



'Carmen' Opens At Bankhead

Livermore Valley Opera brings "Carmen," by George Bizet, to the stage of the Bankhead Theater. The opera opens on March 14.

Carmen is known as opera's bad girl, a smoldering gypsy seductress who will not be possessed. Well known arias from the opera include Habanera and the stirring Toreador. The opera will be performed in French with English supertitles.

Appearing in Carmen are Audrey Babcock and Raeka Shehabi-Yaghmai double cast as Carmen; Ben Bongers as Don Jose; Rebecca Garcia and Kaileen Miller double cast as Micaela, and John Minagro as Escamillo.

All patrons are invited to a pre-performance lecture that will provide anecdotes about the composer and the characters in the opera. The lecture is one hour prior to curtain. A traditional artist reception is held in the lobby immediately following each performance. Details for the "after-glow" party, featuring a non-hosted bar and snacks, will be announced in the event program.

Performances begin with a preview night on March 14 at 8 p.m. Frugal Friday performance is March 21 at 8 p.m. Other performances...

(See CARMEN, page 14)



C.H. Wenthe, who founded Wenthe Vineyards in the Livermore Valley in 1883, was inducted into the Vintners Hall of Fame.

Wente Founder Inducted into Hall of Fame

Last Friday, the Culinary Institute of America (CIA) inducted Carl Heinrich Wenthe into the Vintners Hall of Fame as a "Pioneer." The award honors those who have made a significant contribution to the California wine industry. C.H. Wenthe founded Wenthe Vineyards in 1883 in the Livermore Valley. Today, Wenthe Vineyards is the country's oldest, continuously operated family-owned winery, marking its 125th anniversary this year.

"This is a high honor," said Karl D. Wenthe, fifth generation winemaker. "It was my great honor."

(See WENTE, page 14)

Peace Vigil Set In Pleasanton

Pleasantonians for Peace will hold a candlelight vigil on the 5th anniversary of the war in Iraq on Wednesday, March 19 at 7 p.m. in front of the Museum on Main Street.

Participants will 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. All Tri-Valley residents are welcome to participate in this respectful event in downtown Pleasanton.

The program includes stories told about those directly affected by the war, poetry from Fred Norman, and music of peace.

For additional information, please contact Matt Sullivan at 415-533-8164 or by email at mjs7882@gmail.com, or Fred or Cathe Norman at 925-462-7495

State Money Eyed for BART Extension

A BART extension to Livermore in "our lifetime," could all be paid for using state dollars. Commuters could have access to more frequent and efficient ACE service.

Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty said he wants to ask for \$1 billion in the upcoming high speed rail bond measure slated for the November 2008 ballot. Haggerty supports a hybrid that extends the high speed rail to Greenville Road in Livermore. A "grand central station" could be built that would include ACE, BART and the high speed rail. "I don't see the need to du-

PLICATE service," Haggerty said in support of terminating the high speed rail at Greenville.

Haggerty, speaking at a meeting of the Tri-Valley Policy Advisory Committee (PAC), said, "I think we are in a very good position to get BART to Livermore using state dollars." Haggerty continued, "This is a numbers game. The more people we can touch with the high speed rail, the more willing they will be to support the bond measure. I love the idea of the high speed rail. We just have to make sure we get something out of it as well."

BART is in the process of conducting the "penultimate study" on an extension to Livermore, declared Bonnie Nelson, a transportation consultant.

Nelson said the goal is to have a policy statement regarding Altamont improvements that could be included in the bond measure. Nelson noted that the high speed rail authority had endorsed "separate but related" projects, such as the BART extension and ACE improvements, to upgrade Altamont transportation and offered to partner on the upgrades.

Haggerty also would like to

see e-BART come down from Contra Costa County and connect at Greenville to other transportation modes. That would provide options to go north, south, east and west by rail.

Dublin Mayor Janet Lockhart declared, "I think the idea is brilliant. It takes away the idea of forcing people to accept something they don't want. The 'grand central station' is in a place where everyone can have access."

Lockhart is referring to Pleasanton and Fremont, who have both objected to having high speed rail in their cities.

The Tri-Valley Policy Advi-

sory Committee (PAC) received an update last Friday on efforts underway on BART, ACE and the high speed rail.

"BART is not the only transportation solution," continued Nelson. Only a small portion of the trips coming over the Altamont go to traditional areas served by BART. The ACE train and high speed rail are also on the table.

The alternate study looks at express bus service along I-680 and Vasco Road, major improvements in ACE using separate passenger rail tracks and extension

(See BART, page 4)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Livermore National Little League players recited the Little League pledge prior to the opening of the baseball season last Saturday. It was 50th year for the Livermore League.

Construction to Begin on ValleyCare Emergency Room Expansion

ValleyCare Health System officials are celebrating the \$2.7 million necessary to construct the first phase of emergency room expansion at the hospital.

Construction will begin March 17, with completion scheduled for late August. The current 4,000 square foot facility will be expanded to 10,000 square feet to keep up with the big increase in the number of patients since the hospital first opened in 1991.

The facility size met state standards then, because the patient load annually was about 13,000. With Tri-Valley growth, there are now 27,000 patients annually at

ValleyCare. State standards now dictate a 10,000 square-foot facility. The first phase expansion will add 2,500 square feet.

Ken Mercer, president of ValleyCare Foundation, coordinated the fund-raising effort. He said that the foundation already has collected \$500,000 toward the second phase of construction, which has a \$3.7 million price-tag. Starting phase 2 depends on having the money in hand first, said Mercer.

The second phase will fill in the remainder of the expanded emergency room. A third phase, which Mercer termed as "clean-up," will do such things as rear-

range the parking lot and the area where ambulances pull up.

The first phase was funded by a contribution of \$1 million from county Measure A, \$50,000 from the county through Supervisor Scott Haggerty's efforts, and the remainder from businesses and individuals.

Approximately 100 ValleyCare employees contributed by having a specified amount deducted from their paychecks. Doctors established their own donation vehicle.

Some emergency rooms in the Bay Area have closed. However, ValleyCare has been proud of not

(See VALLEYCARE, page 4)

Livermore District to Seek Parcel Tax Renewal in November

By Patricia Koning

This November, the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District plans to ask Livermore residents to renew the parcel tax. Passed in 2004, Measure D funds Livermore schools to the tune of \$3.2 million per year.

"We are very lucky right now," says Livermore School Superintendent Brenda Miller. "Most of the programs funded by the parcel tax are the very things that other superintendents are looking at losing. We owe a huge thank you to our community."

The parcel tax pays for class size reduction in kindergarten, second, and third grades, bringing the class ratio to 20 students per teacher. In middle school, the money brings class ratios from 31:1 to 30:1 and at the high schools from 30:1 to 28.5:1. It also pays for elementary science, high school counselors, additional hours for library technicians, and middle school electives.

With drastic cuts to K-12 fund-

ing expected in the next state budget, school districts are scrambling to determine how they'll make ends meet. Parcel taxes are an attractive way to bridge the funding gap because it is money school districts can count on.

The Board of Trustees for the Pleasanton Unified School District is discussing putting a parcel tax on the November ballot. Pleasanton is looking at potentially eliminating 47 positions across its District next year.

In June, San Ramon will ask voters to approve a \$166-per-parcel tax with an annual adjustment for inflation of no more than \$8. If approved, this parcel tax would replace San Ramon's current \$90-per-parcel tax that is in its fourth and final year.

The Livermore School District will conduct, through an outside consultant, a phone survey to gauge community support for a renewal of the parcel tax. The survey will also examine

(See PARCEL TAX, page 3)

Springtown Golf Course Advocates Concerned about Its Future

The Springtown Golf Course continued to be the main focus of controversy as the City of Livermore moves forward with planning for facilities in Northeast Livermore.

A group of residents who live near the golf course expressed concern about the preliminary findings of a study that looked at what amenities exist and what facilities residents would like to have.

The main concern of golf course supporters was the idea that a portion of it could be sold off to fund other amenities.

The Livermore City Council heard a preliminary report Monday concerning facilities in the area. The council okayed plans to hold three workshops that would lead to a recommendation on future facilities.

(See SPRINGTOWN, page 4)

Haggerty Retains Seat On Board of Supervisors

First District Supervisor Scott Haggerty will retain his seat on the Alameda County Board of Supervisors. As of the filing deadline last Friday, no other candidate had stepped forward.

Haggerty has maintained broad support from throughout his district as demonstrated by his being endorsed by every mayor and councilmember in his district. His efforts to promote a safer and healthier community earned him the signatures of Alameda County's Sheriff Greg Ahern and Fire Chief Sheldon Gilbert.

"It's been an honor to represent the First District and Alameda County for the past 11 years. I appreciate the faith that my constituents have shown in my ability to consistently deliver vital public programs and services. The economic and political climate at the State and National level during my tenure has presented the county with many challenges. I am thankful to have had strong support from all facets of the community in addressing some of our most pressing quality of life issues," Haggerty declared.

The First District includes Livermore, Pleasanton, most of

Fremont, the eastern-most portion of Dublin and unincorporated areas of eastern Alameda County.

Haggerty is known for his regional approach to address issues that include traffic congestion and air quality. He serves on numerous regional, county and local boards and commissions including serving as vice chair on the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, which distributes state and federal transportation funds.

Haggerty won his seat in 1996, in a run-off with former Pleasanton mayor Ken Mercer. Since then, he has filed for reelection three times, always unopposed.

Haggerty's fourth four-year term officially begins on January 1, 2009. For more information about Supervisor Haggerty, visit www.acgov.org/board/district1.

URBAN LIMIT LINE

Voters elect leaders to uphold their values, not to override them. That's why Scott Kamena announced last week that he has signed a written pledge to up-

(See ELECTION, page 4)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Valley View Elementary School 2nd grader Emma Peterson prepares to take seedlings back to her classmates. The Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club and Alden Lane Nursery presented a program on Arbor Day to all Pleasanton second graders. The program included giving a seedling to each child.

Catholic High School to Move Ahead

The Catholic Diocese of Oakland held a sign raising ceremony marking the future location of Pope John Paul II High School in Livermore. It is the first Catholic high school to be built in the East Bay in more than 40 years.

"It's a real, real exciting day for the entire Tri-Valley," declared Fr. Mark Wiesner. "It shows the vibrancy of our diocese to be able to add to the educational opportunities. It's a step in the right direction."

Livermore Mayor Marshall Kamena, who was unable to attend the ceremony, was pleased that the high school was moving forward. He has been a strong advocate for the school. Kamena commented, "It's been a priority for the city council for the last several years. It will be a real God send for those who live in the Tri-Valley and as far away as Tracy to take advantage of the education it will offer. I'm excited about it. It's been a long path."

The Bishop recently granted formal approval to proceed with the assessment process for the high school in northeast Liver-

(See CATHOLIC, page 3)

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PET OF THE WEEK

Priscilla is a 2 year old exotic Persian mix cat. She loves to sit with people and cuddle, and enjoys looking out the window on sunny days to watch the birds. She is also playful, but mostly she is just looking for love again. (She would prefer if you call her an "exotic cat" and not a "smush face" thank you very much!) To visit with Priscilla, visit Valley Humane Society, Wed-Sun from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 3670 Nevada Street. Visit the web site at www.valleyhumane.org or call 426-8656.

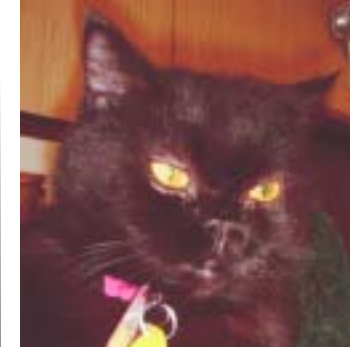




Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Samuel Foster, a student at Pine Valley Middle School, explains his project, a trebuchet, to the judge Rob Broderick. A trebuchet is a type of catapult. Foster attempted to determine how far a golf ball could be launched using different length arms.

Amador Student Captures Senior Sweepstakes; Two Charter School Students Win in Junior Division.

Some 245 local students in grades 7 through 12 from Danville, Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton and San Ramon competed for cash and other prizes at the 11th annual Tri-Valley Science and Engineering Fair (TVSEF), hosted by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Judging took place on Wednesday, March 5, at the Robert Livermore Community Center in Livermore. Awards were distributed during a ceremony there that evening.

More than 100 local scientists, engineers and science teachers served as fair judges, deliberating over this year's 190 project entries. The majority of judges represented the Livermore Lab. Science projects were judged on a wide range of criteria that represent standards of research held by the scientific community.

Sweepstakes winners in the Senior Division are: Harikrishna Rallapalli, a 10th grade student from Amador Valley High School, for his project, "Low-Cost Total Internal Reflection Microscopy," and Dmitry Kislyuk, a 12th grade student from California High School, for his project, "Modeling Evolution: Exploring Computational Biology and Biomodeling."

Winners in the Junior Division are: Kevin Johnston, an eighth grade student from Livermore Valley Charter School, for his project, "Suburban Skyglow: Using Astrophotography to Ana-

lyze Light Pollution," and Uzair Mohammad, also an eighth grade student from Livermore Valley Charter School, for his project, "Generation Nation."

Senior Division Sweepstakes winners will go on to compete in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, May 11-17, in Atlanta. Junior Division winners are eligible to compete at the State Science Fair.

Additional supporters for 2008 include: Galaxy Press; Kaiser Permanente; Pacific Gas and Electric Company; Sandia National Laboratories; The Valley Times; Tri-Valley Business Council; Tri-Valley Community Foundation; Uncle Credit Union; Applied Biosystems Corporation; Topcon Positioning Systems; ValleyCare Health System; AT&T; Leisure Sports, Inc.; San Ramon Regional Medical Center; Union Bank/Tanner Insurance Brokers; Valent USA Corporation; Black Tie Transportation; M. Weldon Moreland, CPA; and Wente Vineyards.

Research categories for fair projects covered a wide spectrum of science such as behavioral and bioscience, biochemistry, botany, chemistry, computer science, earth and space science, engineering, environmental science, gerontology, mathematics, medicine and health, microbiology, physics and zoology.

The goals of the annual fair are to motivate students to apply creativity and critical thought to

the solution of science, engineering and math problems; to encourage the exchange of knowledge and ideas; and to recognize student achievement.

The fair is affiliated with the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (Intel ISEF), the world's largest pre-college celebration of science. Held annually in May, the Intel ISEF brings together more than 1,400 students from more than 40 nations to compete for scholarships, tuition grants, internships, scientific field trips, and the grand prize: a \$50,000 college scholarship.

For more information about this year's Tri-Valley Science and Engineering Fair, go to the web at <http://tvsef.lnl.gov/>.

Zone 7 Adopts Bay Friendly Landscaping and Gardening Principles

In an effort to promote practices that help conserve water and protect the environment, the Zone 7 Water Agency Board of Directors has adopted a declaration supporting Seven Principles of Bay-Friendly Landscaping & Gardening.

Bay-friendly gardening and landscaping practices conserve water by promoting drought tolerant native plant cultivation and water efficiency, foster soil health and protect other valuable resources while reducing waste and preventing pollution.

The idea is to take a holistic approach that works with the natural conditions of the San Francisco Bay Area.

As a signatory to the principles, Zone 7 will be recognized as a leader in sustainable landscaping during the first Bay-Friendly Landscaping and Gardening Conference, to be hosted by StopWaste.Org on February 29 at University of California Berkeley.

This effort is supported by the newly created Bay-Friendly Coalition, which includes participation from several water agencies, local governments, trade organizations and non-profit groups representing all nine Bay Area counties.

The seven principles of Bay-Friendly Landscaping and Gardening are to employ gardening practices aimed at the following:

- 1) keeping protection of the natural local environment in mind,
- 2) reducing waste going to landfills,
- 3) nurturing the soil,
- 4) conserving water,
- 5) conserving energy,
- 6) protecting water and air

quality, and
7) creating wildlife habitat.

For more information, check out www.stopwaste.org.

Congratulations
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On March 10, *Ivy LoGerfo*, of *Valley Properties* was presented with the **Master's Achievement Award** by the Bay East Association of Realtor's. This recognition was for outstanding real estate achievements in 2007! *Ivy LoGerfo*, is a **Top Producing Livermore Realtor**. *Ivy*, knows how to sell Livermore homes. Join the long list of satisfied clients. Call for your **FREE** no obligation consultation.

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Opera Week! March 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23
Tickets \$26, \$36, \$46, \$56

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Wednesday, April 9 at 8pm
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Tickets \$28, \$31, \$36, \$11 Students

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- WINDMILL CT, San Ramon \$1,099,900 4 Bed 2.5 Bath. Former model home in Henry Ranch. Cul-de-sac location w/Mt Diablo views.
- PEARLGRASS LN, San Ramon \$813,900 5 Bed 3 Bath. Largest model at Trevari. Gorgeous in ground pool. No rear neighbors.

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- GARDEN COMMON, Livermore \$329,900 3 Bed 2.5 Bath. Great "starter" or investment property.
- LOCUST ST, Livermore \$354,900 3 Bed 1 Bath. Newer roof and windows. Great location. Needs some TLC.
- TRINITY CIR, Livermore \$356,500 3 Bed 1.5 Bath. Fully fenced yard with large level lot, and open space behind.
- MOJAVE AVE, Livermore \$493,900 3 Bed 2 Bath. Almost completely remodeled, updated kitchen.
- MOKELUMNE DR, Antioch \$429,900 4 Bed 3 Bath. Big house with 4 big bedrooms and 3 full baths. Possible Pool Location.
- CARBONDALE WAY, Antioch \$575,000 4 Bed 2.5 Bath. Large open floor plan, no rear neighbors.
- BRUSK CT, Castro Valley \$469,000 2 Bed 1 Bath. Great "starter" or investment property. Fully fenced yard with large level lot.
- INDIANA DR, Concord \$379,900 3 Bed 2 Bath. Clean. Master suite with tile, possible hardwood floors.
- SAN RAMON VALLEY BLVD, Danville \$469,900 3 Bed 2 Bath. Lots of upgrades, hardwood floors, granite kitchen counters, & more.
- W VALPICO ROAD, Tracy \$999,900 5 Bed 4 Bath. Complete remodel, updated throughout. .70+/- acre lot.
- W FAIROAKS ROAD, Tracy \$699,000 4 Bed 3 Bath. Fantastic home in the heart of Tracy, 1+/- acre lot. Updated throughout.
- BABCOCK LANE, Tracy \$399,000 4 Bed 2.5 Bath. Built in 2004, Large home, 2 Zone A/C, Fireplace.



