



Photo - Doug Jorgensen
Crews began knocking down the old Lucky Store on Railroad Avenue in Livermore last week. The city is looking at new uses for the land, including a 2000-seat regional performing arts theater and housing along with some retail. The two businesses still at the site will remain there until they can be relocated. City officials recently interviewed five companies seeking to build a mixed use project in conjunction with the theater.

Prop. 1A Can Put Bullet Train In Valley's Future

By Ron McNicoll

The Valley is still in the running for the high-speed train proposed to run between Los Angeles and northern California, thanks to passage of Prop. 1A.

Some 52 percent of voters statewide passed Proposition 1A on Nov. 4 that calls for construction of a high-speed train from Los Angeles to northern California. In Alameda County, almost 63 percent of voters said yes.

The \$9.95 billion measure has two categories of money. Some \$9 billion will go for construction of the \$40 billion high-speed train project. The remaining \$950,000

will go to specified rail operators, such as BART, ACE and CalTrain, said Livermore city engineer Cheri Sheets.

The Proposition has up to \$260 million available for a BART to link up to the high speed train.

Although the high speed rail authority has chosen a route northward from Los Angeles with a turn westward to San Jose and San Francisco via Pacheco Pass, it also kept the door open for a train to go through the Altamont corridor with a separate line.

The options range from run-

ning the bullet train itself all the way to Interstate 880 near the Bay to having it stop at Greenville Road in Livermore. There it could link up to the Livermore BART extension and the ACE train. The run to the Valley, or through it, would be faster for Sacramento and other northern Central Valley cities than having to go south to the Pacheco Pass and then up to the Bay Area.

FIRST STEP TOWARD ACTION

The project is coming closer to action, now that the high-speed train authority is beginning two environmental impact

reports on the Altamont corridor for the bullet train.

Sheets met with the train authority's staff last week in Stockton to discuss their plans. The environmental reports will cover both the overall impact and a project-level study. The money will come from the authority's operating funds, and will have no dependency on the bond measure money, which is only for capital improvements.

The studies are expected to be completed in about three-and-one-half years.

Prop. 1A was supported by the Tri-Valley Regional Rail Work-

ing Group. Although the study is called the Altamont Corridor, the potential route from the Central Valley all the way to Interstate 880 will be studied, said Sheets. It also will include the southward stretch through Stockton and Modesto that would connect the Altamont spur with the main north-south line.

ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION HAILS 1A

Stuart Cohen, executive director of TransForm, a coalition of environmentalists who promote transit projects, said that approval of Prop. 1A means more

(See TRAIN, page 4)

Donations Sought for Holiday Dinners

More than 1200 families have registered with the Tri-Valley Haven Pantry for help in obtaining the ingredients for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner.

"This is nearly twice as many families as we served last year," said Haven Executive Director Ann King. "People are really hurting because of the high costs of food, housing and gas. These are hard-working families, and even though parents may be working at one or more jobs, they need some assistance to make it through the month, especially during the holidays."

These are difficult times for nonprofits as well. "Individual donations are down almost 40% from last year," King noted. "The group that has donated most of our turkeys for several years informed us that they will be giving us 200 fewer turkeys this year, even though our need has doubled."

Concerned citizens can help by making a donation to the Haven Pantry. Gift cards from local grocery stores in \$10 or \$20 amounts and cash donations are especially welcome as storage space at the pantry is limited. "Gift cards empower families to purchase the items that suit their own traditions," says King.

Donations can be sent or delivered to Tri-Valley Haven at 3663 Pacific Avenue, Livermore. Haven representatives will also be conducting a "Paper Food Drive" from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 22 in Livermore in front of Lucky's and Starbucks on Portola Avenue, in front of Panama Red Coffee Company on First Street and in front of Grocery Outlet on Stanley Boulevard.

Memorial Vigil Planned For Horses

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District is waiving the fee for use of Robertson Park this Sat., Nov. 22.

A memorial vigil for two horses that were killed on Collier Canyon Road last month will be held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Mike Rountree, whose horses Choctaw and Lucky were killed, will be hosting the memorial with the help of the East Bay Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to animals (EBSPCA).

EBSPCA will be distributing reward posters at the vigil, so that people can assist in finding suspects in the case. A reward has been posted to assist the Contra Costa County sheriff's department in obtaining information that would lead to solution of the case.

LARPD Board Vice President Maryalice Faltings noted that a third horse had also been killed. It was in Tracy.

"There has been an upsurge of citizen concern regarding the killings," Faltings commented at last week's board meeting. "Hopefully, increased awareness will lead to finding the people who perpetrated these outrages. The rodeo and equestrians are part of Livermore's heritage."



Photo - Doug Jorgensen
US Army Sgt. Mariela Meylan (Mason) (in center, waving) has recently moved to her home in Livermore after years of hospitalization at Walter Reed and the VA in Livermore. She had never had a real homecoming event. So, on her 29th birthday last Friday, November 14th, there was a huge homecoming event. It was organized by the Patriot Guard Riders, who provided a motorcycle escort to her home. Mariela was injured at the beginning of her second deployment to Iraq in November 2004. She was part of a crew changing a truck tire in Kuwait when that crew was struck by another vehicle. Two soldiers were killed. She survived along with another. Her recovery has been long and slow but steady. After 4 years of treatment and rehabilitation, in September she left the VA hospital and moved to her parents home in Livermore, where last week's celebration was held.

Pleasanton Schools Look At Newest State Budget

Dismal prospects for the next three years in the Pleasanton school budget were discussed by the school board at its meeting Nov. 17.

Luz Cazares, the district's new assistant superintendent in charge of finance, told the board that Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's proposed new plan still would leave the state budget short by \$2 billion, even

with some \$9 billion of changes.

One-half of the \$9 billion would be program cuts. The other one-half would be a revenue increase, primarily from a boost of the sales tax. Schwarzenegger would add 1.5 percent to the tax.

For schools, the proposed budget will mean more than \$2 billion in cuts. However, the governor would allow districts

to take their restricted category funds, which have state strings attached, and put them into the general fund to be used for anything the district would like.

In the past, Pleasanton schools wanted that flexibility. Now, there is not much money in the restricted categories that could be shifted away from necessary services, said Cazares.

(See BUDGET, page 2)

Sandia Research Could Help Boost Economy

Research conducted at the nation's laboratories has the potential to be used in commercial applications, which could help grow the local and national economy.

Sandia National Laboratories, Livermore, is one such laboratory. Denise Koker is the manager of the business development support for commercialization and licensing. She commented that during rough economic times, federal dollars can be used to stimulate the domestic economy.

It's not the first time technology transfer has been seen as a way to bring innovation into the market place. Koker pointed out there was a lot of excitement in the 1990s that lasted until around the period of the dot.com bust. After that, Congress was not supportive of transferring technology. "Now that is changing," said Koker.

She said because of the need to mitigate climate change and increase energy efficiency, the ante has been upped. "We feel that it is part of the federal mission. Energy is a critical national security issue. It is important that we pro-

vide solutions," she stated.

Laboratories do not have a lot of discretionary funding. The research and development funds they do have can generate new ideas and projects in conjunction with industry.

Partnerships between the labs and industry are one pathway. Koker pointed out that in 2007, Sandia Livermore received \$12 million for research from private industry. About half of that went into energy research. "Companies are turning to us. We are looking for partnerships. We are trying to build upon the base of successful partnerships."

The partnerships range from large companies to small companies, mostly from the energy and auto industries. Some provide funds, some share pre-competitive research information available at Sandia.

Sandia conducts research in energy combustion and hydrogen technologies. There are applications in fuel cells and hydrogen-based vehicles. In addition, there is work in alternative energy such as wind, solar, and

(See SANDIA, page 4)

Period Extended for Lab Retirees to Sign Up for Health Care

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory retirees are concerned that they may not be able to sign up for health care benefits by the deadline.

Because of that concern, the Lab is extending the open enrollment period.

Currently, the retirees are being asked to sign up for the benefits by Nov. 27. The problem is that many people cannot get through to Extend Health, the company hired to take on the task. Waits of up to two to three hours on the telephone have been reported, with no one ever answering.

Jeff Garberson, a member of the retirees organization, said people are upset and scared. "Someone has to step in."

Lynda Seaver, from the Lab's public affairs department, said, "There has been some difficulty in signing up. It is taking longer than originally anticipated. The problem is the massive number of retirees." She added that 30 percent have been enrolled, so the system is working.

Seaver added, "We know that people are concerned. We are trying to do what we can to improve the situation."

In order to make sure, all those who want to sign up are able to do so, Seaver said the open enrollment deadline is being extended to mid-December. People will still receive their health care I.D. cards in time with the later deadline. In addition, people can

(See HEALTH CARE, page 4)

City Manager Told to Sign Oak Grove Development Agreement

Superior Court Judge Frank Roesch granted a request by Jennifer and Frederic Lin that orders Pleasanton City Manager Nelson Fialho to sign the Oak Grove development agreement.

The Lins are the landowners of property in southeast Pleasanton where Oak Grove would be built. The development was approved by the city council last December. It includes 497 acres of open space, as well as 51 custom home lots. The approval consisted of two actions. One was approval of the project, the second approval of a development agreement.

Roesch ruled in favor of a motion by the Lins' attorney, Andrew Sabey of the San Francisco law firm of Cox, Castle & Nicholson, that the development agreement between the Lins and the city was separate from the project approval.

Last Thursday's ruling has no immediate impact on the Oak Grove project. It simply requires Fialho to sign the development agreement.

Oak Grove is the subject of a referendum. Judge Roesch invalidated the referendum, ruling that those collecting signatures had

(See AGREEMENT, page 2)



Amador students, who presented the campaign proposal, are (from left) Tanya Carter, Doug Howe, Vinnie Stefani, Nicolle Vilanueva and Angela Sibley.

Got Money? Amador Class's Milk Ad Earns It \$1000

By Ron McNicoll

Got Money? Teacher Joan Thomas's class at Amador Valley High School does. The class is \$1000 richer, thanks to all the hard work they put into creat-

ing an advertising campaign.

The 30 students competed against two other high schools in the state in bidding for the nod from the California Milk Processor Board (CMPB) for its

next big milk promotion campaign. The Amador Valley students didn't win the announced one prize of \$2000. However, in judging the contest, the CMPB

(See AMADOR, page 12)

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PET OF THE WEEK

Lord of the Manor, King of the Castle- that is Morris in a nutshell. He likes to hang out way up high and look down on his domain. He's a tough dude with an attitude! To hold court with Morris, visit Valley Humane Society's Kitty City at 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton. Open Tues-Sat from 11AM to 5PM. Visit the web site www.valleyhumane.org or call 925-426-8656 for more info. Holiday Home Tour is Dec. 7th-tickets on sale now! Proceeds benefit homeless animals.

Bankhead Theater, Casa Real Earn Awards for Best Structures

Two buildings, one in Livermore and the other in Pleasanton, received East Bay Structures Awards last week.

The Bankhead Theater was named the Best Arts and Culture Project. The theater was designed by MacCracken Architects. Casa Real was recognized as the Best Event Venue. The architect is George Phillips.

The awards are presented by the Business Times. Albert C. Pacciorini, East Bay bureau chief, said of the winners, "While the real estate industry and economy overall continue in turmoil, our 2008 East Bay Structures winners prove that ingenuity and resourcefulness can find success despite market cycles."

According to the Business Times, "During its first season of operation, the Bankhead Theater in Livermore energized the area's

arts and cultural scene, hosting 14,000-plus students and 201 events in the 507-seat venue." People from more than 33 Bay Area zip codes attended performances at the Bankhead.

The theater sold in excess of \$1.2 million in tickets and surpassed the number of events originally projected by 34 percent. In addition, a wide range of nationally known acts were secured including Arlo Guthrie, the Punch Brothers featuring Chris Thile of Nickel Creek, Tony Award winning Broadway musical, "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," and Tommy Tune.

"Besides stealing the spotlight as the centerpiece of Livermore's downtown renovation, the center has created 12 full-time and 20 part-time jobs," the story continued.

Educational outreach is an area that drew mention. Students who could not otherwise afford tickets were able to attend performances.

Casa Real is located in the Ruby Hill area of Pleasanton. The design of the 20,000 square foot building was based on a Moorish palace. Casa Real is surrounded by vineyards and olive trees. The Ruby Hill Winery tasting room is connected to the event center.

"One of our main focuses . . . was to provide a gateway to the Livermore Valley wine region," according to George Phillips.

Casa Real features a 12-foot high limestone fireplace, soaring ceilings with massive chandeliers, limestone arches, handcarved water fountains from Romania and large mahogany doors from Brazil and Nicaragua.



Pictured are Pleasanton Rage Under-11 team members who held a hike to raise funds for the Firehouse Arts Center. The Under-15 team is planning a hike to raise money for Open Heart Kitchen.

AGREEMENT

(continued from page one)

not carried the correct information. The ruling is under appeal.

If the appeal were upheld, the referendum could then go to a vote of the people, if the city council chooses that option. If the referendum provisions were approved by voters, the project and development agreement would both go away. Each contains a poison pill nullifying the other.

According to Pleasanton City Attorney Michael Roush, the poison pill factor remains in place, even if the development

agreement were signed. If the referendum were to go to voters and they subsequently approved the referendum, the project and development agreement would be gone. Roush added that the Lins have agreed to that.

Roush said the next step will be to discuss the ruling with the city council to determine if the council wants to pursue an appeal.

He said that the ruling that the city manager sign the agreement would vest the property as of December 2007.

In the lawsuit, the Lins state that one of the duties of the city manager is "performance of ministerial duties, such as the execution of contracts and agreements that are approved by the city council." The lawsuit claims that the development agreement is a stand alone document.

"From my perspective, the duty of the city manager to sign the agreement was suspended with the referendum. It is a legal principle that we're looking at," Roush said. "I took a conservative approach in the matter."

BUDGET

(continued from page one)

Restricted funds pay for such things as special education and maintenance.

What had been a cost-of-living increase for schools of more than 4 percent in the May version of the budget shrunk to .68 percent, and now to zero percent in the new plan. It's likely that zero percent will run through this year and the next two years, she said.

The net impact on the district, in the best case, will be a \$2 million deficit, said Superintendent John Casey. Just to stay in place, the district needs a further \$2 million increase in revenue each year for what are called rollover costs, mostly the salary step increases for teachers.

Trustee Chris Grant said that if there were a zero percent increase in state funds over the next three years, it would amount to a 14 percent decrease in revenue to the district.

Since nothing will be known for certain until the new budget

is passed by the special session of the Legislature, if it were approved, the discussion at the board meeting was speculative. Casey emphasized that he didn't want to "cry wolf." However, he said that it's possible that the district might lose class size reduction, and face massive layoffs. "It may be on the district list. We held off before on that," said Casey.

One way to save money this year would be for the district to ask whether a vacant position needs to be filled now, or whether a substitute teacher could be hired for the position. Possibly eliminating the position, without even considering a substitute, is another option. This consideration would apply to high schools and possibly also middle schools, where some sections of a subject could be eliminated.

Despite the current economic setbacks in the national and state economy, voters in Livermore and Dublin passed parcel taxes

for their schools, Casey told the board.

Trustee Kris Weaver said that people move to Pleasanton and expect good schools. She said that they would support a parcel tax.

The meeting was the last for Weaver, after 10 years of service on the board. It was also the last for Steve Brozsky, who was appointed to fill the term of the late Juanita Haugen more than a year ago. The other trustees thanked Weaver and Brozsky for their service.

Raising Funds for Open Heart Kitchen

The Ruby Hill Giving Thanks Charity Committee (RHGTCC) has announced a \$10,000 Matching Gift Campaign, in order to help create awareness for the urgent need for funding for Open Heart Kitchen.

Open Heart Kitchen, the only hot meal program in the Tri-Valley, may be forced to close its doors due to the downturn in the economy. Cash donations are at an all-time low while requests for services remain high. More funding from grants and corporate donations is on the horizon for 2009, but may not be received in time to prevent Open Heart Kitchen's financial collapse. In 2007, Open Heart Kitchen served approximately 160,000 meals.

"Our organization has supported Open Heart Kitchen from the beginning," notes Ruby Hill Giving Thanks Charity Committee Board Member, Rosanne Hoffman. "This is a critical time for this organization. The program needs our help now more than ever."

Local residents and companies are urged to make a donation today by calling 925 580-1616 to donate or by going online to www.OpenHeartKitchen.org and donating using PayPal.

A fundraising for Open Heart

Kitchen will be held today, Thurs., Nov. 20 from 5 to 8 p.m. at Blacksmith Square in downtown Livermore.

The event will feature wine tasting and hors d'oeuvres. Roger Kardinal will perform acoustic rock.

Linda McKeever, executive director of Open Heart Kitchen, will be on hand to accept donations.

There is no admission charge. Wendy Weathers is the organizer. Anyone who is interested in helping with the event is invited to call her at 963-8019.

Pleasanton Rage Under 15 team member Phoebe Brown is planning a fund-raiser hike for her team. This is a Hike for the Kitchen to support Open Heart Kitchen. That event will be November 30th. The goal is to raise \$2500 with the Rage organization matching whatever is donated.

