



Olivina Gate

## Site Selected As a Point of Historic Interest

The Olivina Gate, Olivina Winery home-site winery ruins in Sycamore Grove Park, and the tree-lined allee that connects these cultural sites were designated as a California Point of Historic Interest by the State on November 17, 2008.

The gate, located at the corner of Arroyo Road and Wetmore Road, was the entrance to the property of Julius Paul Smith.

The City of Livermore, in one of its newsletters, published the following information about the gate.

Since 1908, the Olivina Gate has been a distinctive landmark and icon of Livermore's viticulture evolution.

In the early 1880s, Julius Paul Smith, a mine industrialist who helped develop the *Twenty Mule Team*® Borax brand, founded Olivina Ranch. The original 2,000-acre ranch extended south, east and west of the Olivina Gate. Under Smith's leadership, the ranch was transformed into vineyards and olive orchards – inspiring the portmanteau "Olivina" (combining "olive" and "vine") to name his estate. He subsequently established a high-production winery onsite and shipped his varietals worldwide under the labels *Olivina*, *Olivina-Ideal* and *California*, among others.

After Smith died in 1904, his wife Sarah initiated construction of the Olivina Gate. By 1908, she discontinued viticulture operations and leased the ranch. Following her death in 1918 and the subsequent Prohibition era, Olivina Ranch was reduced by several hundred acres. By the 1950s, the ranch was converted to a cattle operation. Ruins of the original winery are now part of the Sycamore Grove Park property.

The Olivina Gate is owned by Wente Vineyards.

## Events Highlight Cuba Week at Las Positas College

The Las Positas Spanish Department, the Las Positas Foundation, the Campus Change Network and BasicNecessities.org will be celebrating the Week of the Cuban Culture- La Semana Cubana from December 1 to December 6. This week-long celebration will focus on the Cuban people, their history, art, dance, music and religions.

The program is also supported by the Alameda County Arts Commission.

Catherine Suárez, Coordinator for the Foreign Language Department, and Luis Valverde, dance instructor at Las Positas College, are combining their efforts for the second year in a row to bring the cultural richness of Cuba to Las Positas and the Tri-Valley.

Art Director for La Semana Cubana, Rafael Aruzaga, will display his original art along with that of other Cuban artists. In addition, an altar dedicated to Oshun, one of the main female orisha, or goddesses, in the Santería religion, will be on display in the 2400 building.

Each afternoon will feature a different cultural event. Among these events are traditional Cuban drumming, a Rueda de Casino dance, salsa lessons, a Rumba demonstration and a percussion master class starting at 12:30.

In addition to the daily events, throughout the week visitors may view an original art display by Rafael Aruzaga, art director for La Semana Cubana, along with the work of other Cuban artists. Also throughout the week an al-

(See CUBA, page 2)

# Community Support Keeps Kitchen Open

Response to Open Heart Kitchen's need for more donations so that it can stay in operation has been so great that it looks like the nonprofit might make it.

Open Heart Kitchen needed \$100,000 just to keep the doors open through the end of this year. That goal has been achieved, said executive director Linda McKeever. The next goal is to raise another \$100,000, which will carry the charity through June 30, the end of its fiscal year.

It takes \$32,000 to \$37,000 per month to operate all of the

programs. Open Heart Kitchen has used its entire reserve fund.

The crisis began when donors cut back substantially this year, because of the worsening economy. Demand for meals increased, because of that same poor economy. The program was caught in that squeeze.

"It's looking good. It looks like we'll keep the programs open, if we continue to keep the community's support," said McKeever.

Open Heart Kitchen serves meals at no cost five days a week

in the Valley, on a rotating basis among Livermore, Pleasanton and Dublin. There are also senior meals served Mondays through Fridays at Ridge View Commons in Pleasanton. They are open to all seniors, not just Ridge View residents.

The program also provides box lunches for school children in Livermore at schools where families meet standards of governmental poverty guidelines.

"We have had a tremendous outpouring from the community. We are absolutely grateful for it,"

said McKeever.

A fund-raiser organized by volunteer Wendy Weathers at Blacksmith Square in Livermore last week raised \$25,000. People attended a wine-tasting there, and wrote checks to Open Heart Kitchen. The wineries at the square donated 10 percent of their income from the day's wine sales. The musicians who played for the event shared revenue from their CD sales, said McKeever.

Safeway and Wells Fargo, two corporations that were among the first responders to the appeal,

have since added to their response. Safeway is donating certificates for food. Wells Fargo is helping to collect toys and gifts for the families that Open Heart Kitchen serves.

