



Bob Borchers

Learn about Innovations Such as the iPod

Behind such products as a solid gold cell phones, the iPod and iPhone is someone with a great idea.

Learn about "Innovation: The Search for New Ideas" during a talk to be presented by Bob Borchers at the Bankhead Theater on Thurs., March 5 at 7:30 p.m.

Borchers is Apple's Senior Director of Worldwide Product Marketing for the iPhone. He is a 1984 Livermore High School graduate

Borchers has been part of creating innovative products and technologies with over 15 patents granted or pending. Each product emerges in a quest to discover what makes things new.

The presentation is part of the Rae Dorough Speakers Series. Tickets are \$40/\$30 adults, \$20/\$15 students 21 & under. For tickets call 925.373.6800 or online

at www.bankheadtheater.org

Bankhead Theater is located at 2400 First Street, Downtown Livermore.



Steven Ball gets a big hug from one of his many friends and relatives.

Welcome Home Party in Livermore

By Victoria Kameronzell

When Livermore resident Steven Ball returned from his third tour of duty, he didn't expect a neighborhood block party. On February 28, nearly one hundred people gathered to welcome Steven back home. He hadn't been in Livermore in nearly four years, back home. The crowd included his childhood soccer coach, neighbors, high school friends and his nine-month old son Jack, who hadn't seen his father in nearly six months.

Steven said he suspected his mother might have arranged a small gathering. However, he had no idea so many people would be there to greet him.

An aura of excitement and thankfulness filled the afternoon. His friends and family expressed gratitude for his safe return, although Steven's visit will be short. In March he will return

(See WELCOME, page 2)



A drought tolerant butterfly garden is one beautiful example of a garden cultivated using water sparingly. Story on page 2.

Photo - Bay-Friendly Landscape and Gardening Program

\$1.3 Million Grant to Boost Health Care

Axis Community Health has been designated a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) New Access Point and has been awarded a \$1.3 million American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant.

This announcement also coincides with the recent opening of Axis' new behavioral health building in Pleasanton and the planning for a new Women's Health Clinic slated to open later this spring.

Over the next 24 months, Axis Community Health expects to serve an additional 4,000 patients and provide 21,000 more medical visits each year. This will also

increase its capacity to provide mental health counseling (250 new clients, 6,000 more visits) and substance abuse services (500 clients, 15,000 visits). The current staff of 110 will be increased to approximately 175.

"Axis Community Health is a fine example of a local health care organization that has stepped up to meet the growing needs of our community. I'm glad that Axis Community Health will be able to better serve the Tri-Valley as a result of this grant," said Rep. Jerry McNerney, who helped announce the grant.

Axis is one of 126 commu-

nity health centers nationwide that was identified as a recipient of New Access Point grants. They total \$155 million, which will help provide health services to a total of 750,000 Americans and create 5,500 jobs.

In California, Axis is among 12 community clinics to receive New Access Point grants. The funding is projected to enable the clinics to provide 80,890 additional Californians with medical care and create 600 new jobs.

"This is huge for us," says Axis Community Health CEO Sue Compton. "We have attempted to obtain federal funding in the past, but were disqualified be-

cause previous priorities were on clinics that were located in rural and border areas."

Compton added, "The infusion of these funds comes at an especially critical time for community clinics. In these economic times, as more and more Tri-Valley residents face job losses and health insurance, they are turning to us for their medical care. Our clinics are bursting and we have a one month waiting list for most of our services. Because we are the only provider of primary care medical services in eastern Alameda County and the Tri-Valley area, more than 200 new residents are turning to

us each month now for their medical care."

This funding supports the additional staff and will allow the clinic to increase its hours. Compton stated, "Although details will not be finalized for some time, we anticipate that our clinics will be open six-seven days a week and at least five evenings a week. Additional hours will be available in our behavioral health services as well.

"As exciting as this is, this makes our need for a new clinic facility yet more urgent. We are currently completing construction on a new women's clinic and

(See HEALTH, page 4)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Pictured are Mary Mumper, Kaitlin Arriali and Grace Wilkins test the Lego robot they built.

Calling All Girls! Tri Valley All Girls Robotics Club Seeks New Members

By Patricia Koning

On Friday night when most teenagers are escaping from academics by going to the movies or hanging out with friends, a small but growing group of middle and high school girls are learning programming, robotics, and engineering—and having a blast.

"We get to build and program and meet new friends," said Gracie Wilkins, a sixth grader at the Livermore Valley Charter School (LVCS).

Gracie and a dozen or so other girls from Livermore, Pleasanton, and Danville are the charter members of the Tri Valley All Girls Robotics Club. The idea for the group came from Kate Picher, a former Lawrence Livermore Na-

tional Laboratory (LLNL) employee. Her daughter was introduced to robotics at "Launch into Technology," a participatory learning program offered by the NASA AMES Research Center and Girl Scouts of Northern California.

Working with Girl Scouts, Picher and a few other parents received a \$10,000 gift from LLNL to get the ball rolling last summer. The All Girls Robotics Club is a special interest group of Girl Scouts. Membership in Girl Scouts is not required to join the group. However, the affiliation with Girl Scouts has many benefits: insurance, a screening process for adult volunteers, meeting space, and scholarships.

The LLNL gift enabled the group to start two teams: one in the First LEGO League (FLL), which is aimed at ages 9-14, and the other in the First Tech Challenge (FTC) for high school students. For FLL, the participants work with a special LEGO Mindstorms NXT kit that includes NXT software for simple drag-and-drop programming. In FTC, participants design, build, and program their robots from a standard kit of parts that includes DC drive motors, servo motors, metal gears, the NXT controller, and metal—no LEGOS involved.

FLL and FTC each have an annual challenge in which teams

(See ROBOTICS, page 2)

Challenges to Staples Ranch EIR Considered

Pleasanton residents are considering both a referendum and a lawsuit to challenge the approval of the draft environmental impact report (DEIR) for the Staples Ranch.

The focus of any challenge would be the adequacy of the report as it relates to the Stoneridge Road extension and mitigation for the Spearscale species found on the property.

The extension of the road was approved as part of the Staples Ranch development last week by a 3 to 2 vote of the city council. Matt Sullivan and Cindy McGovern voted "no." The approval also included rezoning and pre-zoning of the site in anticipation of development.

Sullivan, immediately following the vote, made a motion to place the decision on the ballot for ratification by voters. The motion failed, with Mayor Jennifer Hosterman, and councilmembers Jerry Thorne and Cheryl Cook-Kallio opposed.

The road has been controver-

sial. Those opposed to the extension say that it will create a free-way through the city. They note that the council majority had approved a process for the eventual extension of the road, a process they could buy into. The process the council agreed to would have involved talks with Dublin, Livermore and Alameda County regarding road improvements and potential funding and timing of the projects. In voting to approve the extension, residents said the council had gone back on the agreement. It was suggested by several speakers that the city study the extension, then recirculate the DEIR in order to have more data on which to base its decision.

City staff had recommended that the council approve option one. The option did not include extending the road as part of the development of Staples Ranch. Rather it upheld a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between Alameda County and the city to preserve the right-of-way

(See STONERIDGE, page 12)

Pleasanton School Board To Decide on Parcel Tax

By Ron McNicoll

The Pleasanton school board will come face to face today (March 5) with the two most important issues the district has seen in many years.

The board will decide whether to ask voters to approve a parcel tax either on the May 19 or June 2 ballot, and if so, what amount property owners should pay. Further, the trustees will decide on potential program cuts,

possibly totaling \$9.6 million for the remainder of the fiscal year, and all of the next fiscal year, which will begin July 1.

The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. in the multipurpose room at Amador Valley High School. The board has discussed both subjects at many meetings, and has invited the maximum possible contact from residents and staff. Hundreds of e-mails and options

(See PARCEL, page 4)

Livermore District to Send First Round of Layoff Notices

By Patricia Koning

By the end of next week, at least 25 Livermore School District teachers will have received preliminary layoff notices in the mail. The notices aren't an automatic pink slip. The final notification does not happen until May 15. Even then there is a slim chance some positions could be restored by the start of the 2009/10 school year.

On Wednesday, Feb. 25, the

Livermore Board of Education voted unanimously to authorize Superintendent Brenda Miller to send precautionary notices to 22.24 full time equivalent (FTE) certificated employees. The impacted programs are elementary music and physical education, class size reduction in the middle and high schools, and counseling in grades 6-12.

On Tuesday, March 3 the

(See LAYOFF, page 4)

Events, Traffic Draw Most Complaints at Hearing

Events and traffic were the focus of most complaints during the opening session of a proposed review of the South Livermore Valley Area Plan (SLVAP). Some people said more regulations are needed. Others pointed out that over-regulating would likely kill the plan.

One person noted the discussion seemed to be whether the plan calls for a passive ag area or one that attracts tourists.

Alameda County staff indicated they had concerns about the lack of clarity regarding land uses such as churches, schools

and a possible destination resort. They raised questions about the potential extension of the boundary of the plan by approximately one mile. Staff identified issues that have been raised since the plan was adopted sixteen years ago. They include traffic, parking events, and agricultural/residential interface.

The meeting was held last Wednesday with a standing room only crowd in attendance. Supervisor Scott Haggerty told the gathering, "I want to

(See SO. LIVERMORE, page 4)

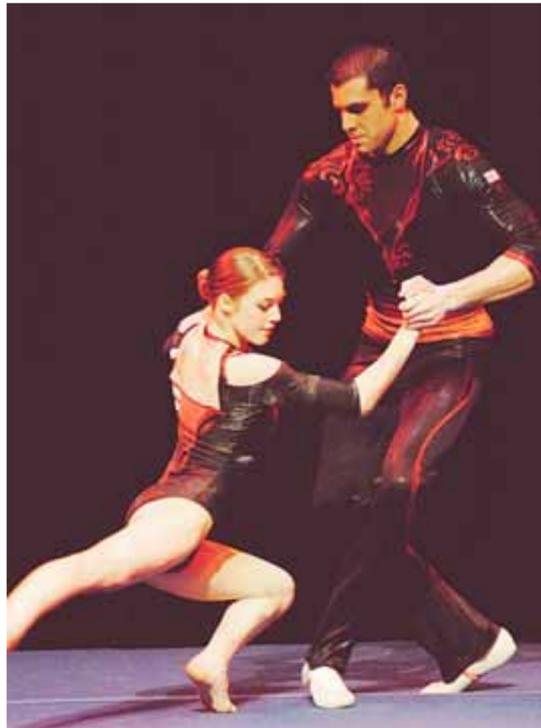


Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Kristen Allen and Michel Rodrigues, an acrobatic gymnastic duo, were winners of the 18 and over division in the Livermore Talent Show. For the story, see page 8.

Livermore Given Great American Main Street Award

The National Trust Main Streets Center presented Downtown Livermore, Inc., of Livermore, California, with one of five 2009 Great American Main Street Awards (GAMSA) during its annual National Main Streets Conference in Chicago on March 2, 2009.

Downtown Livermore, Inc., an official Main Street community, has been working in partnership with the City of Livermore, local residents, property owners, the business community, and others in the city to spur re-investment, support historic preservation, maintain a high quality of life, and grow the local economy.

The GAMSAs recognize exceptional accomplishments in revitalizing America's historic and traditional Main Street commercial districts. Since the organization's inception in 1986, Livermore has benefitted from a \$12.5 million road improvement and beautification project, gained 974 net new jobs, and 194 net new businesses; re-habilitated 82 buildings, constructed 12 new buildings, seen

(See MAIN, page 4)

Inside

Art & Entertainment.....8	Roundup.....3
Bulletin Board.....7	Short Notes.....5
Classifieds.....9	Sports.....6
Editorial.....4	Obituaries.....7



PET OF THE WEEK

Bianca is a tiny Chihuahua with a huge personality. She is young, fun-loving, and very gentle. She would be great with children. To meet Bianca and other dogs available for adoption, visit Valley Humane Society at 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton on Saturdays from 11AM to 2PM. Visit the web site www.valleyhumane.org or call 925-426-8656 for more info. Purchase Jazzed About Pets tickets on-line at www.livermoreperformingarts.org or call the Bankhead Theater box office at 925-373-6800. The performance is March 13.

ROBOTICS

(continued from page one)

build an autonomous robot to complete a pre-designed mission. The challenge is revealed in September, giving teams about two months to prepare for the tournaments that begin in November. FLL teams also analyze, research, and invent a solution for a given assignment and present their solution to a panel of judges. In 2008 topic was climate change.

The All Girls Robotics Club competed in the FLL Challenge last fall, which Melanie Young, one of the group's co-leaders, said was a learning experience. "We'd like to get a lot more girls involved," she said. "Being new, we're just getting the word out. It's mostly been through word-of-mouth."

Most of the middle school girls come from East Avenue Middle School and LVCS, which Young's daughter Kristen attends. The high school girls are from Livermore High School, which is no surprise as they were directed to the club by robotics and engineering teacher Mike Waltz.

LVCS sixth grader Sara Mount joined the group in February after her classmates Gracie and Kristen put on a robotics demonstration. "I was interested because I like building and programming," she said.

The girls enjoy the hands-on and teamwork aspects of the program. "The adults really have to hold back sometimes and let them work things out on their

own," said co-leader Liz Wilkins, who is Gracie's mother.

At a recent meeting, the girls were having so much fun and laughing so hard, it was easy to forget that they were also learning. To determine how much power use to move their robot a set distance, they ended up using an algebraic equation after working through several other methods. "It was cool seeing how we can use algebra in real life, that it's not just boring stuff we study in school," said Gracie.

The all girl aspect of the group was deliberate. "In mixed groups, the guys have a tendency to take over," said Young. "Most of the teams we saw in competition were all boys or they had a token female. Plus even in middle school there is a sense that math isn't cool for girls, so an all girls group removes some of the social pressure."

In fact, one frustration of the All Girls Robotics Club is the lack of high schoolers. By the time the group was started, Picher's own daughter was no longer interested. Young's older daughter, an LHS student, also has no desire to join the group.

"We really need to get girls involved in this earlier," explained Young. "At the FLL Challenge last fall, a team of third graders was one of the top finishers. If our FLL team stays at this for the next few years, they will be amazing when they move onto FTC."

To this end, she's hoping to

start a robotics group for upper elementary students at LVCS. "Ideally, there'd be a robotics group at all the elementary schools in the city, so both boys and girls would get excited before they worry about what's cool," Young said.

The girls aren't the only ones who are learning through play. One of the mentors is Gary Mansfield, a retired LLNL radiation safety expert. "I was interested in building robots when I was a kid, but these kinds of kits just weren't available then," he said. "About 10 years ago, I bought myself a kit and started playing around with it at home."

He began volunteering with the robotics club at Pleasanton's Harvest Park Middle School, where he said he learned right along with the students. He works mostly with the All Girls Robotics Club FTC team.

"We need more mentors," said Young. "Experience in engineering, robotics, or programming

helps, but anyone who can commit to being here every week is welcome."

That welcome extends to any girls in the Tri Valley and beyond, grades six through twelve who are interested in joining the club. The All Girls Robotics Club meets on Fridays from 6:30 to 9 pm at the Girl Scouts cabin on at 2800 Ladd Avenue. There is a \$10 membership fee, but scholarships for financial hardship are available.

Boys, on the other hand, need to find their own club. The girls agree that boys would make the club chaotic and wild and try to take over, and besides, said one girl, "their egos are too big."

For more information, contact Melanie Young at Melanie@redhunter.com. Also visit FIRST: www.usfirst.org; FLL: www.firstlegoleague.org; and Northern California First LEGO League: www.playingatlearning.org/NCAFL/.

Lab Medicare Eligible Retirees Need To Sign Up for Reimbursement

Medicare-eligible Lawrence Livermore Laboratory retirees are reminded that they must sign up for Health Reimbursement Arrangements in order to be reimbursed for health expenses to a maximum of \$2,400 per year. Many retirees have signed up, but some have assumed that simply being paid-up members of health plans was enough for reimbursement.

Health Reimbursement Arrangement packets with instructions on how to sign up were mailed to eligible retirees in December and January. Those who did not receive them can phone Extend Health at 1-866-682-4841 to register. Alternatively, they can go on-line to the Extend Health website for the Livermore Lab, <http://www.extendhealth.com/llns>. The website requires sign-in or

creation of a new account. Those with general questions about eligibility and health care can phone the Lab's central number for retiree benefits, (925) 422-9955.

Retirees seeking reimbursement should keep in mind that they will be required to document medical expenses by mail or fax. Chuck Meier, head of the Lab's Retiree Association, notes that not all health plans will notify the program that makes the reimbursements, called Your Spending Account, that a payment has been received and can be reimbursed. Each retiree should take steps to confirm whether his or her medical program makes these notifications and what kind of proof of payment is required. Confirmation should be done through Extend Health.

Ecologically Friendly Gardening

The San Francisco Bay Area is heading into a third year of drought conditions coupled with court-ordered pumping restrictions from the ecologically fragile delta. Local gardeners can prepare to adapt with help from a free Water-Wise Gardening and Water Efficiency Workshop scheduled on Saturday, March 7 from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.

Hosted by Zone 7 Water Agency and the City of Pleasanton, in cooperation with Alden Lane Nursery and the Bay-Friendly Landscaping and Gardening program, the workshop will be held at the Pleasanton

Public Library, located at 400 Old Bernal Avenue.

Local experts will discuss and demonstrate ways to create a beautiful, low-maintenance and water-conserving garden. Participants will learn about how much water plants really need, what types of plants are the most drought tolerant, the irrigation practices that can save water, and the role of mulch in water conservation.

For more information, please call Zone 7 at (925) 454-5015 or the City of Pleasanton at (925) 931-5500.

WELCOME

(continued from page one)

to Germany with his American wife and son. This summer he will be sent to Afghanistan. A friend of the family dubbed Uncle Jerry oversaw the signing of a wooden flag that guests wrote messages on. The flag included personal greetings and reverence for Steven's service. There was no explicit discussion of the Surge. One of Steven's relatives described her spouse as coming from the kind of military family that knew what it was like not to have everyone return from a war.

The party was planned by Steven's mother, Leah Ball, who filled her driveway with food made with great detail, including cupcakes decorated with miniature flags. Leah's eyes filled with tears when she spoke about her son's impending return. Since he joined the service his family has changed houses so Steven doesn't have a room at their new home. Leah said she goes to Tenderheart, his old stuffed bear, when she misses him. When Steven arrived at the party one of the first things he did was give his mother a long hug.

