

Don't Miss The Independent's

second section.

Section II is filled with information about arts, entertainment and special events. There are education stories, a variety of features, and the arts and entertainment and bulletin board listings.

Children's Charity **Summit** Scheduled

Local children in need and the charities that serve them will meet face-to-face with Tri-Valley business leaders at the first annual Children's Charity Summit on Thursday, October 22, 2009.

Organized by the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Foundation, the luncheon event will be hosted by Sybase, Inc. at the company's corporate headquarters in Dublin. Area business leaders, foundation representatives and philanthropic individuals will be invited to attend the Summit to learn how they can help Tri-Valley charitable organizations focused on local, underserved children. Over the past 15 years, the Winegrowers Foundation has raised more than \$3.3 million to benefit local children's charities.

"Sybase is very pleased to host the first Children's Charity Summit that will bring local non-profits together with our corporate neighbors," said Sybase Chairman, CEO and to help underserved children in the Tri-Valley is even greater in these tough economic times. It is important that we come together as a community and support the great work of the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Foundation."

Tri-Valley business leaders and philanthropic individuals are encouraged to attend the upcoming Children's Charity Summit to learn more about local charitable children's programs that have been screened, qualified and audited by the Winegrowers Foundation. For more information about the Summit or the Winegrowers Foundation, please call 925-447-9463.



PET OF THE WEEK (and friend)

Critter Camper Emily Carroll from Pleasanton holds Oliver, a playful and affectionate cat looking for a new home. During the month of August, Critter Campers descend on Valley Humane Society to learn all about what it takes to be a responsible pet owner. Campers also visit a horse ranch, a vet clinic, and other animal groups. To learn more about Critter Camp and Oliver, visit Valley Humane Society at 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton, open Tues-Sat from 11AM to 5PM. More information at the website www.valleyhumane.org or call 925-426-8656.

Mobile Home Park Conversion Rejected

Villa Mobile Home Park in Pleasanton will not be allowed to convert the property to residential ownership.

The city council voted unanimously to reject an appeal by the owner of a decision by the Planning Commission to deny the application.

In making the decision, the council felt there were too many uncertainties in the proposal. The biggest issue with residents of the park and the city council was the

The owner of the Vineyard fact that the conversion would not take place for ten years. The councilmembers argued there was no way to be able to predict what the future costs might be for the land.

The 208-unit park is located on Vineyard Avenue. The units are owned by the residents, the land by the park. Residents pay rent for the use of the land. Pleasanton has designated it as a senior park. Rent is controlled by the city.

The owner wants to be able to

sell the land on which the units sit to the owners of the units. The application includes a provision that those who do not wish to purchase land, would be able to continue to rent. Any resident would be able to remain at the park indefinitely. Lower income residents would have rents regulated. However, others would see their rent increase to full market value over a five year period.

A survey sent to residents showed that 118 of the 139 who responded were opposed to the conversion.

City staff had recommended that the city council uphold the appeal and allow the conversion to move forward. City attorney Michael Roush told the council that state law allows for the conversion. The owner had complied with the letter of the law. Local government can only determine if the applicant had complied with the requirements of the law.

City Councilmember Jerry Thorne called the law another example "of the state sticking

its nose in local land use where it doesn't belong. This council is not going to be intimidated by the threat of lawsuits."

He noted that he made decisions based on what is in the best interest of the greatest number of people. "I don't feel deciding what will take place ten years from now is in the best inter-

Councilmember Cindy Mc-Govern said she had read all of the surveys. "There are clear reasons why people are worried.

(See MOBILE HOME, page 4)



The Corral fire that had burned on the Altamont between Tracy and Livermore since last Thursday was fully contained Sunday. The fire burnt 12,500 acres of grasslands. No structures were damaged by the blaze. The fire started near the Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area. About 350 firefighters from CalFire, Alameda County, Moraga-Orinda, Tracy, Pinole, Ripon, Hayward, Livermore-Pleasanton, Fremont, San Joaquin and Stanislaus counties, East Bay Regional Parks and other fire departments responded to the fire. The cause of the fire is yet to be determined. More photos on page 8.

Livermore Election Cancelled; Incumbents Appointed

Incumbents were appointed to office during a Livermore City Council meeting on Monday. They were the only qualified candidates who filed for the Nov. 3 municipal election.

The council had three choices. One was to appoint the three qualified candidates to office, appoint any eligible person if no one were nominated, or hold the absent from the meeting, due to illness.) The council also voted to cancel the Nov. 3 election.

Mayor Marshall Kamena will

The vote to appoint the three be serving his final two year term according to term limits passed by the voters. Councilmembers John Marchand and Doug Horner, their final four year terms.

(See ELECTION, page 9)

Film Festival Is Leaving Livermore **For Orinda**

By Ron McNicoll

After eight years in Livermore, the California Independent Film Festival (CIFF) will move to Orinda in April.

CIFF president and founder Derek Zemrak said that the current difficult economic period has had its impact on CIFF, as it has on other non-profit organiza-

He said that CIFF has been offered a better financial deal in Orinda from sponsors there. He would not divulge details of the deal. The movies will be shown in the three-screen Orinda Theatre. There will also be events in a 150-seat room at the nearby

Orinda has a very active group interested in independent film, and worked hard to get the festival to change locations, according to Zemrak. It also helps marketing, because Orinda is close to San Francisco, Oakland and Berkeley.

A press release from Leonard Pirkle, president of the CIFF executive board, said that the board "wishes to thank everyone associated during the last eight years for their hard work, dedication and commitment to bringing the festival to life each year."

Livermore Mayor Marshall Kamena said that the city supported CIFF strongly. "Orinda (See FESTIVAL, page 3)

Fund Drive Brings \$463,000 To Pleasanton Schools

By Ron McNicoll

The grass-roots fund-raising drive to help the Pleasanton school district restore programs raised approximately \$463,000.

The cut-off date was Aug. 15, which enabled school board members, who met on Aug. 18, to fund some of the programs they cut in June for the 2009-10 budget. The timing will enable the district to hire back teachers, reading specialists and counselors quickly. School will be back in session next week.

Superintendent John Casey and staff made recommendations to the board about how to allocate the money. In doing so, Casey said he tried to stay as close as possible to restoring the programs that were earmarked by some of the donors. Other money

was not specifically allocated by

contributors. Casey recommended that \$90,000 go toward restoring 10 sections of the strings program and 10 sections of band. Another \$201,000 will bring 2.5 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions for class-size reduction and reading support.

Another \$48,000 is assigned for 0.6 FTE of a high school counseling position, and \$105,000 for 1.5 FTE's for elementary school counseling. There would also be \$15,000 for general, outside counseling.

Another \$2600 was earmarked by donors for the Visual and Performing Arts program, but was insufficient to fund a position. The two fund-raising lead orga-(See DRIVE, page 4)



Watching the work get underway are (from left) Jacquie Williams Courtright, John Ertel, Victor Ruesga of Vision Scapes, and Susan Ballinger.

America's Most Wanted Filming Here

America's Most Wanted will be shooting a re-enactment scene for a television show in Livermore on August 21.

The filming will take place on First Street between McLeod Avenue and South K and also on South Livermore Ave. between Railroad and Second. The filming will begin at 6 a.m. and finish by 11 a.m.

The film crew will shoot a scene involving a car chase with police vehicles chasing a speeding vehicle. Stunt drivers will perform the maneuvers.

By Ron McNicoll

John Ertel won't be mowing a front lawn anymore. He will just go out to the front yard, and pick fresh produce for his dinner.

For a resident of Livermore,

because most folks like to put a beauty patch of lush green grass, or ornamental shrubs and flowers, in front of their houses.

Contest Winner Will Farm the Front Yard

Ertel won a contest. The prize is a totally new landscape that or any city, that's a little unusual, will include fruit trees, grapes,

berries and a collection of vegetables. He will pay nothing for it, thanks to a raft of firms that are donating the materials for walkways, raised planting beds of brick, soil irrigation, and tree (See EDIBLE, page 12)

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Montana is a charming little girl, about a year old, and is on the small side. Her markings are actually a very dark brown. Montana loves to play. She is a particularly good basketball player—she's able to put her toy into the water bowl every time! Playful and spunky, she is good about letting people pick her up. To meet Montana, attend the rabbit adoption event at the Dublin S.P.C.A. on Saturday, Sept 5th from 11 am - 4 pm. Located at 4651 Gleason Dr. in Dublin. Go to www.eastbayspca.org for directions. Or call 925-479-9670.





Photos - Doug Jorgensen STUFF THE CRUISER - The **Livermore Police Department** and the Citizens Police **Academy Alumni Association** held a "Stuff the Cruiser" event to collect school supplies for students in need. The idea was to have community members donate anything and everything needed for school such as backpacks, paper, pencils, pens, art supplies, etc. by placing them inside the police cruiser. Pictured are Jennifer Emfinger (center photo) and Connie Beingema, from the Alameda County Sheriff's Department. The department donated funds to purchase backpacks



Retiree Group Hires **Law Firms**

The UC Livermore Retiree Group signed contracts with three law firms that will analyze its legal situation as it continues to hope to persuade the University of California to readmit Livermore Lab retirees to its health plans without the need for court action.

The three law firms deal with labor, employment and administrative issues. Two firms are local: Sinclair Law Office of Oakland and Carter, Carter, and Fries and Grunschlag of San Francisco. A third, Stember Feinstein Doyle and Payne, is an investigative legal organization from Pittsburgh, Pa.

They will advise the group on the strength of its legal claims, the kind of relief that might be available, and the possibility of various kinds of agreement.

To provide some of the material that the firms will analyze, UC Livermore Retiree Group head Joe Requa has asked Laboratory retirees to search their personal files for anything bearing on the issue of UC retiree health care coverage: letters, brochures, job offers, employee handbooks, policy statements.

Original documents are most valuable, but the law firms can work with copies if necessary, Requa wrote in an email. "These materials are very important and may play a pivotal role in evaluating the strength of your case," Requa quoted the law firms as saying. He is hoping to collect the documents in the coming week.

Livermore Retiree Group has now raised \$78,000 towards legal expenses, Requa reported. This is more than the law firms are said to be charging for the analysis alone. However, remaining funds may be important if Livermore Retiree Group files

The group has stressed that it hopes not to have to sue. It has briefed University of California Regents and met with UC attorneys in an effort to win accommodation outside the courts.

Lawrence Liveremore National Lab employees and retirees were covered by the UC group health plan under a succession of contracts that lasted more than 50 years, but ended in 2008, when a new contractor took over Laboratory management from University of California. At the time, the new contract promised continued benefits that were "substantially equivalent" to UC's. Howev the new contractor changed its basic premise a year later.

The new health coverage arrangements have emphasized individual plans that retirees see as less secure and likely to become much more costly as they get older.



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Lessons from...

National Drowning Prevention Month

The month of May marked the kick-off of a year-long national campaign for drowning prevention. Historically, cases of toddler drownings begin to rise in May and continue to increase as temperatures climb and doors are left open to let in cooling breezes, and family activities move outdoors.



Drowning is the leading cause of unintentional death among children ages 1-4 in California.*

But organizations like the National Drowning Prevention Alliance (NDPA) want parents to know that drownings, especially those of young children, don't just happen in warm weather. They warn that drownings take place every month of every year, but also believe that drowning IS preventable. The NDPA supports

the concept of "layers of protection" including barriers around pools and swim lessons, year-round.

American Swim Academy has developed their Aqua Babies program for children 6 months to 3 years of age, specifically to teach parent and child water safety. These parent-participation classes are structured around realistic expectations for children and their stages of development, teaching safety holds and restricting initial swimming and submersion time to encourage critical water comfort skills.

A swimming pool is 14 times more likely than a motor vehicle to be involved in the death of a child age 4 and under.*

No child is ever drown-proof, but a fun introduction to water safety, taught by certified instructors, will build beginning water skills that lead to a life-long love of swimming and a healthy, active lifestyle. Call today to schedule a free trial class.

* Statistics from the Drowning Prevention Foundation



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VALLEY KUUNDUP

Police Decoy Operation

The Pleasanton Police Department's Youth and Community Services Unit conducted an underage alcohol sales decoy operation last Thursday.

The decoy operation uses individuals who are under the age of 20 in an attempt to purchase alcoholic beverages at ABC licensed retail businesses. The purpose of the program is to ensure businesses are complying with the law.

Officers and the decoys visited 21 establishments including liquor stores, grocery stores and convenience stores. Of the 21, employees in fifteen properly asked for identification. Six businesses sold alcoholic beverages to the decoys. The six businesses cited were: Express Liquors on First St., Family Deli & Food on Old Santa Rita Rd., Food & Beverage on Stoneridge Dr., Vista Bottle Shop on W. Las Positas Blvd., Santa Rita Chevron on Santa Rita Rd., and Raley's Supermarket on Sunol Blvd.

The individual clerks who conducted the sales were cited and reports forwarded to the Pleasanton Courthouse and the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control for additional action on the businesses liquor licenses.

Coffee with Cops

The Livermore Police Department will be hosting a "Coffee with the Cops" this Sat., Aug. 22 at Starbucks, 883 Airway Blvd., Livermore.

Representatives from the police department will be available. The program allows residents

get to know the police and able to ask officers questions in the casual atmosphere.

Oak Grove Rehearing Denied

The session is from 9 to 11 a.m.

Earlier this month, the attorneys for Oak Grove developers Jennifer and Ferederic Lin asked the Court of Appeal for a rehearing.

The court had ruled against the Lins in July. On Aug. 11, the court denied the request for the rehearing.

At the center of the legal wrangle is the plan to build Oak Grove, a 51 custom homes in Pleasanton's southeast hills.

The Court of Appeal had reversed a ruling in Superior Court that agreed with the Lins contention that citizens conducting a referendum of Oak Grove had failed to carry the proper paperwork.

The Lins can ask the California Supreme Court to review the Court of Appeal's decision. If the Supreme Court determines not to review the decision, the Alameda County Registrar of Voters would certify the referendum. The matter would then go to the Pleasanton City Council, which could decide to adopt the referendum or place it on the ballot.

The vote, if it goes to the ballot, would likely take place next spring as part of the California primary.

FESTIVAL

had to make a pretty astounding offer to top Livermore. The community supplied the programs, the advertising, and the headquarters from which they could operate," said Kamena.

The city council approved a \$4000 expenditure for next year's film festival, from a community block grant allocation. That will go away, now that the festival is relocating, said Kamena.

Vice-mayor John Marchand said that since he got on the council in 2005, the city had appropriated a total of \$22,000.

"It was quite a shock to find that they were going away. I'm sorry to see them go. I thought we had great rapport, and it was mutually beneficial," said Marchand.

If the CIFF wanted to grow toward big league status, as film festivals go, then Livermore would have been a good location, said Kamena. With the prospect of the 2000-seat regional theater "coming in soon, it would have given them the chance to go up a whole bunch of notches," he said.

Kamena cited a 1500-seat theater in Thousand Oaks, which has been able to book big names. such as President Clinton and

Dan Rather. Their counterpart in big movie stars might have been booked to the new regional theater, and boosted the CIFF further, he said.

Something will be lost for Livermore, too, said Kamena. The festival brought people to wine country, especially in the event's early years, when some of the screenings were held at the wineries, which offered an ambience that was a good fit for the motion picture arts.

Livermore also had a starstruck close look at celebrities who were recipients of lifetime achievement awards. They included Tony Curtis, Cloris Leachman, Robert Morse, and Rita Moreno.

The festival reached out to children, too. There was a special Saturday program for them. Kamena recalled that some young people, including an entire class at the Livermore Valley Charter School, took part in the Iron Man film contest. They had to write and produce a short film in 24

The community was so open to the festival that it produced 80 volunteers, who stepped forward big festival entails.

The festival began in the Hilton Hotel in Pleasanton 11 years ago in a screening room, said Zemrak. It shifted to Walnut Creek, and then Berkeley over the next two years, before finally alighting in Livermore.

CIFF will have a 750-seat house in the Orinda Theatre, and also smaller rooms seating 150 and 40. Zemrak said that things have been ebbing in the film festival business. Only about one-fourth of the earlier number of independent films have been receiving financial backing during the recession, he said.

With Livermore's Vine Cinema switch to an art and independent film house, CIFF hopes to maintain contact there by informing the owners of new independent films.

The CIFF's first event at the Orinda Theatre will be on Sept. 18 for a fund-raiser showing of Alfred Hithcock's "The Birds." which stars Tipi Hedren.

The actress will make an appearance, and be interviewed on stage at the screening. The festival itself is slated for Orinda

County **Expected** To Offset Williamson **Revenue Loss**

Alameda County will lose \$106,000 in state subventions that make up for lost tax revenue from agricultural lands that are in the assessment protection of the Williamson Act.

Statewide, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has cut \$27 million in the subvention fund, leaving only \$100,000 in it for the state. That is a big blow to rural counties, which have relatively low population, a small general fund, and a large amount of agricultural land being protected by the lower assessments of the Williamson Act.

However, in Alameda County, that \$106,000 loss is not significant, said county assistant planning director Liz McElligott. The county is willing to make up for it from its own general fund.

By doing so, the county will avoid having to give notice to any landowner that the Williamson Act protection would go away.

The Williamson Act, passed in 1965, allows assessment of agricultural land as agriculture. Without that protection assessors would assess it at a higher rate, taking into account its urban development potential. It's a sort of Proposition 13 for ranchers and farmers.

Landowners sign a contract that is good for 10 years. It automatically renews each year, so there is always a 10-year window of protection.

If a landowner or a county wants to end the contract, notice is given. The protection goes away totally 10 years later. The assessment rises each year along that timeline until the 10th year, when it hits full market appraisal. The landowner can cancel the contract sooner than 10 years, but must pay a higher tax.

This year, agricultural counties could be looking at giving notice themselves in order to collect more tax money out of landowners. It's a tough bind for rural counties, because their lower population means they have smaller general funds. However, Williamson Act contracts could total as much as \$5 million in Sierra County, for example, said Altamont rancher Darrell Sweet. That amount makes a big impact on the county budget, he said.

The Williamson Act has gone a long way in preserving the state's agriculture, said Sweet.

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STAR Scores Help School Districts to Focus Learning

By Ron McNicoll

Livermore, Pleasanton, and the Livermore charter school reported fairly high-ranging scores on the STAR tests results, which were released Aug. 18.

Myla Grasso, spokesperson for the Pleasanton school district, said that teachers there will be looking at the results in the next few days, as they attend teachers workshops, preparatory to the start of school next week.

"We are very pleased with the results. They were very strong. Some were historic highs in some areas," said Grasso.

Representatives of other school districts were not available before the Independent's

The STAR test shows districts the results for each student. That enables principals and teachers to discover what help each student subject.

Students' test results fall into one of five categories. They are advanced, proficient, basic, below basic, and far below basic.

Grasso said that the Pleasanton district identifies students at basic or lower levels as being in need of academic help to come up to grade-level standards.

In Pleasanton, students scoring advanced or proficient in English Language Arts (ELA) ranged from a low of 73 percent in the 11th grade to 92 percent in the 4th grade. In elementary school math, which includes grades 2 though 7, the low was 78 percent for 7th graders to 90 percent for both 4th and 5th-graders.

High school students were given a variety of tests, such as geometry, algebra II and general math. They also were tested in history, physics, chemistry, and biology. Results are available on the state education department's web page, www.cde.ca.gov.

In Livermore, the ELA percentages of advanced and proficient students ranged from 56 percent in 11th grade to 76 percent in the 4th grade. In elementary school math, the low was 52 percent in both the 6th and 7th grades, and the high was 78 percent in the 3rd grade.

At the Livermore charter school, which has eight grades, the ELA percentages ran from 60 percent in 8th grade to a high of 86 percent in 4th grade. In the elementary math category, the lowest percentage was 39 percent in 8th grade and the highest was 91 percent in the 4th grade.

In the fall, the state will release the Academic Performance Index (API), which will rank schools and districts in relation to similar schools and districts in the state. Also, results for proficiency about goals set by No Child Left Behind Act will be released then.



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EDITORIALS

10th Congressional -- Garamendi

One thing can be said about the 10th Congressional District: it has drawn some first-rate candidates to its special election to succeed Ellen Tauscher.

The Democrats' field is especially rich. Democrats can choose among three eminently capable candidates: John Garamendi, Joan Buchanan and Mark DeSaulnier.

There's not much to differentiate among the three as far as their issue positions go. (All are good solid liberals.)

However, when it comes to experience, Garamendi stands out. His resume features an arms-long list of high-level positions in the state and federal governments: current state lieutenant governor, state's first elected insurance commissioner, UC regent, deputy interior secretary under Clinton, and more.

In dealing with the economy, health care, the war, global warming and other issues of our time, John Garamendi would hit the ground running.

Phenomenal Non-Election

Something phenomenal has happened in the Livermore City Council election.

There are no non-incumbent candidates.

The filing deadline for the November election came and went, leaving only incumbent Mayor Marshall Kamena and incumbent Councilmembers John Marchand and Doug Horner on the ballot. Louis Russ took out papers, but failed to collect enough voter signatures to qualify for the ballot.

Livermore City Council elections have traditionally been ferocious events, with large numbers of candidates and two well organized groups slugging it out over growth issues.

The great questions concerning Livermore's destiny are now at rest, for the moment at least. The rebirth of the wine country and of the downtown have established a vision for the future that the activists of both sides and the community as a whole have warmly embraced.

We're certain there will be hotly fought council/ mayor elections in the future. It's just pleasant to see Livermore being able to enjoy an election in which the traditionally turbulent political waters are calm.

Pleasanton Wants To Know about **Issues Facing Youth**

Are the needs of Pleasanton focus groups to collect input, youth being met? What are the top issues facing children, teens and young adults in Pleasanton? Where do kids spend their free time? These are just a few of the questions for residents on a confidential new survey developed by the City of Pleasanton Youth Master Plan Implementation

Committee (YMPIC). Follow the link to the "Got Opinions?" surveys from the home page of the City of Pleasanton website at www.ci.pleasanton. ca.us by September 30, 2009 to contribute towards the updated Youth Master Plan (Plan).

The Youth Master Plan has been in effect for approximately nine years. It serves as a strategic roadmap to assist the City and School District in setting priorities and programs for youth and families in Pleasanton. The YM-PIC is comprised of appointed volunteers and city staff who

oversees the Plan. Right now, the YMPIC is working to update the Plan through results received from community focus groups and the electronic youth and adult surveys.

This comprehensive effort addresses issues such as childcare and supervised youth activities, jobs, communication, and health, among other issues. The ptown 411 website for youth and the BMX bike park are two successful and tangible results that have emerged from the previous master plan process.

Recently, the YMPIC conducted an audit of the Plan's accomplishments and developed a process to update the Plan. The update process includes meeting with a variety of community stakeholders in small

demographic research and two electronic surveys, one for youth and one for adults.

Once the YMPIC has established that sufficient information has been collected, City staff will work to organize a community workshop to review the findings and recommendations for the updated goals and objectives of the Updated Youth Master Plan.

A community workshop is expected for late fall/early winter.

For more information about the Youth Master Plan Update please contact Maria Lara (925) 931-5001 or by email at mlara@ ci.pleasanton.ca.us

Whitman Campaigns in Pleasanton

By Ron McNicoll

Former eBay CEO Meg Whitman brought her gubernatorial campaign to Pleasanton last week, telling approximately 80 people at a downtown restaurant about her background and priorities.

Whitman's message fit much of the audience at the event Aug. 14, which was sponsored by the Tri-Valley Business Council, a big promoter of business start-

Whitman said that she came on board when eBay was a startup, with only 30 employees and worth \$4.7 million. When she left, it had 15,000 employees, and was worth \$8 billion.

More significantly for entrepreneurship itself, eBay has enabled 1.3 million people "to make most, if not all, of their living by selling items on eBay."

One reason Whitman is running is that government "can get in the way of small business. California is a tough place to grow a small business." If she were governor, she would look to states like Texas, Colorado, Illinois and Arizona, with lower corporate taxes. Texas also has a much faster, streamlined permit track for small business.

Casting an eye at government reform, Whitman said that a governor should appoint a mixture of civil service and private industry people at the top echelon of administration. They should include top government staffers from other states to bring in fresh ideas.