Those who would like to make a donation for Hike for the Kitchen please write a check to Open Heart Kitchen and mail it to: Sue Evans, P.O. Box 1612, Pleasanton, CA 94566. Their tax ID number is available upon request.

BANKHEAD THEATER

2400 First Street, Downtown Livermore

 <p>Luma: Theater of Light A Special Thanksgiving Family Event With darkness as a canvas and light as a brush, LUMA performers paint dazzling, sparkling images that tell stories and spin a visual magic, evoking awe and delight. National Public Radio praised the luminescent production, calling it "pure utter beauty... in all its mythical, philosophical, and playful wonder." Nov 30 • 2pm \$30/\$25/\$20/\$12 students</p>	 <p>The Four Freshmen Celebrate New Year's Eve LVPAC's Toast to the New Year Join LVPAC favorites for a gala New Year's Eve Party complete with champagne and dessert in the lobby following the performance. Famous for pioneering a new style of close-harmony vocals built on the barbershop tradition, and often accompanying themselves on guitar, trumpet, trombone, bass, and drums. Dec 31 • 7pm \$95/\$80/\$70/\$60</p>	<p>Handel's "The Messiah" Pacific Chamber Symphony Dec 2 • 8pm \$38/\$32/\$26/\$7</p>
<p>The Seagull by Anton Chekhov Shakespeare's Associates Nov 21 - 23 \$45/\$40/\$35/\$30/\$20</p>	<p>Banjo and Horns Family Concert Livermore-Anador Symphony Dec 6 • 2pm \$8/\$5</p>	

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VALLEY ROUNDUP

Holiday Cards for the Troops

Congressman Jerry McNerney (CA-11) is sponsoring his second annual "Holiday Cards for Our Troops" program.

Rep. McNerney will collect holiday cards for soldiers recovering from battle and stationed away from their families this holiday season. He will then hand-deliver the cards to soldiers at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., sailors and marines at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, MD, and to National Guard and Reserve soldiers at Parks Reserve Forces Training Area in Dublin, CA.

"The holiday season can be a stressful time of year for the soldiers who serve our country, particularly for those who have returned from overseas with injuries," McNerney said. "Being away from friends, family and the comfort of tradition during the holidays is incredibly difficult. Thoughtful words of encouragement and support from the great people of the 11th district can make a huge difference in boosting the morale of our brave troops who have so honorably served their country."

Constituents are asked to make or purchase a holiday card, write a message of thanks inside to a service member, and then deliver the card to Rep. McNerney's office in Stockton or Pleasanton by December 10. The cards should remain unaddressed and envelopes unsealed. The Congressman's staff will then address and seal the envelopes and the Congressman will personally deliver them on behalf of the people of the 11th district of California.

Last year, the Congressman collected and delivered over 700 cards. He hopes to top that number this year.

The Pleasanton office is located at 5776 Stoneridge Mall Rd., Suite 175, information 737-0727. The Stockton office is at 2222 Grand Canal Blvd., Suite 7; information, 209-476-8552.

Destination Showcase

The California Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) will hold the 1st Annual Destination Showcase on January 22, 2009 from 3:30 pm - 7:30 pm at the San Ramon Valley Conference Center in San Ramon. The new event will promote the area's various meeting and event venues, hotels and event service providers to Bay Area meeting and event planners.

The CVB expects to have over 50 exhibitors, including Tri-Valley hotels, event venues and event service providers. Local Livermore Valley wineries will be on hand to offer tasting of their latest vintages and Tri-Valley caterers will provide samplings of their best cuisine.

"We understand that in this economy meeting planners are looking for an economical des-

tinuation to host their groups. We want to help make the process less time consuming and expensive," said Natalie Alvarez, Tri-Valley CVB's director of marketing and membership. "The event is basically one-stop shopping for meeting planners."

Because of the closer proximity to Silicon Valley and San Francisco, the Tri-Valley region is becoming an increasingly popular spot for meetings and events. It is now home to over 45 Livermore Valley wineries, many of which offer meeting space amid the vineyards. With new venues opening in the recent years, including the award winning event center, Casa Real at Ruby Hill Winery, the Bankhead Theatre in Livermore and San Ramon's Patrick David's Event Center, the area is poised to become the next big destination in affordable meetings and special events. Hotels in the area are also stepping up, with two Tri-Valley hotel properties changing flags in the past year, Hyatt Place Dublin and the Pleasanton Marriott.

The Tri-Valley Destination Showcase will be held at the San Ramon Valley Conference Center located at 3301 Crow Canyon Road in San Ramon. Registration is \$25 per person and is available on the bureau's website at www.trivalleycvb.com/meetings. Exhibit space will be made available to members of the Tri-Valley CVB.

New Security at Stoneridge

Starting this week, the Stoneridge Shopping Center will be implementing the new T3 Security Vehicle. The move will both work to reduce the center's carbon footprint and enhance safety and security at the mall.

Not only do the T3s produce zero gas emissions, but each one will actually reduce the mall's carbon footprint by over five tons of CO2. In addition to their environmental benefits, they will provide a new way to keep Stoneridge shoppers safe. The T3, a state-of-the-art three-wheeled police and security enforcement vehicle, make officers more visible. They have a zero-degree turning radius and compact design, perfect for maneuvering through crowds and tight spaces.

The new T3 was designed with input from law enforcement and security industry professionals and reaches up to 20 mph in speed. Each T3 operator has been fully trained to operate the new machines.

Correction

Steve Brozovsky did not receive the endorsement of the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce in the 2006 mayoral election as indicated in a story in The Independent last week.

Holiday Festivities Planned in Downtowns

PLEASANTON

Forget about reindeer. Pleasanton's Magical Holiday Evening on Friday, November 21, from 6-9 p.m. will have miniature horses from the Traveling Tails Horse Hospice Program on hand to meet and greet visitors to downtown Pleasanton.

These "minis" are taken to children's hospice care homes to visit children who are near the end of life. For more information, visit the website at SonRiseEquestrianFoundation.org.

The downtown streets will come alive with the sights and sounds of the holidays. Downtown shops, restaurants and businesses usher in the holidays with festive decorations, twinkling lights, banners, beautiful window displays and holiday treats.

This year's festivities include visits with Santa and encounters with Elves who will hand out purple candy canes and peppermint lollipops. There will be carolers, choruses, bell ringers, flutes - all singing and playing your favorite holiday tunes. Children of all ages will be entertained by Dana Smith and his dog Lacey as Dana performs fire juggling, acrobatics and circus arts while Lacey "sings" with Dana and "leaps" over willing volunteers! Balloon sculptors, face painters and Crackers the Clown will all be on hand to celebrate the magic of the season.

There is no admission charge. All are welcome.

LIVERMORE

Livermore Downtown Inc. will host the 3rd Annual Shop Earlier Than the Bird Shopping Event on Sat., Nov. 22 from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. in downtown Livermore.

Livermore's gift shops and boutiques will be open with special deals, offers and treats. Pajama attire will be acceptable wear.

Rock out with live music from The Covergirlz, an all-female cover band, at the Flagpole Plaza from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

An official Earlier Than The Bird Tote Bag will given to those wearing their pajamas. Shoppers must be in pajamas to receive giveaway. Sweats and workout clothes are not eligible as pajamas. Children in pajamas will be given crayons and men will receive a coffee mug.

Earlier Than The Bird Tote bag give-away is sponsored by Livermore Downtown Inc., ultra-creative: photography; music; design, Woopsiedaisy Toy Shop, All About Me Kids Salon, and Brown Eyed Girl Beauty and Gifts.

For more information, call (925) 373-1795 or go to www.livermoredowntown.com/.

The Following Business will be open at 7 a.m. and will be offering something special:

Ultra-creative photography; music; design, Woopsiedaisy Toy Shop, All About Me Kids Salon, Brown-

Eyed Girl Beauty and Gifts, Candy Bouquet and Live-For-More-Fudget, Anita's Salon and Scalp Clinic, Orghipchick, OutSideIn etc., Cooleykatz Toys, Country Morning and Sunni's Pet Boutique, Firehouse Bistro and Books, Main Street Designs, Main Street Designs Christmas Store, UpTown Girls Salon and Boutique, Purse Party by Nicole, Vino Cellars & Accessories, Tiffane's, A Cookie and Cupcake Boutique, Dana's Bridal and Dress Gallery, Valley Furniture, August Tea Room and Jillian's Fine Gifts, ArtGlass Studio, Charlotte's Web, Proctor's, artspace gallery, Salon Tivoli, Livermore Valley Florist, El Charro Taqueria, Zephyr Grill and Bar, Robek's Juice, Demetri's Taverna, Riata Diner and Tavern, and Uncle Yu's At the Vineyard.

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Gala Raises Funds for Mobile Health Unit

The Rotarian Foundation of Livermore's major fall fund-raising event will provide funds to support the ValleyCare Health System's mobile health unit.

The Autumn Gala, "Putting on the Glitz," will be held Saturday, Nov. 22 starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Castlewood Country Club in Pleasanton.

The evening includes fine food, live and silent auctions as well as drawings for gift baskets and live music provided by "Nightlife Big Band." The event is open to the public. It is sponsored by the two Livermore Rotary Clubs through their joint foundation. Tickets are \$85 per person. Dress is black-tie optional.

David Mertes, President of the Rotarian Foundation of Livermore, says the Foundation's largest single endeavor was the purchase of the Mobile Health Unit for ValleyCare Health System.

The Unit, which is operated by ValleyCare, will be parked outside Castlewood during the gala event for visitation. The Mobile Health Unit serves uninsured and underinsured children in Livermore's schools and regularly visits senior centers as well as organizations serving people who are in need of health care.

In addition, if a catastrophic event were to occur, the Mobile Health Unit would become part of the total community response

team. Fundraising to support the purchase and operation of the Unit is ongoing. Some of the proceeds from the Autumn Gala event will be used to help keep the Mobile Health Unit in the forefront of the effort to assure health care to all citizens.

For additional information please contact Tom Heath 925 890-2577 or Tom Bramell 925 443-7293 or go to the website at www.rotarianfoundation.org

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EDITORIAL

'Poison Pill'

One of the most satisfying results in the recent election was the loss of the "poison pill" in Pleasanton.

The so-called pill would have given Measure QQ precedence over Measure PP if QQ had tallied more votes than PP. QQ was placed on the ballot by the Pleasanton City Council to serve just such a role, but PP received almost 1400 votes more than QQ (PP: 17,545 yes, 12,052 no; QQ: 16,167 yes, 13,932 no).

At stake was a voter-driven referendum aimed at protecting from residential development the skyline and slopes of Pleasanton's southeastern hills.

In refusing to swallow the pill, the voters of Pleasanton showed that their eye is clear in differentiating between meaningful and immediate action to protect the hills and a slower, weaker process. The election was a mandate: the voters of Pleasanton want those hills preserved.

TRAIN

(continued from page one)

than just putting a high-speed train on the tracks. "This is the future of how our state will grow, and how people will get around. And the future is clean, green, and creates jobs for Californians."

Cohen contrasted the future train, which would run totally on clean, renewable energy, to gasoline-powered vehicles, which contribute to 40 percent of the state's air pollution emissions. The new train would be the first zero-emissions train system in the

world, he said. It would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 12 billion pounds each year.

By locating stations in downtown areas of cities, the train will also work against creating more sprawl, said Cohen. "It will redirect growth away from our farms and open space and towards existing developed areas," he said. It will be a change from building "airport-like stations surrounded by parking and rental car facilities."

HEALTH CARE

(continued from page one)

call in to set up exclusive personal appointments.

There is also concern that benefits are being changed.

Seaver said nothing is really changed. Rather than being a group insurance, as in the past, it is now individual insurance.

Under the new system, each person will have \$2400 placed into a health care reimbursement account. The cost of care and premiums will be withdrawn each month. "There will be no change in the quality of care," said Seaver.

She also said that it is estimated there would be no out of pocket expenses that retirees would have to pay.

However, one retiree pointed out that the money is not sufficient to cover Medicare Part B. People could end up \$200 in the hole at the end of the year.

Part B of Medicare is intended to fill some of the gaps in

medical insurance coverage left under Part A. After the beneficiary meets the annual deductible, Part B will pay 80% of the "reasonable charge" for covered services, the reimbursement rate determined by Medicare; the beneficiary is responsible for the remaining 20% as "co-insurance."

Seaver said that under most scenarios involving Part B, retirees would have no out of pocket expenses. If the most expensive plan were selected, there would be a small amount. She said the \$200 a year mentioned was in the ballpark.

Seaver explained that what retirees are not factoring in is that some of the services are now paid for that retirees had to pay under UC. She added the cost of health care is going up everywhere. "We are providing the same dollars for health care. There is just a different way of delivering it."

SANDIA

(continued from page one)

nuclear energy. Methods are also being developed to enhance oil and gas exploration.

Michael Janes, from Sandia's public affairs office, noted that Sandia had reorganized to accommodate partnerships. There is a dedicated center where transportation and energy applications are available.

Koker added, "We are looking to become more efficient as a laboratory." This effort includes a two lab, one site model with the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. The two entities would identify such things as landscape maintenance that could be contracted out as a shared expense. Management, funding and programs would remain separate.

Sandia, Koker believes, is well-positioned to do well with industrial partnerships. She described Sandia as the most diversified of the NNSA laboratories because it conducts research for a variety of government agencies. "Sandia has paved the way for multi-sponsorship laboratories."

Janes added that Sandia expects work for others to increase year-by-year.

Koker described one long-lasting partnership with Goodyear. "It has been advantageous to both. The largest project has been the use of codes developed for nuclear weapons to design new tires." The codes have reduced the cycle for the design and testing of new tires from multiple years down to one cycle. "The codes are so reliable that the company can design the tires upfront then test them just once," Koker said.

In Albuquerque, Sandia's other site, a science and technology park has been established outside the gates of the laboratory. This has enabled partners and spin-offs to locate very close to the laboratory. "We would welcome a similar set-up in Livermore,"

Koker declared.

Sandia is interested in developing public/private partnerships and expanding them to include multiple partners, perhaps involving local government, the state, federal government, and private industry. Each party would leverage an investment for a common objective. One partner could provide the land, another the building, yet another build a wing in the building. "That is a concept we are exploring," said Koker.

Koker said there is a great deal of interest in transportation research. Working together could make it possible to build something bigger and accelerate the deployment of technology such as alternative fuels or electrification of cars.

"We want to make it easy for people to use technology developed as a result of research conducted at Sandia," said Janes.

Currently, Sandia is in the second year of a DOE pilot program aimed at spinning-off technology. DOE put out a solicitation for venture capitalists to participate as residents at laboratories. One is in residence at Sandia Livermore. The venture capitalists are looking through the inventory of technologies available for spin-off with the idea of investment potential.

In addition, Koker said that occasionally employees are interested in licensing and commercializing technology.

"There is a phenomena that happens when there is technology available that relates to economic development. Research takes place around such technology clusters. If a critical mass could be established around a particular topical area, it accelerates the development of the technology. "I'd invite readers to think of the benefits of creating a cluster or clusters around Livermore," declared Koker.

McNerney, LARPD Winners Reflect On Election

Looking back on the election, Rep. Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton) said he was "thrilled to win re-election to Congress.

"I have worked hard over the past two years to represent the people of this district, to be open, accessible, and available and I am looking forward to continuing that," he declared.

The Republican party made a push to regain the seat this year. The party selected former Assemblyman Dean Andal of Stockton to run against McNerney in hopes of winning the seat lost two years ago by longtime Republican Rep. Richard Pombo. Generally, a seat that changes parties is the mostly likely to be won back in the following election. However, McNerney won by 55 percent to 45 percent for Andal.

The count on Monday by the Secretary of State's office had McNerney with 156,016 votes and Andal at 126,843.

McNerney said that he wanted to thank "everyone who knocked

on the doors, made the phone calls, donated money, walked the precincts and convinced friends, family members and neighbors to get out and vote. Without you, this would not have been possible."

Incumbents Steve Goodman and Beth Wilson were returned for terms on the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) board.

Goodman received 21,098 votes for 41 percent of the vote, and Wilson 16,214 for 32 percent. Challenger Barbara Kraybill, a retired LARPD employee, collected 13,135 votes, or almost 26 percent.

Board president Goodman said he felt that he was re-elected because people were satisfied with the job that the entire board is doing.

LARPD loses \$7 million annually, or 48 percent of its budget, to the state, because of ERAF, a fund established a few years ago by the state to help bail it out of

the red ink. Restrictions in an initiative passed after ERAF now limit Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's ability to take more ERAF money from local government, said Goodman. The state must pay back earlier takings, before it can take more, he said.

However, the district probably will face some cut in revenue from property tax. Homeowners are asking the Alameda County Assessor to reduce the assessed valuation of their properties, since the housing market has declined, said Goodman. So, it's clear that LARPD won't be growing programs, but instead will be trying hard to maintain what is in place, said Goodman.

