



Peace Art Monument.

Peace Art Show Includes Monument

For the month of March, Peace Art, a privately owned multi-media collection, is being presented by the Commonwealth Club's Middle East Forum, the Arts Forum and Inforum. A miniature model Livermore Peace Monument sculpted by Don Homan and photos, letters etc. about the Monument will be on display.

The opening will be on March 4th from 5:30 to 7 p.m. On March 20th, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., there will be a panel of artists discussing their works and the power of art. After the panel there will be an interactive wine and cheese reception. Bill Owens, former Independent photographer and author of Suburbia, will be part of the panel. Several other artists, including Don Homan, creator of the Livermore

(See ART, page 2)



Matt Matsushita demonstrates the skill of fly tying during the fishing expo held at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton over the weekend. Visitors also learned about casting and other fishing related activities.

Livermore Music Students Perform In Annual Festival

The Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) Music Program will host a Solo and Ensemble Festival for LVJUSD music students at Mendenhall Middle School on Sat., March 1. This is the 46th year the Livermore District Music Staff has hosted the festival.

The performance at Mendenhall Middle School runs from 8:30 am until 4:30 pm, followed by a command performance at 7:00 pm at Our Savior Lutheran Ministries, located at 1385 South Livermore Ave.

Approximately 300 students participate annually. Participants must be music students in the district music program. The festival is divided into five

(See MUSIC, page 2)

Students to Show Off Science and Engineering Skills

The best and brightest student scientists and engineers will showcase their work when the Tri-Valley Science and Engineering Fair, sponsored by the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, returns March 4-8, at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Avenue, Livermore.

Each year the fair motivates students to apply creativity and critical thought to the solution of science, engineering and math problems; encourages the exchange of knowledge and ideas; and recognizes student achievement.

Eligible participants include 7th through 12th grade students attending public, private or parochial schools in Danville, Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton and San Ramon.

Science projects are judged on a wide range of criteria that represents standards of research held by the scientific community. Local scientists and engi-

(See SHOW, page 2)

City Partnership Adding to Museum Future

By Ron McNicoll

Julia Bussinger has some impressive credentials as a museum director. The Museum on Main Street in Pleasanton will provide her with an opportunity to respond to a big challenge.

Bussinger's last job was in Sacramento, as executive director of the Aerospace Museum of California. A well-reviewed exhibit there last year, which was titled "The DaVinci Experience," was Bussinger's idea.

It displayed more than 60 replicas of various transportation, military and mechanical devices developed in the 15th century by

Leonardo da Vinci. They included an early helicopter that used a spiral arrangement of sails and was called "an air screw," a bicycle, a double-hulled boat, a moveable bridge, and a robot.

Bussinger was executive director of the Benicia Historical Museum at the former arsenal there, which was built in the 19th century. She has also been executive director of the Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum in San Jose. She started in the museum field in her native Bulgaria, before coming to the United States 20 years ago.

The Museum on Main, at 603

Main St., focuses on local history. Bussinger took the Pleasanton job because of a chance to "develop an organization that is vital, and see it move into the 21st century. The Amador Livermore Historical Society has a wonderful vision."

Part of that vision will involve the Alviso Adobe Park, which is under construction on Foothill Road north of Bernal Avenue. The adobe will embrace three periods of local history: Native American, Early California in the 18th and 19th centuries, the location's role in the city's one-time dairy industry through much of the

20th century.

Bussinger likes the notion of setting up the adobe in an interpretive manner for museum-goers, especially students. There will be city cooperation in the form of a \$138,000 contribution this year.

Bussinger will interview candidates for education director, hoping to hire someone soon who will coordinate the outreach to schools, and recruit and train docents. "Education is important. We'd like to expand the program in the elementary school, and address it for middle and high school. We want to create

programming for all age groups," said Bussinger.

From the city staff side of things, the Park and Community Services Department has a naturalist who takes students to Kottinger Creek, or to the city's park on Pleasanton Ridge, or to the Bernal property to learn the natural history of those locations. When Alviso Adobe is ready, the naturalist will be spending time there presenting programs, said parks and community services director Jim Wolfe.

The city gave "a nominal amount" every year to the mu-

(See MUSEUM, page 4)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Julia Bussinger shows off part of the current exhibit at the museum.

No Decision in Oak Grove Lawsuit

The future of the Oak Grove development in the southeast hills of Pleasanton was still up in the air as of Tuesday.

Prior to last Friday's hearing, Superior Court Judge Frank Roesch issued a tentative ruling in favor of the Jennifer and Frederic Lin, owners of the property. The judge delayed making the ruling permanent after hearing from the other side in the issue, Save Pleasanton Hills.

In his preliminary ruling, Roesch agreed with the plaintiffs' argument that the signature gatherers had failed to show all of the documents related to the issue. The one document mentioned is the development plan. As a result, the referendum was considered non-compliant under the law and nullified.

Roesch is expected to issue a final decision in time for the March 4 Pleasanton City Council meeting.

If the ruling were permanent, the Lins could proceed with the development project, unless there is an appeal.

Kay Ayala, leader of the referendum effort, said she would likely appeal the decision if it were to go against Save Pleasanton Hills. "To say the least, we were taken back by the preliminary judgment."

Ayala contends that signature gatherers did carry the full text of the ordinance. The city attorney signed off on it. "The election code says you must circulate what is signed off on by the city; nothing more, nothing less," said Ayala. "We won't stop here. If the judgement goes against us, it would have a huge impact on any referendum."

Ayala said those gathering signatures for the Oak Grove referendum would have had to carry 18-pounds of documents, or

(See OAK GROVE, page 4)

Altamont Settlement Funds Buy Open Space

The Livermore City Council gave its stamp of approval to fund a \$200,000 grant request from the East Bay Regional Park District. It is the first money from the Altamont Landfill settlement.

An open space committee was established to determine how to spend the funds. The City of Livermore, Sierra Club, and Alameda County are voting members of the committee. There is about \$6.4 million in the open space fund designated for expenditures in eastern Alameda County.

The city also has \$4.1 million available from the Dougherty Valley settlement and just over half a million in the Vasco Road Landfill Open Space Fund to purchase

open space or easements.