Education is another important issue for Whitman. "We are rated 48th out of 50 states in education. Over the last 50 years. we have dropped one place per year," she said.

Whitman said that she is the product of good public schools in Long Island, N.Y. Science and math classes were especially good there. She said, "people have told" her about ideas brought up in Florida by former Gov. Jeb Bush.

Bush's ideas have included merit pay, and paying science and math teachers more than other teachers, to recruit them away from the higher paying jobs in industry. But California teachers unions have been preventing such ideas, said Whitman.

Whitman also said that she heard about Bush's grading plan for schools, which gave them grades from A to F. She said that got parents "riled up" enough to

pay attention to education. (The Florida grading is based on annual achievement testing, similar to California's API testing.)

Whitman also said that if a school were on the F list three years in a row, it would become a charter school. That prompted Livermore school board member Kate Runyon, who was in the audience, to tell Whitman later that she might want to research the idea further. "We (in Livermore) subsidize charter schools out of our budget. We have to put them first.'

(Newspaper stories about former Gov. Bush's plan didn't indicate exact qualifications to obtain a voucher, but do say that students in schools that scored low were eligible for a \$4000 annual voucher. They could be used at private or parochial schools. A Florida state judge ruled in 2000 that the voucher plan was unconstitutional. The Florida Supreme Court agreed with the judge, 5-2, in January 2006.)

(Charter schools in Florida have not been performing well, on average, according to a Stanford study of math and reading data over the past eight years, which was released in June.

The study said that the charter school students "learn statistically and significantly less than they would have in a traditional public school.")

WILSON SAYS HE IS RUN-**NING AGAIN**

Whitman wasn't the only Republican at the TVBC gathering who hopes to make it to Sacramento.

San Ramon Mayor Abram Wilson told the Independent that he intends to run for the 15th Assembly District seat held by Joan Buchanan.

Although he lost the district by 4 percentage points, Wilson attributes Buchanan's victory in part to the enthusiasm generated by the Obama for President campaign. Some workers who turned out for Obama also campaigned for Buchanan.

Wilson is passing out cards that say "Wilson for Assembly 2010," and has a web site up. The site shows that three of his former Republican primary opponents in 2008 endorsed him in June. They are LARPD board member Scott Kamena, businessman Robert Rao of Livermore, and Pleasanton-based business owner Judy Lloyd.

Buchanan: State Not Out of the Woods Yet

woods yet when it comes to its budget for this fiscal year and future years.

That was the bad news delivered by Assemblywoman Joan Buchanan. She delivered her "state of the state" talk at a Livermore Chamber of Commerce wine country luncheon held recently at Wente Vineyards.

Buchanan pointed out that Democrats, Republicans and the average citizen need to change how business is conducted in the state if they want to fund desired programs. "Most people think it's the economy. That is not the entire reason that the state budget picture is so bad."

She cited accumulated borrowing, rather than just the falling stock market, and the subprime mortgage crisis.

She discussed how borrowing has impacted the budget. "Revenues were \$100 billion a year; expenses \$105 billion, if there were no increases for inflation or population growth." If the state lid nothing, there would be a \$5 billion deficit. The state chose to borrow, creating a \$10 billion deficit the second year, the ongoing \$5 deficit and the \$5 billion loan to pay back from the previous year. The deficit spending accumulates. "By the time you are four years out, there is a \$20 billion deficit, or 20 percent of the budget," she explained.

There were choices the state could have made. In the first year, the state could have cut \$5 billion in expenses. After three years, the cuts would have totaled

The state is not out of the \$15 billion. She said that the state would be better off to have made \$7 billion in spending cuts and borrow \$8 billion. The cuts in programs wouldn't have to be so drastic.

Now, the state faces a structural deficit to go with the accumulated borrowing. There were \$60 billion in cuts and adjustments made between February and May, she said. One "gimmick" used was paying state workers on July 1 rather than June 30. That places the expense in a different fiscal year, increasing the deficit the following year.

Unemployment adds to the cost. "If we don't get people back to work and paying taxes, they become more reliant on government services. The problem goes on and on," she said.

"Cuts to schools are devastating. Cuts to higher education, for all practical purposes, mean they are privately funded. The stress on community colleges is enormous. I have no doubt that California will be ranked 50th when it comes to spending on education," she commented.

There are some adjustments she believes would help the state.

One is to change the initiative process. "It is completely out of control. You don't even have to be a California resident to sponsor an initiative. Nor, do initiatives have to identify a funding source for the program or programs," she explained.

Term limits are another issue. Buchanan said that with only 6 or 8 years in office, there is not

enough time to gain the knowledge and develop relationships to make the system work. There is a need for more joint working committees to solve problems. The working relationships make these committees possible.

Spending on prisons is the fastest growing expense. California has the third highest prison population in the world, behind China and the United States, she pointed out. "I think the cost is worse than the two-thirds vote requirement," she maintained. Buchanan advocated for prison reform, particularly in the juvenile justice system. She suggested looking at what Missouri has done. They have provided juveniles with programs that save lives, create safer communities and save money. They provided the kids the support needed to make them productive. Only 10 percent were repeat offenders under the program. "Other states are copying the Missouri program with the same results. In California, I believe we're of our youth," she stated.

Buchanan said that zero based budgeting should be implemented. Budgets should be based on values, goals and a set of criteria. "In California, we use work load budgets. It is assumed that programs spend money wisely. The next year, we give those programs money with increases for inflation and population. We need a way to look at programs, to determine if they are still working," she stated.

She then fielded questions. The first audience member asked how she felt about publicly financed campaigns as a way to eliminate special interest influ-

She said that a measure had been passed that would institute public financing for the campaign for Secretary of State in 2014. "Campaigns are expensive. I don't think most legislators vote based on contributions," she commented. She pointed out that one of the outcomes of restrictions in spending on candidates is the formations of independent committees. "It would be better to have no spending limits and give the money to the candidates. Voters would know where the money comes from," she added.

She was asked about paying back money the state has borrowed from cities. She replied that it is possible the state could sell bonds that would allow cities to get money.

Asked about the requirement for two-thirds majority to pass budgets and tax measure Buchanan said there should be a simple majority to pass the budget. She wasn't as clear on the tax increase.

Buchanan was asked why she is running for Congress. "Seats open up every 20 to 30 years. Decisions made in Washington are things I care about - jobs, the economy and education. Without an improvement in education, the United States will not be able to compete globally."

MOBILE HOME

Many live on fixed incomes. They are older and are concerned that they would die before they could pay off a loan. There were also questions about the cost of maintaining the park if they had

to do so.' She added, "Many people living there made a decision not to own property. They had sold property and planned to live off the income." Others said in the surveys that the idea had caused a lot of "grief and stress," she stated.

McGovern and Matt Sullivan both pointed out that mobile home parks were an opportunity for the city to provide for affordable senior rental housing. Sullivan pointed out that if the conversion were approved, the affordability would go away.

He added that ninety percent of those responding to the survey opposed the conversion. "I think we should take that into consideration.

Councilmember Cheryl Cook-

Kallio agreed. She said that if the law didn't require the city to use the results of a survey in making its decision, that point should

She called the application, "premature."

Susy Forbath spoke for the owner of the park regarding some of the issues raised by residents and the council. She said that those who favored the conversion wanted to stop paying rent and start earning equity.

have been made in the law.

She suggested that the perception of what is affordable may not apply to the mobile home park. Based on the definition of low income, the rent would be \$1350 a month. "Our current rents are lower." If you add the payments on units valued at between \$250,000 and \$350,000, the monthly payments are way above the \$1350 a month.

Forbath responded to a concern mentioned by one speaker during the public hearing that they wouldn't be able to sell their units if they did not own the land. People can continue to rent. People will be able to sell their units, because the next person coming in will be required to buy the land along with the mobile home. That provides a greater opportunity for the purchaser to qualify for a regular real estate loan.

She argued that the question of uncertainty about what will happen ten years from now was removed by providing a choice to either buy the land or to continue to rent.

After the vote, Sullivan asked about proceeding with a city ordinance that would prevent such conversions in the future.

Roush said that Sonoma County had written an ordinance that has been challenged in court. He suggested waiting to hear the outcome of the legal issues before determining whether or not to pursue an ordinance in Pleasanton.

DRIVE

(continued from page one) nizations, PSEE and PPIE, will be consulted about how to spend that money

The school board met Tuesday night after the Independent's deadline to make a final deci-

GIVING RISES IN LAST 2 WEEKS

Debi Covello, executive director of Pleasanton Partners in Education (PPIE), said that the pace of donations quickened in the last two weeks. Going into the period, about \$306,000 had been raised. Bringing that up to \$463,000 meant more than a 50 percent increase at the end of

With only two months to raise funds during the summer, when many people are away, the results

were good, said Covello. Annualizing the collection from the two months would bring the total to \$2.7 million. That's just short of the \$2.8 million goal, which was the target for the failed parcel tax, Measure G, in June.

Covello said that most people who spoke up during the drive said that they would not want to see volunteer fund-raising every year. Instead, they want to see passage of a parcel tax.

A downtown fair toward the end of the fund-raising period brought in \$15,000. Covello said the event was popular with the public, merchants, and restaurants, which reported booming business. Some suggested that the event be repeated next year as a schools fund-raiser.

Planning Underway for 8th ArtWalk

The 8th Annual ArtWalk Livermore is slated for October 10. The day will offer an opportunity to view exhibits of works by over 150 artists inside and outside of shops, restaurants and winebars in Livermore's award-winning downtown. Main event hours are 11-5pm, culminating with the close of the art banner auction at the Livermore Valley Plaza from 5-6pm. The event is free to the

This year ArtWalk also diplays public works of art downtown with painted art banners that will hang from downtown street poles for a month and then be sold in a silent auction during

ArtWalk. New to Artwalk 2009 is an expanded arts activities area for kids and adults located on J Street. Acoustical music will entertain visitors.

In keeping with ArtWalk's tradition of community, out-ofdowntown businesses have been invited to exhibit an artists in their booths, allowing the early responders to partake in what was previously only a downtown Livermore celebration. ArtWalk continues with PG&E's theme of "reduce your carbon footprint," encouraging these businesses to

promote this theme. Over the years, ArtWalk has grown from a small grassroots event to a fundraiser for the Bothwell Arts Center. The center offers affordable rehearsal, teaching, event, performance and studio space to a multitude of arts organizations and artist in the tri-valley area. The Bothwell is now a project of Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center, in company with the Bankhead Theater and the new Regional Theater about to break ground in Livermore.

Look for the evolving website at www.artwalklivermore.org; as the event date draws nearer. It will feature an online gallery of ArtWalk artists.

THE Independent (INLAND VALLEY PUBLISHING CO.)

Editor: Janet Armantrout

The Independent is published every Thursday by Inland Valley Publishing Company, 2250 First St. Livermore, CA 94550; (925) 447-8700. Application to Mail at Periodical Postage Prices Pending at the Livermore Post Office and additional mailing offices. The Independent is mailed upon request. Go to www. independentnews.com to sign up and for more information. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Independent, 2250 First St., Livermore, CA 94550.

Advertising rates and subscription rates may be obtained by calling (925) 447-8700 during regular business hours or by ax: (925) 447-0212. Editorial information may be submitted by editmail@compuserve.com.

10th Candidates to Debate

The Alameda County Republican Party invites members of the public to attend the 10th Congressional District All Party Debate. The debate is scheduled for Friday, August 28, from 7:00 to 9:00 PM at Las Positas College located at 3000 Campus Hill Drive, Little Theater Bldg. 800 in Livermore.

There are fourteen candidates representing five major political Parties on the September 1st ballot. The purpose of the election is to selection a candidate to replace Ellen Tauscher, who resigned her seat to become the Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security.

The debate will be moderated by Bill Gram-Reefer of Halfway to Concord who will be joined by several representatives from various local political Parties including, but not limited to the Republican Party, the Democratic Party, the American Independent Party, the Peace & Freedom Party and the Libertarian Party.

To date, twelve of the fourteen candidates have committed to attend the CD-10 All Party Debate: Republicans - Chris Bunch, Gary W. Clift, Mark Loos, David Peterson and John Toth; Democrats - Joan Buchanan, Mark Desaulnier, Adrial Hampton and Anthony Woods; American Independent - Jerome "Jerry" Denham; Peace & Freedom - Mary C. McIlroy; and Green - Jeremy Cloward

Members of the public are welcome to submit questions for the candidates to be asked dur-

ing the debate by going to CD-10Debate@gmail.com or over the CD-10 All Party Debate Facebook group Discussion Board at:

CD 10 Debate Facebook Group Those who submit questions should include name, the city and which candidate(s) to whom the question is directed.

The CD-10 All Party Debate is free and open to the public. There will be a \$2 charge for parking payable to the college. Seating will be on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Harmer endorsements: Republican David Harmer announced his endorsement by Sue Severson, Mayor of Orinda. David Harmer has already raised \$250,000 toward the September 1st special election in a district where Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger captured 56% of the vote against Democrat Phil Angelides.

Harmer has been endorsed by Mike Reagan—a Solano County Supervisor, former Congressional and State Senate staff member, and retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel.

Garamendi endorsements: Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi has received the endorsement of the Sierra Club Bay Area Chapter in the 10th Congressional District special primary election.

Garamendi has received the endorsement of the United Auto Workers.

The International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace

and Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW) is one of the largest and most diverse unions in North America, with members in virtually every sector of the economy.

DeSaulnier endorsements: The Sierra Club announced its endorsement of Senator Mark DeSaulnier for Congress in the 10th Congressional District. In addition to the Sierra Club endorsement, Mark DeSualnier received the sole endorsement of the California League of Conservation Voters in June. According to a press release, he is the only candidate in the congressional race with the endorsement of the two most prominent environmental organizations in the state.

The Chinese American Political Association (CAPA) has endorsed Democrat Mark DeSaulnier for Congress. CAPA joins a list of local organizations in support of DeSaulnier for Congress, including the El Cerrito Democratic Club, and East County Democrats for Action.

The National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 1111 has endorsed DeSaulnier for Congress. The National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 1111 joins a long list of local labor organizations in support of DeSaulnier for Congress, including the Contra Costa Central Labor Council, the Alameda Central Labor Council, and the Contra Costa Building and Construction Trades Council.

Taste of Downtown: a Sold-Out Success

On August 8th & 9th, thousands of shoppers, diners, sippers and horse-lovers flocked to downtown Livermore. Guests tasted Livermore Valley Wines inside at shopping locations, culinary delights from restaurants and took advantage of shopping specials, horse-drawn carriage rides

Attendees were asked to vote for their favorites. Almost all participants received votes. However, the winners are as follows:

Best Winery
1st Place – Wood
Family Vineyards
2nd Place – Big White House
3rd Place – John
Christopher Cellars

Best Food Taste
1st Place - El Charro Taqueria
2nd Place - Simply Fondue
3rd Place - The Carvery at
Harry's Hofbrau

Best Dessert Taste
1st Place – Tiffane's: A
Cupcake & Cookie Boutique
2nd Place – Candy Bouquet &
Live-for-more Fudge
3rd Place – Simply Fondue

Best Food Presentation 1st Place – Simply Fondue 2nd Place - El Charro Taqueria 3rd Place – SanSar Indian Cuisine

Favorite Shopping Location 1st Place – Main Street Designs 2nd Place – Woopsiedaisy Toy Shop 3rd Place – TIED August

Tea Room, Brown Eyed Girl

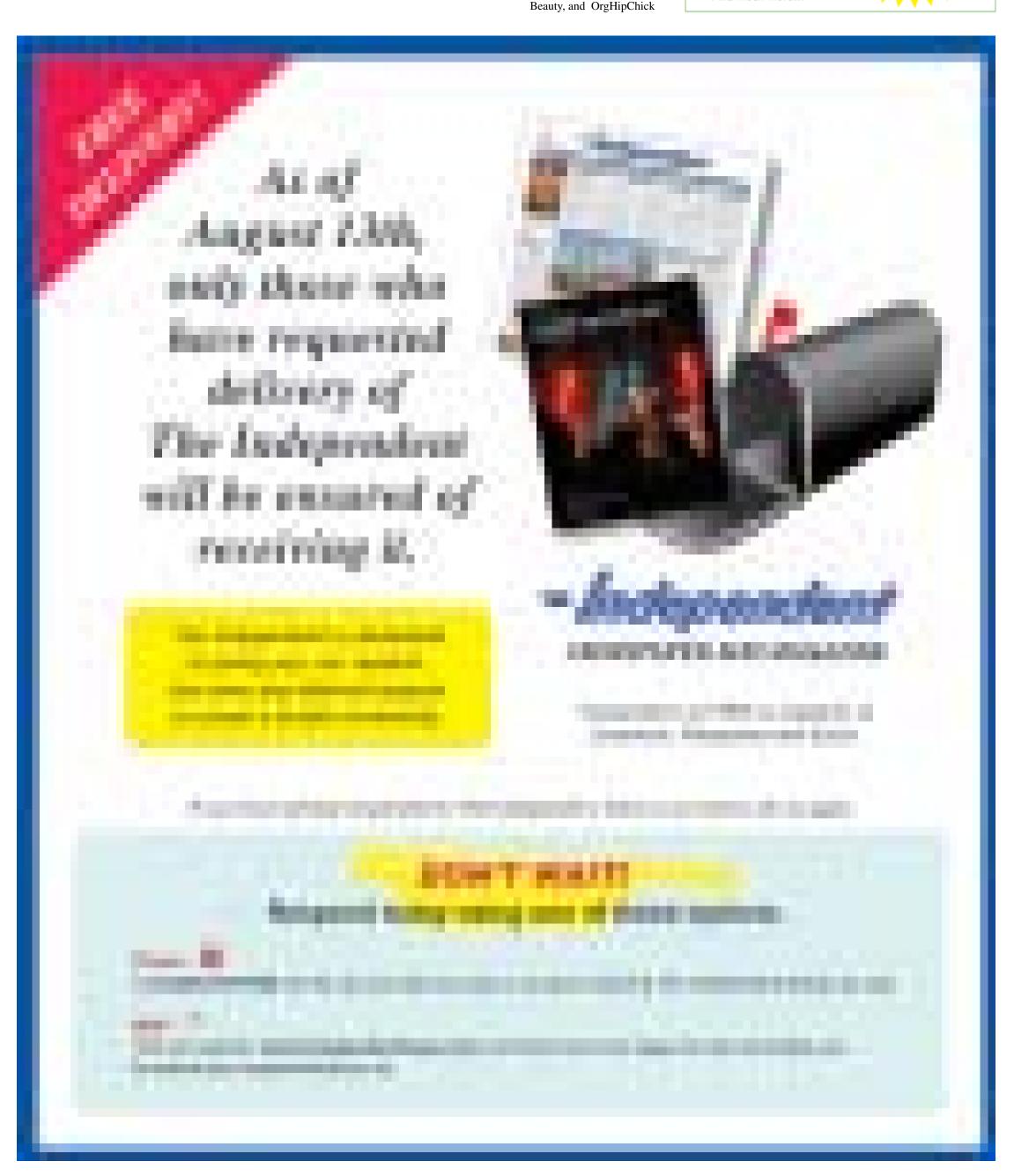
Passport Grand Prize Winner "Elvis" Bob Barton

For more information on

And much more...

upcoming events in downtown Livermore and how to get involved, call 925-373-1795 or send an email to the following: lms@Livermoredowntown.





SPORTS NOTES



Pleasanton Ballistic United Soccer Club U11 Select Team placed third in Novato Classic Tournament. This was their first 8 v 8 tournament of the season. The two day August tournament had its ups and downs. On Saturday The boys faced Novato United and defeated them 4 to 2 in a game that found them behind after the first half. A scheduling mix-up had them getting only one hour rest before coming back to play their second game. The BUSC boys took on a rested Sonoma North Team. After Pleasanton took a 2 to 0 lead in the first half Sonoma came back strong in the second half to score two. The game ended tied 2 to 2. The next team was North Bay Elite Manchester Utd, who ended up winning the tournament, this team had their number defeating the BUSC boys 5 to 1. A goal in the final minutes of the game gave the U11 boys an opportunity to play for third against the very team they tied the day before, Sonoma North. After taking a 2 to 0 lead in the first five minutes of the game Pleasanton fell behind three to two at the half. In the second half of the game the Sonoma team held a four to three lead with only a few minutes left. BUSC tied the game in the final minute to force overtime. Sonoma jumped out early in the first OT period taking a five to four lead. The U11 boys came right back scoring a goal of their own and the first OT period ended in a five to five tie. The second OT period was all BUSC as they scored twice in the period to secure their first medal of the season and game ended U11 BUSC Boys 7, Sonoma North 5. On offense Joey Cassetti's seven goals over the four games with a Hat Trick (3 goals) in the final playoff game led the team in scoring. Griffin Chinn's performance at goalie and Chase Godi's solid center fullback led the BUSC defensive effort and was an inspiration to everyone.

Trap Shooting Champs

The Livermore-Pleasanton Rod and Gun Club is home to the 2009 National Champion Junior Varsity Trapshooting

Following their State Championship victory at Kingsburg in June with a squad score of 954 out of 1000 targets, the fiveman team plus an alternate shooter traveled to Sparta, Illinois for competition on July 25-26. Their hours of practice paid off with stellar shooting on Saturday, with a squad score being 465. Livermore shot early in the day on Sunday with a score of 481, making them the team to beat.

The National Competition attracted over 2000 youth shooters. Livermore's JV Championship score was high enough to place the team fourth in the overall competition among all categories from Rookie through Varsity.

Squad members are Chris Swasey, 17, of Danville; Cole Rao, 15, of Livermore; Cory Wing, 14, of Pleasanton; Austin Hull, 15, of Danville, and Robby Mariani, 15, of Brentwood. Alternate Kimberley Bowers, 15, of Lafayette is one of the eight girls on the Livermore Team . Their coaches are Mark Thomas, Sr. and Jim Wyllie.

These Livermore shooters are organized under the Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP). This is a way for young shooters to learn the safe and proper way to handle firearms and have a place to compete with other shooters in their area and around the country. For more information about SCTP in this area please contact Coach Mark Thomas at t4jamm@

Youth Soccer

Pleasanton Ballistic United Soccer Club U13 Div III Select team competed in the Santa Clara Rotary Club tournament over the weekend and posted a record of 1 win and 2 loses.

Although, the Select team outshot their opponents with 38 "shots on goal" as compared to only 20 from the opposing teams. BUSC also scored 8 goals to their opponents 5. Most of the goals came in the winning match while being outscored 2 to 1 in the two losses. Goals for BUSC were scored by Chris Klahr, Mason Picone (with 2), Joshua Cole, Brian Kinnee (with 2), Thomas Rozas and Matt Teng. Assists were recorded by Roberto Beard, Brian Kinnee (with 2) and Mason Picone. Four goals were "unassisted", two from free kicks. The boys played tough offense and defense with strong performances from Dylan Tuell, Chris Goldhawk, Lucas Warzyniak, Ryan Vicencio and Reed Marques. Sammy Hanson and Andrew Griehshammer shared "keeper" duties, combining for 10 saves over the three matches.

The Livermore Elite Fury U-14 girls captured 5th place in the Soccer by the Bay tournament.

Needing a big win against rival Alliance Diamonds in the final game to advance to the consolation game, the Fury battled to a scoreless first half. Kylie Diaz opened the match with a nice run to pressure the goalie. Hannah Gooby headed a long ball just wide of the goal. Sarah Franklin battled hard in the midfield to stop the Alliance attack. Beth McCall worked the ball deep into the Diamonds zone. Livermore goalie Tayler Lennier made the play of the match when she charged an Alliance breakaway by deflecting the ball away at the last second. The action intensified in the second half behind the spirited play of Alison Pierson. Lennier stopped another breakaway and the Fury finally broke through when Amber Lennier ran down a free kick from Amanda Fairclough in the middle of the box and beat the Alliance keeper. Five minutes later, Rebekah Johnson sent a long, high ball into the back of the net for 2-0. Needing one more point to have any chance of advancing, Amber Lennier capped the 3-0 win with a penalty kick with two

minutes left. Livermore's three goal victory over the Alliance resulted in a shootout against the Santa Rosa Flash to determine who would play for third place. The Fury could not

advance as they lost 2-0 in PKs.