Steven is a Staff Sergeant E-6 working with unmanned aerial vehicles. He joined the military nine years ago after graduating from high school. He describes that decision as the best possible thing he could have done. Steven credits them with making him more responsible describing the military as a way of life. He met his wife Caitlin Ball when he was stationed in Arizona. Caitlin does not come from a military

family. While acknowledging the difficulty of frequent upheavals and time away from her husband she also said, "I knew what I was getting into." Despite their frequent moves she has retained some close friends in the service. Before her husband's arrival she entertained guests and watched her young son. She felt relieved that Steven was coming home safe but more than anything said she was very excited to see him.

His sister, Katy Latta, laughed along with some friends over stories of a younger Steven who they categorized as "the entertainer." Recalling how she felt upon seeing her brother after four years Katy said she was surprised at how much anxiety she felt. She says her brother, whose nickname in the service is Ice Man due to his well-respected record working with different types of aircraft, has become a more responsible version of what she remembered. She emphasized how thankful she was for his safe return.

Old friends of Steven's paid tribute to his sense of humor, intensity and his charm; when Steven arrived at the party, despite being surprised by the crowd, he immediately began greeting people making a point to say something to elicit laughter or a hug from everyone there. Steven was hesitant to accept too much praise, instead deferring it to his military family. He commended the people he worked with saying it was truly an honor to support those working on the ground.

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Innovation: The Search for New Ideas
Bob Borchers, Rae Dorough Speakers Series
Borchers has been part of creating some wonderfully innovative products from custom shoes to solid gold cell phones and from the iPod to the iPhone. Join this Livermore High '84 Graduate and Apple's Sr. Director of Worldwide Product Marketing as he shares his eclectic and amusing journey in search of innovation.
Mar 5 • 7:30pm \$40/\$30/\$20/\$15 students



Jil Aigrot
Voice of Academy Award Winner, Marion Corillard in La Vie En Rose
This famous French songbird inhabits the role of one of her country's most celebrated songstresses, Edith Piaf. Previously an actress, Jil Aigrot has recently thrown herself into the performance that brought her to the big screen in the first place—releasing "Words of Love," a collection which includes Aigrot's interpretations of nearly 20 of Piaf's most noteworthy songs.
Mar 16 • 8pm \$55/\$40/\$35/\$30/\$12 students



Aquila Theatre Company
William Shakespeare's "The Comedy of Errors"
Aquila's production of Shakespeare's tale of two sets of identical twins whose lives get turned upside down before they are finally put in order relies not only on slapstick comedy, but also on wonderful performances and imaginative staging. Founded in London in 1991 by Peter Meineck, Aquila is now based in New York City.
Mar 23 • 8pm \$45/\$40/\$35/\$30/\$12 students

The Vagina Monologues
Performance Benefiting Tri-Valley Haven
Mar 6 & 7
\$41/\$31/\$26

Alexander Ghindin
2007 Gold Medalist at Cleveland International Piano Competition
Mar 7 • 8pm
\$29/\$24/\$19

Craig Chaquico
Jazzed About Pets
Mar 13 • 8pm
\$50/\$45/\$40

Tickets 925.373.6800

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3634 THORNHILL DR \$589,000
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1817 BUENA VISTA AVE \$995,000
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Single Family, Court location, 3 Bed 2 Bath, 1,380+/SQFT.
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VALLEY ROUNDUP

State of the City

Pleasanton Mayor Jennifer Hosterman will address the state of the national economy, its impact on our city, and what the City and the community can do to weather the situation during her annual state of the city remarks.

The Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce will host the talk. Also included will be highlights of projects completed and begun in the past year and what is planned in the coming year.

The presentation is Tuesday, March 24 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Four Points Hotel by Sheraton in the Dublin/Pleasanton room, above FAZ Restaurant, 5121 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton.

Cost is \$30 per person, table of 8 is \$210. For information or reservations, call 846-5858.

Pedestrian/Bicycle Master Plan

The City of Pleasanton will hold the last of three public workshops to discuss the draft Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan being prepared for the City by Fehr & Peers.

The workshop will be held at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, March 18, in the Veterans Memorial Building, Main Hall, at 301 Main Street in Pleasanton. This workshop will provide an overview of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan, discuss proposed pedestrian improvements, discuss prioritized list of bicycle and pedestrian projects, and take public comments.

The draft master plan is available online at <http://pleasantonbikedplan.webexone.com>. The public can view it by selecting "Enter as Guest" at the left edge of the entry screen, then "Documents" at the left edge of the next screen.

For further information, please contact Janis Stephen in the Community Development Department/Traffic Engineering Division at (925) 931-5671 or by email at jstephen@ci.pleasanton.ca.us

Federal Funding

Congressman Jerry McNerney (CA-11) has announced that key projects in the Tri-Valley should receive federal funding, based on his requests. The funds will be used for essential emergency preparedness, transportation and water projects. The projects were included in the Appropriations bill that passed the House yesterday. The Senate is expected to take up the bill next week.

"These projects are an important part of getting our economy back on track and have critical value to the entire region," Rep. McNerney said. "During these tough times, this injection of capital into the local economy is more important than ever. California's families need the jobs that projects like these can help create."

Descriptions of the projects along with the dollar amounts secured appear below.

\$1,170,000 for the East Bay Regional Communications System for interoperability communications equipment: Funding will be used to purchase equipment for a digital communication system that will allow for shared public safety-related communications between the five Tri-Valley cities in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties: Danville, Dublin, Livermore, Pleas-

anton, and San Ramon. Additionally, the proposed system will allow for communications with emergency service personnel in San Francisco and Oakland.

\$7,990,000 for Livermore-Amador Bus Rapid Transit: Funding will be used for the construction of a dedicated route for a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line that will connect the Dublin/Pleasanton BART station and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, running adjacent to I-580. The project is expected to take 400,000 cars off the road annually.

\$475,000 for I-580 HOV lanes: Funding will be used to add HOV lanes and make other operational improvements to the Livermore Valley section of the I-580 corridor. This project should reduce congestion, relieve pollution, and promote economic growth on one of the busiest transportation corridors in the region.

\$2,871,000 for the San Ramon Valley Recycled Water Program: Funding will be used for the design and construction of distribution pipelines to supply recycled water for the San Ramon Valley Recycled Water Project, an ongoing construction project to create a reliable alternative recycled water source that will supply 30,000 people in Contra Costa and Alameda counties.

\$1,000,000 for Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion: Funding will be used to improve the quality of Bay Area water supplies delivered from the Delta as well as improve the reliability of Bay Area water supplies especially during droughts, emergencies, and regulatory and environmental restrictions. It will also be used to develop water supplies to support fish protection, habitat management and other environmental water needs.

\$1,337,000 for the Alameda Creek Watershed Project: Funding will be used to demonstrate the use of bioengineered stream restoration practices, focusing on the control of stream flow and restoration of the Arroyo de la Laguna tributary to the Alameda Creek.

Property Auction

County Treasurer Tax Collector Donald R. White announced the County's online auction to sell tax delinquent parcels of property. The auction will take place at www.bid4assets.com March 18 through March 19, 2009.

The properties are being sold using Bid4Assets, Inc. Interested persons may preview the properties on the website at www.bid4assets.com, starting February 25th through March 17. Bidding will begin on March 18 and end on March 19. If a potential bidder does not have Internet access, an Offline Bid Form is available from the Tax Collector's Office, which is located at 1221 Oak Street, 1st floor, in Oakland.

The properties for sale are located primarily in Oakland. To be eligible to participate in the auction, a bidder must pre-qualify with a \$5,000.00 deposit. More information regarding the online auction can be obtained from the Treasurer Tax Collector's website at www.acgov.org/treasurer/index.shtml

Rally to Kickoff Parcel Tax Campaign

Pleasanton PTA Council and the Committee to Save Pleasanton Schools invites all Pleasanton residents to a kick-off rally to be held Sunday, March 8, at Valley Community Church located on 4455 Del Valle Pkwy. The event will run from 4:00 to 5:30 PM in the welcoming hall and main sanctuary.

The Committee to Save Pleasanton Schools is a grassroots group of concerned Pleasanton citizens who support a local school funding measure to assist the Pleasanton Unified School District in establishing a more stable and reliable funding source. Such a measure will help insulate the school district and community from the unpredictability of state school funding during these trying eco-

nomie times. This kickoff rally hopes to raise the awareness of the importance of this ballot measure to the Pleasanton community and to collect donations to support the campaign.

This "old-fashioned rally" will showcase just a few of the community's outstanding students and will host speakers who will help outline the reasons a funding measure to support the schools is of high importance for the Pleasanton community. Topics to be covered include the lack of funding received from the State

of California, the impact of the budget cuts to the current school programs, and the correlation of district API scores to property values. Refreshments will be served. Donations to support this endeavor will be collected.

All citizens who are concerned about the impact of cutting at least \$8.7 million from our school budget are invited to attend this free event. For more information or to RSVP to the event, please contact Ruth Aston at ruthaston@yahoo.com.

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John & Julie

Volunteers Sought to Help at AgPark

Volunteers are needed to participate in the upcoming Streamside Hedgerow planting days at the Sunol AgPark. Planting days are organized through the Hands-on-Conservation Program and the Alameda County Conservation Partnership. In addition to planting, there will be a farm tour to explore the surroundings.

The planting and farm tour will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sat., March 7. Volunteers are needed to assist with establishing a hedgerow by spreading mulch and planting native plants. A hedgerow is a farm border including native plants that creates additional, valuable habitat for beneficial native species such as insects, pollinators and birds.

The Sunol AgPark, located at the Sunol Water Temple, is an organic farm that is run by a non-profit organization Sustainable Agriculture Education (SAGE), www.sagecenter.org. The farm is located adjacent to the Arroyo de la Laguna.

Visit www.acred.org for information. RSVPs are required. Contact Leslie Koenig at 925-371-0154 ext 115 or leslie.koenig@acred.org for more information.

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EDITORIAL

Campus Boom

Building is booming at Las Positas College.

New buildings, including child care and performing arts centers, are going up. Older science and technology facilities are undergoing renovation and expansion. Athletic facilities and a parking lot are among other additions. An aquatic center with two pools has just been completed. Also planned is a 77,000-square-foot student/administration center.

There are design features aimed at minimizing energy waste and reducing the carbon footprint of the campus.

The funding comes from Measure B, a \$498 million bond issue approved by the community college district's voters in 2004.

The boom at Las Positas didn't just happen. It is the product of exemplary planning by the district staff and board, and of foresight by the voters who approved Measure B. All saw early what the needs of the fledgling campus would be. They set in motion the needed construction and kept the plans pretty much on track through the years. With the current work, the buildout of the campus is beginning to come to fruition.

Though these are tough times for school budgets, it's good to see that a forward-looking district can still make great things happen.

LAYOFF

(continued from page one)

Board voted to add to the list an additional FTE in high school industrial technology/arts, which covers electives such as electronics, woodworking, drafting. (The result of that vote was not known at press time.)

The number of layoffs looked to be much higher a few weeks ago. Before Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed the California budget on Feb. 20, the District was preparing to lose \$3.9 million in revenue in the current school year and over \$7 million ongoing. Those numbers have dropped to \$2.4 million and \$5 million ongoing because the new budget shifts cuts from the general fund into categorical programs.

Over 70 FTE teaching positions will be eliminated altogether. Over 50 of those are retirees and temporary employees who are always released at the end of the school year. There also will be layoffs among classified staff. As those positions require only a 45-day notification, the Board has until April 30 to take action. Assistant Superintendent Mike Martinez said discussions about reductions in classified staff have already begun.

Class sizes in kindergarten through third grade will increase to 22:1, which will result in a penalty of about \$300,000 in the Class Size Reduction funding the District receives from the state. Even with the penalty, increasing the class size by two students will save the District nearly \$1 million.

"The State is working against us. They say they have not touched class size reduction in these budget cuts. It was never fully funded in the first place," said trustee Stu Gary. "I think this is the start of a phased reduction. We can expect annual reductions, and that's if we're lucky."

Elementary physical education (PE) and music programs will take a big hit, as half of the music teachers and all of the PE teachers will be laid off. "We're going to have to use a different model for music. It could be larger groups and less frequent classes. We're not sure right now exactly how it will look," said Miller.

"The elimination of 2.35 FTE means that PE will have to be delivered another way, such as by classroom teachers," said Martinez. Education code requires that elementary schools provide 200 minutes of PE instruction per 10 days of school,

not including recesses and lunch breaks.

Middle schools will lose the equivalent of 1.5 teachers and one counseling position serving grades 6-12. A total of 15.75 high school teachers are identified, which will raise the average class size to 30.5 students per teacher. That breaks down to an equivalent of 6.25 FTEs in English, 2.5 in history/social science, two each in Spanish and science, one each in physical education and industrial tech/arts, and one-half each in French and German.

"This action is not about poor performance. In fact, some of these employees have been identified as shining stars with a bright future in education," said Martinez.

Decisions about whom to lay off are based on seniority and qualifications, not job performance. Once the Board determines the services to be eliminated or reduced, a "bumping" process is used to identify the actual employees.

For example, the least senior high school science teachers would be first to go. If one of those teachers is qualified to teach another subject, such as math, or another level, such as middle school, he or she could "bump" another less senior teacher in that subject or level.

To break ties in seniority, weight is given to English Language Learner Certification, experience not reflected in the seniority date, and professional preparation such as additional credentials, authorizations, and graduate degrees. If this all sounds complicated, it is. In April, the District will hold a hearing at which teachers who have received layoff notices can challenge their status.

Some teachers who receive layoff notices later this month may be taken off the list before final notifications are sent out in May. "We're dealing with bits of information that we receive on a daily and even hourly basis," explained Miller.

Another factor is the California state budget, which relies on the passage of five ballot measures. If all of those ballot measures do not pass in the May 19 Special Election, the whole picture could change.

"This is a grave thing we are doing. It will affect kids and families. If we don't take action now, in a few months our payroll won't clear. No one will get paid. Kids won't receive any services," said trustee Kate Runyon.

positions are also identified. Others are relatively small, with one-half FTEs to as many as 7 FTEs in various subjects.

Some 17.6 administrative positions are tabbed for cutting. They include 3.5 elementary assistant principals, 3 middle school vice principals, the district public information officer, the director of assessment and program evaluation, and director of educational services. Some 63 classified jobs are proposed for elimination. They include 10 custodians, 3.5 library media assistants, and 18 special needs assistants.

ARKIN SUGGESTS SPECIFIC PLAN

When the board met Feb. 24, trustee Valerie Arkin passed out a copy of what she called a starting point for the cuts. Her plan would cut \$8.9 million from the

Wheels Scales Back Service Further

By Ron McNicol

The board that operates Wheels bus service voted unanimously to institute longer midday bus intervals and eliminate some Saturday or Sunday service on various lines.

In doing so at its meeting March 2, the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA) board passed up an alternative scenario, in which all Valley bus service would be eliminated on weekends, with the exception of minimal service on the I line, which serves Dublin. Staff prepared the bus-less weekend scenario at the request of the board's operations committee, which met last week.

After the staff analyzed that option and the one the board eventually adopted, it was clear that elimination of weekend service would lose many more patrons than the plan that was adopted. Wiping out the weekend buses would have elimi-

nated 322,961 riders annually. The adopted plan will remove only 193,313 riders.

Both plans saved virtually the same amount of money and service hours. The rule of thumb for Wheels is that it costs \$50 per hour per bus run to provide service.

Among the service changes will be discontinuance of Sunday service on the 8 line in Pleasanton and dropping weekday intervals of 30 minutes to one hour. Saturday service remains, and continues at its one-hour intervals. The 10 line, which goes through all three Valley cities, loses its all-nighter service and will change midday frequency from 15 minutes to 30 minutes.

The 12, which serves Livermore, Dublin and Las Positas college, will no longer run on Sundays, and will have longer intervals on weekdays. The 15 bus, which serves Springtown, will drop in frequency midday

and on Saturdays from 30 to 60 minutes. Lines 1, 3, 11, 16, 18, 50 and 51 also will experience changes.

The adopted plan will save 30,926 hours and \$1.54 million. The new plan is needed because the State Transit Assistance (STA) fund has been eliminated for the next five years to bail out the state budget. There is also less revenue from a sales-tax support fund because of the recession.

LAVTA is operating in this fiscal year at about a loss of \$1.5 million to \$2 million. The further loss from STA, and the sales tax fund, will bring the total annual losses to about \$3 million in the next fiscal year, according to executive director Paul Matsuoka.

The cuts for this fiscal year, combined with the fare hikes, will garner about \$110,000 for the agency in the last quarter of the fiscal year, which ends June

30. The agency has a reserve of \$2.7 million. However, it's not clear how much of it will be needed.

Matsuoka told the Independent that finance analyst Tamara Edwards will be examining other parts of the Wheels operation and report back about costs and potential savings there.

The board did not make any changes to fares at its March 2 meeting. The members had already voted at the meeting Feb. 2 to raise the fares. They will go into effect March 21. Minor service cuts approved at that meeting will go into effect March 22.

Fares will rise to \$2 for adults and youths between 6 and 18, and \$1 for seniors. The free weekday rides for seniors between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. will be eliminated. Persons with disabilities will pay \$1 per ride on fixed routes, instead of riding free. There are also fare increases for Wheels paratransit.

SO. LIVERMORE

(continued from page one)

assure you, not everything is on the table. It is a great plan. There is no conspiracy here. There is no development company wanting to build. From the county's standpoint, we want to check the pulse of the plan and make sure that what we are doing is right. When we are done, we may say it is fine as it is."

Haggerty said that supervisors wrestle with issues that are not covered in the plan, including definition of what constitutes a winery. For example, if someone buys five acres, brings in a couple of porta-potties could that be considered a winery? "We want wineries to come in. When a winery comes in, there should be significant investment involved."

Chris Bazar, director of the county planning department, said the idea is to talk about concerns that have been brought to the county's attention. There are projects coming before the county that are not defined in the plan. "We want to talk about whether some degree of new regulation is necessary. We may need a winery ordinance," he stated. "Over the years, sensitivities have grown."

Traffic, events and parking were inter-related in the minds of many.

Al Lopez, planning director, noted that the rural roads were not built to accommodate high volumes of traffic. "We are not clear how much is attributable to the wine area activity. However, during wedding receptions, concerts and other special events the level of service goes to D or F."

Many in the crowd felt that wineries were not the main cause. Rather they blamed the congestion on commuters traveling from the Central Valley to jobs in the San Jose area. Speakers said the drivers speed. They cross over double yellow lines. "People coming to the wineries are dispersed throughout the day. The issues are commuters, and bicyclists riding three across. A little courtesy would go a long way to solving problems," one speaker commented.

It was noted that enforcement had been stepped up in the area, with the sheriff doubling the number of officers in the Valley.