The \$200,000 will help to purchase an 80 acre parcel adjacent to the campgrounds at Del Valle Regional Park. A \$341,5000 grant from the California State Department of Parks and Recreation plus \$71,000 from EBRPD will provide the balance of the price of the land. The current owner will retain a 10 acre lifetime estate.

Councilmember Marj Leider represents the city on the committee. She stated, "We were very pleased to find this parcel. This is the first grant we've given."

Councilmember Doug Horner noted that the pricetag

is just 1.5 percent of the funds available. "We seem to be achieving something significant here. However, it doesn't appear this property is under threat of development." He added that in the future it may be more appropriate to focus on areas where there are threats from development.

Leider agreed. However, she felt that the 80-acre parcel met all the criteria. It contains habitat for a number of threatened species. "It is not isolated and fits in with the adjacent park."

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY
The council received an update on economic development activity in the city. The major

(See LIVERMORE, page 5)

Concannon To Retire From Zone 7; 5 Take Out Papers

By Ron McNicoll

Zone 7 Water Agency's longest-serving director, Jim Concannon, won't run for another term. Another experienced Zone 7 person, former general manager Dale Myers, has filed to be a candidate for one of the three seats.

Including Myers, five have taken out filing papers. They are one-term incumbent Dick Quigley, former board member Chris Moore, and Robert Warnick, a retired civil engineer who was Pleasanton director of public works from 1980 to '85.

Quigley has returned his filing papers. Moore, who is an attorney and works as a deputy police chief in charge of technology for the city of San Jose, had not filed papers to run as of Tuesday. He had filed his papers of intention to run, which are required if a candidate intends to raise more than \$1000 in a campaign.

Livermore resident Steve Mattos took out papers on Tuesday. He said that he intends to file. He is employed by Intel in Santa Clara, and said that his engineering and business experience would stand him in good stead as a Zone 7 director.

Incumbent Jim Kohnen, who told the Independent last week that he is not sure about running again, had not taken out papers by Tuesday. With Concannon's

retirement from the board, filing will be extended to 5 p.m. March 12, as required by state law.

Candidates can pick up papers at the Zone 7 office, 100 North Canyons Parkway, Livermore, or at the registrar of voters office, 1221 Fallon St., Oakland. Concannon has served since 1984, which gives him 24 years' service, the longest tenure in the 51-year history of Zone 7. The agency has had 49 directors, including the current seven in office.

Asked about his longevity record, Concannon said that "I'm happy that the public has had confidence in me. I've always had the best interest of the public in mind." Concannon, 76, said that "it's time to open it up to the competent people who will run." He has worked with four different general managers during his time on the board, starting with the original one, Mun Mar.

Asked to talk about his greatest achievements, Concannon said, "I don't know that I've done much in the way of achievement. The fact that we've been stable financially, building structures and tying down water (supplies), not knowing we'd have this problem with the Delta, has been good." (A

(See ZONE 7, page 4)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Matt Bettencourt, who plays on the PGA Nationwide Tour, got in a practice round Tuesday at The Course at Wente Vineyards in preparation for the upcoming Livermore Valley Wine Country Championship. The championship is April 3-6. It is presented by the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Foundation. Tournament proceeds will be contributed to children's charities in the community. The event includes golf action, wine, food, music and special events. For more information call the tournament office at 925-447-2200.

Village High Again Cited As Model School

Village High School in Pleasanton has kept up its string of honors by again winning a state department of education award as a 2008 Model Continuation High School. It is one of only 12 continuation high schools to win the award among 519 in California.

Village has been in existence for 30 years. The school first won the award 15 years ago, when the honor stayed in effect for five-year periods. This year, the award period has been reduced to three years.

Renewal at the end of the period depends on passing a rigorous examination by state authorities. They meet with faculty, parents and the principal, and examine the effectiveness of the school's program in serving students who are at risk of not graduating.

Village principal Greg Giglio said that a key reason for success at Village is "the belief that if we build positive relationships with the students, and provide them with relevant curriculum, we can bridge that gap for the students that may not have been there previously. It allows them to make better connections at school, and try to get back on track and be successful."

The scheduling is more flex-

(See VILLAGE, page 4)

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PET OF THE WEEK

Freckles is a long hair female cat with Tortoiseshell markings. She is about 1 year old, and can only be described as a total "snuggle bug." She loves to be picked up and cuddled at every opportunity! She craves attention and enjoys having her long, beautiful hair brushed. To visit with Freckles, or any of the adoptable cats, visit Valley Humane Society at 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton, open Wed-Sun from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. All of the animals can be viewed on the web site: www.valleyhumane.org, call 925.426.8656 for more info.

VALLEY ROUNDUP

Scorecards for Legislators

The League of Conservation Voters (LCV) has again announced that Rep. Ellen Tauscher has received a perfect score on their annual National Conservation Scorecard. The LCV applauded Rep. Tauscher for her work to move America toward a clean energy future and to prepare for the challenge of addressing global warming.

"It's an honor to be recognized by an organization like the League of Conservation Voters because they are the independent voice behind much of the progress that our nation has made in terms of protecting the environment and preserving our natural resources," said Tauscher. "Supporting measures that increase gas standards on automobiles, encourage alternative energy research, limit offshore drilling and call for mandatory limits on global warming pollution is one of the reasons my friends and neighbors sent me to Congress and I will continue to fight for these environmental protections."

Assemblyman Guy Houston (R-San Ramon), has received the American Electronics Association Legislator of the Year Award.

AEA is the nation's largest high-tech trade association, and represents over 1400 companies in California alone. The award is bestowed upon a member of the legislature who shows leadership for business, is an active crusader against tax abuses, and supports or pursues legislation to strengthen California's business climate.

Assemblyman Guy S. Houston represents the 15th Assembly District, which includes the communities of Alamo, Galt, Elk Grove, Walnut Creek, Danville, San Ramon, Livermore, and Brentwood.

The California Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG) recently announced its 2007 Legislative Scorecard and recognized Assemblymember Mary Hayashi for her outstanding legislative voting record that protects consumers.

