



Michael Stewart appears in "Moby Dick Rehearsed," playing at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore for one performance only. The Acting Company will present Orson Welles' vision of Moby Dick on Sat., Feb. 16 at 8 p.m. Critics have offered the view, "Theater becomes a house of magic." The Acting Company is one of the most respected repertory companies in America. Tickets are \$28, \$31, \$36 and students \$11. Tickets can be purchased at the Bankhead Theater box office, 2400 First St., Livermore, by calling, 925-373-6800, or go to [www.livermoreperformingarts.org](http://www.livermoreperformingarts.org).



Craig Chaquico

## Jazz Concert Benefits Valley Humane Society

Craig Chaquico will perform at Valley Humane Society's "Jazzed About Pets," an evening of smooth jazz, to be held from 7-10:30 p.m., Saturday, March 1, at the Palm Event Center, 1184 Vineyard Avenue, Pleasanton.

The evening will include an array of heavy hors d'oeuvres and no host cocktails. Admission is \$85 per person. Proceeds go to support the programs of Valley Humane Society, a nonprofit organization.

Headliner Craig Chaquico has engaged and inspired two generations of pop music fans as the lead guitarist and most prolific principle song-writer for Jefferson Starship and Starship from 1973-1990. With 20 Gold records combined between the Jefferson Airplane, Jefferson Starship and Starship, Craig was instrumental in making that combination one of the most successful.

(See JAZZED, page 2)

## Filing Begins For the June 2008 Primary

Filing began Monday, Feb. 11 in the Statewide Direct Primary Election to be held on Tuesday June 3, 2008.

The nomination period closes March 7.

Candidates for federal, state and county offices file their nomination documents with the Registrar of Voters. Candidates for city offices file with the City Clerk and district candidates file with the District Secretary. Candidates with questions may call the Alameda County Registrar of Voters office at 510-272-6933.

Offices on the June ballot that impact the Tri-Valley and the incumbents are: Congressional districts 10 (Ellen Tauscher), 11

(See PRIMARY, page 3)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen  
Katie Caulk dons a mask to celebrate Mardi Gras last Saturday at the Bothwell Arts Center.

## Ideas Being Solicited For Shadow Cliffs

A major expansion of the water slides at Shadow Cliffs Regional Park, that was already underway, won't occur. A Valley group has organized to suggest other possible uses for the property.

The water slide developer, who operates the current four slides in the park, won expansion approval from Pleasanton three years ago over strong opposition from nearby residents. Named California Splash, the expanded facility was projected to draw 200,000 users annually. However, for personal reasons, the developer has

had to abandon the expansion, including work on two partially completed buildings on the site.

Only recently, East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD), operator of Shadow Cliffs, learned of the developer's halt to construction. The fate of the partially built structures must be determined, said Ayn Wieskamp, the Valley's representative on the EBRPD board and president of the board.

It's not known whether they would be taken down, or completed and moved elsewhere on the park site. They might be suitable replacements for old buildings that serve as offices near the beach. However, the cost effectiveness would have to be studied, said Wieskamp.

EBRPD also needs to learn whether the water slide operator will continue to operate the existing four slides when they are ready for the warm weather season, she added.

### GROUP SEEKS IDEAS FOR PARK

The park district's staff will be taking comments from the public about possible future uses of the expansion site.

Nancy Storch, a spokesperson for Friends of Shadow Cliffs, which was formed last month, said that people in the group want to avoid the problems that would have come to Pleasanton with the expansion of the water slides. People from Pleasanton, Dublin and Livermore are involved in the new group.

The group wants to suggest functions for Shadow Cliffs that wouldn't pull users from beyond the Valley, which would contribute to traffic problems. "We are trying to take the initiative. We live here. We enjoy the park. We

want some good ideas to give to park district planners, so they can benefit from what frequent users think and have those ideas early in their planning," said Storch.

Storch didn't want to provide a list of ideas accumulated so far. However, she did mention that rose enthusiasts have suggested that a demonstration rose garden might be planted on part of the lot.

Friends of Shadow Cliffs is still in its formation stage. People who are interested in joining may call Storch's contact number at 925-895-5112.



Photo - Doug Jorgensen



Ruby Hill Winery in Pleasanton opened its tasting room last weekend. The festive occasion attracted visitors to sample the new wines. For more information in the new winery, see page 8.

## Livermore Schools Looking at \$3.6 Million Cut in State Funding

By Patricia Koning

If Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's 2008/09 budget proposal were adopted by the California legislature, Livermore schools will receive about \$3.6 million less in funding in the next school year than they received this year.

"This is not a report I want to give. However, I guess it comes with the job. This is just a proposal. We can definitely expect changes. In the meantime we have to assume the worst," said Susan Kinder, director of fiscal services for the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District, speaking at the Feb. 5 meeting of the Livermore Board of Education.

The proposed budget does not fund the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) of 4.94% and imposes a deficit of 6.99%. As a result, the Livermore School District's current funding level, known as the Revenue Limit will be cut 2.35%.

"For once it works in our favor to be a low-wealth school district," said Kinder. "Our reduction is slightly smaller than that of higher-funded school districts."

For Livermore, the bottom line is a total loss of \$281 per Average Daily Attendance (ADA), comprised of \$136 in the Revenue Limit, \$30 in Special Education, and \$115 in Categorical Programs.

Mid-year budget cuts, which would impact the current year's budget, are also very likely. Kinder said that School Services of California is recommending that school districts plan for a 0.5% deficit to the Revenue Limit. For Livermore, this would be \$29 less per ADA or a total reduction of about \$375,000.

Mid-year budget cuts should be determined by end of February. When the Governor announced his budget proposal on Jan. 10, he declared a fiscal emergency.

(See SCHOOLS, page 2)

## Residents Upset Over Council Approval of Car Dealership

The Livermore City Council approved a Toyota dealership in North Livermore, much to the dismay of those living nearby. The John L. Sullivan project will be the largest dealership in Northern California.

The majority of those attending Monday's packed council meeting walked out when the motion was made to approve the project. They did not wait around for the vote, which was unanimous. Mayor Marshall Kamena, a supporter of the project, was

absent. The council felt that the benefits to the city made the project attractive. These included sales tax revenues and jobs.

The dealership is projected to produce over \$100 million in annual sales, which would provide the city with \$1 million in sales tax revenues. There would be 160 jobs created.

Neighbors objections related to traffic, noise, air pollution, land use compatibility, and aesthetics. They said they were not

opposed to the Toyota dealership, just its location. They urged the council to find another site in Livermore for Toyota; one near other auto and commercial uses.

Councilmembers felt that mitigations added after the Planning Commission hearing were adequate to deal with the majority of the concerns.

The project was redesigned to deal with aesthetics. Buildings were moved further away from homes and reduced in size. The

(See DEALERSHIP, page 4)

## Pleasanton OKs Solar Program

The Pleasanton City Council approved a staff recommendation to move forward with a Solar Cities program.

"This has been a long time coming. It is a very, very exciting project," declared Mayor Jennifer Hosterman.

The vote was unanimous. The council was happy with the start-up program. However, it was suggested that more information be provided about a one

vendor option and aggregate buying potential.

As approved, the city would send out a request for qualifications to solar installers. All contractors meeting the requirements would be included on a list from which residents could then select a company. The permit process would be streamlined.

Pleasanton and Livermore are (See SOLAR, page 3)

## New Smelt Species Protection Adds To Delta Water Challenges

Tentative listing of another Delta fish species on the threatened list last week could further complicate water supply management there, presenting one more problem for Zone 7 Water Agency, the Valley's water wholesaler.

However, it's a problem that appears to be manageable locally. The longfin smelt, whose population was greatly eroded since 2004 because of poor environmental conditions, was tentatively listed Feb. 8 by the state Department of Fish and Game.

It means that agencies, such as the state Department of Water Resources (DWR), which operates the state water project, must come up with a plan to show how it will guard the species' habitat. A later

decision, probably by the end of the year, will indicate whether the fish will be permanently listed.

When federal agencies consider endangered species listing, their tentative decisions don't automatically put the species on the threatened/endangered list. However, in California, the decisions of state agencies, such as Fish and Game, automatically confer the status, even though a final decision to list or not list may come many months later.

The Delta smelt, a companion species to the longfin smelt, already is on the permanent threatened/endangered list. A federal judge's order late last

(See SMELT, page 12)

## Group Wants Early Look At Habitat Issue In Camp Parks Land Transfer

Burrowing owls are not on the protected/endangered species list of state and federal agencies.

However, a current habitat for them at Camp Parks should be protected, according to the Alameda Creek Alliance. The National Guard training facility at Camp Parks plans to transfer 183

acres just north of Dublin Boulevard and southwest of Santa Rita Jail to a private developer, yet to be selected, perhaps by April.

The selected developer will be committed to building some classrooms and other facilities and roads for the base in its up-

grading as a training facility. In turn, the developer will receive equal value in the land being turned over. Dublin Mayor Janet Lockhart said that a nearby parcel sold not long ago for \$4 million per acre.

Jeff Miller, director of the Alameda Creek Alliance, said

that the parcel has one of only two long-term breeding colonies of burrowing owls in the Valley. The other is near the Livermore airport.

The owls use abandoned gopher holes as a habitat to take care of their young. They abandon the burrows when the off-

spring are old enough to be independent.

An Army open house last month attracted 50 developers, and drew various plans of potential development for the site, said Miller. He said the Alliance wants the Army to engage early in the

(See HABITAT, page 4)

## Inside

Anne Homan.....	8	Roundup.....	3
Art & Entertainment.....	9	Short Notes.....	5
Bulletin Board.....	7	Sports.....	6
Classifieds.....	10	Obituaries.....	7
Editorial.....	4	Open Homes.....	10
Mailbox.....	4		



### PET OF THE WEEK

Talulah is a 10-year-old Main Coon cat. Her previous owner lost his home to foreclosure and was forced to give up his beloved cat. Now, Talulah is looking for a new home to call her own. She is a big girl who loves people, but would prefer to be an only cat! To visit Talulah or any of our adoptable kitties, come to Valley Humane Society at 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton. Hours are Wed-Sun from 11AM to 5PM. Call 426-8656 or visit our web site: [www.valleyhumane.org](http://www.valleyhumane.org).

## Bike Team Aims to Raise Funds for Civics Teams

The Cycling for Civics team is back for its second year of bicycling 100 and 200 miles in Death Valley to raise money for Amador and Foothill High Schools' We the People team, as well as Amador's Mock Trial team.

Cycling members this year are Pleasanton school board president Jim Ott, Pleasanton Parks and Recreation Commissioner Jerry Pentin, Pleasanton Economic Development Director Pamela Ott, as well as residents Bryan Gillette, Gary Boal, and friend Barry Schwartz.

The cycling event takes place in Death Valley on March 1. The team is hoping to exceed last year's donations of \$2,500. To initiate the effort, team members have donated funds personally and received donations from ClubSport of Pleasanton, Spring Street Studios, and UNCLE Credit Union. To date, funds raised total \$1,300.

Several team members will ride the 200 miles in Death Val-

ley, beginning before daybreak and finishing well after dark, while others will ride the 100-mile event. Pamela Ott is new to the team and will ride her first consecutive 100 miles. "I'm excited about riding this distance," said Ott, "but I'm equally excited to encourage people to make a contribution to support our local civics students."

Each year, Amador and Foothill High Schools participate in the statewide We the People competitions that test student knowledge of the Constitution, the founding of the country and the evolution of American government through simulated congressional hearings. The winning team goes on to represent California in May at the national finals in Washington D.C. Last year, Amador finished second nationally, having represented California for the second year in a row.

Similarly, the Mock Trial competition offers students each year at Amador Valley High



Jim Ott (left) and Jerry Pentin in Death Valley.

School an opportunity to prepare for and participate in a full trial in just over two hours, complete with opening statements, presentation of evidence, cross examinations, and closing arguments. Local attorneys volunteer to coach the student teams, who compete as either a prosecution or defense squad against another high school.

Students are assigned a specific case and are exposed to all

of the legal elements and rules in producing a trial.

Funds raised for both programs help offset costs associated with entry fees, travel costs, preparation of materials, and similar needs.

Donations are tax-deductible and payable to the Pleasanton North Rotary Foundation; Mail to UNCLE Credit Union, c/o Jim Ott, 2100 Las Positas Court, Livermore, CA 94551.

## JAZZED

(continued from page one)

ful bands in history. In the early 1990's Craig left the fast-paced pop world and reinvented himself as an award winning solo contemporary instrumental artist, songwriter, producer and bandleader. Craig is now one of the most popular and best-selling artists in the smooth jazz genre.

London-born pianist and composer Terry Disley will open the evening with his 5 piece all-star jazz group The Terry Disley Experience. As a long time touring and recording keyboardist, Terry has worked on studio and live projects with Bryan Ferry, Van Morrison, George Harrison and has appeared alongside jazz luminaries such as McCoy Tyner, Cedar Walton and Monty Alexander. The Terry Disley Experience plays original compo-

sitions, which embrace swing, cool jazz, funk, salsa rhythms and reggae with some very catchy accessible melodies.

For more information and to purchase admission to Jazzed About Pets, contact the Valley Humane Society at (925) 426-8656 or [www.valleyhumane.org](http://www.valleyhumane.org). Valley Humane Society is located at 3670 Nevada Street, Pleasanton. Hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Valley Humane Society is an animal welfare organization advocating responsible pet ownership. It operates the only no-kill facility in the area to accept animals by private surrender. Valley Humane Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that receives no government funds, tax dollars, or money from national humane organizations.

## SCHOOLS

(continued from page one)

agency under Proposition 58. The legislature must respond within 45 days or it cannot act on any bills or take a joint recess.

Cuts would be one-time and would not change the District's Revenue Limit for future years.

The Livermore School District currently has about \$3.6 million in unallocated, one-time money and a 4% reserve. Reducing the reserve to the state-mandated 3% would free up about \$1 million. "We're okay for the short-term, but we need to plan for the long-term," says Kinder.

If those plans include teacher layoffs, that would have to be announced by March 15. The District has instituted a freeze on spending. Administrators are looking for places to cut back.

"I'm speaking as a parent, teacher, and citizen. Didn't you just spend millions two weeks ago on a new trimester program?" asked Jo Lucas at the Feb. 8 meeting. "And now you are stopping spending and saying there are no funds. I don't understand."

On Jan. 22, the Livermore School Board approved a revised schedule for the city's two comprehensive high schools to take effect at the start of the 2008/09 school year. To implement the new schedule, the District will spend \$130,000 on new textbooks and hire 11 additional teachers, at a cost of \$2.25 million over three years (\$750,000 will be paid from Measure D monies).

School districts will learn more about their future fiscal situation when the Governor presents a revised budget in mid-May. Until then, Livermore and other California school districts must walk a line between caution and panic.

Trustee Kate Runyon is preparing a presentation on Livermore's budget situation to share with the community. However, she's not sure when she'll

begin talking with the public. "If we go too early with the worst-case scenario and the information changes, we could lose public trust," she says.

For more information on the California State budget, visit [www.ebudget.ca.gov](http://www.ebudget.ca.gov). Further information on the budget can be found on the Livermore School District website at [www.livermoreschools.com](http://www.livermoreschools.com).

## Science on Saturday Looks at A 'Dark and Messy Universe'

The next Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory Science on Saturday lecture looks at what makes up the universe.

Steve Asztalos, Lab scientist, and Tom Shefler, Granada High School teacher, will present "Our Dark and Messy Universe: How One Particle Might Light the Way." There will be two presentations on Sat., Feb. 16; one at 9:30 a.m. another at 11:15 a.m.

For the first time in history, man has a detailed accounting of what makes up the universe. Yet, 95 percent of the universe defies detection. This lecture will explain how scientists have come to this understanding of the universe and what they think makes up about 25 percent of its mass.

The lecture series is held at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., downtown Livermore. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis; there is no preregistration. No admission is charged.

Directions, maps and a complete list of lectures are available at <http://education.llnl.gov/sos>.

Science on Saturday is presented by the Lab's Science Education Program.



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# VALLEY ROUNDUP

## Trudeau Promoted to Captain

Lieutenant Scott Trudeau has been promoted to the rank of Captain in the Livermore Police Department. The appointment was effective Feb. 4.

Captain Trudeau has been a member of the police department for 24 years. Starting his career as a Reserve Officer for the City of Pleasanton in 1982, Captain Trudeau came to the City of Livermore in January 1984 as a Patrol Officer. He has worked in all aspects of the department including Patrol, Investigations, Special Operations Unit, Crime Prevention, Field Training, SWAT and Crisis Negotiations. As a Lieutenant he has managed units in both the Operations and Support Services Divisions.

He developed the information that broke the Shirley Olson homicide case leading to the arrest and conviction of Richard Christopher Tully, who is now on San Quentin's Death Row. Trudeau was instrumental in the Kay Cary homicide case resulting in the arrest and conviction of two suspects.

He was the lead investigator in the largest multi-jurisdictional methamphetamine manufacturing case in California at that time. The investigation lasted 2 1/2 years, involved five states and concluded with more than 100 arrests. He received the department's Medal of Merit and Police Officer of the Year for this investigation.

He established the Tactical Dispatcher Program and was one of the first to develop the Tactical Intelligence Analyst position for the Crisis Negotiation Team; Created the Active Shooter Response Plan and training for the department in the wake of the Columbine High School incident.

Other accomplishments include developing the Sergeant Mentoring Program; being responsible for the research and design of the department's Community Outreach Vehicle; serving as a member of SWAT as an officer, supervisor, and currently the Tactical Commander.

Scott and his wife Linda both grew up in Livermore and graduated from Granada High

School. They continue to live in Livermore with their three children.

## 2-1-1 Operates Bay Area-wide

Operators of the new 2-1-1 telephone service in Alameda County expect a dramatic increase in the use of the service - which enables callers to access multilingual health, housing and human services information 24 hours a day - now that it has expanded to the entire Bay Area.

More than 23,300 calls have been received by 2-1-1 in Alameda County since the service was launched in the County in July 2007. However, growing awareness of the service, helped by Tuesday's launch of Bay Area-wide 2-1-1 service, is expected to help the service grow to 140,000 callers annually within Alameda County alone.

The new service means people throughout the Bay Area can reach caring, trained specialists who will match their needs with local services - such as job training and placement opportunities, senior services, food and nutrition programs and housing referrals - simply by placing a free 2-1-1 telephone call.

