety and in working condition (no food, vehicles, vehicle parts, large furniture or new or commercial items). Space for sellers is limited, so early registration is encour-

Interested sellers can find the registration form online at www.larpd.dst.ca.us or in person at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. The registration deadline for sellers is Monday, Feb. 23, for any spaces still available.

Shoppers are invited to both Rummage Sales, which will be held from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Jan. 31, and Saturday, Feb. 28, at the Barn, 3131 Pacific Ave., Livermore. For more information, call 925-373-5700.

Drivers Sought

The Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley is looking for Volunteer medical appointments.

The Senior Transportation Program

supplements existing public and paratransit services by providing rides via volunteer drivers. Volunteers must have a valid driver's license, a registered vehicle and carry personal automobile liability insurance.

Please contact Jennifer Cullen for more information at (925) 931-5387 or email: ja.cullen@yahoo.com.

Photo Contest

The Tri-Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau's 2008 Photo Contest is offering a cash prize to the photographer who can best capture the Tri-Valley, California Experience. Information is available at http://flickr.com/

groups/trivalleycaexperience/ Flikr Photos subjects should include people enjoying all there is to see and do in the Tri-Valley, including but not limited to the following: sporting activities (biling but his property). tivities (hiking, biking, water sports, golfing, team sports); shopping (downtowns, festivals); dining (farmers markets, outdoor dining, food shots); wine tasting (vineyards, tasting rooms, picnics); arts & entertainment (bocce, gokart, theatres, performances); and celebrations (weddings, social events,

corporate picnics etc).

Winning photos will be showcased in the CVB's marketing campaigns. Cash prizes will be awarded as follows: 1st place prize is \$500, 2nd place is \$250, 3rd place \$150, 4th place \$100.

Eligibility Guidelines 1. Photography must be of a city in the Tri-Valley region, including Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin, San Ramon, and Danjull. 2. Photography to be high ville. 2. Photography must be high-resolution (300 DPI) and submitted on CD to the Tri-Valley CVB offices at 349 Main Street, Suite 203, Pleasanton, CA 94582. 3. All Entries must include a

completed entry form.
Questions can be addressed to natalie@trivalleycvb.com.

Scholarship Available

The application period for the Simon Youth Foundation Scholarship Program at Stoneridge Shopping Center Closes January 31, 2009.

Pleasanton area high school seniors

are eligible for up to \$1,500 in scholarship money for any accredited college, university, vocational or technischool.

Recipients of the scholarships are chosen by Scholarship America, the third-party administrator of SYF's scholarship program. Students are selected based on a variety of criteria, including financial need, academic performance, leadership skills and participation in school and community activities. Those students who are the first in their family to pursue a post secondary education will also be given

close consideration.

Completed application, along with official transcripts and parents' most recently filed tax form, must be sent to Scholarship America by January 31,

Applications can be found online at www.simonyouth.scholarshipamerica.org or picked up as a paper copy by visiting the Simon Guest Services Center at Stoneridge Shopping Center:

Books and Events

Towne Center Books events: Read It and Eat with the Holm Family on Friday, Jan. 23. Reserva-tions are required. The well known and lively Holm family arrived in the Livermore Valley in 1869. Their cookbook, the Holm Family Cookbook is a celebration of their Danish roots, family recipes, good times, and a slice of Tri-Valley History. The authors are Merilyn "Tilli" Holm Calhoun, Merry Calhoun Carter, Susie Calhoun, Nancy Calhoun Mueller, Wendy Neely Howe, Patsy Holm Neely. At least 4 of them will be here to share their stories. Social time to gather 11:30-12:00 Lunch

12:00; \$35.00 includes book and lunch (the book is \$29.95 +tax); \$15.00 for lunch only. Call 925-846-8826 or reply to this email to make a reservation.

There will be an open house from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sat., Jan. 24 to celebrate Towne Center's anniversary The following authors will be on hand from 11- 12:00: Cam Inman, author of Best Bay Area Sports Arguments, and Mary-Jo Wainwright author of Pleasanton: Images of America; 1:00 - 2:00" Michelle Richmond, author of No One You Know and Year of Fog; 2:00-3:00: Wona Miniati, author of Cooking With all Things Trader Joes and of course refreshments.