Churches and schools are collecting donations. A kitchen staff at the Pleasanton Sheraton has turned up to undertake volunteer work in the charity's kitchen.

Going through a "top of my head" list, McKeever named Robert Half International, Progressive Concept Machining, the

(See SUPPORT, page 2)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Students at Cottage Preschool at Cedar Grove Community Church in Livermore celebrated Thanksgiving last week by dressing up in costumes and entertaining visitors with songs in celebration of the holiday. The students also ate a Thanksgiving meal complete with turkey, stuffing, and dessert.

## Livermore Moves Ahead with Plan Lines For I-580 Widening Scenic Corridor Standards Retained

Livermore took steps Monday to establish plan lines to allow for the widening of I-580. The widening is needed to accommodate the construction of high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes on I-580 as well as the extension of BART to Livermore.

Establishing plan lines will allow the city to apply for transportation funds to purchase the right-of-way.

The city council voted 3 to 2 on Monday to amend zoning for land identified as right-of-way for the widening. In addition, the council's action retains the current scenic corridor standards.

Councilmembers Jeff Williams and Marj Leider voted against the staff recommendation because of the scenic corridor provision. They objected to freezing current view angles.

Currently, the viewpoint used to set the view angle that is used to determine the height of buildings along the freeway is measured from the outside driving lane. With the widening, the outside lane would be moved 22 to 30 feet on each side of the freeway. Staff proposed retaining the current viewpoint location, rather than moving it as the road is widened.

Williams noted that the idea behind the scenic corridor provisions is to protect the view. "I'm concerned that if we don't, properties not yet developed can build in a way that effectively blocks the view. That will defeat the pur-

pose of the scenic corridor ordinance."

Leider wanted more information on what properties would be impacted.

The viewpoint is fixed as of July 1, 2008. Susan Frost, senior planner, explained that development has been occurring based on the current regulations and standards. If they were to change, the buildings would become nonconforming. Properties not yet developed have been created based on the current view angles and could lose development potential.

Fred Osborne, director of development, said that a nonconforming designation creates a cloud on those properties. He added that it would be unfair to properties not yet developed to use a different standard than what was anticipated by property owners.

During the public hearing, both John Stein and Don Miller echoed the concern raised by Councilmember Williams.

Miller, who represents Save Our Hills, pointed out that zoning standards change all the time. Undeveloped properties have to conform to new rules. "The idea of freezing the viewpoint shows more concern for developers rather than the citizenry. That doesn't seem right. Essentially, the views will be blocked forever by new development. Livermore will look like Dublin." Miller

(See I-580, page 4)

## Sutter Health Buys Livermore Land

Sutter Health has acquired 45 acres north of Interstate 580 and east of Collier Canyon Road in Livermore for \$39 million.

The purchase was made from Shea Homes and KLA Tencor in late October.

Stacey Wells, community relations director for Sacramento-based Sutter, said no decision has been made about what medical use would be served on the property. No time-line has been created either. Sutter likes the location because it is near the free-

way. Wells added, "Livermore is a great community. We are lucky and happy to serve patients in that region."

Sutter is already in Livermore's neighborhood, with facilities in Castro Valley and Tracy. Palo Alto Medical Foundation, which has a medical office building in Dublin, is a Sutter affiliate.

Sutter is the latest medical group to buy land in the Valley. Kaiser Permanente, which has medical offices in Livermore

and Pleasanton, announced last year that it would build a hospital in Dublin.

The Valley's oldest operating hospital is ValleyCare Health System, which is a public, nonprofit hospital. Its first location was at the Livermore campus on Stanley Boulevard. It still operates outpatient facilities there.

ValleyCare's main campus is in Pleasanton, where it has full-service hospital facilities, including a 24-hour emergency room.

## County Receives Top Environmental Award

Alameda County received the 2008 Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award (GEELA) for its Juvenile Justice Center, an innovative green building that houses integrated services for at-risk youth.

GEELA is California's highest environmental honor.

"We're proud that Alameda

County has received this prestigious environmental award," said Board of Supervisors President Scott Haggerty. "The Juvenile Justice Center is the result of a successful partnership with local small businesses and youth all working towards a common goal-to provide the highest level

(See AWARD, page 3)

## Pleasanton Making It Easier To Recycle Batteries

The City of Pleasanton has introduced another greening measure with its new residential battery recycling program.