"We set aside funds for economic uncertainty, more than \$1 million, so we anticipated (the state budget problems)," said Goodman. However, some things funded in the past may not be funded in the future. The board will have to set priorities.

Wilson stated, "Incumbency had something to do with my re-election. My supporters like the idea I am truly passionate about parks."

"(The theme of) getting kids outdoors struck a chord with people of a certain age. We used to play outdoors. I don't know how many told me that kids do not go out doors as they used to. Anything we can do to help them be outdoors more would be good thing," said Wilson.

Obviously, LARPD will have budget restrictions. However, there are things the agency can accomplish in conjunction with Zone 7 Water Agency, East Bay Regional Park District and the City of Livermore to gain grants for recreation projects, said Wilson. For example, LARPD received mitigation money from the builder of a pipeline through Sycamore Grove Park. With it, LARPD is recreating the stream bed in Holdener Park, said Wilson.

Livermore Lab to Be Location of 'Hyperion' Cluster

The National Nuclear Security Administration's (NNSA) Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory has teamed up with 10 computing industry leaders to accelerate the development of powerful next-generation Linux clusters in a project dubbed Hyperion.

The goal of the project is to provide a development, testing and scaling environment for new cluster technologies and infrastructure critical to the mission requirements of NNSA's Advanced Simulation and Computing program. This includes testing new hardware and software technologies and forming long-term relationships to ensure continuity in the development of new technologies for

ever-larger systems over the long haul.

Hyperion brings together Dell, Intel, Supermicro, QLogic, Cisco, Mellanox, DDN, Sun, LSI, and RedHat to create a large-scale testbed for high-performance computing technologies critical to NNSA's work to maintain the aging U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile without underground nuclear testing. It also will help with industry's ability to make petaFLOPs (quadrillion floating operations per second) computing and storage more accessible for commerce, industry and research and development.

"Hyperion represents a new way of doing business. Collectively we are building a system none of us could have built indi-

vidually," said Mark Seager, Lab project leader. "The project will advance the state-of-the-art in a cost-effective manner, benefiting both end users, such as the national security labs, and the computing industry, which can expand the market with proven, easy to deploy large-and small-scale Linux clusters."

Technologies for scaling up computing clusters include Open Fabrics Enterprise Edition (OFED) InfiniBand Open Source software; Lustre Open Source Parallel File System; and Open Source Operating System Software and cluster tools used by the Tri-Lab Capacity Clusters, which serve researchers at Lawrence Livermore, Los Alamos and Sandia national labs.

In addition, Hyperion will help lay the foundation for future petascale ASC computing platforms by facilitating the development of processors, memory, networks, storage and visualization.

The first half of Hyperion is now online and being used by the collaboration. When completed in March 2009, the Hyperion cluster, located at Livermore, will have at least 1,152 nodes with 9,216 cores; with about a 100 teraFLOPs peak

This system is the largest testbed of its kind in the world. It will provide the Hyperion collaborators with an opportunity to develop and test hardware and software technologies on a large scale.

MAILBOX

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

Some Good News Dorene Strand Document Control, Engineering Dept.

I would like to take a moment not to report bad news, but instead some good news and good people! I recently withdrew \$40.00 from my lunch and put it in my pant pocket. I wondered about it falling out but by the time I got back to work I had forgotten about it. When it was time to go home, I started my car and noticed a piece of yellow paper on my windshield. I noticed the car to my left had a similar yellow piece of paper and my first thought was it was some sort of advertisement, then I noticed it looked like it was handwritten, so I removed the paper from my windshield wipers and read it. It said, "Hi, I found some money on the road behind your car. If you have lost some, please call me at xxx-xxxx. (I am a Formfactor employee) Thx"

I immediately began to search for the money I had withdrawn then I began to doubt myself as to what I did with it. I didn't want to jump to conclusion that I had lost it because I am always misplacing things. When I realized it might be mine I placed the phone call and said that I think I might have lost \$40, and that it was two twenty's and proceeded to leave my phone number. The next day I received a phone call from the anonymous good deeder, who confirmed the denomination that I had lost and agreed to meet with me to return it.

As I walked to the front of the building to meet with her, I saw from a distance a woman with a great smile coming from around the corner, I knew immediately this was my good deed person, lively and cheerful! It was a brief encounter, as we both had to return to work, but I did introduce myself and she did as well. I gave Uma a hug and told her how grateful I was for her honesty and how much this meant to me. After meeting with Uma, I made sure all my co-workers, family and friends new of this great thing that just happened to me. I will always remember this day and Uma too! We should all be grateful to have such wonderful people such as Uma in our community.

Thank you Uma for your honesty and integrity!

Thank You Steve Goodman Rich Buckley Livermore

I would like to thank all of the residents who helped to elect me to the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District Board of Directors. I am truly overwhelmed and humbled by the level of support I received. I am also very grateful to those who

worked tirelessly to help me meet so many of the residents of the district, allowing me to share and discuss my ideas and opinions. I will continue to work cooperatively with the other LARPD Board members and the residents to make LARPD's facilities and programs the best that they can be.

There are many challenges ahead for LARPD and many tough decisions will need to be made. LARPD continues to face serious budget challenges, as the state redirects precious property tax dollars away from LARPD and other special districts. As Saskya Pandita once said, "When many work together for a goal, great things may be accomplished." I am optimistic that, by working together, we will be able to overcome many of the obstacles that we will face in the future.

Thank you again for your support. I care deeply about Livermore and its parks and recreation programs and promise to work hard for the citizens of the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District.

Distributing Wealth Dianne Foster Livermore

Americans have no where to run! My Lithuanian ancestors traveled to America to escape the socialist/communist government take over. To invade their country, the bad guys simply rigged the elections. In America we call it "voter fraud." The bad guys murdered their opposition. In America "character assassination" works just fine.

In Eastern Europe, after 50 years of domination by the Soviet Union's socialistic policies, the people were freed thanks to our Great Republican President Ronald Reagan. Talk to these people, or better yet travel to their countries as I have, and hear first hand how they suffered. Their land, tools and income were stripped from them in the name of "distributing the wealth." Sound familiar?

The American people are very generous (through taxes) when it comes to providing government services to people in need. In California alone, over 30% of the state budget goes for this cause. Free food, medical, and a government check are provided. For Obama to believe that there is further need in America to help out the unfortunate (in his terms "distributing the wealth") is bogus. Call it what it is—Socialism. Already been tried and failed!

Perhaps I should return to Lithuania. I would be happier living among people who understand the consequences of "distributing the wealth."

Downtown Parking Rich Buckley Livermore

Back when Bill Parness was City Manager, early downtown redevelopment versions where just taking shape. No one knew where we were going but we all formed around a promise emerging from Bill Parness's office that whatever we do, lets provide public parking and make it free

for everyone.

The undertone to this vital issue of public parking was carried along from chatter among the vested interests, that public parking would be good but it needs to be a community effort. If you want the downtown to work, the logic flowed, public parking and lots of it must be provided at the general public expense.

After a preliminary undersized assessment district started by Mr. Parness failed by 99% against to 1% undecided among property owners it became apparent that a much larger redevelopment district was needed. My office sent post cards out to every property owner because we saw the format as not being equitable. I was inundated with an extraordinarily high percent return. At Mr. Parness's request the raw materials were shared with him. He immediately recognized the first iteration needed to be withdrawn. A new plan was put in play.

Mr. Parness then set a second idea in motion, the much larger district we see today (not including the Stoney Creek Annex out by the LLNL off East Avenue). The larger district worked. The assessment district size won general support by a majority of the landowners inside its boundaries when it came to a vote. Even I was on board and supported it. We finally had a plan. His office sent us a written letter of thanks for our positive contribution to the work effort.

Throughout the selling process of creating the larger redevelopment assessment district the idea was still allowed to float that the community and the business district were (a) now going to receive public parking and (b) could develop their properties and there would be parking provided by the assessment district at no additional charges. It wasn't spelled out that way in black and white but there was a flow of discussions held among the city manager's good offices and various vested interests in the proposed redevelopment area where property owners were allowed to continue to believe they would receive public parking through a downtown redevelopment district that could be counted on to thereafter serve the interests of the property owners and in doing so, the broader community. We were on a roll. It seemed the little guy's boat was coming in.

But suddenly the property owners where caught in a shell game with the redevelopment agency. The property owners (a) where going to get public parking, sure enough, but (b) the property owners were not going to be granted the right to use those spaces at no additional costs when they developed their property. The planners' quick fingers moved the prize. Now the property owners were going to get taxed twice and big time in the second round, once to build parking, once again to use it in conjunction to serve your new project. It was only fair went the new theory emanating for the city, besides, it wasn't in writing that it would ever be any different. It seemed as though we were reading a chapter in "The Art of

War" by Sun Tzu, and were now Sun Tzu's subjugates.

The reader should care about this because the added new burden of parking costs is almost always the deal killer for property owners to initiate the redevelopment of their property. We in the business refer to this deal-killer as "the Wall."

The first big concession the city made to Madden in developing the Golden Triangle of course was to allow the City Center Project to develop without paying the \$20,000 per parking space. That of course was the district's promise floated to all the property owners to get the old district approved and then taken away from us by the planning shell game....the old bait and switch, Sun Tzu at his best.

The net result of course is a new tax burden on the small projects. Small projects ended up subsidizing de-facto all the big projects.

Generosity Alive and Well Sue Evans Pleasanton

These are very challenging times in our economy and I am happy to say that generosity is alive and well in our area. First, I would like to thank everyone (residents and nonresidents) who purchased the special Pleasanton recycle bags to help raise money for the Firehouse Arts project. A special thanks goes to Liz Gaouette, the new owner of the Berry Patch Craft Gallery, for assisting me with this project. We sold over 200 bags with all profits being donated to the Firehouse fund.

I would also like to acknowledge Rage soccer board member Martha Brown, for her efforts in assisting her daughter Sophia Brown and fellow soccer team member Kennedy Truex when organizing a Hike for the Firehouse. I felt privileged to be asked to lead 11 Rage Under 11 team members and 7 adults up Pleasanton Ridge. Together we earned \$1238.00 for the Firehouse. Currently, Phoebe Brown, Sophia's older sister, is organizing another fundraiser hike for her Rage Under 15 team. This is a Hike for the Kitchen to support Open Heart Kitchen who desperately need help to avoid closure. That event will be November 30th and again I feel privileged to lead them. Our goal is to raise \$2500 with the Rage organization matching whatever is donated. I have great admiration for these young women who not only train hard for their sport, but also are willing to participate in an activity that benefits others in need.

In a time when people are struggling to put food on their table, organizations like Open Heart Kitchen are critical for those in need. If you would like to make a donation for our Hike for the Kitchen please write your check to Open Heart Kitchen and mail it to: Sue Evans, P.O. Box 1612, Pleasanton, CA 94566. Their tax ID number is available upon request.

Kevin Krakauer Earns Eagle Scout Rank

Kevin Krakauer, a 2008 graduate of Amador Valley High School, recently attained the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America. Kevin started as a Cub Scout in 1997 in Pack 901 and joined Boy Scout Troop 941 in 2001.

To reach the rank of Eagle, Scouts are required to earn at least 21 merit badges and to hold various leadership positions. Kevin earned 23 merit badges and held Patrol and Troop leadership positions as he advanced in rank in the Troop.

Kevin organized and led a service project for Mohr Elementary School. The project involved re-building irrigation and landscaping for part of the school grounds, and preparing an unused plot of land for use as a garden for kindergarten classes. The purpose is to allow young students an opportunity to participate in gardening and to have a small window on nature, right



Kevin Krakauer

outside their classroom.

The garden is now growing various plants, including pumpkins for Halloween last month, and is tended by kindergarten classes led by their teachers. The project involved 120 hours of volunteer labor and donations of material from several local businesses including Cochran Land-

scape Materials in Livermore and Workbench Tru Value Hardware in Pleasanton. Kevin's Eagle advisor was Don Deeds, Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 941.

Kevin is now attending San Jose State University, where he is pursuing engineering and business. Troop 941 is based at Lynnwood United Methodist Church in Pleasanton and is sponsored by VFW Post 6298.

Lab Employee Among 'Most Distinguished'

DeVry University commemorated its 25th anniversary of operations in California, recognizing its "Most Distinguished" statewide alumni as part of its "25 Years of Building Careers in California Gala" held September 19 at the Pacific Palms Resort in the Industry Hills area of City of Industry. Notable faculty, community partners and employers were also recognized at the luncheon.

Among the alumni recognized was Randy Pico - Superintendent for the National Security Engineering Division, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

Pico is very involved with the community and takes the "Science Van" to elementary, middle and high school students throughout the state of California bringing science to the classroom. He also served on several nonprofit boards including the American Indian Science and Engineering Society as President of the California Professional Chapter. He serves as DeVry University's program advisory board for Southern California.

Our Savior Lutheran School Earns WASC Accreditation

By Patricia Koning

This summer Our Savior Lutheran School, a private school operated by Our Savior Lutheran Ministry (OSLM) in Livermore, received accreditation by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). The accreditation is for six years with an interim visit at three year, the longest accreditation period that WASC gives.

"We've always known that this is a high-quality school. This accreditation verifies that fact," said David Dirk, principal of Our Savior Lutheran School. "We went through the accreditation process to assure our parent community that the school meets all proper education guidelines."

As a private school, Our Savior students are not allowed to take standardized tests such as the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) exams administered by the California Department of Education, so making comparisons with public schools can be difficult. "We want to assure parents they aren't compromising their child's education by choosing a religious school," said administrative assistant Angela Westphal.

Our Savior Lutheran School began working on the self-study phase of accreditation about three years ago. The WASC accreditation process has three steps: self study, self-study visit by a committee of three to eight people, and action by the Accreditation Commission for Schools.

WASC accreditation is essential for high schools whose students will be applying for college or entering the military. Dr. David Brown, executive director of WASC, says the accreditation is like a stamp of approval on a student's transcript.

Middle and elementary schools do not typically go through WASC accreditation. The middle and elementary schools of the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District are not WASC-accredited. They undergo program quality reviews instead. The Livermore Valley Charter School, a K-8 public charter school, is WASC-accredited. Undergoing the accreditation process has additional benefits beyond the stamp of approval. Most schools find the long self-study process very beneficial for improving operations.

Sixth grade teacher Mickey Angerman led much of the self-study process for the Our Savior staff. "It was very time consuming and required a lot of research into the school's history and documentation of all of our practices," she said. "We learned a lot too. All of the teachers were surprised at how much we do out of the classroom, such as field trips and service projects."

She said the self-study process also helped the teaching

staff appreciate the diversity in teaching styles and educational approaches among the staff. According to Dirks, the areas for improvement were centered on communication with the parent community and administration, not with the educational program.

The Commission's criteria for accreditation are research-based guidelines of systemic school improvement that address accreditation's central tenet: a school that operates with a clear understanding of its purpose. Numerous practicing educational leaders and theorists contributed to the development of criteria to identify concepts and factors that differentiate between effective and ineffective schools. For more information about WASC, visit www.acswasc.org.

Our Savior, which serves students in grades kindergarten through eighth grade, was founded 29 years ago in 1979. For more information, see www.oslm.net.

Workshops Planned to Learn about City Grants

The Cities of Dublin, Livermore and Pleasanton will co-sponsor two application workshops for all fiscal year 2009-10 Pleasanton city grants, Livermore Housing and Human Services grants, and Pleasanton and Dublin Community Development Block grants.

Staff will discuss the application processes and will distribute application packets at the workshops. Attendance at one of the scheduled workshops is mandatory in order to apply for City of Livermore funding and is strongly encouraged for the Cities of Dublin and Pleasanton. Both workshops will be identical in format and content and it

is only necessary to attend one workshop.

The first workshop is slated for Monday, December 8, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Pleasanton City Council Chamber, located at 200 Old Bernal Avenue in Pleasanton.

A second workshop will be held on Wednesday, December 10 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Livermore City Council Chamber, located at 3575 Pacific Avenue in Livermore.

To RSVP for attendance at one of the workshops, please contact Tim Shurtliff at (925) 960-4016, or send an email to tmshurtliff@ci.livermore.ca.us.

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.

Cheer results, California Spirit Elite, an All-Star competitive cheerleading team based in Pleasanton, took home top honors again this weekend at the USA Regional Competition in Fremont, California. The CSE Senior Level 3 and 4 placed first in their division along the Stunt Group also placing 1st, with the Junior Level 2 taking home 3rd place and the Mini's taking home 4th place.

Turkey bingo, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6298 will host a Turkey Bingo night, Saturday, November 22, 2008, 6:00 PM at Veterans Memorial Hall 301 Main Street, Pleasanton. Bingo cards \$ 50 each. Proceeds used to support our troops. Contact: Larry Jackson: 462-0788.