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VALLEY ROUNDUP

New Chief of Staff

Assemblyman Guy Houston (R-San Ramon) has announced that Matthew Del Carlo has begun work as his Chief of Staff upon the departure of his current Chief of Staff, Aaron Bone. Del Carlo began as Assemblyman Houston's Field Representative two and a half years ago and currently serves as Houston's District Director. Bone has served as Assemblyman Houston's Chief of Staff for the past two and a half years and will join Senator Mark Wyland (R-Carlsbad) as his Deputy Chief of Staff.

Keith Ochwat started work as his Capitol Director. Ochwat began as Houston's Assembly Fellow in late 2006 and currently serves as his Legislative Director.

Governor's Actions Applauded

Zone 7 Water Agency issued a press release Monday applauding Governor Schwarzenegger's efforts to fashion a comprehensive and balanced plan for ecosystem restoration and water supply reliability, and supports the Governor's call for environmental review of alternatives to water supply conveyance around the Delta and accompanying actions to recover fish species in the Delta.

Jill Duerig, Zone 7 general manager, notes in the press release that Delta conveyance is not just about water for Southern California and agriculture in the Central Valley. Three million residents in five Bay Area counties rely on some form of Delta-conveyed water supplies. Zone 7 Water Agency conveys 80 percent of its water supplies through the Delta, providing drinking water to a population of 200,000 in the cities of Dublin, Pleasanton, and Livermore. This supply also irrigates 3,500 acres of agriculture that supports a \$200 million per-year wine industry in the Livermore-Amador Valley. The future of our communities relies on the increasingly efficient use of this supply, continued development and protection of local groundwater resources, and other water supplies.

"The backbone of the state's water supply system, the Delta, is broken. Through-Delta conveyance facilities have proven detrimental to state fisheries and water supplies alike. The governor's current efforts to move forward with initial analysis of potential environmental impacts of the various alternatives under consideration is a commendable approach to keep things moving in a timely manner," the press release concludes.

Top Grade Construction

Top Grade Construction, Inc. announced the strategic reorganization of key senior management positions designed to streamline and bolster the company's management team, drive revenue growth, increase operational efficiencies and improve overall service to its customers. "The reorganization is a natural evolution of

a healthy, growing and financially strong company," said Bill Gates, Top Grade President and CEO. "This is just one piece of the puzzle in our overall corporate strategy to better service our customers. By leveraging the expertise and commitment of our industry leading management team, we continue to attract top talent and outpace the competition."

As the newly appointed Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, his son Brian Gates will oversee the day-to-day aspects of the company's operations including four regional business units, field services operations and all of Top Grade's business development and marketing functions.

Since joining Top Grade nearly two years ago, Brian Gates has been instrumental in defining the infrastructure needed to support that vision. Accomplishments during his time at Top Grade include the adoption of a new business unit model, the hiring of key management personnel and the implementation of Oracle's J.D. Edwards enterprise software system. Most recently, Gates served as the company's Vice President of Business Operations.

Rounding out the new management team, Scott Blaine has assumed the role of Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer. As CFO, Blaine will direct the organization's financial, human resources and information technology departments.

Top Grade Construction, Inc. is a California-based general engineering contractor with more than 500 employees servicing projects spanning from Riverside to Sacramento. Founded in 1990 and headquartered in Livermore, the company specializes in heavy highway and civil engineering construction services, including general site preparation, earth moving, excavation, grading and paving.

County Planner to Leave

The Community Development Agency (CDA) Director, James "Buzz" Sorensen, recently advised the Board of Supervisors that he plans to retire after 34 years of service to Alameda County effective March 31, 2008. At the Board's request, Sorensen will continue to serve as the CDA Director until September 30, 2008 to lead the Agency through the upcoming budget process and assist with transition.

Board President Scott Haggerty stated, "Buzz Sorensen is a valued department head with a long successful career in the Planning Department and as the Community Development Agency (CDA) Director for the past five years. We appreciate his willingness to assist the County by leading the Agency through the difficult budget process ahead."

The Board plans to conduct an open recruitment to fill the Community Development Agency Director's position.



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Livermore Vice Mayor John Marchand expressed pride at having the new school named for Pope John Paul II.

CATHOLIC

(continued from page one)

more. The assessment process will include the hiring of a program manager, current evaluation of the capital campaign program and the establishment of a board of trustees.

The assessment of costs would include the entire "dream school," as well as potential phasing.

As envisioned, the school would instruct 1200 students in a coed setting. Students do not have to be Catholic to attend. The high school would be built on 32 acres of a 122-acre site. The remaining acreage would remain in permanent open space. The school would include administrative offices, classrooms, a chapel, a performing and visual arts facility, a sports complex, and about 800 parking spaces.

The school will be "green," with the buildings themselves serving as educational resources. Once the costs are known, a capital campaign firm would be hired.

There is no start date for construction of the school. However, it is estimated that once underway it would take 18 to 24 months to build.

City Councilmember John Marchand commented that the sign raising ceremony demonstrates the commitment to make the school a reality. "The city is pleased and proud to have the name John Paul associated with the city."

Bishop Allen Vigneron added that the church has always had schools and always will have schools. "Parent involvement is important to help fulfill the dream and John Paul's vision of what young people can do and be. I am confident we will fill our commitment to have our dream school. I will do my part to make this school a reality."

Rick Kruska, Superintendent Department of Catholic Schools for the Diocese, said there are no specifics when it comes to costs. A high school just completed in San Diego had a pricetag of \$75 million. However, it was for 1600 students and had no theater.

"The goal will be to build the dream school. However, if it's not feasible to raise the money, we would scale back. There is the potential to build the project in phases. The school may open with just the freshman class and

classrooms," explained Kruska.

Pre-construction work will continue in the first half of 2008, including finalizing the school's design, building an access road to I-580, launching a capital campaign, and setting up the school's administration. The administration would begin work on a curriculum.

Part of the vision of the school is to provide students with many opportunities. Performing arts will be a big part of the school as will science and technology. Technical programs could be developed in conjunction with local tech firms. The school would more resemble a junior college in that respect. "It will provide more individualized programs. It is targeted at kids of the 21st century," Kruska declared.

Two fifth graders at St. Michael's School in Livermore are looking forward to attending the high school. Christian Arana and Ian Banz said that part of what makes it special is that they would be learning about God.

Arana also predicted that the new school would beat De La Salle in football. His brother currently attends De La Salle.

PARCEL TAX

(continued from page one)

support for an inflation adjustment and a permanent parcel tax.

"Some temporary employees are getting layoff notices because we are not funding them with permanent dollars," said trustee Kate Runyon. "If we had a permanent parcel tax, we could get out of this."

Whatever the terms of a new parcel tax initiative, two-thirds of voters must approve it for the measure to pass. In 2004, Measure D passed with a strong 71.6%.

However, finances have grown tighter not just for school districts, but for the community at large. Whether or not the country is officially in a recession, voters may be less likely to approve another tax when they are facing rising gas and housing

prices, according to the school district.

Even though Measure D is only in the third year of the five-year term, Miller says the District plans to move forward this fall.

Police Substation Opens in Downtown

The Livermore City Council approved a lease in downtown Livermore for location of a police substation.

The 453 square foot storefront is located within the Livermore Valley Center Plaza, along the path leading to the parking garage.

The lease is for three years.

Hours the substation will be open has not yet been determined. However, it is anticipated

"Our intent is to make sure there is no interruption to the programs funded by the parcel tax," she explains. "This gives us another year to try again if it fails the first time."

that it would be staffed during Bankhead Theater events or events held in the plaza. The staff would be comprised of volunteers who graduated from the Police Citizens Academy.

The storefront would also provide a place for sworn staff to write reports or do other work.

Councilmember Marj Leider commented, "I will be happy to see it go in."

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EDITORIALS

Compost Site Studies

The board of the Alameda County Waste Authority (ACWA) has authorized environmental studies involving a proposed compost facility in the Altamont. The impact on the area's water, wildlife habitat and air quality will be examined.

The facility — to be located on county-owned land on North Flynn Road — would operate in keeping with a statewide voter mandate to divert by 2010 75% of the waste that now goes to landfills. In Alameda County it's estimated that 1000 tons of food waste and green waste are produced daily and about a quarter of that could be diverted.

This is a truly important project, but it has run into site problems. The facility was originally to be in Sunol. In the face of heavy opposition by residents of the area, ACWA withdrew the plan. North Flynn Road seems to be better accepted, though concerns about groundwater have been expressed.

In calling for the studies, ACWA is acting wisely. The Sunol opposition seemed to catch them by surprise. The studies will help prevent that from happening again.

SPRINGTOWN

(continued from page one)

The preliminary study was conducted by David Early of Design, Community and Environment (DCE). Early led a previous visioning process during the general plan update.

An inventory of facilities was listed for the area from Springtown and east. Among the amenities were the golf course, library, parks and trails, playing fields, police and fire service, and commercial facilities.

The golf course has been losing money. It has not been kept up, said Early. It would require significant funding to make it maintainable. "There is no viable scenario for a break-even operation," he stated.

"The course gets mixed reviews, even from the small group that uses it," Early said. "People graded it a 'D+' for overall experience, and an 'A' for convenience. People are there simply because of the proximity."

Early continued, "People value the open space amenity that the 90 acre facility creates." Suggestions by Early were to retain the course as a "sweet, humble par 3" course or not continue golf, but retain the area as open space. "It is a significant asset. If 10 to 20 acres were sold at \$800,000 to \$1 million per acre, the funds could be used to pay for other improvements in northeast Livermore. The remainder of the golf course could be converted to passive uses."

"It would be unwise to take off the table any of the many different futures for the golf course," declared Early.

The library was the second amenity that drew attention from residents during the preliminary survey. There is a need for a 10,000 to 12,000 square foot library. The estimated cost is \$7.5 million. "A portion of the golf course could be sold off to finance it," said Early. Other potential financing mechanisms would be federal or state grants, a community facilities district, or general obligation bond.

When it comes to parks and trails, the number of neighborhood parks exceeds city standards. There is a need for a larger community park and playing fields. The area is in pretty good shape with open space and trails. "The one deficit is playing fields. This is not just an issue in North Livermore, but is citywide," declared Early. The ideal would be a 50 to 100 acre sports park. The golf course is 90-acres. However, Early said that the configuration of the site would not work for sports fields.

Most residents feel well served by police and fire. They also believe there are adequate commercial facilities to serve the area. Concerns were voiced about the recently approved Toyota dealership, as well as the number of gas stations and visitor serving businesses along Vasco Road.

A consensus among those interviewed during the preliminary study supported the need to expand or replace the library, build a community park, and add additional playing fields. There was no consensus on the future of the golf course. The goal of the workshops would be to develop a consensus that will serve the broad interest of all the neighborhoods in northeast Livermore.

Jason Cain was the most outspoken when it came to the golf course. "You already have opinions on what's viable and what's not viable," he stated. "It is a sports field. It's a golf course," he declared at one point. He felt that a determination had already been made to sell off part of the golf course without having spoken to the people involved. He is a member of the Springtown

Golf Course Committee. "No one spoke to us," Cain stated.

John Stein urged the council to walk the golf course, particularly along the arroyo. "There are egrets, herons and song birds. Plants are blooming. It is ecologically very rich." He added that now is not a good time to sell land. "The focus should be on new funding courses, not selling off public land. Sycamore Grove Park and Ravenswood don't make money. No one talks about selling them off," Stein stated.

Bob Baltzer, Friends of Livermore, said the group is "adamantly opposed to paving over land with houses."

Councilmember Jeff Williams suggested that the golf course deficit is a really big issue and "perhaps a separate issue." He suggested several ways to help lower the deficit. One would be to form a landscape maintenance district comprised of homeowners who live on or near the golf course.

Councilmember John Marchand told those in attendance, "Gather all your friends and neighbors. This (the workshops) is your opportunity to give input."

No dates have been set for the workshops. They will be held at a site in North Livermore.

Workshop to Focus on 17-Acre Park

The City of Pleasanton will host a third community workshop focused on generating public input concerning the 17-acre community park planned for the Staples Ranch property located on the northeast corner of Pleasanton at the junction of I-580 and El Charro Road near Stoneridge Drive. The workshop will be held in the multi-purpose room of Henry P. Mohr Elementary School, located at 3300 Dennis Drive on Saturday, March 15 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

"This meeting marks a midway point in the planning process of a spacious new community park," says City Manager Nelson Fialho. "There is still time to contribute your opinion and ideas, so we encourage all residents to participate in the planning process for the Staples Ranch Community Park."

This third workshop will introduce a proposed park master plan that incorporates the features and amenities recommended by community members who attended two similar meetings in February. Community input will again be solicited prior to a presentation to the Parks and Recreation Commission later this month, and then developed into a proposed master plan that could be presented to the City Council in mid-April.

For more information about the community workshops or the planning process, please contact Jim Wolfe, Director of Parks and Community Services, at (925) 931-5340.

Last November, the City Council unanimously approved motions to prepare a sales and purchase agreement with Alameda County to also purchase a five acre parcel for a planned neighborhood park on the Staples Ranch property, and to direct staff to initiate a master planning effort for the 17-acre park. The proposed development for the 124-acre site also includes the relocation of the Pleasanton Auto Mall, building a continuing care retirement community, and a retail complex.

Zone 7 Wants Growth to Pay Its Total Share Of Flood Run-off

Zone 7 Water Agency is on the verge of increasing flood control fees for developers by 78 percent. The goal is for growth's impact in that area of development to totally pay for itself.

The current fee to developers is 73 cents per square foot of surface that the builders cover with solid materials, such as buildings and driveways. It's called "impermeable surface," because rainwater does not percolate into the ground. Instead runs off immediately into flood control channels, where Zone 7 must deal with it.

Zone 7 staff is proposing to increase the fee to \$1.30 per square foot. The increase is part of the implementation of a new Stream Management Master Plan (SMMP), which the board already has approved as policy. The fee hike, if approved, would make the first time developers would pay 100 percent of the cost of development's impact on Zone flood control.

Back in the 1960s, when the

first flood control plan was put in place, only 50 percent was charged to developers. The remainder was to be paid by a combination of federal grants and property tax revenue. However, California voters passed Proposition 13 in 1978, which severely cramped property tax revenue to Zone 7. Further, the federal government backed off from its earlier policy of giving certain grants for flood control.

Prop. 218 passed in the 1990s, which put further limits on how much agencies can tax property owners. Also, the idea of growth paying for itself was virtually an unknown concept in the 1960s. It has become policy at Zone 7 in later years. So when the old plan expired in the 1990s, the board took a look at how to better pay for the system, and how to make growth pay for itself.

The result was a combination of eliminating the old, now costly, method of building wide

concrete channels, with their construction and land acquisition cost, and using the natural stream banks. The board chose the latter, partly to save money, partly to conform to state requirements about habitat, and partly to preserve recreational opportunities for Valley residents.

BUILDERS CONCERNED

The Home Builders Association (HBA), with headquarters in San Ramon, has met with Zone 7 staff to learn about the fee increase proposal. A representative did not return a call before the Independent's deadline.

However, Carol Mahoney, project manager for Zone 7, said the HBA expressed concern, and more talks are expected between Zone 7 and developers on the increase. Mahoney made a presentation last week to Zone 7's administrative committee.

Jim Concannon, chair of the committee, told the Independent that basically the ordinance proposal is a good one. "The

economy isn't exactly booming for developers. I'm sure they will have comments back. Whatever they come up with, we'll probably compromise on it," said Concannon.

Zone 7's board is due to have an informational presentation on it March 19. No public hearing is contemplated until at least the April meeting, said Mahoney. It takes 60 days for an ordinance to go into effect after it is approved. If approved, it's possible it could go into effect July 1, the beginning of Zone 7's fiscal year, said Mahoney.

'Gold Rush' Exhibit Opens at Museum

"Gold Fever! Untold Stories of California's Gold Rush" a new exhibit, will be on display at the Museum On Main, 603 Main Street, Pleasanton, from April 9 to June 1, 2008.

Through the use of representations of primary documents, photographs, daguerotypes, Gold Rush era paintings, and artifacts uncovered in San Francisco archeological digs, the exhibit examines California before the fateful discovery of gold in the American River, the frenzied rush to the gold fields overland and by sea, the experience of vigilante justice, life in the rowdy gold camps, Gold Rush era commerce and farming, and the shaping of California's future.

The exhibition spotlights the stories of individual Californians, women, Native Americans, adventurers and gold seekers. It examines the impact that James Marshall's discovery continues to have on California's people, culture, environment, politics and economy.

This traveling exhibit was organized by the California Exhibition Resources Alliance (CERA) in concert with the California Council for the Humanities.

The traveling exhibit is made possible in part by a generous gift from The James Irvine Foundation and The William Randolph Hearst Foundation. Funding for the exhibition was provided by the California Council for the Humanities and a generous grant from Wells Fargo.

General admission to the museum is a \$2 per person requested donation. Hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, 1-4 p.m. Contact (925) 462-2766 or valleymuseum@sbcglobal.net. Visit www.museummain.org.

Lawsuit Takes Aim at Biosafety Lab

A lawsuit filed in Federal Court Monday aims to stop the operation of a Biosafety Level-3 (BSL-3) research facility at the Livermore Livermore National Laboratory.

The lawsuit, filed by Tri-Valley CARES, contends that the Dept. of Energy (DOE) began conducting experiments on January 25, 2008 on the basis of a faulty, unsupported "finding of no significant impact" (FONSI) without conducting an adequate environmental review and public comment process.