One complaint related to traffic accessing a winery located on a private road. Several residents felt it was inappropriate to allow for a tasting room on a private road. In fact, most of the complaints during the evening came from residents who live on Victoria Lane.

While the county has no control over a private road, it does have jurisdiction over land uses along the road. Several neighbors felt that a winery and tast-

ing room should not be a permitted use, but require a conditional use permit. They say that would have allowed them to provide input on the use.

Bazar commented, "A stellar winery, to be successful, will have traffic. The goal is to achieve a balance between too much and not enough regulation."

Some suggested that wineries were given preference when it comes to obtaining county permission. If someone wants to raise horses they have to jump through hoops to obtain a permit. One property owner noted he was unable to obtain a permit for an indoor arena, yet a winery requires no permit.

Wineries should be treated as commercial ventures, requiring permit, another person added.

Bazar explained that the plan puts wine making in a particular category. The county has spent time over the last few years streamlining the permit process for the equestrian community. "We can't give them a hall pass. However, we are trying to make it easier."

Parking on private roads, in vineyards and along the shoulders of the roads is not addressed in any ordinance. Lopez said that no one wants necessarily to pave over land to provide more parking.

Guidelines generally limit the number of people attending events to the size of a winery. For example, 200 guests would be appropriate on a 20 acre site, but not on a 5 acre parcel.

A use permit is required for events. In some cases, people noted that events are held without permits. The fine for doing so is considered part of doing business.

Bazar said that the county is working on an ordinance that provides for more dramatic penalties for code violations.

"The county has received sig-

nificant complaints regarding events held under tents and canopies," said Lopez. An ordinance is in the works.

Noise, odor, trash, and hours of operation were all issues related to special events.

One speaker noted that Pleasanton requires any amplified music to be played indoors with doors and windows closed. "Noise is one of the biggest impacts on our quality of life. Every event has some music."

There were complaints about the size of the Palm Event Center and Casa Real. However, it was noted that both are within the Pleasanton city limits, which is considered an appropriate location. Another speaker felt that restaurants and event centers should only be located in cities. There should be no tasting room unless the grapes used to make the wine are grown on site.

Bazar commented that a conditional use permit is required for an event center. He said that the complaints are related to policy issues. Currently the definition of a winery is that wine making must be the primary activity. One thing the county needs to do is add clarity. For example, do grapes need to be grown on site, what percentage of the grapes are required to be processed on site. What level of retail is permissible?

"My concern is trying to over-regulate the business. If we start doing so, the wine industry won't succeed," said one speaker.

Bazar noted that Napa is a very highly regulated area. "I don't think that would work here. There needs to be some middle ground to achieve a balance between agriculture and residents."

Sblend Sblendorio said the one thing missing is bed and breakfast establishments. "It's the one thing I thought we'd have more of."

Bazar said one of the ideas

brought up recently was allowing a destination resort. "How big should it be; should there be one or two. We want to put the idea on the table."

"A use that has been controversial is a church. It's a tricky issue. County zoning allows for a church within any area of the county as a conditional use. We would be in trouble with federal law if we were to change that. The question is how should the South Livermore plan regulations apply to churches or schools. It is one of the key missing issues that we need to talk about," noted Bazar.

Water and expanding the boundaries of the plan were briefly discussed. Under Measure D, the boundaries could be extended one mile. Bazar suggested that should be a topic for future discussion. Any implementation could be conditioned on a reliable source of water.

Water availability should be part of any discussion, as should climate change said one speaker.

The county looked at eleven other wine regions in the state. All required some type of use permit for a winery. Ten of the eleven required a permit for a tasting room, which was allowed only with an on-site winery. Days and hours of operation and number of patrons were regulated in several of the counties. All required use permits for special events.

A representative of the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association pointed out that there are a number of issues that do need to be addressed. "However, we would like to caution the county as to Napa regulations. They have 300 wineries, we have 43. Napa is an anomaly. If you were to combine the tourism in all other wine regions it would not reach the level of Napa. We need to work together to come up with a plan that works for all of us."

More Than 100 Hear Genocide Causes

By Ron McNicol

A Pleasanton elementary school principal and an American who works against African genocide took on the problem of what it takes to halt genocide in foreign nations.

For Adeymi Coker, of the African Diaspora Foundation, there are a variety of causes, though the root is really greed, he said. Greed leads to the kind of dominance that is happening in Darfur, Uganda and other places where one tribe or ethnic group is subjugating another, he told more than 100 at Amador Valley High School last Saturday.

The gathering was the second

annual conference on genocide. It was sponsored by STAND, the Student Anti-genocide Coalition. STAND member and Amador student Shelby Margolin was prominent in pulling together the program.

Part of the reason genocide is not halted is the shield some nations use to try to block foreign intervention. The sovereignty claim stopped action by the United States in Rwanda, until it was too late, Coker said. And yet, the United States invaded the sovereign nation of Iraq, said Coker.

The attitude by the United States and the West toward black Africa is not unusual, said Coker. King Leopold of Belgium slaughtered 10 million Congolese in more than two decades. When some nations protested, he paraded some Congolese in Brussels in cages, with the implication that they were worthless savages. That disrespect is at the core of genocide.

"When we subscribe to the dehumanization of the victim, we see them without form or soul, something that can be easily disposed. They become less than us," said Coker.

Spreading that respect to others by one's own actions is important in political action against genocide. "Action has to be possible and effective. That involves response and commitment. If you respect the person, you are also committed to them. Don't just say, 'Genocide is wrong.' Show them how it is wrong," he said.

RADULOVICH TIES ECOLOGY TO JUSTICE

Walnut Grove elementary school principal Bill Radulovich closed the program with the link between a green Earth and social justice. At age 21 in Los Angeles, he had the chance to work at his father's contracting business, and became a young millionaire.

He said had seen big steam shovels gouging the earth, pick-

ing up voles and moles from their homes, and dropping them into a dump truck. He told himself that education would be a better way to make a living, and wondered if he could earn enough to make that choice all right. Radulovich said he has been more than rewarded with the kind of actions he has been able to do.

With Jill Buck, a parent at the school, he helped found the Go Green Initiative. He has also appeared at a high profile conference, and was asked to edit a book by a Nobel laureate. He would up being invited to write a chapter in that book.

"We are headed for World War III, or a peaceful revolution. We have to get off our addiction to oil. If we do, we'll move away from genocide," said Radulovich. "Forty years ago, I asked myself, could I prosper as an individual (as a teacher)? Can one person make a difference? Yes, I can, and so can you," he said.

FILM SHOWS EXPLOITATION OF BOYS

Also on the program was a movie, "Invisible Children," which displayed such excellent directing, editing and photography by its three young filmmakers that it was at the level of an Academy Award nominee. The film shows the young, sometimes mutilated boys in Uganda who have been kidnapped as young as 9 years old, and impressed into the Lord's Resistance Army.

Some 90 percent of the "army," run by an eccentric who fancies himself divine, are young boys, because most of the other soldiers abandoned the leader. There were not only scenes in Uganda, with one boy telling his story but also the efforts, or lack of them, in getting the United States to take action against it. The only prominent figure in the film who speaks up for action is Sen. Sam Brownback of Kansas. He ran for the Republican presidential nomination in 2008.

PARCEL

(continued from page one)

expressed at several community outreach meetings have brought various views on what should be cut, and whether a parcel tax can be successful.

When the board met Feb. 24, staff showed how many layoffs potentially could aid in balancing the budget. Nearly 148 full-time equivalent positions held by certificated people have been identified by the administration as available for elimination. They are not identified by name, rather by the kinds of activities being taught, such as chemistry in k-12, reading specialists in k-5, and counselors.

The largest category on the certificated list would be 78 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions in "multiple subjects," which means elementary school teachers and also those in middle school blocks. Ten counseling

positions are also identified. Others are relatively small, with one-half FTEs to as many as 7 FTEs in various subjects.

Some 17.6 administrative positions are tabbed for cutting. They include 3.5 elementary assistant principals, 3 middle school vice principals, the district public information officer, the director of assessment and program evaluation, and director of educational services. Some 63 classified jobs are proposed for elimination. They include 10 custodians, 3.5 library media assistants, and 18 special needs assistants.

ARKIN SUGGESTS SPECIFIC PLAN

When the board met Feb. 24, trustee Valerie Arkin passed out a copy of what she called a starting point for the cuts. Her plan would cut \$8.9 million from the

budget, and save many of the programs that have been popular with residents who have addressed the board. Those include class size reduction (CSR), reading specialists, the Barton reading program, and Language.

Arkin's proposal would add the director of curriculum and instruction to the list of administrators to be cut, bringing that total to a \$2.2 million saving. Arkin would contract out six Kids Club Sites to YMCA to save \$451,000. YMCA already operates three after-school sites for the district.

Arkin would also go for a parcel tax of \$175, which would generate \$3.5 million in revenue. That's less than the \$190 to \$200 discussed by some trustees, although Jim Ott has talked about \$350 or more.

The cuts and the parcel tax revenue would provide the district enough money to more than balance the budget in this fiscal year, and would keep it solvent for the next fiscal year, said Arkin. "I think with all of this (the cuts, without losing CSR and other programs), I could get the community on board (for a parcel

tax)." She got applause from the audience.

Trustee Jim Ott said, "I applaud you putting pen to paper. These are things that are important."

Pat Kerman added, "Great job. You are light years ahead of me. I'm at the macro level. I'll catch up."

HEALTH

(continued from page one)

we recently opened a new behavioral health site, which is especially fortuitous, given our ability now to expand our capacity. However, even with these new sites, we now need far more space."

Axis Community Health offers medical, mental health, substance abuse counseling and health education services to residents of the Tri-Valley. The agency operates facilities in Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin and is supported by local, state and federal funding, foundation grants, client revenues and community donations. Detailed information is available at www.axishealth.org.

SHORT NOTES

Rotary Grants

Each year the Rotarian Foundation of Livermore provides grants to local organizations that have identified special needs. This year the Foundation has awarded a total of \$46,000 in grants to 6 organizations. Two grants went to continue support for organizations whose programs feed and clothe our most needy children. Three grants were for new programs that benefit the elderly, teenagers, middle school and elementary school students in our community. One grant was for an ongoing program within the elementary schools of Livermore. The organizations, and their contact, are as follows.

The Open Heart Kitchen (Linda McKeever, Executive Director) received \$10,000 for their "Weekend Box Lunch Program, Livermore Hot Meal Program" that will purchase approximately 9,000 boxed lunches for elementary school children in Livermore on weekends.

The Assistance League of Amador Valley (Vicki Wilcox, Grants Chair) received \$10,000 for their "Operation School Bell", providing clothing and books to children in Jackson Avenue Elementary School, Joe Michell Elementary School, Portola Elementary School and Marilyn Avenue School, all in Livermore. They have increased the number of children clothed by more than 20% for this year.

The Senior & Elderly Programs at the Rundrum Learning Center (Nancy Steele, Consultant/Teacher) received \$3,500 for the "Whole Person Drumming & Wellness Through Rhythm". This program enhances personal developmental skills as participants are guided into rhythmic images and self-awareness through the use of music. The group experience helps the participant to observe, to listen, to feel, and to move through the use of song, percussion instruments, claps and movements. The grant will provide start-up funds to buy drums, bells and other equipment.

Livermore Public Library (Sandra Foutes, Teen Librarian) received \$3,500 to fund a teen magazine (or "Teen Zine") called "Fusion," an art and literary magazine created by Livermore teens to showcase the artistic talents of Livermore teen artists, poets and writers. This 36 page full-color glossy magazine, to be published semi-

annually, will be distributed without cost to local doctors' offices, hospitals, restaurants, wineries, businesses, schools and libraries. It will also be available on-line through the Library's web-site.

The American Association of University Women (Victoria Drake, Coordinator) received \$3,200 for project "Tech Trek" that will send girls from Livermore middle schools to a weeklong science camp at Mills College and Stanford University.

The Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (Bill Geyer, Rotary President) will receive \$3,000 for "Dictionaries for Young Scholars," an ongoing project supported jointly by the two Livermore Rotary Clubs and the Hindu Cultural and Community Center, that for 6 years has provided a dictionary for every third-grade student in the Livermore public schools.

Library Storytime

March family storytime at the Livermore Library is as follows:

Surprise: Expect the unexpected for a special evening storytime at the Civic Center Library on Monday, March 9, at 7 PM. Civic Center Library is located at 1188 S. Livermore Avenue.

Music Madness: Stories about music with silly songs at the Springtown Branch Library on Saturday, March 14 at 11:00 AM. Springtown Branch Library is located at 998 Bluebell Drive near the duck pond.

Look Up in the Sky: Is it the moon, an airplane, a flying hero? The sky's the limit for an evening of stories at the Rincon Branch Library on Thursday, March 19 at 6:30 PM. Rincon Branch Library is located at 725 Rincon Avenue in May Nissen Park and Swim Center.

All ages are welcome to these free library programs. Contact Youth Services at (925) 373-5504 for more information or pick up a storytime schedule at any one of the Livermore Public Libraries.

Jr. Ranger Program

Mount Diablo State Park taking signups for the Spring 2009 Junior Ranger Program. During this program, kids will have an opportunity to

learn about wildlife, geology and many other topics. Hosted by a state park ranger and a park docent, each session will include classroom presentations, hands-on activities and a hike. Awards will be given at each stage of completion.

Children, ages 7 to 12, plus one accompanying adult are eligible to participate. Sessions will be held at various locations in the Park. The five Saturday sessions will begin May 2nd and conclude June 6th. Each session runs from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Registration is limited to 15 children, plus one parent per child. While there is no charge for the program, payment of the Park's entrance fee is required.

For more information or to register, contact Steve Elliott at 925-362-8697 or by email at SAE612@msn.com. Advance registration is required. This program is sponsored by Mount Diablo State Park in cooperation with the Mount Diablo Interpretive Association.

California State Parks does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities. Prior to arrival, participants with disabilities who need assistance should contact Ranger Scott Poole at 925-837-6129.

Book Events

Towne Center Books offers the following programs:

- Book Previews with Ron Shoop, Thurs., March 5, 7:30 p.m. Ron Shoop, a representative from Random House, returns with a special book preview night. Ron will present his pick of the list for spring with a few teasers of great books to look for this summer. Refreshments, prizes, information, and entertainment; free, no reservation needed.

- Peter Lerangis, author of 39 Clues: Sword Thief 39 Clues is a new multimedia series for children. The books feature interactive puzzles within the book pages as well as an optional online game component. There will be 10 books in the series all written by different authors. The third book, the Sword Thief, is just being released March 3. The author, Peter Lerangis will be at Towne Center Books for school field trips during the morning and at the Pleasanton Library for a presentation for the public at 4:00 Monday March 9. Everyone is welcome.
- Mystery author Cara Black, March 9, 7 p.m. Springtime in Paris: Cara Black present her newest Aimee Leduc mystery, Murder in the Latin Quarter. Goodies from Bibane Bakery to add to the ambiance. This is a free event no reservation necessary.

Towne Center Books is located at 555 Main St., Pleasanton. Information, call 846-8826.

Nature Programs

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District ranger staff presents a program on March 7 (Wildflower) Madness on Sat., March 7. Meet Ranger Amy Wolitzer at 10 a.m. at the Wetmore Road entrance to Sycamore Grove Park.

The green of the hills is highlighted by patches of purple brodiaea, yellow violets and orange poppies. Also featured are lupines, buttercups, red maids, checker mallow and the shooting star. On last year's walk the group found upwards of 20 wildflower species. The full hike to the top of "Wildflower Hill" and back is about five miles with some moderately steep hills. If five miles sounds too long, please join the walk, and feel free to head back when you begin to tire. The hike will last about

two hours.

Pre-Spring Feathered Fling is Sun., March 8. Meet Ranger Pat Sotelo at 8 a.m. at Veterans Park. This birdwalk (yes, it's a birdwalk) will last about two hours. A few binoculars and field guides will be available to lend. Beginning birders are encouraged to attend. Cancelled if raining. And remember, Daylight Savings Time starts this day.

There is a \$3 per vehicle parking fee. A \$2 donation is requested to help support the programs. Participants may call 925-960-2400 or visit www.larpd.dst.ca.us for more information.

Youth in Government

Sixty-three 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 10, to participate in the annual "Youth in Government Day" program.

Students will have the opportunity to job shadow elected City Council and Board of Trustees members, the City Manager 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 respective 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 Chris Grant. Following lunch, the students will break into groups to discuss the Youth Master Plan.

Shot Clinic

Axis Community Health has scheduled a free immunization clinic for children on and March 7 from 9:00-11:00 a.m. The clinics will take place at Axis' Pleasanton Clinic only, 4361 Railroad Avenue, between Main and First Streets in downtown Pleasanton.

Saturday Immunization clinics are open to all Tri-Valley families who are low income or uninsured, including those enrolled in Medi-Cal and Medi-Cal Managed Care. Parents should bring child's immunization records and information about family income and medical insurance. There is a fee for some immunizations.

Immunizations by appointment are also available at (925) 462-1755.

Animals at Library

Meet an array of reptiles and amphibians as the Oakland Zoo's ZooMobile presents "Hooray for Herps" at the Pleasanton Library on Saturday, March 7.

Children from 2nd through 8th grades will learn about the life-cycles, physical structures and behavioral characteristics as well as dispel common myths about these amazing creatures.

No registration is required for this 50 minute program, which will begin at 11:00 a.m.. Free tickets will be distributed at the Children's Desk 30 minutes prior to the show, with attendance

limited to 100 children. For more information about library programs and events check the library's website at <http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/library/programs-and-events.html>, or call the Children's Desk at (925) 931-3400 ext. 8.

Events for Seniors

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District's Senior Services is offering a variety of events and promotions this month, in addition to the launch of additional open hours for the office and center.

St. Patrick's Day Dinner: Adults ages 50 and above, along with their younger guests, are invited to attend the annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner on Tuesday, March 17. Doors open at 5 p.m. in the Cresta Blanca Ballroom at the Robert Livermore Community Center. The dinner will feature traditional Irish favorites such as corned beef and cabbage, potatoes, carrots, salad and dessert. Entertainment will be provided by musician Greg Pain as well as a special guest appearance by Livermore Idol contestant Nicole King. Tickets are \$8 each, with a reservation deadline of Tuesday, March 10.

Office Hours Expanded: Beginning March 14, anyone wanting information for their parents, neighbors or themselves will now be able to visit Senior Services from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays. These hours have a new addition to the regular hours of 9 a.m. to noon and 12:30 to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. The expanded hours are part of a pilot program that will run through May, with the chance of adding them permanently depending upon the success of the program. During open hours, the public can call or visit the office for consultations, workshops and programs offered through Senior Services. The Arroyo Room, furnished with billiards, tables and games, will also be open for the regular \$2 drop-in fee for adults ages 50 and above.