Pleasanton residents can drop batteries off at one of five sites located throughout the city. Each site has been outfitted with a battery recycling station featuring three color-coded containers with posted instructions and appropriate supplies to collect the following: alkaline and carbon zinc (heavy duty) batteries, rechargeable batteries and disposable lithium batteries.

Battery recycling has been mandated in California since

February 2006 in an effort to stem the chemical leaching of used batteries into water supplies and landfills. Most AA, AAA, C, D, 9-volt and button batteries contain heavy metals including lead, cadmium, nickel, mercury and other toxics that can cause reproductive disorders as well as kidney, liver and neurological dysfunctions.

"Protecting our waterways and soil from contaminants is a way in which we can all participate. We hope that the accessibility and convenience of this new recycling program will com-

(See BATTERIES, page 3)



Lila Hopkins with Hazel.

## Gingerbread Hippo Has a Name

The tiny tot student body at Gingerbread Preschool has decided upon the name of "Hazel the Hippo" for the new hippo statue that resides in a mud pit in the new student play yard. Hazel was chosen from 58 names that were submitted by students and members of the community.

The winning name was the idea of Gingerbread Preschool student Lila Hopkins, 4, pictured with Hazel.

Hazel and the mud pit are just one component of Gingerbread's new play yard design, which also includes an art terrace, music wall, hand pump and water trough for water play, resilient play surfaces, sand box, slide, garden area, a new tricycle path and tunnel, outdoor circle area, swings and climbing structure, a story telling circle, and more. The project also includes a separate play area for the Gingersnaps program, which caters to young children ages 21 months to 3 years of age.

In its 40-year history in the Pleasanton community, Gingerbread has launched the academic and social lives of more than 8,000 children. For more information, please call Becky Hopkins at (925) 931-3432.

## Inside

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



### PET OF THE WEEK

Honey is as sweet as she sounds, maybe even sweeter! She adores people and just wants to be where all the action is. She's very curious, smart and playful, and has figured out how to open cabinet doors! Come hang out with Honey at Valley Humane Society's Kitty City, 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton. Open Tues- Sat from 11AM to 5PM. Holiday Home Tour to Benefit Homeless Pets on Sun., Dec. 7 from 2-6 P.M. in downtown Pleasanton. Historic downtown homes will open their doors to the public. Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased at Valley Humane Society, Murphy's Paw, Towne Center Books, The Wine Steward and Three Dog Bakery. Buy tickets on-line at [www.valleyhumane.org](http://www.valleyhumane.org). Call 925-426-8656 for details.



## SUPPORT

(continued from page one)

Eastbay Association of Realtors, Palo Alto Medical Foundation (in Dublin), and Pacific Credit Union as making significant donations. The Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory has set up a matching fund for every dollar that employees give through their community charity program.

The real backbone has been the smaller donations, in the \$25 to \$100 range, written by individuals. "We survive on those checks," said McKeever.

A few dollars goes a long way with Open Heart Kitchen. Just \$15 can buy the food to provide a hot meal for 10 people, according to the appeal letter on the group's web page. More information is available on the web page, which is [www.openheartkitchen.org](http://www.openheartkitchen.org).

Donations or other correspondence may be sent to Open Heart Kitchen, 1141 Catalina Drive, No. 137, Livermore, CA. 94550. McKeever may be reached at 580-1616.



Residents enjoyed wine tasting by candlelight during the festivities held at Blacksmith Square in Livermore to raise funds for Open Heart Kitchen.

Photo - Doug Jorgensen

## The Giving Season Gets Underway

Organizations, businesses, government agencies and others are participating in a variety of food and toy drives to help provide a holiday for those in need.

The Livermore Police Department and the Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association is sponsoring the annual Livermore Giving Tree. Livermore families have been selected that need a little assistance this holiday season. Those wishing to donate can select a tag from the tree in the lobby and bring a new unwrapped gift, with the tag attached back to the tree. Monetary donations cannot be accepted. However, gift cards are always welcome.

The tree will be located in the lobby of the police department at 1100 S. Livermore Avenue. Nov. 24 to Dec. 17. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. To arrange for a sponsorship or for more information, please call the Livermore Police Department Citizens Academy Alumni Association at 371-4976.

For the 20th consecutive year, California Water Service

Company (Cal Water) donated Thanksgiving turkeys to local needy families through a program called "Operation Gobble."

Since its inception in 1988, the statewide program has fed hundreds of thousands of needy people. Local legislators participate in the program by recommending charities in their districts that can help with distribution.