The Fury opened play by beating the Almaden Wildcats 2-0. Sarah Wilkinson played a solid defense with a couple of strong tackles. Elyse Codiroli had some good forward runs while Elise Falgout played a solid middle. Livermore scored in the 10th minute when Diaz sent a well-placed right cross to an onrushing Pierson who left-footed the ball out of the air into the high side of the goal. The Wildcats stepped up the pressure in the second half. However, Tayler Lennier denied them each time, highlighted by a stop on a breakaway in the first minute and a diving right-hand save 15 minutes later. Madyson Souza and Kaitlyn Bulhoes played well defensively to slow down the Almaden attack and Morgan Brandt worked the ball well downfield. Jenna Hatch made a couple of nice runs to force a corner. Amber Lennier's free kick found the left corner midway through the half to complete the scoring. The Fury played a solid second half against eventual champion Santa Clara Sporting but could not overcome giving up two first half goals Diaz and Codiroli led the offense and Fairclough anchored the defense but Santa Clara held on for the 2-0 win

Livermore Elite Crush U10 Silver Girls team dominated the Walnut Creek

Summerfest Jamboree Aug. 8 and 9. In the first game, Livermore defeated the Walnut Creek Galaxy 4 to 1. The Crush scored first with the ball in Galaxy territory, deflecting off the goalie with Meghan Giamona in position to take the shot and score. Galaxy countered, and scored, leaving the game tied at the half. In the second half, Kira Karter found the goalie out of position and had a great shot to the right corner in the net. Then, Reiley Davies took the ball up the middle all alone for a strong shot and score. The final goal came from a beautiful pass across the middle from Reiley D. to Kira K, with a one touch shot by Kira just over the goalies head. Top Players: Kira Karter, Reiley Davies, Sam Dukes, Tori Borgna,

Maddy Krueger Crush defeated Dublin Galaxy 5 to 1, taking a total of 21 shots. The game started with an immediate goal by Dublin. Crush answered with Meghan Giamona getting the ball with a shot from almost 1/2 field, over the goalies head. With a direct kick for Crush, Rieley D. assisted with a perfect shot to the middle finding Isabella Barbero, who scored. In the second half Goalie Claire Abele saved 5 out of 5 shots. Meghan G. assisted with a pass to Kira K. for a goal. Meghan had another great pass in Dublin territory, which was deflected by their defense, and just perfectly touched by Kira K. for yet another Crush goal. Following a throw in, Isabella B. assisted with a pass to the center finding Kira K. for the final goal and a hat trick. Top Players: Claire Abele, Meghan Giamona, Kira Karter, Isabella

Barbero, Sam Dukes Crush edged the Mustang Tigers 2 to Crush had their only season loss to the Tigers in the District Cup last season. The game remained scoreless for most of the first half. Then, following an injury to Meghan Giamona right outside the goal box, Meghan took a direct kick with a soaring goal to the right corner to end the half with Crush in the lead. At the beginning of the 2nd half, Tigers came out and scored within minutes to tie the game. The

Crush defense remained dominant, allowing only 4 shots on their goal, with 3 saves by Claire Abele. Following a kick by the Tigers goalie, Crush offense trapped the ball, Isabella B. fired a shot into the goal right out of the goalie's reach. Top Players: Meghan Giamona, Alyssa Bonfiglio (guest player), Defense-Andrea Sommer, Madison McCallister, Claire Abele

Crush dominated the Ukiah Pumas 2 to 1, taking 20 shots on goal and allowing only four. Rieley Davies assisted on both goals for Crush. First, with a cross across the goal to Isabella B. The second from deep in the right side of Pumas territory. Rieley had another perfect cross to the center, this time finding Kira K. for the goal. Top Players: Rieley Davies, Isabella Barbero; Defense-Tori Borgna, Madison McCallister, Andrea Sommer, Amanda Zeck (guest player)

Fall Baseball Signups

Tigers Baseball/Livermore Pony Baseball is now accepting player registrations for the fall 2009 baseball program. The Tigers Baseball program is open to all players ages 11-14 who are interested in training and playing baseball this fall. The Tigers fall ball program runs September thru mid-November. Players who are interested should visit the Tigers website for registration forms and details. Tigers Baseball is a non-profit baseball training program that works in cooperation with well know collegiate coaches and professional players to teach dedicated young players who wish to play baseball at a higher level. The Tigers Baseball mission is to provide an opportunity for young players to develop and learn the sport of baseball from some of the finest teachers in our area. For more details about the Tigers Baseball program go to http://www. rteamsite.com/baseball/tigersbaseball

Adult Sports

The City of Pleasanton's Department of Parks and Community Services offers a full range of sports programs for adults in the fall. To register online, please visit www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/recreation. For more information, please call

Marty Bell at (925) 931-3439.

• Adult Basketball: The 2009 Fall Adult Basketball program gets underway on September 9 and 10 and features eight weeks of play plus playoffs. Team registration information is currently available at the Tennis and Community Park, 5801 Valley Avenue. League fees and rosters are due at the time of registration and the

team fee is \$500 for the season. Adults (18+) can also sign up as a Free Agent Player on the 2009 Fall Adult Basketball league program that begins on September 9. The cost to play per individual is \$65. Basketball games are held at the Pleasanton Middle School gym on Wednesdays

from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m.
•Adult Volleyball: The 2009 Fall Adult Volleyball program begins on September 14 and includes eight weeks of play plus playoffs. Team registration information is currently available at the Tennis and Community Park, 5801 Valley Avenue or online at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/parks. html. Coed leagues will also be offered. League fees and rosters are due at the time of registration and the team fee is \$300 for the season. Volleyball games are held at the Pleasanton Middle School gym on Mondays from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Open Water Swim Group

A new open water swim group is starting up this season at Shadow Cliffs Regional Park in Pleasanton. Membership in this nonprofit group is open to all qualified individuals. We will have day and evening swim times. The lake temperature can reach upwards of 75 degrees during the warmest months. If interested, or to sign up, you can check our website at shadowcliffsorcas.com. For further information you can contact Al DeGraw at (510) 414-7928 or John Bower at (925) 294-9050.

Football/Cheer Signup

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

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

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

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

Information go to website www. eteamz.com/lyfc or email lyfc@onebox. com/lyfc

CYO Basketball

St. Michael's/St. Charles CYO Basketball in Livermore is accepting registration for the 09/10 season. Register on-line at www.smsccyo.org for player's 1st - 8th grade, coaches and referees. Sign-ups on-line conclude August 23rd. Visit the website for more information or email cyoregistration@yahoo.com. Open to residents of Livermore.

Baseball Tryouts

New Revolution Baseball is hosting tryouts for their 11U - 16U fall tournament teams August 23rd and 30th at Max Baer Park in Livermore.

Details: Max Baer Park Field 2, 1310 Murdell Lane, Livermore, Sunday, August 23, 30; 11U & 12U: 9:15 a.m. registration, 9:30am-12:15pm tryout; 13U & 14U: 12:15 p.m. registration, 12:30pm-3:00pm tryout; 15U & 16U: 3:15 p.m. registration, 12:30pm-3:00pm tryout; 15U: 400pm try 3:30pm-6:00pm tryout.

Preregistration is at www.newrevolutionbaseball.com/tryout request.html For more information email olmo. baseball@comcast.net, call 925-548-

2732 or visit www.newrevolutionbase-

Beginner Lacrosse Clinic

Livermore Phantom Lacrosse will be hosting a lacrosse clinic for new players on Saturday, Sept 12, 11AM to 130PM at Robertson Park. The clinic will introduce the fundamentals of the game of lacrosse to boys and girls ages 8 to 14. The program includes instruction on passing, catching, cradling, shooting and dodging and is an excellent introduction into the fast moving and ever growing game of lacrosse. Demonstrations will be given by local coaches, high school and college players, and maybe a surprise guest. Cost for the clinic is \$50 which includes quality lacrosse stick, ball, club t-shirt, and instruction. For updated information and registration info on this event and our 2010 season, please visit www.phantomlacrosse.org or contact Bob Mezeul at 925-425-9901.

Hats Off Walk/Run

The 16th Hats Off America Red T-Shirt 10K Run/5K run or walk will be held on Saturday, September 12, beginning at 10 a.m. at Sycamore Valley Park, 2101 Holbrook Drive, Danville, rain or shine. Entry fee is \$35 per person. There is no entry fee for volunteers. All runners and volunteers will receive a red t-shirt.

Meet the Gold Star Family, the Ar-

2490 FIRST STREET 443-SHOW

LIVERMORE CINEMAS INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS (R) DLP 12:00 3:10 6:20 9:40 POST GRAD (PG13) DLP 12:20 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:25 SHORTS (PG) DLP 4:35 6:40 9:00 12:05 2:20 X-GAMES IN 3D THE MOVIE (PG) DLP 12:30 2:45 5:00 7:15 9:30 THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE (PG13) DLP 1:30 4:05 6:55 9:20 **DISTRICT 9 (R) DLP** 1:05 4:00 7:05 9:50 PONYO (G) DLP 1:15 4:15 6:45 9:10 THE GOODS: LIVE HARD, SELL HARD (R) DLP 12:10 2:30 4:45 9:40 7:20 JULIE & JULIA (PG13) DLP 1:20 4:10 6:50 9:30 G.I. JOE: RISE OF COBRA (PG13) DLP 1:30 4:25 7:10 9:50 G-FORCE 3D (PG) 3D 1:00 7:30 9:35 3:15 5:20 BANDSLAM (PG) DLP 12:45 HARRY POTTER & THE HALF BLOOD PRINCE (PG) DLP 4:30 7:45 (500) DAYS OF SUMMER (PG13) DLP 12:25 2:45 5:00 7:25 9:45

THE VINE CINEMA IS NOW EXCLUSIVELY SHOWING INDEPENDENT FILMS!



WHATEVER WORKS Daily: 2:15 4:45 7:00 9:00 (PG-13)

THE HURT LOCKER ® Fri - Sun: 1:00 3:45 6:45 9:10 Mon - Thurs: 2:00 4:45 7:30

COMING SOON: Adam 8/28 & Paper Heart 9/4 VINE CINEMA VineCinema.com royaves. Hats Off America will give the Arroyave family a check for \$3,000, bringing the total given to the family by Hats Off America to \$20,100. See their story at www.hatsoffamerica.us.

All Hats Off America's fundraising efforts are directed to providing assistance to women with children, currently Rachelle Arroyave, mother of three, 4-1/2, 8 and 12. Rachelle's husband USMC Staff Sgt. Jimmy Arroyave died on April 15, 2004 during his second deployment to the Middle East. He died near Ar Ramadi, Iraq. Jimmy had served in the Marine Corps for over 10-1/2 years and had planned or being a career Marine.

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

Coaches Sought

New Revolution Baseball is seeking experienced coaches to help run our Fall Baseball Season. For more information see website www.newrevolutionbaseball com/joining_coaching_staff.html or call 925-548-2732.

Fitness Challenge On Saturday Sept. 12, Fitness Together

Ruby Hill will be hosting a fitness challenge for both men and women fitness enthusiasts and elite athletes alike. STREND (strength & endurance) is a National Fitness Federation that holds several events throughout the year, based on body weight to strength ratio of each

Matt Bogdanowicz, world record holder in several fitness categories and elite athlete competitor at age 40, will be present to challenge local law enforcement, and military personal with 5 weighted disciplines followed by a 3 mile run. A formula will be used to determine the top 3 finishers in each category.

Matt is the Fitness Director at Safeway Corp. in Pleasanton and frequently competes in elite master's track. (www. SpeedEndurance.com). He holds two World Records in most completed pull ups for 30 minutes and 60 seconds. He in fact broke the 60 second speed pull up record here at my studio last October completing an amazing 46. His record for 30 minutes is a mind boggling 432, he will one day attempt to break the world record for 60 minutes by being the first person ever to complete 800 pull ups. Matt's world records are recognized by both Genius Book of World records and the Official Book of Strength & Fitness Records.

More info can be found at www Anyone interested in competing or

just checking it out, contact Rich at Fitness Together Ruby Hill at 461-6379 or

Baseball Openings

NorCal Grizzlies Baseball of Livermore has several spots remaining on the 10U, 11U and 14U fall baseball rosters. Individual evaluations will take place at the indoor training facility in Livermore (1306 Stealth Street).

For further information, or to register, please fill visit our web site http://www. norcalgrizzlies.org/2010fallballreg.html or call or email Tom Graham at 925-922-5050 or tomg@norcalgrizzlies.org.

The NorCal Grizzlies 2010 Fall Ball season will run from August 24th, 2009 through November 22nd, 2009. Each team will practice twice per week and play in 7 weekend tournaments.

Fall Ball Registration
Livermore National Little League
will be holding Fall Ball Registration on
Thursday, August 20th at Mountain Mike's Pizza on Vasco Rd, from 6:30 to 8pm. Fall Ball is open to ALL Livermore residents ages 7 to 14. Coaches will be needed at all levels. If you do not play for LNLL please bring a copy of the child's birth certificate. For more information, website is www.eteamz.com/lnll or League Line 443-5655.

Players Move On

The following basketball players from Las Positas College will continue their educations and playing careers, receiving scholarships: Jeff Ford (Hayward High School): Notre Dame de Namur University; Xavier Lewis (Mt. Eden High School): Notre Dame de Namur University; Chris Hansen (Arroyo High School): Newman University, Wichita Kansas; Willie Richardson (New Orleans): Kentucky Wesleyan University.

For more information, go to www. laspositascollege.edu and click athletics and men's basketball.

Ironhead Indoor Lacrosse

Teams are now forming for boys and girls indoor lacrosse at Cabernet Sports in Livermore. Inaugural season begins at the end of Sept. with a game-only format over eight Sundays. Cost is \$145 per player. Singles and teams welcome. Girls and boys grades 4 through 12 are welcome (previous experience required). Visit www.ironheadlacrosse.com or call Bob Mezeul at 925-989-4553.

Valley Stompers Tryouts The Valley Stompers 18U, an "A"

level, traveling fastpitch softball organization is holding tryouts for the fall season. The team is looking for talented young ladies who want to take their game to the next level. Tryouts are on the following dates: August 22, 2:00pm-5:00pm; August 29, 10:00am – 1:00pm All tryouts held at San Ramon Valley

High School, Varsity Field. 501 Danville Blvd, Danville. If there are questions, please email bill_miller1@comcast.net.

BREAKOUT! SWIM CLINIC

SIGN UP for the

Mutual of Omaha breakout! Swim Clinic

HOSTED BY: THE LIVERMORE AQUACOWBOYS

A total-person approach to swimming, a breakout! Swim Clinic can help you bust bad habits, build new skills and uncover hidden talent. Featuring:

Gold Medalists, Josh Davis & Aaron Peirsol



- Learns champion performance techniques on all four strokes (in-water and dry-land) Understands how the body, mind and heart affect swimming
- Trains with the world's top swimmers Q&A, gets an autograph and photo Receives a breakout! T-shirt, poster,
- DVDs and other souvenirs

EVENT INFO:

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2009 • 1 P.M. - 5 P.M. 2000 Arroyo Rd, Livermore, CA (Livermore Valley Tennis Club)

Cost: \$100 / \$10 Spectator pass available. Limited to first 90 Swimmers

REGISTER by 9/10/2009! Questions: E-mail horst@lvtc.com or Call Emily Horst at (925) 443-7700



Livermore Downtown Inc. Presents

EVERY THURSDAY **Through October 15**

Carnegie Park (Third Street between J & K St.)

4 PM - 8 PM



Join Us Tonight For Thirsty Thursday!

Featuring the wines of Cuda Ridge, Eagle Ridge Vineyard, Crooked Vine, and Stone Ridge Winery.

> Live music from Red Di and local arts and crafts

NO OUTSIDE ALCOHOL ALLOWED.

This week's Farmers' Market is brought to you by: Livermore Downtown Inc., Pacific Coast Farmers' Market, The City of Livermore. The Independent Newspaper. Marcel Orthodontics, ValleyCare Health System/LifestyleRX, Comcast, Contreras Chiropractic, Madeline Walker Real Estate, Heritage Estates, California Energy Solutions, and Livermore Valley Adult Education

> For more info on this & other events, please contact Livermore Downtown Inc. 925-373-1795 www.livermoredowntown.com

ALAMEDA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY

July 2009

Citizens Watchdog Committee

In November 2000, Alameda County voters approved Measure B, which extended the County's half-cent transportation sales tax to 2022 and set forth a 20-year Expenditure Plan for use of the resultant revenues. Responsibility for managing Measure B funds rests with the Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority (ACTIA), made up of 11 elected officials from within Alameda County.

Measure B also established a Citizens Watchdog Committee (CWC) to monitor all ACTIA expenditures on projects, programs and administration for compliance with the Expenditure Plan, including timely delivery of projects. The CWC reports its findings annually to the public. This seventh annual report covers ACTIA expenditures during the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2008, and CWC actions since July 1, 2008.

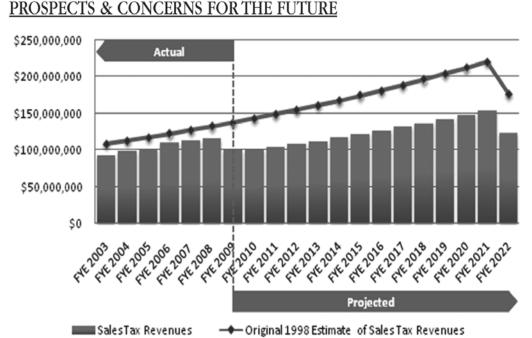
AT-A-GLANCE

Total revenues for Fiscal Year 2007/2008 were \$127.4 million. Audited expenditures for the year ending June 30, 2008, totaled \$111.3 million. The continuing economic decline, which began in late 2008, is resulting in lower revenues and will have a significant effect on projects and programs. The CWC will continue to watch this situation.

\$5.4 million for Administration \$16.1 million dedicated for \$33.9 million for Local Expenditures Transportation

CWC members met with ACTIA's auditors and reviewed Measure B's Audited Statement of Revenues and Expenditures under Measure B for July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008. The CWC accepts the independent auditor's unqualified opinion that no accounting concerns were identified. In addition, CWC reviewed the separate audit of the 4.5% administrative cost ceiling and the 1% administrative staff cost cap mandated by Measure B and finds ACTIA in compliance.

> Lastly, CWC reviewed the independent compliance audits of all jurisdictions receiving Measure B funds. The CWC commends these partner agencies for passing their compliance audits.



Measure B Sales Tax Revenues: Estimate versus Actual and Future Projected

ACTIA administers funds for both capital project and program expenditures. This chart indicates actual revenues received from Measure B through 2008/2009 and updated projections (vertical bars) and the original projected amounts (top line) when voters approved the sales tax in 2000 (in 1998 dollars). The result of lower than anticipated revenues will be a cumulative loss of more than \$839 million during the life of the Measure, or the equivalent of approximately four years of revenues.

The amount of Measure B revenues collected reflects the state of the County's economy. ACTIA capital projects and programs alike are affected by the downturn. The economic impact on ACTIA capital projects is lessened by the ability to issue bonds to fulfill funding commitments. In addition, as often happens when the economy is weak, ACTIA and its partners are seeing significantly lower construction bid amounts.

Unfortunately, in the case of programs, which rely on monthly allocations to all jurisdictions and transit operators in the County, any economic downturn can have a direct effect on essential services funded by these revenues. Regular transit service as well as senior and disabled transportation services may be cut, fewer bicycle and pedestrian safety projects may be funded, and repairs to local streets and roads may be delayed. Moreover, the state budget crisis has made the situation even worse: state assistance for transit operators has been eliminated for the next five years, and projects may be halted due to a lack of state funds. This, in turn, affects the ability to secure some local, state and federal dollars to provide the balance of funding for



Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority 1333 Broadway, Suite 300, Oakland, ČA 94612

(510) 893-3347, www.actia2022.com

some Measure B projects and programs. CWC will continue to watch the effect of the state funding challenges on delivery of projects and programs.

Over the past year, many ACTIA capital projects were fortunate to receive State bond funds and one received federal economic stimulus funds, thereby maintaining the delivery of the projects and allowing many of them to go to construction in 2009. Five projects failed to meet the original full funding or environmental clearance deadlines and received ACTIA Board approved extensions.

KEEPING WATCH

The CWC routinely receives updates on the progress of project and program implementation, and monitors delivery, particularly in relation to deadlines and requirements detailed in the voter approved Expenditure Plan.

CWC has kept watch on all projects, programs and administrative costs over the past year and focused special attention on the following. See Table 1 below.

EPORT to the Pul



More information on the following is available on our website:

www.actia2022.com

- FISCAL YEAR 07/08 PROGRAM SUMMARY
- PROGRAMS SUMMARY
- CAPITAL PROJECTS STATUS BY PHASE
- PROJECTS UNDER DEVELOPMENT
- PROJECTS GRANTED EXTENSIONS
- GUARDING YOUR INVESTMENT
- CWC MEMBERS
- A CALL FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
- FURTHER INFORMATION

CWC ACTIVITIES

The CWC regularly reviews projects and programs to monitor conformance with the Expenditure Plan approved by the voters, and meets annually with ACTIA's independent auditors to review their auditing processes. CWC also has the authority to request additional specific information to verify the accuracy of the financial statements through special ad hoc committee meetings. No ad hoc committees met during the past year.

ACTIA PROGRAMS

Measure B funds, net of administrative costs, are separated into two broad streams: approximately 60% funds programs, distributed to local jurisdictions primarily on a formula basis and through competitive grants, and 40% funds capital projects designated in the Expenditure Plan.

ACTIA Programs provide important local and flexible funding to all cities, the County and transit operators in Alameda County. These funds provide essential services, maintenance, matching funds for other grants, and capital improvements. Over \$60 million a year is distributed to fund day-to-day transportation services throughout the County. Unfortunately, these funds are vulnerable to changes in the economy, and any economic downturn can have a direct effect on essential services funded by these revenues.

ACTIA has taken special action in the past to stabilize funding for programs for seniors and disabled and has done so this year due to the steep decline in Measure B revenues. The CWC will continue to watch the effect of reduced funding on services and will provide input on ACTIA actions to address service and operational cuts, particularly to the most vulnerable in our communities.

ACTIA PROJECTS

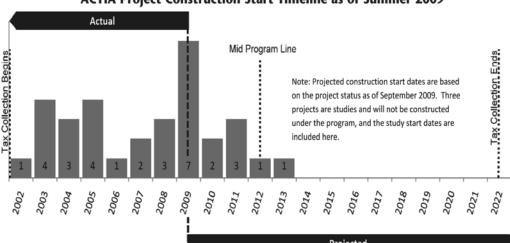
The voters approved 26 capital projects throughout the County for infrastructure improvements such as BART and rail extensions, highway expansions, local streets and roads, intermodal and other local projects. In 2003, the ACTIA Board

added the Vasco Road Safety Improvement Project funded from the Measure B Emergency Congestion Relief Fund and in 2008 the I-80 Integrated Corridor

11 Projects, 34%

Management Project, resulting in 28 Projects that the CWC monitors.

ACTIA Project Construction Start Timeline as of Summer 2009



■# of Completed Projects

Table Project No.	1: Keeping Watch			Current Comn	Total Current Committed Funding	Original Measure B Expenditure Plan Commitment	Measure B t Commitment	Funding	Percentage of Funding Uncertainty
	Project Name	Board Appro Environmental Clearance Deadline	ved Extension Full Funding Deadline	Project Cost (\$ Millions)	(\$ Millions)	in 1997-98 (\$ Millions)	in 2008-09 (\$ Millions)	Uncertainty (\$ Millions)	to Current Project Cost (%)
3	BART Oakland Airport Connector Project	Completed 2007	3/31/2010	\$499.0	\$499.0	\$65.8	\$89.1	\$0.0	0%
7A	Telegraph Avenue Corridor Bus Rapid Transit	3/30/2012	-	\$234.5	\$159.5	\$8.7	\$10.4	\$75.0	32%
15	Route 92/ Clawiter - Whitesell I/C and Reliever Route,	3/31/2010	-	\$25.1	\$25.1	\$19.5	\$27.0	\$0.0	0%
25	Dumbarton Corridor Improvements	3/31/2011	3/31/2011	\$596.5	\$301.3	\$14.7	\$19.4	\$295.2	49%
26	I-580 Corridor/BART Livermore Extension Studies (1)	N/A Notes: (1) This	N/A project is a study onl	TBD y and therefore enviro	\$11.8	\$8.7 ding deadlines do not ap	\$11.8 oly.	TBD	TBD

(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.)