BNI kicking off a new chapter in Tri-Valley. Meeting at Mimi's Cafe, 4775 Hacienda Drive, Dublin, 925-833-2521, Thursday 7 a.m. Networking for referrals. Contact Kali @ 925 963 4900

Valley Spokesmen Bicycle Touring Club, Sat., Nov. 22, 47 miles from Shannon Center in Dublin to Castro Valley, meet 9 a.m., Mike Smith, 628-4333. Sun., Nov. 23, 50 miles east on Tesla/Corral Hollow over the summit and along California Aqueduct, meet 9 a.m. at shopping center at Pacific Ave. and So. Livermore Ave., John Woodworth, 784-6350. Wed., Nov. 26, 25 miles north Livermore section of the Cinderella, meet 10 a.m. at Livermore Airport, Bill Goodwin, 487-0521. Fri., Nov. 28, 103 miles, 5000 ft. climb, meet 7:30 a.m. at old Nob Hill Center, Livermore, John Woodworth, 487-6350. Anyone planning to go on a ride is asked to call the leader for details on where to meet and what to bring.

Livermore Peripheral Neuropathy

Support Group, meets 10 a.m. Tues., Nov. 25 at Heritage Estates Retirement Community second floor conference room, 900 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore. All are welcome. Dr. Robert Shiniman will talk about pain management. Information, Lorene Stack, 447-6158, or Ann Laye, 443-4098.

Meditation: The Science of Bliss with Marshall Zaslave, M.D. Thurs., Nov. 20, 7 p.m. Pleasanton Library meeting room, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Zaslave, MD, board certified psychiatrist, author, researcher, and seminar leader, will focus in this workshop on the latest discoveries in the 'technology of happiness.' The program is free and open to all. No registration required. For more information, call Penny Johnson, 931-3405.

Hearing Loss Association of America, Tri-Valley Chapter, meets at the Valley Community Church at 4455 Del Valle Parkway, Pleasanton on Nov. 20, at 7 p.m. The program will start at 7:30 PM. The meetings are free, the public is invited and refreshments are served. The speaker will be Deborah McMenamin, Au.D., a local audiologist. She will discuss over-the-counter and prescription drugs, vaccines, herbs and chemicals which have the potential to damage your ears and have been associated with a vast array of symptoms including hearing loss, tinnitus, auditory hallucinations, pressure or pain in the ear, excessive ear wax, and/or balance disturbances. For more information Email Hiram Van Blarigan at hvanblarigan@hotmail.com.

Service news: Army Maj. Gen. Don T. Riley has assumed duties as the deputy commanding general and deputy chief of engineers, Headquarters U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Washington, D.C. He is the son of Katherine J. Riley of Livermore, Calif. With his new position, he is second in command of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which has over 31,000 employees and manages a yearly budget of over \$30 billion. Prior to his current position, the general

served as the Director of Civil Works, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) where he was responsible for a \$5 billion annual program for the nation. Additionally, he was the commander of the USACE Mississippi Valley Division, a region that extends from the headwaters of the Mississippi River to New Orleans, La. During his distinguished 34-year military career, the general has served in a variety of positions ranging from a platoon leader to assistant operations officer, company executive officer and company commander. He has commanded two engineer battalions and an engineer group, and directed a maneuver support battle lab. He was also the executive officer to the commanding general of the Army Training and Doctrine Command at Fort Monroe, Va. His previous assignments include Fort Polk, Leesville, La.; Fort Hood, Killeen, Texas; Fort Lewis, Tacoma, Wash.; Fort Leonard Wood, Waynesville, Mo.; Fort Monroe, Hampton, Va.; and Heidelberg, Germany. Gen. Riley graduated in 1969 from Granada High School, Livermore, and received his bachelor's degree in 1973 from the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, N.Y. He earned his master's degree in civil engineering in 1980 from the University of California, Berkeley. **Air Force Airman Lyle T. Lee** has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. Lee is the son of Mark Lee of Livermore, and Lisa Demarest of Campbell. In 2007, the airman graduated from the Livermore Adult Education High School. **Air Force Airman Curtis J. Pancoast** has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. He is the son of Mark Pancoast of Livermore. The airman is a 2004 graduate of Livermore High School. **Air Force Airman Tyler L. Jones** has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. He is the son of Kim Seher of Livermore, Calif., and grandson of

Sharon Seher of Livermore. Jones is a 2007 graduate of Granada High School, Livermore. **Air Force Airman Joel A. Kirschenman** has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. Kirschenman is the son of Kim Kirschenman of Camas, Wash., and Sally Swanson of Livermore. In 2004, the airman graduated from Livermore High School. **Air Force Airman Kenneth R. Faria** has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. Faria is the son of Kenneth Robbins and Elizabeth Faria, both of Livermore. In 2007, the airman graduated from Granada High School, Livermore. **Air Force Airman Michael A. Nichols** has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. He is the son of Jennifer Fletcher of Sunol. The airman is a 2007 graduate of Granada High School, Livermore. **Army Reserve Staff Sgt. Deborah A. Lawson** has been mobilized and activated for deployment overseas to a forward operating base in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Mission objectives focus on force protection, peacekeeping, stabilization, security and counter-insurgency operations as the Iraqi transitional governing bodies assume full sovereign powers to govern the peoples of Iraq. Lawson, a human resources sergeant with 16 years of military service, is regularly assigned to the 361st Psychological Operations Battalion, Bothell, Wash. She is the sister of Kathleen S. Ahre of Gonzaga Ct. and Maxine A. Lawson, both of Livermore. The sergeant is a 1992 graduate of Granada High School.

RELIGION
Tri-Valley Unity Church. "Having Faith and Hope at Christmas" is the topic of guest speaker Rev. Karen Schwindt for the first Sunday of Advent, Nov. 30. Meeting at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin, at 10 a.m. Ongoing classes and groups as well. All are welcome. (925) 829-2733. www.trivalleyunity.com.

OBITUARIES

Nedo Fabrizio Simi

Pleasanton resident Nedo Simi, 67, native of Lucca, Italy, died November 11, 2008. His loved ones were by his side.

He was born Sept. 28, 1941.

Nedo, ran a successful cabinet manufacturing business for 26 years. He was an avid golfer and enjoyed Bocce Ball.

Nedo is survived by his loving family, his wife of 46 years, Elena of Pleasanton, daughters, Cynthia Johnson of Pleasanton, and Stephanie Simi Agrella of Livermore, brother, Lorenzo Simi of San Francisco and grandchildren, Selena and Damian and Massimo, Dante and Abrianna.

Funeral Mass was celebrated November 17, at St Augustine's Catholic Church in Pleasanton.

Arrangements by Graham Hitch Mortuary.

John Webster Pearce

Livermore resident John W. Pearce passed away peacefully, at the age of 90 on November 13, 2008. His family was by his side. John was born on December 10, 1917 in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan.

John graduated with a Masters Degree in Physics, from the University of Michigan. He worked for Sandia Laboratories in Albuquerque, NM and Livermore until his retirement in 1979. He was a member of SIRS 121 and the Livermore/Pleasanton Elks 2117.

John was preceded in death by his first wife Myrtle.

He is survived by his wife Janet, by his son Richard J (Mary) Pearce of Tracy, daughter Patricia J (Warren) Jue, and stepdaughters Karen Secrest & Sherry McCoy all of Livermore. He is also survived by his grandchildren; Jeff (Alyssa) Jue of

Dublin, Michael (Kate) Jue of New York and Erin Secrest of Tracy.

A memorial service for family and friends will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully requests Memorial donations in John's name may be made to Hope Hospice 6500 Dublin Blvd, Suite 100, Dublin CA 94568.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

Joyce Ann King

Joyce Ann King passed away after a long illness on November 8, 2008 in Pleasanton. She was born in Livermore to her parents John and Grace in 1943. Joyce was raised in Pleasanton and attended Amador Valley High School. While in high school she met her future husband James King. They dated for 2 years and

were married in October of 1960.

Joyce was an avid doll collector and had a huge collection. She enjoyed going to garage sales and the San Jose Flea Market. Joyce also enjoyed knitting afghans. She volunteered at the Hospice Thrift Store.

Joyce is survived by her husband of 48 years James King of Livermore, her two sons Kevin King of Manteca, John (Jane) King of Manteca, and granddaughter Faith.

She will be missed by her many friends and Family. Graveside services for Joyce were held on November 14, 2008 at Memory Gardens Cemetery, Livermore.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.



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LIVERMORE
CALIFORNIA

SCOPING MEETING & OPEN HOUSE
for the Notice Of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report
for the Livermore Municipal Airport Rezoning Project

Tuesday, November 25, 2008 • 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Livermore City Council Chambers, 3575 Pacific Avenue

The City of Livermore will hold a Scoping Meeting and Open House for the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Livermore Municipal Airport Rezoning Project.

The proposed Project involves the rezoning of a 395-acre± portion of the Livermore Municipal Airport to the proposed Airport (AIR) Zoning District, and would consist of two zoning subdistricts: 1) the *Airport Operations (AIR-OP) Zoning Subdistrict*, and 2) the *Airport Service (AIR-SE) Zoning Subdistrict*.

These subdistricts would not permit the development of new land uses other than those already permitted as part of the existing Master Plan.

The purpose of the Scoping Meeting and Open House is to receive comments on the scope and content of the Draft EIR for the proposed Project.

All interested persons are invited to attend. Copies of the NOP are available on the City's website: www.ci.livermore.ca.us or at Livermore City Hall, 1052 South Livermore Avenue. **Comments on the NOP may be mailed, faxed or e-mailed no later than Monday, December 1, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. to:**

Susan Frost, Principal Planner
Community Development Department
1052 South Livermore Avenue
Livermore, CA 94551
FAX: (925) 960-4459
Airport-Rezoning@ci.livermore.ca.us

SPORTS NOTES

Golfers Receive Invite

Varsity golfers Kenny Maroney of Granada High School and Aaron Bronis of Livermore received invitations this week to play in the Sally Pini Memorial golf tournament to be held at Pasatiempo Golf Course in Santa Cruz on December 8th.

This exclusive tournament boasts a talented field for players who have won this year on the Junior Golf Association of Northern California Tour.

Maroney won convincingly twice this year at the St. Patrick's Day Yosemite and Humboldt County Easter tournaments. Bronis had a spectacular win at the Metropolitan Junior in Oakland.

The sophomore best friends lettered on their varsity golf teams this spring as freshman, finished in the top ten in standings on the JGANC Tour for the 2008 season, played exceptionally well on the NCGA Junior Tour and are expected to lead their respective high school teams into a very tough EBAL schedule in the spring of 2009.

Youth Soccer

PLEASANTON RAGE

Coming into this weekend's games, Pleasanton Rage Orange U13 Div3A knew they would have to play flawlessly in order to secure a top finish in the league, and they delivered. Over the two games this weekend, the Rage offense came alive scoring a total of 13 goals while the defense was unstoppable delivering 2 shut out games.

In game one against the Dublin Strikers, Rage racked up an impressive 10 goals, taking control early and never letting up. Nikki Cerri pulled off a hat trick including a header that she rocketed in off a corner kick by Paige Peterson. Courtney Seams, Kayla Bautista and Paige Peterson all had 2 goals a piece. Olivia Deutschma placed a perfect kick from midfield to the front of the net where Ali Racer was waiting to tap one in for the 10th goal. Goalie Nikki Costello saw little action in this game as the defensive team of Cassie Santana, Kayla Cerri, Claire Hickey, and Patti Norcross denied all offensive advances securing the 10-0 shut out.

The intensity of play was high in game two as the Rage took on the very tough, physical Mustang Stampede. Playing one teammate down with an injured Vanessa Villanueva on the sideline, Rage knew it would be a fight till the end. Sarah Ryan and Ariel Gershman battled hard and gained control in the middle. The first goal came 10 minutes in when Nikki Cerri fired in off a well placed corner by Kayla Bautista. Paige Zollars and Elysa Roman made some great side line runs and passes up to Paige Peterson who was able to penetrate the Mustang defense and make it a 2-0 game at the half. Mustang came back strong determined to stay in the game, but again were met by the rock solid defensive team of Patti Norcross, Olivia Deutschman, Claire Hickey, Kayla Cerri and Cassie Santana. Peterson found the net again late in the second half to make it a 3-0 game, and Nikki Costello made 3 amazing saves at goal to secure the 3-0 shut out. In the end, Rage would finish league play in a tie for 1st place and with the best defensive record in the league giving up only 3 goals the entire season.

PLEASANTON BALLISTIC

The Pleasanton Ballistic Union U-12 soccer team continued on their Nor Cal League winning ways with a 3-1 victory over Fremont Chelsea. Stephen Dougherty scored first for United with a great move around the defender and found the back of the net. The next goal came from Dylan Tuel, who received a great ball from Sahit Menon. The third and final goal came from Alex Krause. Collin Richardson, Gabe Thurner and Daniel Rodriguez did a nice job in the middle, distributing the ball. Cameron Casby, Daniel Payne, Collin Alexander and Daniel Payne played great defense. Justin Taylor and Collin Blaney did a nice job carrying the ball up the field. Sam Musbach did a superb job as goalie, saving many scoring chances by Fremont. It was a great team effort by all the boys. Top Offensive Players: Stephen Dougherty, Sahit Menon, Dylan Tuel, Alex Krause; Top Defensive Players: Cameron Casby, Daniel Payne, Collin Alexander, Daniel Rodriguez.

Ballistic White Division 3 U12

came up against the top team in the league to complete their season and fought through a very tough game. Despite an incredible effort by all, the team simply could not break through Newark's stifling defense to mount any form of sustained attack. The boys fought hard to the very end and showed the heart that they have but trying to the very end against a very tough opponent. They fought off wave after wave of attacks from the Newark squad and without their strong effort would have allowed many more goals. It was a great season with all the boys learning a great deal and increasing their skill level. Final: Newark Arsenal 9, Ballistic White 0.

Under-9: The Dolphins

played the Dawgs in a rain-soaked game, with excellent ball handling and team effort on both sides. Sam Chase demonstrated great skill and focus, scoring all three Dolphin goals. He was supported by a well-coordinated offense, with Carter Person putting his speed and energy to good use in the midfield. Top Offensive Players: Sam Chase, Carter Person, Tony Castillo - Dolphins; Bradley Ancora, Jack Harker, Zachary Kollias - Dynamos; Top Defensive Players: Andrew Helmers, Ian Barnes, Joey Nickel - Dolphins; Jaden Sheppard, Donovan Brunk Jr., Zachary Kollias - Dynamos.

LIVERMORE YOUTH SOCCER

The Livermore Elite Pumas U12

Boys played their final game of the season this past Saturday against the FC Fremont Vipers. The Pumas dominated the field, netting 8 goals for a final score of 8-0. Goals were scored by José Chavarria-Ramirez, Rafael Alvarez, Danny Santacruz, Daniel Garcia, Raul Hernandez and Daniel Garcia. The Pumas are Anthony Aguilar, Rafael Alvarez, Christian Arana, J.T. Brisco, Dominic Carlson, Dylan Edwards, Daniel Garcia, Raul Hernandez, Spencer Hickerson, Peter Lalor, Jacob Martinez, José Chavarria-Ramirez, Conner Salazar, Spencer Saing, Danny Santacruz and Zach Turner.

The Livermore Elite Fury girls U12

DI Bronze earned a place in the NorCal State Cup semi-finals with a 1-0 win over Novato United. After early pressure from Novato, the Fury scored the only goal of the match in the 5th minute when Elyse Codiroli took a pass from Alyssa Stevenson, raced behind the defense and beat the keeper with a well-placed shot to the right corner. Both teams traded scoring opportunities the rest of the half as Erin Winegarner, Beth McCall and Alison Pierson applied pressure in the box and Fury goalie Emily Kalantar stopped a couple of Novato scoring chances. Livermore opened the second half with a strong offensive attack as Kaitlyn Bulhoes and Jenna Hatch had several shots within five minutes. The Fury defense, led by Amanda Fairclough and Morgan Brandt with support from Ryley Landreth and Skyler Kriz, limited Novato's attack. Elise Falgout, Brittany Ahrbeck and Rebekah Johnson also stifled Novato in the midfield by stepping up into the passing lanes and breaking up several rushes.

CYO Basketball

St. Michael's/St. Charles (SM/SC) 8th grade boys (#804) bested a talented St. Isidore (#802) team 47 to 45 in a real barn-burner in

CYO basketball action. SM/SC got off to a slow start, trailing 26 to 19 at the half. But they out-hustled the St. Isidore team in the second period, down by one point with only seconds to go. Will J. found Corey who put up a Hall Mary three-pointer to seal the victory. Top players: David R. (16 pts), Corey (game-winner), Nick M. (strong on the boards), Justin, Will S.

SM/SC 6th grade boys (#627) defeated St. Joan of Arc (#625) 34-31 in a close, hard fought battle. Top players for SM/SC were Jacob Woll with 12 points, Justin Weir with 9 points, followed by Liam Radecke with 6 points. Top players for St. Joan's were Cameron Grove scoring 9 points and Conner Eklund chipping in 4.

SM/SC Swishers 5th grade girls (#5004) lost to Catholic Community of Pleasanton (CCOP) (#5006), 10 to 26. Despite consistent rebounds by Isabella Widmann (4pts) and forced turnovers by Kelcie Norton (2pts) and Katy Johnson, SM/SC was unable to hold back CCOP's top scorers Ashley Balestreri (8pts), Brittney Lorenzana (6pts), and Brianna Reynolds (4pts). Brittany Conley and Cameron Ott also scored a basket each for the SM/SC Swishers.