According to CALPIRG's legislative advocate, Pedro Morillas, Assemblymember Hayashi received the A grade ranking because she has "consistently put the public interest ahead of special interests" on important issues such as health care and prescription drug reforms, consumer protections, efficient clean transportation and good government.

CALPIRG researches, reports and advocates at all levels of government for new laws and other protections that provide for enhanced health care policies, stronger consumer privacy and product safety codes.

Assemblymember Hayashi currently serves the 18th Assembly District, which includes San Leandro, Hayward, Dublin, most of Castro Valley and Pleasanton, and a portion of Oakland, as well as the unincorporated areas of Ashland, Cherryland, Sunol and San Lorenzo.

Clark Now a "Fellow"

Grace A. Clark, Ph.D. of the Livermore Lab, has been elevated to the grade of Fellow by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) "for contributions in block adaptive filtering."

Fellow status is conferred by IEEE's Board of Directors upon IEEE members with an extraordinary record of accomplishments in any of the IEEE fields of interest. The total number of fellows selected in any one year does not exceed one-tenth of one percent of the worldwide IEEE voting membership.

In the 1980s, Clark's pioneering publications

created the fundamental theory of block adaptive filtering and spawned a new research area that has led to hundreds of papers extending the original work. This remains an active research area today, and at least ten textbooks include chapters or sections dedicated to block adaptive filtering.

The block adaptive filter is used extensively in a wide variety of applications, including ground-based and satellite communication systems (channel equalization, echo canceling, multi-path suppression, etc.), array processing and target recognition (adaptive line enhancement, Signal-to-Noise Ratio improvement, radar, anti-submarine warfare, etc.).

Since earning BSEE and MSEE degrees from the Purdue Electrical Engineering Honors Program, she has been with the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Clark now conducts research in the areas of signal/image processing, estimation/detection, and statistical pattern recognition applied to acoustics, electromagnetics and particle physics. She is a member of the Acoustical Society of America, the Society of Exploration Geophysicists, Sigma Xi and Eta Kappa Nu. She also serves as a reviewer for a variety of technical journals.

Site 300 Cleanup

A public workshop to discuss the proposed cleanup of contaminated soil at the Building 850 Firing Table at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's Site 300, located near Tracy, will be held on March 6, 2008. The workshop, hosted by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), will be held from 6-8 p.m. at the Tracy Community Center, 300 E. 10th St., in Tracy. The workshop is part of a 30-day public comment period that begins February 20 and ends March 20.

Site 300 is the High Explosives Test Facility for Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. The focus of the remedial action is to remediate polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and related materials in soils surrounding the Building 850 firing table. Cleanup of the soil is necessary to mitigate risk to onsite workers and impacts to wildlife native to the site.

DOE prepared an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis that evaluates the following cleanup options for the contaminated soil: 1. No Action; 2. Soil excavation and offsite disposal; 3. Soil excavation and onsite solidification and consolidation.

Based on the evaluation, the preferred option proposed for public comment is to excavate, solidify, and consolidate the contaminated soil onsite. Although this is the preferred option at the present time, DOE welcomes the public's comments on all of the cleanup options.

Comments may be submitted to DOE during the public comment period in writing by posted mail or e-mail. Written comments must be post-marked no later than March 20. Written comments will also be accepted at the public workshop.

Copies of the "Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis for the Building 850 Firing Table" are available at the following locations: LLNL Discovery Center, Livermore, (Tuesday - Friday: 1-4 pm, Saturday: 10 am - 2 pm); Tracy Public Library, 20 East Eaton Ave., Tracy; or online at the LLNL Environment Public Information website www.envirinfo.llnl.gov

For further information or to submit written comments contact: Claire Holtzapfle, Site 300 Remedial Project Manager, DOE/NNSA Livermore Site Office, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, P.O. Box 808, L-293, Livermore, CA 94551; claire.holtzapfle@oak.doe.gov; or (925) 422-0670.

Over \$1 Billion Paid Out to Nuclear Workers

The U.S. Department of Labor has paid more than \$1 billion to 8,926 individuals under Part E of the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA). Part E of the act was created as an amendment to the EEOICPA in October 2004 to alleviate the delay claimants were experiencing under the old Part D program administered by the U.S. Department of Energy. The Labor Department was charged with implementation of Part E.

Payments of over \$40 million in compensation and medical bills have been paid to Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory employees or survivors. As of Feb. 21, 2350 claims had been filed. At Sandia Livermore, the amount paid was \$1.8 million. There have been 274 claims.

More than 25,000 cases were transferred to the Department of Labor from the Department of Energy during the Part E transition and, to date, more than 70,000 claims have been filed

under Part E. Payments exceeded the \$1 billion mark on Feb. 15, a little more than three years after the inception of the program. Less than \$2 million was paid out - via state workers' compensation systems - under Part D, the predecessor program.

Part E provides federal compensation and medical benefits to contractors and subcontractors of the Department of Energy who worked at certain Department of Energy facilities and sustained an occupational illness as a result of exposure to toxic substances. Certain survivors of these workers also are eligible for benefits. Part E provides additional compensation for uranium workers who worked at facilities covered by the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act and certain survivors of covered employees.

The Part E benefit payout is already nearly double what the Congressional Budget Office projected for fiscal year 2005 through fiscal year 2008 at the

time of the statute's passage. Part E payouts have grown each year and continue to accelerate. Payments are expected to exceed \$400 million in fiscal year 2008 alone.

The Labor Department also administers Part B of the EEOICPA. Since the implementation of the act in July 2001, more than 88,000 claims have been filed by workers or their families seeking benefits under the Part B provisions. The department has reached final decisions on more than 55,000 Part B claims, issued lump sum payments exceeding \$2.3 billion to claimants under Part B, and as of Feb. 14, 2008, paid an additional \$196 million to cover costs of necessary medical care for employees with illnesses linked to their employment in the atomic weapons industry.

For additional information about how to file a claim under Part E of the EEOICPA, call 866-888-3322 toll-free.

Cities Offer Help to Businesses

The cities of Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton and San Ramon, in conjunction with the East Bay Small Business Development Center (SBDC), are offering a curriculum of workshops designed to assist small and medium-sized businesses.

The four cities are underwriting the cost of the program as a measure to support growing businesses in their respective communities and in the region as a whole.