Special Kickoff: To get the new Senior Services hours started off right, the center will feature a special two-for-one fee on Saturday, March 14, for the Arroyo Room. Pay the regular \$2 drop-

in fee, and bring a friend for free. Seniors can take advantage of the Arroyo Room's offerings to play billiards, card games and listen to their favorite music.

For more information on the Senior Services programs or to reserve a spot at the St. Patrick's Day Dinner, call 925-373-5760. Information on special classes and programs to be held during the extended hours will be printed in the "Prime Time" newsletter, available at Senior Services or online at www.larpd.dst.ca.us. The Robert Livermore Community Center is located at 4444 East Ave., Livermore.

Grad Night Fund-raising

Granada High Safe and Sober Grad Night is holding fund-raising events.

The following restaurants are donating a portion of their sales on the following days towards the Grad Night event: Every Monday night at Mountain Mike's on First St. 20% goes to grad night. Every Thursday night at Round Table on First St. 20%; 3/18 Armadillo Willy's on Tassajara in Dublin 5-9PM 20%; 3/19 Baja Fresh on N.Livermore Ave. All Day 15%. Pick up a flyer at the Granada High office or go to www.granadagraddnight.com to download a flyer to take with you and present for credit to the grad night. If you forget your flyer you can still tell them you are there to support the graduating seniors at Granada High in Livermore. Thank you.

Also: Umigo Racetrack is holding an evening on Wednesday March 25. Umigo Indoor Go Kart Track will be donating 20% of ticket sales when flyer is presented. 11AM to 10 PM at 6538 Patterson Pass Rd in Livermore. Go to www.granadagraddnight.com to download a flyer which has information on the racetrack and event. All racers must be 16 years of age or older or have completed the Umigo Jr. Racing class prior to or on day of this event in order to participate. Under 16? Get 7-9 of your friends together and book a Jr Racing Class on the day of the fundraiser and get your Umigo Indoor Kart Racing license. Reservations are required. Racers must be at least 4'10" & 10 years of age. 925-373-RACE

Presentation to Update Justice Mission

Mark Kirchgastner from the International Justice Mission will update on his agency's work around the world on Sunday, March 8 at Centerpointe Presbyterian Church in Pleasanton.

The International Justice Mission works in 14 countries around the world, securing justice for victims of slavery, sexual exploitation and other violent oppression. Justice mission lawyers, investigators and other professionals partner with local officials to help rescue victims and ensure they receive care after being removed from the situation.

The mission then helps prosecute the perpetrators and supports a functioning system of public justice.

Kirchgastner will deliver the

message at worship services at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. and then present a more detailed program entitled "Release to the Captives" starting at noon at 3410 Cornerstone Drive.

The public is welcome and there is no admission fee. Light refreshments will be served at the noon session.

The justice mission was founded in 1977 by former U.S. Justice Dept. lawyer Gary Haugen who led the team investigating the genocide in Rwanda in 1994. He serves as the chief executive of the organization.

For more information or directions, please see the Centerpointe website at www.centerpointechurch.info or call 925-846-4436.

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SPORTS NOTES



The 7th grade Pleasanton Middle School Lady Panthers basketball team finished an undefeated regular season with a victory over Harvest Park on February 24th. The 7th grade girls basketball playoffs began March 2nd at Wells Middle School. Team members include Sabrina Ehlert, Rachael Miller, Haley Brodnick, Cambi Cukar, Emily Christensen, Nisha Kale, Chole Connolly, Jaime Rinetti, Madison Steele, Emily Oakland, Courtney Seams. Coaches are John Ehlert, Adrian Cukar, and Dave Miller. Other team members include Kirsten Jensen and Rebecca Dumanski.

Jujitsu Competition

Jujitsu competitors from Amador Judo and Jujitsu Studio in Livermore traveled to Sacramento recently to compete in Nemuri Kuma's Annual Jujitsu Kata Tournament. Competitors and finish include the following:

1st place: 3-4 yrs. division, Loudon Philbrick and Jaimes Fagundes, Livermore; 7-8 yrs. novice, Aaron Toothman and Salmaan Sayeed, Pleasanton; intermediate, Rafael Valle and Xavier Pelican, Livermore; 9-10 yrs. intermediate, Chandler Orluck, Livermore and Garrison Groves, Pleasanton; 11-12 advanced, Charlemagne Pelican, Paige Hawkey, Livermore.

2nd place: 9-10 yrs novice, Cassandra Dorrance and Fabiola Valle, Livermore; 4th place: 11-12 intermediate, Amber Toothman, Josie Martinez, Pleasanton.

CYO Basketball

The St. Michael's/St. Charles (SM/SC) Spartans 4th grade boys defeated St. Isidore to take 1st Place in the CYO basketball Boys National Division Championship games. The SM/SC team had a tough defense with Bryce Dishrow leading the offense with 17 points, CJ Malski with assists and 4 points, and Tyler Gonzales with steals and 3 points. All of the boys played their hearts out, and really came together as a team in the championship games. The final score was SM/SC 24 - St. Isidore 22, making for a very exciting game, right up to the finish. The SM/SC Spartans finished the season with a 12-1 record.

SM/SC 6th Grade Girls American League Team capped their regular season league championship with a repeat win in the final of the league tournament, besting a great team from St. Isidore's. Anna Neitzel set the tone early in this defensive battle with three blocks and two steals in the first two minutes of play, and the girls continued to battle on every possession with their "no layups" style of defense. In a game that was fairly evenly played in the half court, the real difference was the transition game, with SM/SC simply the quicker team getting back on defense. Grace Naylor led all scorers with 10 points, most of them scored on fast breaks resulting from her "heads up" play in transition, and Shannon Rosemark had her usual impact at both ends, scoring 8 points (all from the trenches) and playing formidable defense. SM/SC slowly built a solid lead over the course of the game and stood firm at the end, coming away with a hard-fought 25-18 victory. The girls played hard, played well, and most importantly, played as a team - while not one of them stepped on the court, the coaching staff (Bob Montano, Charles Sommerhauser, and head coach Shawn Trask) built this squad to play as a team.

SM/SC 4th grade girls (#4004) played St. Raymond's for the championship, com-

ing away with a 26-13 to cap off an undefeated season. The team put together a record of 12-0. Both teams played with a lot of heart and sportsmanship. Madison Jackson, Taylor Peterson and Jennifer Gibson led the scoring for SM/SC with 6 points each. Alex Lonsinger added 4 points; Holly Julson and Mila Steinberg finished off the scoring with 2 points each. Samantha Dukes, Emily Hawkins and Maggie Sneed played outstanding defense at the guard position causing many turnovers for SM/SC.

Gymfinity Gymnastics

The girls team from Gymfinity Gymnastics of Livermore competed this past weekend with more than 700 gymnasts from around the country in the Spirit of the Flame Invitational held in San Jose. Valentina Barbalinaro, 12, dominated her 13 and under age group, placing first on vault and beam on her way to winning the level 9 all-around title. In level 7 competition, Kelley Hebert, 10, placed second on vault and beam in the 10 and under age group, winning the silver on the all-around with a 36.25. Also in the 10 and under group, Isla Andrews, 9, placed second on bars with a 9.425. Shannon Gray brought home the bronze on vault and Michelle Shalit placed second on beam in the 11 year old group. Allison Honig's 9.25 on floor was good enough for the bronze medal in the 13 and older group.

Full results: Level 9, 13 and under - Valentina Barbalinaro, Vault - 9.0, 1st; Bars - 8.9, 2nd; Beam - 9.2, 1st; Floor, 8.825, 4th; All-around, 35.925, 1st.

Level 7, 10 and under - Vault: Kelley Hebert, 9.35, 2nd; Isla Andrews, 8.7, 9th; Bars: Andrews, 9.425, 2nd; Hebert, 7.9; Floor: Hebert, 9.25, 6th; Andrews, 8.975. All-around: Hebert, 36.35, 2nd; Andrews, 35.0. 11 years old - Vault: Shannon Gray, 9.175, 3rd; Gabriella Lemoine, 8.925, 8th; Michelle Shalit, 8.4. Bars: Lemoine, 8.75, 6th; Gray, 7.85, 9th; Shalit, 7.7, 10th. Beam: Shalit, 9.225, 2nd; Lemoine, 8.85, 7th; Gray, 8.45, 10th. Floor: Gray, 8.9, 8th; Lemoine, 8.65; Shalit, 8.425. All-around: Lemoine, 35.175, 6th; Gray, 34.375, 7th; Shalit, 33.75, 9th. 12 years old - Vault: Angelica Leporati, 8.95, 7th; Amy Morrison, 8.8, 10th; Rebecca Meister, 8.5; Kaitlin Hausmann, 8.15. Bars: Hausmann, 9.0, 5th; Meister, 8.975, 6th; Leporati, 8.8, 9th; Morrison, 7.4. Beam: Meister, 8.75, 5th; Hausmann, 8.15, 9th; Morrison, 7.55. Floor: Morrison, 9.0, 8th; Meister, 8.875, 9th; Hausmann, 8.625, 10th. All-around: Meister, 35.1, 7th; Hausmann, 33.925, 8th; Morrison, 32.75, 10th. 13 and older - Vault: Allison Honig, 9.025, 6th; Haley Brott, 8.9, 9th; Jaime Gray, 8.75. Bars: Brott, 8.8, 5th; Gray, 8.75, 6th; Honig, 8.25, 8th. Beam: Brott, 8.7, 5th; Gray, 7.75. Floor: Honig, 9.25, 3rd; Brott, 8.925, 9th; Gray, 8.675. All-around: Brott, 35.325, 5th; Gray, 33.925, 8th.

GHS Lacrosse

Granada High School Boys Lacrosse team lost to Campolindo 16 to 10. Granada scorers: Martin 3, Guan 1, McCallister 3, Rogers 1, Fox 1, Murphy 1; assists: Hanna 3, Martin 1, Morris 1, Martin 1, McCallister 1; goals/saves: Hopkins 7, Goritz 5.

The team dominated Dublin 14 to 8. Granada scorers: McCallister 4, Guan 3, Morris 2, Martin, Z. 2, Martin, E. 1, Fouts 1; assists: McCallister 1, Morris 1, Hanna 1, Martin, Z. 1, Reno 1; goals/saves: Hopkins 5, Goritz 5.

In a physical game, Granada lost to Jesuit in Sacramento 12 to 3. Granada scorers: McCallister 2, Reno 1; assists: Neely 1; goals/saves: Hopkins 14.

With these three non-EBAL games under their belt Granada's record is 1 win and 2 losses.

Sports Programs

The City of Pleasanton's Department of Parks and Community Services offers a full range of sports programs for adults and children in the spring, including:

Adult Basketball League: Adults (18+) can still sign up as a Free Agent Player on the 2009 Spring Adult Basketball league program that begins on April 8. The cost to play per individual is \$65. Basketball games are held at the Pleasanton Middle School gym on Wednesdays or Thursdays from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Adult Softball Leagues: Also seeking free agent players are local adult softball leagues which kick off the season at the Pleasanton Sports Park during the week of April 1. Staff will attempt to place individuals on teams in need of players, or may form a new team if there are enough individuals to do so. The individual player fee is \$50. League play is scheduled at various times from Sunday through Friday nights during the evening hours.

Coed Leagues: Team sign-ups are also underway for softball coed leagues, specifically the Sunday Coed 5:15 league and the Friday evening Coed league. Teams play a total of 12 games, all held at the Pleasanton Sports Park. The top three teams in each division participate in the playoffs. A minimum of 10 players are required to form a team, and league play begins in early April and continues through July. Registration fees are \$705 per team. For more information about adult basketball or softball registration, please contact Marty Bell at (925) 931-3439.

Basic Water Rescue: A one-day Basic Water Rescue class is scheduled on Saturday, March 14 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Dolores Bengston Aquatic Center in Pleasanton. The concentration of the course is on personal water safety skills and swimmer assistance. Participants must be at least age 10 and have Level 5 swim skills, and a minimum enrollment is required for the class to take place. The fee for individuals is \$40 for Pleasanton residents/\$44 for non-residents. Full families or a one-on-one class is \$90 for residents/\$99 for non-residents.

American Red Cross Learn to Swim Program-Learn to swim by summer: The Learn to Swim program is offered throughout the spring months and consists of six levels. Levels 1-3 are combined into the Swimming Basics class. Beginner Basics is for children 6 and older. Preschool Basics is for children 42-months to 5 years of age. Most class sessions run twice weekly for four weeks in 30 minute sessions. Fees per session (month) range from \$37 to \$47 for residents; \$40.50 to \$52 for nonresidents. There is also a Saturday session scheduled from April 25 to June 6. For more information about any of these classes, or other Aquatics programs, please call the Aquatic Center at (925) 931-3420.

Football/Cheer Signup

Livermore Youth Football and Cheer Livermore Youth Football and Cheer (LYFandC) is starting registration for the upcoming season.

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

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

Football and cheer squads have been very successful in the highly competitive Diablo Valley Youth Football Conference (DVYFC).

Registration will be held March 12 and April 16 from 6-8 pm at Round Table Pizza 1024 East Stanley Blvd. Discounts are available at January and February dates. Information go to website www.eteamz.com/lyfc or email lyfc@onebox.com

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

Jr. Football Signup

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

Due to its success over its two-year existence and the support of LARPD and the high school programs, LJFL is expanding to all children aged 9 through 14 (as of December 31, 2009). All football participants will learn the fundamentals of contact football in a safe and positive environment and play regardless of talent level or ability. All cheer participants will learn the fundamentals, cheer at games and compete locally. All games will be played in Livermore at the high schools. All practices will take place in Livermore. The season begins on August 1 and concludes in early November.

In person sign-ups will take place on Wednesday, March 18, 6 to 8 pm, Wednesday, April 22, 6 to 8 pm, Saturday, April 25, 2 to 4 pm, Saturday May 9, 2 to 4 pm and Wednesday, May 20, 6 to 8 pm at Round Table Pizza, 4098 East Ave., Livermore.

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

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

Ultra-Marathon

A 50K Diablo Trail Run hosted by Save Mount Diablo will be held Sun., March 22. Start time is 8 a.m.

The Diablo Trail 50K is a point-to-point ultra-marathon starting at Round Valley Regional Preserve in Brentwood and follows the Diablo Trail to Castle Rock Park in Walnut Creek. The trail winds through Round Valley, Morgan Territory, Mount Diablo State Park and Shell Ridge Open Space. The course is challenging and fully supported. The event includes post race lunch and t-shirt for all participants. All runners must check in at the start in Brentwood between 7:00 and 7:45 a.m.

To register or for more information go to www.savemountdiablo.org.

Diablo Century for Cyclists

Cycling enthusiasts are invited to register for the first annual Diablo Century to be held on Sunday morning, April 26 at the Contra Costa JCC (CCJC) in Walnut Creek. The ride is being sponsored by the CCJCC and Jewish Family & Children's Services of the East Bay (JFCS/East Bay).

Three routes, all beginning at the CCJCC on Tice Valley Blvd. in Walnut Creek, will accommodate various cycling levels: the 25-mile route will take casual cyclists through the scenic hills of Danville and Alamo to the foot of Mt. Diablo and back. The more challenging 100-K route (62 miles) will offer cyclists views of Mt. Diablo via Clayton and the Morgan Territory. Cyclists will descend into Livermore and return via Danville and scenic Blackhawk. The final 100-M route (100 miles) will have serious cyclists taking the 100-K route and then adding to the challenge with a jaunt to Castro Valley, followed by a climb up Redwood Road to Moraga.

All three routes conclude with a return ride to the CCJCC, where a barbecue luncheon and commemorative t-shirt will await registered riders.

Rest stops will be stocked with water, fruit, and snacks. Support and Gear vehicles will be traveling throughout the course to assist riders, aiding with mechanical breakdowns and providing transportation as needed.

The Diablo Century will take place come rain or shine. Start time for the 100-K and 100-M routes is from 6:30 to 8:00 a.m. The 25-M route begins at 8:00 a.m. Individual registration fee for all routes is \$45 per person. Tandem for all routes is \$85 per tandem and additional luncheon tickets for nonregistered riders are available for \$10.

To register for the Diablo Century or to learn more, please visit www.ccjcc.org/diablo or call 925.938.7800. To learn about volunteering opportunities, please contact Kathryn Winogura at kwinogura@jfccs-eastbay.org.



Photo - Doug Jorgensen
Foothill High School's Olivia Klei attempts to take the ball away from San Ramon High School's Reilly Parker during the NCS 3A championship game. San Ramon defeated Foothill 4 to 3 in a shootout. Foothill was heavily favored to win the title.

Ask Kathleen

KATHLEEN MINSER
WASTE REDUCTION SPECIALIST
OFFERS ADVICE ABOUT THE 4R's:
REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE, ROT
(COMPOST)

Q Should wax paper go in my Green Waste cart or my Recycling cart? Jason

A Here are reasons you should place wax paper only in your Green Waste cart (along with food scraps and yard waste):

YES in Green Waste cart: During the composting process, wax paper, food scraps and yard waste break down at about the same rate, which means they all become part of the soil-enriching fertilizer.

NO in Recycling Cart: During the plastic recycling process, wax paper turns into a gummy substance, which can make the mix unsuitable for manufacturing new products.

Q Is it OK to put food scraps headed for my Green Waste cart inside a compostable BIOSAK® bag? I want to avoid flies and maggots! Nancy

A The best way to eliminate pesky flies and maggots is to make sure your cart lid is completely closed. And, please don't place BIOSAK® bags or any type of bag made from starch in your Green Waste cart. Starch bags usually take more time to decompose than food scraps and yard waste—so the bags end up harming the compost mixture.

Eco Remedy: Collect food scraps in paper (not plastic!) ice-cream cartons, pizza boxes and paper shopping bags, since food-soiled paper should go directly in your Green Waste cart.

Send your questions today!
AskKathleen@wm.com

U.S. MAIL: **Ask Kathleen**
Waste Management
6175 Southfront Road
Livermore, CA 94551

(925) 447-1300
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WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

FREE EDUCATION SEMINAR

Presented by: Rishi Sawhney, M.D.

Topic: Prevention, early detection and treatment options for colon cancer

Date: March 19, 2009

Time: 7-8:30PM

Location: ValleyCare Medical Plaza
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2nd floor Conference Room
Pleasanton
two blocks west of hospital

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ALAMEDA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY

Requests for Proposals (RFP) from
The Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority
for
"Route 84 Expressway Widening Project Constructability Review"

The Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority (Authority or ACTIA) is requesting proposals from qualified consultants with expertise in highway construction management, construction engineering, and construction contract administration to perform constructability and bidability review of the plans, specifications, and estimates (PS&E) and draft contract document for the project to widen Route 84 (Isabel Avenue) in Livermore.