St. Isidore 4th grade boys (#419) defeated SM/SC (#288), 24-12. St. Isidore led 2-18 at the end of the first half. Varon Jain was top scorer for St. Isidore with 8 points. Eric Fisher chipped in 6 for the winners. Blake Downey led SM/SC with 8 points and 8 rebounds. Luke Hottinger also pulled in 6 rebounds for SM/SC.

SM/SC 6th grade girls (#6005) lost to St. Isidore (#6002), 28-17. The teams were close through the 1st half. St. Isidore pulled ahead in the 2nd half using a very tough full court press defense. Top scorers for SM/SC were Carly Grossano with 10 and Alyssa Gonzalez with 4. Top defensive players for SM/SC were Cameo Schubert, Ashley Breyer, Elisha Sands and Samantha Swartz who had 8 rebounds.

The SM/SC 3rd grade Cobras (#320) lost 15 to 28 to a very tough St. Raymond's team (#317) in Livermore Sunday afternoon. They two teams played a very good defensive first half, led by Cody Skinner, Riley Van Trease and Cory Hickerson, ending up down only four at halftime. St. Raymond's shooting got very hot in the third quarter, but the Cobras slowed them down in the fourth. Cobra scoring was led by Tyler Hanson, Joseph Murphy and Jacob Rasmussen, who turned in a great overall performance on his ninth birthday.

Catholic Community of Pleasanton (CCOP) 7th grade girls team came out strong and held St. Joan of Arc to only 4 points until the 4th quarter. Leading scorers were Jessica Medina, Haley Brodnick and Jaime Rinetti. Strong defensive plays by Juliet Logan, and Roxy Moran held St. Joan of Arc to a low score. Final score: CCOP 25 - St. Joan of Arc 10.

SM/SC 6th Grade Girls American League Team (60005) hosted their CCOP counterparts (60011) in yet another great game. SM/SC worked their way slowly with great team play against CCOP's solid defense to a 16-6 4th quarter lead. At that point, CCOP caught fire behind a pressing defense and incredible play from the point. They staged a furious rally that SM/SC just was able to hold off as time ran out, and at the buzzer, SM/SC had held on for an 18-16 nail-biter victory. Shannon Rosemark played great at both ends of the court, leading all SM/SC scorers with 11. Danielle Dufek also played extremely well on both sides of the ball, passing well and playing tenacious defense, and Amanda Montano played defense like the ball was a treasured possession that had been stolen from her.

SM/SC 5th grade boys (#504), lost a close game to St. Isidore, 23 to 18. The teams swapped the lead several times during the game with the deciding points coming in the last 3 minutes. A great effort was made by all the players including scores from Ben Parker, Lance Rietveld, Aaron Spiller, Sean Stavert, Max and David Harmison. The defense stayed tough with players Jason Whitney, Tyler Paden, and Justin Gutke, and rebounds were picked-up by Cole Jacobs, Kevin Key and Jarrett Powell.

SM/SC 3rd grade girls Thunderbolts (#3016) played a close game against St. Raymond's Wolfpack who won 16-10. The Wolfpack came out strong with taking an early lead in the first half. SM/SC came back in the second half with great plays on offense with baskets by Ashley Lamb, Katherine Gomez and Arianna Salcido. Tough defensive plays were made by Nicole Bartels, Taylor Sullivan and Janessa Sanchez.

The Hot Shots (SM/SC, 3015) defeated SM/SC (3018) 12-8 in an exciting game. The Hot Shots were led by Alyssa Silva (4 points, 8 rebounds), Sydney Mendoza (2 points), and Madison Kahway (2 points, 4 steals). The leaders of a strong defensive effort for the Hot Shots were Courtney Hayes, Kira Karter, and Talina Quezada.

SM/SC 3rd grade boys, the Golden Dragons 326, lost to SM/SC 325 6 to 14. Brandon Williams scored 4 points. Trenton Green scored 2 points. The team is showing great improvement and played a good defense.

SM/SC 4th grade girls (4004) played St. Raymond's (4006), winning 22 - 6. SM/SC girls played a very strong game on offense and defense. They kept St. Raymond's from scoring more than 3 baskets. St. Raymond's played a tough game and really hung in there.

Warriors vs. Cougars (boys) 1st and 2nd grade: Warriors offense led by Connor Livinston, Kevin Lee and Ryan Anderson. Cougars fired back with help from teammates Ethan Payne, Nicolas Melendez and Jared Stanley. Great teamwork showed by both teams, protecting the net. Top defenders included Steven Lee, Ryan Wenzel and Jesse Wolfson.

SM/SC 1st and 2nd grade boys 2BN7 Warriors vs. SM/SC 2GN3. It was an exciting boys vs. girls competition. Eric Valdez scored his first basket of the Warriors season. Noah Wiesner, Logan Finch and Ryan Lortie put more points on the board for the Warriors. Hayley Thompson and Abby Andrews from 2GN3 put pressure on the Warriors throughout the game with their strong defense. Wyatt



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Granada High School took on Foothill in the NCS Division I and I girls' volleyball playoffs last week. Granada advanced to the quarterfinals, winning three out of four matches, 25-18, 23-25, 25-17 and 26-24. Granada took on Deer Valley on Wednesday. In the photo, a Granada player dinks past the outstretched arms of a Foothill frontline player.

Moseley and Kyle Snow led the Warriors defense while Robert Mullineaux and Enzo DeSantis displayed great teamwork with their passing and assists.

In the SM/SC 1st/2nd grade girls division, the Wildcats (SM/SC 2GN2) faced off against the Super Shooters (SM/SC 2GN1). The Wildcats' Kate Hottinger and Kennedy Griffith led the charge, forcing turnovers and running a fast break offense. Melanie Laronde and Jacqueline Arnold also contributed with decisive passes and good defense. For the Super Shooters, Emma Hyde and Skylar Vinson kept up the offensive pressure while Megan Wharton and Shelby Williams played a tenacious hands-up defense.

SM/SC 1st and 2nd grade boys (#2BN2 - Blue) played SM/SC 1st and 2nd Grade Boys (#2BN9 - Yellow) on Sunday. Both teams played an energetic and powerful game. On the blue team Connor Hardesty & Zachary Macintyre were both defensive & offensive leaders. Jacob Gutke & Aiden Ackerman showed great passing and defense skills. Colby Brocklesby & Alec Lewis did a great job with rebounds and assists. The Yellow team's Bryce Hall and Michael Honeycutt played hard defense, while Gabriel Parrish

showed great ball handling skills. Jordan Bets and Ryan Carlson did great job passing the ball and demonstrated an energetic offense.

Pleasanton Seahawks

The Pleasanton Seahawks enjoyed the beautiful weather in Concord at the Terrapins Senior plus meet. There were many best times turned in by Brandon Chandler, Tim McLaughlin, Andrew Seitz, Catherine Breed, Brandon Chandler and Rachel Knowles are just a few.

Nick Silvetrone broke the 11-12 year old National Records in the 200 free and 500 free.

California Gymnastics

California Gymnastics Academy competed this Saturday in NorCal State Championships meet hosted by Byers Gymnastics from Roseville.

In AGE GROUP CHILD H, Isabella Orcechia finished third all around with the score of 36.35. She did great on each individual event scoring 9.05 (4) on vault, 9.0 (2) on bars, 9.1 (3) on beam and 9.2 (2) on floor.

In AGE GROUP JUNIOR C, Dori

Lucero finished 9th (34.1) and Celina Moufaretj finished 12th (33.775). Dori scored 8.825 (11) on vault, 8.0 (8) on bars, 8.45 (12) on beam and 8.825 (9T) on floor. Celina scored 8.875 (T) on vault, 7.575 (14) on bars, 8.3 (14) on beam and 9.025 (6) on floor.

In AGE GROUP JUNIOR D, Elizabeth Higa finished 6th with the score of 35.1. She scored 8.2 (15) on vault, 9.25 (2) on bars, 9.125 (3) on beam and 8.525 (14T) on floor.

Bowling News

Fred McCarrell, in the Modified Guys & Dolls on Wednesday Night, rolled 158 pins over series average with games of 269-246-204 at the Granada Bowl in Livermore.

In the Getaway Fours League, Shawn Brazil had a nice set of 213-246-226 for a 685 series. Amy Alexander rolled a 192, which was 75 pins over average. Scott Cooper, in the Valley Friends & Family league, rolled a 277 game. Gene Tanaka, in the Balhorn/O'Dell Construction Match Pt. League, turned in a 257 game; Frank O'Dell a 224. Craig Truscott, in the Kings & Queens League, was high with a 226 game. In the Friday Reno Getaway League, Charlie Butkiewicz bowled a 264 game, Renard Graham a 213 game.

BAZAARS, BOUTIQUES AND MORE

Giving Thanks Project

Eagle Ridge Vineyard, this year donated 5% from all wine sales in November to the Livermore Community Thanksgiving Dinner Project. This fund-raiser will run from November 1 to November 23rd. The Tasting Room is located at 10017 Tesla Rd., Livermore; open Sat. & Sun. 12:00 - 4:30 p.m.

A White Christmas

theme for Christmas Tree Lane, Thurs., Nov. 20, Fri., Nov. 21 and Sat., Nov. 22 at the Palm Event Center, 1184 Vineyard Ave., Pleasanton. Benefit for ValleyCare Emergency Room Expansion Campaign and ValleyCare Health Library and Ryan Comer Cancer Resource Center. Schedule: Thurs. 5 to 8 p.m. Wonderland Family Stroll; Fri. 10 a.m. to noon and 2 to 4 p.m. Tinsel and Christmas Teas, 6:30 to 11 p.m. Silent Night Soiree. Sat., 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Silver Bells Luncheon. Tickets and information, 373-4560 or www.valleycare.com.

Holiday Boutique

Emblem Club, Sat., Nov. 22, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Livermore/Pleasanton Elks Lodge, 940 Larkspur Dr., Livermore. Several vendors will offer handcrafted gifts. Handmade jewelry, Christmas decorations, wreaths, decorated T-shirts, stained glass, homemade baked goods, and more, will be offered. Snack bar will be serving lunch. Information, call the lodge office at 455-8829.

2nd Annual Tri-Valley Basket Brigade

Saturday, November 22, 10:00 am sharp, 1225 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton. Located at, but not affiliated with, Trinity Lutheran Church. The whole family can participate in this unique Thanksgiving food drive where donors gather as a group to assemble Thanksgiving gift baskets, then personally deliver them to Bay Area families in need. All ages invited to participate. Must bring a food item listed on the website at www.trivalleybasketbrigade.com. Information, 925-922-7615

25th Annual Holiday Home Tour

Sun., Dec. 7, hosted by Soroptimist International of Livermore. Five beautiful homes elegantly decorated for the holidays will be open to you from 11:00 AM -3:00 PM. Tickets are \$25 per person tax deductible. All the money collected goes to support local community projects benefiting women and children. The tour begins at Alden Lane Nursery, 981 Alden Lane, Liver-

more. For advanced tickets make checks payable to SIL and mail to: Soroptimist International of Livermore, P.O. Box 812, Livermore, CA 94550. Tickets will be available at Proctor's Custom Framing, 2200 First Street, or from any Soroptimist member. Tickets may also be purchased the day of the tour at Alden Lane Nursery. Raffle tickets will be sold for cash prizes and gift baskets. For more information please call President Anita Thompson, 925-449-0612, or Charlotte Newman, 925-449-4079. For information about Soroptimist please go to www.sifoundationregion.org.

Christmas Open House

Sun., Dec. 7, 12:30 to 7 p.m. Refreshments and goodies, 2009 appointment schedules and holiday gifts. The Valley Humane Society will hold a special holiday event on the same day. There will be about 6 booths out back selling items to raise money for the VHS. The gazebo will be a bar selling wine, soft drinks and hot chocolate and coffee. There are going to be various downtown vendors selling Christmas gifts. A Touch of Health Day Spa, 377 St. Mary's Street, Pleasanton.

Boutique

Sat., Dec. 6, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at GARDEN Tri-Valley, 690 N. L Street, Livermore. Holiday craft items will be available for purchase. Benefits Futures-Explored program GARDEN Tri-Valley, an adult day program for the Developmentally Disabled.

Girl Scout Holiday Breakfast & Bazaar

presented by the Girl Scouts of Cresta Blanca & Livermore, Sat., Dec. 7. Pancake breakfasts 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., \$5 per person; bazaar 9 a.m. to noon, photos with Santa \$5 each. First Presbyterian Church, 2020 Fifth St., Livermore. Entrance to the Bazaar is free. Items offered for sale will include one-of-a-kind gift ideas created by the local Girl Scout troops, ages 5-18 as well as home business offering. All are welcome. For more information, call 243-1046. Proceeds go to the Cresta Blanca Service Unit and Livermore Girl Scout Troops.

Holiday Home Tour for Homeless Animals

Valley Humane Society Holiday Home Tour is Sunday, Dec. 7 from 2 to 6PM. Beautiful, downtown Pleasanton homes (all decked out for the holidays!) will open their doors. Enjoy a magical home tour, unique holiday shopping, carolers, delicious treats, wine and live music. Tickets are \$35.

Available at Valley Humane Society, Murphy's Paw, The Wine Steward, Towne Center Books and Three Dog Bakery. Buy on-line at www.valleyhumane.org. Call 925-426-8656 for info.

Santa & Pet Photo Event

Bring your furry family member to Valley Humane Society for a shot with Santa Claus. Dec. 6 and 7 from 10AM to 2PM at VHS, 3670 Nevada St in Pleasanton. \$25 for two 4 x 6 photos in a holiday framed card- photos digitally

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SHORT NOTES

Ride in the Park

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District is offering a ranger led leisurely bike ride through Sycamore Grove Park on Sat., Nov. 22. The group will be stopping at all the hot spots to talk about the history of the park. The ride will be 5 miles round trip, so don't forget water. Anyone who can ride without training wheels is welcome, but please don't forget a helmet. Information about up-and-coming trails in the District will be available as well.

Meet Ranger Aide Eric Whiteside at 1 p.m. at the Wetmore Road entrance to the park.

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

Best Books for Children

Walter Mayes and Valerie Lewis, authors of Valerie and Walter's Best Books for Children: A Lively, Opinionated Guide, will share the newest and best children's books in a review to be presented at the Pleasanton Public Library on Saturday, December 6 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Repeat guests to Pleasanton by popular request, Walter ("The Giant Storyteller") and Valerie are knowledgeable, enthusiastic reading advocates who love children's literature and have great fun sharing that love with others.

This program is open to everyone. Light refreshments will be served. Door prizes awarded. Featured books will be offered for sale by Towne Center Books. No registration is necessary.

This free program is sponsored by the Pleasanton Booklegger Program. It will be held in the meeting room, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Please call Chris Spitzel, at 925/931-3400 ext. 26, for more information.

Holiday Cookies

The Friday after Thanksgiving, a favorite Zephyr Grill & Bar treat returns to the menu: "Build Your Own" Holiday Cookies (\$7.95). Unadorned gingerbread men and rich, buttery sugar cookies are presented with a variety of colorful, tasty toppings, that guests can add to their heart's, or taste buds's, content.

Executive Chef Nick Musser extends the fun by offering a free cookie decorating party for kids. While kids create culinary masterpieces, parents are invited to relax and snack on complimentary appetizers. The cookie party will be December 13, from 1 until 2 p.m. Because limited seating is available, reservations are required.

Zephyr Grill & Bar, which opened in 2004, is located at 1736 First St., Livermore Call (925) 961-1000 or (253) 854-5050, or visit www.zephyrgrill.com for more information.

Movies at the Library

Las Positas College and Pleasanton Public Library present "Great Performances: A Classic Film Series" at the library.

Candy Klaschus, film historian and Coordinator of the Humanities Program at Las Positas College is hosting

the programs. Films will be shown in the Pleasanton Library's meeting room every first Thursday evening of the month at 7 p.m. through June 4, 2009.

The December 4 film is "I Am a Fugitive From a Chain Gang" starring Paul Muni, and directed by Mervyn LeRoy.

The programs are free. All are welcome to attend. Note that some films are mature in content and may not be suitable for children.

For more information, please call Penny Johnson at 925/931-3405. The Pleasanton Public Library is located at 400 Old Bernal Ave., Pleasanton.

Amador DECA

Amador Valley High School DECA students participated in the annual Mini-Conference held Wednesday, October 15th, at Livermore High School. There were 170 students from 5 local schools, Dublin, Granada, Livermore, Foothill and Amador, in attendance. Amador Valley had the highest number in attendance, with 59 competitors.

The students were judged in four competitive areas: Business Services, Retail, Sports & Entertainment, and Restaurant Services.

Amador students placed as follows: Business Services: Sara Maze - 1st place overall winner; Royce Gee - 2nd place overall; Rachael Borchers - 3rd place exam; Alex Shih - top 8 exam; Steven Roo - top 8 in exam, role play and overall; Conor McLeod - top 8 role play and overall; Participants: Matthew Sun, Noelle Malindzak, Ting Li, Aleksandar Marjanovic, Christina Zhang, Christine Huang, Rupali Saiya, Steven Zhang, Praneet Uppal, Ravneet Dhalwall.