Small and medium-sized businesses are considered a critical component of both the national and local economy. According to the U.S. Small Business Administration, small businesses employ about one half of U.S. workers, and have generated 60 to 80% of net new jobs annually over the last decade. Small businesses also hire 40% of high tech workers, such as scientists, engineers, and computer specialists, particularly significant in the Tri-Valley region, which has a large population of highly educated and skilled workers.

The series of one-half day courses will be taught by experienced consultants and industry experts and are tailored to assist entrepreneurs in any stage of the business development process. The classes are free for residents and businesses located within the Tri-Valley cities of Dublin, Livermore Pleasanton and San Ramon. A \$20 registration fee is requested from participants outside of the area. For more information, please call (510) 208-0410 or visit www.eastbaysbdc.org/pages.seminars.php.

All of the workshops are from 9 a.m. to noon. The schedule is as follows: Tues., March 4, Suc-

cessful Business Plans, Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal, Pleasanton. Tues., April 1, Accessing Capital for Small Businesses and Start-Up Companies, San Ramon Community Center, 125011 Alcosta Boulevard, San Ramon. Tues., April 22, Legal and Business Issues, Dublin Civic Center, 100 Civic Plaza. Tues., May 13, Smart Office/Smart Worker-Using Technology to Leverage Sales and Profits, Livermore City Council Chamber, 3575 Pacific Avenue. Tues., June 3, Successful Advertising and Marketing Plans, Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal.

Author of 'The Keeping Quilt' Will Be at Pleasanton Library

Children's author/illustrator Patricia Polacco visits the Pleasanton Public Library on Saturday, March 1 at 3:00 pm.

Polacco is the award-winning creator of scores of popular picture books, "lauded for transforming childhood memories, favorite episodes from family his-

tory, and elements from her Russian, Ukrainian, Jewish, and Irish heritage into works that are noted for their freshness, originality, warmth, panache, and universality." (Contemporary Authors)

Titles like The Keeping Quilt, Just Plain Fancy, Rechenka's Eggs, Meteor!, The Butterfly,

Thank You Mister Faulkner, Tikvah Means Hope, and Pink and Say are staples of the picture book genre.

Before and after the presentation her books will be available for purchase courtesy of Towne Center Books, co-sponsors of this event.

This free program is recommended for children ages 5 and older, and anyone who appreciates the best in picture books. Even with mostly floor seating space is expected to be limited. Doors will close once the presentation begins. For more information, call 931-3400 ext. 8.

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Church Celebrates 85 Years in Livermore

On March 1, 2008, First Church of Christ, Scientist is celebrating its 85th anniversary in Livermore.

The congregation is hosting a free inspirational talk about freedom from stress. There will be an open house and brief tour of the church on March 1.

To commemorate this milestone, the congregation has planned two days of festivities as a gift to the community. On Saturday, March 1, inspirational speaker, Tim Myers of Southern California, will give a free, one-hour talk on "Freedom from Stress and Clutter." An open house and tour of the church follows Myers' talk.

On Sunday, March 2, the weekly service will feature readings on "Christ Jesus" from The Bible and Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, written by the founder of Christian Science, Mary Baker Eddy. An



Church is located on N Street.

open house and tour of the church follows the service. Light refreshments will be served both days.

Admission to the talk and open houses is free. Everyone

from the community is welcome to attend.

First Church of Christ, Scientist is located at 263 South "N" Street (corner of Third), Livermore. Call 925-447-2946, or visit www.seekanswers.info.

Myers' diverse background includes three years as an officer in the U.S. Army. After his service, he attended Occidental College (Los Angeles) where he earned a degree in English with the goal of becoming an English teacher. Instead, his prayers led him into the construction industry where he owned his own business.

Myers is active in interfaith community work in Southern

California, where he currently lives. He served on the board of directors for a Teen Center, studied conflict resolution, and provided counseling for local teens. He also taught Sunday school at detention centers in the Southern California area for several years.

In 1923, a group of Livermore residents began meeting in members' homes for weekly Christian Science Sunday services. In January 1931, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, also known as The Mother Church, recognized the Livermore group as a Christian Science Society. In December 1948, the Christian Science Society purchased the present church property on the corner of Third and South "N" streets for \$1,500.

In January 1993, the Church membership hired Peter Harmon, an East Bay architect, to develop a design for a foyer addition. The additions were completed in December 1997, and included a steeple, which helped raise the church's visibility as a place of worship among the primarily residential neighborhood. The City of Livermore recognized the Church's additions with an Award of Merit from the City of Livermore Beautification Committee in July 1998. The plaque is now proudly displayed in the Church foyer.

LMA Productions Plans to Offer Acting Classes

LMA Productions has announced that their Actor Training Program will be open to the public in the second quarter of 2008. In a move designed to bolster the creative market in the Tri-Valley/East Bay area, LMA managing partner, Thaddeus Coberg spearheads the effort. "We have so much talent in this area, there's no reason why this area can't become more like Los Angeles, or New York for film/video production."

The classes will be broken down into 10 week courses for adults and a separate class for children/teens. On Camera techniques will be emphasized and the sessions will be video taped utilizing LMA's state-of-the-art production equipment. The performances will then be immediately reviewed in the class on video for feedback designed to improve the actor's performance. At the end of the 10-week session, each actor will have their work showcased in an open house event for their friends, family, and associates to see their work on the big screen. Each student will graduate with a Demo Reel DVD of their work.

Veteran Hollywood Director, Rick Beeman, will head up the instruction of the classes. Beeman has directed and taught

classes worldwide including Los Angeles, Buenos Aires, Taipei, Houston, and Saudi Arabia. Having an extensive amount of real world experience working with professional and amateur actors gives Beeman unique insight on how to communicate and shepherd his students through the acting process. Coberg is very enthusiastic about Beeman heading up the training program. "Rick has taught hundreds of students from around the world. LMA is very fortunate to have him on the team."

The Actor's Training Program will take place on LMA's television stage. LMA partner Doug Mann thinks the stage is the perfect venue for the classes. "We have one of the largest stages in the Bay Area. If our students want real television studio experience to hone their craft, they aren't going to find a better facility to do it at than LMA," said Mann.