The National Nuclear Security Agency agreed to the stipulation that NNSA would bring the matter to the court as expeditiously as possible in an effort to avoid spending unnecessary resources to address a temporary restraining order, according to John Bellardo, Director of Public Affairs for the Department of Energy's NNSA office at the Lab. He said he expects to file a response to the lawsuit by March 26.

In the meantime, there is agreement the Lab will limit operations of the BSL-3 facility for a 60-day period. This would include no aerosol testing, no rodent infection experiments, and no production, generation or knowing receipt of genetically

modified biological material.

The suit asks the Federal Court to grant interim injunctive relief, stopping the operation of the BSL-3 while the case is being considered. The litigation further asks the Court to consider four counts against DOE. They are: (1) Failure to prepare an adequate environmental assessment and FONSI, (2) Failure to prepare a full Environmental Impact Statement and hold public hearings, (3) Failure to supplement the environmental assessment when significant new information became available, and (4) Failure to comply with applicable regulations, including the one governing the circumstances under which a FONSI must be circulated for public review and comment before it can be finalized.

According to Tri-Valley CARES, the inventory of the Livermore Lab BSL-3 is slated to rise to include a total of 50 liters of potentially deadly biological agents. Operations at the Livermore BSL-3 will include genetic modification of biological agents, raising the possibility that novel, uniquely lethal pathogens will result. The facility will also conduct aerosol (spray) experiments on up to 100 mice, rats and occasional guinea pigs at a

time.

Genetically manipulating organisms and creating aerosols are two activities that have "dual use," meaning they can be associated with offensive as well as defensive bio-warfare research. Tri-Valley CAREs and independent experts believe that conducting this research at a classified DOE lab whose mission is the development of nuclear weapons threatens the Biological Weapons Convention, the treaty banning bio-weapons to which the U.S. is a signatory.

Marylia Kelley, Tri-Valley CAREs' Executive Director said, "I fear the consequences if this BSL-3 were allowed to operate without further review. The threat of a catastrophic release of deadly microbes in an earthquake, accident or terrorist attack is too real and too serious to disregard."

Tri-Valley CAREs has pressed for a full environmental review for the Livermore Lab BSL-3 since it was proposed in 2002. In 2006, the Appellate Court ruled that DOE must go back to the drawing board and analyze the health and environmental impacts of a terrorist attack on the Livermore BSL-3. DOE concluded there was no risk.

BART

(continued from page one)

of BART to connect with ACE.

The ACE changes are the most immediate. Negotiations are underway to purchase the Union Pacific right-of-way. Currently, UP is in charge of dispatching trains. If the public were to own the right-of-way, trains could be dispatched based on public need, said Thomas W. Reeves, ACE Special Projects Coordinator. Passenger service would have priority.

The result would be more frequent, on-time service, said Reeves. ACE would use the current rails. However, there would be upgrades to the rails to help improve service. Weekend ser-

vice is being discussed as a possibility, particularly if the A's and 49ers move. Building a new rail is not a priority at this time, added Reeves.

Electrifying the rails would take a major investment. ACE would have to replace every one of its trains. "You can't electrify diesel trains," explained Reeves. He is aware that language is being proposed for inclusion in the November 2008 ballot measure that would help pay for Altamont corridor improvements. However, ACE currently expects to purchase the right of way out of existing funds.

With the increase in gas prices, there has been an increase in rid-

ership, said Reeves. There have been as many as 4000 riders on a given day.

There are three alternatives for BART under consideration. One is a station at Isabel and Stanley using either El Charro Road or Highway 84 to access the site. The second extends service to Greenville Road, and the third takes BART to Tracy. ACE service, either the current diesel powered option or an electrified ACE with average speeds of about 60 mph, could connect at Greenville or Stanley/Isabel.

Haggerty felt there would be a lot of problems using an El Charro alignment, if there were a need to take land. Livermore's

Prime Outlet Mall and Pleasanton's Staples Ranch development could be impacted. "If we go to Isabel, I think that is as far as we will ever get BART," he added.

Livermore Mayor Marshall Kamena, who was unable to attend, has been one of the driving forces behind the transportation improvements. "I think it is wonderful we have a reasonably unified position in the Valley. That gives us more chances to obtain funding. I think we will be fighting for a guaranteed position on the ballot. It looks good."

Kamena was supportive of Haggerty's role. "Supervisor Haggerty has spearheaded the effort to get to the end point." He also pointed to Livermore City Engineer Cheri Sheets as providing leadership in the effort.

Sheets was selected to continue to represent the committee in discussions with San Joaquin County on Altamont Corridor improvements. The goal is for the two valleys to agree on what the improvements along the Altamont Corridor should be and to identify language to be used in the bond measure. "That's important," Sheets stated, "to make sure we get money out of it."

VALLEYCARE

(continued from page one)

only continuing the service, but having a high number of patients — 3700 — who qualify as indigent, with the hospital picking up the cost.

Mercer gave an example of service to low-income people by pointing out that a expectant mother who may be getting prenatal treatment from AXIS, the county's health clinic in the Valley, may not be able to get to the county hospital in Oakland in time to deliver a baby. "It's something like four bus transfers to get there. The mother can come to our hospital. We pay a doctor to come in and deliver a baby. We pay for two days in the hospital," said Mercer.

Other major users of the emergency room are people with Kaiser Permanente health insurance. Normally they would go to the Kaiser Hospital in Walnut Creek. However, in an emergency, Kaiser pays for treatment at ValleyCare. Some 30 percent of emergency room visits at ValleyCare are by Kaiser patients, who make up 42 percent of the population in the Valley.

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Tax Credits Called Crucial To Renewable Power Industry

Testimony before the House Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming focused on the importance of extending tax credits for starting and extending businesses in the alternative energy field.

Rep. Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton), a member of the committee, said that testimony presented at the hearing in Washington, D.C. on March 6 "confirms what I have been saying all along. The renewable energy industry in the United States is poised to create hundreds of

thousands of new jobs over the next few years. But none of it will happen, and in fact existing clean energy technology jobs will be lost, if we do not extend the investment and production tax credits."

McNerney continued, "As someone who spent my career in wind energy, I know firsthand how critical production and investment tax credits have been in spurring renewable energy use and production. These tax credits helped turn a once fledgling portion of the energy sector into

a major player. I also know the flip side and the negative consequences when these tax credits lapsed in the past."

McNerney owned a small wind energy firm that provided consulting services. He ended that business after he was elected to Congress in 2006.

The extension of investment and production tax credits passed the House on a vote of 236 to 182, with some Republicans joining most Democrats in favor of it. The bill's title is the Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Act of 2008. The bill is in the Senate. However, the House committee held its hearing after its vote in order to keep the public's attention focused on the bill while it's in the Senate.

Although there is bipartisan support, President Bush has threatened a veto. Bush objects to the fact that the money to continue the tax credits would come from federal subsidies to oil companies for well-field exploration.

With oil firms reporting big profits last year — Exxon-Mobil made \$40 billion last year — backers of the bill say that oil firms in the United States don't need further exploration subsidy, said McNerney's spokesman Andy Stone.

Among experts who testified before the committee was Mark Tholke, regional project development manager for wind energy firm enXco, which has facilities in San Ramon and Tracy. He said

that wind power provides more jobs per unit of energy than non-renewable technologies. Building new wind-energy installations can involve as many as 80 to 100 workers in the construction phase, he said.

Encouraging expansion of the wind-energy industry would also help create more manufacturing jobs in the United States, according to Blair Sweezy, who testified before the committee. Sweezy is the senior director of solar markets and public policy for Silicon Valley-based Applied Materials.

Much of the manufacturing of solar and wind components occurs overseas. As domestic demand grows, there would be more manufacturing in the United

States, said Sweezy. "It makes sense to locate production near the end use point," he said.

Applied Materials has grown in the solar sector in recent years. Sweezy said that the solar field will generate 55,000 jobs and \$45 billion in economic investment, if renewable energy tax credits were extended. Not renewing the credits would cost 40,000 solar jobs through 2009, said Sweezy.

General Electric, which makes wind-power turbines, was represented at the hearing by Vic Abate, vice president of renewable energy at the firm. He said that expiration of the tax credits "would have a devastating impact on the wind industry."

Comcast Moves Operations To Livermore Location

Comcast will create a new customer support and operations campus located in the Triad Business Park in Livermore.

Comcast will initially add 200 jobs in Livermore, with the potential for additional positions. Regional office staff from four locations will be consolidated into the one location.

Comcast has chosen an existing lot of 26 acres at the end of Triad Drive just off of North Canyons Parkway as its campus site. It will house about 1,000 employees. Comcast will be the sole tenant in the three building campus (two single-story and one two-story building) that comprise 220,000 square feet. One building will be used for a new 500-seat customer service center, which will replace Comcast's existing call center on Nissen Drive in Livermore. The other two buildings will house the company's expanding Livermore technical operations team and the regional office staff currently based in San Ramon.

The company will renovate the existing empty property and construct a new parking lot as part of the project. The call center portion of the campus is expected to open in August 2008 and will support customers throughout the Bay Area. The other two buildings will be occupied by December 2008.

"I'm so pleased that Comcast is expanding in my district. Livermore is a great place to do business. Comcast is making the right choice," said Assemblyman Guy Houston.

Comcast has been growing consistently for the past several

years following the introduction of new products and improved customer service. Strong demand is expected to continue in California for Comcast's new ultra-fast BLAST! 16 Mbps high-speed Internet service as well as the company's Triple Play offering — a product package featuring Digital Cable with On Demand, Comcast Digital Voice phone service and Comcast High-Speed Internet.

"Comcast has proven over and over that they are an excellent corporate citizen of Livermore. At a time when many companies are choosing to off-shore jobs, Comcast is bringing 200 new jobs to Livermore. This new, expanded complex, which will better serve their customers, is just the latest example of their commitment to our community. It also demonstrates the services and the opportunities that the City of Livermore can provide to the corporate community," said John Marchand, Livermore Vice Mayor.

Comcast will hire additional Customer Account Executives and Technical Support Representatives to staff the new center, adding to Comcast's 7,500 existing employees throughout the state. The jobs will offer competitive wages and benefits based on education and previous service experience, in addition to a full incentive package including medical, dental and prescription benefits, and complimentary Comcast services. Individuals interested in the positions are encouraged to apply online at <http://comcast.com/careers>.

Pleasanton Will Continue to Fund Conservation Strategy

Pleasanton agreed to continue to help fund an effort to create a conservation strategy for the eastern portion of Alameda County.

The city council vote was unanimous. The plan is expected to result in cost savings to the city for capital improvement projects that would require environmental mitigation. The conservation strategy would also tie into the city's goals to preserve natural resources and open space.

Other advantages would be to streamlining the permitting process with regulatory agencies; streamlining the environmental review process by providing a method for comprehensive mitigation for direct and cumulative impacts; providing enhanced opportunities to securing state or federal funds to help implement the conservation strategy and secure more open space and recreation sites; and providing local benefit for residents through preservation of large open space areas.

Pleasanton had committed \$15,000 toward the effort when it first got underway last April. On Tuesday, they agreed to spend up to \$70,000, the same amount committed to by the City of Livermore and Zone 7 Water District.

Senior Planner Janice Stearn told the council that the city had experienced project delays due to endangered species permitting. One example is the city's golf course. Negotiations have occurred on a project-by-project basis. The outcomes are unpredictable resulting in piecemeal conservation, which is less effective,

according to Stearn.

The strategy is a three phase effort. The first phase, data collection and mapping, is underway. This process will identify property of high biological value. Future phases would document the resources, set priorities for mitigation and conservation and establish mitigation standards, as well as a strategy to implement the standards. The permitting wildlife agencies would formally approve the plan, which is expected to help speed up the permitting process. Local agencies would sign onto some kind of joint memorandum of understanding.

A users advisory group is to be established. It would be comprised of developers, landowners, and environmental and conservation groups.

Agencies involved include the cities of Pleasanton, Dublin and Livermore, Alameda County, Zone 7 Water Agency, and the Alameda County Congestion Management Authority, as well as the major permitting agencies such as California Department of Fish and Game, Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The city councilmembers wondered if the cost of establishing the program could be passed on.

City Manager Nelson Fialho said the council could condition projects to reimburse the city.

City Councilmember Cindy McGovern noted, "If the program were done correctly, it would give us a greater understanding of what lives within our boundaries. That could be used for educational opportunities."

MAILBOX

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

Thank You Sheila Burginyon Livermore

What a wonderful evening the Livermore Rotary provided for Livermore seniors on Saturday, February 16. We were served a delicious dinner in fine style by the Rotarians in the Cresta Blanca room in the Robert Livermore Community Center. Following this, they had arranged for the Jack Ryan Band to entertain with several hours of lovely dance music. It was a wonderful evening. Thank you Livermore Rotary.

Open Heart Volunteers General L. Williams Open Heart Kitchen Volunteer Coordinator

Many of the people who live in the Tri-Valley area may have heard about a very special organization, but what they may not know is just how big of a heart it's over 95% volunteer base has. I am writing to thank these volunteers of Open Heart Kitchen. I have had the honor and pleasure of coordinating some of the most dedicated and humble people who continue to give of themselves so that others can receive a nutritious hot meal.

In a very short time of four months I have seen 2 volunteers and one staff person serve 400+ people and continue to do so under the same conditions due to a shortage of volunteers during the morning times. I have had 2-3 drivers who also volunteer cover for a shortage of 6 drivers as well as those who distribute boxed lunches to hundreds of children and sometimes in the pouring rain where no one would take a step outside.

The volunteers at Open Heart Kitchen are amazing people, who not only give of themselves to those constituents in the community who need their help, but do so when there is so much to do and with so little help. Unfortunately, due to the economy, our lines are growing and this places our volunteers in an even more difficult position, yet they do not complain or stop coming. Many are from the age of 60-90 years old! Open Heart Kitchen is a wonderful program with wonderful people. I wanted to thank them in the way I know would reach all of them and I would not forget anyone.

The staff of Open Heart Kitchen is equally as devoted, humble, and caring—giving everything that they have to keep the program running as smoothly as possible. I want to thank each and every one of the volunteers who so generously give their time to prepare and serve these meals to those who need it most

and do this every week. Our local churches have given their time and energy to coordinate reliable and caring volunteer groups and have been there every week and every step of the way.

I thank all of you for everything that you do and have done to help me accomplish my job, which is to see that there are 300 people at all of our sites for each day of the week to serve our community. Thank all of you for all you give to Open Heart Kitchen.

Beef Recall Lucas Nelson Livermore

Last Sunday's recall of 143 million pounds of beef by the U.S. Department of Agriculture should provide a loud and clear wake-up call that federal inspection is not adequate to ensure a safe meat supply.

This largest meat recall in U.S. history was actually brought on by an animal rights organization's undercover video showing California slaughterhouse workers using kicks, electric shock, high-pressure water hoses, and a forklift to force sick or injured animals onto the kill floor. USDA regulations prohibit sick animals from entering the food supply, because of the high risk of contamination by E. coli, Salmonella, or Mad Cow disease.

About 37 million pounds of the recalled meat went to school lunch and other federal nutrition programs since October 2006, and "almost all of it is likely to have been consumed," according to a USDA official.

Parents must insist that USDA stop using the National School Lunch Program as a dumping ground for surplus meat and dairy commodities. The rest of us must learn to treat all meat, and particularly ground beef, as a hazardous substance to be consumed at one's own peril.

Restrooms Dick Fredericks, MD Moscow, ID

As a frequent out of state visitor to Livermore, I enjoy the several trails and parks, very pleasant features of your city. However, I am disappointed and at times frustrated by the lack of restroom facilities. One using the several mile Arroyo Mocho trail has to either try to suppress "nature's call" or avail him/herself of the adjacent "brushy thickets," not an aesthetically nor environmentally satisfactory solution to the problem. Many much smaller communities in Washington and Idaho have restroom facilities in city parks and on trails, sometimes only "porta-potties." But, even they do fulfill this need. I hope that recreation facilities planners will consider correcting this deficiency in your city.

Cost Comparison Robert S. Allen BART Director 1974-1988 Livermore

Articles in the Feb. 6 Herald and Times on Wheels "rapid bus" compare its cost per mile with a BART "average." That

average grossly overstates the cost of BART in 1-580.

Inflation adjusted historic BART costs for ballasted double track line at grade in a freeway median run about \$12.6 million per mile, including track, third rail power, train control, duct work, communications, and barriers/fencing. (That cost does not include stations, cars, land, etc.)

With heavy civil work at both ends a decade ago, BART to Dublin-Pleasanton cost about \$36 million/mile. By contract, BART's SFO/Millbrae mostly subway line (in subway under an abandoned railroad over my vigorous protest) cost about \$180 million per mile.

BART subways are exceedingly costly. BART on aerial structures costs slightly less. Earthwork, structures, land splits, grade separations, and environmental mitigations do make most BART lines costly. But few such costs come with BART at grade in freeway medians.

Better than the interim east-bound carpool lane in I-580 would be protecting and acquiring right of way to widen I-580. Then build very heavy duty truck lanes just outside the present truck lanes, rehabilitate those lanes for light vehicles and convert the existing inside lanes to median use (BART, carpools, etc.). The same concept goes for SR 4 and I-80 in Contra Costa County.

Low-cost BART to east and west Livermore stations and Greenville ACE (aimed toward Mountain House, Tracy, Lathrop and Manteca) becomes really viable once the median is widened.

Good Letter Rich Buckley Livermore Pres. Peace and Conflict Resolution.Org

Dear Cory Herro, Your letter to "The Independent" addressing Global Warming was excellent; it sticks to an analysis of the empirical evidence which you have been given access and does not attack nor belittle the participants in the discussion. We adults can all learn from your good example. Your teacher is doing a fine job in teaching environmental concerns. I'm sure your teacher will want you to learn all sides of the global warming debate and how a highly literate man as Mr. Pierce seems to draw different conclusions. The argument is not over global warming but over its causes. The so called Global Warming debate is not over reducing pollutants such as oxides, sulfates or particulate matter in our atmosphere nor is it over the need for additional water storage in California. The core of the debate is over the integrity of the science being applied to the subject and how the science is being used politically. A loss of integ-

ity in the scientific process, in the long run creates great political and economic problems as we misapply our limited resources.