Health Care Reform Andrew D. Blidy Pleasanton

Health care synergies are the debated words in our country today, which identifies the meaning for which it stands for, universal affordable heath care for all American citizens. Since the health care synergy is unknown to the public, it is not at all surprising that health care synergy has not been included in the economic accounting of our wealth transactions or in assessing our common wealth capabilities. The synergetic aspect of health care industry's doing ever more work with ever less investment of time and energy per each unit of performance of each and every function of the health care workers and health care suppliers has never been formally accounted as a capital gain of our society. The health care synergistic effectiveness of a world-around integrated health care process is inherently vastly greater than the confined synergistic effect of sovereignly operating separate systems.

Fear and unknown have entered the dialogue of the debate regarding the health care system. The citizens of this republic should focus on the three major issues of health care reform: cost of catastrophic medicine for an individual that leads to most bankruptcies in this country, denial of coverage for pre-existing conditions and insurance rationing to the detriment of the patient's health caused by under insured or no insurance at all. We all pay for the hidden costs in the long run. Because our health care is continually multiplying in vast degrees unbeknownst and unacknowledged formally by human society, our economic accounting systems are unrealistically identifying health care only as matter and are entering know-how on the books only as salary liabilities and procedures to charge for and not for the total well being of the patient. Therefore, all that we are discovering mutually here regarding the true nature of health care system in the United States comes as a complete surprise to world society to most Americans.

Both social cooperation and individual enterprise interact to produce increasing patient focused care, which is usually avoided due to a separate operating system. No value is given for the inventiveness or for the synergistic health care technology value given by one product to another by virtue of how they complement as team components whose teamwork produces results of enormous advantage.

Simply saying "United we stand, divided we fall. Let us not split into factions that must destroy that union upon which our existence hangs"—Patrick Henry and "the only thing we have to fear is fear itself"—FDR. I urge you to contact your congressional representative, Jerry McNerney and both Senators Boxer and Feinstein to support progressive health care reform.

Health Care Susan M. Mayall Livermore

When we first came to America in 1962, I was amazed to discover that payment for health care was the same as it had been in England in the 1930s, where my young aunt had been bankrupted by her husband's long struggle with cancer. My widowed mother died of cancer in England in 1959, but her excellent treatment had been covered by the new National Health Service, and my siblings and I were

not left penniless. I assumed that in a short time a similar system would be introduced here, but I underestimated American mistrust of government, and the power of vested interests. As every other industrialized country began to provide for the health of all its citizens America remained in the past. And every time there was an attempt to reform the system the scare-mongering began, a great chorus of misinformation about the evils of "socialized medicine.'

I think of my mother-in-law in England, who had two hips replaced in her eighties. I think of my sister in Denmark, terminally ill with brain cancer, visited in her home by a speech therapist so that she would be able to talk

a little longer with her children. I think of a young Dutch friend, relaxing at home with her first baby while a free home help cleaned and cooked for five days. I think of my own experience in Canada, where on a recent trip to Quebec City I was taken ill with a systemic Strep A infection. I spent four nights in the hospital, had CT scans, X-rays, intravenous antibiotics, warm, attentive care from four doctors and a wonderful staff. There was no question of rationing, and the bill was less than half of what it would have been here.

No system is perfect, but there is much good to be found elsewhere. Surely, in this huge, still wealthy country, we can have the courage and determination to produce something that is even better than those found abroad. We owe it to our children, not just the presently uninsured, but all of those with chronic conditions, all those stuck in a job for fear of losing their health insurance, all those financially unable to pay ever increasing premiums. I no longer believe a "single payer" system is possible here, but the so called "public option" would at least form a counterbalance to the power of the insurance companies.

Let's make a start!

No Democrat **Robert Ramos** Livermore

If you care about your family's health insurance, you'll want to vote for anyone but a Democrat for Congress in the September 1 special election. The Democrats are pushing government run healthcare. If you work at, or are retired from Sandia or Lawrence Livermore Labs, you must know that the contractor will eliminate their healthcare expense by putting you on government run healthcare and in turn make the DOE happy. You can bet that other private businesses and union healthcare programs will be doing the same thing to save money. This massive movement of people into government run healthcare will mean three things, your healthcare will be rationed, your taxes will go up, and the government will go further into debt, devaluing your dollar. If you don't want this, don't vote for a Democrat!

Thank You **Gino VanGundy** An Open Letter to the **People of Livermore**

The older I get, the more I am able to reflect on the gifts that I have been blessed with throughout my life. I'm sure this happens to most of us as we age but for me, it is the things that many of us take for granted that I am so appreciative of.

Most of us grow up with friends, parents, homes, and are members of communities. I wasn't quite that fortunate. I grew up in the state's foster care system. By the time I moved to Livermore in 1982 I had been in more than 20 different placements. I was 12 years old 1982 and I had no idea how much the people of Livermore would change my life.

Last Saturday night the Class of 1989 from Livermore High School celebrated its 20th reunion. Despite the fact that I did not graduate from Livermore High, I felt drawn to attend this reunion. I had gone to East Avenue Middle School with most of the people that had graduated from LHS in 1989 but my foster mother had decided that I should go to Granada High after I left East Avenue. Although I was not very happy about her decision to make me change schools, in retrospect, I can say that it was a wise choice. I thrived at Granada High and made friendships that endure to this day. But I never forgot my friends from East Avenue.

I was very nervous about attending the LHS reunion. I had no idea what to expect. Thanks to Facebook I had been in contact with several of my former classmates well in advance of the event but I found myself filled with anxiety and apprehension. My home life during the time I was at East Avenue was hell. My foster parents were not in a happy marriage and she was horrifically abusive; both psychologically and physically. Attending a reunion with all of the people I had gone to East Avenue with had the potential of bringing back some pretty terrible memories for me. It did help A LOT that I was riding in the cab to the event with two of my good friends from back then. They were a little nervous too but I sensed that my anxiety was for another reason. I just couldn't

put my finger on it. We arrived about thirty minutes after the event had started so we were some of the last people there. There were still a few names badges left over and we each found ours. The event organizers had been thoughtful enough to add senior portraits to each name badge but since I did not graduate with them I expected that mine would only have my name on it - which of course made me more nervous. As I was handed my badge I found myself staring back at the 8th grade version of myself. That's when it hit me - when I realized where all of my anxiety was coming from. This was so much more for me than a "school" reunion. For me, this night was a celebration of firsts. For most of us having friends, going to sleepovers or even being on a sports team, were normal things that were part of growing up. Things that now, as parents, we cherish being able to provide for our children. But for me, until I entered East

Avenue Middle School in 1982 I had never lived anywhere long enough to actually make friends. I had been abused, tormented, and tortured so much that I was weary of people in general. None of that mattered to the kids at East Avenue. They immediately embraced me as one of them and as I stepped into the reunion on Saturday night I was nearly knocked off my feet at the power that has had on my life. I looked around and there they all were: My first best friend, James. My first kiss, Wendy (although she doesn't remember it). My first crush, Nikki (who had ridden in the cab with me). My first party invitation: Noel, and this is how the night went on. My fears of not being remembered were very quickly washed away as person by person and hug by hug I was reminded of the power these people, this community, had on my life. I simply would not be the man that I am today had it not been for the stability, the normalcy, I was given by all of you. There were a few times that I was able to share what I was feeling with people and nearly every time my eyes welled with tears. If you were there - and you saw tears in my eyes – now you know why. They were tears of joy and gratitude.

For a kid that had no one and came from nothing, the simple life experiences of having a best friend, being invited to parties /sleepovers, or just being a member of team were the things that made me realize that I actually mattered in the world. As a result I began to understand the power that a strong community has on a child. Each and every one of those kids from East Avenue (and their parents) impacted my life with so much force that my life changed course. Words will never be able to express the gratitude I feel in my heart.

If you are a long time resident

of Livermore you would remember me from my days at East Avenue as "Gene Mirci." When things fell apart at the Mirci home the community rallied around me and gave me the strength to push forward. I write this open letter with the hope that it will be run in The Independent (my first newspaper route) so that all of you can hear me say something that I could never possibly say to each and every one of you: THANK YOU!

Thank you for showing a very troubled, very scared, and very lonely boy that he mattered. Thank you for making me one of you and thank you for helping me to believe in myself. Livermore and the kids of East Avenue Middle School is where my life truly began and I will carry all of you with me for the rest of my life.



Photos - Doug Jorgensen In the top photo, the East Bay Regional Park District helicopter carried water to the fire. At right, a helicopter from the California Division of Forestry also took part in fighting the fire. Below, the tanker truck used to take water to fight the fire is refilled.





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LARPD Budget Reflects Loss of Funds to State

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District board approved the 2009-2010 Final Operating and Capital Budgets at its meeting last week. LARPD will have a \$16,296,629 operating budget this year and a \$6,316,441 capital budget. The resolution was passed 4-1, with Director Scott Kamena opposed.

Kamena said he liked the budget, with the exception of a provision for funds to complete the renovation of the Denton House in Sycamore Grove Park into a ranger station. He said the district could have retrofitted three neighborhood parks for what it will cost for the station. He felt that the design of the project had gotten out of hand.

The budget for the ranger station is \$779,000. The Denton House was donated. The funds to be used in the renovation are mitigation from Chevron for being allowed to place a pipeline through Sycamore Grove Park.

Board President Maryalice Faltings agreed with Kamena. She too felt that the design for the ranger station was too expensive based on what the board had intended.

Because of the state's suspension of Proposition 1A as well as increased retirement system costs, there was a \$700,000 reduction, or 4.1 percent, from last year's operating budget. Cutbacks will include full-time staff giving up 3 percent of their salary for retirement system costs from investment losses in 2008. The parks will have a cutback on water and fertilizer, a reduction that was already approved by the Board in the preliminary budget. The 2009-10 budget includes continued operation of both Camp Shelly and Valley Rock Gym. The District is using \$400,000 from the reserve fund for economic uncertainty to help balance the budget. Other capital projects include the Bothwell Park renovations and completion of trail segments along Marina Drive and Wente Street.

Kamena suggested that staff prepare future budgets based on a worst case scenario. He voiced the opinion that the state will

continue to take money.

Director Beth Wilson said she agreed. Adding that she felt that staff had done a good job in planning. "We do need to be wary about the future.'

On the consent agenda, the Board approved an amended conservation easement for Sycamore Grove Park and a 2009-10 District salary resolution. During the meeting, the Board also approved an agreement with Arroyo Crossing Inc. for Robertson Park improvements. The project will include a new respite area and trail and a playground for Robertson Park. The improvements will be constructed by O'Brien Homes as a condition of developing homes near the park. Construction is expected to begin this fall.

The Board postponed a vote on the agreement with the Livermore Youth Soccer League (LYSL) for converting two lighted fields at Robertson Park to synthetic turf. The Board said the agreement needs more clarification and analysis. LARPD staff will bring the item back for approval in September. The draft agreement would have LARPD accept \$600,000 from the LYSL for the field conversion, with the District contributing \$1.7 million toward the project. In return for helping to fund the conversion, the LYSL would receive 12,000 hours of field rental use at no additional charge within an eightyear period.

Dave Best, speaking for LYSL, said the league was excited about the opportunity to revitalize the Robertson fields, which are 18

Director David Furst raised numerous questions about the project. He pointed out that the league had first said it was giving the district a gift. Now it is a loan or prepayment for use of the fields. "I'm not sure the district would have gone through with the project if it had known what changes were down the road."

Furst recommended postponement of any decision until all of the questions could be answered and information corrected in the agreement.

Tri-Valley Haven Operations Threatened Loss of State Funding

The daily operations of the Tri-Valley Haven are seriously threatened by Governor Schwarzenegger's line item veto on July 28, which eliminated the California Department of Public Health's Domestic Violence Program, a major source of funding for many programs offered by the Haven. Officials at the Haven warn that this cut in funding will result in significant setbacks, including a reduction in the number of shelter beds and the elimination of some non-emergency programs.

One success story is Maria Freeman*, who was determined that her children would not grow up to repeat the cycles of violence and victimization that had characterized her marriage. Finally separated from her abusive husband, Maria was feeling hopeful for the first time in years. One afternoon as she and her young son awaited her daughter's return from school, Maria's estranged husband broke into her residence and shot her. Maria survived.

but required multiple surgeries. Her batterer was quickly arrested. However, the children were removed from her custody while she was incapacitated by her injuries.

To help her recover from this tragedy, Maria turned to Tri-Valley Haven, the only comprehensive domestic violence service provider in the area. The Haven provided physical shelter and support during Maria's physical and emotional rehabilitation, including advocacy, counseling, employment and housing placement services. Maria and her children were soon reunited. The children also received counseling to help them heal from the trauma they had witnessed. Today, Maria still lives in the area and holds a full-time job. Soon her daughter will leave home to attend an Ivy League school where she intends to study law so she can assist other families that have suffered domestic violence.

Many other victims of domestic violence will be unable to access resources to assist them in achieving their independence from their abusers and potentially saving their lives.

Steve Sweeney, Livermore Chief of Police, summarizes: "I have always found the Haven to be a tremendous resource for our community. Having the ability to call upon the Haven's advocates in these crisis situations at a moment's notice brings muchneeded reassurance and refuge to innocent victims and greatly assists the police in its pursuit of justice." Demand is greater than ever for all of the Haven's services, which include the only Rape Crisis Center in the region and the only homeless shelter to accept single fathers with children as well as two parent

In the absence of substantial financial support from the state government, individual contributions to the Haven become even more essential. In its struggle to recover from the recent setbacks caused by the withdrawal of state funding for domestic violence programs, Tri-Valley Haven needs the help of the community. Visit the Tri-Valley Haven's website at www.trivalleyhaven. org or Community Building at 3663 Pacific Ave in Livermore to consider making a donation or signing up to volunteer.

Sponsors, vendors and volunteers are also needed for the Second Annual Panama Red Block Party on October 3rd in Downtown Livermore, a festive event benefiting Tri-Valley Haven. This event kicks off with Pace for Peace, a 5-K run through downtown Livermore. For further information on this event, please call Christine at (925) 667-2707.

*Name has been changed to protect identity

ELECTION

They will take office following the Nov. 3 election.

The Independent was incorrect in stating Horner was eligible for an additional two year term. He was appointed to the council to replace Tom Reitter. He served more than two years, which counts as a four year term.

The city attorney, John Pomidor, was asked about the legality of Marchand and Horner voting for themselves. Pomidor said if they were not allowed to vote, there wouldn't be a quorum. There is no financial conflict of interest. "In addition, the city has already gone through the process of holding open a period of time when others could have filed. No one has done that."

Two members of the audience commented on the lack of opposition.

Ken Bradley stated, "Some part of me says congratulations for not having to fight a battle.

Perhaps condolences are more appropriate. You have no mandate. You are in office without a single resident voting for you."

Don Miller said he was very pleased that the council would continue as it has. In addition, the city has saved the cost of the election. "If people were dissatisfied, there would have been competition."

Marchand commented on Bradley's assertion that the council did not have a mandate. He noted that every two years, the city conducts a poll of residents. Over 90 percent believe the city is a great place to live and raise a family. "A lot of people out there like the job we're doing and agree with what we are doing. I appreciate what I take to be a vote of confidence in what the council is doing.'

Horner said after the meeting, "I was happy we could save the money. The \$250,000 is the equivalent of three more police on the streets for a year."

Horner added that he felt that the major issues in Livermore have been resolved. "When I moved here in 2001, open space and growth were the main issues. They have pretty much been put to bed."

Kamena was interviewed after the meeting. He offered two theories as to why no one but incumbents filed. One, is that the city is being handled by people with whom the voters are happy. The second, people are so disenchanted, they don't want to get involved. "I sure hope it's the first reason," he stated.

Kamena added, "I do think Livermore has a long history of citizen involvement. If they are unhappy, they do something about it. He mentioned that one candidate had considered running because of an interest in the airport. However, because he

thought he probably couldn't win, he decided not to file to save the city the expense of election.

One other potential council candidate returned papers. However, he did not have enough valid signatures to qualify.

When it comes to discussing issues, Kamena said he is torn. "An election is a wonderful time to air concerns. However, I think most residents talk about them as they come up.

He pointed out that the situation of Doug Horner was unusual. "I think he is the first councilmember who will never have had to run for office. He was appointed to fill one term and then appointed to the second. He is then termed out."

As for the future, Kamena said that he is very happy with the current council. "I would like to thank the voters for the opportunity to have one more dance."

OBITUARIES

MarvAnn H. Butler

MaryAnn Butler, beloved ife of Bob Butler, died August 10, 2009 after a 3-year battle with cancer. She was born July 10, 1938. She grew up in Toledo, Ohio where she met Bob. Married June 20, 1959, they left the Midwest for Pleasanton in 1960. After a 2-year tour of active duty with the US Army, they returned to Pleasanton to stay in 1963.

A professional musician, she joined the Livermore-Amador Symphony in its first season, and played violin for 30 years. She also joined the newly formed Pleasanton Community Concert Band in 1975, and played French horn until too ill to continue. She earned her BA in education from Cal State Hayward, and her teaching credential from San Jose State. She was an enthusiastic music teacher for over 40 years. She loved children and had private students in piano. strings, and brass in her home, and taught music and drama at Sunol Glen school for 14 years until her retirement. She also loved to travel, and her retirement was filled with cruises and selfled exploration of many corners of the world.

MaryAnn is survived by Bob, her children Michael with Angela and granddaughters Meghan and Nicki of Dublin, Daniel with Brenda and grandson Christopher of Chandler, AZ, daughter MaryBeth Bochner with Jim and grandson Daniel of Livermore, John with Lisa of Grover Beach, CA, and her brother Bill Hayes with his wife Carol of Perrysberg, Ohio, and two nephews.

The family requests in lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her name to Hope Hospice, American Cancer Society, or a charity of your choice.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at St. Augustine Church, Pleasanton on August 17. Interment followed at St. Augustine Cemetery. A reception was held at St. Augustine parish hall.

Bonnie Catherine Taylor

Bonnie was born on November 16, 1921 in Arkansas, and passed away on Thursday, August 13, 2009 in Pleasanton,

CA, she was 87 years old.

her husband Ethard, her daughter was 6 months old, later Charlie Patricia and great grandchildren Dallas. She is survived by her daughters, Wanda Pischinger of Lakeside, CA, Janet Souza and Catherine Wilkinson-Gormley both of Livermore, CA. Bonnie loved her family deeply, and will be missed by all who knew her.

Funeral Services were held August 18 at Cornerstone Fellowship in Livermore. Interment followed at Roselawn Cemetery,

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

Robert George Dickinson

Livermore resident Robert George Dickinson was born on September 14, 1920 and passed away on Wednesday, August 12, 2009. He was 88 years old.

Robert was born in Oakland, CA and grew up in Pleasanton, CA, attended St. Michael's Catholic School in Livermore and graduated from Livermore High School. He enlisted in the United States Coast Guard in 1942 and served until May of 1946.

In 1956 he married Helen Bettencourt. They were married for 53 years and lived in Livermore where they raised 5 daughters.

Robert worked for Western Electric Company until he retired in 1983. He enjoyed his home workshop, carpentry and woodworking, and being outdoors. He was a life-long avid reader.

Robert is survived by his wife Helen, and his daughters Ellen Andrews, Susanna Schramski and Elizabeth Dierking of Livermore, Mary Dickinson of Alamo, and Julia Seymour of Custer, Washington. He was a proud grandfather of 8 grandchildren.

Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated on Aug. 19 at St. Michael's Catholic Church, Livermore. Interment followed at St. Michael's Cemetery.

Charles Eldon Clelland

On July 14, 2009 Charlie passed away at the age of 85, after complications from Diabetes. Charlie was born to Charles and

NOSE CIEHAHU III LOVEII. WYOming on April 9, 1924. His family She was preceded in death by moved to Livermore, when he attended Livermore Schools and graduated from Livermore High School. Charlie married his high school sweetheart; Fay, on August 21, 1943. Charlie served our country by enlisting in both the Army and Navy, serving in WWII and the Korean War. When Charlie was honorably discharged from the Armed Forces, he went on to work in many trades. Charlie was a Plumber, Custodian and Bus Driver for the Livermore School District. In 1946 Charlie became a volunteer fire fighter, later to become one of the first, full time paid Firemen in 1958. Charlie became Captain in 1967 of the Fire prevention department, and then in 1972 he became the Fire Marshall for the city of Livermore, where he served until his retirement on October 31, 1977.

Upon his retirement, Charlie and Fay lived in Lake Tahoe, Gardnerville and Sun Valley, NV. In 2007 he returned to Livermore to live out his years. Charlie was a member of the VFW, Eagles and the Elks Club. He enjoyed camping, fishing and traveling. He loved video poker and the slot machines.

Charlie was preceded in death by his wife of 61 years, Fay; granddaughter, JoAnn Cain, son-in-law, Calvin Guido, sister, Genevieve Thompson and brother, Daniel Clelland.

Charlie is survived by his daughters, Judy Gomez of Sun valley, NV and Dorothy Guido of Oakdale, CA, grandchildren, Charles (Kim) Guido of Mt. Angel, OR, Daniel (Ann Marie) Guido of Oakdale, CA and Andrew Guido of St. Paul, OR, great-grandchildren, Brandy (Sam), Laramie (Zach) and Crystal of Sun Valley, Michael, Auggie, Jesse and Brylah of St. Paul, Casey, Bailey and Coty of Mt. Angel, Daniella and Tristan of Oakdale, great great-grandchildren, Sammy, Nathan and Wesley. He is also survived by his sister; Maxine Foscalina of Livermore, and by several nieces and nephews.

Friends and family are welcome to attend an inurnment 3885 East Ave, Livermore. In lieu of flowers the fam-

ily respectfully requests memorial contributions be made to the American Diabetes Association. Arrangements by Callaghan

Mortuary.

Joan Ann Culford Rien

An elegant lady imbued with kind light and enormous talent, Joan Ann Culford Rein passed away on August 12, 2009 at the age of 76. She was born in Livermore to the late Charlotte and Lloyd Culford on October 27, 1932 and raised in Livermore. She graduated from Livermore High School with honors and went on to attend San Jose State University. Her life-long passion was art and music. She became an accomplished painter and

classical pianist and organist. Joan was one of the first women hired by the University of California, Lawrence Livermore Laboratory as a draftsman and technical illustrator. She retired after fifteen years in 1978. From 1982 to 1995, she served as the bookkeeper for the Law Offices of Timothy B. Rein in Livermore. In 1993, Joan moved to Oakdale,, where she became active in the Oak Valley Art Society and was a featured organist and pianist at the Community United Method-

for both Charlie and Fay on ist Church. She loved reading and August 22, 2009 at 11 a.m. at St. bridge and the many friends she Michael's Catholic Cemetery, made and kept despite beating them at bridge.

Joan is survived by a sister, Marilyn Athenour (Robert) of Pleasanton; sons Timothy B. Rien of Pleasanton and Toby L. Rien (Corrine) of Clovis, and adopted sons, David J. Rien (Melanie) of Houston, Texas, Thomas M. Rien of Saratoga, and Richard R. Rien (Susan) of Sacramento; nephews Karl Vargas (Laurinda) of Oakdale and Thomas Athenour (Jill) of Denver, Colorado, a niece Ann Athenour Martin (Eric) of Pleasanton, ten grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Joan's name and memory to United Methodist Women or the music program at the Community Methodist Church, 1480 Poplar Street, Oakdale, CA 95361, and Community Hospice, 4368 Spyres

Way, Modesto, CA 95356. A memorial service will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Fri., Aug. 21 at the Community Methodist Church, 1480 Poplar Street, Oakdale, followed the same day by a public graveside memorial in Livermore at Memory Gardens Cemetery, 3873 East Ave., at 3:30 p.m.