"We usually need 40-50 actors per year for our various corporate and entertainment projects we produce at LMA. We are constantly on the lookout for new talent, and the classes will give us an immediate database from which to pull our next working talent" said Coberg.

Information is available at 417-1420.

Charter School Students to Show Artwork at 'Dragon Dreams Expo'

Livermore Valley Charter School presents "Dragon Dreams Art Expo" on Saturday March 8th from 1-4pm at Livermore Valley Charter School.

The Livermore community is invited to view the art. This show is the third annual school-wide exhibit and will be held in the LVCS multipurpose room. All students, all grade levels (K-8) are contributing artwork, which will include both 2-D and 3-D pieces using various media. Light refreshments will be served.

The middle school art teacher is Mrs. Regina Leyva. She began her studies in the area of fashion illustration and design and graduated with an Applied Professional Studies Degree, with emphasis in Art History. In addition to teaching, Leyva has designed for Marchant, a fashion house, owned a jewelry business, and studied with both Marvin Bileck and George Fernandez. She continues as a freelance artist.

The elementary school art teacher is Mrs. Amy Modrich. She earned her Bachelor of Arts from the College of Charleston in South Carolina. In addition to teaching art, she has had her work displayed at the Halsey Gallery of Contemporary Art in Charleston, and in both group and solo shows in Seattle.

The school is located at 543 Sonoma Ave., Livermore.

Do You Remember?

By Anne Homan

Tule Elk



In 1851 some men near Lodi were herding their horses to water. One horse wore a bell. "Its tinkling excited the fancy or curiosity of some elk and they came out of the tules. ... The horses became frightened and stampeded, but the elk were not to be deprived so easily of their horse serenade, and started in pursuit. Away went pursuers and pursued, careening over the countryside." Lodi is in Elkhorn Township, named for the abundance of elk once found there.

Before the Gold Rush, the state had more than 500,000 tule elk, native only to California, ranging from Red Bluff down to Bakersfield and west to the coast. The Livermore Valley held many of them. In 1844 Robert Livermore realized \$600 from the fat of elk and grizzly bear that he killed in the Tassajara area. James D. Smith, who came to the San Ramon Valley in 1850 with his mother and father, noted animals that his father hunted that year: "Wild game was plentiful, deer and elk in particular, the latter in droves of 75 to 100." Their range was the foothills around Mount Diablo. Early surveyor Leander Ransom described the wildlife around Mount Diablo in 1851—"Herds of elk, antelope and deer ... abound here. One herd of elk that we saw on the mountain numbered at least 200."

A state law passed in 1873 that gave the elk complete protection. However, by 1874 the tule elk population had dwindled to only a few animals because of hunting and loss of habitat. Henry Miller of the Miller and Luxe Ranch down near Bakersfield discovered a few elk on his property. He ordered strict protection, offering a \$500 reward to anyone who caught a hunter violating his ban. Recent DNA evidence indicates that only one pair or possibly as many as four elk were left. By 1895, with Miller's protection, the elk total had climbed to 28. Tule Elk State Reserve, a 950-acre property, was established near the ranch in 1932 to create a permanent home for the surviving elk. In the early 1970s, the California Department of Fish and Game began to transplant small herds of elk to various places around the state in an attempt to broaden their habitat. One of these places was in the Mt. Hamilton area, east of San Jose. Four separate groups of tule elk were brought in from Owens Valley in 1978, 1980, and 1981, a total of 65 animals. These elk migrated north and now range between Maguire Peaks at the southern end of Sunol Valley Regional Park and San Antonio Reservoir. Occasionally, some of the herd wander over to Del Valle Regional Park. Two were spotted in August 2007 at Camp Arroyo. The entire local population was estimated at between 180 and 205 animals in 1994. In July 2006 the Nature Conservancy acquired the 2,899-acre South Valley Ranch in the San Antonio Valley near Mount Hamilton. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation partnered with the Conservancy on this acquisition by securing the grazing rights on the property to ensure the future of the elk.

Tule elk are shy of human contact. The usual view of them for the casual hiker is their white rumps fading into the distance. Bob Several, while hiking to the top of the Maguire Peaks in 1981, saw "three creatures ... directly ahead. I looked, and there were the white rumps. A second or two later, they had bounded away, disappearing over one of the outcroppings." Tule elk reproduce rapidly when conditions are right, and they migrate to find appropriate feed. These two characteristics, as well as their protection by the state, have brought them back from the threat of extinction. However, their gene pool is very small, from the few 1874 survivors, and an increase in deformities is expected as the population ages.

Smaller in size than elk species in other parts of the country, the tule elk is tolerant of the hot climate in the Central Valley. Mostly light brown, it has a darker conspicuous mane. It stands four to five feet at the shoulder. Bulls have an average weight of 450 to 500 pounds and carry a large six-point rack of antlers. The high-pitched squeaky bugling of the bulls signals rutting and mating in late summer; a single calf is born the following spring. Tule elk feed on grasses and broad-leaved plants; after these dry up, they browse on terminal growth of bushes and trees and also eat acorns. A 2007 statewide census listed 3,800 tule elk.

Vera Revelli has her own tule elk herd of five in Pleasanton. They'll never reproduce because their large antlers identify them all as males. They also will never reproduce because they are silhouettes made of a decorative iron material that creates a protective coat of rust on itself. In 2003 Revelli was redoing the parking lot near her office building at the busy corner of Bernal and First Street. "We wanted to make that corner stand out—so many people pass by." She commissioned the five elk and also landscaping of rocks and grasses around them that reflects their habitat, not the typical commercial parking lot look. Her favorite elk is the one that stands alone, looking back over his shoulder. We can imagine him looking back in history at the rest of his herd that used to run so freely over the natural landscape. (Readers can reach me at am50homan@yahoo.com.)



Mary Chambers, who was 10 at the time, pauses for a photo.

Author to Discuss Family's Trek Along Pacific Crest Trail

In April 2004, Sunol residents Barbara Egbert and Gary Chambers began a six-month journey to hike the length of the Pacific Crest Trail with their precocious 10-year-old daughter, Mary. That October, Mary became the youngest person ever to successfully walk the 2,650-mile route from Mexico to Canada.