Ask your teacher with your parents' permission to see if your might also encourage your class to consider some other scientists' opinions and what they too have to say on atmospheric science studies? The Science & Public Policy Institute (SPPI) on line at <http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/> is a good place to start. Especially watch Professor Bob Carter's videos posted on the SPPI site. Consider a short, easy to read book called "Unstoppable Global Warming Every 1,500 Years" by Dr. S. Fred Singer and Dennis T. Avery. These resources may open an additional world of fresh evidence and perspective for you to consider. This evidence may not necessarily change your mind on the issues covered in your fine letter, but I assure you these resources will amaze you on how adults allow the selective interpretation of scientific data to create false and misleading realities for the general public.

Kindergarten Cut-off John G. Fletcher Livermore

A Feb. 28 letter to The Independent from a self-described "perpetual substitute teacher" (Mary McMahon) favors Sep. 1 over Dec. 2 as the cut-off date for new kindergarten students to have reached age five. Her first argument actually favors neither date: no matter what the date, the ages of entering students can differ by up to 364 days (365 in a leap year).

All her remaining arguments concern a later date's ill effects on children who may enter kindergarten before they are sufficiently mature. She expresses no concern about an earlier date's ill effects on those who may be ready to enter but are forced to wait another year; they may never be challenged enough to reach their potential, especially since skipping grades seems to be out of fashion.

Three younger members of my extended family, whose birthdays were after the public school cut-off date, attended private kindergartens so as not to be held back, and they thrived. An older family member entered kindergarten at 4 years, 10 months, and later skipped a grade, yet he graduated at the top of his high school and university classes and received a Ph.D. He says that the worst of it was that all his friends got their driver's licenses more than a year before he could.

For many children, not delaying their education would have similarly happy consequences. These children should not be forgotten when choosing a cut-off date.

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Do You Remember?

By Anne Homan



Bandidos, Foscalinas, and Scotts

When the United States acquired Alta California as a result of the Mexican-American War, the terms of the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo granted the Mexicans the right to stay here as American or Mexican citizens. The United States promised to honor their land claims. However, the Mexicans soon learned that they had to prove those claims to the federal government. The average time for settling their claims in court was 17 years; meanwhile, roughly two-fifths of the contested property wound up in the hands of their lawyers. Squatters perched like vultures on pieces of the large land grants. Most of the original California rancho families had large numbers of children, and legal problems involving their properties forced subsequent generations to leave the ranchos and claim their own land if they wanted to continue their agricultural heritage.

Some displaced and disgruntled Californios ignored the agrarian life and became robbers and livestock thieves, especially after the tax on foreign miners became law in 1850. John Boessenecker, biographer of Alameda County Sheriff Harry Morse, wrote: "Driven from the [gold] mines, mistreated by callous Anglos, and denied a means to earn their living, it is hardly surprising that many Californios and other Hispanics turned to robbery and theft." Although the majority of Californios remained law-abiding, some East Bay bandidos had familiar—and well-respected—local surnames: among them, Amador, Peralta, Robles, Sibrian. San Quentin Prison held a disproportionate number of Hispanic inmates; whether from criminality or a biased court system is a matter of debate.

Two families who later settled in the town of Livermore met Mexican bandidos at the old intersection of Vallecitos Road and the Pleasanton-Sunol Road, now covered by Interstate 680. In 1866 Italian native George Foscalina had opened a small trading post in an abandoned school house at the intersection. He bought, in all innocence, a steer that had been stolen. When the owner saw a steer hide marked with his brand draped over Foscalina's corral fence, he accused the storekeeper of rustling. Sheriff Morse caught the real thieves, Juan Robles and Jesus Cruz, who confessed to the crime and cleared Foscalina of any involvement. Six months later, Foscalina's 20-year-old son, Simon, was bullied by "El Macho" Feliciano, a "quarrelsome and dangerous fellow," while he was attending a fandango at the rancho of Joseph Livermore. Feliciano kept slashing at Simon with his knife even when Simon tried to escape on horseback. Simon, forced to defend himself, killed Feliciano with a six-gun.

By 1870 George Foscalina had moved his family to Livermore; the U.S. census showed him as a farmer, age 50. His son, Simon, married a daughter of Alphonso Ladd, founder of Laddsville. The 1920 census listed Simon Jr. with his family on Second Street raising hogs and chickens in a much quieter world. Their descendants still live in Livermore.

Thomas Scott Sr. bought George Foscalina's little store at what became known as Scott's Corners in the late 1860s. According to Boessenecker's account, at seven o'clock on the evening of 10 January 1871, the Scott family and friends had gathered by a fire in their living quarters at the back of the old store. Young Tom was playing checkers with his brother. When a knock came at the door, Scott's clerk, Otto Ludovisi, answered. Three men with bandannas covering their lower faces shot the clerk and entered the building. The other people rushed out the back door. "Mrs. Scott, clutching her sons in the yard... begged the outlaws, 'For God's sake, don't shoot.'" The three men turned back inside the store and began looting it. The Scotts fled to a neighboring ranch for help. When Scott returned with the rancher and his men, the three bandits had fled with about \$65 and several pair of cashmere pantaloons. Ludovisi was dead. "Sheriff Morse was under tremendous pressure to bring the killer to justice," Boessenecker noted. "The murder at Scott's store had caused a public outrage. The senseless violence seemed to epitomize the racial troubles between Hispanics and Anglos."

Thomas Scott Sr. was a promising local politician, having served one term in the state assembly from 1863 to 1865 and one term as a member of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors from 1869 to 1871. In November 1872 a young woman with whom he was having an affair killed herself. Scott fled the publicity and returned for a while to his native Tennessee. Elizabeth Scott and her two sons, Tom Jr. and Winfield, had moved to Livermore by the 1880 census. In 1881 Tom married Isabelle Baker. He attended law school and was admitted to the bar in 1889; his law office was located on K Street near First in "Fletcher's Block." The Scott home was built at the southwest corner of Seventh and J Streets in the spring of 1894, and a second story was added in 1897. In that same year, Isabelle became a full-fledged lawyer in her own right. She insisted that she would for the most part assist her husband with his cases. "I am not a new woman, therefore I think it scarcely probable that I will make many appearances in the courts." The 1900 census listed Tom and Isabelle with their two children, Thomas B. and Eunice, Isabelle's mother and Tom's mother. The family had moved to Bakersfield by 1905. The Scott house will be one stop on the Livermore Legacy Tour on May 18—don't miss your chance to see the interior of this lovely old home. Tickets are available at the Carnegie Building or on line. (Readers can reach me at am50homan@yahoo.com.)

Festival Volunteers Sought

The Livermore Wine Country Festival will be held on May 3 and 4. The festival hours are Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to man the wine tasting booth and informational/Livermore merchandise booths.

The volunteer training meeting will be held Thursday, April

24 at 6:00 p.m. at The Barn, 3131 Pacific Avenue. The Livermore Downtown Inc. insurance carrier and the City of Livermore require this training and all volunteers are asked to attend, regardless of whether you have attended a training session in years past.

Interested individuals, please call Katie Marcel at 373-1795.

Gold Rush Talk at Museum

Jody Hornor will present a lecture on "19th Century California Gold Rush Era" at 7 p.m., Thursday, March 20 at the Museum On Main, 603 Main Street, Pleasanton.

Reservations are requested. Admission is \$5 for museum members and \$10 for non-members. Call (925) 462-2766. Memberships will be available for purchase that night.

This is part of the Ed Kinney Lecture Series. Reservations are requested. Admission is \$5 for museum members and \$10 for non-members. Call 925-462-2766. Memberships will be available for purchase that night. Lectures sponsors are Jan and John Batcheller.

Step back in time to the 19th century through the images from Hornor's award-winning Golden History Books (The Golden Corridor, The Golden Quest, The Golden Highway 49). When the presentation is completed, Hornor will talk about the technical and research aspects of producing these kinds of works. Hornor's books will be available for purchase.

SHORT NOTES

Animal Games

Games the Animals Play is the theme of a program to be presented by the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District ranger staff on Sun., March 16.

Meet Ranger Dawn Soles at 10 a.m. at Veterans Park. Can you find food with just your ears? Are you fast enough to get your food before a predator gets you? Let's find out. During this program at Veterans Park participants will play some games that illustrate how tough it is for the critters of our park to make a living. This program is ideal for families with children. Please call (925) 960-2400 for reservations.

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

ABWA News

The local American Business Women's Association Express to Success (ABWA E2S) chapter holds monthly meetings that focus on networking and professional development for women in business. In addition, each quarter Express to Success selects a Business of the Quarter to recognize a member for her efforts to support her chapter and her community.

The current Business of the Quarter is Wendy Tannenbaum, a Loan Specialist with Diversified Capital Funding, one of California's largest mortgage brokers. She helped increase the number of area students who received dictionaries donated by Bay East members as part of the Dictionary Project, an outreach program dedicated to improving the reading and comprehension of children. Tannenbaum also volunteers her time with Adopt an Angel. She recently won one of the highest honors in her profession when she was selected as the 2007 Affiliate of the Year.

The local ABWA E2S chapter meets on the third Tuesday of each month from 6:00 to 8:30 pm at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel at 5115 Hopyard Road in Pleasanton. The next meeting will be held on March 18. The speaker will be Marilyn Ellis, a professional organizer who owns Lighthouse Organizers LLC, who will offer guidance on time management and finding balance in the 21st century. Nonmembers are welcome to attend at a cost of \$5 per meeting. For more information, email info@expressstosuccess.org or go to www.expressstosuccess.org.

Customer Service

The Chabot-Las Positas District Training and Development Solutions department is offering a Customer Service Academy began on March 13, in the District multipurpose room. These classes will provide training in customer service areas that are critical to your businesses success.

Classes will take place on seven consecutive Thursday mornings from 8:30 a.m. until 12 noon. Participants can take the entire series of classes or choose the one that is most relevant to the existing needs.

The remaining sessions are: Building Customer Relations - Thursday, March 20; Team Building - Thursday, March 27; Creating Positive Attitudes in the Workplace - Thursday, April 3; Stress and Time Management - Thursday, April 10; Responding to Conflict - Thursday, April 17; Decision-Making and Problem-Solving - Thursday, April 24.

The trainers for this series are highly qualified, certified Customer Service Academy trainers. The cost for single sessions is \$75 each. Chamber of Commerce members receive special pricing of \$55/single session.

The location of these classes is 5020 Franklin Drive, Pleasanton. To register for these classes, please contact Chris Paczocha, at (925) 485-5202. Your space will be reserved upon receipt of the class fee.

For further information about these classes, or to discuss customized training delivered to your place of business, please contact MariAnn Fisher, Marketing and Sales Manager, Chabot-Las Positas Community College District, (925) 485-5239 or (925) 640-9968, or by e-mail at mfisher@clpcd.org.

Easter Candy

Livermore Downtown Inc. is raising funds by selling See's Candies for Easter. The candy will be available March 15 to 22 at 2060 Second Street in Livermore.

Hours are weekdays 9 to 6; Saturday 10 to 6, and Sunday 10 to 5. Candy is available while supplies last. No gift certificates or cards can be accepted in payment.

Teens Behind the Wheel

Teens and their parents are invited to attend a free program about learning how to drive. The Livermore Public Library, in cooperation with the Livermore Police Department hosts this special event on Thurs., March 20 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the Library's Community Rooms.

Teens and their parents will receive the latest information about new traffic laws, learn driving tips, and discover the benefits of new safety "tools" for teens. Livermore Police Officer Traci Rebiejo, Donn Neher from Guardian Driving School, and Ken Ucci from the defensive driving program "Get Real Behind the Wheel" will answer questions.

For more information please visit TEEN SPACE at www.livermore.lib.ca.us or call the Livermore Public Library at 925-373-5504.

Teacher Stipends

The California Retired Teachers Association Tri-Valley Branch has given ten \$100 stipends to the teachers in Pleasanton, Dublin, and Livermore.

The ten recipients of these awards from 174 applicants who applied are: Pleasanton, Sue Mello-Horizon, Teen Moms: Carol Norem - Fairlands; Janet Sears - Mohr; Betty Russell - Fairlands; Dublin, Michelle Stanchina - Fallon; Susan Cofer - Wells Middle School; Livermore, Christie Rudnicki - Altamont Creek; Michelle Nunes - Portola; Lisa Jost - Granada High School; Sue Carling - Marilyn Avenue School.

The stipends will be used for technology, science, math, books, language arts, social studies, and art supplies. Tri-Valley CRTA would like to thank Marianne Hawkins, Cheree Heathershaw, Ann Britton, Carole Woodson, and Cathe Norman for their time and energy in selecting the ten recipients of the 2008 Teacher Stipends.

Range Camp

The Alameda County Resource Conservation District is encouraging young people to attend the June 15-20, 2008 California Range and Natural Resources Camp in Half Moon Bay. Students enrolled in natural sciences or agriculture classes may be interested in this opportunity to learn from range scientists about wildlife management, forestry, environmental careers, riparian watersheds, and other topics. Range Camp provides a unique educational experience with classroom and outdoor activities. Students not enrolled in natural science or agriculture classes are also invited.

This camp is sponsored by resource conservation districts, University of California Cooperative Extension, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and others. It is designed to introduce 15-18 year olds to California's natural resources and to encourage leadership and good stewardship. The camp fee is \$350.00. This includes meals, lodging, recreation, emergency medical insurance at camp and transportation costs while at camp. The Alameda County Resource Conservation District offers to reimburse the camp registration fee to the first three county students who attend and request it. Contact Peggy Kiefer at 925-371-0154, ext. 122 for reimbursement process.

Ecology and practical land management skills are emphasized, especially plant identification, livestock management, wildlife, forestry, fire, soils, water resources, rangeland analysis and improvement. Sessions by specialists are given every morning and afternoon, and include both indoor lectures and outdoor activities. Campers are tested at the end of the week to determine their understanding of the materials presented. A trip to SRM's High School Youth Forum, in Albuquerque, NM and belt buckles will be awarded to the top 3 eligible campers. Certificates and shirts will be awarded to all participants. Students must be a high school student in Feb. 2009.

Easter Exhibit

A special exhibit of vintage Easter toys, eggs and cards is on display at the Carnegie Museum. The items are from the personal collections of Tilli Calhoun and Anna Siig.

Both Tilli and Anna are local historians, authors and artists. The display will be up through Sunday, April 6. Also, the Art Gallery features a number of handmade cards as well as paintings, textiles and jewelry for purchase.

The Carnegie Museum is located on 3rd and K Streets in Livermore. Hours are Wed. thru Sunday, 11:30 am - 4 pm. For more information call (925) 449-9927.

Historic Garage Open

The 1915 Duarte Garage located on the old "Lincoln Highway" will be open on Sunday, March 16, from 10 am - 2 pm.

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

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

History Talk

Livermore Heritage Guild will host Gary Drummond, Livermore City Historian, as the guest speaker for the History Lecture on Wednesday, March 19.

Drummond's talk will feature an overview of the pre-prohibition winemakers and growers. The talk will concentrate on the 40-year period from 1880 to 1920. From the very beginning the valley winemakers stressed quality over quantity.

Drummond has been a long-time student of the beginnings of the local wine industry. He has conducted a great deal of research on the subject.

The History Lecture will be at the Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave., Livermore. Doors open at 7 pm, talk will start at 7:30 pm. Come early for refreshments and conversation. A \$2 donation is suggested. For more information call 4433-9740.

'The Middle Place' Author

Author of "The Middle Place," Kelly Corrigan will speak at the Pleasanton Library on Thurs., March 20. The program begins at 2 p.m.

Newspaper columnist Corrigan is a happily married mother of two young daughters when she discovered a cancerous lump in her breast. She was still undergoing treatment when she learned that her father, who had already survived prostate cancer, now had bladder cancer. Corrigan's story could have been unbearably depressing had she not made it clear from the start that she came from sturdy stock. As Corrigan reports on her cancer treatment she weaves in the story of how it felt growing up in a big, suburban Philadelphia family with her larger-than-life father and her steady-loving mother and brothers. She tells how she met her husband, how she gave birth to her daughters. All these stories lead up to where she is now, in that "middle place," being someone's child, but also having children of her own.

Library programs are free and open to all. No registration required. For more information, call Penny Johnson, 931-3405.

Name the Space

Now through March 31, 2008, the Livermore Public Library is accepting entry forms for a contest to name the TEEN SPACE page of the website. Teens, ages 13-19, may participate in the competition. Entry forms may be printed from TEEN SPACE on the library's website: www.livermore.lib.ca.us. Visit TEEN SPACE then click on "Events" and "Name that Space Contest." Only one entry form per teen will be accepted. The winner will receive a gift certificate from Fantasy Books and Games store in Livermore.

Entry forms should be returned to the special orange boxes in the teen area at the Civic Center, Springtown, and Rincon Branch libraries. For more information, please visit TEEN SPACE at www.livermore.lib.ca.us or call the library at 925-373-5504.

Girl Scout Thinking Day

Girl Scouts of Cresta Blanca & Livermore will hold the Thinking Day event on Sat., March 15 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Girls ages 5-17 are invited to join Girl Scouts and attend their first Thinking Day Event. This will be a fun day of foods and fun from countries around the globe.

There is a \$10 registration fee to join the Girl Scouts. Girls will be registered as individual Girl Scouts giving them the ability to attend the many events and camps offered for Girl Scouts in Livermore and around the Bay Area. Girls must be accompanied

by an adult. Adults may attend free of charge.

Thinking Day will be held at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Avenue.

For more information, call 243-1046. Proceeds from the event go to the Livermore Girl Scout Troops and Girl Scouts of USA. For information, go to www.GirlScoutsBayArea.org.