RFP Schedule:

- RFP Questions submission: March 12, 2009 at 5 PM PST
- Pre-Proposal Meeting (ACTIA Office): March 18, 2009 at 10 AM PST
- Proposal Submission Deadline: April 6, 2009 at 3 PM Sharp
- Approval of Shortlist: April 23, 2009
- Interview: Week of April 27th
- Board approval of top-ranked firms: May 28, 2009
- Approved contract commencement: June 2009

Proposals are subject to the ACTIA Local Business Contract Equity Program. The ACTIA goal for professional services is 70% for Local Business Enterprise and 30% for Small Local Business Enterprise. For Program Requirements and Forms, click here. Any contract to be awarded as a result of this notice will be awarded without discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation or national origin.

The RFP documents may also be obtained at the ACTIA office located at 1333 Broadway, Suite 300, Oakland, CA 94612 or by contacting ACTIA staff at (510) 893-3347.

All questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to ACTIA staff no later than March 12, 2009 at 5:00 PM PST. The sole point of contact for all purposes of this procurement shall be Arun Goel, Associate Transportation Engineer. The contact information is as follows:

Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority
1333 Broadway, Suite 300, Oakland, CA 94612
Contact Person: Arun Goel
Telephone: (510) 893-3347 x129 Fax: (510) 893-6489
E-mail: aguel@actia2022.com

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.

Benefit Rock Concert. Join the fun at a Benefit Rock Concert at 7 p.m. on Saturday March 7 at Valley Community Church, 4455 Del Valle Pkwy., Pleasanton. Tickets are \$5.00. Bands are Picture Me Broken, Dance My Heart, the Hillpeople and Availled. Proceeds benefit Open Heart Kitchen. Julian Reisenhelt has organized this for his Eagle Scout Project. Call 925-417-8890 for information.

The Tri-Valley Republican Women Federated will host its fourth annual membership luncheon from 11:30am to 2:00pm on Saturday, March 14, at Castlewood Country Club in Pleasanton. Guest speakers are Lynne Leach, businesswoman and former Member of the State Assembly, and Lori Brandes, owner of Time 4 Order Professional Organizing service. Cost is \$26. Reservations are required. Call 846-0914 or email jibuckid@comcast.net by Friday, March 6.

Tri-Valley Democratic Club meeting Mon., March 16, 7 p.m. at the IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Pkwy., Dublin. Nancy O'Mally, Chief Assistant District Attorney for Alameda County will speak about her efforts to fight human trafficking, domestic violence, and to provide community services to victims of crime. Q & A and a discussion will follow. Refreshment served. Public invited. Information www.TriValleyDems.com.

Valley Spokesmen Bicycle Touring Club, Sat., March 7, 50 miles Cinderella training ride, meet 7:30 a.m. at Crank-2, Karin Ball, featherpeddles@yahoo.com. Sat., March 7, 103 miles Mines/Hamilton/Sierra, meet 8 a.m. on Alden Lane in Livermore, Curtis Stallins, 922-2461. Wed., March 11, 47 miles Moraga loop, meet 10 a.m. at Shannon Center, Dublin. Barb Hailey, 820-

8006. Anyone planning to go on a ride is asked to contact the leader for details on where to meet and what to bring.

Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club will meet at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 12, 2009 at Alisal School, multipurpose room, 1454 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. The speaker is Bill Grant. He is a garden writer, photographer, and founder of the CA Garden Landscape Historical Society. His topic will be Why You Should Grow Tea Roses. Visitors are welcome. Info Sally at 417-8809.

Livermore Lions Club meets 7 p.m. Thurs., March 5. Featured speaker is Rob White, Livermore Economic Director. This meeting will be held in the Banquet Room at The Zephyr Restaurant, 1736 First Street in Livermore. 7 PM so you need to be in your seat and ready to go at the appointed hour. You will be charged \$16 (includes tax, tip and room charge) at the door. www.livermorelions.org.

Showmanship Clinic, Sunday, March 15th, 1:30-4pm at Cayetano Ridge Equestrian Center, 4730 Dagnino Road in Livermore. For those who wish to learn polish their skills or learn new ones; Know what the Judge is looking for; Learn tips to put you and your horse in the top of the class. Demonstrations of the different styles and Color Coordination session. This is for humans only, please leave your horses at home. Raffle. \$20 per person. Proceeds will be donated. For info: Gina 925-354-6514 or Lvs2Ride@yahoo.com.

Jose Maria Amador Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, recently presented American History Essay Awards to the following students from Pleasanton and San Ramon: Laurel Goveia, Krystal Lau, Austin Macioni, Rishi Krishnan, Srivaths Kalyan and Ellen Perfect. The topic, "What message did the Gettysburg Address communicate to the war-torn nation and are the ideals in the speech relevant to our country today?" Monthly meetings are held the second Saturday of the month in Pleasanton. Members are

descended from patriots of the Revolutionary War. Prospective members welcome. Information and meeting location, call Susan at 699-4147.

Mount Diablo Rose Society, meets the second Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at the Dublin Civic Center, 100 Civic Plaza. All meetings open to the public. March 11 speaker is Bill Grant, a world renowned rosarian who will discuss Hybrid Tea Roses. Contact newsletter editor Vicky Shore at 200-6972.

NCHRA Tri-Valley Chapter Meeting, Wed., March 11, 11:30 a.m. to noon registration/networking/lunch. noon to 1 p.m. program on California Employment Law in 2009 - Tracking the Trends. Cost: \$35 (NCHRA members); \$55 (general). Contact: Henry Lonsdale, 925-240-2400.

Pleasantonians 4 Peace, sponsoring a candlelight vigil in front of the Museum on Main, 603 Main Street, downtown Pleasanton, March 11, Wednesday, at 7 p.m. This event will mark the one year anniversary of the Peace Vigil. Participants reflect on the human and monetary costs of the war, honor veterans who have sacrificed, and visualize ways of moving beyond this conflict to a more peaceful world. Cathie Norman at 462-7495; Matt Sullivan at mjs7882@gmail.com; or kdowling@pacbell.net.

Tri-Valley Holistic Moms Network, program What's Your Chemical Body Burden. 7 p.m. Mon., March 16. Featuring Mary Brune, co-founder & director of Making Our Milk Safe (MOMS). Meeting at Living Vine Fellowship, 4100 First St., Pleasanton. This meeting is free for members, as well as for first time visitors to Tri-Valley HMN. For further information, visit www.holisticmoms.org.

Health, Money, & Fear, a documentary on the healthcare delivery system, its flaws, and possible fixes, will be shown at 7 p.m. on Sat., March 7 at the IBEW Hall; 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin. Also on the program, will be another short documentary, "Mom's Rising," which is about the plight of working families and possible solutions to

their dilemmas. Before the films, there will be a meet & greet potluck at 6:30 PM. There will also be short memorial on behalf of Beverly Eckert, the 9/11 widow who recently died in a plane crash, to honor her life and her activism on behalf of the survivors. This event is an unaffiliated, public event, free (\$3.00 donations accepted; food & beverages provided, wheelchair access, and a short discussion follows the film. 925-462-3459.

Computer classes, Livermore Public Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave., offers three free classes in March. Introduction to the Internet, Saturday, March 7, 10:15 -12:15 pm. Searching the Internet, Saturday, March 14, 10:15 -12:15 pm. Introduction to Microsoft Word, Saturday, March 21 10:15 -12:15 pm. Participants must be comfortable using a computer. Information, Jo Caporaso 25-373-5500 x5575.

Video games at the Pleasanton Library, Mon., March 9, 6 to 8:30 p.m. in the meeting room, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Teens grades 6-12 are invited to drop in and play Wii sports & DDR on the big screen and unlock songs from Guitar Hero & Rock Band. All programs are free and no registration is required. Please contact Teen Services Librarian Teresa Parham at 925-931-3404.

Together We Prepare: Emergency Preparedness, presenters training, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. March 14. Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Dept., Station #6, 4550 East Ave., Chianti Room, Livermore. Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department seeks community volunteers interested in emergency preparedness to help present basic emergency preparedness training to 25% of our community. The 1-day presenters training session will provide "how-to" tips to effectively present this piece. Enroll/Contact: Call (925)454-2361 or email TogetherWePrepare@lpfire.org.

Clothing and equipment sale, Twin Valley Mothers of Twins Club semiannual sale Sat., March 14, 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Most

items left unsold will be half off from 1:45 to 2:45 p.m. New location: Alameda County Fairgrounds, Pleasanton. \$10 per person entrance fee. Participation to buy and/or sell open to the public. Great bargains on clothes, strollers, toys, videos, play pens, layettes, books, high chairs, swings, gates, cribs, outdoor toys and more. Information www.tvmotc.org/cesale.

Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society meeting 7:30 p.m. Tues., March 10, at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton. The speaker will be Ron Filion, Co-founder of SF Genealogy.com. His topic is "Researching SF Genealogy. Using the website SFgenealogy.com. Map to the meeting site: http://www.L-AGS.org/maps/Pls-BethEmek.html Visitors welcome. Marie Ross, 925-447-1806.

Amador Valley Quilt Guild will meet on Saturday, March 14, at 1:30 p.m. at the Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Avenue, Pleasanton. The meeting will feature Cindy Needham from Superior Threads speaking on Thread Fact and Fiction. The guild is a nonprofit educational association for quilters of all skill levels. Anyone interested in quilting may attend. For further information about the guild or upcoming speakers, please visit our website, http://amadervalleyquilters.org.

Dancescape line dance social. Sun. March 8, 1:00-4:00pm. DJ Millie guarantees a little bit of country and a little bit of rock 'n' roll. Tickets purchased by Friday, March 6: Resident \$8/Nonresident \$9 Tickets at the door: \$10 Activity Code 19331. For further information, please contact us at the Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd. Dublin, 556-4511 or senior@ci.dublin.ca.us.

Retirement Planning. The Dublin Library is offering a free workshop on how to protect retirement assets. It will be held Sat., March 7 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Independent financial services professional Kit Batina will discuss strategies to ensure that you do not outlive your income, protection against long-term care expenses, Social Security, Medi-Cal, reverse mortgages and more. This program is funded by the Friends of the Dublin Library. The Dublin Library is located at 200 Civic Plaza, Dublin.

Armchair Travelers, Livermore Civic Center Library Thurs., March 12, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. John-Paul Meyer will share photographs of his TREK Travel Tour of Provence. Meyer will discuss his bicycle trip through this scenic region of southeastern France. Free program. 373-5500.

Livermore Yotsukaido Sister City Organization, delegation arriving March 14 around noon at city hall. Includes delegation of 8, 20 middle school students, 5 chaperones and a high school girls basketball team of 10. The team will play the East Bay Panthers on Sun., March 15, 4:30 p.m. and Livermore Mystics on Tues., March 17, 5 p.m. at Mendenhall Middle School, 1701 El Padre Dr., Livermore. Middle school students will stay with host families. Livermore 7th grade students are invited to apply for the 2010 student exchange program. A new application form will be on LYSCO.org soon.

Widowed Men and Women of North-

ern CA., Fish fry in Dublin, 5 p.m. March 13, RSVP by March 11 Hilda, 398-8808. Corned beef dinner in Dublin 6 p.m. March 14, RSVP by March 11 to Roman, 828-2439. Wine and cheese new member reception, March 15, 2 p.m. RSVP by March 11, Ruby, 462-9636. Cioppino dinner in Oakland, Colombo Club, March 17, 6:30 p.m. RSVP ASAP, Gino, 243-1282. Lunch in Fremont, Massimo's Restaurant, March 18, 12:30 p.m. RSVP by March 16 to Vickie, 510-656-1166. Happy hour in Pleasanton, Marriott Hotel, March 20, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., RSVP by March 18 to Lorraine, 846-5695.

Rabbit Adoption and Education, Sat., March 7, sponsored by Dublin Tri-Valley SPCA, House Rabbit Society, Harvest Home Animal Sanctuary, and Martinez Rabbit Rescue, held at the Dublin Tri-Valley SPCA, 4651 Gleason Drive, Dublin on the 1st Saturday of each month, 11am -4pm. Meet abused or abandoned bunnies who are looking for new homes; get answers to all your rabbit care questions; find out if a rabbit is the right companion for you; bring your bunny in for a date; buy toys and treats for your critters; or just come play with the bunnies! For information, go to www.eastbayspca.org/ events or contact Karen Johanson at kjohanson@menke.com or 510-727-1589.

Stress-Free Travel: Spring and summer bring an opportunity to travel with family or friends and the chance to get away and relax in new surroundings. Learn how to make travel safe and enjoyable and talk about the do's and don'ts for stress free travel. Program at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., Tuesday, March 10, from 10am to 11am. \$1.50 Residents/\$2 Nonresidents.

White Elephant Sale, Saturday, March 7, and Sunday, March 8. Hours are 10-4 both days and admission is free. The White Elephant Sale warehouse is at 333 Lancaster St. (at Gascoek), Oakland. Free shuttle bus from Fruitvale BART. For complete details see www.whiteelephantsale.org. Call 510/839-5919 to arrange a free pickup of large items to be donated. The Sale is produced by the Oakland Museum Women's Board to benefit the Oakland Museum of California. No strollers, shopping carts or backpacks! Free shuttle bus from Fruitvale BART.

RELIGION

Purim Party, 10:30 a.m. Sun., March 8, Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 Eighth Street at G in Livermore. Purim is a celebration of the survival of the Jewish people and, like mardi gras, an excuse for costumes and revelry. TVCJ's Purim party features games and crafts, baking of the traditional three-cornered cookies called "Hamantasah" and a costume parade for people of all ages (with prizes!). Nontraditional and dual-culture families are welcome. Hosted by Tri-Valley Cultural Jews. \$5/household for nonmembers of TVCJ. For information and reservations: 925-485-1049 or CulturalJews@aol.com.

Tri-Valley Unity, Lenten sermon series - "Passion for Creation: Connecting with the Goodness of Creation," based on the writings of 13th century mystic Meister Eckhart. Rev. Steve Maynard will expound on these teachings at the March 8th Sunday service, 10 a.m., Tri-Valley Unity, meeting at the Radisson, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. All are Welcome. Ongoing classes and groups. www.trivalleyunity.com. (925) 998-0038.

OBITUARIES

Minnie Rogers-Carroll-Tacchini

Minnie Rogers-Carroll-Tacchini was born in Livermore on Oct. 23, 1918 and passed away in Placerville, CA on Feb. 16, 2009, she was 90 years old.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Al Tacchini in 1977. She is survived by her two sons, John Carroll of Fernley, NV and Chuck Carroll of Georgetown, CA; brothers, John Rogers of Livermore, and Clarence Rogers of Manteca, and sister, Marie Ott of Livermore.

Services were held March 1 in Livermore Burial will be at Willamette National Cemetery in Portland, OR, for interment with her husband Al.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Charles Carroll, % El Dorado Savings Bank, PO Box 1091, Georgetown, CA 95634, to help cover medical expenses.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

Carolyn Jean Townes

Carolyn Jean Townes passed away at her home in Livermore on Thursday, Feb. 26, 2009. She was born in Kansas City, Kansas on October 4, 1937. She was 71 years old.

Carolyn retired from Sandia National Laboratory after 30 years of service. She loved her independence and her cats. She was an excellent cook and treasured time spent with her loving grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Wayne Townes in 1993. She is survived by her children, Randy Kersey and Glenn Kersey both of Livermore and Mary McKinney of Brentwood, CA., a sister, Lila Bell of Richmond, CA, and nine grandchildren.

In honor of Carolyn's wishes there will be no services held. Donations can be made in her memory to Hope Hospice, 6500 Dublin Blvd, Suite 100, Dublin, CA 94568.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

Gerard (Jerry) Moliterno

Jerry Moliterno, age 94, passed away peacefully, in the presence of his family, on March 1, 2009. He was born July 21, 1914 in Hazelton, PA, and lived in New York, New Jersey, Florida, and for the past 13 years in Brentwood, CA.



Jerry Moliterno

He served his country during World War II in the Army Air Force as a Private First Class. For most of his life, he was self-employed, sole proprietor of a machine repair company and a linen rental service.

He was the beloved husband of Peggy (Olga) Moliterno, married for 67 years, father of Arlene Thompson, father-in-law of Phillip Thompson, of Pleasanton, and grandfather to Taryn and Kristyn Thompson and Taryn's husband Chris Flexhaug. He is also survived by sisters Margie Moliterno and Rose Marie Wilkerson, and many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at 1:30 p.m. on March 8 at Graham-Hitch Mortuary, 4167 First St., Pleasanton, followed by a gathering at the Thompson home. Eventual interment will be in the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery, Dixon, CA.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Moliterno Scholarship Fund, c/o Wells Fargo, 900 Main St., Ste. 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566.

Ampelio Figueroa Huerta

Livermore resident Ampelio Figueroa Huerta was born on July 3, 1923 in Jalisco, MX. He passed away on March 1, 2009 at the age of 85.

Ampelio had a long career as a machine operator for the Southern Pacific Railroad and retired in 1987. Ampelio enjoyed tending to his rose garden and kept his yard in immaculate order. He also enjoyed listening to and watching baseball.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 55 years Pauline who died in 2008. His survivors include his children Larry Rodriguez, Julie Hager, Geraldine Rodriguez, Mercedes Huerta Gonzalez, James Huerta, and Michael Huerta, four siblings, ten grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Graveside Inurnment Services will be held on Friday, March 6, at 1 p.m. at St. Michael's Catholic Cemetery, 3885 East Ave., Livermore.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

Miles Carl Waggoner

Miles Carl Waggoner passed away peacefully at home with his daughters by his side on February 26, 2009 after a heroic battle with cancer. He was 83.

Miles was born in Ponca City Oklahoma on December 9, 1925 to William and Mary Waggoner. Miles was the youngest of 5 children. Brother, William Waggoner of Ponca City OK, sister, Barbara Rhinehart of Wichita KS, brother, Paul Waggoner of San Gabriel CA, and sister, Sue Clifton of Roswell NM, preceded him in death.

He graduated from Ponca City High School in 1943 and obtained a Bachelors Degree in Chemistry from the University of New Mexico. He served twice in the Navy during WW2. He then served in the Army during the Korean War for almost 4 years, moving to California after he was discharged in 1956.