The Pleasanton Library will host Egbert on March 2 at 2 p.m. She will share her stories and slides from her family adventure hiking the Pacific Crest Trail.

Zero Days: The Real-Life Adventure of Captain Bligh, Nellie Bly, and 10-year-old Scrambler on the Pacific Crest Trail is the tale of a family adventure that required love, perseverance, and the careful rationing of toilet paper. The trio, who adopted the trail names Captain Bligh (Gary), Nellie Bly (Barbara), and Scrambler (Mary), hiked for 168 days and took a total of only nine "zero days"—days off from hiking.

Along the way, they weathered the heat of the Mojave, the jagged peaks of the Sierra, the

rain of Oregon, and the final long, cold stretch of the Northern Cascades to Canada. They met "trail angels" like the Dinsmores and their salty-mouthed parrot, Topper. And they discovered which family values, from love and equality to thrift and cleanliness, could withstand shin splints, an abscessed tooth, aching legs, failing knees, bad water—and a long, narrow trail and 137 nights together in a 6-by-8-foot tent.

Primarily written by the mother, Barbara, *Zero Days* also incorporates drawings from 10-year-old Mary's journal, as well as her own insightful and often humorous musings along the trail. (\$15.95, 1st edition, paperback; \$21.95, 1st edition, cloth). Available now at local bookstores or at www.wildernesspress.com.

Zero Days will be sold at the event, and is available at Towne Center Books.

The program is free and open to all. No registration required.

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

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Photo - Emily Rexrode

Pictured are (from left) Stephen Rexrode, Moya Stone, Richard Aiello

'Betrayal' Next for Role Players

Role Players Ensemble will present Harold Pinter's "Betrayal" at the Town Meeting Hall in Danville, 210 Front Street, on Friday and Saturday March 7, 8, 14 and 15 at 8pm.

RPE's Black Box productions, which have included Donald Margulies' "Sight Unseen," Michael Frayn's "Copenhagen" and Jane Martin's "Talking with—" are presented without formal theatre facilities and with limited production values. This approach allows RPE to present well-written and arresting theatre at low cost both to RPE and to theatregoers. Tickets are \$10 for general seating at the door.

Pinter is one of the pre-eminent English language dramatists of the 20th century. He won the Nobel Prize for literature in 2005. The citation accompanying the award said, in part, that Pinter is a playwright "who in his plays uncovers the precipice under the everyday prattle and forces entry into oppression's closed rooms." He is celebrated for his use of silence and pauses which introduce a sense of men-

ace and uncertainty into his work, causing the adjective "Pinteresque" to have been coined.

A tale of adultery among a triangle of close friends, "Betrayal" is told backwards, beginning after the end of the affair that is central to the play. All three characters practice deception, concealment and secrecy covered with a veneer of Anglo-Saxon politeness.

This production includes Stephen Rexrode, Richard Aiello and Moya Stone. Rexrode and Aiello developed the Black Box concept for Role Players and directed the first two productions.

"We are delighted to be able to bring this remarkable play to Danville audiences" said Stephen Rexrode. "Pinter is not only the pre-eminent dramatist of his generation, but he is also a master of the dark spaces in relationships as 'Betrayal' clearly shows."

For more information contact Role Players Ensemble Theatre at (925) 820-1278 or visit www.danvilletheatre.com.

Oz Evening Launch of Brick Campaign

The Pleasanton Cultural Arts Foundation will launch the first phase of the commemorative brick campaign on Friday, February 29 at the Foundation's "Wonderful Evening of Oz" gala event.

Members of the community will be invited to "purchase" bricks that will be permanently installed at the Firehouse Arts Center.

Campaign Director of the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Foundation, Debbie Look, noted, "We have had many inquiries about purchasing bricks at the Firehouse Arts Center. People are excited about the opportunity to create a lasting legacy in our community. These bricks are a wonderful way to mark a special occasion, to honor the memory of a loved one, or to pay tribute to a close friend or relative. We invite everyone in the community to follow the yellow brick road and bring the arts home to Pleasanton. Each brick purchased will bring us closer to our goal of fully funding the exciting new Firehouse Arts Center in downtown Pleasanton"

Bricks may be purchased in the name of an individual, a family, a company or even a favorite pet. The bricks, measuring 4 x 8", are available for \$150 each. Bricks may be inscribed with up to 3 lines with 15 characters per line. Brick donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

For more information about buying a brick contact PCAF at (925) 846-1007 or go to www.pleasantonartsfoundation.org.

The Firehouse Arts Center will be constructed on the site of the historic Fire Station #1 on Railroad Avenue. The facility will include a 240-seat theater, 2,000 square feet of art gallery space and two large dedicated art classrooms.

City Manager Nelson Fialho told the city council last week that it is anticipated that construction will get underway this fall.



Foothill performs at Lincoln Band Review Jazz Competition held on Nov. 17, 2007, where the Jazz A took first place in the Class A Division.

Foothill Band Invited to Monterey Jazz Festival

The Foothill High School's Jazz A Band has been accepted to compete at the Monterey Jazz Festival's "Next Generation" event from April 3 to 6. It is the second year that the Foothill Jazz A Band is in this competition. They are one of twelve high school bands chosen from across the country to compete in the Next Generation Festival, a program associated with the Monterey Jazz Festival.

Members of the Jazz Band include Michael Czaja, Sahil Punamia, alto sax; John Holmgren, Kevin Miller, Kirk

Naylor, tenor sax; Anthony DeBenedetti, baritone sax; Maxwell Messenger, Spencer Miller, Kurt Pretzel, Jessica Saldinger, Dan Yeffa, trumpet; Jeff Buscheck, Steven DePinna, Ryan Fuerstenau, David Gruen, Sam Joda, trumpet; Jonathan Lee, piano; Eugene Band, Joe Alicea, guitar; Kyle Fujino, Sam Shieh, bass; Tyler Brown, Eric Miller, drums.

Correction: Names were left out of last week's story on Foothill High School honor band honorees. All-Northern High School Honor Band included

Anthony DeBenedetti, John Holmgren, and Sahil Punamia. Kevin Choy was named to the California Band Directors Association (CBDA) 2008 High-School All-State Honor Band.