Juanita "Nita" L. Pilcher Livermore resident Juanita "Nita" L. Pilcher died Aug. 1 2009. Nita was born on 9/23/1933 in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. After moving to Wenatchee Wash. she met and married Robert W. Pilcher.

She leaves her son Robert E. (Linda) and Theresa (Richard), 7 grandkids and 3 great grandkids. Her son Charles (Barbara "Samantha") predeceased her.

The family moved to the S.F. Bay Area. She worked as a private duty nurse who took great pride in her knowledge/skills. She worked many years for high powered and influential people in the Menlo/Atherton Area. Nita later met her life partner Edward Walters. They lived, loved, laughed and traveled the world together. Sadly her most important patient turned out to be Ed. She took care of him until he lost his battle with cancer. In 2006 she moved from Menlo Park to Livermore, Ca. to be closer to her daughter Theresa and family. In the last few years of her life she became the family matriarch, boasting that none of us would be here without her. And now none of us will be the same without her.

A small private memorial is being held.

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SHORT NOTES

Bee Show

"Uncle Jer's Bee Show" brings the fascinating world of honey bees up close at the Pleasanton Public Library on Saturday, September 5. Professional beekeepers Gerald and Ellen Johnson present an interactive program of photos, beeswax and honeycombs, a taste of honey, and hives of working bees as they discuss the life of bees and the art of beekeeping. Fresh raw honey will be available for purchase after the show.

This program will run from 2:00-3:00 pm. It is for ages 5 and older, with no registration required. For more information, please call the Children's Desk at (925) 931-3400 ext. 8.

Nature Program

Crepuscular Creatures is the topic of a nature program presented by the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District ranger staff on Sun., Aug. 23.

Meet Ranger Patti Cole at 7 p.m. at the Wetmore Road entrance to Sycamore Grove Park. During this evening hike participants will learn about the critters that are most active at dusk/dawn. This program may include extended periods of time when the group will be silent and still. Reserve a spot by calling 925-960-2400.

There is a \$4 per vehicle parking fee. A \$2 donation is requested to help support the programs. Participants may call 925-960-2400 for more information.

Event Cancelled

"Lark in the Park," scheduled for Aug. 22, has been cancelled. The program featured a tour

led my a museum docent and is sponsored by Pleasanton's Museum On Main. For more

information, contact (925) 462-2766 or office@museumonmain. org or visit the website www. museumonmain.org.

Mount Diablo Programs

Save Mount Diablo upcoming hikes and events on and around Mount Diablo are designed to raise public awareness, appreciation, and support to preserve natural lands on and around the mountain.

Events and hikes:

Moonlight on the Mountain (Save Mount Diablo), Save Mount Diablo will host its seventh annual "Moonlight on the Mountain" on Saturday, September 13, 2008. This special, one-of-a-kind event for 500 guests includes drinks and hors d'oeuvres, silent and live auction, elegant sit-down dinner, and live music. "Moonlight on the Mountain" takes place outdoors on a flat plateau next to the dramatic rock formations of China Wall, with a spectacular view of undeveloped rolling hills and the summit of Mount Diablo-all under the light of the rising moon. Tickets available through the Save Mount Diablo Office at 925-974-3535. Advanced RSVP

Save Lime Ridge's Peak Hike (Save Mount Diablo), Saturday Aug. 22, 2009. 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM Leaders: Troy Bristol, Land Conservation Assoc. and George Philips, Save Mount Diablo Intern. Ohlone Trail to Blue Oak Trail to Lime Ridge Trail to Paraiso Trail to Ohlone Trail. Distance: 4.25 mile loop. Elevation Gain: 675'. Time: 2.5-3.5 hours. Bring water, layers, sunscreen and a snack, No dogs are allowed in this section of Lime Ridge. Information go to www.savemountdiablo.org

Star Mine Under the Stars

(East Bay Regional Park District), Sunday August 30, 2009, 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm, Leader: Naturalist "Outdoor Ed" 510-544-2768, ewillis@ebparks.org. Hike Star Mine Trail and explore Prospect Tunnel in the park's remote east end. Carpool to the group camp site to begin our journey. Parking limited to eight vehicles. Registration Required: 1-888-EBPARKS option 2, 3 course #22061

Save Lime Ridge's Peak Hike (Save Mount Diablo), Saturday Sept. 13, 2009, Time: 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM, Leaders: Troy Bristol, Land Conservation Assoc. and George Philips, Save Mount Diablo Intern. Ohlone Trail to Blue Oak Trail to Lime Ridge Trail to Paraiso Trail to Ohlone Trail. Distance: 4.25 mile loop. Elevation Gain: 675'. Time: 2.5-3.5 hours. Bring water, layers, sunscreen and a snack, No dogs are allowed in this section of Lime Ridge. www.savemountdiablo.org

Save Lime Ridge's Peak Hike (Save Mount Diablo), Saturday Aug. 22, 2009, Time: 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM, Leader: Seth Adams, Director of Land Programs. Ohlone Trail to Blue Oak Trail to Lime Ridge Trail to Paraiso Trail to Ohlone Trail. Distance: 4.25 mile loop. Elevation Gain: 675'. Time: 2.5-3.5 hours. Bring water, layers, sunscreen and a snack, No dogs are allowed in this section of Lime Ridge. www. savemountdiablo.org

Mount Diablo Challenge (Save Mount Diablo), The Mount Diablo Challenge is a 10.8 mile timed bike ride, starting at Athenian School in Danville and climbing up Southgate Road 3,249 feet to the summit of Mount Diablo. 1,000 cycling enthusiasts compete and prizes are awarded for several categories in a ceremony

at the summit with food and beverages for all. All proceeds benefit Save Mount Diablo's land conservation efforts. Registration cost is \$55.00. To register please visit www.savemountdiablo.org or www.active.com. No day of event registration.

Rummage Sale

Iron Horse Mothers Club (IHMC) will hold their 3rd Annual IHMC Rummage Sale on Saturday, September 19 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Iron Horse Middle School. All proceeds will benefit the Family Emergency Shelter Coalition (FESCO).

IHMC is a local memberled group for mothers and their children ages newborn through six. The rummage sale, which is organized by IHMC's Outreach Committee, has raised more than \$8,500 for charities in the last two years. Each year, the committee selects a not-for-profit organization to receive 100% of the proceeds from the sale. First Place for Youth and the Child Abuse Prevention Council of Contra Costa County benefited from the sale in years past.

The IHMC Rummage Sale is open to the public. Merchandise will include gently used clothes and gear for babies and kids, including: Sizes newborn through 6 (including name brands), strollers, swings, car seats, bouncers, highchairs and more, indoor and outdoor toys, and books, videos and games

For more information about FESCO, visit the website www. fescofamilyshelter.org.

Avoid the 21

The two smallest police departments in Alameda County are staging half the sobriety checkpoints scheduled for Avoid the 21's summer crackdown on drunk and drugged drivers.

Fifteen officers work for the California State University, East Bay Police Dept., while 19 serve Piedmont. Cal State's checkpoint is set for Saturday, Aug. 29. Piedmont's will be held Sunday, Sept. 6; it is the department's first.

Other checkpoints are set for Alameda on Saturday, Aug. 22, and Newark on Friday, Aug. 28. All checkpoints start in midto-late evening and end past midnight.

Avoid the 21 is part of a statewide and nationwide summer mobilization with the theme "DUI. Over the Limit. Under Arrest." It is organized by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The 18-day event starts Friday, Aug. 21, and ends Monday, Sept. 7.

"Even small departments can run checkpoints because Avoid the 21 shares officers and equipment," said Chief Janeith Glenn-Davis of CSU. "Interagency cooperation is Avoid the 21's tradition."

Hayward and Livermore police, along with others, will supply officers to hand out educational material and talk to drivers. A grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration covers police overtime and a checkpoint trailer that carries signs, traffic cones and lights. The trailer is marked with graphics from local police departments.

'We do have a major thoroughfare where most of our DUI arrests and crashes happen," said Capt. Scott Wyatt of the Piedmont police. "DUI is a killer and we must educate as many people as we can.'

Wyatt and Glenn-Davis cited benefits to the community through education on the crime and arrest of dangerous drivers and to their officers for on-thestreet training and for building working relationships with other police departments.

Swim Hours

The summer recreational swim hours for the pools at the Robert Livermore Community Center have new extended hours for late-August to early-September.

The new hours for Aug. 24 to Sept. 4 will have both pools open from 3 to 6 p.m. Discounted from the regular rate, recreational swim will be \$2 for everyone during this week. Recreational swim will still be available in September, from 4 to 6 p.m. Fridays and from noon to 6 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Recreational swim will also be open on Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 7, from 1 to 5 p.m.

The lap pool will remain open for lap swim Monday through Saturday this fall. Check the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District Web site for hours or the Fall Classes & Programs Brochure. Starting in September, LARPD will offer fall swim lessons, youth swim conditioning, synchronized swimming, home school physical education, Toddler Time, water exercise and more. Other aquatics classes and programs available this fall through LARPD include lifeguard training and team water

The Robert Livermore Community Center Pools are located at 4444 East Ave., Livermore, with pool parking on Loyola Way. For more information, visit www.larpd.dst.ca.us or call 925-373-5751.

NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

the County Clerk of Alameda

on July 23, 2009. Expires July

The Independent Legal No

2546. Publish August 6, 13,

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS

NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.427494

The following person(s) doing

business as:Gamma Salon

739 Main Street Ste H., Pleas-

anton Ca 94566 is hereby

registered by the following

Armen A. Gasparyan, 11

Brookline Drive, Novato CA

This business is conducted

The registrant began to trans-

act business under the ficti-

above on July 29, 2009.

Signature of Registrant:

/s/:Armen A. Gasparvan

This statement was filed with

the County Clerk of Alameda

on July 29, 2009, Expires July

The Independent Legal No

2547. Publish August 6, 13,

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS

NAME STATEMENT

Chabot Drive #102. Pleasan-

This statement was filed with

the County Clerk of Alameda

on July 8, 2009. Expires July

The Independent Legal No

2548. Publish August 6, 13,

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS

NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 427413

The following person(s) do-

ing business as:Pems Totes

& More, 7950 Kemper Ct.,

Pleasanton Ca 94588 is here-

by registered by the following

Mary Jo Evans, 7950 Kemper

This business is conducted

egistrant has not yet begun

to transact business under

the fictitious business name

Ct., Pleasanton Ca 94588

owner(s):

by:an Individual

or names listed.

/s/:Judv B. Llovd

23, 2014,

owner(s):

94949

29, 2014.

by:an Individual

www.independentnews.com

LEGAL NOTICES FOR INFORMATION

CONTACT BARBARA @ FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 426906 The following person(s) doing business as:Little Caesars, 7387 Village Parkway, Dublin Ca 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): SMS Business Enterprises,

Inc., 1888 Paprika Dr., Brentwood Ca 94513 This business is conducted by:a Corporation Registrant has not vet begun the fictitious business name

or names listed.

Signature of Registrant: /s/:Kiran Nagpal This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 13, 2009. Expires July 13. 2014.

The Independent Legal No. 2542. Publish July 30, August

6, 13, 20, 2009 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 427306

FILE NO.426784-426785 The following person(s) doing The following person(s) doing business as: Mindful Movebusiness as:1)Altamont Strat ments, 441 Swan Dr., Liveregies, 2) Division of Altamont more CA 94551 is hereby Solutions,Inc., 4637 Chabot registered by the following Drive, Suite 102, Pleasantor owner(s): Ca 94588 is hereby registered Nicolee Molin Handlin, 441 by the following owner(s): Swan Dr., Livermore Ca Altamont Solutions, Inc., 4637

94551 This business is conducted by:an Individual Registrant has not yet begun

This business is conducted by:a Corporation to transact business under The registrant began to transthe fictitious business name act business under the fictior names listed. tious business name (s) listed Signature of Registrant above on May 1, 2009. /s/:Nicolee Molin Handlin Signature of Registrant:

This statement was filed with on July 24, 2009. Expires July 24. 2014. The Independent Legal No.

2543. Publish August 6, 13, 20, 27, 2009. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 427289

The following person(s) doing business as:Easy To Be Green, 1763 DeLeon Way, registered by the following owner(s):

Therese Sherwin, 1763 De-Leon Way, Livermore Ca 94550 This business is conducted

by:an Individual The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name (s) listed above on Julv 22. 2009. Signature of Registrant:

FILE NO. 427260

The following person(s) doing

business as:LAI & Associ-

ates, 3300 Powell Street, Ste

109, Emeryville Ca 94608

is hereby registered by the

Pamela Y. Li, 355 Calle La

Montana, Moraga CA 94556

This business is conducted

The registrant began to trans-

act business under the ficti-

tious business name (s) listed

This statement was filed with

above on July 15, 2009.

Signature of Registrant:

following owner(s):

/s/:Therese Sherwin Signature of Registrant: This statement was filed with /s/:Mary Jo Evans the County Clerk of Alameda This statement was filed with on July 23, 2009. Expires July the County Clerk of Alameda 23. 2014. The Independent Legal No. on July 28, 2009. Expires July

2544. Publish August 6, 13, 28. 2014. The Independent Legal No. 2550. Publish August 6, 13, FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 427421 The following person(s) doing

business as:Formations De signs, 3421 Cornerstone Ct #205, Pleasanton Ca 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Georgia Quinlan, 3421 Cornerstone Ct. #205, Pleasanton Ca 94566

This business is conducted by:an Individual Registrant has not vet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name

or names listed. Signature of Registrant:

/s/:Georgia Quinlan This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 28, 2009. Expires July

The Independent Legal No. 2551. Publish August 6, 13,

20, 27, 2009 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.427553

The following person(s) doing business as: Hands On Earth Friendly Carpet Cleaning, 2259 Camino Brazos, Pleasanton CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following

Edwin Purselle, 2259 Camino Brazos, Pleasanton Ca 94566

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/:Edwin Purselle This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda

on July 31, 2009. Expires July 31, 2014. The Independent Legal No.

2552. Publish August 13, 20,

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.427093

The following person(s) doing business as: Corporos, 822 So. M Street, Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jane P. Bearinger, 822 So. M Street, Livermore Ca 94550 This business is conducted by:an Individual The registrant began to trans-

act business under the fictitious business name (s) listed above on March 1, 2009. Signature of Registrant: /s/:Jane P. Bearinger This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 20, 2009. Expires July

20, 2014. The Independent Legal No. 2553. Publish August 13, 20, 27 September 3, 2009

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.427961-427963

The following person(s) doing business as:1)The Bidness Group, 2)LonelyGrower. com, 3)TheLonelyGrower. com. 3903 Silver Oaks Way. Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Matthew Paul Frederick Viz-

carra, 7580 Commerce Blvd. #3, Cotati Ca 94931 Michael Raymond KISSLING, 3903 SILVER OAKS WAY, LIVERMORE CA 94550 This business is conducted by:a General partnership Registrant has not vet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name

or names listed. Signature of Registrant: /s/:Matthew P. Vizcarra and Michael R. Kissling This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 11, 2009. Expires August 11, 2014. The Independent Legal No. 2557. Publish August 20, 27, September 3, 10, 2009.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.427927 The following person(s) doing business as:Big Chief Clothing, 565 Tawny Drive, Pleas-anton CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s) Kevin Lowell Stephens Coon,

565 Tawny Drive, Pleasanton Ca 94566 This business is conducted by:an Individual The registrant began to trans-

act business under the fictitious business name (s) listed above on August 7, 2009 Signature of Registrant: /s/:Kevin Lowell Stephens

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 10, 2009. Expires August 10. 2014 The Independent Legal No. 2558. Publish August 20, 27,

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.427492

The following person(s) doing business as: American Cab of Tri-Valley, 440 Boulder Ct. #C100. Pleasanton CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Wahidullah Aslami, 1609 Bermuda Ln., Manteca Ca 95337

This business is conducted by:an Individual The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name (s) listed above on July 29, 2009.

Signature of Registrant: /s/:Wahidullah Aslami This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 29, 2009. Expires July 29. 2014.

The Independent Legal No. 2561. Publish August 20, 27, **FICTITIOUS BUSINESS**

FILE NO.427285 The following person(s) doing business as:Surkiss Entertainment, 663 Everglades Lane. Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kris Marmoll, 663 Everglades Lane, Livermore Ca 94550

This business is conducted by:an Individual The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name (s) listed

above on July 23, 2009. Signature of Registrant: /s/:Kris Marmoll This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 23, 2009. Expires July

The Independent Legal No. 2562. Publish August 20, 27, FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.427820 The following person(s) do-

ing business as:Affordable Hot Tubs Now, 3557 A First Street, Livermore CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Pacific Machinery Corp. Inc., 3557 A First Street, Livermore Ca 94551 This business is conducted by:a Corporation The registrant began to transact business under the ficti-

tious business name (s) listed above on April 29, 2009. Signature of Registrant: /s/:Joseph Borges, Jr. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 6, 2009, Expires August 6, 2014. The Independent Legal No 2563. Publish August 20, 27. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS

NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.427840

The following person(s) doing business as:Ma Maison Française, 1656 Calcite Ct. Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Stephanie A. King, 1656 Cal-

cite Ct., 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/:Stephanie A. King This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 07, 2009. Expires August 07, 2014. The Independent Legal No.

2564. Publish August 20, 27. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.427841

The following person(s) doing business as:Kolac Foods Corporation, 61 Azurite Way, Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kolac Foods Corporation. 61 Azurite Way, Livermore

Ca 94550 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/:Andrew Choi This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 07, 2009. Expires August 07, 2014. The Independent Legal No.

2565. Publish August 20, 27, **FICTITIOUS BUSINESS** NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.427613 The following person(s) doing business as:Erin Lang hotography, 161 Bellington Common #3. Livermore Ca 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Erin Lang, 161 Bellington Common #3, Livermore Ca

This husiness 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/:Erin Lang

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 03, 2009. Expires August 03, 2014. The Independent Legal No. 2566. Publish August 20, 27, NOTICE OF APPLICATION

TO

SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES Date of Filing Application: July 8, 2009 To Whom It May Concern: The Names(s) of the **EDDIE PAPAS LIVERMORE** -PARTNERSHIP The Applicants listed above are applying to the Depart-

erages at: 2389-2417 1ST ST LIVERMORE, CA 94550-Type of license(s) Applied 47 - ON SALE GENERAL

ment of Alcoholic Beverage

Control to sell alcoholic bev-

EATING PLACE Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control 1515 Clay St. Ste 2208 Oakland, Ca 94612 (510) 622-4970 The Independent Legal No. 2549 Publish August 6, 13, SUMMONS

> CASE NO. HG0943226 (Numero dell Caso):

(CITACION JUDICIAL)

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY (Lo Esta Demandando El Demandante):

DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo. ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the

case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia. org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www. courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. Tiene 30 DIAS DE CALEN-DARIO despues de que le entrequen esta citacion y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia

al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefonica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que hava un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y mas informacion en el Centro de Avuda de las Cortes de California (www.courtinfo. ca.gov/selfhelp/espanol/), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentacion, pida al secretario de la corte que le de un formulario de exencion de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podra quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin rent Contracting Opportunities

Internet website at www. Hay otros requisitos legales. acgov.org. Es recomendable que llame a 8/20/09 un abogado inmediatamente. CNS-1667687# Si no conoce a un abogado, The Independent Legal No. puede llamar a un servicio de 2559. Publish August 20,

mas advertencia.

remision a abogados. Si no NOTICE OF INVITING BIDS puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con Notice is hereby given that sealed competitive bids will los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (Aviso Al Demandado): **ÎVAN PALOMINO**

California, (www.courtinfo. ca.gov/selfhelp/espanol/) o ADRIANA CÁLVA poniendose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abo-You have 30 CALENDAR gados locales. The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y direccion de la corte es): SUPERIOR COURT OF **CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF** ALAMEDA 24405 AMADOR STREET, HAYWARD, CA 94544 HAYWARD HALL OF JUSTICE The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la direccion y el numero de telefono del abogado del de-

mandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): ARTHUR A. NAVARETTE, ESQ. (SBN 159973) LAW OFFICES OF AR-

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sitio web de California Legal

Services. (www.lawhelp-

california.org),en el Centro

de Ayuda de las Cortes de

THUR ALBERT NAVA-RETTE 1625 THE ALAMEDA, Suite 700 SAN JOSE, CA 951216 408-275-9500

DATE:(Fecha) January 23, **Bv: PAT SWEETEN** Clerk:(Secretario) GRACIELA PACHECO Deputy:(Adjunto)

NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served as an individual defendant. The Independent Legal No. 2554. Publish August 13, 20, NOTICE OF INVITING BIDS

Notice is hereby given that sealed competitive bids will be accepted in the office of the GSA-Purchasing Department, County of Alameda, 1401 Lakeside Drive, Suite 907. Oakland, CA 94612 NETWORKING/NORTH COUNTY BIDDERS CON-FERENCE RFQ #900581 - SHUTTLE BUS. Fridav August 21, 2009, 10:00 a.m. - Lakeside Plaza Building 1401 Lakeside Drive, Rm 1107, 11th floor, Oakland CA NETWORKING/SOUTH COUNTY BIDDERS CON-FERENCE RFQ #900581 - SHUTTLE BUS, Monday August 24, 2009, 2:00 p.m - Public Works Agency, 4825 Gleason Drive, Main Conference Room, Dublin, CA Responses Due by 2:00 pm on September 30, 2009 County Contact : Dan Mermelstein (510) 208-9619 or via email: dan.mermelstein@acgov. ora Attendance at Networking Conference is Non-manda tory. Specifications and bid copies regarding the above may be obtained at the Cur-

be accepted in the office of the GSA-Purchasing Department County of Alameda, 1401 Lakeside Drive, 9th Floor, Oak land, CA 94612 MANDATO-RY PRE-BID CONFERENCE AND SITE VISIT- S. County of Justice Seismic Retrofit Thursday, August 27, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. - Fremont Hall of Justice, 39439 Paseo Padre Parkway, First Floor Lobby remont, CA Attendance at the Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference is required Responses Due by 2:00 pm on Contact: David Savellano at (510) 208-9695 or via email: David.Savellano@acgov. org Information regarding the above may be obtained at the Current Contracting

at www.acgov.org or East Bay Blue Print, 1745 14th Avenue Oakland, CA. CNS-1667557# The Independent Legal No. 2560. Publish August 20,

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NEWS AND NOTICES

Making Sure Your **Buyer Is Qualified** And Committed

You have fixed up your property to sell. You hired a great Realtor. Together, you've priced it right. Now you have more than one purchase offer.

This was not something you anticipated. How do you know which offer to accept?

Price, of course, is an important consideration. You want to yield as much as possible from the sale of your home. Terms also matter – a sales price of \$500,000 with credits to

the buyer of \$15,000 for closing costs is less attractive than an offer of \$490,000 with no credits. But price and terms are not the only factors the seller and agent

need to consider. The best offer in the world is worthless if the prospective buyer does not complete the sale. Plenty of obstacles can stand in the way of a successful trans-

- the buyer may not be able to obtain a mortgage;
- the property may not appraise at the agreed-upon price;

• the buyers may discover something about the property in the inspection process that leads them to back out; or • the buyers may not have been earnest in the first place.

"I had something fall through on one of my listings awhile back," said Belva Mayfield, an experienced Realtor with Re/Max Accord in Livermore. "The buyer was contingent on closing escrow on their townhouse. But the buyers of the townhouse walked, so they couldn't do it. That left my sellers without a deal."

In some cases, buyers cannot obtain financing. Lending has eased up significantly from a year ago, when it

The Bay East Association of Realtors recommends sellers determine the buyer's financial status before signing a contract. Most listing agents will advise clients to consider offers only from buyers who have been pre-approved for a mortgage. In fact,

could be difficult for even the most qualified buyers to obtain

financing. But lenders are still more restrictive than in the past.

before they will even show them property. But sellers may also want to dig deeper, verifying the buyer has sufficient funds for downpayment and closing costs, for

many buyers' agents insist their clients be at least pre-qualified

As in any other field, some mortgage specialists are more

knowledgeable, dependable and experienced than others. Sellers – especially on bank-owned or short sale properties sometimes insist buyers be pre-approved by their own specialists. Some agents, too, encourage their clients to use lenders they

know will get the job done. "Especially with inexperienced buyers, you might want to steer them to your lender to get a check up," Mayfield said. "They don't have to use them, but if the other lender can't perform, we

have a back up. But even experienced mortgage specialists can run into prob-

The better qualified the buyer, the surer the deal.