The 2-1-1 telephone service will be available in more than 150 languages. Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson acknowledged the team work involving Alameda County, its 14 cities and numerous other agencies that enabled 2-1-1 telephone service to operate successfully in Alameda County for the past seven months. He singled out for praise Eden Information and Referral, commonly known as Eden I&R, the Hayward based nonprofit that operates Alameda County's 2-1-1 service. It was the persistence of the 31-year-old agency and its executive director, Barbara Bernstein, that enabled Alameda County to launch 2-1-1 service seven months ago thanks to a "fair and equitable" funding plan that includes \$500,000 from Alameda County's 14 cities on a per capita basis; \$500,000 from the county; and the remaining funds (approximately \$300,000) from local corporations and foundations.

# PRIMARY

(continued from page one)

(Jerry McNeerney); and 13 (Pete Stark); State Assembly districts: 15 (Guy Houston); 18 (Mary Hayashi); and 20 (Alberto Torrico); State Senate district 9 (Don Perata); Alameda County Board of Supervisors district 1 (Scott Haggerty); Zone 7 Water Agency board (3 seats) (Dick Quigley, Jim Concannon, James Kohnen).

In the race for the 15th Assembly District, Republican Judy Lloyd's campaign reported more than \$260,000 in contributions as of January 31.

Lloyd has received 478 individual campaign contributions from friends and colleagues and 196 on-line contributions that total \$71,867 on the Internet.

Former State Assemblyman and Contra Costa County Sheriff Richard Rainey and his wife, Mayor Sue Rainey endorsed Lloyd and are actively campaigning on her behalf. Other endorsements have come from Contra Costa Sheriff Warren Ruff, Contra Costa District Attorney Bob Kochly, Pleasanton City Councilman Jerry Thorne, and Elk Grove City Councilman Pat Hume.

The 15th Assembly is currently represented by Republican Guy Houston.

Democratic candidate for the 15th Assembly District, Joan Buchanan, has been endorsed by the California Nurses Association. She also received endorsements from the following unions: Operating Engineers Local 3, the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, the Sprinkler Fitters & Apprentices Local 483, and the Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 3.

Currently, Buchanan serves

on the San Ramon School Board of trustees.

The National Tax Limitation Committee PAC announced its support for Republican businessman Robert Rao in the open 15th Assembly District, adding one of California's oldest and most effective taxpayer organizations to a growing list of Rao for Assembly endorsements.

Founded in 1975, the National Tax Limitation Committee has been involved in taxpayer battles in California and across the nation. The National Tax Limitation Committee PAC endorsement comes on the heels of announcement of support by Stockton Mayor Ed Chavez.

Jeff Williams became the fifth member of the Livermore City Council to publicly endorse Scott Kamena's campaign for the 15th Assembly District, marking the first unanimous City Council endorsement in the race for the 15th Assembly District.

Livermore is the largest city in the sprawling district, which encompasses portions of Alameda, Sacramento and San Joaquin counties. The endorsement of the City Council follows the unanimous endorsement of the Livermore Area Recreation and Parks District to which Kamena has been elected twice.

"The people of Livermore have been able to count on Scott time and time again," said Councilman Jeff Williams. "He has served our community with distinction and will be an effective advocate for our region in the Assembly."

In an address Monday to the East Bay Association of Realtors, Steve Filson, Democratic candidate for the 15th Assembly Dis-

trict, proposed revving up California's economy with a state tax credit for home buyers.

He stated that our current budget crisis of falling revenue is caused by decreasing home prices. "We can turn around our shrinking revenue by spurring home sales through state tax credits for home buyers."

Filson proposed a credit of \$500 for home buyers and an additional \$300 for first time home buyers.

Assemblywoman Loni Hancock, candidate for the 9th Senate District for the reporting period ending December 31, 2007, received \$500,506 in contributions.

The district is currently represented by Don Perata, who is term limited out of office. Perata has endorsed Hancock.

The report covers the filing period from July 1 to December 31, 2007. During that period, Hancock raised over \$270,000. Hancock has accepted the \$724,000 voluntary spending limit for the June 2008 primary. She is on pace to reach the limit.

Hancock has received strong support from elected officials throughout the 9th Senate District, including Congresswoman Barbara Lee, Congressman George Miller, Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher, Oakland Mayor Ron Dellums, Assemblymember Sandré Swanson and Alameda Mayor Beverly Johnson.

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# SOLAR

(continued from page one)

partners in the program. The Livermore City Council approved participation at a meeting in January.

Councilmember Jerry Thorne suggested there could be an advantage in selecting a single provider. He said that he felt one contractor would make it possible to utilize the buying power of residents to get the best price and product possible.

"I think just the opposite," declared Councilmember Cindy McGovern. "Having the city endorse a company puts the onus on us to select a perfect contractor." She added that she would like to pursue the idea of a solar buyers club that would provide a 10 to 20 percent discount in the purchase of a solar system.

Several speakers, including former Livermore Councilmember Tom Reitter and representatives of solar installation contractors, agreed with Thorne that one provider, selected through a request for proposal process, would be best.

The key component of the program is to provide those interested in solar power with easy access to information and resources. Elements include outreach, workshops and future changes.

Pleasanton's program targets five core market segments: ex-

isting residential retrofit, new residential developments, existing commercial, new commercial, and city owned facilities. The city has installed a solar system at Firehouse I and is considering placing similar systems at the Firehouse Arts Center and the city's operation service center.

Outreach will include information about the program in utility bills, on Cable television, website links to external resources, and the community newsletter.

Workshops would include energy experts and potential contractors. The city would provide residents with a "starter kit" that contains tips on how to proceed with solar energy installation.

In the future, Pleasanton could pursue financial assistance programs, lowering or eliminating city permit fees, and setting up a recognition program for projects that achieve a predetermined level of excellence.

Councilmember Matt Sullivan said he would like to see the city go further with the program. "As a starting point, we are doing what we should, educating people and pre-qualifying contractors. There are a lot of good solar providers out there. I'd hate to pick one." He said he would like to strengthen the requirements for contractors.

"Over time, I'd like to see the city enhance the program," added Matt Sullivan. He was interested in options that would lower the price for those interested

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<b>Walnut Creek</b> 1700 N. Main St. Walnut Creek, CA 94596 925.280.8500	<b>Orinda</b> 89 Davis Rd., Ste. 100 Orinda, CA 94563 925.253.7000	<b>Danville</b> 15 Railroad Ave. Danville, CA 94526 925.855.4000	<b>Blackhawk</b> 4105 Blackhawk Plaza Cir. Danville, CA 94506 925.648.5300	<b>Pleasanton</b> 5075 Hopyard Rd., Ste. 110 Pleasanton, CA 94588 925.251.2500	<b>Livermore</b> 1983 Second St. Livermore, CA 94550 925.667.2100	<b>Lafayette</b> 3799 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Ste. 100 Lafayette, CA 94549 925.253.7001
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# EDITORIALS

## Stoneridge Extension

While the Pleasanton City Council has backed off from its opposition to the proposed Stoneridge Drive extension, it wants the voters to make the final decision on this issue.

In a recent discussion, the council indicated it will keep the extension in the traffic circulation element of the general plan as part of Pleasanton's participation in the proposed regional transportation plan.

Meanwhile, Pleasanton will adopt a policy enabling its citizenry to mount a referendum or initiative to overturn any future City Council decision on the extension.

A council majority has been long prepared to drop this project from the Pleasanton General Plan. However, other cities have asked Pleasanton to retain the extension, believing it will be needed to cope with the regional traffic impacts of the future.

Pleasanton leaders have been responsive. "I've come to understand there are benefits to eventually extending it. ... I've gone so far off my original position ..." said Councilmember Matt Sullivan during the council's recent discussion.

Like Sullivan, this newspaper has changed its position. We originally opposed the Stoneridge extension. We've come to believe design innovations are available that would thwart I-580 motorists from turning the extension into a second freeway. In our opinion, the extension would meet a genuine need as a cross-valley thoroughfare for local residents.

## Heritage Guild Looks To Future

The Livermore Heritage Guild is doing a lot of soul-searching in an effort to chart its future course.

The group hopes to build a new generation of members. They've come up with a wonderful new motto, "Saving Yesterday for Tomorrow." They've added public advocacy as one of their missions. However, they could use more volunteers.

The importance of this organization was recently demonstrated when the historic Duto house was threatened with demolition. Guild members rose to the challenge and saved the old house. The preservation of the Southern Pacific Depot can also be credited to the Guild. They've always been there on such issues. They've done much to elevate a sense of history and heritage in Livermore.

We commend them for taking on a public advocacy role. May they emerge from their self-examination bigger and stronger for the work ahead.

## Livermore School District, Teachers' Union Declare Impasse

By Patricia Koning

In late January, the bargaining teams of the Livermore School District and Livermore Education Association (LEA) declared impasse in their negotiations. A mediation session is scheduled for Feb. 25. This is the third time that the District and LEA have declared impasse in the last four rounds of negotiations.

The two sides are in disagreement on a number of items, including special education class size limits and support services ratios, job shares, the workday for kindergarten teachers, wages and healthcare, and retirement incentives.

Mike Martinez, assistant superintendent of business services, has described the current negotiating session as positive, professional, and respectful. "I see the impasse as a constructive step in bringing the two parties together and moving forward," he said.

LEA president Keith Pickering-Walters agrees that an impasse is not necessarily a bad thing. "In a lot of ways, it shows that both sides have strong feelings about what they need and want in a contract," he explained. "The current negotiating session has gone well on many issues, considering the amount of items on the table."

Pickering-Walters points to evaluations and grievances as topics that have been working well.

On the topic of salary increases, the two sides differ by 2.66%. LEA has asked for a 4.16% increase, which is the adjusted Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) given to the District in the 2007/08 school year budget, and a \$2,000 increase to the health benefits cap. The District's proposal is for the equivalent of a 1.5% raise applied to all monetary items being budgeted.

"The financial aspects of negotiations are unknown for next year. However, we do know how much the District received for this year," says Pickering-Walters, summarizing LEA's position. "We are negotiating for this year."

At the Feb. 5 Livermore School Board meeting, East Avenue Middle School teacher Susan Ze said that she feels many teachers have lost heart and confidence that the school board truly respects them.

"You are able to fund new programs before compensating teachers fairly, which tells us

clearly that we teachers are very low on your list of priorities," she explained. "As each new program is approved by the board, we teachers roll with the punches and adapt our teaching to give our students the very best education possible, but there is no indication that the board recognizes our efforts. There is funding for new programs, but not for the teachers who implement them. We teachers are essentially paying for these programs out of our salaries and benefits."

While money for salaries and benefits is an important issue, a survey of LEA membership found that nearly all of the issues still on the table are very important to members. "So, it's not all just about money," said Pickering-Walters. "The Retirement Incentive Program and special education class sizes were very high on members' lists, as were protecting the kindergarten workday and allowing more members to job share in the elementary environment."

## Pleasanton Council Wants More Info on Vicious Dog Ordinance

More information on city ordinances related to vicious dogs was requested by the Pleasanton City Council.

The request came in response to speakers earlier in the meeting who expressed concern about such dogs.

Mayor Jennifer Hosterman wondered if codes needed to be strengthened as they relate to vicious dogs and dogs running loose. "Perhaps the city should increase fines or do something else to encourage people to be more responsible owners."

Hosterman referred to comments from Kris Gialdini. Her 16-year-old cat Argyle was mauled to death by two neighborhood dogs who had escaped from their backyard. "I was horrified to see they had my cat in their mouths. My cat died in my arms."

Gialdini said the dogs have broken loose before. "Nothing can be done to bring my cat back. Pet owners need to be held responsible." She wants to encourage residents to report loose dogs in their neighborhood and create a paper trail on problem pets. She would like a notification system to alert neighbors that they live near a dog that has killed an animal.

Other suggestions offered by

## MAILBOX

(Opinions voiced in letters published in Mailbox are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Independent. Letter Policy: The Independent will not publish anonymous letters, nor will it publish letters without names. Frequent letter writers may have publication of their letters delayed.)

### Hawkish Approach Steven Rego Livermore

I'm very happy for Mayor Hosterman of Pleasanton being able to let her hawk quietly fly the surrounding friendly skies. I say fly more hawks and less jets. Let's hope she is as diligent with keeping the jets out of our skies so her hawk can continue to soar happily and perhaps keep the smiles on the vast majority of her constituents.

### Charter School Denial Rick Swiers Livermore

Board Member and Corporate Treasurer, Livermore Charter Learning Corporation

With regard to Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District's (LVJUSD) recent denial of the Livermore Valley Charter School (LVCS), LVJUSD made statements about LVCS finances that were in conflict with the facts. Factually, LVCS is on very solid financial ground.

1. LVCS maintained all teacher positions as well as the specialists and provided them with competitive raises. Nothing was reduced for any classroom activities or the learning process. This was done without taking out any loans or leases. This could not occur if the school were in financial danger.

2. As of July 1, 2007 the total outstanding loan balances \$613,000 and will be \$452,000 on June 30, 2008. The loan payments are \$161,000 a year or 2.9

percent of our ADA funding. Considering the charter school does not have access to funds such as Measure D and federal funds this is a modest amount of debt for start-up costs such as a science lab and additional classrooms.

3. On Page 30 of their recent audit of LVCS finances for 2006-07, the independent auditors, Hosaka, Nagel & Company noted on December 8, 2007 that LVCS has no weaknesses in our internal controls and that our financial position was properly reported. In plain language, it is a "clean" audit. That means all the charter school funds were handled in accordance with the Government Auditing Standards as issued by the Controller General of the United States. The audit did note some suggested improvements on several internal procedures but none were considered by the auditors to have an effect on their findings. Additionally, FCMAT, the financial advisor, provided a positive written recommendation for the renewal.

4. It should be noted that LVJUSD turned its back on more than \$1 million of oversight fees over the next five years. It costs very little for an agency to oversee a charter school so much of that money could have benefited LVJUSD students. There are also additional services the charter school would purchase amounting to well over \$1 million over five years that LVJUSD will not receive.

### Supporting Obama Gary Smith Pleasanton

I've voted for a Republican presidential candidate in every election for the last 40 years. This election, it was time for me to change. Imagine my disappointment when I couldn't vote for Barack Obama on Super Tuesday. Now I'll need to wait until November to vote for Obama. Bummer!

## DEALERSHIP

(continued from page one)

service buildings were re-oriented so that no bays opened to the north, where the homes are located. This will reduce noise impacts. The buffer area to the north was increased in size and larger trees added. The lighting plan was changed to eliminate off-site glare.

As for traffic, there were two concerns. One was test drives; the other an increase in traffic. Residents were most concerned that mechanics and potential buyers would use neighborhood streets to test drive the cars, creating a safety hazard. Staff was unable to convince residents that test drives would be allowed only on certain streets. Several speakers pointed out that when they purchased cars, there were no directions provided as to where they could test drive the vehicles. They didn't think the Toyota dealership would act any differently.

Councilmember Doug Horner, who lives in the area, asked how the city would enforce the prohibition of test drives on neighborhood streets.

Marc Roberts, director of community development, said that if the condition were violated, ultimately the city would issue a ticket. He said he has found that once informed, businesses generally conform to conditions,

particularly car dealerships who have to deal with insurance companies.

The 150,000 square foot facility is to be built on 16 acres of land adjacent to the BART property in North Livermore. The Toyota land is split by North Front Road. The project includes a dealership on the southern portion of the site. The dealership will sell Toyota and Scion cars and trucks. The northern area will provide car services such as detailing, car wash, and repairs.

Two factors limited where buildings could be placed. The scenic corridor view angle pushed the development into the northwestern areas of the property. There is a water pump station, which will be rebuilt at another location on site.

The land is zoned for commercial uses. The developer put together several properties for the project, which staff pointed out reduced the density of use in the area. Each property could have had an individual use of up to 30 percent of a site. When aggregated, the approved project covers only 15 percent of the entire 16 acres. This, said staff, reduces by half the traffic projected for the area in the general plan. The northern boundary runs along the arroyo, helping to create a buffer between commercial and residential uses, said staff.

Roberts commented, "This use is exactly what the general plan envisioned for this site."

The vast majority of those who spoke were opposed to the project.

Resident Laura Mergia said the use is ill-suited so close to residences. There will be a negative impact on property values. "We already have 6 gas stations, two car washes and an oil change business and a lot of traffic from

## HABITAT

(continued from page one)

process of habitat preservation, especially since the burrowing owls are not covered by federal and state protection lists, and therefore don't have to be a part of the EIR.

Lockhart said that it's unlikely there will be any development on the 183 acres for quite some time. There will be enough time to discuss the whole process. "It probably won't be this council (which terminates in November), but the next one that deals with it. In terms of planning, it takes a long time with governmental entities," said Lockhart.

It took the Army three years to come up with a list of what it wants to have in improvements on the portion of the base that it will retain, said the mayor. "Whoever wins the contract has to build on the base first," said Lockhart. The building the Army will undertake is in-fill, so Lockhart doubts there is any species habitat there.

Lockhart acknowledged burrowing owls are on the 183 acres that will be transferred. However,

### Global Warming Article

Mike Pierce  
Livermore

I find it interesting that you publish one side of the argument with regards to the global warming hoax that is being perpetrated upon the American people. This is insulting to our intelligence. These same scientist who claim the planet is going to burn up are the same ones who said we are headed for an ice age back in the 70's.

The bottom line is that this group of politically motivated people are looking for another catastrophe to heap upon the masses to create a bunch of guilt and then have big government show up and save the day...bla, bla, bla. The truth of the matter is that it's nonsense, it's just going to end up becoming another way to tax and spend, and they are targeting the cost of water.

Someone needs to fly Al Gore into the Bay Area the next time we receive a foot of snow in the San Jose and Santa Cruz mountains and have him walk around with his bathing suit on and try to get a sun tan. I've lived in the Bay area for 52 years and I never seen so much snow as we received two weeks ago. The snow melts, then turns into water run off, and can be captured in dams, and then...become a water supply for all to enjoy. I'm not even a scientist, and I can figure that out. Last year was the coldest winter I've ever experienced, it killed all of my plants and destroyed several trees. Global warming...bah, humbug.

We do appreciate having a newspaper in our community but can you lead the pack and not spread bologna with out allowing the opposing side of the argument to be printed?

### Marines and Berkeley

Stephen Brainerd  
Former Lieutenant, Supply Corps, US Navy  
Livermore

This is an open letter to Assemblyman Guy Houston about Berkeley's letter to the US Marine Corps.

Dear Assemblyman Houston, You recently announced you would sponsor legislation to strip Berkeley of transportation funds because they wrote a letter informing the Marine Corps they are unwelcome in their city.