The event is held during Girl Scout Week, which is celebrated March 9 to 16.

On March 12, 1912, Girl Scouts of the USA, was founded in Savannah, Georgia by Juliette Gordon Low. Throughout its history, Girl Scouting has helped build millions of girls courage, confidence and character through leadership development, taking action, and connecting with their communities.

The City Council of the City of Livermore proclaimed March 9 through 16, 2008 as 'Girl Scout Week' and recognizes the contributions of the Girl Scouts to the Livermore community.

Livermore is home to over 900 active Girl Scouts from age 5 to 18. Livermore Girl Scouts provide more than 10,000 hours of service to our Livermore community each year.

Irish Dance

Students from the Moore School of Irish Dance in Walnut Creek once again perform at the Pleasanton Public Library on Saturday, March 22 beginning at 2:00 pm.

Perennial favorites who have come to the library for several years in a row, they will demonstrate a range of traditional and competitive solo and group Irish dances as part of the library's ongoing Dance & Sing Around the World series.

Dance & Sing Around the World celebrates the music and dance of the many cultures that make up the Pleasanton community. These free programs are open to all ages. No registration is required.

For information on these and other family events, visit the library website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/library/programs-and-events.html or call the Children's Desk at (925) 931-3400 ext. 8.

Livermore DECA

Livermore DECA announced the winners from last weekend's DECA State Career Development Conference in Irvine. Fifteen winners from Livermore High School DECA have been invited to move on to the DECA International Career Development Conference in Atlanta, GA this April 25-30 (www.deca.org).

Taking home first place in Technical Sales on a Bluetooth device was Angel Russell as well as Ian Overaas in his Restaurant and Food Service Management competition. With a second place in win Sports and Entertainment Team Decision Making was Cathy Garcia and Patrick Connolly, and Mark Larik for his 11-page Entrepreneurship paper opening a Jamba Juice Franchise. Gillian Floren also took home the third place trophy in her Fashion Merchandise competition.

(continued on page 8)

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SHORT NOTES

(continued from page 7)

dising Promotion Plan on the Finish Line Stores.

Top 8 medals were earned by Shelby Schock and Brittany Shiraki for their Travel and Tourism Team Decision Making event and Amanda Boulton in her 11-page Fashion Merchandising Promotion Plan paper on Wet Seal. In addition, Kaitelyn Nicholson, Theresa Cadigan and Sharon Dosanjh took home top 8 medals for their 30-page Community Service Project on the Adopt-A-Family program conducted by Livermore DECA. They are all eligible to attend the leadership or management training in Atlanta.

Special mention also goes to Livermore DECA for earning the highest award, the Gold level in the Chapter Awards Project. Katey Nelson, Becky Doell and Chelsea Smith won for their 105-page manual, recording all the Livermore DECA activities, donations and conferences.

All these students will be able to attend the International Career Development Conference and are raising funds to attend. Please call Ms. Merlin at 925-577-4700 or email livermoredeca@yahoo.com with any questions or donations.

There are also tickets still available for the March 21st awards banquet and fund-raiser at the Livermore Valley Tennis Club. The 6 p.m. dinner will be catered by Strings Italian Restaurant and tickets are as low as \$10 each in quantities of 3 or more. There will also be a basket drawing and silent auction at this exciting event.

Easter Egg Hunt

Woopsiedaisy Toy Shop in Downtown Livermore will be hosting its second annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 15th, at 11 am. The Easter Egg Hunt will be held on the grass around the corner from Woopsiedaisy Toy Shop near the flagpole at the corner of South Livermore Blvd. and 1st Street.

Woopsiedaisy will be holding the Easter Egg Hunt free of charge. It is a way to thank their customers. The hunt will include treats, prizes, and lots of Easter Goodies.

Max the Bunny, star of the New York Times Best Seller "Bunny Cakes" will be present at the Easter Egg hunt and will be available for picture taking. Max and Ruby picture books, written by Rosemary Wells, will be available

for purchase. Max the Bunny will be available in person from 11-1 for a free book signing.

Please call Woopsiedaisy Toy Shop with any questions at 925-455-TOYS (8697). Don't forget to bring an Easter Basket!

Wine Release

Mitchell Katz Winery will release two new wines on Sat., March 15 at the winery. Newly released wines will be a 2004 JK's Reserve Port, and 2006 Sangiovese, Crackerbox Vineyard.

The \$15 fee includes Kobe Beef Chili, a keepsake wine glass and a various varietal tasting. The event is from noon to 5 p.m.; pouring stops at 4:30.

Mitchell Katz Winery is located at 1188 Vineyard Ave., Livermore. Reservations are not required to attend the wine release event. For information, call 931-0744 or go to www.mitchellkatzwinery.com.

Education Award

The Pleasanton PTA Council and Pleasanton Unified School District are seeking nominations for the 18th Annual Excellence in Education Award. The awards go to employees and teachers whose jobs are connected with Pleasanton public schools. A ceremony for the honorees will be held on June 4.

The deadline for nominations is March 19. Please mail the nomination form and letter to Pleasanton PTA Council, c/o PUSD Maintenance, 4750 First St., Pleasanton, CA 94566. The nomination form and list of previous honorees can be downloaded at www.pleasantonpta.org/#ee.

Rotary Speech Contest

The Livermore Rotary Club held its annual Richard King Speech Contest on January 30, 2008.

The Rotary speech contest has a long tradition dating back more than 30 years.

Katy Sanlis, a junior at Livermore High School, gave a speech entitled "Investing in the Future, Education." Katy's talk highlighted problems in today's public education, the causes and then solutions for investing in the future, including service before self, attitude adjustment and the power to vote.

Paneeet Dhillon, a junior at Livermore High School, presented a speech

entitled "Investing the Future, Educating Children in Third World." Paneet's speech highlighted the severe problem of worldwide illiteracy due to brutal regimes, corrupt governments, extreme poverty and the importance of dedication to provide the youth of those countries an education so they can change the future.

Livermore High senior Angel Russell's speech was entitled "Why DECA prepares students for the business world." Angel's talk highlighted the role of ROP DECA in shaping high school kids for success in the future in the business world. The investments in DECA participants include development of skills in speaking, leadership, selling, advertising, running a business and most important, building self-esteem.

Winner for this year was Angel Russell. Katy Sanlis was the Runner-up.

SELF Meeting

Guests are welcome at the annual board meeting of the Student Education Loan Fund, which will be held on Wednesday, March 19, 7:00 PM, at the home of Linda Nidever-Galles, 3640 Jerrold Road, Livermore.

The Student Education Loan Fund (SELF) was established 45 years ago to provide interest free loans to graduates of Livermore high schools and to Livermore residents who want to further their education or training. These loans help Livermore students attend community colleges, trade schools, state colleges, or universities. During that time, \$508,895 has been loaned to 431 students.

Funds for loans are obtained through donations by individuals, as well as grants by agencies and businesses. Donations are deductible as provided under Federal and California income tax codes. As loans are repaid, the money coming in is added to the pool from which new loans are made—so contribution funds are used over and over.

The fund is managed by a volunteer board of thirty Livermore residents. These volunteers do all the necessary administrative and clerical work and contribute enough funds to cover SELF's yearly expenses. Therefore, all incoming donations go 100% into student loans.

For more information about the meeting or about SELF, please call Ruth Gasten at (925) 443-7140.



Alisia Marie and Scott Larson engagement announced.

Couple to Wed In September

Bob and Roxanne Gibson of Livermore announce the engagement of their daughter, Alisia Marie, to Scott Larson, son of Louise Harlan of Murphys and Bud Larson of Carmel.

The groom was raised in Livermore and is now working as a clinical coordinator at Walden House Adult In-Patient Treatment Division in San Francisco.

The bride was also raised in Livermore. She completed high school in Pleasanton, class of 1998. She is now working as an independent hairstylist in downtown Livermore.

The two were engaged after four years. The engagement took place overlooking the couple's desired weekend get-away at South Lake Tahoe.

Scott and Alisia plan to marry Sept. 20, 2008 at the Mill Rose Inn in Half Moon Bay. They will honeymoon in Cabo San Lucas and Cancun, Mexico.

Ag Week Celebrated

The Alameda County Resource Conservation District and USDA Natural Resources Conservation District and the sponsors of Ag Week point to the contributions that farmers, ranchers, the Livermore Valley winegrowers, vintners and others involved in agriculture make to Alameda County.

Alameda County farming including hay, cattle, pasture, and orchards, viticulture, bee products and the sale of livestock in Alameda County in 2006, was valued at \$21.8 million. Cattle and calves were valued at close to \$8.9 million; crops contributed \$8 million with the majority, \$6 million coming from grapes. Field crops, grown on 193,352 acres were valued at \$4.9 million.

American agriculture is responsible for providing the necessities of everyday life...food,

fiber, clothing and even fuel. That's the message of National Ag Week, which is celebrated March 16-22, 2008.

The Alameda County Resource Conservation District and USDA Natural Resources Conservation District and the sponsors of Alameda County's Celebration including, Garre Winery, Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association, Alameda County Farm Bureau, Cattleman's Association and Livermore High Schools' 4H and FFA Clubs, would like to increase awareness of the producers of agriculture in their community including the 4H and FFA youths with their horticulture and livestock projects.

The hope is that when possible, the Alameda County community will choose to select locally grown products such as wine, olive oil, pistachio nuts, etc.

Doris 'Lucki' Allen to Speak At Las Positas College

The Campus Change Network at Las Positas College will celebrate Women's History Month Friday, March 14 with a presentation by Doris "Lucki" Allen at 7:30 p.m. in room 2401 in building 2400 at Las Positas, 3000 Campus Hill Drive in Livermore.

Allen served three tours in Vietnam and later as an instructor of prisoner of war interrogation at the Army Intelligence Center and School at Fort Holabird, MD. She worked as a special agent for the Military Intelligence and Defense Investigative Service until she retired in 1980.

Allen earned her Ph.D. in psychology from the Wright Institute in Berkeley. There is no admission charge and light refreshments will be served.

The evening with Allen highlights Las Positas College's observance of Women's History Month.

For more information, please contact psychology instructor Cynthia Ross at (925) 424-1297 or cross@laspositascollege.edu

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OBITUARIES**Christian Eric Sorensen**

Christian Eric Sorensen passed away at ValleyCare Medical Center in Pleasanton on February 24, 2008, after a brief illness.

He was born in Oakland, California Nov. 16, 1957, and grew up in San Lorenzo and Castro Valley. He attended Lorenzo Manor School, San Lorenzo, Palomares Elementary School, Castro Valley and graduated from Canyon High, Castro Valley and Chabot Junior College, Hayward. He also attended the University of California at Berkeley and California State College, Hayward. He was employed for many years by SBC and AT&T in technical sales and telecommunications positions and lived in Hayward, California until he moved to Livermore in 2006.

Chris is survived by his sons, Alexander, age 12, and Jacob, age 10; his mother, Ann Sorensen of Livermore; his sisters Karen Sorensen of Flagstaff, Arizona; Kathy Freeman (Ricky) of Dublin; and Janet Pfeifer (Rick) of Danville; and numerous cousins, aunts, uncles, nephews and nieces and other extended family members. He was preceded in death by his wife, Patricia (Meyer) Sorensen, and his father, Ronald Franklin Sorensen.

One of Chris's most enjoyable pastimes was playing baseball. As a youth he played in the Castro Valley Independent Peanut League, the Babe Ruth League and was a member of the Canyon High School baseball team. He counted among his friends numerous "baseball buddies" who played together several years in an adult men's softball league.

He loved family reunions, camping at the family gathering place in Humboldt County, golfing with his friends, riding his motorcycle and playing his guitar. He especially enjoyed spending time outdoors with his sons and they spent many hours hiking, swimming and fishing in the Hayward hills and local parks and lakes. He loved life, his friends and his family and we will always miss his presence in our lives.

The Sorensen family would like to express their gratitude to the following: City of Livermore policemen, paramedics and ambulance crew, and the doctors and nurses of the CCU2 at ValleyCare.

Friends and family are invited to attend a memorial service on Sunday, March 16, at 4 p.m. at the Robert Livermore Community Center, Cresta Blanca South room, 4444 East Ave., Livermore.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Sorensen Children Education Fund, c/o US Bank, 720 San Ramon Valley Blvd, Danville, CA 94526, or to a charitable organization of your choice.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

Margaret Gordillo

Margaret Gordillo of Brentwood passed away February 26, 2008 surrounded by her family.

Margaret was born July 20, 1925 in Naco, Mexico, in the state of Sonora, the eldest of eleven children born to Elisa and Pablo Garcia. She and her husband Eugenio (Gene) married August 28, 1947 in Livermore. They shared an exceptional marriage that lasted for more than sixty years. Gene and Margaret eventually settled in Pleasanton and lived there for nearly forty years.

The immediate Gordillo clan consists of Larry, Gene, Alfred (Patricia), David (Vicki), Arthur (Dottie), Phillip (Jane), Grace (Tom), Jerry, Jerri, Ann (Paul) and Louis (Kim). Her eldest child, Larry, died in 1983. Another son, Jerry, died shortly after birth. She

is also survived by 22 grandchildren, 22 great grandchildren and six great-great grandchildren, as well as her youngest sister, Emily Berrios.

Margaret was well traveled, making trips to Europe, Guatemala, Hawaii and across the United States. She was an exceptional cook. She was a sucker for flash jewelry and bright colors. Later in life, she became a sports fan. She particularly liked the A's, Tiger Woods and World Cup Soccer.

To anyone who knew Margaret, she was defined by one simple quality, she was a mother. Whether it was her children, her children's friends, nieces, nephews, grandchildren, or great grandchildren, it didn't matter. Anyone who needed mothering would be taken in, whether for a day, a month, a year or always.

A rosary of her life was celebrated March 2 in Livermore. A Mass was celebrated March 3 at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Livermore.

The family appreciates flowers or donations to an organization that benefits children, such as Children's Hospital of Oakland or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

LARPD Signing Up Blood Donors

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) is now signing up blood donors to participate in the upcoming Emergency Survival EXPO slated for April 26 at the Robert Livermore Community Center.

As part of LARPD's Emergency Survival EXPO, the American Red Cross is holding a blood drive. The Red Cross van will be in the parking lot of the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore, CA. Appointments are now being taken for the Blood Drive, during the Expo's hours from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

LARPD's objective for the Emergency Survival EXPO is to create an accessible one-day resource for residents seeking to prepare their homes and families for a potential emergency. Participants will learn current and viable methods of preparing for a disaster through demonstrations and hands-on experience.

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1520 Justine Court, Livermore
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BULLETIN BOARD

Organizations wishing to run notices in Bulletin Board, send information to PO Box 1198, Livermore, CA 94551, in care of Bulletin Board. Include name of organization, meeting date, time, place and theme or subject. Phone number and contact person should also be included.

Fiesta: Spring Fling, East Avenue Middle School event to be held Fri., May 2 at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. 6 to 11 p.m. events include dinner, live and silent auctions and dancing. \$30 per person. This is an adult event. Information, Carmela Stepp, 640-7346 or stepp2@sbcglobal.net.

Dream Interpretation, free seminar Thurs., March 27, 7 p.m. Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Find out how to use your dreams and your inner consciousness to discover more about yourself, create new directions in life, improve relationships, expand your creativity, explore vocational options, make better choices, act on forewarnings of danger, increase prosperity, develop a deeper and higher consciousness, and vision your own bright future. Steve Klitzing has been studying dreams and dream interpretation for over 25 years. His new book is titled Lighthouse of the Gods: A Journey Into the Hidden Realms of Dreams and Inner Consciousness. The program is free and open to all. No registration required. For more information, call Penny Johnson, 931-3405.

Valley Spokesmen Bicycle Touring Club, Sat., March 15, 62 miles Cinderella training ride, meet 8:00 a.m. at Dublin High School, Bekki Livingston, 735-8327. Sun., March 16, 30 miles Marina to Monterey and Pacific Grove, meet 10 a.m. in Marina. Bob and Bonnie Powers, 828-5299. Sun., March 16, 35 miles, with race team on relaxed ride starts at Bankhead Theater in downtown Livermore at 9 a.m., Don Williams, 580-9395. Wed., March 19, 47 miles Cull Canyon Park and backroads to Lafayette, Danville and Pleasanton, meet 10 a.m. at the park, Linda Longinotti, 510-313-2631. Anyone planning to go on a ride is asked to call the leader for details on where to meet and what to bring.

Delta Nu Kappa is a chapter of Beta Sigma Phi International, the world's largest friendship organization for women who get together once a month to discuss philanthropy through social events. Members ages range from 26 to 34 years old. If you are interested in learning more please email apey428@yahoo.com. Check the websites as well. www.betasigmaphi.org and <http://deltanukappa.tripod.com>.

ABATE - Local 62 (motorcycle rights organization). Kick off event Tres de Mayo Chili Cook-off May 3rd, 11:00 - 3:00; HK Cycles, 196 Airway Blvd., Livermore. A joint venture benefiting L14 & L62 and the Judicial Fund. Live entertainment, drawing. To enter or for more info contact Red 925-640-9113 or local62events@yahoo.com.

Mad Hatter's Tea Party, Saturday, April 19th, 12:00 to 4:00 pm. Assistance League of Amador Valley hosts their 13th annual afternoon tea. Members and guests enjoy an afternoon of tea, music, opportunity prizes, an interesting speaker and musical entertainment. This year's featured guest speaker is Juliette Goodrich, a KPIX News Anchor and Emmy Award winner, on "Finding Balance." Guest vocalist is Eric Ribiero, a Bay Area performer since 1988. This annual fundraiser supports many projects including Operation School Bell, in which hundreds of school children are clothed each year. Reservations are now open and tickets are available at \$45 per person. For ticket information, please call Annette at 925-462-5275 or Rickie at 925-846-3922.