Restaurant Service: Stephanie Laming - 1st place overall winner; William Chen - top 8 overall; Ben Billings - 2nd place exam; Wilson Lam - top 8 exam and role play; Christian Schlachte - top 8 exam; Participants: Ericka Castro, Joan Liu, Divya Lambah, Emma Rigel.

Retail Service: Melissa Wee - 2nd place overall winner; Prasad Radhakrishna - 3rd place overall; Nikita Mehndru - top 8 overall; Marie McCoy-Thompson - top 8 overall; Jessica Chen - top 8 overall; Casey Millerick - 3rd place exam; Rishi Mukhopadhyay - top 8 exam; Participants: Michael Roesch, Megha Lambah, Emily Truax, Simar Pannu.

Sports & Entertainment: Helen Cai - 1st place overall winner; Nazly Bayramoglu - 2nd place overall; Derek Lem - top 8 overall; Meera Nathan - top 8 exam; Bernard Tyson - top 8 exam; Chris Amezcua - top 8 role play and overall; Linda Xie - top 8 role play and overall; Olivia Ho - top 8 exam; Participants: Jordan Fite, Edward Zhang, Michael Kang, Aditya Kulkarni, Mehul Nair, Caitlin Desmet, Tanya Birla, Devin Cao, Tim Young, Anthony Ceratto, VJ Narayan, Sai Ramineni, Jeff Cho, Andrew Billing.

Holiday Wine Tasting

Fenestra Winery is hosting its annual Holiday Wine Tasting event on November 22 and 23 from noon to 5 p.m., both days. There is no charge for the event.

The wines will be paired with tasty holiday foods like turkey, sweet potatoes, breads, dips, cheeses and crackers.

"This is the event where we intro-

duce our seasonal Belgian Chocolate Truffles filled with our very own Port wine," says Fran Replogle, co-owner of the winery. "They've always been a popular favorite and they sell quickly. It's also a great chance to stock up on your wines for the holidays."

A few wines are scheduled to be released during this weekend, including the 06 Malbec from Lodi and the 2006 Tempranillo also from Lodi, both of which were previously only available to wine club members. They will also feature their previously released wines and some old library wines from the wineries own cellar.

Fenestra is located at 83 Vallecitos Road in Livermore. The winery is open for sales and tasting every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from noon - 5 p.m. For more information, visit the website at www.fenestrawinery.com or email info@fenestrawinery.com.

County Fair Awards

The Alameda County Fair Association played host to the Annual Directors Blue Ribbon Awards Dinner on recently at the Fairgrounds Palm Pavilion.

The evening included cocktails, dinner, a welcome message from Board President Anthony Pegram, and the presentation of awards. The Western Fairs Association Blue Ribbon Award is presented to individuals, businesses and organizations in recognition of their outstanding and sustained support to the Alameda County Fair and the nonprofit Fair Association. Past honorees include those who have provided volunteer services, educational services, financial contributions, sponsorships and goodwill ambassadors.

2008 Recipients: Charlie and Marilyn Foscalina, Contributions to the Junior Livestock Program; Junior Livestock Auction Boosters Committee, Contributions and support to the Junior Livestock Auction Exhibitors; Butler Amusements Carnival Operator for the past 10 years and supporter of the Read and Ride Program (Reading Literacy Rewards for Elementary School Age Children); Sergeant Deborah Dutra Alameda County Sheriff's Department Deputy who has been a key figure in the Sheriff's Security for the Fair; and Nell Barnett, Alameda County Fair Director, who retired from the Board after 12 years of service.

Three other honors were awarded during the evening, recognizing excellence in landscape gardening and agricultural display. The Directors' Choice Award, bestowed upon the finest landscape garden entry as voted by the Board of Directors, was presented to Jacquie Courtright, owner of Alden Lane Nursery.

The 2008 John Pleich Award went to Chuck Sackett of Apple Blossom Nursery. Chuck Sackett has been in the gardening business since 1972. The John Pleich Award is presented each year to an exhibitor in the Landscape Gardens whose exhibit has incorporated the most effective use of design, color, plant materials, structure(s), and display techniques. Considered the "Best of Show" recognition, the John Pleich is the most prestigious and honored acknowledgment of the landscape garden design in the gardens.

The 2008 Bill Ralph Award was presented to the Redwood 4-H Club and received by leaders David Dane and Barbara Butko. The Redwood 4-H

Club is a community of youth across America learning leadership, citizenship and life skills. The program's goals are to help youth develop into responsible and productive adults through the development and support of leadership teams of youth, adult volunteers and staff who organize educational project experiences in community based settings.

The Bill Ralph Award is presented each year to the exhibitor in the Agriculture Building who best exemplifies the spirit of agriculture and Alameda County through design, maintenance and educational value in their Fair exhibit. Considered the "Best of Show" recognition, the Bill Ralph Award is the fair's prestigious and honored acknowledgment of the educational value of the Agriculture Building.

For more information about the Alameda County Fairgrounds or the annual Fair, please visit www.AlamedaCountyFair.com or call 925-426-7600.

Survivors of Suicide

Every year on the Saturday before Thanksgiving, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) sponsors National Survivors of Suicide Day, which provides an opportunity for those who have lost someone to suicide to come together for support, healing, information and empowerment.

Linking simultaneous local survivor conferences around the country and internationally through a broadcast from 10 -11:30 am PST, National Survivors of Suicide Day helps survivors express and understand the powerful emotions they experience, and connect with others who have survived the tragedy of losing someone to suicide.

This year, the event will be held Nov. 22 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at ValleyCare Medical Plaza.

The event features a continental breakfast and guest speakers. Registration is \$15 with lunch included. Scholarships are available.

ValleyCare Medical Plaza is located at 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., Pleasanton. For more information, call Shirley Kaminsky, 872-5634, or Karen Carlson, 336-1633.

Fall Open House

Thomas Coyne Winery will host a Fall Open House on November 28, 29 and 30 from noon to 5 p.m. each day.

The historical tasting room is located at 51 E. Vallecitos Road, Livermore. Four new wines to be released are 2005 Livermore Syrah Reserve, 2002 Eldorado Merlot, 2004 California Merlot, and 2005 Livermore Petite Sirah. A selection of fine fruits and cheeses will be served.

Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard Active military who present valid ID can receive a deep discount.

For more information call (925) 373-6541 or go to <http://thomascoynewinery.com>.

Photos with Santa

Tri-Valley Animal Rescue is holding its 1st Annual Pet Photos with Santa fund-raising event on Saturday, Dec. 6, 1-5 p.m., at Pet Extreme, 4500 Arroyo Vista in Livermore. The cost will be \$20 for two 4" x 6"

photos. All proceeds benefit Tri-Valley Animal Rescue.

No appointment is necessary, however for safety reasons all animals must be in carriers or leashed. For more information, contact Coordinator Gay Maestas at 925-447-8903.

Court Volunteers

Adults volunteers needed from Tri Valley Youth Court. TVYC is TVYC is a youth driven justice program for first time offenders. The court meets the first Tuesday evening of each month at the Gale/Schenone courthouse in Pleasanton from 5:30 - 7:45 pm. For more information, visit our website at www.trivalleyyouthcourt.com or call Tonya at (925) 337-7175.

Teen Volunteers Needed for new Tri Valley Youth Court (TVYC) to serve as Advocates (youth attorneys) and jurors. Advocates prepare and present the case for the Defendant. Jurors are needed one evening per month - the first Tuesday from 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm at the Gale/Schenone courthouse in Pleasanton. TVYC is a youth driven adjunct to the traditional juvenile justice system for first time teen offenders. For more information, visit our website at www.trivalleyyouthcourt.com or call Tonya at (925) 337-7175

Winter Holiday Drive

The community is invited to participate in "Remembering our Heroes Winter-Holiday Drive," sponsored by Operation: S.A.M. "Supporting All Military," to be held at the Pleasanton Wal-Mart, 4501 Rosewood Dr. Pleasanton from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, November 22.

Volunteers will collect goodies for Holiday packages.

Some of the items that go into these "Holiday Packages" are miniature stockings filled with treats, unbreak-

able ornaments and decorations, DVD's, CD's, battery operated games, card games, word puzzle books, brain teasers, small sports items, computer games for Play stations & Game boy products (new or gently used) and batteries AA, AAA & C.

Other special requests are lounge pants, warm socks (tube/white), gloves, hand/foot warmers, thermal undergarments, thermal cups/mugs, ski masks/caps and undershirts, slipper socks, manicure sets and remember the ladies, they like items for their hair, make-up and other lady gifts.

In addition, volunteers always load the boxes with lots of snack goodies, protein bars, popcorn, nuts & seeds, candy, Energy and Protein bars, hot cereal, fruit candies, microwavable foods such as Easy Mac, cup of soup/noodles, hot chocolate, tea, cider, gum/mints, Pez Candy (a favorite), Trail Mix, Jerky & Slim Jims (another favorite) and of course holiday treats especially Chocolate, cookies and candy. Please no homemade goodies. Remember to purchase smaller sized items.

The most requested item is always a message from home. There will be Holiday Cards and note paper on site and request everyone help put a smile on their faces by sending a message of encouragement and appreciation.

There will also be a drive-by drop-off point if you prefer to purchase your donations in advance and a used or broken cell phone drop off (we exchange them for International Phone cards so the troops can call home to their families).

All donations are greatly appreciated and tax deductible. Operation: S.A.M. is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization.

For more information, visit www.operationsam.org, email Operationsam@comcast.net, phone (925) 443-7620 or write Operation: S.A.M., P. O. Box 2992, Livermore, CA 94551.

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Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Marcelo Fuentes prepares to take a photo.

Exhibit Focuses on the 'Faces of Downtown'

The "Faces of Downtown" will be featured in a show this Fri., Nov. 21 at the studio of Marcelo Fuentes, 144 South J St., Livermore.

Fuentes approached the city with the idea of closing First Street to capture "the essence of downtown, vendors and patrons. The idea was originally rejected a couple of times for different reasons. I enlisted the help of Rachael Snedecor from Livermore Downtown Inc. She was instrumental in making the event happen."

First Street was closed for a two day period from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. Fuentes photographed the merchants, officials and everyday people who make downtown Livermore unique.

He will hold an open house at the studio on Fri., Nov. 21 from 6 to 9 p.m. to showcase the results of the show.

Eventually, the images will be used to promote the downtown.

For information call 245-9298 or go to www.marcelofuentes.com.

Ekphrasis Poetry and Art Reception Set

The 2008 Ekphrasis Poetry and Art reception will be held November 22, from 1-4 p.m. at the Livermore office of Windermere Welcome Home Realty.

The reception is held in affiliation with Windermere Welcome Home Realty and sponsored by the City of Livermore.

During the reception, selected poets and artists will come together to celebrate the "marriage" of poetry and art.

The public is invited to attend, meet the poets and artists, and view the show. There is no admission charge. Light refresh-

ments will be served.

The exhibit runs through Dec. 22.

Ekphrasis is a poem written about another art form. This other art form is most often a painting. The words of the poem can explain or analyze what is happening in the painting, or the poem can derive a meaning from the painting and go from there. Either way, there is a visual basis to the Ekphrasis that is enhanced by the things that only a mind can see.

Windermere Welcome Home is located at 1790 First Street, Livermore.

Samba Samba Performs at Library

Samba Samba, featuring James Henry, will be presented on Wednesday, November 26 at 10:30 a.m. at Civic Center Library.

James Henry, master percussionist, has traveled the world with this program and brings cultural wisdom from every area of the globe. Expect to dance, sing, and be transported through the

sounds of drums and percussion.

This free program is suitable for all ages from children to adults. Civic Center Library is located at 1188 S. Livermore Avenue.

Contact Youth Services at (925) 373-5504 for more information or pick up a program schedule at any one of the Livermore Public Libraries.

Midsummer Madness in November

By Susan Steinberg

Madcap merriment explodes onstage at Las Positas College's latest hit show, "Shakespeare in Hollywood," as the "Swan of Avon" tries to navigate Sunset Boulevard.

Can Shakespeare survive the shtick of showbiz? Ken Ludwig, creator of "Lend Me a Tenor," has conjured up all the possible problems of Max Reinhardt's unlikely partnership with Warner Brothers to film "Midsummer Night's Dream," and has turned the idea into a scenario of hilarious hijinks.

Reinhardt, an internationally-acclaimed Viennese director, had staged "MND" all over Europe and America, including a spectacular extravaganza at L. A.'s Hollywood Bowl with "a stage 250 by 100 feet, an artificial hill, a playing area sodded and planted with bushes and fully-grown trees, the entire L. A. Philharmonic, 4,000 arc lights, 30,000 electric lights, and an audience of 12,000 people." Talk about your big Hollywood productions, and that was back in 1934!

It was an irresistible "prestige project" for studio head Jack Warner, who threw his biggest stars into the film: Dick Powell, Olivia de Havilland, James Cagney, Joe E. Brown, and even young Mickey Rooney, hardly an A-list cast of classical actors. Erich Korngold, an exile from Nazi Europe was an acclaimed classical composer until he came to Hollywood, and made a living writing movie scores. Warner hired him to enhance the show's classical pretensions.

Sadly, the movie broke the budget but not box office records, proving, as Dramaturg Peggy Riley explains, "too highbrow for the average film-goer, and too lowbrow for the sophisticates." Yet it broke exciting new ground in film-making, winning cinematographer Hal Mohr an Oscar for

the extraordinary dream sequences and special effects.

Imagining the clashes between a cultured European director and the crass crudeness of Hollywood's standards certainly inspired Ludwig's creative juices, and even led to a few serious moments. Reinhardt (a superb Timothy Anton Ackerman) attempts to explain the reason he left Austria, "You see, there is a man in my country named Hitler who is killing huge numbers of people..." He is immediately cut off by an interviewer more interested in chasing celebrities and juicy gossip stories.

Amazed by America's unwillingness to confront such unpleasant realities, Reinhardt muses, "For this I left my homeland? Of course, there were the Nazis, but this (the Censorship Office) comes close. So here I am in this land of glamour and gluttony, palm trees and poodles... trying to bring some culture to the masses AND some bucks to my pocket."

Adding to the confusion are two even more unlikely characters. A navigation-spell error by the mischievous sprite Puck (pixie-ish Laurel Drummond) has diverted him and his master Oberon, King of the Fairies (cue lightning flashes and a trumpet flourish) to the wrong Fairyland. Instead of Shakespeare's forest setting, they've landed next to a sign that reads "A Wood Near Athens," but unfortunately it's on Warner's Hollywood soundstage.

Their innocent ignorance of this modern world allows for hilarious comments on the artificial environment and its self-absorbed inhabitants. Oberon (the endearing Jeremy Schlitt) skewers most Hollywood actors by observing, "I see. They get paid enormous sums of money, which they don't deserve, and are idolized, and called 'moons'." "Stars," corrects Puck, who has already gotten "hip to the scene."

By Nancy O'Connell

Three talented musicians appeared on stage at the Bankhead Theater on Saturday evening, November 15th in a superb concert of piano trio music. Each individual player was a consummate artist, and as in all good chamber music, they obviously listened carefully to one another and matched their tone qualities and intonation to one another.

Two of them are from Europe - Rebecca Hang, the violinist, is German born. Steven Vanhauwaert, the pianist, hails from Belgium. Brian Schuldt, the cellist, is from Seattle and studied with the famous Janos Starker at Indiana University. All three have won many prizes in music, individually and as a trio. Eleven years ago, Rebecca and the cellist, Brian Schuldt, married, and they have concertized extensively with the trio ever since.

They opened their program with Beethoven's Adagio, Variations and Rondo in G Major, Opus 121a, the "Kakadu Variations." It began with a slow, thoughtful Adagio with good contrasts between the forte and piano passages. The 'cellist and violinist had long sustained passages and a question and answer sequence. The 'cellist kept glancing at the violinist and matched his tones and bowing to hers. Steven, the pianist, had a delicate touch and never overwhelmed the strings. Some of the variations were humorous. The entire work was loosely based on a folk song by Wenzel Mueller.

Rebecca wore a stunning red gown which swept to the floor. The two men were a contrast in dark suits with black shirts and no ties. The pianist played sensitively and in one variation the two string players used a spiccato technique which emphasized the playfulness of this variation filled with humor. The Rondo

had some lightning quick passages that all three performers tossed off effortlessly. As all three raced through the gigue (a jig) and neared the dynamic last chords, it was obvious that they have total command of their instruments.

Maurice Ravel's Piano Trio followed. In his introduction to the work, the 'cellist said, "This is more like a force of nature than a trio." In the *Moderate* there were demanding parts for all three musicians. Beautiful melodies were almost haunting in their quality. Arpeggios and running notes on the piano were played with great clarity of tone. The pianist never overshadowed the string players, so that all three voices were heard clearly. Fiery scale passages contrasted soon with the 'cellist up in the difficult thumb position on his A string and the violinist up in the stratosphere on her instrument. Quiet harmonics which began for the 'cellist on his lowest C string are seldom heard in a concert. Later, the strings switched rapidly back and forth between pizzicato (plucking the strings) and spiccato passages which placed great technical demands upon them.