In California he met his future wife Nada Stanovec on a blind date. They dated for six months before getting married on June 11-1956. Miles and Nada lived in Cupertino, until 1959 when they moved to Livermore, where they had resided for the last 50 years. Miles worked for Kaiser Aluminum before becoming an Analytical Chemist at the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory. He retired from LLNL after 25 years of employment at the young age of 55.

He is survived by his four daughters, Barby Waggoner of Stockton, CA, Donna Matthew of Tracy, CA and twin daughters Janine Pinks of Tracy, CA and Nanette Waggoner of Merced, CA.; grandchildren Corinne Crosby, Nicole Hardgraves, Christopher Bryant, Anthony Hardgraves, Ariel Bryant, Molly Matthew, Lisa Pinks, great grandson Jordan Colbert, nieces Sue Ellen Lemon of Mount Vernon WA, and Jennifer Puckett of Stillwater OK, nephew Steven Wright of Hollywood CA. His loving wife Nada Waggoner and grandson Daniel Pinks preceded him in death.

Miles was a good provider and father to his wife and four children. He always took two weeks off every other summer for a family vacation trip. He spent his leisure time and retirement bowling, playing bridge, trips to Tahoe, vacations to New York, Jamaica, and an Alaskan Cruise to name a few.

Friends and family are invited to attend a memorial service to celebrate his life on Saturday, March 21, 2009 from 11:00am to 2:00pm at the Livermore Pleasanton Elks Lodge, 940 Larkspur Drive in Livermore. It is located off of the First Street/Springtown Exit off of 580 near the golf course.

Terrell (Terry) Givens

At age 83, this avid sports fan passed away at the home they built in Livermore after "three recent strikes"

with cancer. First strike his known lymphoma escalated in 2007; second strike a new diagnosis of colon cancer and his third strike the overwhelming combination of the two. Terry also known as "Tex" or "Bo" to his friends & family has been a resident of Livermore for over 60 years and the beloved husband of Iris Givens.

Terry was born in Texas to Charles & Jessie Givens and lived there for 9 years. He then moved to Maryland, graduating from Bladensburg High School where he was a star athlete in both basketball and baseball. At age 17, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy to serve during World War II. One of the first "frogman" (now known as the SEALs) in the "Navy Combat Demolition Unit" he served in both the Pacific and Atlantic War Theaters. He was in the fleet that was sent to Japan for protection during the signing of the treaty with the U.S. He was proud of his service time and has been active in developing the history of this unique team. He assisted with the establishment of the Memorial to NCDU/UDT in Arlington National Cemetery dedicated in the memory of these brave men.

After separating from the Navy, he worked for the railroads at Union Station in Washington DC until he left to join his parents in the Bay Area. He became an electrician with the Maritime Commission in San Francisco and met his wife to be, Iris Prossima. They were married in Oakland not long after.

In 1970, he opened Givens Electric specializing in commercial and industrial construction. He was very active in the National Electrical Contractors Association having held many offices. Terry was named to the National Academy of Electrical Contractors recognizing his outstanding contributions in their industry.

Terry is survived by his wife of nearly 61 years, Iris and his children Cheryl and Jim Perry, Terry and Jody Givens and Karen Givens and his sister Judith Kelleher. He leaves 5 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his sister Pauline Schafer, step-brother John Givens and his parents.

Services are Friday, March 6 at Callaghan's Mortuary. Viewing is from 12-1 pm, service at 1pm with interment to follow at Memory Gardens. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Hope Hospice, Stanford Cancer Center or charity of choice.

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Photo - Doug Jorgensen

The Sunol Repertory Theatre 2009 production of the melodrama, "A Million Dollar Baby or A Hot Time in the Olde Town Tonight," opens this weekend. Performances are March 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28 at the Sunol Glen School Theatre, corner of Main and Bond streets. Curtain time is 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15 reserved seating (assigned on first come, first served basis). Proceeds benefit the Sunol Glen School. Pictured are (from left) Becka Brown, Emily Madden, and Phil Mumford. For tickets or information go to www.sunol.net.

Solo and Ensemble Festival on Calendar

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 7. This is the 47th year the Livermore District Music Staff has hosted the festival. The festival 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 events (instrument families), Brass & Percussion, Woodwinds, Strings, Vocal, and Piano.

The purpose of a Solo & Ensemble Festival is to foster a love for "Art" music. Performance literature therefore will consist of "classical" repertoire. Students may perform either as a soloist or

as part of an ensemble (duet, trio, etc.).

Entrants will have five minutes to perform their selection in front of a judge. All judges are public school educators known for their expertise as musicians and teachers. After the recital each soloist/ensemble receives comments and a rating which compares their performance against a standard for their age group. Ratings range from needs improvement to superior.

In addition, performers who have demonstrated superior musicality may receive a Command Screening. A command screening is a second opportunity to perform in front of a screening judge. Of these screenings, 12-15 performers will be selected for a formal evening performance at Our Savior Lutheran Ministries.

The Command Performance represents a cross-section of the district's music program. It will consist of the different instruments as well as age levels from the district music program.

All events and performances, including the evening command performance are open to the public. Admission is free.

Asbury Players Stage Comedy Thriller

Asbury Players present "Exit the Body," a comedy thriller in three acts.

Performances are March 6 and 7 at 8 p.m. and March 8 at 7 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., Livermore.

Tickets are \$8 general admission, \$6 seniors and children under 12. The dinner show on Sat. is an additional \$10 with reservations required. Tickets are available at the August Tea Room and Jillian's Fine Gifts (formerly Country Charm). For information, contact Cherie at 455-1048.

'Dulcians, Sackbutts, and Shawms, OH MY!'

by Susan Steinberg

Few attending the first Early Music Concert of the season at Las Positas College could muster a clear definition of these odd sounding instruments. But after a lecture-demonstration and rousing concert by Ciaramella, they were definitely enthusiastic fans of these unfamiliar Renaissance woodwinds.

Not an Italian caramel candy (as one young concertgoer hoped), Ciaramella is a 15th Century wind band, united by a love of Renaissance music and its rich variety of voices. Multi-talented members play an impressive array of instruments, and represent many years of graduate studies in musicology and performance. Most now teach, lecture, play, and record all over the world.

How amazing to hear this unique ensemble in the convenient comfort of the LPC library, and to share in their joyous music-making. This is no staid scholarly group, but rather lively disciples of the playful spirit of 15th century music, and especially its most famous composer, Heinrich Isaacs (1450-1517) and his pupil Ludwig Senfl (1486-1543).

These two men built elaborately florid variations on simple tunes of the day, well-known to most listeners. Like masterful jazz improvisations their instrumental embroidery often rendered the original melody unrecognizable, (think of a great trumpeter playing around with "The Saints Go Marching In.")

Whether composing for the worldly court of Lorenzo de Medici or the more stately and serious Emperor Maximilian I, Heinrich Isaac was hailed as one of the great musical geniuses of his century, as well as a masterful teacher. His foremost pupil Senfl literally sings his praises as "sweet in art, joyful in sound," and spent years copying and publishing the works of this

"German Orpheus."

A fascinating pre-concert presentation highlighted the incredible range of subject matter represented in the program. Texts included well-known lovers' laments, Christian prayers, and even the popular "singing commercials" of the day, heard from street vendors and market sellers.

At one point spokesman Adam Gilbert, whose charm belies his deep scholarly knowledge, delicately explained the origin of Senfl's jolly "Ich Weiss Nicht" as "a sales pitch for a list of Renaissance aphrodisiacs, all homeopathic versions of Viagra" (or, as he euphemistically put it "that famous little blue pill.") Then he obligingly played the catchy little tune, so we could follow it through its wildly complex transformations.

Believe it or not, the next program number was based on "De Profundis Clamavi" ("Out of the depths I called to Thee, Oh Lord.") Talk about extremes of themes...

Explanations of the many instruments were equally fascinating, as the audience learned about the large family of recorders, from treble to bass, and the shawms, double reed instruments that included the early precursors of clarinets, oboes and bassoons. One instrument, the delcian, had not been seen until the late 20th century when scientists raised the Mary Rose, Henry VIII's proud flagship, from the mud of the English Channel where it had sunk in 1545.

A shawm band, we learned, was the loudest musical group of the Renaissance. Throw in a sackbutt and several small bagpipes ("remember, a shawm is just a bagpipe without a bag"), and you've got the makings of a 15th Century jazz group ready to rock. And rock they did, with an intricate counterpoint of many voices, each playing its own solo line, like a complex jam session.

Listeners, like those at a modern jam, could try to follow the musical lines intellectually, or just sit back and let the rich interplay happen around them. I suspect most eventually chose the latter, as this reviewer finally did. Caught up in the sonorous, deeply satisfying tones and rich texture, one could imagine the festivities in a Renaissance castle, or the cathedral procession of a magnificently-attired bishop.

Ironically, as musicologist Gilbert noted, the text of each work cannot be offered by a wind band, but his explications helped convey the universality of the themes, often based on perennial human relationships. In one song, the first instrument voices the misery of a man whose sweetheart has left him, while the second instrument offers the lament of a man miserable because he's just gotten married. Sounds like the storyline of a modern sitcom.

An enthusiastic audience applauded and ecored the five master musicians: Adam and Rotem Gilbert, Doug Milliman, Greg Ingles, and Eric Schmalz, and enjoyed the opportunity to meet them and their instruments personally during the informal post-concert reception.

Excitement was already building for the next two early music concerts: Sex Chordae (voice and viol music of Renaissance England), on Saturday, March 14, and Mosaico, a joyous program of spring and Carnival songs from Italy, Spain, and France on Saturday, April 18.

Enhanced enjoyment of this period music and culture is provided in a class session on the Thursday evening before each concert. For tickets or more information, go to www.LPCEarlymusic.org or contact Artistic Director Marilyn Marquis at 424-1209 or MMARQUIS@Laspositascollege.edu.

Livermore's Talent Show Competitors Perform in Front of Packed House

The Rotary Clubs of Livermore hit a grand slam at Saturday's "Livermore's Talent Show - 2009 Performance Competition" at the Bankhead Theater. The 500-seat house was literally packed and each of the 13 competing performances received an overwhelming reception from a very appreciative audience. The evening of performances included a handbell ensemble, solo vocalists, a solo saxophonist, a violin/guitar duo, a guitar soloist, a cello soloist, an operatic soprano, a drum soloist, and a rock band.

The 17 and under winner was Monica Pidoy from San Leandro. She's an 11 year old with a voice, "that can shake the rafters." The 18 and over category was won by Livermore's own Kristen Allen/Michel Rodrigues, an acrobatic gymnastic duo. Their performance was a mix of sensual Tango dancing and gymnastic prowess that made the audience gasp in unison. Each of these winning performances took home \$2500. The gymnastic duo are the mixed pairs world champions.

The four judges who were given the task of picking the two winners were screen star Cathy Lee Crosby, Allen Larson from JR Powers in Pleasanton, Livermore's own legend Carol Jean from Carol Jean's Dance Studio, and Len Alexander, ad-

visor for LVPAC Presents.

"Not only did I have a great time but I was amazed at the range and quality of the talent. Seeing the potential 'star' in someone is still thrilling after many years in show business. I saw some stars right there on the stage of the beautiful Bankhead Theater in Livermore. The Rotary put on a quality event and I would love to be a part of it again," said Cathy Lee Crosby.

Larson added, "The event was a great success. I was surprised with the level of talent that we saw. There were so many talented people with such a variety of performances, that it was actually very difficult to choose the winners. When you hear an 11 year old girl sing with such maturity and originality that she literally brings the audience to their feet, you know you're going to have a great night. I hope to be involved in this event next year as well. If not as a judge, then as an excited member of the audience."

While the judges were deliberating the audience was treated to the singing of special guest star Richard D. King. In addition to being a celebrated Las Vegas cabaret performer, he is a highly respected attorney here in the Tri-Valley and Past World President of Rotary International.

King stated, "The Livermore Talent Show was tremendous. Every act was professional and

superb. It was a great privilege for me to be a small part of such a diversified, entertaining event. The Rotary Clubs of Livermore and Livermore Valley are to be congratulated on a job very well done."

Bob Redell and Heather Quarterman, the two emcees, asked the audience if they would be back next year and received a resounding and enthusiastic "yes."

DVD recordings of this show are available at LivermoreTalentShow.com. All net proceeds go towards the upcoming community grants that will be awarded by the two Rotary clubs in Livermore.

"Being a part of this talent show was a wonderful experience. I not only had fun performing, but also watching the other acts, which were all so breathtaking that I was constantly on the edge of my seat." Olivia Glass, Graduate of Livermore High School (2008 Class Valedictorian) and currently a freshman at UC Davis, majoring in Animal Science.

"This evening of exceptional performances at the Bankhead Theater was topnotch and immensely entertaining. The first Livermore Talent Show sponsored by the Rotary Club was a huge success," according to Albert Glass, Computer Scientist, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

ART & ENTERTAINMENT

Gospel Music: A Passionate Heritage, 1-day workshop taught by Don Lewis, musician, educator and performer. Saturday, March 7, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore. Learn about: The African and spiritual roots of Gospel Music; the pioneering composers, musicians and vocalists; early oppositions to Gospel Music; how Gospel Music style influenced secular music. Songs will be taught in the traditional manner, by rote. Singing experience or skill not required. All participants are invited to sing on Sunday, March 8 at UUCIL's Sunday worship service. Registration: \$25 (light lunch included). For more information: 925-447-8747.

The Wild Vine, Tom Alford is the featured artist for the month of March at the Wild Vine Gallery. He is an award-winning local artist who creates colorful, expressive etchings. Reception is Thursday, March 5, from 7-9 p.m. at the Wild Vine Art Gallery and Wine Lounge, 2187 First St., Livermore

Auditions, Valley Concert Choral, auditions by appointment on Monday, March 16, at the First Presbyterian Church of Livermore. The church is located at the corner of 4th and L Streets. The Choral is seeking experienced singers with sight-reading skills who enjoy singing exciting and challenging music. The Choral performs a wide variety of music ranging from classical to contemporary, and folk to jazz. To schedule an appointment, call (925) 462-4205. Auditions are for the May 9th concert "Movie and Musical Favorites" and the upcoming 2009-2010 season.

Artist show, Myra Latkin will exhibit her work at the Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., Kensington, March thru April. Hours are Mon-Tues noon to 8 p.m.; Thurs. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Fri. 1 to 5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Information, 501-524-3043.

Acoustic guitar player/composer Christopher LaBel performs Fri., March 6, 5 to 7 p.m. at Retzlaff Winery at Blacksmith Square, 25 So. Livermore Ave. \$5 cover charge. All are welcome.

Poetry, Prose & Arts Festival, Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council (PCAC) and City of Pleasanton Civic Arts, postmark deadline for early registration and contest entries for the Eighth Annual Poetry, Prose & Arts Festival is Saturday, March 7. The Festival will take place on Saturday and Sunday, April 4 and 5, at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Boulevard in Pleasanton. The Eighth Annual Poetry Prose & Arts Festival will include poetry and prose workshops for adults and youth, poetry and prose contests, an awards banquet, a Literary Row, a reception and book signings, and a fine arts exhibit. Featured keynote speaker will be Dana Gioia, poet, critic and best-selling anthologist who recently served as chair for the National Endowment for the Arts. Several festival package options are available, including savings for early registration. Complete festival information, contest entry and registration forms are available at www.pleasantonarts.org or by contacting Michelle Russo at (925) 931-5350 or mrusso@ci.pleasanton.ca.us. Poetry and prose contest entries will not be

accepted after March 7, 2009.

Lisa and Ron Rigge's photographs will be hanging at the Retzlaff Winery Boutique in Blacksmith Square, downtown Livermore from Feb 21 - March 28. Hours are Fridays 2-6 and Saturdays and Sundays from 12-6. Please call the Retzlaff Winery first at 925-447-8941 to be sure that the Boutique is open. Address: 25 S. Livermore Ave. Livermore

Great Performances: A free series of classic films hosted by Candace K-laschus, Professor of Media Studies at Las Positas College. She presents a talk about each film prior to the viewing. Programs begin at 7 p.m. Mar. 5, Stella Dallas screens. For more information, call Penny Johnson, 931-3405.

Seussical, Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre (formerly Pleasanton Playhouse) Studio Theatre, 1048 Serpentine Lane, Suite 309, Pleasanton. March 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15. Fri. and Sat. 8 p.m. Sun. 2 p.m. Ticket information 462-2121 or www.trivalleyrep.com.

The Vagina Monologues, Benefiting the Tri-Valley Haven. March 6, 8 p.m., and March 7, 2 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2500 First St., Livermore. 373-6800 or www.livermoreperformingarts.org.

Innovation: The Search for New Ideas featuring Bob Borchers, Apple's Senior Director of Worldwide Product Marketing for the iPhone and 1984 Livermore High School Graduate. Thurs., March 5, 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First Street, Downtown Livermore. From custom shoes to solid gold cell phones and from the iPod to the iPhone, each product emerges in a quest to dis-

(More on page 11)

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WATCHMEN (R) DLP	2:00	3:00	5:30 6:30 9:00 10:00*
* Fri-Sat Only			
JONAS BROTHERS: 3D CONCERT EXPERIENCE (G) 3D	12:00	2:15	4:30 6:45 9:00
TAKEN (PG13) DLP	12:40	2:50	5:10 7:25 9:45
PAUL BLART: MALL COP (PG) DLP	12:15	2:30	4:50 7:05 9:25
MADEA GOES TO JAIL (PG13) DLP	1:15	4:05	6:35 9:10
FIRE UP (PG13) DLP	12:10	2:35	4:55 7:15 9:25
HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU (PG13) DLP	12:25	3:40	6:40 9:35
GRAN TORINO (R) DLP	1:10	4:00	6:50 9:30
CORALINE IN 3D (PG) 3D THX	11:40	2:00	4:25 6:50 9:15
MILK (PG13) DLP	12:30	3:45	6:30 9:20
HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG) DLP	12:20	3:30	
CONFESSIONS OF A SHOPAHOLIC (PG) DLP		6:55	9:40

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Concert Chorale Performs Rossini Work

The Valley Concert Chorale will perform Rossini's Petite Messe Solennelle in two concerts in March.

Performances are Saturday, March 14, 8 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, and on Sunday, March 15, 3 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 4th and L Streets, Livermore.

Rossini's choral mass has

been described by critics "remarkable" and "genuinely moving."

The performance will include professional soloists. Musicians will accompany the singers on the harmonium, and two pianos played by VCC's concert pianist Daniel Glover, and Deborah Lorenz.

Tickets are \$18 if purchased in advance, and \$20 at the door.

Students age 18 and under are always free. Advance tickets may be ordered by calling (925) 866-4003, or by email to info@valleyconcertchorale.org.

More information about the Valley Concert Chorale is available on-line at www.valleyconcertchorale.org or by calling the general information line at (925) 866-4003.