Wildflower Walk on Mt. Wanda, Sat., March 15, 9 a.m. John Muir National Historic Site. Meet at the CalTrans Park and Ride, corner Alhambra Ave. and Franklin Canyon Rd., Martinez. Wear good walking shoes. Trail is steep. If rains heavily, the walk is cancelled. Information at 228-8860.

Cultural care au pairs, rollerskating at Golden Skate in San Ramon Sun., March 16, 6:30-8:30 p.m. All au pairs in the Tri-Valley, regardless of agency, and their friends invited. Pizza and drinks included. Information, email heidibrewer@sbcglobal.net.

Swingin' Bingo, Sat., March 29, 7 p.m. St. Michael's Parish Hall, 372 Maple St., Livermore. \$10 per person (includes 1 bingo packet for 10 games). Music for dancing or listening DJ - JB Smooth Sounds. Fund-raiser for Children's Hospital Oakland, Cooley's Anemia Research and ICF Scholarship Branch 285 Tri-Valley Scholarship Program. Representatives from Children's Hospital will be present. Reservation deadline, March 27. Call Helen W. at 462-3798 or Mary G. at 447-8471. If unable to attend, but wishing to make a donation, please send to Helen Wirtenson, 4071 Moselle Ct., Pleasanton, CA 94566.

Tennyson High School graduating class of 1978 is looking for classmates interested in its 30 year reunion. Please visit www.goreunite.com for more information or email ths78@goreunite.com.

St. Michael's Parish - annual dinner, dance and auction, "Under the Tuscan Sky", April 5th, 5:30-11:00pm, Robert Livermore Community Center. Tickets \$45. Proceeds benefit St. Michael's K-8 grade school, Youth Ministry, Hispanic Ministry, English and Spanish Faith Formation Programs and Adult Education. For tickets and donations, contact St. Michael's Church rectory at 925-447-1585.

AABC (Activities & Academic Booster Club) Scholarships, four Scholarships (two for \$1000 each and two for \$500 each) will be awarded in May 2008. Foothill High School seniors who will attend an accredited institution of higher learning must submit a completed application to Mrs. Bing in the FHS Counseling office by Monday, April 14, 2008. See FHS counseling (Mrs. Bing) for an application or online at <http://www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/foothill/pub/foothill/aabcscholarship.pdf>.

Spanish/English Dual Immersion Program, Portola Elementary School in Livermore, K-3 learn in two languages. March 12, 8 a.m. classroom visits following the information session, March 13, 6 p.m. Don Gaspar de Portola School, 2451 Portola Ave., Livermore. 606-4743, ext. 102.

New face in the Valley: Ryan Brock Britto was born on 2/21/2008 at 7:15 at San Ramon Regional Hospital; 7lbs 13oz; 20 1/2 inches long; He is the son of Daniel Britto and Kerree Young of Livermore.

Tri-Valley Holistic Moms Network meets Monday, March 17, at 7PM. There will be a discussion on vaccinations. Dr. Tim O'Shea, internationally recognized speaker and author will present "Vaccines: It's Your Choice". CrossWinds Church located at 6444 Sierra Court, Room 102, in Dublin. Please park in the South parking lot. Anyone curious about the group is invited to attend with no obligation to join. For further information, please visit www.holisticmoms.org or e-mail

Tri-ValleyHMN@hotmail.com.
Dessert-dance, with the Don Vega Big Band, 7 to 9 p.m. March 14. \$7 residents, \$8 nonresidents in advance; \$8/\$9 at the door. Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., Pleasanton. 931-5365.

Widowed Men and Women of Northern CA, Birthday dinner, Sun., March 16, 5 p.m. Black Angus Steakhouse, Dublin. Cost determined by entree, RSVP by March 14 to Marge Kitckuck, 828-5124. March 29, Circus Acrobats of China perform in San Ramon, 8 p.m., \$40, call Marsha at 830-8483 ASAP for best seats.

Room to Grow, a Parent Participation Preschool for children from 2 years, 9 months of age is now accepting applications from the community for 2, 3 or 4 day classes beginning in September. Classes meet Monday through Thursday mornings from 8:45-12:15. The preschool program emphasizes the development of positive social skills and a play based curriculum that emerges from the interests of children and includes foundations in math, literacy, and science. Room to Grow is located at 678 Enos Way in Livermore. Parents interested in receiving more information or in arranging a tour of the school should call 925-454-5307 or email: roomtorgrow.preschool@gmail.com.

Computer classes, Livermore Library, Searching the Internet class on Saturday, March 15th from 10:15 am to 12:15 pm. E-Mail Basics class on Saturday, March 22nd from 10:15 am - 12:15pm. Classes are hands on, first come first served, and take place in Community Meeting Room B. Stop by the Civic Center Library Adult Information Services Desk or call 373-5505 for further information about the classes.

Daughters of the American Revolution, Josefa Higuera Livermore Chapter, meets 9:30 a.m. the first Saturday of the month between Sept. and May at the Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., Livermore.
Livermore-Pleasanton Rod & Gun Club, board of directors meets at 7 p.m. third Monday of the month. Members are encouraged to attend. For more information, contact the trap shooting office, 449-8780.

Free Egg Hunt for ages 0-5th grade. Sat., March 22, 10 a.m. to noon. Free entertainment, prizes, and candy. Available for purchase will be cotton candy, donuts, specialty coffee and beverages. Celebration Christian Center, 1135 Bluebell Drive, Livermore. Information 925-455-4250.

Tri-Valley Singles Convention, Friday, March 21, 7:30 pm, at the Radisson Hotel's Grand Salon, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. Lisa Altalida is the keynote speaker. Altalida will provide "in your face" advice on a variety of dating issues. Altalida is the author of Dating Boot Camp and also The Pocket Idiot's Guide to Getting Girls. The Convention is sponsored by The Society of Single Professionals. Adults of all ages are welcome. The cost is \$20 at the door for the entire Convention, including Lisa Altalida's Keynote at 7:30pm and a Dance Party, 9pm-Midnight. Anyone wishing information about this and many more parties for singles may visit www.thepartyhotline.com or call 415/507-9962.

Open Your Heart Through Art, workshop uses art and movement to promote self-awareness and connection of body, mind and emotion. All exercises modulated to energy level and needs. No creative experience necessary. March 20, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. ValleyCare Medical Plaza Building, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., Suite 240, Pleasanton. Free. For cancer patients and their caregivers. Reservations are required. For information, call the Wellness Community, 933-0107.

Luck of the Irish, March 15, Livermore-Pleasanton Elks Lodge #2117, corned beef and cabbage, Irish dancers, door prizes. Cocktails 6 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. \$20 per person. Tickets available at lodge office, 940 Larkspur Dr., Livermore, or call 455-8829.

Rendezvous 2008, for horse and mule folks, three-day schedule features clinics, contests, vendors, raffles, entertainment, a western art show, and genuine Dutch oven cooking. March 21, 22, and 23. Stanislaus County Fairgrounds, Turlock. Open to BCHC members and the public. Friday: Adult \$5, children under 12 free Saturday: Adult \$8, children under 12 free Sunday: Adult \$5, children under 12 free. Contacts: General information, event coordinator: Chip Herzog, (951) 769-3781; chryvchip@msn.com Education Classes: Jo Johnson, (559) 787-9697; jafmorganstockhorses@unwiredbb.com Event planner: John Black, (209) 537-1516; johnbfatman@aol.com.

Video Games @ the Library, City of Pleasanton Public Library Meeting Room, 400 Old Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton, Sat., March 15, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Teens grades 6-12 are invited to drop in and play Wii sports on the big screen and unlock songs from Guitar Hero I & II in the large meeting room of the Pleasanton Public Library. All programs are free. No registration is required. Please contact Teen Services Librarian Teresa Parham at 925-931-3404.

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

Pleasanton Ridge Ride, every Tues. 6 p.m. Good for all levels of cyclists, no-drop mountain ride approx. 2 hours. Riders should be in good fitness, have a well adjusted, safe mountain bike and general knowledge of bike handling skills. Meet Cyclepath group at the Foothill staging area. Information at 485-3218 or www.cyclepath.com. Free.

Beginner Bicycle Ride, Saturday morning 9 p.m. 10 to 12 mph, 20 miles, no more than two hours. E-mail rides@cyclepath.com if planning to attend.

RELIGION Holy Cross Lutheran Church Sunday Services are 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. with Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. Wednesday Lenten Service at 7 p.m. 1020 Mocho St., Livermore. Information, 447-8840.

The Way of the Cross, Road to Calvary, St. Augustine Catholic Church, 3999 Bernal Ave., Pleasanton, March 14 at 7:30 pm.

Tri-Valley Unity Church, "The Power Story" - March message theme by speaker Richard Southern. Mar. 16: "Unconditional Surrender," the story of letting go. Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin, 10:00 a.m. Sun-

day service. (925) 829-2733. www.trivalleyunity.com All are welcome.

Tri-Valley Aglow, Meeting March 15 includes a blessing by the Drofin and Darren Goodman. They are the founders of Alpha Omega ministries and One Word Now ministries as well as having started churches in Sacramento, Prague, Czech Republic, and Bucharest Romania. Both men and women are welcome!

10:30AM 12:30PM, Southway Baptist Church (Also the International House of Prayer), 7458 Village Parkway, Dublin. Contact Sandra Diaz at 1(408) 829-5300 with questions.

Celebrate Purim with games, crafts, hamantashn-baking, a costume parade and more. Sunday, March 16 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 Eighth St. in Livermore. Sponsored by the

Jewish Culture School of the Tri-Valley Cultural Jews. Suitable for preschool and elementary school kids. Come in costume. No charge, but bring a donation for the Alameda County food bank. For more information, call 925 485 1049 or e-mail CulturalJews@aol.com.

Grief support, Thurs., March 13 and 27, 7:30 p.m. St. Elizabeth Seton

Church, Pleasanton. Open to all regardless of religious orientation. Please call Joan at 828-6864 for information.

Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Avenue, Livermore. 9 a.m. Sunday worship. March 16 is Palm Sunday. Thurs., March 20, 7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday. Good Friday Service, March 21, 7:30 p.m. featuring special music. Information 447-1950.



Easter Week Services and Special Programs



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www.therocktvfc.org



JOIN US
EASTER SUNDAY
10 AM

Live Like You Were Dying

A four-week sermon series based on Tim McGraw's Grammy award winning song. Begins Easter Sunday, March 23

Discovery Church is located at 5860 Las Positas Road in Livermore [2 blocks west of Vasco Road] Call 925-449-5256.

Join us for Easter Season Events at Our Savior

SUNDAY, MARCH 16
9 am (classic)
10:30 am (contemporary)
Palm Sunday Service

THURSDAY, MARCH 20
7 pm
Holy (Maundy) Thursday Service

FRIDAY, MARCH 21
7 pm
Good Friday Service

SUNDAY, MARCH 23
9 am (classic)
10:30 am (contemporary)
Easter Worship Celebration
(Easter brunch will be held in the gym, beginning at 10:15 am)
ALL ARE WELCOME



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Sunday School for All Ages: 9:45am

PALM SUNDAY
"Find Peace on the Path"

MAUNDAY THURSDAY
The Lord's Supper - 7pm

GOOD FRIDAY
"Were You There?" - 7pm

EASTER SUNDAY
"Enjoy the Peace of Resurrection"
8:30 & 11am

EASTER DRAMATIC MONOLOGUE
"Truly this is the Son of God" - 6pm



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1886 College Avenue, Livermore (at M Street) • Sunday Worship at 10:30 AM

Holy Week at UCC

Palm Sunday Worship at 10:30am
Mindful Drumming, Tuesday, March 18 at 7:30pm
Maundy Thursday, March 20 at 7:30pm - Service of Communion
Easter Sunday, March 23
Continental Breakfast 9:30-10:30am
Worship 10:30am
Easter Egg Hunt for Children at 11:45am

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PALM SUNDAY SERVICES MARCH 15 & 16
Saturday 5:30 PM; Sunday 7:30 AM & 9:30 AM
Children's Liturgy of the Word & Babysitting during 9:30 AM Mass

HOLY THURSDAY, MARCH 20
7:30 PM: Mass of the Lord's Supper & Adoration of the Eucharist

GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 21
1:30 PM: Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
6:00 PM: Stations of the Cross
Presented by St. Charles Youth Ministry - All are Welcome

HOLY SATURDAY, MARCH 22
8:00 PM: The Great Vigil of Easter

EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 23
7:30 AM, 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM: Beautiful Music at all Services



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PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2008
Worship at 9 and 10:30 a.m.
Children lead us into worship
with a procession of waving palm fronds
Pancake Breakfast 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Concert of French Requiems
Ohlone Chamber Singers, Orchestra & Organ
4 p.m., Sanctuary

MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2008
Soup Supper 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
Tenebrae service at 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary



Bob Walker Photos Featured in Show

The Oakland Museum of California and East Bay Regional Park District present "In Our Own Backyard: A Celebration of the East Bay Regional Parks." The exhibit will feature more than 40 photographs from the museum's Bob Walker Archive.

The exhibition, open March 15 to Oct. 12, offers visitors a virtual tour through the East Bay's scenic parks and open spaces, following the flow of water from snow-capped Mt. Diablo downstream and eventually into the Bay.

In addition to the exhibit, a new book, "After the Storm," has been published featuring Walker's work.

Between 1982 and 1992, Bob Walker created one of the most remarkable portraits of the East Bay landscape ever captured on film. Walker left his archive—more than 40,000 35-mm slides and historical documents—to the Oakland Museum of California. It

came to the museum after his death, in 1992.

The East Bay Regional Park District was created in 1934 by concerned citizens who wanted to protect surplus watershed land in the hills over Oakland and Berkeley from development.

"Bob Walker adopted the East Bay Regional Parks—his photography brought to life the beauty and unique features of our landscape," said Park District General Manager Pat O'Brien. "Through his insightful photographs and passion for preservation, he was instrumental in helping to protect thousands of acres of treasured open space."

Nearly 75 years later, the East Bay Regional Park District is the largest regional park agency in the nation, with 65 parks, nearly 100,000 acres of protected space, and 1100 miles of trails in Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

In Our Own Backyard was

curated by Christopher Beaver, author of *After the Storm: Bob Walker and the East Bay Regional Park District* (Wilderness Press, 2007). He tracks the growth of the Park District via Walker's images and documents, video, and audio.

After the Storm includes 80 of Walker's photos. It is also an account of the photographer's courageous efforts to document and help preserve the East Bay's natural treasures.

The Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak @ 10th Street, in Oakland, is one block from the Lake Merritt BART. Museum hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 10 to 5; Sunday, 12 to 5 p.m.; first Friday of the month, 10 to 9. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$5 seniors and students with ID, free for members, City of Oakland employees, and kids five and under. Second Sundays are free. For more information, call 510/238-2200 or visit www.museumca.org.

Registration Deadline Near for Pleasanton Poetry, Prose & Arts Festival

The public is invited to participate in free open activities at the Seventh Annual Poetry, Prose & Arts Festival on Saturday and Sunday, April 5 and 6. The Festival will be held at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Boulevard in Pleasanton.

The festival is hosted by the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council (PCAC) and City of Pleasanton Civic Arts.

On Saturday, non-registered visitors to the Festival may attend the Visual Arts Exhibit presented by the Pleasanton Art League and other regional artists from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. In addition, they are invited to the reception and book signing and Meet the Authors at Literary Row events from 1:00-2:30 p.m. They will be entertained by the music of guitar, mandolin and mandocello artist Jim Steinke during the afternoon hours.

On Sunday at 1:00 p.m., the public is invited to a free performance of *When Tom Smith Caused the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake* by Word for Word of San Francisco.

The complete festival for registered participants will feature 12 workshops, including Saturday-Sunday mini-courses for adults, which are new this year. Mini-courses will be led by Kim Addonizio (poetry) and Martha Alderson (prose). Additional adult poetry workshops will be

conducted by Kevin Hearle and Kathleen Lynch. Adult and teen prose workshops will also be led by Maureen Boyd Biro and Nina Schuyler. Youth and teen poetry workshops will be conducted by Pleasanton Poet Laureate Martha Meltzer and Livermore Poet Laureate Connie Post, respectively.

Registrations for day one or both days of activities, includ-

ing workshops, readings, the awards banquet and other selected activities will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis and must be postmarked no later than March 25, 2008. Registration forms are available at www.pleasantonarts.org or by contacting Michelle Russo, at (925) 931-5350 or send an email to mrusso@ci.pleasanton.ca.us.

Concert at West End Celebrates St. Pat's Day

Bracken returns to the Bothwell Arts Center's West End Stage on Sunday, March 16, at 7pm, to perform their own fiery flare to traditional Celtic music. Featuring upbeat jigs, fast and fancy reels, original and traditional songs from a variety of sources, Bracken brings expert musicianship to the West End stage as well as a chance to celebrate a bit of the green.

Hailing from County Antrim, Ireland, guitar, mandolin player and vocalist Gabe Duffin brings authenticity along with years of experience to the stage. Duffin blends his country and Irish roots with rhythmic and dynamic influences from blues and rock — and can break into an Irish ballad at the drop of a hat.

With award-winning fiddle playing and backup vocals, Kathy brings her own varied and dynamic style to the stage. She played professionally as a clas-

sical violinist, and later in cafes and pubs with rock bands and singer/songwriters. The Irish tradition caught her attention, and in 1999 she began studying with fiddlers Kevin Crehan and Cait Reed.

Del Eckels brings a talent that crosses over stylistic boundaries, in demand as a percussionist with symphonies as well as Celtic acts throughout the Bay Area and beyond. Eckels is also a world-renowned drum maker, and the drums he plays at the West End Stage were most likely crafted by his own hands.

Celebrate St. Patrick with Bracken at the Bothwell Arts Center, Sunday, March 16, 7pm. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Tickets are \$10 general, \$8 student/seniors/LVPAC charter members. Tickets are now available through the Bankhead Theater Ticketing office at 2400 First Street, downtown Livermore, or

ART & ENTERTAINMENT



Kyra Britto appears as Millie in the Amador Valley, Foothill production of "Thoroughly Modern Millie." See details below.