Valparaiso Chorale Performing Concert in Livermore

The Valparaiso University Chorale, one of the nation's leading Lutheran collegiate choirs, will perform at Our Savior Lutheran Ministries, 1385 South Livermore Avenue, Livermore, on Sunday, March 2, at 4:00 p.m.

There is no charge for the concert; a free-will offering will be collected.

A diverse array of works will be performed by the Chorale during its concert, including Morten Lauridsen's contemporary choral masterpiece "Lux Aeterna," the J.S. Bach motet "Lobet den Herrn," Canadian composer Imant Raminsh's "I will sing unto the Lord" (Ps. 104), and a series of three songs set to poems by English poets Robert Herrick and Robert Bridges and Irish poet William Butler Yeats.

Conducted by Christopher M. Cock, Phyllis and Richard Duesenberg chair of Lutheran music, the Chorale is the premier choral ensemble at Valparaiso.

During its 2007 tour of historic German churches, the 50-voice ensemble became the first choir from the United States to serve a residency at St. Thomas Church in Leipzig, where J.S. Bach worked and composed many of his most famous works. The Chorale also performed with the Leipzig Baroque Orchestra in Wittenberg's historic Castle Church—where Martin Luther posted his 95 theses to launch the Reformation—in a critically-acclaimed performance that raised funds to help repair the recently storm-damaged church.

The Chorale's fifth CD recorded under Dr. Cock's direction, "As it is in Heaven," was released in 2006 by Valpo ArtsMedia (valpo.edu/vuca/valpoartsmedia). The album features live performances recorded during the Chorale's recent in-

ternational and U.S. Tours.

Our Savior Lutheran Ministries is located at 1385 South Livermore Avenue in Livermore. Call 925-447-1246, ext. 231 for more information.

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The Flyboys

By Leonard Pirkle

The California Independent Film Festival holds its annual event in Livermore; this year is the Festival's tenth anniversary and the seventh event in Livermore. Over the weeks leading up to the festival, we will be giving residents an advance look at some of the films you can see at this year's festival.

The first film is, The Flyboys. This film was directed by Rocco DeVilliers, who also co-wrote the story with Jason DeVilliers and Richard Dutcher. It is an exciting story about two teenage boys, Kyle and Jason, who accidentally stow away on a plane that is owned by the Mob and find themselves involved in a series of life threatening situations. The plane is used for the transport of goods and personnel between Las Vegas and a small town in Colorado. The twists and turns in this film will keep the audience on edge wondering what could possibly happen next.

One of the teens, Jason, is looking for courage to stand up to bullies and find a place in his grandfather's eyes, a WWII fighter pilot who was decorated for bravery and service with honor. The other, Kyle, is a new kid in town, being raised by a single mom and looking to find a permanent home. The two meet at school and forge an immediate friendship borne out of an incident involving a demonstration of "standing up for oneself" by the new kid.

The supporting cast in this film is very good, with stand out performances by Tom Sizemore



and Stephen Baldwin. Both actors have numerous film credits and are easily recognizable talent.

The film is above average for an independent film. The special effects are of a quality not usually seen in smaller budget movies. The teen stars of this film, Jesse James as Jason and Reiley McClendon as Kyle, are very good and deliver what can only be described as near perfect performances. The audience will also see a cameo role by Jesse Plemons, who plays Landry Clarke on the popular Friday Night Lights, as one of the bullies who engage Jason and Kyle.

After screening hundreds of submissions to the Festival over the years, I can honestly say that this is one of my favorites. This is a great story for adults and kids. Don't miss the screening of this wonderful film and be sure to keep an eye out for more reviews.

The Festival will be held April 16th through the 20th in downtown Livermore. Screenings will take place at the Vine Cinema and the Livermore Cinemas, both on First Street. Check out the schedule of events at www.caindiefilmfest.org and keep reading The Independent for more California Independent Film Festival news and information.

Teen Art Featured In Exhibit

The Livermore Public Library invites teens to participate in the 2008 Livermore Lives! Teen Art Expo. The Friends of the Livermore Public Library is sponsoring the event.

Livermore residents in the sixth through twelfth grades are invited to submit a piece of original art, visually expressing a distinct perspective of their lives. Media including painting, sculpture, photography, textiles and collage are eligible for this exhibit. Entries will be accepted Monday, March 3, through Sunday, March 23, at the Livermore Civic Center Library. Artwork will be shown as space allows.

For more information and to access applications, please visit the Teen Space link on the Livermore Public library's website at www.livermore.lib.ca.us, or contact the Information Desk at 373-5505.

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Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Ben Baker, Skylar Hilton and Matthew Bulmer (from left) took part in last weekend's Runescape game session at the Livermore Library. The program was 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.

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Topic of Saturday Lecture

"Greenhouse Gas Reduction: Underground Storage of Carbon Dioxide" is the topic for the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory "Science on Saturday" lecture at the Bankhead theater.

The Sat., March 1 program will be presented by Julio Friedmann, Lab scientist, and Bret States, Tracy High School teacher. There will be two presentations, one at 9:30 a.m. and the

second begins at 11:15 a.m.

Most scientists agree that manmade carbon dioxide (CO₂) released into the atmosphere is the main cause of climate change. So why not store the CO₂ somewhere instead of releasing it to the air? Scientists have been thinking about this for some time. The presentation will explore this process, called carbon capture and storage (CCS), and

how it might be used.

The Bankhead Theater is located at 2400 First St., Livermore. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis; there is no pre-registration. Directions, maps and a complete list of lectures are available at <http://education.llnl.gov/sos/>. Science on Saturday is presented by LLNL's Science Education Program.

Students to 'Shadow' Pleasanton Officials

Forty-five Pleasanton students from Amador Valley, Foothill, Horizon and Village high schools will converge on Pleasanton City Hall and the Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) offices on Tuesday, March 4, to participate in the annual "Youth in Government Day" program.

Students will have the opportunity to job shadow elected city council and PUSD Board of Trustees members, the city man-

ager and the PUSD superintendent, as well as school principals, the police and fire chiefs, and other leading City and school administrators.