Author at Pleasanton Library

If you or anyone in your family has ever read a book in The Hardy Boys, The Three Investigators or The Babysitter's Club series, then you know something of the work of children's author Peter Lerangis, who visits the Pleasanton Library on Monday, March 9 at 4:00pm.

Peter Lerangis is the author of over 150 books, for early readers through teens, which have sold nearly 3 million copies. He injects his own brand of suspense, humor, and colorful characters into many different writing genres - mystery (the Spy X series), science fiction (the Watchers series), teen romance (the

Drama Club series), and serious historical fiction (Smiler's Bones). His latest work is Book 3 in the popular new 39 Clues series, entitled The Sword Thief.

No registration is required for this free event, which is recommended for ages 10 or older. Co-sponsor Towne Center Books will have The Sword Thief on hand for purchase and autographing. For more information about this and other children's library programs, visit the library website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/library/programs-events-child.html or call the Children's Desk at (925) 931-3400 ext. 8.



Smoky quartz and sterling silver necklace by Michele Buckett.

LAA Gallery Featured Artist

Michele Buckett is the Livermore Art Association Gallery's featured artist for the month of March.

Michele creates jewelry using semi-precious stones, pearls, and crystals. She makes a variety of necklaces, earrings, and bracelets, and these will be available for purchase at the LAA Gallery. Drop by and see the other Gallery artworks, which celebrate the season of "Wet n' Wild."

Admission is free. LAA Gallery is open 11:30-4:00 Wed-Sun, and is located in the historic Carnegie Building at 2155 3rd St. Livermore. For more info call the Gallery 925-449-9927.

St. Pat's Concert

The San Ramon Community Chorus Concert will perform a St. Patrick's Day Concert on Fri., March 6 at 7 p.m. at the Front Row Theater. The chorus will perform Irish tunes along with classics, Broadway and folk music.

The McGrath Irish Dancers will also be in attendance to perform traditional dances. Bring the entire Family.

The performance will be held at the Dougherty Station Community Center - Front Row Theater. Admission is free. For more information visit the website www.sanramonperformingarts.com or call (925) 973-ARTS.

Teens Sought to Serve as Editorial Staff for New Magazine

Livermore Public Library is seeking four Livermore area teens in grades 10-12, to be a part of a volunteer editorial staff for the first ever free tabletop publication of a new teen magazine, "Fusion Teen Zine." Fusion Teen Zine is a full color art and literary magazine which provides a creative outlet for teen artists and authors to share their talents and unique perspectives on the world.

Teens interested in becoming a part of the editorial staff must have excellent composition and editorial skills, the ability to utilize features and functions of Adobe

InDesign CS3 and CS4 software and an eye for quality in art and writing.

The editorial staff of Fusion Teen Zine will be responsible for the selection of submitted art and literature, editing literary works, layout, design, print and web dis-

tribution, and promotion of the magazine. The opportunity to become part of the editorial staff provides many hours of volunteer service and experience in learning about the world of editing and publishing. Teens will also gain experience working with community agencies and learn to evaluate the processes and implementation of their final

Applications for the editorial staff position must be returned to the Civic Center library by 5:00 February 28, 2009. Interviews will take place the first week in March and selections made by March 13, 2009.

For more information please contact Sandy Fouts at 925-373-5500 extension 5583 or download the application from Teen Space on the library website: www.livermore.lib.ca.us.

Annual Coin Show and Sale This Sunday

The Livermore Valley Coin Club will hold its 46th annual coin show and sale on Sunday March 8, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.. The show will be held at the Elks Lodge, 940 Larkspur Drive Springtown in Livermore.

More than 30 dealers from all over Northern California will offer gold, silver, and base metal coins from the United States and

foreign countries. Ancient coins will be offered as well. Prices range from a few cents to hundreds of dollars. Dealers will make appraisals and purchase coins from the public.

Admission is free. Wooden "nickels" commemorating the event will be given away while supplies last. This year's raffle will feature a U.S. \$20 gold coin

for the grand prize and 14 additional runner-up gold and silver coins. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6/\$5.00, available at the show. An hourly drawing will also be held for a U.S. silver dollar.

Lunch service will be available. For further information please call Stephen Kramer at (925) 980-9307.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 420696

The following person(s) doing business as: Schoening Management Services, 1284 Marigold Road, Livermore Ca 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kathleen Schoening, 1284 Marigold Road, Livermore Ca 94551

This business is conducted by an Individual
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.
Signature of Registrant: /s/ Kathleen Schoening
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 420703-420705

The following person(s) doing business as: 1)Airdance Farm, 2)Airdance Boarding and Training, 3)Extreme Sport Horse, 1105 W. Jack London Blvd., Livermore Ca 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lisa Duncley, 1105 W. Jack London Blvd., Livermore Ca 94551

This business is conducted by an Individual
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.
Signature of Registrant: /s/ Lisa Duncley
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 420548

The following person(s) doing business as: Bahia Electric, 5287 Peony Dr., Livermore Ca 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Fernando Ramirez, 5287 Peony Dr., Livermore Ca 94551

This business is conducted by an Individual
The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name (s) listed above on January 27, 2009.
Signature of Registrant: /s/ Fernando Ramirez
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 2, 2009. Expires February 2, 2014.
The Independent Legal No. 2447. Publish February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 2009.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 420840

The following person(s) doing business as: Cal Coast Dive, 476 Windermere Circle, Livermore Ca 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Robin Davies, 476 Windermere Circle, Livermore Ca 94551

This business is conducted by Co-partners
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.
Signature of Registrant: /s/ Robin Davies, Soraja Davies, Adrienne Davies

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 420715

The following person(s) doing business as: Optimal Health Spectrums, 4463 Stoneridge Drive, Suites A & C, Pleasanton Ca 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lynne R. Mielke, Medical Corporation, 4463 Stoneridge Drive, Suites A & C, Pleasanton Ca 94588

This business is conducted by a Corporation
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.
Signature of Registrant: /s/ Dr. Lynne R. Mielke
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 4, 2009. Expires February 4, 2014.
The Independent Legal No. 2449. Publish February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 2009.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 420692-420693

The following person(s) doing business as: 1) Advantage Care, 2) Advantage Medical Supply, 4740 Orangewood Ct., Pleasanton Ca 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lola Enterprises, LLC, 4740 Orangewood Ct., Pleasanton Ca 94588

This business is conducted by a Limited liability company
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.
Signature of Registrant: /s/ Susan L. Case
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 4, 2009. Expires February 4, 2014.
The Independent Legal No. 2450. Publish February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 2009.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 420897

The following person(s) doing business as: Helping Hand Academic Coaching, 2604 Ingrid Ct., Pleasanton Ca 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Gaurav Gopal Incorporated, 2604 Ingrid Ct., Pleasanton Ca 94566

This business is conducted by a Corporation
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.
Signature of Registrant: /s/ Adam Luther
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 10, 2009. Expires February 10, 2014.
The Independent Legal No. 2451. Publish February 19, 26, March 5, 12, 2009.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 420834

The following person(s) doing business as: Cook's Cleaning Service, 6101 Augusta Way, Livermore Ca 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Thomas H. Cook
This business is conducted by an Individual
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.
Signature of Registrant: /s/ Thomas H. Cook
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 9, 2009. Expires February 9, 2014

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The Independent Legal No. 2452. Publish February 19, 26, March 5, 12, 2009.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 420922

The following person(s) doing business as: Dogtopia of the Tri-Valley, 7132 Johnson Drive, Pleasanton Ca 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Denise A. Caruso, LLC., 1734 Pacific Ave., San Leandro Ca 94577

This business is conducted by a Limited liability company Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.

Signature of Registrant: /s/ Denise A. Caruso
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 10, 2009. Expires February 10, 2014

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 421432

The following person(s) doing business as: Pleasanton Orthodontics, 4466 Black Ave Suite B, Pleasanton Ca 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Marzieh Karkhanchehi, 11975 West Vomas Rd., Dublin Ca 94568

This business is conducted by an Individual Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.

Signature of Registrant: /s/ Marzieh Karkhanchehi
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 24, 2009. Expires February 24, 2014

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 420799

The following person(s) doing business as: Sunrise Jewelry Designs, 3868 Inverness Way, Livermore Ca 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sara L. Shadle, 3868 Inverness Way, Livermore CA 94551

This business is conducted by an Individual Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.

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

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NOTICES/ANNOUNCEMENTS

151) ANNOUNCEMENTS
Patricia (Barraclough) and Lloyd Mann will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on March 7, 2009 with a luncheon in their home. Pat and Lloyd both came to the Bay Area to pursue their careers and met on a ski trip. They were married at the Mills College Chapel in Oakland and settled in Livermore, where Lloyd worked as a physicist for over 35 years at Lawrence Livermore Laboratory. Pat worked for many years at Parental Stress Service, and volunteered with many organizations, including the League of Women Voters and the Livermore/Amador Symphony Guild. They raised 3 children and have 4 grandchildren, all of whom reside in the Bay Area.

Axis Health Center 4361 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. Serves Valley residents with emphasis on those with low income. The center has general medical services, family planning, well baby, prenatal and maternity programs, social services, blood pressure checks, WIC food supplement programs, premarital blood test, sports/camp physicals, TB screening, free transportation available. 925 462-1755

SHOULDER PAIN PUMP INJURY ALERT! If you receive a pain pump after shoulder surgery and suffered further cartilage damage, it may be due to the pain pump itself and you may be eligible for Money Damages. Call the attorneys at James Rolhouse & Associates at 1-800-969-5633. Licensed in Minnesota, (CAL*SCAN)

DENTURE CREAM INJURY ALERT! Zinc poisoning, nerve damage and other serious neurological injuries may be linked to the zinc found in denture creams such as Poligrip, Fixodent and others. If you've suffered zinc poisoning or other serious injuries from your denture cream you may be eligible for Money Damages. Call the attorneys at James Rolhouse & Associates at 1-800-969-5633. Licensed in Minnesota, (CAL*SCAN)

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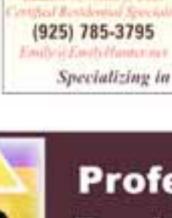
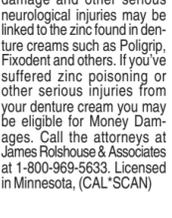
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What Homeowners Need to Know When Shopping for Insurance

By Cher Wollard

You've found your perfect home. You are approved for a mortgage. Your Realtor has negotiated a fair price and terms.

Now it's time to shop for home insurance. Chances are your Realtor has advised you not to delay this important step.

According to the California Department of Insurance, the market has tightened and two-thirds of insurance companies have adopted stricter underwriting guidelines in the last three years. Some are not accepting new clients at all.

Insurance policies offer a range of options on how you will protect your biggest investment in life, so you will need to take your time to decide what type of policy best suits your situation.

"What people should think about is finding someone who can help them determine their specific needs," advises Mike Pitsker of Pitsker Insurance Agency in San Ramon.

Find an insurance agent you trust. If you don't have one, your real estate agent can recommend someone. You can check the status of any insurance agent's state license at the Department of Insurance website, www.insurance.ca.gov. This site has lots of valuable consumer information.

Before agreeing to issue a policy and on what terms, the insurance company will look at a variety of factors:

- condition of the property - especially the roof;
- location of the property;
- whether it is a single family home or a condominium;
- number and nature of previous insurance claims made on the property; and
- previous home insurance claims made by the applicant.

To check the condition of the property, the insurance agent may ask for copies of inspection reports or, more likely, drive by the property.

Previous insurance claims made on the property can be found in a CLUE (Comprehensive Loss Underwriting Exchange) report, which details insurance claims made on the property in the past five years, regardless of ownership.

Make sure your agent requests a CLUE report from the seller, ideally as part of the purchase agreement. The company that provides the Natural Hazards Disclosure can usually provide a CLUE report for about \$20 extra. A property with more than two recent claims may be difficult to insure, according to the Department of Insurance.

You will then want to look at various policy options to decide what works best for you.

The first thing you may notice is that your insurance agent will not recommend insuring the property for its market value or the price you are paying for the home. Rather, home insurance is based on replacement value - how much it would cost to rebuild a home of the same dimensions from the foundation up.

Replacement costs do not include the value of the lot, for example. And basic policies do not include secondary structures, such as gazebos, sheds or even detached in-law units.

Most policies do include a minimal amount of liability coverage, in case someone is injured on the property, and a certain amount of coverage for personal property.

"New policies are written as packages," Pitsker said. "A client almost has to ask if he only wants minimal coverage, perhaps for a rental where the tenant would get their own renter's policy to supplement the coverage."

Your lender will almost certainly require you to carry a certain amount of insurance. Beyond that, it depends on what level of risk you are willing to assume.

"You can get these low estimates, but they may not cover all the needs of that homeowner," Pitsker said. "You really need to design the homeowner's policy for the specific needs of the client. Most major companies now add all the bells and whistles, and most of the mortgage companies require it."

For example, basic personal property coverage may not be sufficient for all homeowners.

"If you took the house and turned it upside down and shook it - everything that fell out would be personal property," Pitsker explained. "The built-in stove would not fall out, so it's part of the structure. But the stand-alone refrigerator would be personal property."

Personal property coverage is usually a percentage of the replacement value coverage.

"Different companies use different amounts," Pitsker said. "With Farmers Insurance, it's 52 percent. That may seem like a lot, but most women can look in their closet and find \$10,000. Guys laugh when I say that but, Buddy, what about your CD collection or your tool box?"

"And if she has \$10,000 in the closet, how much is in the cupboards in the kitchen? How much is in her jewelry box? You need someone to sit down and go over it with you, because those numbers look pretty big, but they're not."

While most policies cover some jewelry and other high-value items, there are limits to that coverage, both per-item and per group of items, as well as an overall ceiling on personal property coverage.

"For high-value items like jewelry, antiques, firearms, sterling silver, collectibles, you need to get appraisals," Pitsker said.

The maximums in most policies are, for example, \$5,000 for cash, bonds and securities; \$2,500 for firearms or a single item of jewelry. "A woman's engagement ring or other key pieces of jewelry are often above the maximums," he said.

That means homeowners may want to consider adding riders to their policy to augment the coverage of some of these high-value items. Appraisals would be required for additional coverage.

The buyer may also want to obtain coverage for secondary structures on the property.

Buyers of condominiums may want to supplement their insurance to cover emergency assessments.

And, of course, in California there is the matter of earthquake and/or flood insurance, neither of which are included in basic policies.

If you live in an area of high-flood danger (identified on the NHD), your lender may require you carry flood insurance.

A devastating natural disaster can wreck havoc on insurance companies, so not all are willing to offer such policies.

Companies that do offer flood insurance write their policies according to standards set by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Earthquake insurance is a little different. A few private companies offer earthquake policies. The state also has a fund for earthquake coverage - the California Earthquake Authority (CEA) - that consumers can buy into.

In most cases, earthquake policies have high deductibles and ceilings on coverage that may or may not cover replacement costs.

Many homeowners will find themselves relying on federal and state grants and low-cost loans in the case of a catastrophic event, with insurance payouts filling in the gaps.

If you are interested in obtaining earthquake insurance, look at both CEA and private insurers, as the policies they offer are different. Private insurers tend to base their policies on the specifics of the property. CEA categorizes properties according to geographic zones.

Additionally, there is always the risk the private insurer may not have sufficient funds to meet all their obligations in the event of a major event.

"In an emergency, you are betting the insurance company is going to be in better shape than you are," Pitsker said.

On the other hand, most California homeowners do not carry earthquake insurance, and only a handful in your neighborhood may have coverage with the same company, which dilutes the risk.

After satisfying your mortgage-holder's requirements, the level and type of insurance you choose is all about risk versus cost.

Cher Wollard is a local Realtor with Windermere Welcome Home.

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Meet Bay Area Poets Laureate

There will be a reception to honor Bay Area Poets Laureate on Sat., March 7 at the Livermore Civic Center Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave. The event will be from 1 to 4 p.m.

Those attending will be able to meet the poets and hear them read their poetry from 2 to 3 p.m. Livermore Poet Laureate Connie Post is hosting the event.

This reception is being held as a kick off to the Ronna Leon photography exhibit "Poets Laureate in California"

Ronna Leon's photography of California Poets Laureate will be on display. This photo exhibit of past and current Poets Laureate of California will be on display for the entire month of March in the main gallery of the Civic Center Library.

Refreshments will be served. For more information contact Connie Post at connie@poetrypost.com

ART & ENTERTAINMENT

(continued from page 8)

cover what makes things new. Rae Dorough Speakers Series, \$40/\$30 Adults, \$20/\$15 Students 21 & under. Tickets at 373.6800 or online at www.livermoreperformingarts.org. **MacHomer**, March 7, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Rick Miller entertains in a one-man vocal spectacular that features impressions of over 50 voices from TV's The Simpsons in a performance of Shakespeare's Macbeth! With a script which remains 85% Shakespeare. Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. Civic Arts Presents. Tickets adult: \$25, \$30, \$35, student: \$15, \$20, \$25. 931-3444. www.civicartstickets.org.

41st Annual Northern California Daffodil Society Daffodil Show, March 7 and 8, Alden Lane Nursery, 981 Alden Lane, Livermore. Sat. 1 to 5 p.m., Sun. 10 to 4 p.m. No admission charge.

The Rise of German Romanticism, the Pleasanton Chamber Players, Sun., March 8, 3 p.m. Trinity Lutheran Church, corner of Hopyard and Del Valle, Pleasanton. Chamber music works by E.T. A. Hoffmann, H. Baermann, Weber, Liszt, Schubert, Mendelssohn and Schumann. Performers are Cecilia Huang and Lylia Guion, violin; Micah Naler, viola; Gay Hagen Dunn and Lawrence Granger, cello; Karen Stasko Veca, flute; Gary Sears, clarinet; Dominique Piana, harp; Priscilla Carter Granger, piano. Admission in advance \$15, at the door \$18, children free. Tickets are available at Ingram and Brauns Musik Shoppe and Towne Center Books in Pleasanton, at Fretted Friends in Livermore; information (925) 455-5333 or dominiequepiana@comcast.net.

San Ramon Symphonic Band, March 13, 8 p.m. Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Rd. \$5 adults, free students with valid ID or youth under 12. www.SanRamonPerformingArts.com, 973-ARTS.

Craig Chaquico, Friday, March 13, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Valley Humane Society presents Jazzed About Pets. \$65, \$50, \$45, \$40. Tickets www.livermoreperformingarts.org or call 925-373-6800.