Thoroughly Modern Millie. A production by Amador Valley and Foothill High Schools. Show dates are March 13, 14 and 15. A high-spirited musical romp that has everybody dancing the Charleston. Taking place in New York City in 1922, this is the story of young Millie Dillmount, who has just moved to the city in search of a new life for herself. Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. in the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. Reserved seating tickets are

\$12/adults; \$10/students and seniors. They can be purchased through www.CivicArtsTickets.org or at the Amador Theater Box Office, 1155 Santa Rita Rd. in Pleasanton. **Valley Concert Choral Auditions** for Schubert's Mass in G. May 17 concert to include spirituals, variety of music Livermore. Appointments by appointment on Monday, March 17th at the First Presbyterian Church of Livermore. The church is located at the corner of 4th and L Streets. The May performance will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Pleasanton. The Choral is seeking experienced singers with sight-reading skills who enjoy singing exciting and challenging music. To schedule an appointment, call (925) 462-4205. More information about the Valley Concert Choral is available at www.valleyconcertchorale.org.

Prometheus Symphony Orchestra, concert Sun., March 16, 3 p.m. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 116 Montecito Ave., Oakland. Works by Stravinsky, Holst and Rutter, Dan Scharlin, flute. Free admission. Donations accepted. Information at www.prometheussymphony.org.

Capitol Steps, Music and political satire. Mon., May 5, 8pm. Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center Presents, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Ticket office open Monday through Saturday from noon to 6:00 p.m. 373-6800, www.livermoreperformingarts.org. **Diablo Light Opera Company,** Dianna Schuster directs "Man of La Mancha," based on Cervantes, "Don Quixote," 8 p.m. March 13, 14 and 15; 2 p.m. March 15 and 16. Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. \$28-\$40. 943-7469, www.leshcenter.org, www.dloc.org.

The Early Music Concert Series. The Grand Tour, Saturday, March 15, The Baroque, 7:30 P.M., Las Positas College Library, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. Tickets at the door: Students \$5, General Admission \$15. 424-1467.

Carmen, Livermore Valley Opera. March 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, Bankhead Theater, downtown Livermore. 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday. Pre-curtain lecture. Ticket office open Monday through Saturday from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m. 9 2 5 - 3 7 3 - 6 8 0 0, www.livermoreperformingarts.org. **Amador Valley High School, Harvest Park Middle School,** March 17,

925-373-6800, and at www.livermoreperformingarts.org, or at the door at the Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 8th Street, Livermore.

'Urinetown' Runs 2 More Weekends

Tickets are still available for the final two weekends of Pleasanton Playhouse's "Urinetown," which will close with a Saturday evening performance on March 22.

Due to the anticipated popularity of this production, it has been given a longer run of six weekends (Studio Theatre shows typically run four weekends).

"Urinetown" is an irreverently humorous satire in which no one is safe from scrutiny.

"Urinetown, a musical, is a humorous tale of greed, corruption, love, and revolution in a time when water is worth its weight in gold. In a Gotham-like city, a terrible water shortage, caused by a 20-year drought, has led to a government-enforced ban on private toilets. The citizens must use public amenities, regulated by a single malevolent company that profits by charging admission for one of humanity's most basic needs.

Amid the people, a hero, Bobby Strong (DannyCozart) decides he's had enough, and plans a revolution to lead them all to freedom.

Performances are 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays through March 22 at the Studio Theatre, 1048 Serpentine Lane, Suite 309, Pleasanton. Note that there will not be a performance on Easter Sunday, March 23.

Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors age 60 and older and \$18 for juniors 18 and younger.

Retzlaff Winemaker Dinner Planned

Retzlaff Estate Winery will be featured at a winemaker's dinner on March 24 at Forli Restaurant in Alamo. The restaurant features a classic Italian menu. The food will be paired with Retzlaff estate, organically grown wines.

The five course menu includes a choice of five different main dishes. Each course is a collaboration between the chef and staff at Retzlaff. Wines to be served include 2006 Sauvignon Blanc, 2001 Cabernet Sauvignon, 2002 Merlot, and 2

The cost is \$75 tax and tip. For reservations, phone the restaurant at 937-6886. Forli Restaurant is located at 3160 Danville Blvd., Alamo.

LIVERMORE CINEMAS		2490 First Street 443-SHOW	
HORTON HEARS A WHO (R) DLP/THK	12:00 12:45 2:15 3:00 4:30	5:15 6:45 7:30 9:00 9:35	
HORTON HEARS A WHO (R) DLP	1:30 3:45 6:00 8:15		
DOOMSDAY (R) DLP	1:20 4:00 6:40 9:20		
NEVER BACK DOWN (PG) DLP	1:15 4:15 7:00 9:40		
10,000 BC (PG) DLP	12:25 1:40 3:10 4:25 6:30 7:20 9:05 9:50		
COLLEGE ROAD TRIP (R) DLP	12:40 2:45 5:05 7:25 9:35		
BANK JOB (R) DLP	12:10 4:10 6:50 9:45		
PENELOPE (PG) DLP	12:15 2:30 4:45 7:10 9:30		
VANTAGE POINT (PG) DLP	1:10 4:20 6:50 9:10		
THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL (PG) DLP	1:25 4:05 6:55 9:40		
THE SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES (PG) DLP	12:05 2:20		
JUNO (PG) DLP	7:05		
SEMI-PRO (R) DLP	4:45 9:25		

wind ensembles in concert 7 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. 373-6800 or www.livermoreperformingarts.org. **Bill Harley,** Thursday, March 20, 7:30 PM. Adult Tickets: \$14, \$18, \$20. Child Tickets: \$8, \$12, \$16 Pleasanton Civic Arts Presents, Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. www.civicticketstickets.org or 931-3444.

Proof by David Auburn previews on Thursday March 27, opens March 28 and runs through April 13 at the Bothwell Arts Center, Livermore, playing Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$25 with discounts for seniors, teachers and others. For more information about this show please visit ShakespearesAssociates.org.

The Vagina Monologues, March 28, 29, 8 p.m. and 2 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Benefit for Tri-Valley Haven. \$26, \$31, \$41. 373-6800 or www.livermoreperformingarts.org.

Cirque D'Amour featuring the Zuyi Acrobats of China, March 29, 8 p.m. Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, 10550 Albion Rd., San Ramon. Recounts ancient Chinese tales through songs, dance and mind-blowing acrobatics. Tickets are \$40. 973-ARTS or www.sanramonperformingarts.com.

Don Lewis & Young Expressions, Saturday, March 29, 8 p.m. Award-winning students from Pleasanton schools team up with local professional musician and synthesizer pioneer, Don Lewis, to showcase their talent. Adult Tickets: \$10, \$14, \$18, Child/Student Tickets: \$6, \$10, \$14. Pleasanton Civic Arts Presents, Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. www.civicticketstickets.org or 931-3444.

Livermore Amador Symphony, Romance, Rhyme and Remembrance, Saturday, March 29, 8 pm Dr. Arthur P. Barnes, Music Director; Dawn Harms, guest conductor; Lawrence Granger, cello. Program: Thomas Mignon: Overture; Ravel: Mother Goose Suite; Elgar: Cello Concerto, Lawrence Granger, cello; Beethoven: Symphony No. 4, Dawn Harms, guest conductor. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Ticket office open Monday through Saturday from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m. 925-373-6800, or go to www.livermoreperformingarts.org.

Saturday Salon Has 'Zen-like' Theme

4th Street studio will host Saturday Salon this Saturday, March 15th at 7:30 p.m. at 2235 Fourth Street in Livermore.

This month's salon is described as "A Zen-like trek on the road kind of night: Jack Kerouac first submitted On the Road to his publisher on a single long roll of unbroken paper. The publisher was not amused. It took seven more years before On the Road was published. Few people remember the name of the unamused publisher.

"Fourth Street Studio is a place where something happens so something else can happen," says Salon founder Karen Hogan. "Everyone has up to 10 minutes to read. You're welcome to just come and listen, as well. Sky writers are particularly welcome!"

Fourth Street Studio is located at 2235 Fourth Street in Livermore. Contact Karen Hogan at 925 456-3100 for questions.

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BANKHEAD THEATER

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Livermore Valley Opera
Opera Week! March 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23
\$26, \$36, \$46, \$56

AMADOR HIGH & HARVEST PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL
Wind Ensembles in Concert
Monday, March 17 • 7:00pm • 55

THOMAS HART MIDDLE SCHOOL PRESENTS
Concert for Carnegie
Tuesday, March 18 • 7:00pm • 511

THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES
Tri-Valley Haven Fundraiser
Friday & Saturday, March 28 & 29 • \$26, \$31, \$41

LIVERMORE VALLEY WINE COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP
PGA Nationwide Tour Golf Tournament at Wente Vineyards
Thursday thru Sunday, April 3-6 • \$20
Buy tickets at the Bankhead Theater and support LVPAC.

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For tickets 925-373-6800
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IN BRUGES
(R)
Starring Colin Farrell & Ralph Fiennes
Fri - Sun: 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:15
Mon - Thur: 2:30 4:45 7:00

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(PG-13)
Fri - Sun: 2:15 4:45 7:10 9:20
Mon - Thur: 2:45 5:00 7:15

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CONTACT BARBARA @ 925 243-8000

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 406686

The following person (s) doing business as: SMB Solutions LLC., 1526 Klondike Place, Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Roger Kabalin, 1526 Klondike Place, Livermore Ca 94550. 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.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 406628

The following person (s) doing business as: JS Vocal Studio, 3453 Isle Royal Court, Pleasanton Ca 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Jeannette Annabelle Smith, 3453 Isle Royal Court, Pleasanton Ca 94588. This business is conducted by an individual Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name (s) listed above on January 1, 2008.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 406650

The following person (s) doing business as: AAA Pool Service And Repair, Inc., 1062 Harvest Circle, Pleasanton Ca 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): AAA Pool Service And Repair, Inc., 1062 Harvest Circle, 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/Roger Kabalin
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on February 13, 2008. Expires February 13, 2013.

Signature of Registrant: /s:Chanel Gumbs, 212 Elvira Street, Livermore Ca 94550
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:Robert J. Hufford
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on February 4, 2008. Expires February 4, 2013.

Signature of Registrant: /s:Chanel Gumbs, 212 Elvira Street, Livermore Ca 94550
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:Chanel Gumbs, 212 Elvira Street, Livermore Ca 94550
This business is conducted by an individual Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name (s) listed above on January 1, 2008.

Signature of Registrant: /s:Jeannette Smith
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on February 6, 2008. Expires February 6, 2013.

The following person (s) doing business as: VIVA La Diva Glam 212 Elvira Street, Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Chanel Gumbs, 212 Elvira Street, Livermore Ca 94550. This business is conducted by an individual Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.

The following person (s) doing business as: Pick Me Up Cafe & BBQ, 385 S. Livermore Ave., Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): George P. Milla, 38826 Bonnie Way, Fremont Ca 94536. This business is conducted by an individual Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.

The following person (s) doing business as: Vision Construction & Design, 1341 Anza Way, Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Robert Powell Snyder, 1341 Anza Way, Livermore Ca, 94550. This business is conducted by an individual Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.

The following person (s) doing business as: Umigo Indoor Kart Racing, 6538 Patterson Pass Road, Livermore Ca, 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Umigo Racing Inc., 91 Macalvey Dr., Martinez Ca, 94553. This business is conducted by a Corporation Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.

The following person (s) doing business as: Umigo Indoor Kart Racing, 6538 Patterson Pass Road, Livermore Ca, 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Barbara Louise Steiger, 930 Mocho Street, Livermore Ca 94550. This business is conducted by an individual Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.

The following person (s) doing business as: Trained Eyes Educational Evaluations, 930 Mocho Street, Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Barbara Louise Steiger, 930 Mocho Street, Livermore Ca 94550. This business is conducted by an individual Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.

The following person (s) doing business as: Uigoo Indoor Kart Racing, 6538 Patterson Pass Road, Livermore Ca, 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Umigo Racing Inc., 91 Macalvey Dr., Martinez Ca, 94553. This business is conducted by a Corporation Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 407450

The following person (s) doing business as: Aligning Body, Soul & Spirit For Women, 276 Wildrose Common, Unit #2, Livermore Ca 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Teresa Roycroft, 276 Wildrose Common, Unit #2, 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.

The following person (s) doing business as: Aligning Body, Soul & Spirit For Women, 276 Wildrose Common, Unit #2, Livermore Ca 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Teresa Roycroft, 276 Wildrose Common, Unit #2, 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.

The following person (s) doing business as: Aligning Body, Soul & Spirit For Women, 276 Wildrose Common, Unit #2, Livermore Ca 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Teresa Roycroft, 276 Wildrose Common, Unit #2, 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.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE

Date of Filing application: January 10, 2008
To Whom It May Concern: The Name (s) of the Applicant(s) is/are: MILLA GEORGE PHILLIP and MILLA MAUREEN ELIZABETH
The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at: 385 S. Livermore Ave., Livermore Ca 94550-4653
Type of License(s) Applied for: 41 - ON-SALE BEER AND WINE - EATING PLACE
Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control
1515 Clay St. Ste 2208
Oakland, CA 94612
(510) 622-4970
The Independent Legal No. 2296. Publish February 28, March 6, 13, 2008.

ORDERTO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

5672 Stoneridge Dr., Pleasanton, CA 94588
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
1. Petitioner: Lorena Alexandra Garcia filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present Name: Lorena Alexandra Garcia Proposed Name: Alexandra L. Aquinha Sawyer
2. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition of change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING
a. Date: 3/25/08 Time: 2:00PM Dept:707
b. The address of the court is: 5672 Stoneridge Drive Pleasanton Ca 94588
3a. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: The Independent
Dated: December 12, 2007
/s/ George C. Hernandez Jr. Judge of the Superior Court The Independent Legal No. 2284. Publish February 21, 28, March 6, 13, 2008.

ADOPTE 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 12:00 to 4:00 and the Pet Food Express in Livermore from 1:00 to 4:00. 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.

FOUND AN ANIMAL?

Free Section. Call Barbara 925 243-8000 to let 49,118 households know!

FOUND AN ANIMAL?

Free Section. Call Barbara 925 243-8000 to let 49,118 households know!

8)LOST/MISSING

MISSING CAT
Answers to Midnight, Male 1 1/2yrs White Underlay All Black w/ Yellow Eyes. Missing from Mines Road Call 510 415-1110

LOST A FAMILY PET?

Free Section. Call Barbara 925 243-8000 to let 49,118 households know!

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7)AUTOS WANTED

DONATE VEHICLE, running or not ACCEPTED! Free Towing, Tax Deductible, Noash Arc - Support No Kill Shelters, Animal Rights, Research to Advance Veterinary Treatment/Cures. 1-866-912-GIVE. (CAL' SCAN)

DONATE YOUR CAR:

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

9)USED AUTOS

SELL YOUR USED CAR HERE, Call Barbara at 925-243-8000

12)WANTED RV 4RENT

LOOKING TO RENT AN RV
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EMPLOYMENT

56) ADULT CARE

CAREGIVERS
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60) BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

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68)HAIR SERVICES

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71)HELP WANTED

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72)HELP WANTED/DRIVERS

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www.SwiftTruckingJobs.com (CAL' SCAN)

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78)INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
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79)RECEPTIONIST/ VETERINARY
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118)FREE/GIVEAWAY
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127)LOST/FOUND
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130)TRAVEL/VACATIONS
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150)ANNOUNCEMENTS
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153) MISCELLANEOUS
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155) NOTICES
"NOTICE TO READERS: California law requires that contractors taking jobs that total \$500 or more (labor and/or materials) be licensed by the Contractors State License Board. State law also requires that contractors include their license numbers on all advertising. Check your contractor's status at www.cslb.ca.gov or 800-321-CSLB (2752). Unlicensed persons taking jobs less than \$500 must state in their advertisements that they are not licensed by the Contractors State License Board."

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162) HOUSE/ROOMS/RENTALSTO SHARE
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178)BUSINESS SERVICES
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Bill Harley

Musician, Storyteller Back on Amador Stage

Musician, storyteller Bill Harley will back in Pleasanton for a concert on Thursday, March 20, at 7:30 p.m. The four-time Grammy nominee with entertain with songs and stories for the entire family at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road.

The concert is hosted by the City of Pleasanton Civic Arts Presents.

Harley's songs are direct and honest and his stories are filled with the details of daily life, containing both fantasy and reality. In 2006, he won a Grammy Award for his spoken word recording *Blah, Blah, Blah: Stories About Pirates, Clams, Swamp Monsters and Dogs*. Beside his Grammy nominations and award, Harley has received numerous national awards including Parent's Choice, ALA (American Library Association), NAPPA (The National Parenting Publications Award) and AFIM (Association for Independent Music).

As a storyteller, Harley has appeared numerous times at the prestigious National Storytelling Festival and at regional festivals from California to Florida. His stories and off-beat observations of life also ap-

pear in numerous anthologies and magazines. He has appeared on National Public Radio's *All Things Considered* since 1991 where his humorous commentaries have ranged in topic from T-ball game strategy to first jobs to dead groundhogs.

Harley has been producing recordings for children and adults since 1984. He has published seven children's books, including *Sarah's Story*, a Storytelling World Award Winner.

"Bill Harley is one of our most popular performers and we're happy to welcome him back to the Amador Theater," says Civic Arts Manager Andy Jorgensen. "Because he appeals to the kid in all of us, audiences of all ages never tire of his quick wit and slightly zany outlook on life."

Tickets to Bill Harley's performance are \$14, \$18, and \$20 for adults and \$8, \$12, and \$16 for children 12 years and under. They may be purchased online at www.civictickets.org, by phone at (925) 931-3444 or in person at the Amador Theater Box Office from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., weekdays, and for two hours prior to the performance. Group discounts are available.

Poetry Reading Planned in Pleasanton

The Pleasanton Poet Laureate Presents two poets, Chad and Jennifer Sweeney, reading their work at the Pleasanton Library on Sun., March 16 at p.m.