I am a former US Navy officer, from 1987 to 1998. I swore to defend the US Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic. One of the freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution is the Freedom of Speech.

I view that the City of Berkeley was exercising its First Amendment right to inform the US Marine Corps of their unwelcome status. As I understand it, the letter did not infringe upon the rights of others, most notably, the US Marine Corps. No physical harm has come to any person as a result of their letter.

Now, you are sponsoring legislation as a punitive measure against Berkeley to effectively squelch their free exercise of their First Amendment right. Due to this blatant disregard for Berkeley's guaranteed right, you have effectively become an enemy of the US Constitution.

Are you sure that you want to be an enemy of the Constitution just because you are seeking to deny government funding to a municipality who freely expresses their views in a non-threatening manner?

I implore you to remove this frivolous legislation post haste and concentrate on more important legislative matters.

Brentwood on Vasco Road. It tells us, we are the service corridor for residents of Brentwood," she declared.

T.K. Hayes said he wanted to make it clear that his objections to the project had nothing to do with Toyota or the Sullivan family. "It is an inappropriate location for this type of business." He noted that the council had rejected an auto auction and super Wal-Mart in other areas of Livermore. He asked that the same consideration be given to residents of North Livermore.

One resident, Jacqueline Sommers, argued that the project violates the general plan zoning and "contradicts the spirit of the community." She said the general plan calls for uses that are compatible with surrounding uses and that new development be designed to enhance and respect existing development.

Several speakers said they had not been notified by the city of the project. Steve Mattos stated, "I felt blind-sided when I heard about it. This project will overwhelm all existing development. It feels out of proportion." Mattos added, "This revenue based trend of development changes the character of Livermore."

Chuck Rogge echoed that thought. "This is not about buildings or a dealership. It's about money. The Sullivan family wants to make money; the city wants the revenue. I don't see a dealership proposed for South Livermore or in the downtown."

Four speakers spoke in favor of the project. John Mahoney, former president of the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, described it as a well designed project. The board feels that the overall benefits outweigh concerns, which the board feels have been addressed, he stated.

Tom Jefferson, a resident, also supported the dealership. He added he wished that it could go in a different location. The city could use the sales tax.

The council weighed in with their thoughts.

Horner stated, "This project has come a long way. It has undergone a lot of redesign to mitigate concerns of the area. I would not vote for something that would negatively impact me or my neighbors."

Councilmember Marj Leider added, "The council has to make decisions that not everyone will be happy with. We have to do what's best for the city."

Councilmember Jeff Williams said his main concern was the lack of trust in the city's data expressed by cities. "If our citizens don't believe the work of staff, perhaps we have a communication problem. Or, perhaps we need to provide the information so citizens can analyze it and speak to the analysis. I have confidence the city has done a good job."

Williams said he lives near the five dealerships on Las Positas Road. He uses the road all the time and has found there is very little traffic. "I rarely see people go in and out of these dealerships," he stated. "I don't think the traffic generation will be a big impact."

He was concerned about test drives in neighborhoods. He suggested the dealership set up a hotline that residents could use to call in violations of the test drive ban.

"I'm sorry we can't make every single person in Livermore happy. It is no secret that the land was zoned commercial. It has had that zoning since the time the houses to the north were built," Williams added.

"I can't add anything else," said Marchand.

said Miller.

"This (Camp Parks land) has tiger salamander and red-legged frog habitat, and also potential for the San Joaquin kit fox, and the burrowing owl colony. We are losing them (burrowing owls) from the Bay shore area to urban development," said Miller.

Lockhart said, "It irritates me that someone says we don't protect habitat. Look in the east. There is habitat. It's not for grapes or agriculture, but open space habitat in Fallon Village, our last big project in the east."

The mayor said that she "personally watched scientists carry red-legged frogs to a new mitigation area. We didn't kill them off. They rebuilt the (Tassajara) Creek and replanted it (for frog habitat)."

Lockhart said that the developers at Camp Parks "won't get off the hook. They will go through the whole thing (environmental review). If Mr. Miller is not happy, we don't have the same standards as he has. We are not the Audubon Society."

**The Independent**  
(INLAND VALLEY PUBLISHING CO.)

Publisher: Joan Kinney Seppala  
Associate Publisher: David T. Lowell  
Editor: Janet Armantrout  
Sales Manager: Jessica Scherer

The Independent is published every Thursday at 2250 First St., Livermore, CA 94550  
(Mailing address: PO Box 1198, Livermore, CA 94551)  
The Independent is delivered by the United States Post Office.  
Advertising rates and subscription rates may be obtained by calling  
(925) 447-8700 during regular business hours. • Fax: (925) 447-0212 E-MAIL: editmail@compuserve.com

## SHORT NOTES

### E-Waste Recycling

Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore will host an E-waste recycling event on Sat., Feb. 16 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Free to recycle will be televisions, monitors, laptops, flat screens, cell phones and ink jet cartridges. A fee of \$5 will be charged to recycle CPUs, telephones, printers, copiers, DVD players, fax machines, VCRs, stereos and video games.

This event is held in partnership with C&T RECYCLE. All items will be recycled in accordance with California Law.

The church is located at 1893 N. Vasco Road in Livermore.

### Reading Smoke

The ART of Reading Smoke is a decision-making approach to "rapid size-up" at structural fires. The Contra Costa County Fire Training and Safety Officers' Association is offering this life saving course and invites all fire personnel, public safety officers and concerned community members to mark their calendars for February 19 or 20. The Art of Reading Smoke will be presented at the Civic Arts Education campus located at 111 North Wiget Lane in Walnut Creek from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days.

Space is limited. Seminar fee is \$45 in advance and \$50 at the door and includes breakfast and lunch. All attendees will receive helpful handouts and a certificate of course completion. For questions and registration information contact Captain Ame Blackshear at 925.833.8485 or visit [www.srvfire.ca.gov](http://www.srvfire.ca.gov).

### Garage Open

The 1915 Duarte Garage located on the old "Lincoln Highway" will be open on Sunday, February 17, from 10 am - 2 pm.

The Duarte Garage is located on the corner of Portola and L Streets in Livermore. The public is invited to visit the garage and view memorabilia of a bygone era: collection of California license plates, old photos, 1920's office with equipment (phone, adding machine, wooden file cabinet) and shop area that includes a grease pit, "Flying A" display, and 3 vintage fire trucks (Ford Model "T", 1920 Seagrave, 1944 Mack). In addition, books about vintage cars are available for purchase.

The Livermore Heritage Guild sponsors the Duarte Garage. No charge for admission, donations are always appreciated. For more information call (925) 443-9740.

### History Talk

Author Anne Homan is the guest speaker for the Livermore Heritage Guild History Lecture on Wednesday, February 20. The subject of her talk will be on "Unique Women in Livermore."

Homan has written two books about the Livermore area, "The Morning Side of Mount Diablo" and "Historic Livermore, California: A-Z." In addition she writes a history column called "Do You Remember?" for The Independent. Both books will be available for purchase and author signing at the lecture.

The History Lecture will be at the Livermore Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave., Livermore. Doors will open at 7 pm, talk will be at 7:30 pm. Come early for refreshments and conversation. A \$2 donation is suggested. For more information call 443-9740.

### Wine and Chocolate

The following event had an incorrect price in last week's Independent:

Romance, Wine and Chocolate will be the theme of a Sun., Feb. 17 event. Five chocolate and wine pairings chosen by Karl Wenté and prepared by Wenté Vineyards' pastry team will be featured. Limited space available. Classes are at noon and at 3 p.m., each approximately 1 hour.

The cost is \$40 for Club Wenté members/\$45 for general admission. For reservations call 925-456-2400 or online at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

### Quest for Excellence

The purpose of the Quest for Excellence series, presented by the Tri-Valley Conservancy and the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association, is to assure the highest quality winegrapes and wines are produced by Livermore Valley winegrowers and vintners.

The next meeting is Tuesday, February 26, the first in the 2008 series. It will feature a *new format*.

Registration is at 5:30 pm, followed by *Wine Tasting and Discussion*, featuring Petite Sirah, led by Jim Denham from The Wine Steward. Those in attendance are invited to participate in an interactive panel discussion on *Malolactic Fermentation* led by regional leaders and suppliers in the wine industry. A break-out session is available for one-on-one discussions with the panelist.

Please RSVP by February 19th to the Livermore Valley Wine Growers Association at (925) 447-WINE (9463). The session will have a fee of \$10 to cover the cost of materials.

### Compass Course

Winter Compass Course is the theme of a nature program to be presented by the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District ranger staff on Sat., Feb. 16.

Meet Ranger Glen Florey at 2 p.m. at the Wetmore Road entrance to Sycamore Grove Park.

Participants will explore rarely seen parts of the park in search of cleverly hidden cones. Learn the basics of navigation and maybe see some wildlife along the way. A warm treat will be shared at the end of the course. Please wear sturdy shoes and be prepared to get wet if it has been or is raining as we will go rain or shine. Compasses will be provided, but if you want to learn to use one of your own feel free to bring it along.

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

### Grant Applications

Soroptimist International of Livermore has announced its annual Grant Program and invites applications from non-profit, human service agencies in Livermore. The organization anticipates giving out a total of \$10,000 this year. Individual grants can vary from \$500 to \$5,000, depending on the needs and suitability of the applicant.

Human service agencies that provide programs which improve the lives of women and girls are encouraged to apply for these grants. Applications are available by calling 640-7465 or email [freetimes@comcast.net](mailto:freetimes@comcast.net). Applications

must be submitted by March 15th.

All applicants will be informed of grant decisions and the representatives of the selected organizations will be invited to an Awards Luncheon.

Soroptimist is an international volunteer organization for business and professional women who work to improve the lives of women and girls, in local communities and throughout the world.

### Deer Ridge Vineyards

Deer Ridge Vineyards will host, a new fine art exhibit and release new wines.

The celebration will take place Sat., Feb. 23 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the tasting room.

Live music by "Late Harvest," featuring Carolyn Bott and Michael Saliba, will be played from 1 to 3 p.m. The group plays the lighter side of classic rock, blues, and country of the 60s, 70s, 80s, and 90s.

The theme of the exhibition will be "La Primavera," a celebration of spring. There will be fine art on display as well as whimsical wine barrel planters painted by twenty local artists.

Four new wines will be released: 2003 Zinfandel, Private Reserve, Alexander Valley; 2004 Moonstruck, Private Reserve™; 2003 Rockpile Merlot; and 2003 Sangiovese, Coastal.

Deer Ridge Vineyards is located at 1828 Wetmore Rd., Livermore. For additional information, call 292-2222 or go to [www.DeerRidgeVineyards.com](http://www.DeerRidgeVineyards.com).

### Fenestra Barrel Tasting

Fenestra Winery in Livermore will host its 25th Annual Barrel Tasting on Feb. 16, 17 and 19 at the winery from noon to 5 p.m. each day.

Barrel sample tasting will be offered at 12:30, 2 and 3:30 p.m. Owner Lanny Replogle and winemaker Brent Franc, two Petite Sirahs, two Cabernet Sauvignons and Tannat. All currently release wines will also be available for tasting.

Fenestra is located at 83 Vallecitos Road, Livermore. Information, call 447-5246.

### Love of Crustaceans

Poppy Ridge Golf Course will host a special dinner, "For Love of Crustaceans."

It will be held from 5 to 9 p.m. on Feb. 23. The menu includes a variety of shellfish including lobster, clams, mussels, oysters and prawns.

The cost is \$48 inclusive. Poppy Ridge is located at 4820 Greenville Rd., Livermore. For reservations, call 447-6779.

### Thomas Coyne Open House

Thomas Coyne Winery will host its annual Winter Open House on Feb. 16, 17 and 18 from noon to 5 p.m. at the historical tasting room at 51 E. Vallecitos Road Livermore.

Four new wines will be released: 2006 Chardonnay - Livermore Valley; 2005 Petit Verdot; 2005 Vino Tinto Reserva; and 2004 Port - California. A selection of fine fruits and cheeses will be served.

In addition, the winery offers an opportunity to "Bottle Your Own Wine." Vino Tinto Barato will be avail-

able for purchase during the open house on Feb. 16 and 17. Bring a clean bottle, we will fill, cork and label it for \$4.50 per bottle; use the winery's bottle for \$5.00.

For more information call 373-6541 <http://thomascynewinery.com>.

### Double Gold Wine

Crooked Vine Winery won six medals at this winter's San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition, the largest contest for American wines.

The featured winner was a 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon which earned double-gold recognition, meaning every judge felt it was the best in its class. This wine retails for \$38 per bottle. The grapes came from Livermore's Del Arroyo Vineyard, which is owned by Crooked Vine owner Rick Corbett.

Crooked Vine also won silver medals for its 2003 Port (\$25) and 2004 Syrah (\$28) and bronze medals for a separate 2004 Cabernet from a different vineyard (\$32), its 2005 Harriet's Merlot (\$28) and its Chardonnay/Viognier blend called Charve that retails for \$22.

All Crooked Vine and Stony Ridge wines can be sampled at the tasting room at 4948 Tesla Rd. in Livermore. Winter hours are 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursdays through Sundays, and by appointment other days. The weekend before Valentine's Day will feature pairings with chocolate and souvenir wine glasses. There will be a wine and cheese tasting on Presidents' Day Weekend.

Information on Crooked Vine is available by calling 925-371-8156 or visiting [www.crookedvine.com](http://www.crookedvine.com).

### Livermore DECA

Livermore DECA (an association of marketing students) attended the Northern California District Career Development Conference last weekend, held at the San Ramon Marriott. It was attended by over 700 DECA members from all over Northern California. Livermore had fifteen students in attendance and set new records. Mark Larik took first place in his 11-page Advertising Campaign AND in his 11-page Business Plan. That is the first time ever in Livermore DECA history for one student to take home first place in both events. And Mark is a junior.

Also taking home first place trophies were Angel Russell in her 30-page Research paper (as well as a top 8 medal in her Technical Sales Presentation) and Amanda Boulton in her 11-page Fashion Promotion Plan. Taking home second place trophies were Shelby Shock and Brittany Shiraki in the Travel and Tourism team decision making event. And a third place trophy was awarded to Gillian Floren for her Fashion Paper on Finish Line, where she works.

Livermore DECA ([www.deca.org](http://www.deca.org)) also took home "Top 8" medals in the business plan for Maria Fregoso and Gillian Floren, in Sports and Entertainment Event for Patrick Connolly, Alyssa Moore for Retail Marketing and Ian Overaas in his Restaurant Management Competition. Another 7 ribbons were also awarded to those same students in the preliminary awards. Please congratulate these high performing students.

Also in attendance and performing admirably were Vince Van Binsbergen, Chelsea Smith, Katey Nelson, Becky

Doell and Alba Hernandez. Next, the team moves on to state competition in March and internationals in April!

### Spay/Neuter

The East Bay SPCA and Bishop Ranch Veterinary Center & Urgent Care will team up on Tuesday, February 26, to perform 100 free spay and neuter surgeries for dogs and cats belonging to low-income households. The surgeries will be performed at the East Bay SPCA Oakland Spay/Neuter Surgery Center by veterinarians and technicians dedicated to ending pet

overpopulation in our community.

East Bay SPCA Spay/Neuter Surgery Center staff veterinarian, Dr. Heidi Strand and the East Bay SPCA Spay/Neuter team will work alongside Dr. Leanne Taylor and Dr. Kristel Weaver of Bishop Ranch Veterinary Center & Urgent Care, who are volunteering to help make the event possible.

According to the Humane Society of the United States, an unspayed cat can give birth to 18 kittens each year and an unspayed dog can give birth to 20 puppies each year. Surgeries performed at the East Bay SPCA's two facilities over the past ten years have helped cut the euthanasia rates for dogs

and cats 60%.

Spaying and neutering can also help keep dogs and cats healthy by reducing or eliminating the possibility of certain cancers. The surgery also eliminates the problems and risks associated with pregnancy and birth. And a neutered dog or cat is less likely to roam away from his home, which will keep him safe from becoming lost or hit by a car.

For more information and to make a surgery appointment, please call 510-639-PETS (7387), or visit the East Bay SPCA's website at [www.eastbayspca.org](http://www.eastbayspca.org).

## CANCER AND INTIMACY A FREE EDUCATION SEMINAR



**Presented by:**

Vandana Sharma, M.D.

**Date:** February 21, 2008

**Time:** 6-8:00pm

**Location:**

ValleyCare Medical Plaza

5725 W Las Positas Blvd.,

Suite 240

Pleasanton, CA 94588

Two blocks west of hospital

Dr. Vandana Sharma, a Medical Oncologist with the Regional Cancer Center at ValleyCare, will host an informal discussion of sexual and reproductive issues for individuals dealing with cancer. Dr. Sharma will address communication, body image and coping with treatment side effects.

We invite you to register for this seminar by visiting our website

at [www.valleycare.com](http://www.valleycare.com) —

click on the classes link

or call 1-800-719-9111.



A not-for-profit health system

Serving the Tri-Valley with Medical Facilities in Livermore and Pleasanton.

[www.valleycare.com](http://www.valleycare.com)

Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District  
685 East Jack London Blvd, Livermore, CA 94551  
Tel (925) 606-3235 Fax (925) 606-3325

### MEASURE D SENIOR EXEMPTION CLAIM FORMS AVAILABLE FOR THE 2008-09 TAX YEAR

*Homeowners age 65 and older have through May 1, 2008,  
to file for the senior exemption for the 2008-09 Tax Year*

**For Immediate Release**

Monday, February 11, 2008

**Contact: Floyd Wilson**

**Director of Facilities Management**

**Phone: (925) 606-3235 or**

**[achristensen@livermore.k12.ca.us](mailto:achristensen@livermore.k12.ca.us)**

Livermore-Senior Citizens who own and occupy a home in the Livermore Valley can still apply for exemption from the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District's Measure D Parcel Tax passed by voters in November 2004.

"We understand that many seniors are not aware of the senior exemption for the parcel tax, and we want to do everything we can to give eligible seniors the opportunity to be exempt," said Floyd Wilson, Director of Facilities Management.

Senior Citizens, age 65 and older, must complete a simple form to be exempt from paying \$120/year parcel tax associated with the recent passage of Measure D. The Measure, which was overwhelmingly passed by voters in November 2004 by nearly 72%, allowed the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District to restore funding for several critical programs and avoid the need to layoff teachers.