Sex Chordae, a concert of viols, March 14, Las Positas College Early Music Series, 8 p.m. college library, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. Music for viol consort of the 16th and 17th centuries. Pre-concert talk, post-concert reception. Tickets \$15, students \$5. For additional information and tickets please contact: Marilyn Marquis, Artistic Director. 925.424.120 mmarquis@laspositascollege.edu.

The Marriage of Figaro, Livermore Valley Opera, March 14, 15, 20, 21, 22. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. 925-373-6800. www.livermoreperformingarts.org

Honk, a contemporary re-telling of the story of the Ugly Duckling, to be staged by Christensen Middle School. Performances are held at Livermore High School Performing Arts Theatre in Livermore. Tickets on sale for evening performances Friday, March 13, Saturday, March 14, and Saturday, March 21 at 7pm. One matinee performance is offered on Sunday, March 22 at 2pm. Tickets are \$6-\$8 and can be purchased in advance by email at tix4honk@gmail.com or at the door 30 minutes prior to the show.

Ohlone College Wind Orchestra, Winter Concert, 2 p.m. Sun., March 15. Compositions by local composers including Aquilanti's University of California Pictures, Heisinger's Hymn for Band, Bohmler's Variations on a Theme of Schubert, and Roumain's 'The Contrapuntal Liberation of Fur Elise, plus John Adams' Lollapalooza, Camille Sanit-Saens' Marche Militaire Francaise, and David R. Holsinger's spectacular To Tame the Perilous Skies. Adults \$15, seniors/staff/students \$10, under age 12 \$8. Smith Center at Ohlone College, 3600 Mission Blvd., Fremont (510) 659-6031 or www.smithcenterpresents.com.

Still On The Hill, The Ozark Folkgrass Duo, March 15, 2 p.m. featuring duo known as Still on the Hill (Kelly Mulholland and Donna Stjerna). Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton. Free. Information: 925-931-3405.

Jill Aigrot, France's Cabaret Songstress, voice of Academy Award Winner Marion Cotillard in "La Vie en Rose." Mon., March 16, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First Street, Downtown Livermore. This French songbird inhabits the role of one of her country's most celebrated songstresses. Edith Piaf. \$55/\$40/\$35/\$30/\$12 students. For tickets call 925.373.6800 or online at www.livermoreperformingarts.org.

Bye Bye Birdie, Amador Valley and Foothill High Schools performance, March 19, 20, 21, 26, 27 and 28, 7:30 p.m. Ticket: \$10 for students, \$12 for adults. 931-3444. www.civicartstickets.org.

History lecture, A Nation Transformed, How the Civil War changed America forever. An event in the Ed Kinney Lecture Series, March 19. Presented by Gerald Henig at 7:00 p.m. at the Museum on Main, 603 Main Street, Pleasanton, CA. Cost: \$10 donation, \$5 for museum members. Reservations are recommended. For reservations call 925-462-2766. www.museumonmain.org.

Something for Everyone at St. Patrick's Day Festivities

The annual St. Patrick's Day Festival in Dublin will be held Saturday and Sunday, March 14 and 15 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days.

The festivities will be held at the Dublin Civic Center. There will be Irish entertainment, artists booths, commercial vendors, nonprofit displays, carnival rides, food and drink.

The Main Stage will feature performances by Molly's Revenge, Cullan's Hounds, Bog Savages and Pat Ryan and the Celtic Junkit. There will be a separate stage dedicated to Irish dance.

The Gathering on Fri., March 13 celebrates the coming together of folks from all corners of the land. Dignitaries from Bray, Ireland, Dublin's Sister

City, will be on hand at the Dublin Sister City Association's annual Green and White Gala at the Dublin Senior Center. This dinner event includes no-host cocktails with dinner and entertainment. Tickets must be purchased in advance at 829-4758.

Sat., March 14 is devoted to celebration from local saints and marriages to sporting events and the evocation of folk rituals. Dublin's celebration starts off with the Firefighter Pancake Breakfast serving up green pancakes from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. Fire station #16 is located at the corner of Amador Valley Blvd. and Donohue Dr. Cost is \$3 for children and \$5 for adults. Tickets are available at the door.

The celebration continues with the annual Dublin Lions

Club Parade. Following the same route as last year, the official start is at Amador Plaza Road and proceeds east on Dublin Blvd., north on Village Parkway, west on Amador Valley Blvd. and ends at Donohue Drive. The parade will include marching bands, bagpipes, floats, equestrian groups and clowns. Bleacher seating is available on Amador Valley Blvd. near the intersection of Village Parkway. The parade begins promptly at 9:30 a.m.

The festival will take place in the parking lot between city hall and the library, which will be transformed into Ireland.

Among the special activities will be a sheepherding demonstration. Another feature will be the great Village Blacksmith stage show.

Some programs will be presented in the Library program room where there will be an opportunity to share memories and learn about Ireland's warmest traditions, including sampling tea at O'Reilly's Irish Tea Room, why people kiss the Blarney Stone, how to make an Irish blessing plaque or listen to an Irish Storyteller.

The Scattering is March 15, celebrating the parting of guests. The festival will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will be a hurling contest at the nearby

sports grounds. The final day will begin with the 11th Annual Shamrock 5K fun run and walk at 8:30 a.m. This 3.1 mile course will start and end at the Civic Center. Cost is \$20 if preregistered, \$25 day of the event. The fee includes an event t-shirt and post race activities and an opportunity to win raffle prizes. Register on line at www.Active.com or call 833-6645 to have a brochure mailed. For more information, go to www.DublinStPats.com or call the Parks and Community Services Department at 556-4500.

History Talk Focuses on Impacts of the Civil War

Gerald S. Henig will present a talk with the theme, "A Nation Transformed: How the Civil War Changed America Forever." The presentation will be at 7 p.m., Thursday, March 19 at the Lynnwood United Methodist Church, 4444 Black Avenue, Pleasanton. The lecture is one of the Ed Kinney Lecture Series presented by Pleasanton's Museum On Main.

Often called America's second revolution, the Civil War left a legacy of change unsurpassed by any other event in U.S. history. In many respects, a different nation emerged from the conflict than the one that entered it.

Henig will discuss the trans-

formations spawned by the Civil War, including the new methods for raising, administering, and financing armies; fighting on land, sea, and from the air; gathering intelligence; providing health and medical care; dealing with war dissenters and enemies from within; caring for the maimed, widowed, and orphaned; honoring the dead, and a host of other unanticipated challenges.

Copies of his new book about the Civil War will be available for purchase.

Henig is emeritus professor of history at California State University, East Bay, where he will soon complete his thirty-ninth year of teaching.

No reservations are necessary. Admission is \$5 for museum members and \$10 for non-members. Call (925) 462-2766. Memberships will be available for purchase that night.

Talk to Provide Update on Mars Exploration

A team of researchers, led by planetary scientist Janice Bishop, Ph.D. of the SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) Institute has used the Compact Reconnaissance Imaging Spectrometer for Mars aboard the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter to examine infrared light reflected from clays situated in the many-kilometer wide channel. Mawrth Vallis resembles a dried-up, broad river valley through which water may have flowed.

Bishop, who grew up in Livermore, is Principal Investigator for the SETI Institute and NASA-Ames Research Center. Her team has collected and interpreted data from the Rover on MARS and other remote sensing devices resulting in a better understanding of the surface material and water content on MARS. She will be presenting up-to-date information about research being conducted on MARS at the Livermore Library beginning at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 11.

Her talk is being presented by the Livermore-Pleasanton-Dublin Branch of the American Association of University Women. The public is invited.

For further information, contact Program Co-Vice Presidents Elva Cooper (846-2092) and Gwen Locke (846-9136).

Sing-A-Long with "The Sound of Music"

The Vine Cinema and the California Independent Film Festival are presenting a special Sing-A-Long screening of "The Sound of Music." It will be held on Saturday March 14, at 1:00 at the Vine Cinema in Livermore.

The 1965 Oscar winner and crowd pleaser, The Sound of Music, will have the words to all the famous songs at the bottom. Audience participation is strongly encouraged, not only sing along, but also boo and cheer

on the characters. Audience members are also invited to bring their own props, and dress up for the show.

Tickets are just \$8.00 for the showing, with 50% of the proceeds benefitting the California Independent Film Festival, which is hosting their 11th annual festival this upcoming April 16-19. For more information about the Sing-A-Long, visit www.vinecinema.com or call 447-2545.

Entries Sought for Top Teen Poet Contest

The Livermore Public Library will present "Livermore's Top Teen Poet Contest" on Sat., April 18. Connie Post, Livermore's Poet Laureate, will co-sponsor this event. The contest will take place from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm in the Community Room of the Livermore Public Library.

All Livermore teens, ages 12 to 17 are invited to submit poems. Poetry submissions will be accepted at each Livermore Public Library branch from March 15 through April 16, 2009. Approved poems will be performed before an audience and judges based on the age of the poet: Ages 12-14 will perform at the

microphone from 3:00-4:00 and ages 15-17 will perform at the microphone from 4:00-5:00 pm. Connie Post and a select panel of judges will determine the winners of each age division.

Winners will be chosen based on poem content and performance. Contest winners will be announced and prizes awarded immediately after each age division. Family and friends are invited to attend this free event.

For further information and to download the submission form, please visit Teen Space on the library's website at www.livermore.lib.ca.us or call Sandy at 373-5500 extension 5583.

Stage Director Presents Opera's Opening Night Lecture

Stage Director Jose Maria Condemni will present the opening night lecture on Saturday, March 14th for Livermore Valley Opera's production of "The Marriage of Figaro." This is an opportunity to hear directly from the artist on his interpretation of Mozart's popular opera, The Marriage of Figaro.

Livermore Valley Opera features a 30-minute lecture one hour prior to every performance. The performance ticket includes

early admission to the lecture. The lecture will follow the gala festivities in the lobby. The Gala, an opening night soiree is a separate \$40 ticket. The Marriage of Figaro Opening Night is dedicated to Las Positas College.

The schedule is as follows: gala 5:30 p.m., lecture 7 p.m.; curtain 8 p.m.

The regularly featured lecturer, Phillip Manwell will be on hand.



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STONERIDGE

(continued from page one)

for the road. It would have allowed all of the proposed development to proceed.

However, Alameda County representatives insisted that the road be part of any development. The county has offered to provide \$5 million to pay for the extension as well as \$1 million for other traffic improvement projects. County counsel issued the opinion that the environmental review is adequate to extend the road.

Former City Planner Steve Bocian, acting as a consultant provided the staff report, noted that neither the MOU, nor the DEIR anticipated an extension of the road. He pointed out that LAFCO had raised concerns regarding the lack of analysis.

Pat Cashman, Director of the county's Surplus Property Authority, said he wanted to address the issue of the MOU. "It is no surprise that for a better part of the last year, the county has changed its stance. I think development on Staples Ranch will run into a brick wall without the extension." He said the county had proposed changes in the MOU.

Cashman added, "We are not prepared to go to LAFCO to request annexation to Pleasanton without this road. I think our position is clear."

Three residents, Matt Morrison, John Carroll and Mark Emerson had retained an attorney to provide an opinion on the adequacy of the environmental review.

Attorney Keith Wagner of the law firm Lippe Gaffney Wagner LLP, wrote "...that the document, as modified by a late set of amendments by the City, varies substantially from the project described or analyzed in the Draft EIR that was circulated for public review and comment. The project described in the publicly circulated Draft EIR 1 expressly stated that the project would not extend Stoneridge Drive to El Charro Road, and 2) did not include any mention of a proposed off-site realignment of Freisman Road to the east, or analysis of traffic and other impacts to Stoneridge Road associated with that realignment."

"The Final EIR, in contrast, now incorporates these elements

into the project, but was never recirculated for public or agency review and comment. For this reason alone, the EIR cannot be certified and thus, the project cannot be approved until the City recirculates a revised Draft EIR for review and comment by the public and interested agencies."

Morrison said the attorney is "very confident that we have a good case. The resources for any challenge would have to come from local residents."

There is a 30-day period during which legal challenges can be filed. The clock began running on Thurs., Feb. 26. Since 30 days falls on a Saturday (March 28th), the deadline to file a lawsuit challenging the EIR is Monday, March 30th.

At its meeting on Monday, the Sierra Club Tri-Valley Executive Committee voted unanimously to pursue joining any CEQA lawsuit brought by local citizens challenging the certification of environmental documents for the Stoneridge Drive Specific Plan Amendment/Staples Ranch Project. This decision next requires a review for approval by S.F. Bay Chapter Legal Committee and Sierra Club National Legal staff.

Anne Fox, another resident, is looking into the potential of a referendum. She has asked city attorney Michael Roush for information on what documents should be carried. She also raised the issue of whether a resolution, which was what the council approved, could be challenged. The state statute lists "ordinances" as actions that are referendable. The 30-day period for a referendum began on Wed., Feb. 25.

Roush said that it didn't matter whether what the council approved was a resolution or an ordinance. What matters is that it was a legislative action, amending the specific plan. He said that the city had provided residents with the resolution and attachments it believes are appropriate. "I told them I would not guarantee that would be all they would need to carry when collecting signatures. I won't try to second guess what a court might decide is appropriate," stated Roush.

During the public hearing,

opinion was split almost down the middle, with 22 speakers opposed to the extension and 19 speaking in favor of it.

Opposition was based on traffic impacts, as well as the belief that the council had promised a regional process to lessen the impacts prior to voting on the extension. Cindy Cook declared, "Nothing has changed since the MOU was put in place."

Judith Gieselmann said there would be traffic, noise and pollution impacts that would reduce the quality of life for residents. She urged the council to honor the agreement it had made. However, if the decision were to move forward, Gieselmann suggested such steps as including new soundwalls along Stoneridge.

Supporters of the extension voiced the desire to have the county pay for the road. They also noted that during these economic times, the development would provide jobs and tax revenues to the city, helping to maintain the city's quality of life. The road would also provide access for Pleasanton residents to the Staples Ranch development. Otherwise, access would be from the freeway.

Former councilmember Becky Dennis asked, "Are you saying that Staples Ranch has too great an impact to be part of Pleasanton. The property is an asset to the county. They have obligations to their constituents. There are significant benefits. There are impacts. Are they worth losing the project?"

David Stark pointed out that Pleasanton must compete with other communities to attract and retain businesses. The extension would ensure the vitality of Staples' businesses and provide residents easy access to them. "We can't let the actions of others hold our future hostage. The time for politics is over. It's time to say yes to the completion of the road."

The council then offered their views.

Cook-Kallio made the motion that included building the road. She noted, "This is not a homogenous community. No one can say we speak for everyone. To say Staples Ranch and Stoneridge Drive are not intrinsically linked is disingenuous. I

have to do what I think is in the best interest of the entire city. I think the two have always been linked. Some will choose to study this further as a method to continue the decision indefinitely. If I really thought I hadn't looked at this from all angles, I would understand the need to recirculate the EIR. I understand the issue."

McGovern was disheartened that Stoneridge had become the center of the discussion. She pointed out that there were development issues that were receiving little or no attention, such as moving the ice arena to create a larger habitat area for plants and animals. She felt the traffic study was not correct.

McGovern asked City Attorney Michael Roush if the time limit for a referendum began the following day.

Roush replied that the 30-day period to collect signatures would begin the following day. However, the council has the discretion to extend the collection period. (When asked later to do so, the majority declined to extend time to collect signatures.)

Thorne felt that the Staples development and Stoneridge Drive were not separate issues. He added that it would be fiscally irresponsible not to build the road on the county's nickel. "If we delay, the decision, we can only hope to be able to give input on the 'welcome to Livermore' sign." Thorne stated. He refers to the potential for the project to move to Livermore.

He continued, "The county has given a legal opinion that the environmental review for the road is adequate. My goal is to have the road built as part of the project." He asked that staff provide a signed document, approved by other regional jurisdictions, agreeing to what everyone will do and contribute to improve traffic circulation. The document is to be provided prior to the start of the road project.

McGovern asked how the council would know the document is legally binding. "Every time we've agreed to something, it has been changed," she stated.

City Manager Nelson Fialho said each city council would be asked to pass a resolution authorizing the mayors to sign the let-

ter. Mayor Hosterman admitted that she had changed her position on the extension of the road. "I believed that regional improvements had to be in place before proceeding. It is clear to me that our regional partners have been waiting for Pleasanton to get on board with improvements. We have had assurances that they will be willing to move forward with Highway 84 improvements, if we do. We have undergone changed circumstances, not the least of which is that we find ourselves in tough economic times. I have a fiduciary duty to ensure the fiscal health of this city to the degree I can. It makes sense to build the road."

Sullivan stated, "I am very troubled by the process and how we got to this point. We've gotten away from the MOU. I believe there has been undue influence by the Chamber of Commerce. The project could have been stopped a long time ago. We worked to create a compromise to move it forward. It involved the MOU and having Stoneridge as a separate process. I don't believe the EIR is adequate. Out city staff recommended not going forward with the road."

He suggested that rather than dividing the community by "picking sides" the council should come up with a compromise to develop a process to determine when the road should be built. "I'm disappointed. I feel like I've been taken for a ride. I hope people will let the council know what you think. It is very important that you do."

LARPD Votes to Delay Connector Road

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District board voted last week to delay construction of a road connecting parking lots at the Robert Livermore Community Center.

The vote was unanimous. Director Scott Kamena had asked to move the project to the 2010-2011 capital improvement project (CIP) budget. He also noted that he would like to take the comprehensive list of projects and prioritize them each year.

He pointed out that the city has informed the district it could expect to receive \$500,000 less funding, money used for capital projects. Developers pay the fee as part of each project. The housing slowdown has resulted in fewer homes being constructed.

General Manager Tim Barry said that with the reduction, there is a projected deficit of \$286,000 in next year's CIP budget. "The board will have to make choices."

The estimated cost of the road is \$234,000. Kamena said that moving the project would help to make up the deficit.

Director Steve Goodman agreed. He said moving the connector road would allow the district to complete the Bothwell park improvements, estimated at a cost of \$200,000. "The community there has waited long enough for a park," he added.

Kamena noted there are a lot of things on the list the public has been waiting for a long time. "Near and dear to me is fixing the fields at Robertson Park so they can be used year-round." He

felt that at times spending was focused on what staff wants, rather than what the public wants. "I think the public wants Bothwell fixed first and Robertson Park to proceed."

Board president Maryalice Faltings called the road a "fix-it" job. "If the site design had been done properly, we wouldn't have to build it." She said the road is both a safety issue and a convenience issue for people who visit

the community center. If the connection were made between the two parking lots, they would not have to go back out on the street to access the second parking lot.

Faltings also wanted larger signs in the parking lot directing folks to the second lot. She wants the district to go back to the city to ask for a change. "They are so tasteful, you can't see them," she said of the current signs.

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