Jennifer K. Sweeney is the author of the poetry book, *Salt Memory*, winner of the 2006 Main Street Rag Poetry Book Award. She was awarded a Cultural Equities Grant from the San Francisco Arts Commission, won The Ledge Poetry Prize for 2007 and was nominated for two Pushcart Prizes in 2007.

Chad Sweeney is the author of two poetry books, *An Architecture and Arranging the Blaze*. He was chosen for Best American Poetry 2008, co-edits *Parthenon West Review* with David Holler, and is poet-in-residence at the San Francisco School of the Arts.

The program is free and open to all. No registration is required. For more information, call Penny Johnson, 931-3405.

5PM Harmony Performs at Library

5PM Harmony will perform at the Livermore Library on March 16.

5PM Harmony is an ensemble of five men from varying backgrounds in jazz, musical theatre, classical and instrumental music, who share a love of vocal harmony. Their energetic performances feature great rhythms and pleasing harmonies that everyone can enjoy.

This free event will be presented at 2pm on Sunday, March 16, at the Livermore Public Library Civic Center, 1188 S. Livermore Avenue. The Friends of the Livermore Library have underwritten this program as part of the Friends Authors and Arts Series. For additional events, check the library's website at www.livermore.lib.ca.us

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

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By Nancy O'Connell

There was excitement in the air as the audience streamed into the Bankhead Theater for the Valley Concert Choral's performance of Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*. Long a favorite with concert goers, it not only featured two adult choruses, but had a children's choir as well: the Cantabella Children's Chorus, which is directed by Bee Chow. Proud parents filled the seats of the normally staid concert hall, and not all were used to a classic music atmosphere. I heard cries across many rows of, "Did you see the game today?" "Wasn't Jamie great?" But all was quiet once the music began.

David Glover, the Assistant Director and Accompanist for the Valley Concert Choral, opened the program with two pieces for solo piano. *Two Legends* by Franz Liszt were from the *Fantasy on Themes from Wagner's Rienzi*. Wagner and Liszt were close friends. Wagner was married to Liszt's daughter. Liszt was named for St. Francis of Paola, his patron saint, and the first legend tells the story of the saint walking on water, across the Straits of Messina.

Glover had a formidable left hand technique. His right hand had sustained notes in the melody while his left hand managed the fireworks with many runs and arpeggios. There was great strength in his fingers, but perhaps more use of the pedal than needed. There was a blurring of the notes which led to a muddy texture. This reviewer preferred the quieter, more contemplative passages.

The second legend concerned St. Francis of Assisi who was traveling with two companions. When he spotted a flock of birds he left his friends to "talk" to the birds. The entire flock was mo-

tionless and silent, listened to his sermon and didn't move until St. Francis stopped speaking. The music began in the higher register of the piano with many trills, high pitched and warbling. Then came a quiet sermon. This was programmatic, as was much of the romantic music of Liszt's period. This work was more serene, less bombastic than the first work, and it drew to a close with a whisper.

David Glover played by memory. He always brought out the melody line in one hand while the other played the accompanying notes in a more subdued voice. The music of Liszt is very difficult and demanding on the pianist and one has to be able to easily reach a tenth to play his music as it was intended.

After a short intermission, while the piano on stage was transformed, the audience returned to find two grand pianos facing each other, with the lids removed. Three drums were to one side, and behind the pianos were other percussive instruments. The choruses filed in, as did the children's choir. The pianists, David Glover and Steven Bailey, took their seats. John Emory Bush, Artistic Director and Conductor of the Valley Concert Choral and the San Francisco Concert Choral, came out, took his bow, and raised his baton. The magic began.

Carl Orff discovered the medieval text for *Carmina Burana* in a used bookstore in Wurzburg and was so excited by the poetry written in Latin, and Middle High German, that he resolved to set the poems to music. The manuscript included over 200 secular songs. He selected 24 of them to arrange thematically in songs of spring, tavern life, and love. Although written originally in the 13th century, the themes are still

relevant today. Arranged around the Wheel of Fortuna, the songs were sung primarily in Latin. The children's choir needed no music. They had all of their words memorized, while the adults, who had many more passages to sing, held their musical scores high, one eye on the music, the other always on the conductor. Mr. Bush had a very precise beat and his cues were clear.

After the famous rhythmically strident beginning which is sung to ever changing fortune there were some haunting passages with the high children's voices and the two pianists in quiet accompaniment. Igor Viera, baritone, had a magnificent solo. He sang effortlessly. His notes soared throughout the theater. A native of Brazil, Viera has a strong, rich voice which immediately captivated the audience.

The woman timpanist, Beverly Reese Dorce, was excellent. The placement of the three tympani in front of the choir gave the audience a chance to watch her musicianship. Usually hidden in the back of the orchestra, this was a rare opportunity to appreciate her skill and her sensitivity in accompanying the quieter portions.

The high women's voices in the soprano section often sounded ethereal and otherworldly. The quiet sections would be followed by driving, rhythmic passages that formed an effective contrast.

Orff was influenced by both the music of Bela Bartok and Igor Stravinsky. Rather than being highly contrapuntal as were some of his contemporaries, he returned almost to folk song roots and constantly changing rhythms to drive his music to a high pitch of excitement. With

his rhythms he was almost bringing back the feeling of ancient music. There were no measures from 500 to 12,000 AD. His melodies are primarily diatonic and one hears music in the major and minor harmonies, not in the 12-tone experimentation of other composers of his time.

Brian Thorsett, tenor, was also a good actor. He staggered on stage, looking bewildered, frightened. He had been a swan and was now roasting on a spit. When he was placed on a plate and saw bared teeth, he fled from the stage. His voice had a high, piercing quality to it, and it was meant to be a parody of a contra tenor.

Shawnette Sulker, soprano, appeared in a long red strapless gown with a dramatic panel of pristine white sweeping to the floor. A slim black stole covered her shoulders. Her costume mirrored the words in one of the poems, "A girl stood in a red tunic; if anyone touched it, the tunic rustled. *Eta*. A girl stood like a little rose; her face was radiant."

A native of Guyana, Miss Sulker had a delicious high coloratura voice and a beautiful, serene face. She surmounted all of her difficult passages with the ease of a professional, and no doubt faces a brilliant future as a soloist. Her voice was entrancing when she was accompanied by the two pianists and the tympani in a pianissimo portion of the score.

The children's voices entered again and their high voices sang in perfect harmony. The first dramatic theme, "O Fortuna," returned, and its driving rhythms led to a climax of glorious proportions. An amazing performance!



Review: Alice Upside Down

By Leonard Pirkle

The California Independent Film Festival will hold its annual event in Livermore. This year is the Festival's 10th anniversary and the 7th event in Livermore. This year's line up of films is outstanding. The following is a review of one of the films that can be seen at this year's festival.

Alice Upside Down, a teen angst comedy with just a touch of drama thrown in to put a lump in your throat, is the next film for your consideration. This film is based upon a series of books written for teens by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor and specifically, *The Agony of Alice*. I liked this film for its humor and warmth; it reaches just the right level of exposure without becoming too instructive. It is directed by Sandy Tung, who does a good job of keeping a tight hold on a storyline filled with numerous issues not only facing teens, but parents as well.

Starring Alyson Stoner (Cheaper by the Dozen films) as Alice McKinley, who is still mourning the death of her mother and trying to fit in at a new school where nothing seems to go her way. Alice's character takes moments out of the story to fantasize that she is more different than she really is and on occasion, speaks directly to the viewer. This could be distracting or overdone. However, the Director (Tung) finds a good balance between watching the story unfold and being a participant in Alice's life. Being the father of three teens (2 girls), I could relate to the difficult nature of the teen/parent dynamic. This film, like real life, is about taking the

time to talk and more importantly, listen to your kids, something we all know but sometimes fail to follow.

This film co-stars a number of talented actors. Dylan McLaughlin (*Kicking & Screaming*) as Patrick, Luke Perry (Beverly Hills 90210) as Ben McKinley, Lucas Grabeel (High School Musical films) as Alice's brother Lester and Penny Marshall (*Laverne & Shirley*) as Mrs. Plotkin. As a side note, Ms. Marshall, an accomplished director as well as an actor, will also be appearing at this year's festival in a special "Actor's Studio" style discussion with none other than the Valley's own John Madden. This event will be held at the Bankhead Theater on Thursday, April 17 at 7 p.m.

Alice Upside Down will screen on Saturday, April 19, at 6 p.m., at the Vine Cinema. In attendance for a question and answer session will be Alyson Stoner, Dylan McLaughlin and the Director Sandy Tung. This is a great opportunity for parents to attend an event with their kids, the ability to interact with the stars and Director can be a shared memory. The stars will also be making an appearance at local schools to promote the film.

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

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Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Competition was held last Saturday to select the 2008 Livermore Jr. Rodeo Queen. Bailey Castello, of Modesto a Senior at Modesto Christian High School, was selected. She competes in Jr. Rodeo and is active in Mountain House 4-H. Her mother is Kim Castello of Modesto. Her father is Jr. Castello of Livermore.

CARMEN

(continued from page one) formances are March 15 and 22 at 8 p.m. and March 16 and 23 at 2 p.m.

Alexander Katsman will conduct; James Marvel is the stage director; Raquel V. Holt is the artistic director and producer; and Jean -François Revon, assistant producer.

Groups performing with the

Livermore Valley Opera are the Pacific Boychoir Academy and Valley Dance Theater.

Tickets to regular presentations are \$30-\$55; for preview night and Frugal Friday, \$20-\$45. They are available at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First Street, Livermore. Information and tickets available at 925-373-6800 or go online www.livermoreperformingarts.org.

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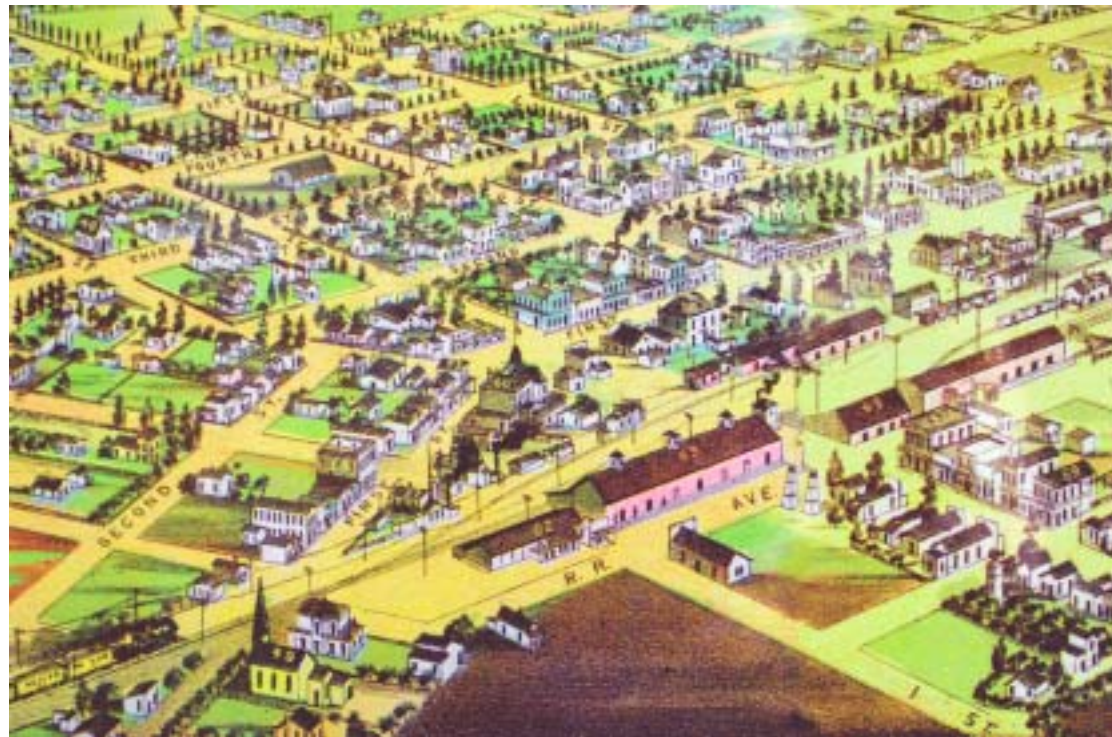
(continued from page one)

great grandfather's original vision and hard work that brought us to this moment in history. I know he would be proud of our continued focus on innovation and stewardship, creating an estate that is sustainable for future generations."

C.H. Wente emigrated from Germany to California in the 1870's, studying winemaking at Charles Krug Winery. Later, at his own estate, he planted Semillon and Sauvignon Blanc cuttings originally sourced from Chateau Yquem in France by fellow Livermore Valley founding father Charles Wetmore. In 1912, the Wentes sourced and planted Chardonnay cuttings from Montpellier, France. Today, the "Wente" clone accounts for nearly 80% of all Chardonnay planted in California. In 1935, C.H. Wente's sons, Ernest and Herman, introduced California's first varietal wine label, a Sauvignon Blanc.

In recent history, fourth generation winegrowers Eric, Philip and Carolyn Wente have defined Livermore Valley Wine Country as a regional destination with fine dining, championship golf and a renowned concert series. They have also been leaders in the mission to preserve agriculture and open space. Fifth generation winegrower Christine Wente heads marketing for the family's hospitality, entertainment and golf operations. Fifth Generation winemaker Karl D. Wente's passion for making artisanal, handcrafted wines has led to the addition of "The Nth Degree" small lot wines to the Wente Vineyards portfolio.

Other 2008 Vintners Hall of Fame nominees inducted were John Daniel, Inglenook; Louis P. Martini, Louis M. Martini Winery; Ernest & Julio Gallo, E&J Gallo Winery; Paul Draper, Ridge Vineyards; Milijenko "Mike" Grgich, Grgich Hills and wine merchant Darryl Corti.



March 10 marked the 35th anniversary of the Livermore Heritage Guild. The Livermore Heritage Guild was formed in 1973 with the saving of the Southern Pacific Train Depot. To celebrate the anniversary the Heritage Guild presented the Livermore City Council with a copy of the aerial view lithograph of the Livermore Valley, detailing vineyards, street and buildings of the Town of Livermore. It was commissioned in 1889 by W. P. Bartlett, editor and owner of the Livermore Herald. Pictured is a close-up of the lithograph.

Math, Science Author Presents Program at Library

Award-winning children's math and science author David Schwartz comes to the Pleasanton Public Library on Tuesday, March 25 at 7 pm.

Schwartz is the author of 50 children's titles, including well-known classroom favorites such as G is for Google, How Much is a Million, Supergrandpa and If You Hopped Like a Frog. His newest book, "Where In The Wild?," was recently awarded the 2008 Science Books & Films Prize for Excellence in Science Books — "Children's Science Picture Books" category, co-sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

School Library Journal says of the book, "Adults will marvel...(and) children will be intrigued" at this beautiful, eye-opening exploration of the amazing world of animal camouflage. An accomplished storyteller and innovator in presenting math and science information in engaging ways, Mr. Schwartz uses humor and a wealth of visuals to inspire and inform. His presentations connect math, science, literature, and everyday life for children and adults of all ages.

Of his research and travels Schwartz writes, "I've been to Africa to study hippos, to South

America to visit an indigenous tribe living in the rain forest, and to far northern Scotland to track illegal egg collectors. But I still love the land outside my door in northern California, and the same distant stars that inspired me years ago."

This free presentation is best for children ages 5 and older. Books will be available for purchase and autographing courtesy of Towne Center Books.

For more information, please call the Children's Desk at (925) 931-3400 ext. 8. The Pleasanton Public Library is located at 400 Old Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton.

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<p>LIVERMORE \$4,599,000</p> <p>By Appointment Luxurious Ruby Hill custom 6bd/6ba, 5,138+/-sf home, formal DR/FR with gas burning FP/FP in the Master. Panoramic view!</p>	<p>LIVERMORE \$1,499,000</p> <p>2256 Sevillano Court Open Sun 1-4 Stunning views of foothills, olive orchards and vineyards. 5bd, 5.5ba, 4705+/-sf on 13,000+/-sf lot.</p>	<p>LIVERMORE \$939,000</p> <p>1642 Feldspar Ct. Open Sun 1-4 Beautiful Sandhurst home offers 5bd/3ba and 2837+/-sf of living space. Rarely available court location. Light and bright!</p>	<p>LIVERMORE \$729,950</p> <p>5757 Rainflower Dr. Open Sat & Sun 1-4 This 4bd/2.5ba, 2,084+/-sf home is located on a premium lot. Pool/spa/two sheds with side yard access. 3-car garage.</p>	<p>PLEASANT HILL \$699,000</p> <p>1785 Ardith Dr. Open Sun 1-4 This home has it all! It has been completely upgraded. Offering 3bd/2ba, 1,194+/-sf of living space. Updated kitchen.</p>
<p>LIVERMORE \$689,000</p> <p>1232 Diamond Ct. Open Sun 1-4 Looks like a model home! 3bd/2ba, 1,746+/-sf on a nice court location. Hardwood floors. Master retreat has gas fireplace.</p>	<p>LIVERMORE \$444,950</p> <p>784 Alexander St. Open Sun 1-4 Beautiful 3bd/1.5ba home in Sunset West with updated baths, hardwood floors, newer appliances, newer roof and much more.</p>	<p>DUBLIN \$424,000</p> <p>7144 Dublin Meadows Open Sun 1-4 This home offers 2bd/2ba, 1,007+/-sf of living space. Easy access to Bart and freeways. Close to park and trails.</p>	<p>LIVERMORE \$399,500</p> <p>By Appointment Beautiful single story end unit. 2bd/2ba, 944+/-sf. Spacious living room with vaulted ceilings and cozy fireplace.</p>	<p>BRENTWOOD \$295,000</p> <p>4592 Poe Court Open Sun 1-4 Why rent when you can buy? Look at this price for a 3bd/2ba and 1,600+/-sf. Hardwood floors in combination with tile/carpet.</p>

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