Realtors may advise their clients to accept a lower offer if the prospective buyer has a larger downpayment, for example. Mortgages with 20 percent or higher downpayments are easier to obtain, and often have fewer restrictions that could affect a quick close, than mortgages in which the buyers only put in a small

amount of their own money. Sometimes the highest offer is not the best offer because it is so far above market value the appraisal will not support the agreed-to price. In these cases, either the buyer must come in with a larger downpayment, the seller must agree to reduce the price to meet the appraised value, or the sale will not be completed.

Sellers and their agents should consider how realistic an offer is before accepting it to avoid such a scenario. Beyond issues with financing and appraisals, however, some

buyers may simply be more sincere in their desire to purchase your property than others. In some areas and at certain price points, inventory is so low

that the competition is fierce. "Some buyers have an attitude that we'll just make offers on 16 properties and see which one sticks," Mayfield said. "There seems to be so many people out there that some of these

over the place. That may be a sincere buyer, but it's not necessarily somebody who is going to stick with your property.' For this reason, Mayfield looks not just at the buyers' qualifica-

buyers are in a desperation mode. They are putting offers out all

tions, but also at their level of commitment. Buyers typically include an "earnest deposit" of 1 to 3 percent of the purchase price with an offer. That money is deposited in

escrow when the offer is accepted by the seller. "I have one situation in which the buyers are putting the entire downpayment in as a deposit. Those are committed buyers," Mayfield said.

If buyers walk away from the deal for a legitimate reason before the removal of contingencies, the earnest deposit is returned to them. But when buyers simply fail to complete a transaction for no fault of the seller and after contingencies are removed, the seller may be able to keep that money as compensation.

"The bigger the deposit, the more strength it gives it," May-

This becomes problematic with short sales, in which the offer must be accepted by the bank in addition to the sellers.

The banks can take weeks – in some cases, months – to decide. Many buyers do not want to tie up their earnest deposit money for that long. But if they don't, it's likely they will find another property and simply walk away from the transaction. 'They should be willing to put their money in the escrow at

the time the offer is accepted by the seller," Mayfield said. Whether short sale or straight sale, commitment is key. When buyers and sellers are qualified and committed, their Realtors and mortgage specialist can guide them through a smooth

> Cher Wollard is a Realtor with Windermere Welcome Home realty, Livermore.

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EDIBLE

(continued from page one)

removal.

The most important materials are the fruit trees, berry bushes, and other plants, which will be coming from Alden Lane Nursery in Livermore. The nursery sponsored the contest for the "Edible Landscape Makeover."

Backyard gardens can be disorderly, with arbitrary decisions about where to put the lettuce and cabbages, beets and carrots. It can appear in disarray, and the public walking past on the sidewalk won't notice. Having an edible landscape in the front yard requires good design, which is where Susan Ballinger came in.

Ballinger has owned her own landscape design business for 11 years. She has designed a backyard edible landscape, but this is her first in a front yard.

Ballinger likes the teaching aspect of having the garden in the front yard. Neighbors will walk by, ask Ertel about the food, and may be inspired to start one themselves.

"If you are going to water and fertilize, why not grow food at the same time. You can have it be beautiful, and it can bring neighbors together," said Ballinger.

bors together, said Alden Lane Nursery owner Jacquie Williams Courtright. She screened the contest entries to make sure that the winner would be OK with drawing a crowd, at least among neighbors, and maybe from

people driving past, too. Courtright said that whoever was destined to win the contest would go "from a very quiet lifestyle to one with lots of conversation going on with folks coming by.'

Ertel, who lives at the corner of 8th and H streets, said he is all for people stopping by. "This is a friendly neighborhood, a nice walk-around neighborhood. We can show that you can have a front yard that looks really nice, but is not a traditional lawn. This is a perfect neighborhood to do it," he said.

Ertel has lived in other regions of the United States, but in Livermore "I didn't like to have a lawn out front. I don't think they are practical in this environment. Too much watering." The irrigation system in the new landscaping will be directly on the soil, so water will be conserved.

Ertel's essay about why he wanted an edible landscape put

LIVERMORE

decision was sealed after Alden Lane staff investigated other top qualifiers. They found that Ertel's property had the best soil and sunlight conditions for the

"It's something that I'd like to do, but didn't have the talent to do. It's a fantastic opportunity. I'm grateful for what they are doing," said Ertel.

History of Edible Landscape

ible landscaping is as old as gardening itself and has undergone a recent revival. Ancient Persian gardens combined both edible and ornamental plants. Medieval monastic gardens included fruits, vegetables, flowers, and medicinal herbs. Plans for 19th century English suburban yards, which modeled themselves after country estates, often included edible fruits and berries. In the past two decades, however, there has been a revival of interest in edible landscaping.

Reasons to incorporate edible plants into the residential landscape include the following:

kind of pesticides and herbicides

used on the foods.e

available in stores.

• Increase food security.

• Save on grocery bills.

natural world, and have fun.

· Grow unusual varieties not

• Get outside, interact with the

The project is expected to be finished in about three or four weeks. Fruit trees will line the curb on both the 8th Street and H Street sides of Ertel's property. Blueberry bushes will be in a shadier spot in the front yard. Other food will include grapes, apples, cherries, tomatoes, kumquats, and some herbs.

According to the Internet, ed-

- · The freshness and flavor of home-grown, fully ripened fruits and vegetables.
- Control the quantity and

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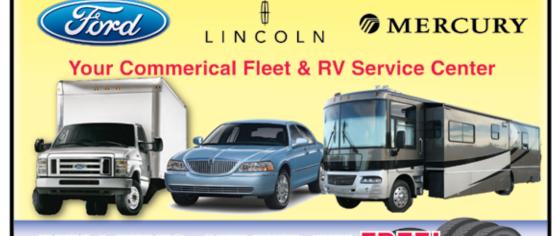


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Pleasanton \$1,688,888 Gorgeous contemporary 5bd plus custom home. Over 4400+/-st, 4 car garage,1+/- acre lot. Remodeled kitchen, stainless steel appliances, updated baths.

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Beautiful 3bd/2ba, has sparkling pool with outdoor kitchen, huge indoor remodeled kitchen, remodeled baths. Close to schools



\$969,000 Wonderful Welch! Sparkling saltwater pebble-tach pool 4bd/3ba on a 9407+/-sf lot. Numerous upgrades/lush green lawns.

CHESTER HALL 583-1111

Hayward \$475,000 Adorable 3bd/2ba 1780+/-sf Stratford Village home in Cul-De-Sac. Has 2 car garage and a fireplace.

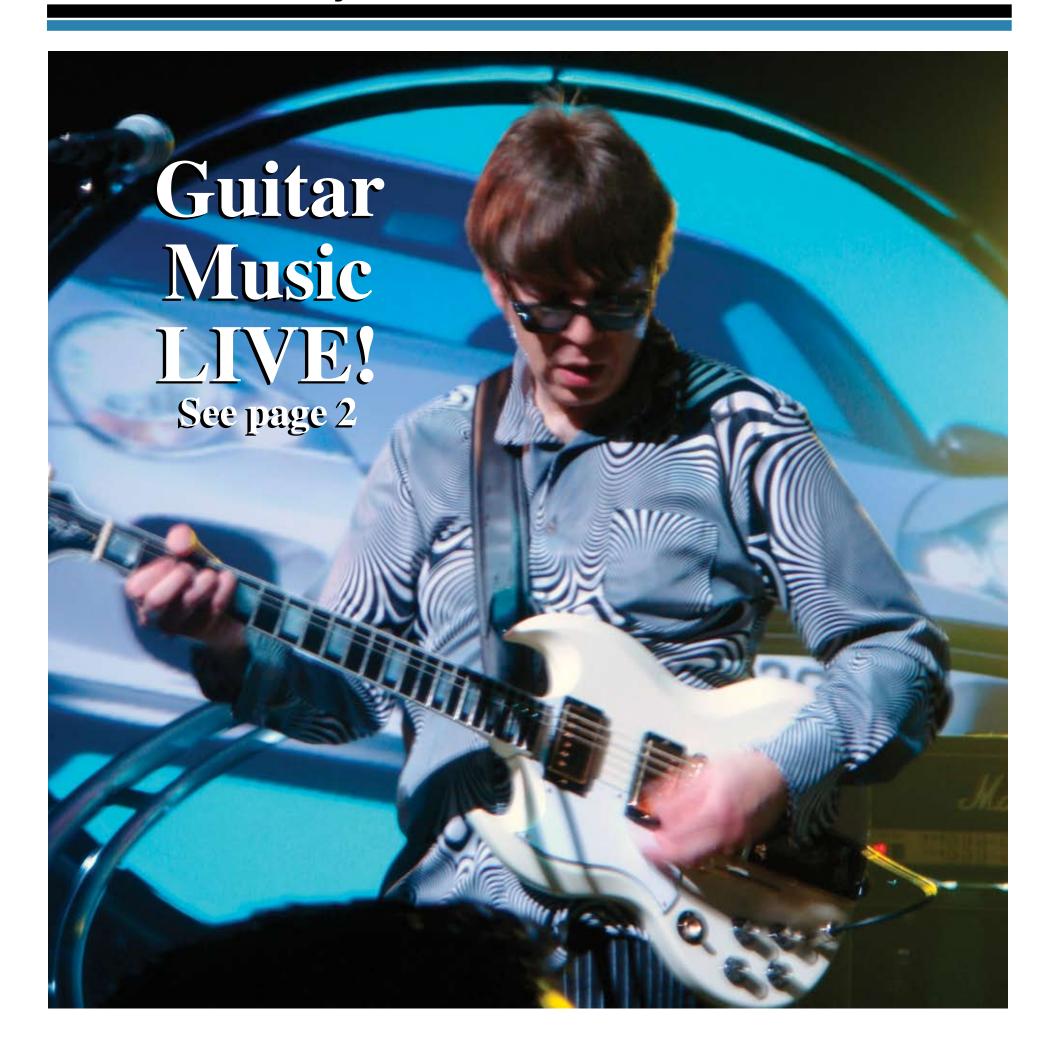


\$844,000 4bd/3ba+bonus/private 3680+/-sf. Upgraded kitchen with granite/stainless/crown mold-Bam-floors. ing/plantation shutters. boo wood/custom tile



Livermore \$449,950 3bd with 2 updated baths, tile entry, new stainless steel appliances, granite counter, maple cabinets, surround sound, new carpet, central HVAC, pool/spa.

Art, Community, & Education



Superstar Competition Highlights Guitar Player LIVE!

Now in its fifth year, *Guitar Player's* Guitar Superstar competition will be the centerpiece of Guitar Player LIVE!, a 3-day celebration of guitars, music, and gear presented by the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center in Livermore on Saturday, September 12.

Ten finalists have been selected from among hundreds of entries to battle for the international title of "Guitar Superstar." Across the globe, hundreds of "unknown" guitarists of all ages and styles answered the call to post their best performances at sonicbids.com. Ten finalists were chosen to perform onstage in front of a live audience and a panel of world-famous guitar stars that includes Elliot Easton (The Cars), Jennifer Batten (guitarist for Michael Jackson, Jeff Beck), Steve Lukather (Toto), and Greg Hampton, (producer of Alice Cooper, Ronnie Wood, Lita Ford). Host of this year's big event is Brendon Small, (co-creator of Adult's Swim's *Metalocalypse* animated series).

The celebrity judges will evaluate each original performance, and rate each contestant on technique, creativity, charisma, and overall vibe. At the end of the night, the 2009 *Guitar Player*'s Guitar Superstar will be crowned, along with two runner-ups.

Jim Fuselli, rock critic of the *Wall Street Journal* wrote about last year's competition: "...I admired the contestants. With their reputations on the line in front of Mr. Satriani, Mr. Vai and the other judges, they performed with conviction."

Vicki Genfan, the reigning Guitar Superstar, will perform at the competition before handing over her crown, and will also play on Sunday, September 13 at 3 pm along with Laurence Juber and Jennifer Batten.

"It's a dream to launch a weekend-long celebration of guitar with Guitar Player LIVE! and our fifth Guitar Superstar event," says *Guitar Player* Editor in Chief Michael Molenda. "If you're a guitar zealot, it's like some 6-string Woodstock—total badass madness, from Friday night's opening Shrapnel Records concern starring Richie Kotzen, Michael Lee Firkins, and Chris Duarte, to bands rockin' hard all along the Livermore plaza, to Guitar Superstar on Saturday, to Sunday's Triple Threat Guitar show with GPGS 08 champ Vicki Genfan, Jennifer Batten, and Laurence Juber."

The ten finalists, representing a wide range of guitar styles ranging from rock to country are: Dave Benzinger, Brodie Cumming, Brian Davidson, Hercules Castro, Danny Jones, Steve Langemo, Steve Senes, Krisz Simonfalvi, Doug Towle, and Jeff Zampillo. The contestants will perform with the GPGS house band Thud Factor, music directed by *Bass Player* Editor Jonathan Herrera.

All ten contestants receive an all-expenses paid trip to the San Francisco Bay Area. The winner, First Runner-Up and Second Runner-Up of the event will receive custom trophies and complete gear packages. The champion will receive a feature article in *Guitar Player* magazine and prizes from event



Judges include Elliot Easton of The Cars (cover photo) and Jennifer Batten, guitarist for Michael Jackson.

sponsors—including Harman International–Digitech, Mesa Boogie, Taylor Guitars, D'Addario, Planet Waves, GBase, Line 6, Sennheiser, Washburn, Randall and Gallien Kruger.

The competition takes place Saturday, September 12, 8:00 p.m. at the Bankhead Theater, Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center, 2400 First Street, Livermore. Admission is \$23.00. Tickets can be ordered online at www.bankheadtheater.org or call 925-373-6800.

Guitar Player LIVE! includes concerts at the Bankhead Theater and free performances by well-known regional bands and exhibitor endorsees on four outdoor stages.

Another highlight will be an exhibition of Bill Owens' photographs commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Altamont Raceway Free Concert. To cap off the festival evenings, several local taverns and restaurants will also host local band performances, and the Vine Cinema will feature a special run of classic and cult guitar films.

- Shrapnel Records Guitar Night Friday, September 11 at 8 p.m.
- Guitar Player's Guitar Superstar Competition Finals Saturday, September 12 at 8 p.m.
- Triple Threat Guitar Featuring Laurence Juber, Jennifer Batten, Vicki Genfan Sunday, September 13 at 3 p.m.

For packages, call the box office at 925-373-6800.

Rainbow Girls Rock For Kids

By Laura Haley

Livermore Assembly, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, is having a Rock-a-thon to help raise money for the Bay Area Crisis Nursery, an organization that helps prevent neglect and abuse of children by supporting families during a time of stress or crisis.

The Bay Area Crisis Nursery is the state service project for all Rainbow Assemblies in California for the 2009-2010 year.

Rainbow girls from Livermore, Pleasanton, San Ramon, Dublin and Tracy will be rocking non-stop in rocking chairs from 4 p.m. Friday, August 21, through 4 p.m. Saturday, August 22, 2009, at Lizzie Fountain in downtown Livermore and in the Masonic Lodge Building.

The Bay Area Crisis Nursery is located in Concord. The nursery offers 24-hour residential care for children from ages birth through 11. The services are completely free, confidential, and voluntary. It has been in operation for 28 years and helped over 1000 children in 2008. The Bay Area Crisis Nursery receives no government funding. For more on the Bay Area Crisis Nursery go to www.bacn. info.

The Rainbow Girls Rock-A-Thon will raise funds for the Crisis Nursery in two ways: advance pledges by the hour for the full 24 hours and one-time donations, either in advance or at the event. To make a pledge or donate in advance or to obtain additional information, please contact email Rainbow_Assembly_246_iorg @mosaiclodge218.org.

The International Order of the Rainbow for Girls is a non-profit youth organization for girls from 11-20, established in 1922 and affiliated with Masonic orders. It focuses on community service, public speaking, and leadership skills. Rainbow girls in California annually raise tens of thousands of dollars for charity and perform thousands of hours of public service.

For more information, contact adult advisors Mrs. Susan Haley, 447-5615, or Mrs. Gayle Hatcher, 606-1726.



Vintage Brass Quintet will perform Sun., Aug. 30 at the Pleasanton Library. The program will be from 2 to 3 p.m. The Vintage Brass Quintet is a group of local musicians who have enjoyed playing together more than ten years. The program is free and open to all. No registration required. The Friends of the Pleasanton Library are sponsoring the program. Call Penny Johnson at 925.931-3405 for information.

Janice Pementel

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For Tickets 925-373-6800 2400 First Street, Livermore www.bankheadtheater.org

Car Show Set

The 20th Annual "Nostalgia Day Car Show" sponsored by the Altamont Cruisers is set for September 27 in downtown Livermore.

The annual show raises funds for local charitable organizations with a special focus on youth programs. To date, the Cruisers have given over \$200,000 to the organizations.

The car show will feature over 700 cares, continuous D.J. music, prize drawings, vendors of car products and arts and crafts. There will be a parade of the award winning vehicles down First Street.

Activities are planned from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. from First to Fourth Streets between L Street and Livermore Avenue.

For additional information, call 461-2020 or go to www.altamont-cruisers.org.



Lamplighters' *My Fair Lady*Coming to the Bankhead Theater



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In a departure from their customary Gilbert & Sullivan repertoire, San Francisco's Lamplighters Music Theatre will be closing a run of *My Fair Lady* at the Bankhead Theater in downtown Livermore over 3 performances on August 29 and 30.

The production, which opened the group's 57 season in Walnut Creek at the end of July, has been tremendously received throughout the run. The current leg – at the Yerba Buena Center in San Francisco - will end on the 23rd.

My Fair Lady is a blend of intellect, wit, rhythm, and high spirits, it was a raving success from the moment it opened on March 15, 1956. Greats such as

Noël Coward, Cole Porter, and Rodgers & Hammerstein had all turned down the opportunity to transform George Bernard Shaw's Pygmalion to musical form on the grounds that Shaw's play was too perfect to tamper with. When Lerner & Loewe finally accepted the challenge they began in 1952 and worked on it for six months before giving it up as impossible - the play violated several key rules for constructing a musical: the main story was not a love story, there was no subplot or secondary love story, and there was no place for an ensemble. But in 1954 they took another go at it, and this time stuck with it until completion.

Professor Higgins - a brilliant though crotchety expert in phonetics - bets his house guest, fellow linguist Colonel Pickering, that he can turn Eliza Doolittle, a cockney flower girl with a horrendous accent and lack of manners, into a refined lady in 6 months, simply by teaching her to speak properly. Eliza, who wishes to better herself, moves in and begins her difficult tutoring, at the same time unconsciously teaching Higgins that there is more to people than just language.

Award-winning actor, Geoff Hoyle, who created the role of Zazu, the hornbill, in the original Broadway cast of *The Lion King*,

(Drama Desk nomination: Best Featured Actor in a Musical) is set to play his first role with The Lamplighters – that of Eliza's incorrigible drunkard of a father - Alfred Doolittle.

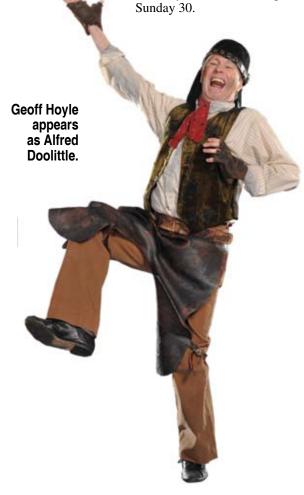
Geoff wrote and performed *The First Hundred Years* for the Berkeley Rep and the Arizona Theatre Company, has clowned with Cirque du Soleil, The Pickle Family Circus, and Circus Flora and trained with Marcel Marceau's teacher, Etienne Decroux and at the Gymnase du Cirque in Paris under Tudor Bono.

Also making his debut with The Lamplighters is Tom Reardon as Professor Henry Higgins, a role most people associate closely with Rex Harrison who created the role for Broadway and continued in the subsequent movie. An actor, not a singer, Harrison spoke the words in tempo instead of singing. Reardon, a far superior vocal performer, breaks away from this, now standard, approach.

Sharon Rietkerk returns to The Lamplighters after her debut as Phyllis in January's *Iolanthe*. She plays the role of Eliza Doolittle, transforming from a dirty, shrieking "squashed cabbage leaf" to a refined lady that's the toast of society. Her metamorphosis is aided in part by the award-winning costumes (Bay Area Theater Critics Circle; Bay Area Drama Logue Award) of Melissa Wortman who rivals those iconic designs from the movie in opulence and also, it should be said, in quantity - Rietkerk never appears on stage in the same costume twice.

This production of *My Fair Lady* has all the hallmarks of a Lamplighter production: the lavish costumes, live orchestra, comedic acting and unamplified singing that showcases the human voice.

Contact the Bankhead Theater box office at 925-373-6800 or livermoreperformingarts.org for tickets. Performances are scheduled at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Saturday the 29, and at 2 p.m. on Sunday 30



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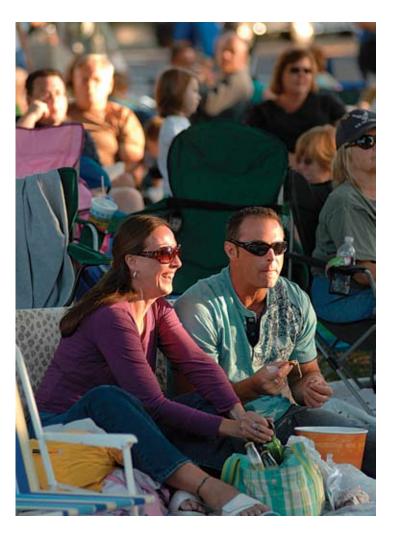




CONCERT IN THE PARK

PARK
One of the more popular events in Pleasanton is the Friday Concert in the Park at Wayside Park. Last Friday, "Finding Stella," performed. Audience had a good time dancing and picnicking.





Annual Games in **Pleasanton Labor Day** Weekend

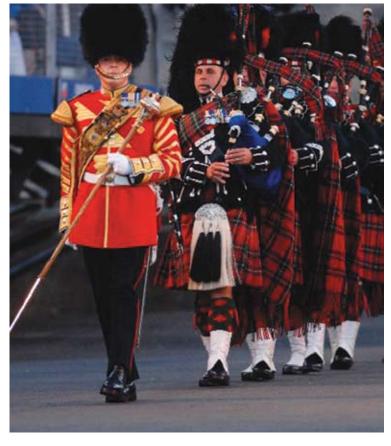
The 144th Scottish Highland Gathering & Games, set for September 5 and 6 in Pleasanton at the Alameda County Fairgrounds are "alive and well."

For several years there has been some confusion among the Tri-Valley residents about the Pleasanton games and the games held in Livermore. With the apparent cancellation of LARPD funding for any future games in Livermore that was recently reported in the press, the rumor has made its way into the mainstream that the games in Pleasanton have been cancelled.

The Pleasanton games, produced by the Caledonian Club of San Francisco, have never had a relationship with the Livermore games and the Pleasanton games are not at all affected by the potential closure of Livermore's event.

The Pleasanton games are the world's largest and continues to prosper and grow within the Tri-Valley community. This year the Pipes & Drums - 1st Battalion Scots Guards will arrive from Buckingham Palace in London to perform in Pleasanton.

Tickets and information are available at www.caledonian. org, (800) 713-3160 and (925) 443-4700.



The famous Scots Guards and the U.S. Marine Band will highlight the 144th Scottish Highland Gathering & Games, set for Labor Day weekend, September 5 and 6. The Pipes & Drums - 1st Battalion Scots Guards, fresh from duty at Buckingham Palace, will join forces with the U.S. Marine Band during the closing ceremonies both days to present a musical interlude of both bands playing in unison during both marching and stationary performances. This marks the only appearance of the Scots Guards in California. Each day's activities conclude with the Grandstand Show and Massed Bands. The two featured military bands plus the competition bands bring nearly 750 pipers and drummers onto the track in front of the covered grandstands at 4 p.m. for a two hour program of thrilling music and presentations. Standing room is free. There is a small charge for seating.