Towne Center Books is located at 555 Main Street, Pleasanton.



Linda and Don Marsic of Pleasanton are pictured in Nerja, Spain, located on the southern coast of Spain, near Malaga. The area is known for its old white washed buildings and narrow winding roads. Don says the couple was on the coast ready to eat lunch and remembered they had brought The Independent with them. They took a moment to snap a photo of them holding the newspaper.





"Thanks Dad"

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GREEN TIPS:

Visitors to the Livermore Valley wineries may have noticed that several

From Livermore resident Wendy Weathers . . .

Hope's Garden Author Visits Charter School

By Patricia Koning

The Livermore Valley Charter School (LVCS) kicked off its annual read-a-thon fundraiser with a visit from Livermore children's author Stephanie McInnis. Last spring McInnis, who uses the "nom de plume" Sarah Jane, published her first children's book, Hope's Garden, and started Tri Valley Children's Publishing (TVCP), an independent publisher based in Livermore.

McInnis's experience working at Alden Lane Nursery inspired *Hope's Garden*. She says in creating the book, she combined her years of working in a beautiful nursery and equal years working in a bookstore to bring together two passions.

Hope's Garden tells a story about nurturing flower seeds and creating a beautiful garden, and then collecting seeds from the garden and passing them to the next generation. Each copy of the book includes a packet of wildflower seeds that attract but-

McInnis read her book to first through fifth graders at LVCS and then answered questions about

the writing and publishing process. She described how she used the Internet to find the book's illustrator, Angela Ferrigno, who lives in Connecticut. McInnis showed the LVCS students different versions of the storyboards and mockups to explain how she and Ferrigno arrived at the final version of the book.

"Books take an amazing journey to get to the bookstore where you can purchase them," said McInnis. *Ĥope's Garden* was written in Livermore, illustrated in Connecticut, and printed in China. She had to go through packet, and glued all of the packets into the back of the books by hand at her home.

When a student asked what made her want to write books, McInnis replied, "I have a lot of 'what if' thoughts. I read more as a child than as an adult, so that is what I knew intuitively when I started to write.'

McInnis is working on several other books about fall, stars, and snowmen, which she hopes to publish soon. She added that she founded TVCP not just to publish her own books, but to pub-

lish many children's books from a variety of authors

McInnis signed books at LVCS last Tuesday and donated a portion of the purchase price to the school. "As a thank you for the generous hospitality of LVCS and in support of them, I will continue to offer to the school a portion of the proceeds of any orders made by LVCS parents throughout 2009," she said. "My hope is to do these meetings for as many local schools as possible. I have happy memories of being raised and taught in this area and

these schools mean a lot to me." The LVCS read-a-thon lasts through Jan. 25. McInnis visited on read-in day, when students came to school in pajamas with favorite stuffed animals, pillows, blankets, and sleeping bags. The students spent the day reading and being read to by teachers, parents, and other community members.

Last year LVCS students read for nearly 8,000 hours over a 12day period, raising approximately \$10,000. For more information on LVCS, visit www.lvcs.org.

Hope's Garden can be purchased at Alden Lane Nursery and CooleyKatz Toys in Livermore and at G R Doodlebug and Towne Center Books in Pleasanton. The book is also available at the TVCP website at www.tvcpublishing.com and at Amazon.com.

For more information on Tri Valley Children's Publishing, visit the website, email tvcp@tvcpublishing.com, or call

(continued from page one)

communities. "It has been tremendously successful."

He said of President Obama's proposed stimulus package, There is potential opportunity for funding for local projects. There will be no earmarks. The formulas to obtain funding need to be understood and local officials made aware of the require-

Rep. Ellen Tauscher released the following statement regarding the meeting, "There is no doubt that the Tri-Valley area is hurting. I met with the Tri-Valley Mayors this afternoon to hear their concerns and to make sure we are working together and moving forward.