In order to be eligible for the exemption in 2008-09,  
homeowners must certify that they:

--own & reside in the home for which they are claiming an exemption  
--be at least 65 years old on or before July 1, 2008

If you have already applied for the exemption, you do not need to do it again. The exemption is good for the life of the bond which is 2010.

The form can be accessed online at [www.livermoreschools.com](http://www.livermoreschools.com), quick link "Forms" Measure D Senior Exemption Claim Form."

For a paper copy of the form, contact Facilities Management at (925) 606-3235.

Distrito Escolar Unificado del Valle de Livermore  
685 East Jack London Blvd, Livermore, CA 94551  
Tel (925) 606-3235 Fax (925) 606-3325

### MEDIDA D FORMAS DE RECLAMO DE EXENCION DISPONIBLE PARA LOS IMPUESTOS DEL AÑO FISCAL 2008-09

*Propietarios de casas con 65 años de edad o mayores tienen hasta el 1<sup>er</sup> de mayo del 2008 para presentar su aplicación de exención de impuestos para el año fiscal 2008-09*

**Para publicación inmediata**

Lunes, 11 de febrero del 2008

**Contacto: Floyd Wilson**

**Director de Administración de Inmueble**

**Teléfono: (925) 606-3235 o**

**[achristensen@livermore.k12.ca.us](mailto:achristensen@livermore.k12.ca.us)**

Los ciudadanos mayores de 65 años de edad de Livermore quienes son propietarios y ocupan una casa en el Valle de Livermore aún pueden aplicar por una exención de la Medida D del Distrito Escolar Unificado del Valle de Livermore aprobada por los votantes en noviembre 2004 que reclama un gravamen de impuesto por lote.

"Comprendemos que muchos ciudadanos no están enterados de la exención de impuestos por sus lotes y deseamos hacer todo lo que podamos para dar la oportunidad a todos los ciudadanos elegibles, la exención de estos impuestos" dijo Floyd Wilson, Director de Administración de Inmuebles.

Ciudadanos, con 65 años de edad o mayores, deben completar una forma simple para ser exentos del pago de \$120 anuales por impuesto de lote asociado con la reciente aprobación de la Medida D. La Medida, la cual fue aprobada abrumadoramente por los votantes en noviembre del 2004 por cerca del 72%, permitió al Distrito Escolar Unificado del Valle de Livermore restaurar fondos para varios programas críticos y evitar el despido de maestros.

Para ser elegible para la exención en el año fiscal 2008-09, los propietarios de casas deben certificar que:  
--son propietarios y residen en la casa por la que reclaman la exención  
--tener al menos 65 años de edad el 1<sup>er</sup> de Julio del 2008 o antes de esa fecha

Si usted ya ha aplicado por la exención, usted no necesita hacerlo otra vez. La exención es válida por la vida del gravamen la cual es hasta el 2010.

Puede acceder la forma en [www.livermoreschools.com](http://www.livermoreschools.com), enlace rápido "Forms" Measure D Senior Exemption Claim Form." Para su copia en papel, comuníquese a la Administración de Inmuebles al (925) 606-3235.

SPORTS NOTES



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Las Positas College's Brandon Tatum goes up for a slam during the team's winning effort.

Las Positas Tops Foothill

Xavier Lewis scored a season high 17 points, while teammate Joe Faumuina also scored 17 to lead Las Positas College to a 75-66 victory over Foothill on Friday night in Livermore.

With the win, the Hawks evened their overall record at 13-13. The Hawks' Coast Conference North Division record stands at 4-4. Foothill fell to 13-13, 3-6.

The game was tied 58 to 58 when Marques Smith, who finished with 12 points, took a nifty pass from Lewis and scored inside to give Las Positas a two point advantage. Faumuina followed with one of his five three-point buckets. Smith capped the 7-0 run with a jumper to put the Hawks up 65-58 with 3:01 on the clock.

Foothill closed to within 65-61. However, Lewis countered with a shot and teammate Brandon Tatum converted a three-point play with 51 seconds left to put the Owls away. Tatum finished with 10 points. The Hawks next home game is Feb. 16 at 5 p.m. versus Ohlone.

CYO Basketball

Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) basketball scores from last week:

The Catholic Community of Pleasanton (CCOP) 8th grade girls (team 8001) in their final league play posted their highest scoring game (45 points), ending the season with a 9-1 record and a 1st place berth into the playoffs. Defensively CCOP kept St. Joan (team 8003) at bay allowing them only 11 points in all 4 quarters. Aggressive play by Nicole Torquato and Brittany Bicomeng (6 rebounds) did not go unnoticed as they created havoc for St. Joan. Jessica Morselli, Kelly Parsons and Lauren MacDonnell were relentless on the press. Sydney Okumura with 5 rebounds and 4 assists led the ball to the offense. MacDonnell had an 8 point run in the 4th quarter with a total of 10. Jessica Woodruff shot 67% from the floor scoring 10 points and sinking two more at the line for a total of 12. Lyndsay Godwin had her first double-double of the season scoring 12 with 10 rebounds. Adding to the score were Morselli 5 points (1-3 pointer), Okumura 4 points and Parsons 2 points.

CYO 8th grade girls St. Michael's/St. Charles (SM/SC) Team 8005 the Pride won their game against St. Raymond's Team #8004. 34-9. Top scorers were Monica Atkins and Allie LaBine each with 8 pts. Monica also collected 5 rebounds, Allie had 1 rebound and 2 steals. Niki Lupo led in steals with 9 and scored 4 pts. and picked up 1 reb. Cassidy Sherman led in steals with 8 and also had 2 pts. Katie Gannon had her best offensive game of the season with 4 pts. and 7 rebounds. Hayley Gamzja also had 4 pts., 3 steals and 1 rebound. Jamie Elliot and Erin Wallhall each scored a bucket and combined for 5 rebounds. Solid defense under the basket had Allie Parker and Kris Spalasso combining for 10 rebounds. This win brought the Pride to a record of 8-2 and a solid 3rd place in league play leading into the playoffs.

SM/SC 8th Grade American Girls beat St. Isidore's 31-25. With only six players SM/SC played a great game. Scoring were Theresa Keaney 8 points and 8 rebounds, Sammi Schiller 7 points, 6 rebounds and 2 steals, Jennifer Plantenga 6 points and 16 rebounds, Ashley Holmes 5 points 3 rebounds, 4 steals and Alyse Kline 5 points, 4 rebounds and 2 steals. Kaila Williams played a great defense game and collected several great rebounds.

SM/SC 8th grade boys (#808) took on St. Raymond's (#809). SM/SC showed great resilience as they came into the game with an undermanned roster due to absences and illnesses but still clawed their way to a 41-34 victory. Some great team defense was led by Adam Sylvia, Nadeem Gross and Chris Benavidez put the clamps down on St. Raymond's. Offensively SM/SC was led by Michael Noble 22 points and Damarisley Drew with 9. Brandon Ganguet, Ricky Sarrica and Kendrick Huynh also contributed with some timely big plays on both ends of the court to help secure the win. SM/SC finished the regular season league play at 8-2 and 16-4 overall.

On the strength of a 27 point second quarter, SM/SC 8th grade boys (814) closed the regular season with a 65-30 win over CCOP (815) at Livermore High. All 11 players on the roster scored, led by Tyler Kissing's 21 points and 20 rebounds. Luke Hamilton added 11 points with 4 rebound and 3 assists and Hunter Lewis scored 9 points with 5 rebounds 2 assists and 2 blocked shots. Nate Preece came off the bench and ripped down 7 rebounds to go along with his 4 points and Andy Logsdon pulled down 4 boards and 2 points. The suffocating defense was led by Danny Emerson, Turner Splendorio, Brandon Clutter, Greg Anderson, Remba Kahlon and Kevin Hunt. SM/SC heads to the playoffs with a 9-1 record and an 8 game winning streak. For CCOP, Josh Hill scored 8 points and Robbie Wilson and Tyler Grider added 6 apiece.

SM/SC 8th grade girls (8006) defeated St. Isidore's, 35-22. SM/SC played an amazing offensive game, with Brittany Campiotti racking up 14 points, McKenzie Hubert 6 points, Lindsey Thien 6 points, Kenzie Holcomb 5 points, Roxanna Utpadel 2 points, and Katelyn Jones 2 points. Claudine Seriani, Shelby White, Dani Arnold, Chelsea Thomas, and Katelyn Jones helped the team tremendously on defense causing many turnovers, blocked shots, and steals. SM/SC had great teamwork, and played an outstanding

game.

CCOP # 7705 finished off the season with 2 more wins to go undefeated with a 10-0 record. CCOP # 7005 defeated St. Isidore #7006, 25-14. The keys to the game were the team defense and rebounding. CCOP was led by Ashley Lindke with 13 points, with Cassidy Lynch and Haley Chow adding 6 and 5 respectively. Arleen Firoozan led the way with 5 rebounds with Kylie Copenhagen and Aubry Wolff and Olivia Enslor getting 2 steals each. Against St. Joan # 7004 CCOP turned in its highest point total of the season with a 41-13 win. After falling behind 6-2 in the 2nd quarter CCOP went on a 39-7 run to pull away. Once again Ashley Lindke led the way with 10 points, followed by Cassidy Lynch and Kylie Copenhagen with 8. Sydney Hitesman with 5, Aubry Wolff 4, and Sarah Luduha and Haley Chow with 3.

In a game marked by a most incredible comeback, SM/SC 6th grade (610) defeated St. Joan (611) 43-33. Scoring 19 points in the first period, St. Joan jumped out to a 28-4 lead midway through the second quarter. From there, the game turned around, and momentum swung the way of SM/SC. Sparked by the point play of Darin Anderson, SM/SC went on an 18-0 run through the third period to close the deficit to 6 points. The job not yet done, SM/SC then outscored St. Joan 21-5 in the fourth quarter to win going away. Logan Van Schaack had 18 points and 11 rebounds, Anderson 14 points and 3 assists, Kristian Berry 7 points and 10 rebounds, and Marcus Marr-Clark 6 rebounds for the winners. Everyone got into the offensive act, as Austen Gibbs, Matthew Adado and Calvin Rasbold each had a pair of assists. Alec Splendorio, Jesse Davis and Kenny Williams all played aggressive defense for SM/SC.

SM/SC 5th grade boys (#530) battled St. Isidore's #8 (#531). St. Isidore's won, 40 to 16. It was a good game for both teams. St. Isidore's was led by Blake Ogburn with 16 points and Quinn Mortenson and Jack Markey with 6 each. SM/SC was led by Keith Tysler, Nick Sposeto, and Ryan Rogers.

CCOP Boy's 6th grade team #61 finished their regular season with their most impressive victory of the year, a 35 to 25 win over SM/SC team #66. A tight first half saw CCOP with a 16-15 lead at half time. As the second half started, CCOP slowly pulled away with a strong effort from all 8 players. Leading the way were Brandon Kirk with 13 points, Warren Westbrook and Glenn Leininger with 6 each and 4 each for Brad Pluschke and Eric Toombs.

SM/SC 5th grade girls American League team capped the regular season with a win over a scrappy St. Raymond's team. St. Raymond's jumped out to an early lead, showing great ball movement on offense and working the basic give-and-go into the lane to perfection. SM/SC adjusted, pulled even, and slowly widened the gap with solid fundamental play. Rachel Braun had her best game of the season at guard, defending at the point, passing well and penetrating off the dribble, and Delaney Gill-Sommerhauser had another great game, running the floor both ways in transition. With both teams getting back quickly and Samantha Trask defending like a player a foot taller, baskets became hard to come by, and SM/SC eventually took away a 22-13 win in a great defensive game.

SM/SC team #5013 defeated St. Isidore team #5009, 30 to 16 in 5th grade girls CYO basketball action. It was the 9th win in a row for SM/SC to finish at 8 and 2 in the league and 10 and 2 overall. Kaitlyn Baucke started off a balanced scoring attack for SM/SC with the games first basket. Also scoring for SM/SC were Dana Anex and Kelly Borden with 8 each, Julie Maruskin with 6, and Alyssa Gonzalez, Danielle Sun, and Samantha Schwartz each with 2. Ashley Breyer and Jessica Elfin also had strong games for SM/SC. Despite falling behind early the St. Isidore team battled hard throughout the game, matching SM/SC basket for basket in the 2nd half.

SM/SC 5th grade boys (#533), the Ballers, finished their season strong with a stunning victory over top-ranked St. Joan 9 (#535), 24-23. The Ballers trailed St. Joan 9 at halftime, 16-7. However, the Ballers rallied back with a full court press and strong defense to close the gap. With only 26 seconds remaining and the game tied 23-23,

Ben Morgan went to the free throw line and hit 1 of 2 to give the Ballers a one-point lead and ultimately the victory. Top scorers for the Ballers were Kevin Garcia with 6 pts, Ben Morgan with 5 pts, and Kamran Moshle, Michael Pierce and Jared Buranis with 4 points each. Great defensive play came from Patrick Miron, Nick Fernandes, AJ Longridge, Kyle Talley and Andrew Dawson.

SM/SC 4th grade boys (#46) vs CCOP (#41) lost their 4th game of the season by a 1 point decision yesterday. CCOP took the lead and held SM/SC to a 16-10 half time score. The second half was very exciting to watch as these young players played some great basketball. At the end of the fourth period, the score was tied 29-29 with 8 seconds left in the game, when a free through gave CCOP the winning margin. This is the second time these two teams faced each other, and the second time the game ended with a one-point decision in the final seconds. These two teams are very well matched and they all played a very good game. Top scoring players for SM/SC were Jordan Ratino with 11, Brennan Dillard with 7, and Max Wigginton with 4. Top defensive players for SM/SC were Ben Parker and Scott Newby with 4 rebounds each.

SM/SC 4th Grade Boys (#412) played the last game of the season against CCOP (#409). The high scorer of the game was Logan Potter. Also making baskets were Gregory Moreland, Jacob Hole and Curtis McDonnell. Spencer Herrera, Cole Jacobs and Skiler Lamb showed great hustle. Ryan McCool and Erik Mork were good at rebounding. John Reggiardo and Nathan Tabaracci played fantastic defense.

California Gymnastics Academy

California Gymnastics Academy competed in two tournaments over the weekend. The girls gymnastics team took part in the MEGA Invitational hosted by Marin Elite Gymnastics in San Rafael. The Level 7 team brought home the second place team trophy. The boys team were at the Clovis Invitational hosted by Clovis Gymnastics in Clovis.

MEGA Invitational results: LEVEL 7: Age Group: Middle VAULT - Emma Rigil (8.45) BARS - Rigil, 1st place (9.35) BEAM - Rigil, 6th place (8.9) FLOOR - Rigil, 6th place (9.15) ALL AROUND - Rigil, 4th place (35.85); Age Group: Older VAULT - Megan Ouyang, 1st place (9.3); Briana Gray, 2nd place (9.1); Erin Gray, 8th place (8.7) BARS - E. Gray, 4th place (8.925); Ouyang and B. Gray, 6th place (8.6) BEAM - E. Gray, 1st place (9.0); B. Gray (7.975); Ouyang (7.775) FLOOR - E. Gray, 2nd place (9.375); Ouyang, 4th place (9.275); B. Gray (8.7) ALL AROUND - E. Gray, 2nd place (36.05); Ouyang, 6th place (34.95); B. Gray, 8th place (34.375)

LEVEL 8: VAULT - Jordan Garza, 2nd place (9.05) BARS - Garza, 1st place (9.35) BEAM - Garza, 3rd place (8.925) FLOOR - Garza (8.75) ALL AROUND - Garza, 1st place (36.075).

Clovis results: LEVEL 5: Age Group: 7-9 yrs old FLOOR - Rex Lueth, T2nd place (8.4) POMMEL - Lueth, 4th place (6.55) RINGS - Lueth, 4th place (8.55) VAULT - Lueth, T3rd place (9.3) PARALLEL BARS - Lueth, 4th place (7.9) HIGH BAR - Lueth, 4th place (8.15) ALL AROUND - Lueth, 4th place (48.85).

Pleasanton Seahawks

Twenty seven swimmers, ages from eleven to eighteen, represented the Pleasanton Seahawks swim team at the Junior Plus Short Course meet in Walnut Creek on Feb. 2.

Swimmers from each age group recorded top performance. Some of the outstanding swimmers are: Maggie Woods (12) cut her 1000 free time by one minute and eight second, achieved a new AAA time in 11:29.11. Christopher Dourov (12) improved his 100 breast by three seconds and attained a new A time in 1:19.53. Bridget Moran (14) cut her 1000 free by 56 seconds and got her new A time in 11:49.37.

Peter Huang (14) improved his 50 breast by almost three seconds at 32.32. Hannah Schmitz (15) improved her 100 fly by 33 seconds and a new BB time at 1:10.84. Jake Bahls (16)'s 100 fly was under one minute and a new A standard at 59.18. Melissa Bonnel (17) cut her 50 back by two seconds at 31.48.

Also competing were Rachel Knowles (11), Roshni Nair (12), Tony Shen (11), Nick Silverthorn (12), Alex Wang (12), Caleb Wang (12), Cassidy Booe (14), Catherine Breed (14), Kristen Stroud (14), Natalie Wong (14), Kyle Lindsay (14), Timothy McLaughlin (14), Andrew Seltz (14), Alicia Brown (15), Caitlin Dourov (16), James Ding (15), Krisman Rajagopalan (16), Brianna Neumayr (17), Robert Barrett (17), and Yen-Yang Hsieh (18).

Spring Softball

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) is currently accepting team registration for the Spring Adult Softball League and will continue through Feb. 15th. Multiple divisions of men's, coed and business coed leagues are offered. Games begin play April 7th. Individual players can place their name on the "Free Agent" list. For more information or to receive a registration packet, please call Beanie Lucivero (925) 373-5732 or email blucivero@larpd.dst.ca.us

Eight Over 700

Eight Bowlers exceeded the 700 plateau last week during league play at Granada Bowl. The assault was led by Cheyenne's Darin Smith, who rolled a 268, 260 on his way to 735 Set and was followed closely by Chad Chinen who rolled a 266, 239 and a 226 for 731 Series in the Kings & Queens League.

Wayne Foster added his name to the 700 award list when he exploded for a 265 Game and added a 227 and a 237 for a 720 Series far exceeding his 188 normal average. In addition, Greg Kwasiak used a 279 to help him to a 724 set and was followed by Dave Milichichi who was consistent with games of 248, 239 and a 230 for his 717 set and Ray Salas' 712 set used a 259, 229 and a 224 for a 712 series.