Tres Largo commenced in the piano with a portion sounding in the lowest register. To this reviewer it was similar in effect to Debussy's beginning of his *Cathedrale Engloutie* with a dreamlike quality. Ravel and Debussy were contemporaries and together they founded musical Impressionism in the early years of the 20th century. The low pitched beginning was followed by a tempestuous storm like passage filled with suppressed excitement. A beautiful 'cello solo altered the mood, and the movement ended, as it had begun, in the lowest notes of the piano.

In the *Anime* movement rich

and glorious notes poured forth from all three players. The pianist had glissandos encompassing his entire keyboard. Trills and the rapid crossing of all 4 strings created an orchestral effect which led to an exciting and dramatic climax.

Franz Schubert's Piano Trio in B-Flat Major, Opus 99 was composed near the end of his life and was first performed in 1828, the year of his death. The pianist told me afterwards that he had never seen this music until three weeks ago, so it is incredible in that short space of time he mastered it so completely. He made the most difficult passages look effortless. I performed this trio while in high school as the pianist in the Peninsula Trio, and we took a good two months to conquer it! In this performance there was superb ensemble work. The triplet passages were clean and his pedaling never blurred the notes together. The 'cellist again had many high notes in the thumb position and Brian Schuldt played them all with perfect intonation.

In the *Andante* movement, which is contemplative, the 'cellist began with a lyrical solo and he was soon joined by the violinist. Schubert was famous for his beautiful songs, and in this movement one beautiful melody followed another. There were good dynamic contrasts and the rhythm was complex. The pianist had running 32nd notes in one hand against 16th notes in the other. For all its complexity, this *Andante* ended with a whisper. The *Scherzo* was quick and sprightly with spiccato in the strings. The theme was repeated with increasing difficulty. The *Trio*, as a contrast, had smooth, legato playing in the strings and light staccato piano passages. The *Scherzo* was then repeated, because the classical third movement is often in ABA form.

The *Rondo* movement is light and carefree in spirit. Unison passages in the violin and 'cello had flawless intonation. This movement was almost playful with difficult trills in the cellist's part, sometimes having to cross strings. When one analyzes Schubert's music in college, it is easy to spot repetitions. He rarely used a melody once, but it appears again and again with variations. The rhythm switched from 3/2 (3 half notes to a measure) to 2/4. Tremolos in the piano contrasted with long sustained notes in the strings. The pianist climbed up almost to the top of his keyboard and then dropped down again as the magnificent work drew to a close with two resounding chords.

The audience applauded wildly and gave these talented artists a standing ovation. A warm and loving encore - Schubert's *Standchen* or *Serenade* was heard. It tells the tale of a young man trying to entice a young girl "to come down and spend some time in the meadow with him." Some of the professional musicians in the San Francisco Symphony I've played with, have felt this trio was too schmaltzy. However, the rich melodies and beautiful harmonies have always made it a personal favorite.

The Felici Trio, in residence at Mammoth Lakes, California, demonstrated superb musicianship throughout, and each musician listened to the other, creating true chamber music at its best. It's a shame that the hall was only about half filled, but those who were there were wildly enthusiastic and gave the ensemble many curtain calls. How lucky we are to have Del Valle Fine Arts present us with such talented and gifted performers. Circle your calendars for their next concert of the Gleusteen-Ordroneau Duo (a violin and piano duo) on January 9, 2009.

ART & ENTERTAINMENT

Livermore Lithorama 2008 Show and Sale, Nov. 22-23 presented by Livermore Valley Lithophiles Gem & Mineral Club at The Barn, 3131 Pacific Ave., Livermore. Hours: Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-4. Dealers with gems, minerals, beads and findings, jewelry, equipment and much more; 35 educational displays, including a glow room with several fluorescent displays. A Silent auction of rocks and mineral specimens; raffle prizes. Information www.lithophiles.com.

Admission \$4 general, children under 12 free with adult.
Alexander's Fine Art, holiday open house on Fri., Nov. 21. This includes light refreshments and special holiday gift ideas. Tim Burton's "The Nightmare Before Christmas" embellished limited edition canvas "What's This, What's This? We're Simply Meant to Be" by Dinsey artist Jim Salvaty will be introduced. 608 Main St., Pleasanton. Information www.alexandersgallery.com or

www.disneyartonmain.com.
Ohlone College Chamber Orchestra, fall concert Sun., Nov. 23, 2 p.m. directed by Larry Osborne. Featuring Althea Rahman and Rich Goodman, oboe, performing Concerto a Cinque, Op. VII, No. 5 by Albinoni. Other pieces include Dvorak's Carnival Overture, Op. 92 and Haydn's Symphony No. 2 (104) in D major. Adults \$15, seniors, staff, students \$10, youth (under 12) \$8. Smith Center at Ohlone College, 43600 Mission Blvd., Fremont. Box office 510-659-6031 or www.smithcenterpresents.com.

Part of Jazz at the Library series. 973-2850.

Michael Cooper premieres Pleasanton Civic Arts Lauches SaturYAY!, a new Saturday morning series for families. Cooper performs on Sat., Nov. 22. The 11 a.m. matinee will be at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. This is a Pleasanton Civic Arts program. Cooper is described as a master of "masked marvels and wondertales." Tickets are Adult, \$10-\$14-\$18 and Child, \$6-\$10-\$14. They may be purchased online at www.civictickets.org up to three hours prior to the performance, by phone at (925) 931-3444, or in person at the Amador Theater Box Office, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and for two hours prior to each performance.

Shakespeare's As You Like It, presented by Amador Valley High School, Nov. 20, 21 and 22 at 7:30 p.m., at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. khartman@pleasanton.k12.ca.us.

Romeo and Juliet, presented by San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, 55-minute abridged performance. Fri., Nov. 21, 7 p.m. Front Row Theater, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Rd., San Ramon. \$15 adults, \$10 youth under 12, seniors 65+. www.SanRamonPerformingArts.com, 973-ARTS.

John Worley and Worlview 7.0, Nov. 21, 8 p.m. Front Row Theater, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Rd., San Ramon.

ing to learn her lines: "I don't understand a word of it! You know, one word has like 15 syllables." A dotting Warner (Adam Neylan) obligingly offers, "O.K., I'll send it back to the script department for a rewrite." Her final triumph of boobs-over-brains logic is the announcement that she'll recite her part backwards, "because it doesn't make any more sense either way."

True to the spirit of the original play, Puck mistakenly applies the magic flower juice not just to a few mortals, but to a whole gaggle of studio types at a fabulous Warner Estate party, starting a chain of love-at-first-misguided-sight reactions that turns the elegant soiree into an orgy.

Again, a second magic flower restores all to relative normalcy (for Hollywood, that is) and the filming can resume, minus Puck and Oberon, who must return to their own Fairyland, sadly relinquishing their girls, Rolex watches, and fame for tamer traditional nymphs and revels.

A bemused audience is left to question which "reality" seems preferable, and to chuckle again at all the evening's antics. Many planned to return with friends, so seats will be selling briskly (opening weekend was nearly sold out).

For tickets to "Shakespeare in Hollywood" (November 21 and 22 at 8 p.m. and 23 at 2 p.m.), contact 424-1166 or kross@laspositascollege.edu, or purchase them at the College Bookstore or Fine Fretted Friends, 2181 First St. Livermore. Prices are a bargain at \$10 general and \$7 seniors and students, so don't miss out on the fun.

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A Classic Comes to Life

By Susan Steinberg

Excitement is building at the Bankhead Theater as the set for Shakespeare Associates' first mainstage production takes shape. A scale model shows an intricate design of indoor and outdoor spaces to enhance the moods of Anton Chekhov's first famous play, "The Seagull."

Taking advantage of a full rehearsal at the Bothwell Center, this reviewer was struck by the commitment of energy by the ensemble cast, even in such a bare rectangle of space.

The intensity of passions, the taut crackle of family bickering, the longing and pain of unrequited loves, all came to life without the benefit of costumes or sets. I can already imagine how powerful it will be when finally performed at the Bankhead.

As in this summer's LPC production of "The Cherry Orchard," the familiar Chekhov characters are not only the old Russian types presented on stage, but also a virtual gallery of universal human beings, with all their strengths and failings, clearly recognizable in our own modern society.

A self-centered aging actress (we all know the type) is Madame Arkadina, who cannot stop believing that the world MUST revolve around her. She is constantly describing her theatrical triumphs, and flaunting her still vigorous body and youthful good looks, as well as her energetic zest for life. But within her soul, she harbors terrible fears of aging, losing her public, and the interest of her famous novelist lover. Her elderly brother Sorin, a

retired State Councilor, is a frail old ghost, pretending he still enjoys vigorous good health, but pining away on his isolated country estate, deprived of any real function or importance. He is constantly expressing his frustration over never having achieved his two life goals: becoming a writer and getting married, or at least sowing some wild oats.

The neighborhood roue, Dr. Dorn, has obviously enjoyed the favors of countless local ladies, but now, in his 50's, realizes what a barren life he's led. Yes, he's had a lusty good time, but wishes he had even once been able to do something creative and ennobling, to soar over his baser nature on wings of inspiration.

Arkadina's lover Trigorin is a celebrated writer but not a happy man. Having developed a certain style of descriptive narrative, he is locked into repeating the same popular formula, a prisoner of his own success. Now he is a compulsive note-taker, jotting down every sight, sound, comment, or action, and has no respite except when fishing on a peaceful lake. An obsessed man, always fixated on his next assignment, he longs for the simple, uncomplicated existence of a peasant.

The estate steward, a hearty reality-minded farm overseer, cannot stop thinking back to the days when he heard and loved live theater and opera on the stage. He can only console himself by repeating these cherished memories over and over again, lamenting, "The theater's not what it used to be!"

His spouse Polina is a certifiably desperate housewife, aching to leave her stolid husband for a life of freedom and bliss with Dr. Dorn, her current lover. Jealously noticing his attentions to Arkadina, she sadly realizes he will never be completely hers, and is reduced to begging him not to desert her, or be so obviously attracted to others in front of her.

What a sad and sorry lot they seem, mired in their old world setting. But look a little more closely, and you will recognize many people you know, who reach a certain age and look back with regret or nostalgia, or view their future with trepidation. Or perhaps all of the above.

Chekhov's insistence on reality meant that even the most trivial, repetitive human activities had to be shown in minute detail. It is against these daily rituals that the most wrenching personal dramas occur. In "Seagull," for example, the steady reading of numbers in a simple after-supper lotto game becomes like the tolling of a death-knell for an offstage tragedy. Or, as Chekhov put it, "People eat a meal and at the same time their happiness is made or their lives are ruined."

Of course, not everyone welcomed this innovative style, and many booed its opening in St. Petersburg in 1896, preferring the customary popular entertainments of vaudeville and melodrama. By 1898, a more modern-minded Moscow audience gave it a triumphant reception, recog-

nizing the beauty and importance of seeing the honest realities of life.

But what of the play's younger characters — those who still have most of their years ahead of them, with the chance to achieve a more meaningful and gratifying life than their elders? Don't they have a brighter future?

There's Medvedenko, the local schoolteacher who can only focus on two things: his unrequited love for Masha, and the inadequacy of his salary to support his mother and younger siblings. His entire outlook is understandably gloomy. While discussing the fact that the earth is round, he bursts out, "When there's no food on the table, it doesn't matter whether it's round or flat. Leave me alone, please!"

Masha, daughter of Polina and the estate steward, is still young and single, but always dresses in black. When asked why, she replies, "I'm in mourning for my life. I am unhappy." And she will continue to be unhappy, nursing a hopeless love for Arkadina's son Constantine Treplev, who only thinks of her as a tiresome nuisance. Resigned to her only option, a loveless marriage to Medvedenko, she has taken to heavy vodka drinking. Fending off Trigorin's disapproval she asserts, "Don't look at me like that. A lot more women drink than you realize. They don't all do it openly like I do. Most are secret drinkers."

As for Constantine, the idealistic young would-be writer, he

has great dreams of new innovative theater, using abstract philosophical concepts rather than clichéd stock characters. But his first production, staged for the family, is a vague and hopelessly adolescent muddle. The long opening monologue by the "World Soul" is flippantly ridiculed by his mother, and ignored by the others, infuriating him so that he abruptly terminates the performance. Lacking confidence, he already considers himself a hopeless failure, despised by every one, especially his adored mother and sweetheart Nina, both of whom love the commonplace writer Trigorin.

And Nina, the vivacious young ingénue? Living miserably under the thumb of her stepmother, she is drawn to her famous actress neighbor Arkadina and her son, whose play provides her first chance to act in public — her dream. Suddenly smitten with Trigorin she ignores the devoted Constantine, in love with an idol she has created in her romantic imagination.

"I am like a seagull," Nina has declared, mourning the bird shot by Constantine. This gives Trigorin an idea for a story: "A girl, like yourself, say, lives all her life on the shores of a lake. She loves the lake like a seagull and is happy and free like a seagull. But a man comes along, just by chance, sees her, and because he has nothing better to do, destroys her like this seagull here." Will his casual scenario symbolize Nina's fate?

How will a realistic writer untangle these twisted lives, and what kind of resolution can end their torments? Far be it from me to reveal the play's startling denouement, but it will certainly provide an evening of electric theater, especially with such a seasoned troupe of professionals.

Shakespeare Associates favorite Hannah Knapp is an incandescent Nina, while Elissa Beth Stebbins is a soulful and sympathetic Masha. Popular Nikolai Lokteff plays the philandering Dr. Dorn, with a returning Michael Wayne Rice as the writer Trigorin. Newcomer Michael Abts from the Marin and SF Shakespeare Companies debuts as the idealistic Constantine, while California Conservatory Theater's Elinore Mason Reinhold bows as the passionate Polina with Richard Reinhold as her earthy husband. Michele Levy, a veteran teacher and performer (UC Davis, ACT, and Berkeley Rep) imposes her dramatic presence as Madame Arkadina. William Wolak, long-time actor, director and theater professor, returns to Livermore as State Councilor Sorin.

The brilliant ensemble company will bring this seminal classic to vibrant life for only one weekend. Performances at Livermore's Bankhead Theater are scheduled for Friday and Saturday Nov 21 and 22 at 8 PM, with a 2 PM matinee Saturday, Nov 22, and a 7PM early Show on Sunday, Nov 23.

For tickets, call the Box Office 925-373-6800 or access www.livermoreshakes.org

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 417415
The following person (s) doing business as: Alteration Boutique, 2542 Fourth Street, Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Lynn M. Schmidt, 5162 Diane Lane, Livermore Ca 94550
This business is conducted by a Joint venture
The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name (s) listed above on October 30, 2008.
Signature of Registrant: /s:/Lynn M. Schmidt and Belinda Brooke
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 30, 2008. Expires October 30, 2013.
The Independent Legal No. 2405. Publish November 6, 13, 20, 27, 2008.



FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 417210

The following person (s) doing business as: Eye For Design, 835 Palomino Dr. #1, Pleasanton Ca 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Crystal Marie Squier, 835 Palomino Dr. #1, 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:/Crystal Squier This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 24, 2008. Expires October 24, 2013. The Independent Legal No.2409 . Publish November 13, 20, 27, December 4, 2008.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 417805

The following person (s) doing business as: Healthy Technology, 3263 Vineyard Ave #70, Pleasanton Ca 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Glen Ernest Dishman, 3263 Vineyard Ave #70, Pleasanton Ca 94566 Vickie Lynne Dishman, 3263 Vineyard Ave #70, Pleasanton Ca 94566 This business is conducted by: Husband and wife Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed. Signature of Registrant: /s:/Glen Dishman This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 12, 2008. Expires November 12, 2013. The Independent Legal No.2410 . Publish November 20, 27, December 4, 11, 2008.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 417935

The following person (s) doing business as: The System Wizard, 2278 Normandy Circle, Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Scott S. Beard, 2278 Normandy Circle, 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:/Scott S. Beard This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 17, 2008. Expires November 17, 2013. The Independent Legal No.2411 . Publish November 20, 27, December 4, 11, 2008.

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NOTICES/ANNOUNCEMENTS

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REAL ESTATE NEWS AND NOTICES

Livermore Realtors Provide Atlases for 5th Graders

By Cher Wollard

Livermore fifth graders received a gift from the real estate community this week – atlases.

For the third year, local members of the Bay East Association of Realtors are sponsoring classrooms by providing individual atlases for the students.

This year, every fifth grader in every Livermore public school, plus the Charter School, St. Michael's and Valley Montessori received a book – a total of 1152 atlases.

"These are nice quality books," said Kimberly Moore, a Realtor with Re/Max Accord who has led the project from the beginning.

The program is an offshoot of the Dictionary Project, a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving the reading ability and comprehension of all children.

Bay East members have sponsored a local version for several years, providing dictionaries to third-graders in neighboring communities.