Youth Learn about **Producing TV Shows**

This summer, for the first time, Tri-Valley Community Television (TV30) offered a unique TV Summer Camp available to middle school and high school students in the Tri-Valley. The twelve campers from Danville, Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton and San Ramon participated in the five day camp. The result is a special show developed by the students titled "Tri-Valley Youth View.'

This hour long program is currently airing on Channel 30 on Saturday at 8 a.m., Sunday at 12 noon and Wednesday at 3 p.m.

This was not only a great experience for the students who participated but our staff who enjoyed sharing the world of television production with the students," said Melissa Tench-Stevens, Executive Director of Tri-Valley TV. "The 20 hours went by quickly and for a first effort, I think the Camp was a win-win for everyone involved."

Under the direction of Camp Director Mitch Eason, the students worked in various aspects of producing "Tri-Valley Youth View" from deciding on content and technical positions (such as camera operators, audio, floor directing, and editing) to writing the scripts and performing as the talent. At the end of the camp, students received a certificate of completion as well as a round of applause.

The process of putting the show together began by providing the students with a list of City Departments. Then they developed the content of the program. Executive Director Tench-Stevens arranged interviews for the students with



Dasha Ryutor, a 7th grade student from Livermore, operates the camera while Jeff Eorio, Director of Parks and Community Services for San Ramon, prepares to be interviewed for "Tri-Valley Youth View."

Mayor Tim Sbranti of Dublin, Mayor Marshall Kamena of Livermore, Jeff Eorio Director of Parks and Community Services for San Ramon, Officer Roy Ficken from Pleasanton Animal Control, Brandon Cardwell, City of Livermore who spoke about the Food Scrap and Recycling program, Officer Rob Ransom from the San Ramon Police Department who talked about the San Ramon Youth Academy, Librarian Penny Johnson from the Pleasanton Library, Fire Marshall Scott Deavers who discussed the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department as well as additional guests.

Some of the guests presented information about how young people can become involved in their community through youth programs. Others talked in general terms about what the Tri-Valley cities offer young people, how they can help protect the environment and answered career related auestions.

In addition to providing handson experience in television production, the purpose of the TV Camp was to provide students with an overall picture of the production process, help prepare them for college related courses in video and give them an edge for future employment in the television

Tri-Valley Community Television is located at 4663 Bernal Avenue, Suite B in Pleasanton. A 501c3, Tri-Valley TV provides programming over channels TV28, TV29 and TV30 on Comcast Cable and AT&T U-Verse. For more information about the station and its programming visit our website at www.tri-valleytv.org.

Hotel to Host Annual Roses to Grandparents in Pleasanton

The Rose Hotel will host its fourth annual Roses to Grandparents event on Sunday, September 13, in observation of Grandparents Day. The hotel is located at 807 Main Street in downtown Pleasanton, Calif.

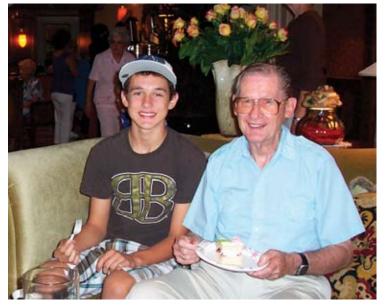
Grandparents and their families are invited to gather in the hotel's lobby hospitality area for cake, coffee and conversation from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. They will be treated to tours of the hotel, including the vintage photographs of Pleasanton that adorn the balcony walls, and will be eligible to win a free night's stay at the 4:00 p.m. drawing. Each grandparent will receive a longstemmed rose. Admission is free.

"Roses to Grandparents is among the most heartwarming events we host here at the hotel, says General Manager Phylis Grisham. "Over the past three

Grandparents' Days, we've witnessed scores of multi-generational families spending a Sunday afternoon together, happily reminiscing and making plans for future activities together.

National Grandparents Day is observed on the first Sunday after Labor Day. It was proclaimed by President Jimmy Carter in 1978 in response to the efforts of Marian H. McQuade, a housewife in Fayette County, West Virginia. She championed the cause of the lonely elderly in nursing homes and encouraged grandchildren to tap into the wisdom and heritage their grandparents could provide. Today, her organization continues its work to strengthen bonds between the generations.

For more information about Roses to Grandparents, call The Rose Hotel at (925) 846-8802.



Sean O'Connell and his grandfather, Larry Anderson, enjoyed Grandparents' Day at The Rose Hotel last year.

ART & ENTERTAINMENT

ART EXHIBITS

Livermore Art Association Gallery, offers art classes, unusual gifts, painting rentals, art exhibits and information pertaining to the art field, 1255 Third St., Livermore. The gallery has been open since 1974 and maintains a video library of art tapes, art and craft books and art magazines and newsletters; hosts art events and workshops. Hours are Wed.-Sun. 11:30-4 p.m. For information call 449-9927.

Works by photographic artists on display at Windermere Welcome Home through August. Participating in the show are Natalia Matthews Aasen, Bill Hackett, Dennis Vied, Julie Wright and Walter Davies The public is invited. There is no admission charge. 1790 First St., downtown Livermore. Viewing will be during regular business hours. For more information, call 447-9159.

The Arts Forum of the Commonwealth Club of California will present works by photographer Bill Owens. They will be displayed through September 10. Admission is free to Club member; \$15 to the public and \$7 students. The Club is located at 595 Market Street (next to Montgomery BART Station).

Pleasanton Art League Museum on Main Exhibit, July 30-September 13, 2009, 603 Main Street, Pleasanton. Reception will be Sunday, August 22, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Museum hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sunday, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., plus evenings on First Wednesdays. Information is being sent to members via e-mail. For more information, contact Carole Hilton at 925-443-3849.

The Wild Vine, Lela Witherspoon is the featured artist for August. Lela's art is about dualities; the barriers or edges between things. It's about breaking those implied barriers, reflected in both sharp lines, as well as ripples or swirls that blend the lines together. The Wild Vine is located at 2187 First St., Livermore.

An art exhibition, "Good Earth," featuring abstract paintings by Alan Mazzetti and landscape photography by Brad Perks will be on display at Deer Ridge Vineyards August 8 to October 11. The work will be open for viewing Friday through Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. An artists' reception and book signing will be held Sun., Sept. 27 from 2 to 4 p.m. The exhibit and reception are free and open to the public. Deer Ridge Vineyards is located at 1828 Wetmore Road, Livermore. For more information, call 1-866-561-0838.

Art and Wine Social, Alexander's Fine Art, 608 Main St., Pleasanton. Fri., Aug. 21,6 to 9 p.m. New imagery artist Robert Bissell, pastel landscapes by David R. Will and contemporary abstracts by Zhang Xiu. Music by guitarist Jerod Lea. RSVP to 846-6015 or go to alexandersgallery@sbcglobal.net.

WINERY EVENTS

Thomas Coyne Winery Summer Open House, August 22 and 23, noon to 5 p.m. at the historical tasting room at 51 E. Vallecitos Road Livermore. Four new wines will be released. A selection of fine fruits and cheeses will be served. Bring a picnic and enjoy the view. New Releases: 2006 Livermore Grenache, 2005 Eldorado Petite Sirah, 2007 Late Harvest Viognier and 2006 Vino Tinto Reserva. Active military who present valid ID can get a deep discount. For more information call (925) 373-6541 http://thomascoynewinery.com

American Heart Association fundraiser, Thursday, Aug. 27, 5-8pm at Little Valley Winery, 739 Main St., Pleasanton. Great music, good food and award winning wines. Donation of \$20 will help fight our nation's #1 & #3 Killers Heart Disease & Stroke. Complimentary wine tasting & appetizers. Music by Patty & Abigail. Two raffle tickets for a chance to win gift basket and other prizes. Donation is tax deductible.

Summer Mini Concert featuring Top Secret Band, Saturday August 29, 2009; 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Crooked Vine/Stony Ridge. Repertoire that consist of songs from the 50's to the current top 40's. Food and Wine for purchase with Crooked Vine's "Gotta Lovett BBQ." 4948 Tesla Road, Livermore. (925) 449-0458

Crooked Vine/Stony Ridge, Wine Down Friday, September 11, 2009 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Crooked Vine/Stony Ridge Live music by "The Hurricane Band." Performing the best in the Blues Classic and Contemporary Rock. Wine for purchase by glass or bottle. Food available for purchase from Crooked Vine's "Gotta Lovett BBQ." 4948 Tesla Road, Livermore. (925) 449-0458.

Harvest Tour & Tasting Event: Wente Vineyards, behind the scenes look at how estate grown wines are produced; Chef Arthur Wall creates a daily changing menu to highlight produced from the restaurants organic garden. Dates: Sept. 19 and 26, 10 a.m., noon, 2 and 4 p.m. Reservations for the specially offered event are required, and tour space is limited. Reservations can be made by calling 925-456-2305 ext. 4. The tour and tasting is offered at \$20 to the public and \$15 to wine club members. The event will take place at the Wente Vineyards Estate Winery and Tasting Room, 5565 Tesla Road,

La Luna Fridays at Murrieta's Well, 6pm to 9pm on the Friday closest to the month's full moon. Spanishinspired tapas and Murrieta's Well wines served on the terrace. Each La Luna Friday features a different live musical performance, with Steel Drummer Paul Snagg performing on September 4th, and an unannounced top-secret band performing on October 2nd. Tickets are \$55 for the general public and \$45 for Silver Spur club members, and reservations are

required. Tapas and wine are offered from 6:00 to 7:30pm, with wine sales by the bottle available until 8:45pm, and music until 9pm. For reservations, directions or more information, please call (925) 456-2395 or visit www.murrietaswell.com. Murrieta's Well is located at 3005 Mines Road in Livermore Valley.

MUSIC/CONCERTS

Tuesday Tunes, Livermore Downtown Inc. free, live music to the Flagpole Plaza each and every Tuesday through October 13th. Concerts begin at 5 p.m. Bands to perform on the following schedule: Aug. 18, Sound Check; Aug. 25, Moreality; Sept. 1, Hummingbirdz; Sept. 8, Bryan Harrison Band; Sept. 15, Fender Cronin; Sept. 22, Damn Neighbors Blues Band; Sept. 29, Groovy Judy; Oct. 6, U Get What U Pay 4. For more information, go to www.livermoredowntown.com or call 925.373.1795.

Concerts in the Park, Pleasanton Downtown Association, The concerts are at Lions Wayside Park, corner of First and Neal Streets. Concerts are 7 to 8:30 p.m. Magic Moments, August 21. D-Lucca, August 28. Public Eye, Sept. 4. For more information, visit www.pleasantondowntown.net.

Wente Vineyards 2009 concert series: August 31, Sheryl Crow. Wente Vineyards Box Office at (925) 456-2424, or on-line at www.ticketmaster.com. Tickets range in price from \$79 to \$309 per person, depending on the show and the dining option selected. Wente Vineyards is located at 5050 Arroyo Road, Livermore. Concert gates open at 6:00 p.m., and all shows start at 8:15 p.m.

Vintage Brass Quintet, concert Aug. 30, 2 p.m. Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Free. www. ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/library.



Raphael Manriquez, Sept. 6, 2 p.m. Pleasanton Library, Latin American musician and composer performs his original music. He plays Latin American string instruments - guitar, charango, cuatro and tiple. No admission charge. 400 Old Bernal Ave., Pleasanton.

Guitar Player Live, Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center Presents. Sept. 11-13. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. 925-373-6800, www.bankheadtheater.org.

Annual Piano Recital, Saturday, September 12, 7:30 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Avenue, Livermore. Annual recital co-sponsored by the Alameda County East Branch of the Music Teachers' Association of California and Asbury. MTAC Young Artist Guild member Sarah Chang will perform music of Bach, Mozart, Chopin, Liadov and Shostakovich. No charge for admission; refreshments served. Further information: (925) 443-2514



George Winston, Sat., Sept. 19, 8 p.m. Pleasanton Civic Arts Presents program. Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. Tickets at caboxoffice@ci.pleasanton.ca.us or (925) 931-3444.

Chanticleer, an orchestra of voices, Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center Presents. Sept. 20. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets at 925-373-6800, www. bankheadtheater.org.

Pacific Chamber Symphony concert, Thurs., Sept. 24, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets at 925-373-6800, www. bankheadtheater.org.

Alexander String Quartet with June Oh, piano, Sept. 26, 8 p.m. Del Valle Fine Arts concert. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. 925-373-6800, www.bankheadtheater.org.

Sunol Jazz Café, 11986 Main Street, Sunol (925) 862-2800: Organic local farm produce sold Tuesdays and Sundays. Ballroom dancing with Dixie Sounds 2nd and 4th Tuesdays; ballroom dancing with Big Band Sound 1st and 3rd Tuesdays (\$5 suggested donation for band); dinner buffet available. Downtown Blues Band plays Aug. 28. Sunday brunch and Jazz Music - full breakfast fare / made-to-order omelets and BBQ.

ON THE STAGE

Annie, Alameda Civic Light Opera production continues through Aug. 21, 22 and 23 at the Kotman Theater in Alameda. Among those appearing in the production is Paula Wujek, a local fan favorite. "Annie" is a rags to riches story set during the Great Depression. A family favorite, the story of orphan Annie's adoption by millionaire Daddy Warbucks warms our hearts with the irrepressible joy of a child finding love in an unusual new family. Tickets at 510-864-2256. Theater at 523 South Shore Center West, Alameda.

Funny Girl, Diablo Theater Company, staged concert version of the 1964 Broadway musical. 8 p.m. Aug. 27, 28, 29; 2 p.m. Aug. 29. Lesher Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. (\$21-\$44). 943-7469, www.lesherartscenter.org, www.dloc.org.

My Fair Lady, Lerner & Loewe musical presented by Lamplighters Music Theater. Sat., Aug. 29, 2 and 8 p.m. and Sun., Aug. 30 at 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets \$33, \$37, \$43.925-373-6800, www.bankheadtheater.org.

Wait Until Dark, Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre Studio Theatre production. Sept. 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27, Oct. 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11. 1048 Serpentine Lane, Suite 309, Pleasanton. Fri. and Sat. 8 p.m. Sun. 2 p.m. Ticket information 462-2121 or www.trivalleyrep.com.

Sullivan and Gilbert, a play with music by Ken Ludwig, Sept. 25-Oct. 11; Thurs., Fri. and Sat. 8 p.m., Sun. 2 p.m. The Douglas Morrisson Theatre, 22311 North Third Street, Hayward. Tickets adults \$25, seniors \$22, students \$15. www.dmtonline.org

COMEDY



Comedy Uncorked, Fri., Aug. 21, 7:30 p.m. Retzlaff Vineyards, 1356 So. Livermore Ave., Livermore. Benefit for Open Heart Kitchen. Appearing will be Nancy Lee, Dan Edwards, Anthony Hill, and Mari-Esther Kaplan. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Tickets and information www.comedyuncorked.com.

Comedy Sportz!, the improv comedy team that breaks all the rules, coming to Ohlone College on Friday, September 11. Two teams compete for laughs and points as they make up scenes, songs, and spoofs right on the spot. The audience votes for the winners while a referee calls the fouls. Comedy Sportz has traveled all over the world, and now comes to the Smith Center at Ohlone College with a spectacular one-night performance. Get your tickets now at www. smithcenterpresents.com of call the box office at 510-659-6031.

DANCE

Saturday Night Dance, all summer, open to the public, free half-hour salsa lesson before the dance party. Lessons begin at 7 p.m.; open dance, 7:30 to 10 p.m. \$12 cover. It's All About Dancing, 171 So. J St. Foresters Hall, Downtown Livermore, 925-449-9292.

Sunol Jazz Café, 11986 Main Street, Sunol (925) 862-2800: Organic local farm produce sold Tuesdays and Sundays. Ballroom dancing with Dixie Sounds 2nd and 4th Tuesdays; ballroom dancing with Big Band Sound 1st and 3rd Tuesdays (\$5 suggested donation for band); dinner buffet available. Downtown Blues Band plays Aug. 28. Sunday brunch

ART & ENTERTAINMENT

and Jazz Music - full breakfast fare / made-to-order omelets and BBQ.

MOVIES

Movie night in Pleasanton, free admission, film will be shown at twilight (approximately 8:30 p.m.) at Delucchi Park on First Street in downtown Pleasanton. The park will open to the public at 4:00 p.m. Free popcorn. Aug. 20: Raiders of the Lost Ark. For more information, please contact the City of Pleasanton Parks and Community Services Department at (925) 931-5340.

AUDITIONS/VOLUNTEERS

Auditions, for "The School for Scandal" at Las Positas College will take place on Wednesday, August 20 from 7:00 - 9:00 PM in the college theater. The classic comedy of wit and manners by Richard Brinsley Sheridan will be performed from November 12-22. Rehearsals will be on Monday through Thursday nights. Director Wendy Wisely is asking that people bring a brief prepared classic or contemporary monologue. There will also be readings from the script. There are roles for males and females of various ages. For more information contact Ken Ross at 925-424-1166 or kross@laspositascollege.edu.

Young People's Symphony Orchestra (YPSO) holds auditions for new members August 26, September 1 and 3 for the 2009-2010 season. Auditions are held at Crowden Music Center, Rose St. at Sacramento St. in Berkeley, 4:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m., by appointment. Candidates should prepare a scale and a solo, and will be asked to sight-read standard repertoire which is provided at the audition. Founded in Berkeley in 1935, YPSO is the oldest youth orchestra in California and the second oldest in the nation. The orchestra is comprised of 94 youth ages 11-22 who come from 28 Bay Area cities in five counties. Music Director /Conductor David Ramadanoff, who is celebrating his 21st season, leads a coaching faculty of distinguished professional musicians and music educators. Rehearsals are Mondays, 6:00-9:30 p.m., September through June, at Crowden Music Center. The season will end with a June tour to Alaska. For an appointment, visitwww.ypsomusic.net, email ypsomusic@yahoo.com.

Auditions, Forever Plaid: Plaid Tidings, Sept. 2 and 3, 7 p.m. The Douglas Morrisson Theatre, 22311 North Third Street, Hayward. Come prepared to sing a favorite holiday song from the 1950s or 60s. Bring music scored for piano. An accompanist will be provided Performance Dates: November 19 to December 6, 2009

Competition for Young Musicians. Livermore-Amador Symphony Association is taking applications; open to instrumentalists and vocalists who reside or attend school in Livermore, Sunol, Pleasanton, Dublin, or San Ramon. Students are eligible through grade 12. If not enrolled in

high school, the maximum age is 17. All instruments will be considered. The purpose of the competition is to select two young musicians who will perform as soloists with the symphony on Feb. 13, 2010. Each winner/soloist will be awarded \$250. The application deadline is Oct. 4, 2009. Completed applications must be accompanied by a \$5 fee and a cassette tape or CD for preliminary screening. Application forms and additional information may be obtained from the symphony's website, www.livamsymph.org or by calling the competition committee at 447-1947.

CHORAL

Harmony Fusion Chorus, Pleasanton Civic Arts Presents, Sept. 26, 7:30 p.m. Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. Tickets at caboxoffice@ci.pleasanton.ca.us or (925) 931-3444.

MISCELLANEOUS

Tao House lecture, presented by Greg Bacigalupi of the National Park Service will present a lecture on Eugene O'Neill's home located in Danville from 7 - 8:30 p.m. p.m. on Thursday, August 20 at Lynnewood Methodist Church, 4444 Black Avenue, Pleasanton. The lecture is part of the Ed Kinney Lecture Series of the Museum On Main Street, Pleasanton. No reservations are necessary. Admission is \$5 for museum members, \$10 for non-members, \$5 for teachers with valid ID and \$3 for students with valid ID. Memberships will be available for purchase that night. Contact (925) 462-2766 or visit www. museumonmain.org.



Jennifer Robin, author of "Growing More Beautiful An Artful Approach to Personal Style," Aug. 23, 2 p.m. Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Free. www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/ services/library

Nafisa Haji, author of The Writing on My Forehead, talk Aug. 23, 2 p.m. Livermore Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave. Arts and Authors series. Free. www.ci.livermore.ca.us.

Albert Rothman, A Brooklyn Odyssey: Travails and Joys of a Boy's

Early Life, local author. Sept. 2, 7 p.m. Livermore Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave. Free. www. ci.livermore.ca.us

Scottish Games and Gathering, hosted by the San Francisco Caledonian Club, Sept. 5 and 6, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Alameda County Fairgrounds, Pleasanton. Tickets and information www.caledonian.org.

Harvest Wine Celebration, showcases 43 wineries, new this year Harvest Village at Robertson Park. Sept. 6 and 7. Noon to 5 p.m. Tickets www.lvwine.org.

First Annual Book Fair, hosted by Happy Fish Swim School in Livermore, Saturday and Sunday, September 12 and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. Books and gifts for children and adults. Book Fair by Imagination Books Inc. All proceeds benefit the Livermore Valley Education Foundation. 2780 Constitution Drive, Livermore. (925) 447-3474 www. swimhappyfish.com/livermore.

Nostalgia Day Car Show, 20th car show staged by Altamont Cruisers, Sept. 17 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in downtown Livermore. Muscle cars. street rods, custom and classic cars on display. Fund-raiser for local organizations that promote the Tri-Valley youth, help strengthen their families and help keep kids off drugs. Free admission. Food booths and vendors of every type on hand. Information at altamontcruisers.org

History Lecture, presented by Pleasanton Museum on Main Ed Kinney Lecture Series, Thurs., Sept. 17, 7 p.m. "Lights, Camera, Action," the film industry in Pleasanton and Niles talk by D. Kiehn. Lynnewood Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave., Pleasanton, \$10 nonmembers, \$5 museum members. Reservations suggested. 462-2766.

Fiddlers' Jam, Sat., Sept. 19, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the main street of Fiddletown. Free event. Day includes fiddle music, food, craft vendors and a fiddlers' contest with cash prizes. Free shuttle. Directions or information, go to www.fiddletownca.org.

Day on the Glen, Emerald Glen Park, Dublin, Sept. 19 and 20. Carnival rides, jump houses, magicians, clowns, and animals. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. (925) 556-4500.

Children's Fair, Sept. 19 and 20, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. Free admission. Livermore Area Recreation and Park District, 373-5700.

Quilting in the Garden, Sept. 26 and 27, Alden Lane Nursery, 981 Alden Lane, Livermore. Quilts, local artists as well as featured artist Laura Wasilowski. Classes begin on Thursday. 447-0280.

Wedding Faire Experience, Sun., Sept. 27, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. \$6 in advance, \$9 at the door. www. LivermoreDowntown.com. 373-

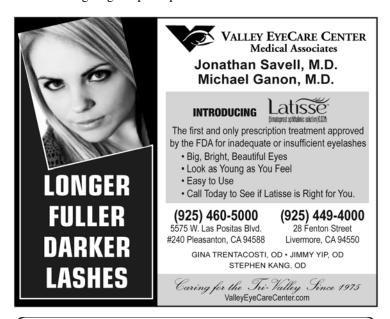
Duck Stamp Entries Sought

The California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) is launching a national contest to select the artwork for the 2010 state upland game bird stamp. The chosen design will become the first of the Encore Edition of the California upland game bird stamp. The Encore Edition marks the return of the contest format after three years of commissioned stamp

The contest is open to all U.S. residents age 18 and over. Original artwork will be accepted from October 26 until the November 20, 2009 contest deadline. Entries can be in any medium, but must feature the mourning dove (zenaida macroura). At least one mourning dove in the image must have an aluminum band with the numbers "682" on its right leg.

The winning entry will be reproduced on the 2010 California Upland Game Bird Stamp and will be available to the public as collectible limited edition prints.

For contest information and entry forms, please visit the DFG Web site at www.dfg.ca.gov/upstamp.







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Livermore 4460 Black Ave, #F 1524 Holmes St, #D 484-3507 960-0391



Jacque Pedraza . Hearing Aid





Maddie LaDue from Pleasanton is feeding carrots to a horse named "Bijou" at Circle J Horse Ranch in Livermore. She and others are currently participating in Critter Camp at Valley Humane Society, a week long day camp that focuses on animal care. Campers also visit the East Bay SPCA, Bishop Ranch Veterinary Clinic, Lindsay Wildlife Museum and Dogtopia Dog Day Care. The campers are assigned to a Valley Humane Society animal to take care of for the entire week.