Jerry Friesen rolled a 258, 232 and a 216 for a 706. Maria Lockridge (Modified Guys and Dolls) led all women bowlers when she rolled a 243, 239 and a 236 for a 718 set. High Game honors went to Mark Shiraki who finished with 11 strikes in a row for a 290 game.

Roller Hockey

Valley Roller Hockey in Livermore will offer discounted Spring signups at the rink located behind Junction Ave. Middle School in Livermore on Saturday Feb 23rd and Saturday March 1 from 10am-1pm.

Leagues start the first week in April and end May 31. No experience necessary. Equipment can be borrowed for anyone needing to do so long as players have their own skates. Age groups are: 4-6 Mites, 7-9 Squirts, 10-12 Pee Wee, 13-15 Bantam, High School League for Freshman-Senior.

For more info call Beau at 925-443-1500.

Colt .45 Baseball

Colt .45s Baseball is looking for 8th grade 14 yr old players for 14U Jr. Elite Travel team. Sign up now for 16U and 18U teams, all high school players welcome for evaluation. No conflicts with high school teams. Please contact Coach Max Valencia at (925) 639-9034 or email maxvbassball@hotmail.com. Team website is www.eteamz.com/colt45s.

Jr. Football Signup

The Livermore Junior Football League is accepting registration for the 2008 season.

LJFL is founded under the principle that every Livermore child who wants to play football or cheer should have the opportunity. LJFL is expanding to include all 5- through 8th grade students for the 2008/09 school year. 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' gridirons. All practices will take place in Livermore. The season begins on August 1 and concludes in early November.

Online registration is now open at www.LivermoreJuniorFootball.com. In-person sign-ups will occur on Saturday, February 23, 2 to 4 pm, Wednesday, March 5, 6 to 8 pm and Wednesday, March 19, 6 to 8 pm at Round Table Pizza, 4098 East Ave, Livermore.

The cost is \$265 for football and \$100 for cheer. Registration will close when the league reaches 200 players. Players that 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.

Girls Basketball Tryouts

Livermore Mystics AAU girls basketball team will hold tryouts on Sunday February 17, 6:00 PM in the Livermore High School Main Gym. All 7th grade girls in Livermore are eligible to tryout All 8th grade girls in Livermore who will be attending Livermore High School in the fall 2008 please email Coach Scott Holmes at jsarholmes@earthlink.net with any questions concerning the tryout dates or team information.

Golf Tournament

Each golfer who plays 10 rounds on The Course At Wente Vineyards between January 1 and May 31, 2008 earns a complimentary spot in the 10th Anniversary Celebration Tournament scheduled for June 22.

In honor of the first Greg Norman-designed course in Northern California turning 10 this year, The 10th Anniversary Celebration Tournament will feature an afternoon shotgun, gourmet barbecue, wine tasting and chance to win a new car with a hole-in-one.

To be eligible for the complimentary invitation to the anniversary golf tournament, a golfer must play 10 rounds between January 1 and May 31, 2008. The field for the special event is to include family, staff and special guests who will gather for a celebration of golf, food and wine.

For more information about the 10th Anniversary Celebration Tournament offer, or to secure a tee time, call the golf shop at (925) 456-2475 or visit www.wentegolf.com.

Track Club

Athenian Athletics Track Club invites youth athletes ages 7-18 to participate in track and field practice sessions to prepare for the 2008 track and field season and Cal-Berkeley All-Cover meets. Practices will be held on a voluntary/drop-in basis Monday through Friday. Adults of all ages and abilities are also encouraged to come for a work out. For club membership, practice times and locations, please visit www.athenianathletics.com or call Coach Rik Richardson at 925-518-9356.

LHS Baseball Alumni Game

Livermore High is looking for all baseball alumni to come out and participate in the Annual Alumni game. It is scheduled for 10:00 on Saturday, February 16 at the newly renovated varsity field. Contact David Perotti @ 925-606-4812 x2438 or dperotti@livermore.k12.ca.us if interested or just show up that day.

New Baseball Field

Livermore High will host an "Official Field Opening Day" for its new baseball field on Saturday, March 1. The Cowboys will play the very tough Bellarmine Bells (from the CCS) at 1:00. There will be a short ceremony before the game to thank all the people involved in the renovation of the field. A free lunch will be provided for all the fans in attendance. Community members, friends of the program, alumni, teachers, staff, and district employees are invited to come out and watch the defending EBAL Champs take on the Bells of Bellarmine in the official opening of the new field.

Pony Baseball

Pony Baseball is now accepting registrations for the Spring 2008 season. Open to players ages 5-18. Three ways to register: online at www.pleasantonpony.com; download a registration form from the website and mail in or fax to 435-003-7689; or register at All Star Sports on Hopyard Rd. in Pleasanton. For more information, email amo10@comcast.net.

T-Ball Baseball Registration

Granada Little League is still accepting registration for T-Ball only. Players must be 5 or 6 years old on or before April 30. For more information, please visit our web site at \_www.eteamz.com/granadall.

Livermore Youth Football

Livermore Youth Football & Cheer (LYF&C) will hold registration on Feb. 21 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Round Table Pizza, 1024 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore.

This is a full contact football league that has been established for 35 years. The motto is "children first game second." The goal is to teach the fundamentals of both football and cheer that are needed to make the transition into High School. The league works with local high schools to ensure its participants are learning the fundamentals needed.

Coaches are CPR and First Aid certified as well as NYSCA certified. All coaches are required to attend coaching clinics each year to strengthen their knowledge of the game.

The football and cheer squads have been very successful in the highly competitive Diablo Valley Youth Football Conference (DVYFC). DVYFC is one of the strongest youth football conferences in Northern CA. It consists of 18 "city" teams that attract the best football players and cheerleaders in the Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. In the past 6 years LYF&C has sent at least 2 teams to the playoffs each year, with one team reaching the championship 4 consecutive years. Cheer squads consistently place in regional as well as national cheer competitions.

There are 5 levels to tryout for with ages 7 to 14 (football) and 5 to 14 (cheerleading). For more information go to www.eteamz.com/lyfc or email lyfc@onebox.com/lyfc

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

Training Day

Granada High Baseball Spring Training Day is open to ages 5-13. This is a skills-based camp at Granada High School varsity field run by varsity coaches and players on Sat., Feb. 23. Two sessions to choose from: 9:00-noon or 1:00-4:00. Cost is \$25 with lunch and a t-shirt included. For more information and registration, visit our website at granadabaseball.org.

PGSL Registration

Registration is still open for all divisions in the Pleasanton Phantom Girls Softball

League for the 2008 season. All girls living in Pleasanton, Dublin and Sunol are eligible to play PGSL softball. Two ways to register: 1) Online at www.pleasantonsoftball.org; 2) Mail-in: PGSL, P.O. Box 911, Pleasanton, CA 94566 (download a registration form from our website). For more information visit the PGSL website at www.pleasantonsoftball.org.

Jr. Umpire Training

Pleasanton Girls Softball League is looking for boys and girls in 7th grade or older to become Junior Umpires. This is a great way to be part of the games, have fun, earn money, and build confidence at the same time! Those interested, email name, address, phone numbers (home & cell), age, grade and any previous experience to Carlos Castaneda, carlosjr82@yahoo.com or Mark Tanis, mark@tanisinfo.com. Training session will take place Sunday, February 24, 1pm-5pm at the Pleasanton Tennis Park. Please visit the PGSL website, www.pleasantonsoftball.org, for additional information.

YMCA Golf Tournament

The Tri-Valley YMCA 2008 Golf Tournament will be held at Poppy Ridge Golf Course in Livermore on Mon., April 28. The \$195 per person fee includes lunch, dinner and refreshments, a round of scramble golf, raffle, and live and silent auctions. The tournament will benefit the Tri-Valley YMCA. For more information, call the YMCA at 475-6108 or email mcasper@ymeastbay.org. Register before March 1 for a discount. There are opportunities for group and corporate involvement in this event.

PGSL Announcement

The Pleasanton Girls Softball League is scheduled to update by-laws on Thursday, February 21, 7:30 pm at the Summerfield Suites in Pleasanton.

Golf Benefits Baseball

The baseball program at Livermore High will be hosting the 2nd Annual Golf Tournament at Poppy Ridge on March 7 at 1:00 p.m. It will be a scramble format with door prizes, cart, lunch and dinner included in the price. There will be a raffle afterwards giving away some great prizes.

The cost is \$155 before Feb. 1st and \$175 after that date. There are also sponsorship opportunities available. For more information, please visit www.eteamz.com/LHSCowboysBaseball and click on the "Golf Tournament" link at the top or contact David Perotti at 925-606-4812 x2438

FURRY FRIENDS Pet Sitting Services Registered Veterinary Nurse Accommodating Healthy & Special Need Pets Pleasanton Livermore Call Monika Harris (925)417-0424

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LIVERMORE EVERYONE PLAYS IN LIVERMORE! Registration for Fall Football & Cheer Round Table Pizza: 4078 East Ave. Saturday, Feb. 23, 2-4PM Wednesday, Mar. 5, 6-8PM Wednesday, Mar. 19, 6-8PM Open to 5th thru 8th Grade Students For the 2008/09 School Year For online registration visit: www.LivermoreJuniorFootball.com

NOW ENROLLING! Toddlers \* Preschool \* Pre-K Kindergarten - 6th \* Extended Care \* Summer Camp

Garden West School 30 Years of Excellence Success for every child, every day Evening Open Houses Jan 22nd & Feb 20th, 6:30-8:00pm Licensed — Independent — Nonprofit Small Classes, Love of Learning, Social Responsibility Academics, Technology, Languages, Music, P.E. 4576 Willow Road, Pleasanton Conveniently located near the 580/680 interchange in the Hacienda Park www.gardenwest.org

CRAB FEED When: SAT., FEBRUARY 23rd TIME: 6:30pm COST: \$30 Where: EAGLES HALL 527 N. LIVERMORE AVE., LIVERMORE menu: All you can eat crab, salad, pasta, bread & dessert. Bring your own crab utensils, and/or dipping sauce!

Real Estate Market update available at www.Livermorehomes.com

DIABLO PROSTHETICS & ORTHOTICS, Inc. 4479 Stoneridge Drive, Pleasanton FOR FREE CONSULTATION Call (925) 484-6400 Accepting the following: MEDICARE PPO INSURANCES WORKERS COMPENSATION BLUESHIELD HMO PACIFICARE HMO HEALTH NET HMO (PENDING) KAISER TRICARE www.DiabloPandO.com

## OBITUARIES

## Susan Elizabeth Tasker

Sue Tasker passed away unexpectedly on February 3rd, 2008 at John Muir Hospital, at the age of 47. She was born in Leeds, England on July 27, 1960 to loving parents Ken and Dorothy Tindell, and came to Pleasanton, California in 1990 with her husband and three daughters. Sue was an avid writer and the co-founder of the Tri-Valley Branch of the California Writers Club. She loved to read, to travel, to meet new people, and to take beautiful photographs. She was a lifetime Girl Scout and loved working with young children.

She leaves behind to celebrate her life, Mick, her beloved husband of twenty-seven years; her wonderful daughters Kate, Amy and Alice; her parents Ken and Dorothy; her brother Steven and his wife, Diane; her nephew Thomas, and many other kind and loving friends and family members who will miss her so much.

A memorial service was held to celebrate her life on February 10 in Pleasanton. Colorful flowers greatly appreciated, or memorial donations to either the SCBWI Tribute Fund for children's books, or the Girl Scouts of the USA Juliette Low World Friendship Fund.

## Myrdell Lee Plato Smith

Myrdell Lee Plato Smith, an accomplished multimedia artist, died of complications from a stroke on January 20, 2008. She was 80 years old. She kept her delightful humor, great sense of the absurd, compassion, intelligence, and great passion for the arts until the very end.

Lee Smith was born in San Rafael on October 19, 1927, but spent her childhood in many small California towns, graduating from Amador High School in Pleasanton in 1945.

Starting with her early figurative paintings, Lee Smith has left us a legacy still waiting to be fully discovered by art historians and critics. But it was her raw artistic drive, something just as essential as great talent, which set her apart from her peers. She knew she wanted to be an artist by the third grade, and attended the California School of Fine Arts (now the San Francisco Art Institute) from 1945 to 1949, during the exciting years when the Bay Area Figurative style was putting California on the art map. David Park was her mentor, Hassel Smith her main supporter, and studying with Richard Diebenkorn and Elmer Bischoff. She spent a brief period in the Santa Fe and Taos in 1948 refining her figurative style during an especially inspired period.

In 1950 she married Claude Ambrose Smith, moving to Livermore in 1956. She continued her art, expanding out from oils to acrylics, charcoals, silk screen, mosaics, textiles, and many mixed media. As her style moved beyond the figure, she continued to innovate and explore abstract designs throughout her life. Actively showing her work and participating in community art groups, she helped form a stitchery group in which other artists could share not only their creative endeavors, but all aspects of their lives.

She was an avid gardener, again focusing on design, color and texture through the changing seasons. She was an advocate for organic gardening long before it became popular. She was active in the Livermore-Amador Valley Garden Club, in which she served in many capacities, and in the 1970s wrote a garden column for the Independent newspaper. But her greatest pleasure was to go into the garden every day to find and create beauty.

Always a fan of the theater, she was one of the founding members of the now inactive Cask and Mask Players and focused her talents on its behind the scenes activities.

A prolific reader, she volunteered for many years at the Friends of the Livermore Library Bookstore, developing expertise in pricing the book contributions of Livermore readers to increase both the fiscal and community support of our local library.

She is survived by her husband of 58 years, Claude A. Smith, of Livermore; daughters Leslie Plato Smith of Oakland and Sidney Lee Alegre of Tracy, and three grandsons, Jason Jess, Atheneley Alegre and Patrick Alegre, all of Tracy. She is also survived by a brother, Arthur "Bud" Plato of Tracy. She was an extraordinarily loving mother and wife who told her daughters, "There are no mistakes you can't erase," and "Always draw off the edge of the paper."

Women go to work, or shopping, or to the spa. Lee went to the studio. Her creativity burned bright throughout her long life, never dimmed or derailed as she graciously handled the demands of family life. She lives on as a shining example for all of us, especially women, who feel destined from age 8 to be artists.

A memorial celebration will be held at the family home on Sunday, March 2 from 2 to 4pm. There will be a memory box for people to add their memory of Lee. Additionally, there will be a retrospective of her art work at the Thompson Gallery, 2241 First Street, Livermore, on Thurs., March 6 from 7 to 9 p.m.

Donations in her memory may be made to The Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 Eighth Street, Livermore, CA 94550; or the San Francisco Art Institute, Office of Development, 800 Chestnut Street, San Francisco, CA, 94133.

## Linda Sanchez

Linda Sanchez passed away on February 6, 2008. She was 77.

Linda was born Nov. 25, 1930 in Honolulu, Hawaii. She moved to California in 1955 and settled in Livermore in 1964. She was a devoted mother. Linda worked as a real estate broker for 30 years. She was active in the Catholic Church and was a member of the Emblem Club for many years. She and her husband retired in South Lake Tahoe for 20 years, then returned to Livermore to be closer to their chil-

dren. She enjoyed family gatherings, traveling, fishing and watching the Oakland A's.

She is survived by her husband of 53 years, Richard Sanchez, daughter Toni Brazil and son-in-law Joe Brazil of Livermore, son Rick Sanchez, Jr. and fiancée of Livermore, daughter Sandra Gilmour and son-in-law Mike Gilmour and granddaughter Nicholle LaRae Gilmour of Tracy.

A private service will be held for the family and those closest to her. Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

## Elizabeth Ann (Gunn) Wilhite

Elizabeth Wilhite passed away on Weds, Feb. 6, 2008 in Walnut Creek. The Pleasanton resident was 61.

She was born Oct. 9, 1947 in Livermore. Elizabeth was very active in her church. She loved going out for Mexican food and to the movies. She collected turtles and teapots, and loved cats and dogs. She loved Orlando Bloom and Johnny Depp. She loved working with kids as she had for many years while at Pleasanton Middle School and Village High School. She was a crossing guard for 20 years and worked at the fair for 10 years. She loved to sing.

She is survived by her children Gevene (Angel) Duncan and Daniel Wilhite, daughter-in-law, Shawne; her mother Lillie Gunn, sister Cindy Goines, and aunt Lucille Dunn, and three grandchildren, Amanda Duncan, Kristin and Haili Wilhite.

A memorial service was held Feb. 12 at the First Baptist Church in Pleasanton.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

## Warren J. Moritz

Warren J. Moritz died February 7, 2008, at ValleyCare Medical Center in Pleasanton.

He was a resident of Tracy and a former longtime resident of Pleasanton. Born November 7, 1921, in Gowanda, New York, Warren (Fritz) to his friends) retired from NYNEX in 1982 and relocated to California. During his retirement he worked at the Sunol Valley Golf Course, the Art Frieler School as a Yard Duty Supervisor and also enjoyed a regular 18 holes of golf with his friends.

Warren (Fritz) is survived by his wife Claudia of 23 years and son Jordan who still lives at home. He is also survived by his son Craig Moritz, his son-in-law Lorin Karge, his brother Fred Moritz, Jr. and wife Margaret, along with several nieces and nephews.

A funeral mass was celebrated February 11 at St. Augustine's Catholic Church, Pleasanton. An interment service was held following the mass at St. Augustine's Cemetery, Pleasanton.

Arrangements by Graham-Hitch Mortuary.

## Lorraine Elsie Stoner

Lorraine Elsie Stoner died January 4, 2008. The Livermore resident was 71.

Lorraine was born October 28, 1936 in Jerome, Idaho to Elsie and William Misterek, and grew up in Spokane, Washington along with her three brothers, Wilbert, Wilmer and Cliff. She married Don Stoner of Astoria, Oregon in 1957. They moved to Klamath Falls, then to Livermore, where they raised their three children, Deb, Wayne and Julie. There they formed friendships with neighbors who are still their dear friends, and developed other friendships with families who liked to camp and boat. Making long treks in their boat together, Don and Lorraine traveled with groups of friends to Alaska, the San Juan Islands, and Lake Powell in addition to many glorious days spent at their boat dock at the Delta. Lorraine made their travel trailer a home for months at a time during winter treks to Arizona to meet other groups of friends. Lorraine loved to travel with Don to visit their kids to places as far as Portugal, Australia and Puerto Rico. To celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Don and Lorraine took a month long trip to New Zealand in March, 2007, just before her diagnosis of lung cancer.