In addition to the dropping home values and rising foreclosures, improvements to the Bay Area's transportation projects are in jeopardy due to the state budget crisis, Tauscher pointed out. She noted that this year Congress will begin its work to reauthorize legislation funding the nation's transit infrastructure, known as SAFETEA-LU (Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users).

Danville Mayor Newell Arnerich said of the visit, "There is a lot of excitement about change in Washington, D.C. From California's viewpoint, change is a gain. Hopefully our issues will be in the forefront when the stimulus dollars are available.

Arnerich added, "We are asking the federal government to step in and guarantee state bonds needed to finance transportation projects, since the state has no ability to bond. We are asking for an immediate quick fix as part of the stimulus package." Arnerich noted that there are projects ready to go along the I-580 corridor. Funding will help

get people back to work on them. He added that using research at the national laboratories provides an opportunity for the area to benefit from technology trans-

Marchand noted, "There will never be real national security until we have energy security. We need to use technology coming out of the Lab to work to obtain an open campus.'

Asked later about the open campus concept, Marchand explained the idea would be to establish start-up companies using spin-off technology from the national laboratories. The concept being discussed would put together a business plan and a marketing plan to establish a campus for innovation. The goal is to move research out of the laboratories into the marketplace, thereby stimulating the local economy.

Sbranti addressed the idea of using federal funds to rehabilitate homes that have been foreclosed. The mayors are requesting \$3 million in federal funds that would be used to refurbish the homes. The homes would then be sold to moderate and low income people. The program would be administered by the Opportunity Center. Sbranti noted that homebuyers who have gone through the Opportunity Center have a 100 percent success rate in keeping their homes. None are in foreclosure.

All five cities would participate in the program to rehabilitate the homes. The properties in the worst repair would be identified, then fixed up. Sbranti said that would help nearby homes retain their value by removing a blighted property.

Hosterman declared, "It is an exciting time to be here." Her remarks focused on transportation issues, particularly improving freeway infrastructure, which she said would help move both freight and commuters more eas-

Hosterman pointed out that state funds for transportation are being held up because the budget issues have not been resolved. The state is unable to sell bonds. That impacts federal dollars. She explained that federal dollars are matching dollars. Without the match from the state, they are not available. "First and foremost, we have to put pressure on the state to fix the budget mess so we can garner additional federal dollars.'

STIMULUS PACKAGE

In other news out of Washington, D.C., details were released last week about the tax provisions of the stimulus package under consideration in the House. In response to the renewable energy portion, McNerney (CA-11) stated,

"Yesterday, the outline of the stimulus package tax provisions was released. While this was just a preliminary outline, with the details to be worked out over the coming weeks, several pieces of the package are encouraging - in particular the tax incentives for renewable energy production.

"Renewable energy companies are poised to expand, creating hundreds of thousands of stable, family-wage jobs and moving our nation towards energy independence and security. Wind, solar, geothermal and biofuel companies are harnessing natural energy sources while many new companies are conducting innovative research using algae and agricultural waste products to produce energy. They simply need an additional incen-

"In particular, I was pleased to see the inclusion of a longerterm extension of the Production Tax Credit for wind energy. I am also committed to working for provisions to aid the immediate financing of new wind projects, some of the most cost-effective renewable energy produced today," McNerney declared.

TAUSCHER COMMITTEES

Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher (D-CA) will continue as Chairman of the Strategic Forces Subcommittee of House Armed Forces Committee during the 111th Congress. In addition, Rep. Tauscher will represent the entire Northern California region on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

"It will be honor to continue my work on both the Armed Services and the Transportation and Infrastructure committees," said Tauscher. "California and the nation face incredible challenges, both at home and abroad. We have to rebuild our economy and create good paying jobs while rehabilitating our reputation around the world. I am humbled by the confidence House leadership and my colleagues have shown in me."

Tauscher is also the California Regional Whip in the House.



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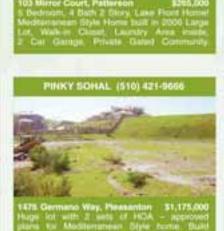
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