Community

County Receives Achievement Awards

Alameda County came away with four Achievement Awards and some high-profile recognition at the recent National Association of Counties (NACO) National Conference in late July.

The four Achievement Awards snagged by Alameda County went to:

- The Alameda County Library for its "Start with a Story" program, which uses trained volunteers and library staff to read stories to children who are waiting to visit incarcerated family members at the Santa Rita Jail in Dublin and the Glenn Dyer Jail in Oakland. Acknowledging the high rate of illiteracy in US jails, the program seeks to break an intergenerational cycle of illiteracy to reaching out to young people through literacy related games and activities, and by giving a free book to each child to take home and enjoy on their own.
- Alameda County and its County Administrator's office for the annual Youth Leadership Academy, which engages 35 high school students in five interactive sessions about County programs and services. The Academy provides a forum for youth to express concerns about their communities and to develop leadership skills. The program is also based on a belief that County government

needs to engage in broader outreach to foster better understanding of its role in the community and to strengthen support for its programs and services.

• The Alameda County Registrar of Voters office, which won two Achievement Awards for its innovative use of technology to make elections more efficient and secure.

The first award recognized the ROV for its unprecedented use of Radio Frequency Identification technology to improve the "chain of custody" of vital voting equipment during an election.

The ROV won a second award for its new Roster Index Book Imaging and Recognition Procedure, which has significantly reduced the number of staff hours required in the post-election audit of signatures provided by voters at each polling place.

Alameda County also won special recognition from NACO for embracing new technologies to increase citizen involvement and enhance government transparency. The annual Digital Counties Survey conducted by NACO and the Center for Digital Government found that Alameda County ranked 5th among counties nationally for digital offerings to its citizens. Alameda County was cited for offerings including its highly interactive and user-friendly website, ACGOV.ORG, as well as the way it has embraced social media such as Facebook and Twitter to engage its residents.

Susan S. Muranishi, Alameda County Administrator, attended the conference with County Supervisor Keith Carson, a member of the NACO Board of Directors, and Supervisor Scott Haggerty, who chairs NACO's Transportation Committee. "We are extremely proud of the recognition Alameda County received at the NACO conference," Muranishi said. "To me it shows that despite these very challenging economic times, Alameda County continues to find ways to better serve our residents."

ValleyCare to Host Back to School Children's Fair

ValleyCare Health System is hosting a fun-filled, educational, back-to-school children's fair on Saturday, August 29, 11am - 4pm at the ValleyCare Medical Plaza, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd. in Pleasanton (corner of W. Las Positas Blvd. and Stoneridge Drive).

Kids will participate in entertaining, hands-on learning activities such as healthy grocery shopping, watermelon surgery, an obstacle course, food pyramid bingo, handwashing and much more. In addition to health and fitness/flexibility screenings, other activities will include face painting, balloon artists, a bounce house, inflatable fire truck slide and a caterpillar crawl. Special prizes will be given to kids who complete their "passport" by visiting various booths.

Local emergency services such as ambulance, police and fire will be on-hand to talk to parents about children's safety issues. Parents and kids are invited to meet the new ValleyCare Medical Foundation pediatricians Drs. Anamika Sharma, Yatin Shah and Christi Klimisch.

ValleyCare's Maternal Child Department and UCSF Children's Hospital will also have a booth, along with a number of other ValleyCare departments and physicians, all with entertaining demonstrations and informational handouts.

Bella is an adorable yellow Labrador Retriever puppy. She is paralyzed from the waist down, probably due to a neurological condition, and is undergoing rehab in Menlo Park, California. Bella has been tested for neospora, which tested negative, and a urinary tract infection, which tested positive. Volunteers at 2nd Chance 4 Pets are caring for her with medical treatment and rehab. Several local volunteers and friends of Bella are distributing more than a thousand fliers in the area in an effort to raise donations. Raising the necessary funds to provide Bella the treatment and equipment she needs has proven to be a daunting task. However, through the generosity of the



public and the dedication of the volunteers, a handicap cart was built

org foundation. 2nd Chance 4 Pets has also received three carts from Best Friends Animal Society. If you can make a donation to help Bella, please visit HelpBella.org. Donations can be made online at 2ndChance4Pets.org and can be mailed to 2nd Chance 4 Pets BELLA FUND, 1484 Pollard Rd, No 444, Los Gatos, CA 95032. 2nd Chance 4 Pets is a 501(c)(3) all-volunteer nonprofit animal welfare organization established to reduce the number of pets unnecessarily euthanized each year at animal shelters and in veterinarian offices due to the death or incapacitation of their human companions.

for Bella by the HandicappedPets.

Milestones

Education

Graduates

The following local students have graduated from Seattle Pacific University: Andrew Jeremy Aldrich of Livermore, graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration, International Business Emphasis. Michelle Marie Cadinha of Livermore, graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Biology.

Recruitment Grants

Recruitment Grants were presented May 20 by the Livermore-Pleasanton Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, an international women educators' society. The grants are to encourage women students to continue their studies in pursuit of a career in education.

The winners were Carla Price and Caitlin Mellberg.

Price, the winner of a \$500 grant, is a 1989 graduate of Livermore High School. She has been a full time student teacher at Granada High School. Carla is a graduate of Southern Oregon University. She earned a liberal arts decree and Emeritus Faculty Mathematics Scholarship. She has taught English in Korea and Japan. Price will be attending National University in Stockton this fall.

Mellberg, the winner of a \$500 grant, is a 2006 graduate of Amador Valley High School. Presently she is attending Sonoma State University where she is a junior working towards a degree in liberal arts and a teaching credential. She has participated in many summer children's activities in Pleasanton, has been a Girl Scout, a lifeguard at the Pleasanton Aquatic Center, and very involved with planning children's programs through the Pleasanton Department of Parks and Community Services.

Preschool Expands Program

Centerpointe Christian Preschool will expand its program this fall to include after school care for grades K-3.

Two rooms on the Centerpointe Presbyterian Church campus have been modified and licensed to accommodate the after school program. The preschool is a ministry of the church, located at 3410 Cornerstone Court.

The after school program was added at the request of parents whose children attended the preschool. It will include help with homework, art projects, science activities as well as organized games and time to play. Centerpointe vans will pick up students at their schools and transport them to the preschool.

Summer Bowers, whose son Colin was one of the first students to attend the preschool, said, "It excited me to know that this program will be up and running when Colin needs it next year."

"Kindergarten is a little scary anyway and having a place that he's familiar with, that is comfortable and safe, will be a great help," she said

Summer has been delighted with the program at Centerpointe and is pleased that her son's teacher for pre-kindergarten is a credentialed instructor who will prepare him well for kindergarten.

Like more than 20 other parents with children at Centerpointe preschool, she is a credentialed teacher.

The program is designed with age-appropriate activities designed to help the child's academic, physical, emotional and spiritual development.

The preschool opened in May 2008 and serves children from ages two years-nine months (potty trained) to those entering kindergarten. It offers both full- and part-time programs. The school is open weekdays from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For further information, please see the web site at www.centerpointepreschool.org or telephone 925-461-3011.

Pleasanton Scout Achieves Rank of Eagle

Justin Deeds, a 17-year-old entering his Senior year at Amador Valley High School in Pleasanton, has attained the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America. Justin began in scouting in 1998 as a Cub Scout in Pack 944 and advanced in rank from Tiger Cub to Webelos Scout, where he also received the Arrow of Light award in 2003. That same year, Justin crossed-over from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts and joined Troop 941. Justin advanced through the ranks of Boy Scouts and after hard work; he achieved the rank of Eagle on January 21, 2009 at the age of 16.

In order for Justin to reach the rank of Eagle, he was required to earn at least 21 merit badges and hold various leadership positions in Boy Scout Troop 941. Justin has earned 47 merit badges and has held the leadership positions of Patrol Leader, Bugler, Historian, and Den Chief. Additionally, Justin was required to show leadership by initiating, planning and leading a community service project. He organized and led a service project that benefited the K-9 Unit of the Alameda County Sheriff's Department. Justin Deeds led scouts and adults from his troop, friends and neighbors who all joined in as they built and installed a K-9 agility training course. This course consisted of a Catwalk, a Window Jump, a Fence Jump, two Pole Jumps, a 6-Barrel Climb, a See-Saw, a 3-Barrel Jump and two barrel crawls. This project took over 507 man-hours of labor to build and complete. The course is now located at the Sheriff's Training facility in Dublin and has benefited K-9 units in other local law enforcement agencies for training as well. Justin's neighbor, Matt Ciesielski, lent his master talents as a welder in advising and carrying

Community



Justin Deeds

out this project.

Justin has enjoyed many magnificent opportunities in Boy Scouts. He is a Brotherhood member in the Seunen Village of the Achewon Nimat Lodge of the Order of the Arrow. Justin had the special opportunity to attend the National Boy Scout Jamboree held at Fort A.P. Hill in Caroline County, Virginia in the summer of 2005. He attended Camp Emerald Bay on Catalina Island, CA for the past three summers. Justin participated in the Rugged Scuba programs and obtained his Openwater and Advanced Open-Water PADI certifications. In 2006, he accomplished a 62.5-mile hike in Yosemite with members of his

High Adventure Crew in Troop 941. In 2007, Justin completed a 10-day backpacking trip on a 70-mile trek at the Philmont Scout Ranch located in Cimarron, New Mexico

An Eagle Court of Honor was held on Sunday, July 19th at the Valley Community Church in Pleasanton to recognize Justin's achievement. At his ceremony, he was presented with a certificate of recognition from the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 6298. The VFW has been the sponsoring organization for Troop 941 since the troop began in 1999. Members of the VFW performed the Color Guard duties led by Color Guard Commander, Johnny Delashaw,

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.

Livermore Lions Club, 85th Charter Anniversary, Sat., Sept. 12, Poppy Ride Golf Course, 4280 Greenville Rd., Livermore. No host bar 6 p.m., dinner 7 p.m., program 8 p.m. Dinner/door prize ticket \$45 each, lion and spouse \$80. Reservations contact Gary, LivermoreLionsClub@comcast.net.

Continuing Education Course for CPAs and attorneys, Fundamentals of Financial Calculations. Fri., Aug. 28, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Available as a live webinar; 8 Live, Group study CPE credits for CPAs; 7 live, group study CLE credits for attorneys. Registration fee \$54.99. Email Thomas McDevitt, thomas.mcdevitt@ceworkshops.com to obtain additional information or to register

Masquerade \$5 Jewelry Sale, Valley-Care Health System Auxiliary fund-raiser, Masquerade is a jewelry company working only with hospitals selling stylish jewelry, scarves, sunglasses and purses at unbelievably only \$5 per item. Money raised provides new equipment for the hospital. Dates: LifeStyleRx, 1119 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore, Sept. 8, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sept. 9, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. ValleyCare Medical Center lobby, 5555 W. Las Positas Blvd., Pleasanton, "Around the Clock Sale" begins Thursday, September 10 and ends September 11 at 5 p.m.. Community support is welcomed

support is welcomed.

Electronic Waste Recycling. Sat., Aug 22, 6900 Amador Plaza Rd, Dublin, at Burlington Coat Factory lot. Free to recycle: TVs, flat screens, monitors, laptops, cell phones, ink jet cartridges. \$5 donation for all else. Sponsored by Tri Valley Unity Church. 510-886-7374.

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Soroptimist International, meets noon
Wed., Sept. 2 at Beeb's Café, 915 Club House
Drive, Livermore. Guestspeaker will be Pamela
McDonald, topic is women at their best using
integrative medicine. No registration required.
Lunch is \$10 paid at the door. Arrive early.
The program begins at 12:00 pm. For further
information, contact Carol Beddome at 925201-6068 or cbeddome@axishealth.org. The
public is invited to attend.

Pleasanton Senior Center to Expand Hours on Thursdays: Effective September 10, 2009, the Senior Center will be open Thursdays from 8:30am to 8:30pm. Evening activities will include a fee-based Beginning Bridge program, a drop-in lecture series focused on health issues, special interest classes, Bunko, and even Nintendo Wii® sports. For more information or a schedule of programs, please contact the Pleasanton Senior Center at (925)931-5365. The Senior Center is located at 5353 Sunol Blvd. Plesanton.

ValleyCare Children's Fair: Health and Fitness, Sat., Aug. 29, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. ValleyCare Medical Plaza, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., Pleasanton. Includes information and screenings, fun activities including a bounce house, face painting, balloon artists and more; and giveaways. Meet pediatricians and learn more about ValleyCare. Free admission. Information: 1-800-719-9111 or visit www. valleycare.com

Livermore Peripheral Neuropathy Support Group, meets Tues., Aug. 25, 10 a.m. at Heritage Estates Retirement Community second floor conference room, 900 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore. All are welcome. Contacts are Lorene Stack, 447-6158, or Ann Laye, 443-4098.

Valley Spokesmen Bicycle Touring Club, Sat., Aug. 22, 22 miles downtown areas of Orinda, Lafayette and Moraga, meet 8. m. at Orinda BART, Nena Hunt, 510-761-840. Sat., Aug. 22, 50 miles from Shannon Centerthrough Sunol, Calaveras Reservoir to Milpitas, meet 8 a.m., Heidi Fraser, 451-1430. Sun., Aug. 23, 28 miles Alameda Ride, meet 10 a.m. at Martin Luther King Jr. Shoreline, Bill Goodwin, 487-0521. Wed., Aug. 26, 30 miles Shannon Center to Niles Canyon, meet 9 a.m., Alaine Nadeau, 577-6586. Anyone planning to go on a ride is asked to call the leader for details on where to meet and what to bring.

Livermore Library Board, meets Thurs., Aug. 27, 7 p.m. at the Civic Center Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave. An agenda will be posted at the library 72 hours prior to the meeting.

CAPE, Inc., announces sponsorship of the child and adult care food program. The

program is available without charge to all enrolled children. In accordance with federal law and the U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Bldg., 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Walk for Education, American Swim Academy will host a Walk for Education at Granada High School on Saturday, September 26. All of the proceeds will go to the Livermore Valley Education Foundation. Along with the walk, there will be a Family Fun Festival with games, prizes, children's entertainment, a live DJ and more. The Livermore Valley Education Foundation (LVEF) is dedicated to restoring and enhancing academic and extracurricular programs within the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District. Sponsorships are available, call (925) 373-7946. for additional information or go to the website LVEFWalk@AmericanSwimAcademy.com Federal Tax ID # 94-3136289

Panama Red Coffee, K St. Block Party is scheduled for Sat. Oct. 3rd 10am-2pm. Proceeds will benefit the Tri-Valley Haven. Author Sandra Kay will provide signed copies of her book, "eat, write & exercise," with 100% proceeds (for sales on this day) going to the Tri-Valley Haven. In addition, a percentage of proceeds from all sales moving forward will be donated.

Upcoming Real Estate Event, Are your property taxes too high this year? Do you feel your assessed property valuation is greater than the current actual market value? Real estate professionals are volunteering their time to help you determine if you may be eligible for a lower property tax assessment. Forms and information will be available so you may apply to the Alameda County Assessor's Office for relief. A Tax Assessment Reduction Workshop will be held on the following date and time: Our Savior Lutheran Ministries, 1385 South Livermore Avenue, Fireside Room (Room 106). Thursday, September 10 at 7:00 pm Bring assessment notice. There is no cost for this service.

Free Admission Day, Lindsay Wildlife Museum August 22, 10 am to 5 pm, 1931 First Avenue, Walnut Creek. (925) 935-1878 www. Wildlife-Museum.org Hands on activities for young children will be available.

East Bay Innovation Group presents: Web Dev / Web 2.0 SIG: Fall Kickoff and Round Table Discussion. Monday, August 24, 6:30pm-9:00pm. University of Phoenix Livermore Campus, Room 105/106. 2481 Constitution Drive, Livermore. www.phoenix. edu/campus Free for eBig members. \$15 for pre-registered guests or \$20 at the door. www.123sipnup.com/register?id=izvvd

www.123signup.com/register?id=jzyvd Intro to blogs, Facebook and Twitter, the 3 most popular online media social networks includes creative writing workshop & marketing techniques, hands-on, fun, highly supportive learning environment. Instructor Sandra Kay, Livermore Adult Community Education. Thurs. 6:30-8 p.m. 10/01/09-10/29/09. Fee \$75.

Date Night Yoga at Cosmic Dog, August 22 from 5:30 - 7:30. \$25. More info at www. CosmicDog Yoga.com

Restorative Yoga Workshop at Cosmic Dog Yoga, August 29, 11:30 - 1:30. \$30. More info at www.cosmicdogyoga.com.

ClutterLess Self Help Support Group, (CL) is a nonprofit, peer-based, self-help support group for people with difficulty discarding unwanted possessions. Meetings in Room 7 at 7 p.m. every Monday 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the St. Mary & St. John Coptic Orthodox Church. Room 7, 4300 Mirador Drive, Pleasanton. Just come or call our one of our volunteers: 925-200-1943, or go to www.ClutterLess.org.

San Ramon Valley Newcomers Club invites new & established residents to its monthly lucheon on Thursday, Sept. 17 at Forbes Mill Restaurant, 200 Steamore Valley RD. West, Danville. 11:30 to 2:00. The speaker will be local author, Mahbod Seraji. Cost depends on menu choice. Call Myrna, 560-0656 for info & resverations.

Hawaiian Luau, Livermore-Pleasanton Elks #2117, Sat., Aug. 29, 6 p.m. 940 Larkspur Dr., Livermore. Tickets paid by Aug. 25 are \$17, after that date \$20. No tickets at door,

prepaid reservations only. 455-8829. **Electronic Waste Recycling**.

Electronic Waste Recycling. Sat., Aug 22, 6900 Amador Plaza Rd, Dublin, at Burlington Coat Factory lot. Free to recycle: TVs, flat screens, monitors, laptops, cell phones, ink jet cartridges. \$5 donation for all else. Sponsored by Tri Valley Unity Church. 510-886-7374.

Save Mount Diablo will host its eighth annual "Moonlight on the Mountain" on Saturday, September 5. This special, one-of-akind event for 500 guests includes drinks and hors d'oeuvres, silent and live auction, elegant sit-down dinner, and live music. RSVP, call Nora. 947-3535

Nora, 947-3535

Widowed Men and Women of Northern
CA., Champagne brunch in San Ramon Aug.,
23, RSVP by Aug. 20 to Marsha, 830-8483.
Happy Hour in Hayward, Aug. 28, 4 p.m.,
RSVP by Aug. 25 to Elaine, 510-582-8365.
Bunco with optional dinner in Hayward, Aug.
29, 1 p.m., RSVP by Aug. 24 to Margaret, 510782-1819. Birthday dinner in San Ramon, Aug.
30, 5:30 p.m. RSVP by Aug. 25 to Jeannine
at 968-1658

East Bay LBD & Other Dementias Caregivers Support Group, Caregivers and family ofloved ones suffering from Lewy Body Dementia as well as Alzheimer's and Vascular Dementias are invited to join the group, newly formed and meeting in Livermore. The group meets twice monthly at the Livermore Public Library and at the Robert Livermore Community Center. Both monthly meetings are held from 7:15 p.m. to 9 p.m. For more information and to receive a schedule of meeting dates please contact the group facilitator: Karen Jenkins 925-325-0544 kjenkins@rsac.com

Bingo, every Sunday, Games 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. 18 \$250 pay-outs, 1 \$350 payout, & more! Bingo Ranch, 3070 Pacific Avenue, Livermore. 606-7777. Must be 18 years old to attend. Pacific Avenue, Livermore. 606-7777. Benefits LVCS / CCEF.

Saturday Night Dance, all summer, open to the public, free half-hour salsa lesson before the dance party. Lessons begin at 7 p.m.; open dance, 7:30 to 10 p.m. \$12 cover. It's All About Dancing, 171 So. J St. Foresters Hall, Downtown Livermore, 925-449-9292

RELIGION

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Livermore, has services at 10 a.m. every Sunday and at 7:30 p.m. on the second Sunday of each month. Sunday School for students (ages 3-20) is held at 10 a.m. every Sunday. The church and reading room are located at Third and N Streets. The Reading Room, which is open to the public, features books, CDs and magazines for sale. For information, call (925) 447-2946.

Faith Chapel Assembly of God, 6656 Alisal St., Pleasanton, Sunday School for all ages 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m., Children's Church 11:15 a.m. Women's Bible study Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Please call office at 846-8650 for weekly programs.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church Sunday Service 9:30 a.m. 1020 Mocho St., Livermore. Information, 447-8840.

Our Savior Lutheran Ministries, 1385 S. Livermore Avenue, Livermore. Sunday worship at 9 a.m.; Sunday School and Adult Bible Study at 10:30 a.m.; contemporary service 11 a.m. (Connected). For information, call 925-447-1246

Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Avenue, Livermore. 9 a.m. Sunday worship. Information 447-1950.

Calvary Chapel Livermore, Sunday Services 10:30 am and 6:00 p.m. 545 N. L Street Livermore. (925) 447-4357 - www. calvarylivermore.org.

Grief support, meetings 2nd and 4th Thursday, 7:30 p.m. August 27 at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Dr., Pleasanton. Open to all, regardless of religious orientation. Call Mary at 846-5377 with questions.

Summer Prayer/Meditation Circle - 60 minutes of prayer, meditation, song, and sharing. Tues. evenings, 7-9 pm, Tri-Valley Unity Church, 7567 Amador Valley Blvd., Rm. 120, Dublin. (925) 829-2733.

Seventh-day Adventist Church, 243 Scott Street, Livermore. 925-447-5462, Pastor: John L. Bechtel. Saturday: Bible Study: 9:30 am / Worship Service: 10:50 am; Wednesday: Bible Study: 7:00 pm; Pot Luck 4th and 5th Sabbaths. http://www.livermoresda.org/

Relationship Workshop, Spiritual Growth Opportunities of Love Relationships. Facilitated by Scott Kalechstein, counselor, minister and recording artist. This special workshop will explore all the aspects of relationships and is useful for anyone currently wanting, enjoying, or recuperating from a relationship. Suggested \$20 love offering. Sunday, Aug. 30, 11:30-1:30, at Tri-Valley Unity Church, 2260 Camino Ramon, San Ramon. 829-2733. www.scottsongs.com

Geneses will be the topic of study for the Community Bible Study Class in Pleasanton at Centerpointe Presbyterian Church. This CBS class is open to all women and offers a special children's program for ages 0-5 yrs. The class meets on Thursdays from 9:30-11:30 beginning 9/10/09. You can pre-register at Centerpointe Presbyterian Church, 3410 Cornerstone Court, Pleasanton, between 10:00AM-12:00 on August 20th. Call Kim about registration (925-209-0242) or go to kim.kaelher@gmail.com.

Relationships workshop, Spiritual Growth Opportunities of Love Relationships. Facilitated by Scott Kalechstein, counselor, minister and recording artist. This special workshop will explore all the aspects of relationships. Scott shares helpful tools, processes, stories, and even songs. Suggested \$20 love offering. Sunday, Aug. 30, 11:30-1:30, at Tri-Valley Unity Church, 2260 Camino Ramon, San Ramon. 829-2733. www.scottsongs.com.

Divorce Care, Valley Bible Church, 7106 Johnson Dr., Pleasanton. 13 week seminar and support group for people who are separated or divorced. Meetings Mondays from 7 to 9 p.m. \$25 for workbook and other materials. Preregistration si required. Contact Mark Porter, 846-9693 or mcporter@hotmail.com.

Calvary Chapel Livermore

PRESENTS

FREE IN CONCERT: PROLOGUE

Saturday, August 29th at 6 PM 2400 First Street in front of the Bankhead

For more info: call CC Livermore (925) 447-4357 calvarylivermore.org



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Last year, Tri-Valley teens made more than 3,000 visits to our CARF-certified Teen Drug and Alcohol Recovery Program, which is located in our newly-opened Axis Behavioral Health facility at 6666 Owens Drive in Pleasanton.

For more information about our services or to arrange a tour, please call 925.201.6201 or email asousa@axishealth.org.

Axis Community Health... Here when you need us. www.axishealth.org