Their adventures were wide and many, but to Lorraine, her family, her home and her garden were really her things. She loved preparing food, usually serving it up with an unnecessary apology for an imagined fault in what was always a delicious meal. Lorraine had a great sense of humor, perhaps developed in self-defense growing up with three brothers, and all can attest to her terrific laugh. She loved gardening, always happy to share seeds, cuttings or beautiful bouquets with her friends. Lorraine was happiest at home, sewing a quilt for a Christmas gift, or preparing a birthday dinner for a loved one. And her loved ones were many.

Lorraine is survived by her husband Don; daughter Deb and her husband Fred; son Wayne, his wife Charlene, and their children Nick, Keith and Anne; daughter Julie Quintal and her son Jake; brothers Wilbert and his wife Clara; Wilmer and his wife Lynda; Cliff; and many nieces and nephews. Lorraine was predeceased by her mother Elsie in 1995, and mother-in-law Mary Lou in 2006. She lived a humble and beautiful life.

A celebration of Lorraine's life is being planned for the spring. Hope Hospice of Dublin, California provided excellent care and comfort for Lorraine and her family, and is the family's recommendation for those inclined to make a charitable donation: Hope Hospice, 6500 Dublin Blvd., Suite 100, Dublin, CA 94568-3151.

## William W. (Bill) Short

William W. Short passed away on February 7, 2008 at ValleyCare Medi-

cal Center in Pleasanton after a short battle with cancer. His family was by his side. He was 69.

Bill was born May 27, 1938 in Akron, Ohio. His father was career military and Bill moved around with his family throughout his childhood. He completed his schooling in Cheyenne, Wyoming. After school, Bill joined the Navy where he spent many years on destroyers as an operations specialist and air traffic controller. He served two in-country tours in Vietnam as a language speaking advisor. He earned the Bronze Star with "V" for valor. He also spent a tour with the European Command in Stuttgart, Germany. Bill retired from the Navy in 1976 after 22 years having achieved the rank of Senior Chief. He and the many friends he made during his career and their spouses came together annually in Helen, Georgia.

After leaving the Navy, he went to work at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory as a senior technologist in weapons and chemistry. He retired in 1998 after 22 years.

Bill was active in the Masonic Community, having served Mosaic Lodge No. 218 in Livermore as Worshipful Master in 1984 and 1994. He was a 34 year member of the Scottish Rite Bodies, a 29 year member of Semper Fidelis Chapter Order of Eastern Star, served on the advisory board of Amador Chapter, Order of DeMolay and Associate Bethel Guardian of Bethel No. 232 Livermore and Bethel No. 1 Dublin, International Order of Job's Daughters. In 2003, he served as Associate Grand Guardian of the State of California of the International Order of Job's Daughters.

He was a 22 year member of Trinity Baptist Church. He was an avid outdoorsman, enjoying deer hunting and fishing in Alaska. After his retirement, he became active in Black Powder Shooting, Black Powder Rendezvous and competition shooting. He also enjoyed golfing, playing in several tournaments, as well as courses in Galway, Ireland and at Dromoland Castle. He enjoyed traveling. He and his wife, Rose Marie, traveled extensively in the United States and Canada.

Bill is survived by his wife of 49 years, Rose Marie Short, daughter Garmeda Marie Skinnell, son-in-law Ken Skinnell of Livermore, son Randol Douglas Short and daughter-in-law Michelle Short of Juneau, Alaska, his mother Evelyn Short of Sunnyvale, brother Dr. Terry Short and wife Dr. Michelle Hornberger of Sunnyvale, five grandchildren, a great grandson, his mother-in-law Garmeda Goad of Livermore, as well as other extended family members. He was preceded in death by his father, Hubert Short and father-in-law Wiley Goad.

Visitation will be 2 to 8 p.m. on Fri., Feb. 15 at Callaghan Mortuary, 3833 East Ave., Livermore. Funeral services will be 11 a.m. on Sat., Feb. 16 at Trinity Baptist Church, 557 Olivina Ave., Livermore. Burial will follow at Memory Gardens Cemetery in Livermore. A reception at the Fellowship Hall of the Church will follow the burial.

A scholarship in his memory has been established through the California Job's Daughters Foundation: California Job's Daughters Foundation, 303 West Lincoln Ave., Suite 210, Anaheim, CA 92805-2928.

## Douglas "J" Clarke Sr.

July 13, 1926 - February 11, 2008

Douglas "J" Clarke Sr. passed away peacefully in his home with his family by his side on February 11, 2008 after a long struggle with cancer. He was 81.

He was born on July 13, 1926. His love was his family, and his passion was horse racing. Doug was a dedicated husband and father, and a loyal employee at Judson Steel for 40 years. He served his country as a Merchant Marine in WWII. He was a member of St. Raymond's Catholic Church in Dublin, and the California Race Horse Association.

Douglas is survived by his wife Barbara (Bobbie), and sister Eleanor Halbert. Doug and Bobbie enjoyed 58 years of love and marriage. He was the father of Roxanne Ferguson, her husband Don Ferguson, and Douglas J. Clarke Jr. his wife Chris Clarke. He was a grandfather to Eric Ferguson, Jody Clarke, Peter Clarke, and Ashley Figueroa, and a great-grandfather to three great grandchildren.

Family and Friends are invited to attend a viewing on Thursday, February 14th viewing from noon to 7 p.m. with Rosary at 7 p.m. at Graham-Hitch Mortuary, 4167 First St., Pleasanton. Funeral services will take place at St. Raymond's Catholic Church in Dublin on Friday, February 15th at 10 a.m.

## 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.

**Hearing Loss Association of America, Tri-Valley Chapter**, meeting Feb. 21, in the Valley Community Church, at 4455 Del Valle Parkway, Pleasanton at 7:00 PM. Meetings are open to the public and are free and refreshments are served. The speaker will be Faisal Moalikiyar of the Verizon Co. He will demonstrate the company's cell phones for hard of hearing people. For more information contact Hiram Van Blarigan at 925 455 6591 or Email hvanblarigan@hotmail.com.

**Pleasanton PTA Founders Day**, the PTA council will recognize contributions from founders, celebrate volunteers, honor members of the community and acknowledge sponsors at the Founders Day Celebration Luncheon on Thurs., Feb. 28, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Castlewood Country Club, 707 Country Club Circle, Pleasanton. Special guest speakers include California State PTA president-elect Jo Loss and senior SEARCH institute trainer Clay Roberts. Event \$30 per person; sponsorships are available. For information go to www.pleasantonpta.org or call 877-260-4179.

**Domestic Violence Support Group**. Ongoing support for women dealing with conflict issues. Tri-Valley Haven, Livermore, Thursday evenings. Contact Elizabeth, 667-2799.

**Livermore Peripheral Neuropathy Support Group**, meets 4th Tuesday of the month, 10 a.m. at Heritage Estates Retirement Community, second floor conference room, 900 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore. All are welcome. Next meeting is Tues., Feb. 26. Information: Lorene Stack, 447-6158, or Ann Laye, 443-4098.

**Valley Spokenes Bicycle Touring Club**, Sat., Feb. 16, 40 miles Cinderella training ride from San Ramon through Blackhawk, Livermore and Pleasanton, meet 8:30 a.m. at Central Park, Bokki Livingston, 735-8327. Sat., Feb. 18, 74 miles Dunne Rd. to Henry Coe & Reservoirs; meet 8:45 a.m. in Morgan Hill, Mark Neer, 408-687-8640. Sun., Feb. 17, 35 miles from Bankhead Theater through backroads of Livermore, meet 9 a.m., Don Williams, 580-9395. Wed., Feb. 20, 30 miles from Shannon Center over Palomares Canyon and back, meet 10 a.m. Barb Hailey, 899-8676 (cell).

**Sweetheart Dance**, swing to the music of the Group Therapy Band, Sat., Feb. 16, Veteran's Memorial Building, 301 Main St., Pleasanton. Doors open at 6 p.m., no host bar, prizes, refreshments, raffles, etc. Band plays 7 to 11 p.m. Hosted by the American Legion Post 237. Tickets are \$10 donation with portion of proceeds to be used for the VA Nursing Car Unit in Livermore. Ticket information, call Rene LaVigne, 846-7532. Tickets will be available at the door.

**Prenatal yoga**. Work with breath and postures to learn labor management. Ease labor by strengthening muscles used during birth. Reduce stress & tension. Ease pregnancy related discomforts. Classes are Tuesdays, 6:45 to 8 p.m. Livermore Valley Tennis Club, 2000 Arroyo Road, Livermore. The next 6 week session begins Feb. 26. Members \$40 / Nonmembers \$80. Drop In Rates: Members \$10 / Nonmembers \$15. Sign up at the LVTC front desk. For any questions about the class, contact the instructor, Katherine, at 925-371-5574.

**Tri-Valley Holistic Moms Network** Discussion will be facilitated by Blaine Carman, M.A., MFT. Meeting on Monday, February 18, at Crosswinds Church located at 6444 Sierra Court in Dublin at 7PM. Anyone curious about the group is invited to attend with no obligation to join. Regular meetings are held on the third Monday of the month at the same time and location. For further information, please visit www.holisticismoms.org or e-mail Tri-

ValleyHMN@hotmail.com.

**Senior Ball**, "New York, New York" nightclub setting, Feb. 22, dinner/dance, Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Music by the USS Hornet Band. Doors open at 5:45 p.m.; 6 p.m. dinner, dancing at 7 p.m. Cost \$25 residents, \$28 nonresidents. 931-5365.

**Spring Fashion Show**, staged by Amador Valley High School Fashion Club on Sat., Feb. 23 starting at 4 p.m. in the school library, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. Tickets in advance are \$8 general admission (\$12 at the door), or \$15 front row seats. All proceeds benefit Tide, Loads of Hope, which cleans clothes for Hurricane Katrina and Southern California fire victims. Call (925) 931-0628 to order tickets.

**Livermore Rodeo Queen Contest**, Sun., March 16 at the covered arena at Robertson Park/Livermore Rodeo Grounds. Competitor sign up by March 1; orientation March 6. Sign up by calling Cindy Goltz at 373-7358, the LSRA office at 447-3008, send an email to livermore rodeo@earthlink.net, or mail interest by March 1 to LSRA, c/o Queen Contest, PO Box 180, Livermore, CA 94551-0180.

**Baby Boot Camp** offers a unique 75-minute workout designed to help new moms get back into shape after having a baby. Certified personal trainer Rechea Falls brings the national franchise to Bruno Canziani Park in Livermore. The class meets 9:30 to 10:45 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. For complete details visit http://babybootcamp.com.

**Special Events Coordinator** needed for the Jeremy Brigham Make A Difference Foundation 6th Annual Golf Tournament. The Foundation is looking for someone special to organize this event scheduled to take place on June 30 at the Ruby Hills Golf Course. For more information, please contact Jeremy Brigham at (510) 415-1677 and visit www.makeadifferencefoundation.com.

**Free Income Tax help** will be available at two Livermore Public Library branches this tax season, through April 11. Trained volunteers from AARP will be available to answer questions and help the public prepare state and federal tax forms. Appointments are on a first come, first served basis. Tax assistance will be provided Thursdays and Fridays from 10am to 2pm at the Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Avenue and Saturdays from 10am to 2pm at the Rincon Library, 725 Rincon Avenue. For further information, please contact Rosemary Dukelow at (925) 373-5500 extension 5514.

**Youth volunteers needed**, Tri Valley Youth Court (TVYC) is looking for high school student volunteers to serve as jurors and court clerks. TVYC meets the first Tuesday on each month at the Gale/Schenone courthouse in Pleasanton from 5:45 - 8:00 pm. For more information, visit our website at www.trivalleyyouthcourt.com.

**Livermore Area Blood Drive** - Friday, February 15, 1:00 - 6:00 p.m. at Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Avenue, Livermore. There is a severe shortage of blood in the Bay Area, and only 3% of the eligible people give blood. Please help save a life by giving blood. The process takes 1-1½ hours, and snacks and refreshments are served after you donate. You must be 17 years old, and have a form of identification with you. To sign up, go to www.GiveLife.org, and use ASBURY as the sponsor code. For more information contact Tom Petty at (925) 980-8164 or e-mail BloodDrive@asburylive.org.

**White Elephant Sale**, March 1-2, 10 to 4 both days. Benefit for Oakland Museum of California. Sale is held at the White Elephant Sale warehouse, 333 Lancaster St., just off the 880 Freeway/Fruitvale exit, near the Oakland Estuary. Street parking is scarce; go green and take BART or carpool. A free shuttle is available from the Fruitvale BART to the warehouse. Women's Board members sort and price donations months in advance:

THE CITY OF  
PLEASANTON

## NOTICE OF COMMISSION / COMMITTEE VACANCIES

The City of Pleasanton is now accepting applications to fill vacancies on the following commissions or committees:

- Civic Arts Commission
- Economic Vitality Committee
- Commercial Services Representative
- Biomedical Business Representation
- Environmental Community Representative
- Telecommunications Representative
- Parks and Recreation
- Human Services Commission
- Library Commission
- Youth Commission

## NOTICE OF VACANCIES ON THE YOUTH MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

The City of Pleasanton and the Pleasanton Unified School District Liaison Committee is now accepting applications to fill the following vacancies on the YMPIC.

- Non-Profit Agency Representative
- Senior Citizen Representative
- Health and Crisis Representative
- Village High School Representative (2)
- Harvest Park Middle School
- Pleasanton Middle School
- Parent at Large (Pre-School)
- Parent at Large (Elementary)
- Parent at Large (High School)

Applications for commissions and committees are available at the City Clerk's office, 123 Main Street, Pleasanton or on the City's Website at [www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us](http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us). For additional information, call the office of the City Clerk at (925) 931-5027.

Applications must be received no later than 5:00 P.M., FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2008. Postmarks are not accepted.

Persons interested in serving on various City Commissions or Committees for which there are no current vacancies are encouraged to complete an interest card located on the City's website [www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us](http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us) or from the office of the City Clerk.

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# LOU HONEYCUTT



## Do You Remember?

By Anne Homan



### Valentines through the Years

Navy pilot Gene Morgan was transferred to the Livermore Naval Air Station, now the site of Lawrence Livermore National Lab, after VJ Day in September 1945. He knew little about the area, but he heard that there were horse races in nearby Pleasanton. When they had some time off, he and a friend decided to "thumb it to Pleasanton." They got a ride, but soon learned that the driver was headed to San Jose, not Pleasanton. "This became the luckiest day of my life! We had no sooner jumped out of his car when here came two beautiful ladies in a brand new Buick." They drove the sailors to the race track. One of the ladies was Isabel Bonne. Gene and Isabel were married on December 9, 1945 in the Livermore Naval Air Station chapel. They traveled to the Hilton at Long Beach for their honeymoon. Only military personnel could book a hotel room in those days. The morning after their wedding night, Gene went out to find a newspaper; Isabel was still in bed. He came back to find a strange man in the hotel room. Gene said, "Who in the hell are you?" He replied, "I am the house detective; show me your marriage license or I will throw you out." Fortunately, Gene did have the license, and they were allowed to stay the maximum five days.

Hiroko Kretz came to Livermore in 1991 from the Los Angeles area after the death of her husband. Her daughter was living here then but soon moved to Texas. Hiroko decided to stay in Livermore, but she was lonely. She and a friend signed up for a cruise. One evening on the ship, a tall English widower named John Waite invited Hiroko to dance. "He was not a very good dancer," Hiroko said. "He just sort of walked around the dance floor." He asked her to dance every evening. Near the end of the cruise, he suggested that if she ever came to London, she should let him know and he would show her around. She went for a week and had a marvelous time. In turn, she invited him to Livermore. Eventually, John moved here, and they were married 10 years ago at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church. They have attended ballroom dancing classes together, and John's style has definitely improved, according to Hiroko.

The principal at Granada High, Chris Van Schaack, worked as a food server at an El Torito restaurant while attending graduate school at Sacramento State in 1986. One of his duties was to train and orient the new hires. One of these was a very shy, quiet young woman named Erin Richardson, who was also a student at Sac State. As they worked together, he was impressed by Erin's hard work and honesty—they developed a mutual respect for each other, which segued into love. Chris doesn't believe in a sudden blooming of love at a glance across a crowded room. "Great relationships," Chris said, "are born out of respect. This takes time to develop."

Livermore High's principal, Darrel Avila, also met his wife in college. Pat Swartz and he were both attending St. Mary's College. They were physical education majors and had gone to the gym to watch an intramural game. They were introduced to each other by a mutual friend. Darrel is convinced that the important ingredient in their attraction for each other is their common interests in athletics. After their marriage and graduation from St. Mary's in 1978 and 1980, Livermore High students have enjoyed the Avilas' leadership and guidance in many athletic fields.

Henry Rosa was a student of mine at Livermore High in an English class. When I asked Henry, now the bookkeeper at Lucky's on North Livermore Avenue, about meeting his wife, he told me with a straight face, "It was an arranged marriage." His mother, Ana Rosa, worked as the cake decorator for Pam Blank, the owner of the Baskin-Robbins store that was near the Vine Theater. One day in 1990 Laurie Blank was complaining to her mother that she did not have a date for her senior prom at Amador High. When Henry dropped by the store later, Mrs. Blank suggested that he ask Laurie out. Their first date was at Gay Nineties Pizza, where Laurie forgot Henry's name when she had to introduce him to a friend. Also, to make the night more memorable, his car battery died. They did attend her senior ball, and they have been married for 16 years this coming May.

Carole Cardoza and Mike Murray are members of longtime Livermore ranching families. They knew each other at Livermore High, but never dated. After graduation in 1959, Mike served in the U.S. Army for three years, some of the time in Germany when the Berlin Wall was being built. Carole and Mike "remet" in Granada Bowl, the popular hang-out for young people in the 1960s—not to bowl, but to have a few drinks, to party a little after work. It was "classier" than going to a downtown bar, and, if they asked, you could tell your parents you were at the bowling alley. Mike asked Carole for a date there. From then on, they dated often and usually were a threesome with Norman Marciel. They tired of that, so they introduced Norman to Lillian Fullenwider; Norman and Lillian got married before Carole and Mike. The Murrys will celebrate their 44<sup>th</sup> anniversary in June, the Marciels #45 in September. (Readers can reach me at am50homan@yahoo.com.)

## Program to Explore the 'Science of Dune'

Kevin R. Grazier, author of *The Science of Dune: An Unauthorized Exploration into the Real Science Behind Frank Herbert's Fictional Universe*, will offer some fascinating scientific speculation related to Frank Herbert's classic science fiction novel Dune. Is the ecology of Dune realistic? Could humans really evolve as Herbert suggests? Which of Herbert's inventions have already come to life? — These are some of the questions Grazier will explore.