The day's agenda begins with a welcome in the city council chambers for all participants, led by Pleasanton City Manager Nelson Fialho and PUSD Superintendent John Casey. Students will then job shadow their assigned city/school leader to get a glimpse into a day of their re-

spective career responsibilities.

The entire group will convene again for lunch at the Village High School Café and hear from keynote speakers that include Pleasanton Mayor Jennifer Hosterman and PUSD Board of Education President Jim Ott.

Following lunch, the students will break into groups to discuss the issues of student mental health and substance abuse and then report their comments to all the day's participants.

County Fair Board Adds Two Directors

Two new Directors have been selected to serve on the Board of the Alameda County Agricultural Fair Association, Paul Banke and Dean Schenone.

Paul Banke, of Livermore, has owned and operated WP Cattle Company since 1979. From 1977-1979 Paul was Executive Director of the Colorado Cattle Feeders Association in Denver, Colorado.

"I'd be honored to be asked to help steward these traditions forward," says Paul. He added, "My qualifications and experience with horses, livestock and the people who own them, will provide insight for the Fair Board."

Paul previously served as a Director of the ValleyCare Foundation and the ValleyCare Health System Board of Directors, where he served as Chairman of the Finance Committee.

Thirty-year Pleasanton resident Dean Schenone is currently CEO of FloraTech, Inc., a landscape contracting company where he has been employed since 1989. Previously Dean was Vice President and co-owner of a nursery in Sunol. With over 35 years of experience in the multi-dimensional horticulture industry, Dean says he hopes to represent and give guidance to the horticulture element of the fair

Dean previously served on the Zone 7 Water Board and California State Regional Water Quality Board.

The fairgrounds is home to the oldest one mile race track in America dating back to 1858. The Fair Association is well underway preparing for the 2008 Alameda County Fair, June 20th - July 6th celebrating 150 years of Horse Racing.

The Alameda County Fair is ranked as one of the top 50 fairs in the United States and has won numerous awards both nationally and internationally. The Fairgrounds also hosts more than 300 events annually.

Author to Introduce New Field Guide to the Sierra Nevadas

Naturalist and an artist, John Muir Laws has a simple mission in mind: to enrich the outdoor experience of everyone who sets foot in the Sierra Nevada. He will be at the Livermore Library on March 2 to discuss the release of his newest field guide.

For the past 6 years, Laws has been creating a pocket size field guide to over 1,700 species found in the Sierra Nevada.

The guide boasts 2,710 original watercolor paintings and has been field-tested and reviewed by educators, naturalists, and scientists throughout the country. Laws illustrates some of the most astonishing relationships between Sierran species, discusses emerging conservation issues, and describes his techniques for painting in the field. Residents are invited to celebrate the release of *The Laws Field Guide to the Sierra Nevada* and hear of the adventures in the making of this comprehensive work.

This free event will be presented at 2pm on Sunday, March 2 at the Livermore Public Library Civic Center, 1188 S. Livermore Avenue.

The Friends of the Livermore

Library have underwritten this program as part of the Friends Authors and Arts Series.

For additional events, access the library's website at

www.livermore.lib.ca.us. For further information about programs, please contact Joyce Nevins at (925) 373-5500 extension 5577.



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Seniors Helping Seniors Dance Is Scheduled

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARP) joins Livermore High School in hosting a free "Seniors Helping Seniors" Dance for Livermore seniors at the Robert Livermore Community Center on Thursday, March 13, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The Livermore High School Senior Class of 2008 will provide entertainment, appetizers and lots of fun. This is the second year the senior class has organized this event.

There will be drawings for prizes. Any donations received this evening will benefit the LARP Friendship Center, an adult day care program. To reserve a space, a \$5 refundable deposit is requested when picking up tickets beginning Thursday, March 4, at 2 pm in the Sycamore Room. Space is limited.

For more information please call Dana at 373-5763. Robert Livermore Community Center is located at 4444 East Avenue in Livermore.

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<p>LIVERMORE \$4,599,000</p> <p>By Appointment Luxurious Ruby Hill custom 6bd/6ba, 5,138+/-sf home, formal DR/FR with gas burning FP/FP in the Master. Panoramic view!</p>	<p>DUBLIN \$1,028,000</p> <p>By Appointment Beautiful West Dublin Hills Home. This home has 4bd/4.5ba, 3,317+/-sf of living space. Backyard patio/fountain/Koi pond.</p>	<p>LIVERMORE \$929,000</p> <p>By Appointment Generously upgraded, 5bd/3ba, 3,572+/-sf multifunctional home has hi-tech touches for the ultra-active lifestyle. A must see!</p>	<p>LIVERMORE \$839,000</p> <p>By Appointment Single story home in Dunsmuir area of Livermore offers 4bd/3ba. Gorgeous home has formal living and dining rooms. View!</p>	<p>LIVERMORE \$789,950</p> <p>By Appointment Charming 3bd/2.5ba Colonial home. Vintage look with modern amenities. Carriage and French doors. Stone/hardwood flooring.</p>
<p>LIVERMORE \$765,000</p> <p>By Appointment 4bd/3ba, 2,872+/-sf home with a popular floorplan. New carpet, hardwood floors, fresh decorator paint. Large sideyard.</p>	<p>PLEASANTON \$749,900</p> <p>By Appointment 1037 Hometown Way Open Sun 1-4 No rear neighbors! Detached single family home. 3bd/2.5ba, 2,029+/-sf. Close to downtown Pleasanton on end of cul-de-sac.</p>	<p>LIVERMORE \$724,000</p> <p>By Appointment 4bd/3ba (1bd/1ba downstairs), 2,200+/-sf upgraded home. Gas burning FP in family room. Private backyard with patio.</p>	<p>LIVERMORE \$689,000</p> <p>By Appointment 1232 Diamond Ct. Open Sun 1-4 Looks like a model home! 3bd/2ba, 1,746+/-sf on a nice court location. Hardwood floors. Master retreat has gas fireplace.</p>	<p>LIVERMORE \$444,950</p> <p>By Appointment Beautiful 3bd/1.5ba home in Sunset West with updated baths, hardwood floors, newer appliances, newer roof and much more.</p>

LIVERMORE | 2300 First Street, #316 | 925.583.1111