Last year, 1179 atlases and 5366 dictionaries were given out in Livermore, Pleasanton, Sunol, Dublin, Fremont, Newark and Union City.

"I was on the Member Benefits Council of Bay East when they came up with The Dictionary Project," Moore said. "I thought it was great and I wanted to get involved." However, the Livermore Rotary Club has been part of The Dictionary Project here for years, so it didn't make sense to duplicate that effort.

"I'm a Livermore agent and my kids go to Livermore schools," she said. "So I was the one who said, 'How can we get Livermore agents involved?' I offered to chair the project.

"We looked at thesauruses, but we decided the atlas would be a great tool. It's a little more advanced than a dictionary, though, so we geared it to fifth grade."

It's worked out well, she said. Fifth graders take on state projects, so they can use the atlases for that, as well as for studying about the world.

The teachers agree. "Yes, they really do use them. We study geography every day. It's a wonderful gift," said Tom Anderson, a teacher at Croce Elementary School whose class received books from Diane Sass, a Realtor with J. Rockcliff and Associates.

And it's a nice tool they can take on to their middle school. This year, 33 agents and mortgage specialists, plus two real estate offices – Legacy Real Estate and Windermere Welcome Home – adopted classrooms.

Early Monday morning, the sponsors gathered outside the south Livermore home of Mary Anne Rosza, a broker-associate with Coldwell-Banker, to collect, unwrap and label the books, and sign letters to the parents.

The sponsors, who paid about \$4 per copy for the books, took off from there to the various schools to disperse the books.

"For a 5th grader, an atlas is a good thing to receive. People are not always knowledgeable about the world anymore. An atlas helps opens up their eyes to the world," said John George, a Realtor with Windermere Welcome Home who also participated in the program last year. For the second year in a row, he adopted a class at Croce Elementary, near his home.

"It would have been nice when I was growing up to have a group bring atlases to my 5th grade class," he said. "I'm not expecting a return on it. It's just one of those nice feel-good things."

Each school handles distribution of the books differently. At some schools, agents are invited into the classrooms to pass the books out to the children.

"I think it's important for them to know who gave them the books. They didn't just fall from the sky. Someone cares for them," said Allison Bernal, the teacher at Croce Elementary whose classroom received books from George.

Some have all the fifth graders and their teachers gather in the auditorium or in front of the school to get their books. Occasionally they take photographs.

Other schools find it more efficient to have the books delivered to the office, where staff can pick them up to distribute later.

"This is a very nice thing that you do," said Shielia Killgore, the secretary at Rancho Las Positas, who accepted books from Gerarda Stocking, broker-owner of Stocking Realty, and Cher Wollard of Windermere Welcome Home.

Stocking's grandchild had attended Rancho before graduating to middle school and Wollard's children had attended Rancho, so bringing the atlases was of personal significance to them.

The children smile and sometimes applaud or cheer when told they will receive books. There are always lots of shy "thank you's."

One child in Eileen Annicchero's class at Croce, sponsored by Moore, asked if she would find a map of Hawaii in her atlas, and smiled broadly when told she would.

Moore, whose children are not yet old enough to receive the atlases, sponsors all the Special Day Classes in the district.

"I do that because I want to make sure they are adopted, so they don't fall through the cracks," she said.

"And the other part of it is just because most people are sponsoring a class of close to 30 kids. A lot of the SDC classes are five kids here, six kids there, so it's easier to have just one or two people sponsor all of them."

Sponsors are recognized on the Bay East website (www.bayeast.org) and on labels inside each book. The labels are donated by ZZippes printing services, which also is a sponsor of the Livermore Marketing Association.

Other Realtors and associates who participated in the Atlas Program are Tonya Dennett of Topdot Mortgage; Sue Griffin of Windermere Welcome Home; Lia Wendell, Pam Cole and John Kurtzer of Re/Max Accord; Jo Ann Luisi, Sherri Souza, Kim Ott and Jennifer Lewis of Alain Pinel; Sue Williams and Kathleen Waelde of Coldwell Banker; Sherry Faux of Hometown GMAC; Joan Budne and Ted Elwell of Excel Realty; Bobby Gregory of Prudential Ruby Hill; Mike Ferketich of Keller Williams; Mike Fracisco of Fracisco Realty; Bill McManus of ProMortgage; Jeri Jorgenson, Pete Conley, John Mark Niklewicz and Tracy Leach of Legacy Real Estate and Associates; Rick Benitez of RPM Mortgage; Randi DeHollander of Vintage Mortgage; and Karen Long of Wells Fargo.

Bay East says the programs promote literacy within our schools – and good schools mean desirable communities.

Cher Wollard is a local Realtor.

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Pleasanton's two favorite bands, the Amador Valley High School (left) marching band and the Foothill High School marching band, are among the highlights of the Annual Hometown Holidays Parade hosted by the City of Pleasanton. The bands will join hundreds of angels, elves, festively decorated gift packages, reindeer and others who participate in this annual Pleasanton tradition, scheduled to take place on Saturday, December 6, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. All parade entries are encouraged to decorate floats and marching units within the broad range of opportunities afforded through the theme of "Sights and Sounds of the Season." Parade entry applications are now available online and are due by Wednesday, November 26, 2008. Please visit www.hometownholiday.com to download an application and parade rules. A parade float building guide is available upon request by calling (925) 931-3432.



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Photo - Doug Jorgensen

The photo in the background was taken at the time Shaun Stephenson was promoted to captain. The ceremony was held at the location in Iraq where his brother was killed in the first Gulf War. He discussed his service with students at St. Michael's School in Livermore.

Local Hero Inspires St. Micheal's Students

By Patricia Koning

Students at St. Michael's School in Livermore heard a lesson on service and sacrifice from someone who has experienced both firsthand during a presentation on Fri., Nov. 14. Shaun Stephenson, a father of two St. Michael's students, talked about his service as a Marine and losing his brother Dion to a friendly fire incident in the first Gulf War.

"On January 29, 1991 he was killed during the Battle of Al-Khafji," said Shaun. "So the brother that I had all those years with, building a bond and forging a relationship, was gone. It was something I couldn't even fathom or think about."

Dion had turned down scholarships to two different universities to join the Marines, following a long family tradition of armed services. One of Dion and Shaun's grandfathers served in the Navy and lived through the Pearl Harbor attack. The other fought the Germans during World War II. Their grandmother was a Navy WAVE.

Shaun's childhood dream was to attend the Naval Academy and

play football for the Navy. Failing to meet the academic requirements for the Naval Academy, he followed his older brother into the Marines. With a father who was a Vietnam Veteran with service in the Marines and Army, Shaun said he and Dion formed a tight bond during their tough childhood.

Dion was the only Marine from the state of Utah killed in the Persian Gulf War. At Dion's funeral, Marine Commandant Al Gray asked Shaun what he wanted to do next. He wanted more than anything to return to the battlefield in Iraq. However, a military policy prevents a sibling of someone killed in battle from returning to that same war theater.

Working with the first President Bush and Senator Orrin Hatch of Utah, Shaun was able to realize his dream—attending the Naval Academy and playing football for the Navy. He continued his career with the Marines and reached the rank of Captain. He told the students about his time in East Timor on a humanitarian assistance operation after warring factions destroyed much of the

country in 1999.

"We rebuilt shelters, handed out bikes, rebuilt their currency system—we basically rebuilt their town and gave them everything back," explained Shaun. "These are the types of things I was able to do when I served in the military. It doesn't have to be in the capacity of the military, there are many different ways to serve."

Shaun asked the St. Michael's students for suggestion of how they can and do serve in their community. The students said they give food to the poor, pick up trash, serve as mentors, help their parents at home, participate in the Relay for Life, and visit Children's Hospital in Oakland. "You can't overestimate the impact you can make on someone else's life," he said.

He also talked with the students about facing and handling adversity, using a story about putting a carrot, egg, and coffee into three pots of boiling water. The carrot comes out soft and the egg hard. The coffee turns the

AMADOR

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saw so much hard work by the Amador students, and also by the third high school, from Orange County, that it decided to give the two runners-up each \$1000.

The winning school, the Center for Advanced Research and Technology, is located in central California, in Clovis, hometown of the late Pleasanton school trustee Juanita Haugen, who was educated in that school district. CMPB will be using the campaign dreamed up by the Clovis high school.

The campaign uses humor in three different TV spots. One of them is called "Awkward Moment." It has a father-son talk, in which the son confesses that he experiments ... with drinking milk, to build muscle and strong bones.

The Amador Valley presentation used the theme "Brawn, Beauty and Brains" with the slogan YNotMilk? to highlight the health benefits of the "wonder

tonic."

Milk performed quick miracles in the Amador Valley ads. One was the overnight transformation of a girl who had been teased about her hair and skin. She changes into a beautiful girl with the perfect hair and skin—a teen-ager who is admired by her peers.

The Amador Valley students also proposed multi-media ideas for their campaign. One idea is to have a MySpace website to promote a rap competition about milk and its benefits.

Teen-agers were tapped for this contest because the Got Milk? campaign by the CMPB is shifting over to teens. As they enter high school, teen-agers tend to put aside milk, and choose other drinks, forgetting the benefits of milk, says the CMPB.

The \$1000 going to Amador Valley will be split between a gift that the whole class can use in the classroom, and individual gift cards that will be helpful to their studies. Many in the class are seniors headed for college next fall.

Five in the class went to the ad agency offices of Goodby, Silverstein and Partners in San Francisco to present their campaign. They are Nicole Villanueva, Tanya Carter, Angela Sibley, Vinny Stefani and Doug Howe.

Thomas said that she was "absolutely thrilled" with the students' presentation. "It was exciting for the kids to see the casualness of an ad agency, then go into the professional (meeting) room. This is real. It's not a school presentation. They did a great job. I was pleased."

Gingerbread Fundraiser Benefits Tri-Valley Haven Programs

More than 300 volunteers will bake, decorate and package thousands of gingerbread boys, girls and babies to raise funds to support Tri-Valley Haven. The Haven provides, shelter, counseling, legal assistance, a food pantry and other supportive services to adults and children who have experienced domestic violence, sexual assault and homelessness.

The Gingerbread Project began in 1977 when Claire Nelson, one of Tri-Valley Haven's founding mothers, held a bake sale to raise money to pay for the agency's incorporation fees. It is now a community tradition.

Volunteers will converge at Dublin High School over the first week of December to produce delectable and decorative gingerbread people. Volunteer Coordinator, Jean Wright, said, "This event is so popular that almost all of the volunteer shifts were filled by the second week in November! However, we still have lots of opportunities for volunteers to help at our Holiday Warehouse and Food Pantry."

Wright can be reached at (925) 449-5845 or email at jeanw@trivalleyhaven.org.

Each 7" gingerbread boy and girl is hand-decorated, with names inscribed, for only \$5 each. A bag of 13 gingerbread babies is \$5. The deadline to order cookies is Monday, December 1st. To obtain an order form, visit www.trivalleyhaven.org, or call (925) 449-5845.

Drop-Off Food for Thanksgiving

This weekend the Tri-Valley Haven will be having a fund-raiser for families in need of a Thanksgiving dinner.

Volunteers from Tri-Valley Haven will be out at the Grocery Store Outlet on Railroad Ave. and Lucky Store on Portola Ave. in Livermore. Dr. Gerardo Contreras, of Contreras Chiropractic, will also be donating his services to those who give \$20 or more. Everyone who donates at least \$20 will receive a complete Chiropractic appointment, and for those who accept care, the first adjustment will be free.

Those who cannot make it out to one of the stores this weekend, can contact Tri-Valley Haven directly at or Contreras Chiropractic at (925) 606-5490 to make a donation.

First Photos of Newly Discovered Multi-Planet Solar System

Astronomers for the first time have taken snapshots of a multi-planet solar system, much like the one where Earth is located, orbiting another star.

The new solar system orbits a dusty young star named HR8799, which is 140 light years away and about 1.5 times the size of the sun. Three planets, roughly 10, 10 and 7 times the mass of Jupiter, orbit the star. The size of the planets decreases with distance from the parent star.

There may be more planets out there. However, scientists say they just haven't seen them yet.

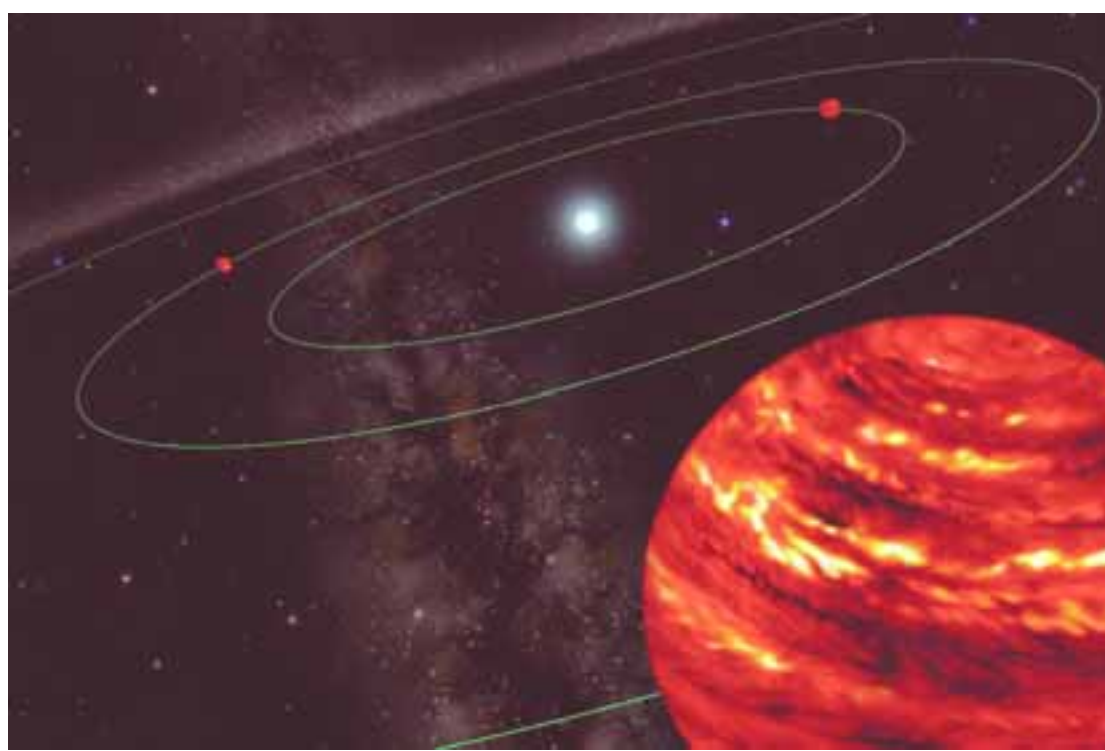
"Every extrasolar planet detected so far has been a wobble on a graph. These are the first pictures of an entire system," said Bruce Macintosh, an astrophysicist from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and one of the key authors of a paper appearing in the Nov. 13 issue of Science Express. "We've been trying to image planets for eight years with no luck. Now we have pictures of three planets at once."

Using high-contrast, near-infrared adaptive optics observations with the Keck and Gemini telescopes, the team of researchers from Livermore, the NRC Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics in Canada, Lowell Observatory, University of California Los Angeles, and several other institutions were able to see three orbiting planetary companions to HR8799.

Astronomers have known for a decade through indirect techniques that the sun was not the only star with orbiting planets.

"But we finally have an actual image of an entire system," Macintosh said. "This is a milestone in the search and characterization of planetary systems around stars."

During the past 10 years, vari-



Artist's conception of the multiple planet system HR 8799.

Gemini Observatory artwork by Lynette Cook

ous planet detection techniques have been used to find more than 200 exoplanets. But these methods all have limitations. Most infer the existence of a planet through its influence on the star that it orbits, but don't actually tell scientists anything about the planet other than its mass and orbit.

In the new findings, the planets are 24, 37 and 67 times the Earth-sun separation from the host star. The furthest planet in the new system orbits just inside a disk of dusty debris, similar to that produced by the comets of the Kuiper belt.

In some ways, this planetary system seems to be a scaled-up version of our solar system orbiting a larger and brighter star, Macintosh said.

The host star is known as a

bright, blue A-type star. These types of stars are usually ignored in ground and space-based direct imaging surveys since they offer a less favorable contrast between a bright star and a faint planet. Early in their life, they can retain heavy disks of planet-making material and therefore form more massive planets at wider separa-

tions that are easier to detect. In the recent study, the star also is young - less than 100 million years old - which means its planets are still glowing with heat from their formation.

"Seeing these planets directly - separating their light from the star - lets us study them as individuals, and use spectroscopy to

study their properties, like temperature or composition," Macintosh said.

A team led by Macintosh is constructing a much more advanced adaptive optics system designed from the beginning to block the light of bright stars and reveal even fainter planets. Known as the Gemini Planet Im-

ager (<http://gpi.berkeley.edu>), this new system will be up to 100 times more sensitive than current instruments and able to image planets similar to our own Jupiter around nearby stars.

"I think there's a very high probability that there are more planets in the system that we can't detect yet," Macintosh said.

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