Kevin R. Grazier is the science advisor for the Sci-Fi Channel series *Battlestar Galactica* and *Eureka*, and also works at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory on the Cassini/Huygens Mission to Saturn.

This free event will be pre-

sented at 2pm on Sunday, February 17 at the Livermore Public Library Civic Center, 1188 S. Livermore Avenue.

This program is part of *Livermore Reads Together: The Dune Books*, a community-wide reading program, featuring Frank Herbert's classic science fiction series *Dune* as well as related series titles by Brian Herbert and Kevin J. Anderson.

Copies of books and event schedules are available at all Livermore Public Library locations. *Livermore Reads Together: The Dune Books* is sponsored by The Friends of the Livermore Public Library. For additional events check the library's website at [www.livermore.lib.ca.us](http://www.livermore.lib.ca.us). For more information contact Rosemary Dukulow at 925-373-5514.

## Ruby Hill: New Winery in an Historic Location

By Harry Stoll

The new Ruby Hill Winery is on the site of the original Stony Ridge Winery at the intersection of Isabel and Vineyard avenues. On Feb. 9, the kind light of the winter sun favored Ruby Hill Winery for the grand opening of its tasting room as it lit windows and warmed the dun colored walls and red tiled roof. Winemaker Chris Graves said the tiles were pulled off the roof of an old Spanish mission.

Inside the expansive expensive tasting room—"The largest in Livermore Valley," said Graves—guests lined the counter to taste the Ruby Hill labels being poured by handsome lads and lovely lasses. "Let's start with a Chardonnay—what are you on now?—this is our Alexander Valley Sangiovese—would you like to try the North Coast reserve Cabernet Sauvignon?—let's finish with the Zinfandel Tawny Port, wonderful with chocolate."

Michele Gibney said the 2006 Anderson Valley Chardonnay had a grapefruit taste. This crisp citrus drink is a \$12 deal. The 2006 Livermore Valley Chardonnay \$18 is more buttery.

Her friend, Lisa Gonsales, who will be married here in November, looked good tasting the Sangiovese. She was learning how to pronounce it, getting "sanjyo" right and progressing from a "veese" ending to a reasonable "vess ee." Ciao Bella! Lisa.

Seated near the large corner fireplace, Fenestra Winery's Lanny Replogle, a dean of valley winemakers, said the tasting room was "Impressive." His wife, and co-owner, Fran, said that with Fenestra and Thomas Coyne wineries in this historic area it will add to the tasting trip. Mitchell Katz Winery at Ruby Hill is also nearby, on the site of the original Ruby Hill Winery, built in 1887. Taster Gate Perola, retired from Pac Bell, down from San Ramon, said he liked the cheaper Cabernet Sauvignon better. Gate, who has a nice nose, said "Nice nose." The cheaper cab is the 2005 Central Coast \$13. His wife Debra Perola preferred 2004 North Coast. A heavier hit for twice the price.

By a front window a table laden with pungent cheeses, deep-fried artichoke hearts, soups, and other treats invited guests to perform the plate and glass eat and drink trick. Alyssia Jones, events coordinator of next door Casa Real, a real slick digs place, lined up for grub with three comely members of her staff.

Islands of merchandise—"one of the area's largest array of unique gifts from imported Italian ceramics and wine accessories to great looking apparel," according to the web site—sat in the sea between it and the tasting counter.

This is one huge room, the big crowd wasn't crowded. Their voices rose to the tall ceiling, bounced back and set the lights

and fans to vibrating on their poles hanging from the ceiling, then reverberated again and blended with light that also bounced off the smooth polished squares of the dark hard floor, which may be of sawn concrete.

Part of the counter sectioned off by a wrought iron railing, had a Reserved for Gem Society Members sign. There, a Hospitality Attendant offered memberships and also offered Barbera that was available only to members of the society, for \$29. "Quite good," said Rick Jiminez. When someone suggested that its tartness would like pizza, he said, "Too good for that," and said a good steak would be the match.

The tasting room is in a Mediterranean style. It has heavy-planked doors with arched tops. Sean Keane, a San Francisco writer/performer said it's like many Napa Valley tasting rooms, "Intentionally designed to look fifty years old." Another guest, Gene Wood, said wineries are under pressure to create a certain image and they could get hampered if they try anything new.

Outside, between the winery and Casa Real, is a patio with a fountain. Nearby is a picnic area with some small barbecue pits and one huge pit. Could be the place to be in the summer.

Ruby Hill, so named for the rich red color of its soil, is an historic grape growing area with well drained gravelly soil. Winemaker Graves is consumed with a mission of making Liver-

more Valley a primo eno endeavor. One way to accomplish that, he says, is to improve growing practices. Graves will have a chance to do that as the winery is set among its own vineyards and controls others nearby. He also has contacts with many growers in many wine regions.

Chris is 27. After an internship at Wente, he became the winemaker at Tamás Estates, where he was known as an innovator. He is very knowledgeable, as he speaks of the choice the winemaker has between accepting what the fruit presents and doing some manipulations, two things he does in balance and with great care.

Two Ruby Hill Winery wines soon available to the public will be a 2006 Livermore Valley Zinfandel and 2007 Livermore Valley Chardonnay. Chris specializes in Zinfandel and Petite Sirah and is also enamored of Sangiovese and Barbera.

In the winery, several varietals still in the barrel, though young are full of promise. Merlot, Sauvignon Blanc, Cabernet Rosé that tastes like summer, among others, and a princely Pinot Noir, with all those remembrances of things that pass your palate, that is going to be a treat to taste and something for a special time with a special someone or someones.

Ruby Hill Winery is a large tasting room and a larger promise.

## ART & ENTERTAINMENT

**Chinese New Year Stage Gala.** Sunday, February 17, 7 p.m. at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. The Chinese American Cooperation Council (CACC), a nonprofit organization based in the Tri-Valley area, will present a full stage show featuring traditional and modern Chinese performances in celebration of the Lunar New Year. Tickets are \$15 and \$10. To order tickets on-line or by mail, please check details at [www.caccusa.org](http://www.caccusa.org). For information, please call (925) 249-1298.

**A Wonderful Evening of Oz,** Fri., Feb. 29, 7:00 pm at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., Pleasanton Cultural Arts Foundation fund-raising for Firehouse Arts Center. Hosted bar and hors d'oeuvres, live entertainment, display of art by local artists. The dinner and program will begin at 8:00 with a sit-down gourmet dinner catered by "A Taste of Affair." Live auction featuring unique items and experiences. Dancing to the music provided by Brad Kinney Productions. Tickets \$125 per person or \$1,000 for a table of 8. Corporate sponsorship opportunities are also available. To find out more, purchase tickets or discuss sponsorship opportunities, contact Debbie Look at (925) 846-1007.

**Diablo Symphony.** Sonos Handbell Ensemble premieres, "Ragtime Stew," a selection for bells and orchestra based on the works of Scott Joplin, by Oakland composer Ellen Hoffman. Joyce Johnson Hamilton conducts the symphony in works by Berlioz and Mahler. 2 p.m. Feb. 17 Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. \$12, \$18, \$20, 943-7469. [www.dlrca.org](http://www.dlrca.org), or go to [www.diablosymphony.org](http://www.diablosymphony.org).

**Special Pinot Release** at Charles R Vineyards, Friday - Monday, Feb. 16-18, from noon-4:30. Charlesvineyards.com located on an old mining road - beyond the end of Greenville Road, Livermore.

**SmartsUnlimited open house.** 53 Wright Brothers Avenue, Suite D, Livermore. Feb. 20, 6:0 to 9 p.m. Hands on demonstrations of how various classes work will be open to the public. This includes piano, opera, brass, percussion, theatre and film classes. There will also be a raffle in which winners receive free registration. Additional info at 1-925-245-0283 or go to [www.smartsunlimited.com](http://www.smartsunlimited.com).

**Pianists Mark Anderson & Tamriko Siprashvili** concert on Saturday, February 16, at 8 p.m. Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton.

Anderson and Siprashvili will perform two piano, four hand classical selections including such composers as Rachmaninoff, Kreisler and Mozart. City of Pleasanton Civic Arts and Pleasanton Cultural Arts will host. Tickets to the event are \$15, \$20 & \$25. Tickets can be purchased on line at [www.civictickets.org](http://www.civictickets.org), by phone at (925) 931-3444 or in person at the Amador Theater Box Office. Box Office hours are Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., and two hours prior to show time. For more information, please call (925) 931-5361.

**Sixth Annual Youth Music Festival on Friday,** February 15, 8 p.m. at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. Solo vocalists, instrumentalists, and vocal and instrumental ensembles, ages 18 and under, will perform. Hosted by City of Pleasanton Civic Arts. Tickets are \$7.00 in advance and \$10.00 at the door. Tickets can be purchased on line at [www.civictickets.org](http://www.civictickets.org), by phone at (925) 931-3444 or in person at the Amador Theater Box Office. Box Office hours are Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., and two hours prior to show time. For more information, please call (925) 931-5353.

**Moby Dick.** The Acting Company. Sat., Feb. 16, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Ticket office open Monday through Saturday from noon to 6 p.m. 373-6800. [www.livermoreperformingarts.org](http://www.livermoreperformingarts.org).  
**Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory Science on Saturday,** Feb. 16, 9:30am/11am, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. [www.livermoreperformingarts.org](http://www.livermoreperformingarts.org).  
**Urinetown.** Pleasanton Playhouse, Feb. 15-March 9, 8 p.m. Fri. and Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Studio Theatre, 1048 Serpentine Lane, Suite 309, Pleasanton. Call 462-2121 or go to [www.pleasantonplayhouse.com](http://www.pleasantonplayhouse.com).  
**Pleasanton Chamber Players,** concert Sun., Feb. 24, 3 p.m. Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. Pleasanton musicians will entertain with beautiful masterworks for strings, clarinet, flute, piano, harp and voice. Sponsored by the City of Pleasanton's Civic Arts Presents. All tickets: \$15, \$20, \$25. Information: [www.civictickets.org](http://www.civictickets.org) or 931-3444.

## New Trail/Facilities Naming Policy Approved

A policy has been established for naming of facilities and trail segments by the Livermore City Council.

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District was to vote on the policy at its Wednesday meeting, which occurred after the Independent's deadline.

The agreement was negotiated in a subcommittee comprised of representatives from the city and park district.

In addition to setting rules for naming public facilities, the city council voted to name a segment of trail after Mark Weinberger for his efforts in creating the South Livermore Valley Specific Plan.

Under the policy, both agencies will have common criteria. However, the city will have the right to name all of the facilities it owns and operates; the same right is granted to LARPD. Both the city and park district would have to agree on any name for facilities and/or trails that are jointly owned and operated.

Developers who either contribute to or build parks and trails would not be guaranteed nam-

ing rights.

All signs or plaques would include a few words explaining the reasons for the dedication. Items that may be dedicated include trail segments, furniture, trees, or special stops along a trail.

Among the criteria for naming or dedicating facilities are the following: individuals, families or organizations that have made exceptional contributions to the community; an individual with a direct substantial connection to the facility; and historic persons or families that relate to the specific location. Naming a facility after a person could not occur while the person was alive.

Weinberger was the first dedication under the new policy. He died in 2005 following a battle with cancer. The segment of trail dedicated to him will be adjacent to Wetmore Road between Vallecitos and Arroyo Road.

Weinberger, an attorney, was employed by the city to assist in the creation, adoption and implementation of the Specific Plan.

He was responsible for most of the significant legal aspects and mechanisms related to drafting and implementing the plan.

LARPD had a concern about the size of the signs, which under the proposed wording was limited to one square foot. The city council elected to approve the agreed upon language. Staff is to negotiate with the park district on wording regarding signage. The wording will be brought back to the council for consideration.

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9:30 and 11:15 a.m.

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Photo - Marilyn Palowitch

**Amador Valley High School students pose for a photo after the All-Northern Honor Band Concert, San Joaquin Delta College, January 20, 2008. Pictured, seated (from left) Sydney Hollingshead, Sarah Andersson, Brittany Gallagher, Kathy Yuh, Erica Miranda, Ann Palowitch; standing, Alex So, Karissa Finn, Ben Donlon, Tony Sangiacomo, Allison Gehl, Teddy Won, Mr. Jon Grantham, AVHS Director of Bands, Ned Kovach, Brian Ratto, Ryan Fornoles.**

## Dons Selected to State Honor Bands

Nineteen student musicians in the Amador Valley High School Music Department have been selected to regional and state honor bands.

In January, the Northern California Band Association hosted the All-Northern High School Honor Band, which included Amador students Sarah Andersson, a 4-year member; Allison Gehl; Sydney Hollingshead; Ann Palowitch; Brian Ratto; Alex So; and Kathy Yuh. Selected to the upcoming California Band Directors Association (CBDA) 2008 High-School All-State Honor Band is Jay Ryoo. Receiving the dual honor of participating in both the All-Northern and the All-State Honor Bands are Ben Donlon, Karissa Finn, Ryan Fornoles, Brittany Gallagher, Michelle Jones, Ned Kovach, Karl Kundmann, Erica Miranda, Tony Sangiacomo, and Teddy Won. John Palowitch was also chosen for the CBDA/IAJE All-State Jazz Band. He is a 4-year member of this band.

Jon Grantham, Director of Bands at Amador Valley High School, noted this is the highest number of Amador students chosen for these honors in the school's history. "The showing in talent and numbers from Amador in these honor groups really reinforces the skill and dedication of the individual students, support from their families and the quality music education students are receiving in PUSD. I am honored and proud to work with such fine musicians on a daily basis."

Since his arrival at Amador in 2002, the bands at the school have been growing in size. For the first time this year, he is directing four concert bands. The top two bands are wind ensembles, for which students must audition for placement. All of

the Amador concert bands have won prestigious honors in concert band festivals in recent years, most notably, in spring of 2007, when the Amador bands were the only bands to receive the distinction of "Unanimous Superior" at the Annual California Music Educators Association (CMEA) Concert Band Festival at Cal State East Bay.

In order to be selected for the regional and state honors, each student honoree submitted an individual audition via CD-recording to a selection committee, who chose the finalists from hundreds of other submissions. More Amador students were chosen than from any other school for the All-Northern band. Amador was second in the state for the number of students chosen for the All-State honors.

Each honor band meets over a number of days for rehearsal and a concert, working under the direction of recognized guest conductors. The All-Northern Honor Band met at the San Joaquin Delta College in Stockton.

The 2008 CBDA Honor Bands will meet February 21-24, 2008 in Fresno, California for rehearsals and weekend concerts. Students will rehearse, attend guest concerts and workshops, and present closing concerts in the William Saroyan Theatre at the Fresno Convention and Entertainment Center. Senior clarinetist Erica Miranda, who is a 3-year All-State honoree, is excited to attend the CBDA conference this year. She said, "I like to go and make new friends, meeting different kinds of people with a common interest in music."

Additional information on the All-State concerts can be found at [www.cbda.org](http://www.cbda.org), and information about the Amador Valley High School Music Department can be found at [www.amadorband.org](http://www.amadorband.org).

## 'Anime in Science Fiction' Program at Library

"Anime in Science Fiction" is the theme of a program to be presented at 7 p.m. on Thurs., Feb. 21 at the Livermore Library.

Author and anime expert Gilles Poitras will discuss anime, one of Japan's hottest cultural exports. Anime, or Japanese animation, is an artistic medium and a cultural phenomenon with millions of fans, a genre that knows no age boundaries. Poitras, a librarian at Golden Gate University, has spent 20 years studying this art form and is a frequent guest speaker at anime conventions. Joining him will be Bob Bordon, owner of Fantasy Book and Games in Livermore, who will show some of his best manga graphic novels.

This free event will take place at 7pm on Thursday, February 21 at the Livermore Public Library Civic Center, 1188 S. Livermore Avenue.

This program is part of *Livermore Reads Together: The Dune Books*, a community-wide reading program, featuring Frank Herbert's classic science fiction series *Dune* as well as related series titles by Brian Herbert and Kevin J. Anderson.

*Livermore Reads Together: The Dune Books* is sponsored by The Friends of the Livermore Public Library. For additional

events go to the website [www.livermore.lib.ca.us](http://www.livermore.lib.ca.us). For more information contact Rosemary Dukelow at 925-373-5514.

## Students Picture 'Dune' Books

Springtown Public Library will host an opening of Christensen Middle School's next exhibit of art work on Wednesday, February 20, from 6 to 8 p.m.

The theme will be renditions of sci-fi themes to support Livermore Public Library's "Livermore Reads Together - the Dune books" program. Refreshments will be served. The artwork will be on display through March. Thank you to Mrs. Haggerty's 7th and 8th grade art classes!

Springtown Public Library, part of Livermore Public Library, is located at 998 Bluebell Drive, right off the Springtown exit, next to the duck pond. The Library is open Mondays and Wednesdays, 10 to 8, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, 10 to 6, and Saturdays, 10 to 5. The exhibit and opening are open and free to the public.

Call (925) 373-5517, or drop in at the Springtown Public Library for more information.

By Nancy O'Connell

The Pacific Chamber Symphony performed music that spanned over 150 years with great depth and musical virtuosity on Friday night, February 8th at the new Bankhead Theatre. Maestro Lawrence Kohl not only conducted this concert, he also played his clarinet in the Mozart's "Sinfonia Concertante for Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, and Horn." Because he conducted this work while playing his clarinet, the audience was given a glimpse into the way conductors were a part of the orchestra in Mozart's time. The harpsichordist or the concertmaster, (the first violinist) would conduct with one hand to bring in the ensemble, but would not stand and direct from a podium. Not until the 1850's was the conductor with a baton the norm.

Hero worship of the conductor happened quite recently in musical history, and symphony musicians have been known to mutter under their breaths about the huge amounts of money a conductor earns versus a member of the orchestra. In this century by the 1950's, the conductor would often earn at least thirty times more than the symphony player, and the star system was born, not only in Hollywood, but on the podium.

This concert almost ended before it began. A mike was brought out on stage and raised up to about 10 feet in height. It teetered uncertainly for a few moments and then crashed to the floor, narrowly missing Kinoko Barbini sitting in the first violin section. Some violins are valued at well above \$500,000, so it could have led to a very expensive evening.

Gustav Holst's "St. Paul's Suite, Op. 29, No. 2" opened the program. Kohl suggested we listen for the playfulness and joy so evident in both Mozart and Holist. In the first movement, *Viviane*, driving rhythms led to a rollicking jig of English fiddle dance tunes with a bright cadence. The *Ostinato* began with more ethereal sounds with melodies in each string section in turn. The *Intermezzo* featured William Barbini, Concertmaster, in a beautiful, haunting solo accompanied by pizzicato chords. With a rubato tempo, the melody resembled a Magyar, gypsy tune. Barbini's solo was up in the

stratosphere on the fingerboard and answered by the viola with low, rich sonorities. In the *Finale*, The Dargason, a 16th century English folk ballad, was first introduced by the 'celli and then given to each string section in turn. The melodies were lyrical and singing, the familiar "Greensleeves" was heard, and each player looked as though he or she took a pride and joy in the performance. Maestro Kohl had the concertmaster and first viola take well deserved solo bows before asking the entire orchestra to stand.

Then confusion reigned as every musician on stage moved to a new location. It looked like a game of musical chairs. Two string orchestras were formed, with a percussion section, including a harp, in the midst of these two groups. A unique placement of the instruments took shape, with the 'celli seated behind the upper strings. Bela Bartok's "Music for Strings, Percussion and Celesta," composed in 1936, was performed by these talented symphony musicians. I've seldom heard a more exciting interpretation.

Historically, Bartok was only too aware of the growing Nazi threat. He knew that he would have to someday leave his beloved Hungary in order to survive. In the first movement Bartok built up the suspense with great intensity until the percussion section made its dramatic entrance. The first violin's solo was answered by the cello, then the bass. A tenuous section follows, filled with harmonics in the strings, and the movement ended with a whisper.

Maestro Kohl described the first and third movements of this work as "night" music with an almost nightmarish quality. There is a foreboding here, a fearful questioning, answered musically in the other two movements with a more life-affirming message. The second movement might have been more positive in its outlook, but to me it sounded military and brusque with the piano playing heavy chords and the ponderous drum beats. Later there were intricate rhythms, syncopation, and a long pizzicato section. The snare drums and bass drum entered, and the strings raced wildly to the cadence like an out-of-control train headed for a wreck -

## French Theme for Chamber Players Concert

The Pleasanton Chamber Players will present their one and only 2008 concert on Sunday, February 24 at 3:00 p.m. under the auspices of "Pleasanton Civic Arts Presents" at the Amador Theatre, 1155 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton.

The main narrative of this event, entitled *The French Touch*, will take the audience on a musical voyage from the Baroque era to modern times, revisiting well-known composers while also unveiling less recognized characteristics of the French repertoire and style. Strings, flute, clarinet, voice, harp and piano will gather in various intimate groupings of 2, 3 or 4 giving each performer the opportunity to sing and soar.

Performers featured are Cecilia Huang (violin), Melissa Huang (viola), Gay Dunn (cello), Lawrence Granger (cello), Karen Veca (flute), Joseph Bonfiglio

(clarinet), Dominique Piana (harp), Priscilla Granger (piano) and Alison Collins, guest soprano, a former student of Pleasanton's own renowned Eerie Mills, who is now herself on the faculty of San Jose State and Chabot College.

The program will open with *The French Suite*, arranged from a 1729 collection of Chansons by British composer William Alwyn, and will be followed by *Trio of the Young Ishmaelites*, an interlude from Berlioz's Cantata *L'Enfance du Christ*.

The program will continue with Liszt's symphonic poem, *Orpheus*, performed in a trio version by Camille Saint-Saëns and a piano solo, *Ballade*, by Claude Debussy in a trio arrangement by Dominique Piana.

Other selections include *Three Water Colors* by Philippe Gaubert, the *Terzettino* by Théodore Dubois, *Une flûte in-*

visible by Saint-Saëns, *Portrait* by Cécile Chaminade, the well-known *Habanera* by Maurice Ravel, *Élégie* by Gabriel Fauré and *Finale* from a Trio by Vincent d'Indy.

Admission is \$15, \$20 and \$25. The Amador Theater box office will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. each day for phone and walk-up ticket sales. Tickets can also be purchased online at the website [www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/community/arts/civic-arts.html](http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/community/arts/civic-arts.html) or call 925-931-3444.

## Saturday Salon 'A Main Street' Focus

4th Street Studio will host the next Saturday Salon on Feb. 16.

Theme will be "A Main Street-Babbit-Elmer Gantry Kind of Night." Everyone is a featured writer. Everyone has up to 10 minutes.

The event begins at 7:30 p.m. at the 4th Street Studio, 2335 Fourth St., Livermore. Bring a nosh and something to drink to share.

For additional information, call Karen Hogan at 456-3100.



Jeff Applebaum seen on "The Late, Late Show with Craig Ferguson," will be one of the featured performers.

## Comedy Night A Benefit for Business Women

The local chapter of American Business Women's Association Express to Success Network (ABWA E2S) will sponsor a Comedy Extravaganza. Funds will be used to provide opportunities for professional women to network and develop their businesses.

The fund-raiser will be held on Friday, February 22 at Faz Restaurant, 5121 Hopyard Road in Pleasanton. The event, which costs \$45 including dinner and the show if paid in advance, begins with no-host cocktails at 6:30 pm, followed by dinner at 7:30 and show time at 8:30. Non-members are welcome to attend.

The comedy show will feature John DeKoven, Chief Executive Comic for Pleasanton-based Laugh-A-Lot Productions; "Chicago" Steve Barkley who has appeared on the Showtime and A&E networks and on "America's Funniest People;" and Jeff Applebaum seen on "The Late, Late Show with Craig Ferguson."

Tickets can be purchased online at [www.laughalotproductions.com](http://www.laughalotproductions.com) with a credit card or with a check or cash by calling Karen at 510-366-7674. Tickets can also be purchased for \$50 at the door. For more information, call 510-366-7674.

In addition to hosting events such as the Comedy Extravaganza, the local ABWA E2S chapter holds monthly meetings that focus on personal and professional development for women in business. The group meets on the third Tuesday of each month from 6:00 to 8:30 pm at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel at 5115 Hopyard Road in Pleasanton. Meetings include a guest speaker and networking opportunities. Nonmembers are welcome to attend at a cost of \$5 per meeting. For more information, email [info@expressstosuccess.org](mailto:info@expressstosuccess.org) or go

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JUNO (PG-13) DLP 12:05 2:20 4:50 7:05 9:30  
WATER HORSE (PG) DLP 1:15  
NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) 4:00 6:50 9:35  
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 405396

The following person (s) doing business as: Bella Roma Pizzeria, 853 East Stanley Boulevard, Livermore CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner (s):

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 406318

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on January 8, 2008. Expires January 8, 2013. The Independent Legal No. 2278. Publish January 24, 31, 2008, February 7, 14, 2008.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 405495

The following person (s) doing business as: M and M Cross Fit, 2121 Railroad Ave., Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner (s):

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 406409

The following person (s) doing business as: Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC, 2300 First Street, Suite 204 & 206, Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by

Ca 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Russell W. Sims, 6151 Sunnybrook Way, Livermore Ca 94551

Kanda Chusook, 6151 Sunnybrook Way, Livermore Ca 94551 This business is conducted by Husband and wife Registrar has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 405495

The following person (s) doing business as: M and M Cross Fit, 2121 Railroad Ave., Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner (s):

Michael Harris, 4462 Mines Rd., Livermore Ca 94550 Michael Lampley, 2949 Marina Ave., Livermore Ca 94550 This business is conducted

by a General partnership The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on January 4, 2008. Signature of Registrar: /s/Michael Harris This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on January 10, 2008. Expires January 10, 2013. The Independent Legal No. 2280. Publish January 24, 31, 2008, February 7, 14, 2008.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 406318

The following person (s) doing business as: Little Darlings Day Care, 3382 W Las Positas Blvd., Pleasanton Ca 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Alia Mirza, 3382 W Las Positas Blvd., Pleasanton Ca 94588 This business is conducted by an individual Registrar has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 406409

The following person (s) doing business as: Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC, 2300 First Street, Suite 204 & 206, Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by

the following owner (s): Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC, 2300 First Street, Suite 204 & 206, Livermore Ca 94550 This business is conducted by a Limited liability company The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name (s) listed above on October 1, 2007. Signature of Registrar: /s/George H. Miller This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on January 31, 2008. Expires January 31, 2013. The Independent Legal No. 2285. Publish February 14, 21, 28, March 6, 2008.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 406424

The following person (s) doing business as: Humanely, 5867 Ida Court, Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Fame Interactive, 5867 Ida Court, Livermore Ca 94550 This business is conducted by a Corporation Registrar has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed. Signature of Registrar: /s/Michael Campbell This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on February 1, 2008. Expires February 1, 2013. The Independent Legal No. 2286. Publish February 14, 21, 28, March 6, 2008.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 406081-406084

The following person (s) do-

ing business as: 1) Norcal Volleyball Club 2) La Morinda Volleyball Club 3) La Morinda Volleyball dba Norcal Volleyball 4) Northern California Volleyball Club, 7069 Commerce Circle, Pleasanton Ca 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Meghan Herr, 5317 Algro Court, Dublin Ca 94568 This business is conducted by an individual Registrar has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 406759

The following person (s) doing business as: Circle H Dog-giri Press, 1896 Keeler Street, Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Merry Carter, 1896 Keeler Street, Livermore Ca 94550 Nancy Mueller, 12461 Mines Rd., Livermore Ca 94550 Wendy Howe, 12120 Mines Rd., Livermore Ca 94550 Susie Calhoun, 19930 Ian Ct., Lockeford Ca 95237 This business is conducted by a General partnership Registrar has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed. Signature of Registrar:

/s/Merry Carter This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on February 8, 2008. Expires February 8, 2013. The Independent Legal No. 2288. Publish February 14, 21, 28, March 6, 2008.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 406253

The following person (s) doing business as: Cal State Automotive, 3985 First Street, Suite E., Livermore Ca 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Todd Ganz, 2574 Gelding Lane, Livermore Ca 94551 This business is conducted by Husband and wife Registrar has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed. Signature of Registrar: /s/Todd Ganz and Haley Ganz This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on January 29, 2008. Expires January 29, 2013. The Independent Legal No. 2289. Publish February 14, 21, 28, March 6, 2008.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: ELSIE RAMOS BAILEY CASE NO. VP08367299

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of ELSIE RAMOS BAILEY. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by DEBRA A. PLATO, JOHN MICHAEL BAILEY and CAROLE ANNE BAILEY in the Superior Court of California, County of ALAMEDA.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that DEBRA A. PLATO, JOHN MICHAEL BAILEY and CAROLE ANNE BAILEY be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on 02/25/08 at 1:30 PM in Dept. 707 located at 5672 STONERIDGE DR., PLEASANTON, CA 94588

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of a deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code Section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner: JON M. ISHIBASHI TALIA A. BUCHMAN GREENAN PEPPER SALLANDER & LALLY LLP 6111 BOLLINGER CANYON RD #500 - P O BOX 10 SAN RAMON CA 94583 1/31, 2/6, 2/13/08 CNS-1272550#

The Independent Legal No. 2281. Publish January 31, February 7, 14, 2008.

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Date of Filing application: January 15, 2008 To Whom It May Concern: The Name (s) of the Applicant(s) is/are: LILINH MY and NGUYEN LAINGOC

The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at: 2270 LAS POSITAS RD, LIVERMORE, CA 94551-8892

Type of License(s) Applied for: 41 - ON-SALE BEER AND WINE - EATING PLACE Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control 1515 Clay St, Ste 2208 Oakland, CA 94612

The Independent Legal #2282, Publish February 7, 14, 21, 2008.

ORDERTO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. V607361013 SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF ALAMEDA 5672 Stoneridge Dr. Pleasanton, CA 94588 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: 1. Petitioner: Lorena Alexandra Garcia filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present Name: Lorena Alexandra Garcia Proposed Name: Alexandro L. Aquiniga Sawyer

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

NOTICE OF HEARING

a. Date: 3/25/08 Time: 2:00PM Dept: 707 b. The address of the court is: 5672 Stoneridge Drive Pleasanton Ca 94588

3a. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four consecutive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: The Independent

Date: December 12, 2007 /s/George C. Hernandez Jr. Judge of the Superior Court The Independent Legal No. 2284. Publish February 7, 14, 21, 28, 2008.

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Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Truffles, tidbits and wine were sampled by visitors during the annual Pleasanton Downtown Association event.

## SMELT

(continued from page one)

year is forcing the DWR to take significant steps to preserve the species by managing water flows so that fewer fish die in the state water project's pumps.

Zone 7 Water Agency obtains 85 percent of its water from the state water project.

The vulnerable period for both smelt species is spawning, which puts them near the pumps. The Delta smelt spawn in the spring. The longfins spawn in late winter. Their spawning is nearly finished now, said Tina Swanson, senior scientist for the Bay Institute, one of three conservation groups that petitioned the state to list the longfin smelt.

Practically speaking, with spawning just about over for the longfin smelt, there is no problem posed this year from them. However, if the species were permanently declared as listed, the next spawning season would narrow down the time that the DWR is allowed to pump water from the Delta, said Swanson.

Zone 7 officials were not available for comment earlier this week. However, they have said in the past that Zone 7 is in a

good position to survive narrower windows of opportunity to obtain water in the winter, because of the agency's large water storage capacity.

Zone 7 has a Valley underground basin that can store 200,000 acre feet, or a two-year supply of water. It also has 10,000 acre feet of storage in a Central Valley water storage basin, which was purchased in the 1990s, and another 10,000 acre feet in a second one in the Central Valley, which was acquired last year.

The dramatic drop in the longfin smelt population is but one sign that the Delta's ecology system is collapsing, said Swanson. "The fact that we see more and more species that are in trouble shows we have exceeded the capacity of the environment for the fisheries. We have taken it over the limit by exporting (fresh) water from the Delta for the past 50 years," said Swanson.

Some 75 percent of the water that goes through the Delta from the Sierra snow melt goes to agriculture, primarily in the Central Valley. Some of that water

goes to crops such as cotton and alfalfa, which use high volumes of water, said Swanson. Those crops have been criticized by urban water agencies as wasteful of state water, and have prompted suggestions that they be grown in states that have more year-round rainfall.

Swanson also said that the Delta isn't the only area where ecological breakdown is seen. There are problems upstream as well. Partially treated wastewater upstream has been a big contributor to growth of pest water plants in the Delta. One of the big offenders has been the Sacramento wastewater treatment plant, which uses only secondary treatment, instead of the tertiary treatment found in Livermore and Pleasanton.

Farm and ranch run-off also contributed somewhat to the growth of the pest plant. One plant is toxic. It can make Delta boaters sick if they touch the water near it, said Swanson. Plants like that add new challenges to water treatment plants, which have to add more chemicals to deal with them, she said.

## Group Seeks to Help Troops

The Livermore Veterans Foundation, Inc. (LVF), which has been organized to support troops by facilitating access to needed resources, has recently received notification of their 501(c)3 non-profit status.

The local support group was originally organized through the San Ramon based program 'Sentinels of Freedom' to support two wounded soldiers returning from Iraq. Since that time, the LVF has operated with independent status and has expanded its role to better serve Tri-Valley troops and their families.

LVF has successfully assisted two severely wounded soldiers: Cristian Valle and Justin Leon, who sustained severe injuries while serving in Iraq. Valle lost both legs after an IED (Improvised Explosive Device) exploded. Leon lost his right arm in combat. While recuperating at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., they heard about opportunities through the veterans program.

The LVF assisted Valle and Leon in securing employment at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Now both are thriving workers, homeowners and family men living locally with their wives and young children.

The LVF partners with local business, government and civic organizations to provide mentoring, referrals and advocacy, to carry on the mission "serving those who served for us." The LVF board of directors includes President Marilyn Carter, Vice President Warren Booth, Secretary Darryl West, Treasurer Leslie Haas and Charles Crohare.

Those who wish to assist the LVF in supporting troops or have questions, contact at [Info@LivermoreVeteransFoundation.org](mailto:Info@LivermoreVeteransFoundation.org), or P.O. Box 2765, Livermore, CA 94551. For more information about the foundation, visit the Website at [LivermoreVeteransFoundation.org](http://LivermoreVeteransFoundation.org)

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apr.com

<p style="font-size: x-small;">LIVERMORE \$1,199,000</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">2371 Vintage Lane Open Sat &amp; Sun 1:30-4:30 pm Beautiful Custom Southside home loaded with amenities. 4bd/2.5ba, 3,041+/-sf of living space.</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">LIVERMORE \$939,000</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">1642 Feldspar Ct. Open Sat 1-4 Beautiful Sandhurst home offers 5bd/3ba and 2,837+/-sf of living space. Rarely available court location. Light and bright!</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">LIVERMORE \$799,900</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">4293 Bellmawr Drive Open Sat 1-4 Beautiful Pulte home has 4bd/2.5ba, 2,483+/-sf on a 9,419+/-sf lot. Granite in spacious kitchen. Decorator tile in entry.</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">LIVERMORE \$745,000</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">540 Sheridan Circle Open Sat &amp; Sun 1-4 Gorgeous single story home built in 1992. 4bd/2ba, 2,100 +/-sf of spacious living. A 9,200+/-sf lot with sparkling pool and hot tub.</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">LIVERMORE \$684,000</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">By Appointment This 3bd/3ba home with 2,100+/-sf of living space on a 10,000+/-sf lot. Backs to trail, detached oversized garage. Remodeled.</p>
<p style="font-size: x-small;">LIVERMORE \$639,000</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">By Appointment Stunning 4bd/2.5ba, 1,839+/-sf model perfect home. Light and bright interior on a large corner lot. Close to schools/park.</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">LIVERMORE \$629,000</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">By Appointment Show and sell this 4bd/3ba, 2,380+/-sf home. 1bd/1ba downstairs. Large landscaped backyard with overhang.</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">LIVERMORE \$439,950</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">4196 Pinon Way Open Sun 12-3 Single level duet 3bd/2ba home on a huge corner 5,000+/-sf lot. Custom interior faux paint and mural in one bedroom.</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">LIVERMORE \$439,000</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">By Appointment This is a wonderful 1,485+/-sf, 3bd/2ba home. You will appreciate the craftsman workmanship that has gone into this home.</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">LIVERMORE \$409,000</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">By Appointment Clean Fixer Upper great for someone who wants to add their own touches to the baths and kitchen. 3bd/2ba, 1,471+/-sf home.</p>

LIVERMORE | 2300 First Street, #316 | 925.583.1111