This year, Cal Water distributed 1000, \$15 gift certificates, to local charities. The certificates were good for the purchase of a turkey or any turkey product. Donating gift certificates rather than frozen turkeys provided additional flexibility to the charities and families who participate in the program. For example, if a family did not wish to prepare a whole turkey, it can purchase ground turkey, turkey breasts or even turkey bacon. And, distributing gift certificates rather than heavy frozen birds, eliminated the need for delivery trucks, which is better for the environment.

The gift checks were given out on November 19. Recipients were Open Heart Kitchen, Tri-Valley Haven Food Pantry, St.

Michael's Food Cupboard, Valley Christian, St. Matthew's Baptist Church, First Presbyterian/AGAPE Villages, Interfaith Sharing, and Buenas Vidas Thrift Store.

Wheels will launch its 15th annual Holiday Food Drive on Mon., Dec. 1. With the donation of any nonperishable food item, Wheels will offer free rides to passengers boarding any fixed route bus. There is no limit to the number of times a nonperishable food item can be exchanged for fares during the week of Dec. 1 to 7.

Students who ride on Wheels School Tripper routes can deposit two food cans into the donation barrel in the morning and receive a "transfer for the day" valid for one free ride in the afternoon. The offer is not valid on Dial-A-Ride service.

All food collected will be donated to the Tri-Valley Haven Food Pantry. Each month, the Food Pantry distributes groceries to well over 1000 residents.

Wheels Food Drive collection sites are also available at the following locations: Transit Center, Railroad Ave., Livermore, 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., and Wheels Administrative Office, 1362 Rutan Ct., Suite 100, Livermore, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For additional information on routes and schedules, call 455-7500 or go to [www.wheelsbus.com](http://www.wheelsbus.com).

The 1st Annual Tri-Valley Tourism Toys for Tots Drive runs through Dec. 19.

The collection is sponsored by the Tri-Valley, California Convention and Visitors Bureau. Donations can be brought to the Bureau's office at 349 Main St., Suite 203, Pleasanton, weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.

The target age for toys is ages 10 to 16. Toys should be brand new and nonviolent. Please do not wrap the toys. For more information, call 846-8910 or go to [www.trivalleycvb.com](http://www.trivalleycvb.com).

The United States Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Toy Drive will take place at the at Pleasanton Post Office, 4300 Black Ave., Pleasanton on Sat., Dec. 13 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Marines are on a mission to provide a new toy to local children in need. There is an urgent need for toys, the Marines are short by thousands of toys just in the local area. The demand for toys is much higher this year with the donations coming in at a much slower pace.

Please drop off a new unwrapped toy or make a monetary donation to the Marines on Dec. 13 at the Pleasanton Post Office.

The Knights of Columbus are seeking gifts for the annual Christmas Baskets giveaway. This program, in its 35th year, helps families in Livermore who otherwise would not have the funds to celebrate the Christmas season. The giveaway provides both groceries and presents to all family members who are chosen as recipients.

The program is designed to help families identified by the Saint Vincent De Paul as needing assistance. The Knights solicit all donations, obtain the food and gifts and deliver the baskets just before Christmas. This year, the program will also include scholarship funds to help families at St. Michael's Parish School.

Those individuals or businesses wishing to donate funds for a Christmas Basket or a scholarship can contact Aaron Wiley at 373-6351 or [wiley2001@netzero.com](mailto:wiley2001@netzero.com).

## Vigil Held for Horses Who Were Killed

By Victoria Kamerzell

Mike Rountree will remember the day his two horses were murdered the way he remembers when Kennedy was shot. In a candlelight vigil held last Saturday he said his neighbors would remember where they were too on October 22<sup>nd</sup> when they heard the news of the death of his horses.

On Saturday, one month later, hundreds of people gathered to honor his family's loss and to come together in a ceremony organized entirely by volunteers, some of whom had never met the Rountrees.

Greg Rountree described the day when his parents called him at work and told him that two of their horses had been shot. He categorized the horses as part of the family. They were found when his father looked out his window and saw Lucky hunched over. An autopsy at UC Davis revealed the two horses were shot by a .223 caliber rifle around 9:30 PM the previous evening. A calf on a neighbor's property was killed that same night, presumably by the same party. Mike Rountree said that Choctaw had probably approached the person who shot him in the heart. Lucky was shot twice in the belly. He died running to the fence that was closest to the Rountree's home.

The vigil ceremony last Saturday was held at Robertson Park. The bleachers were filled to capacity. Mike and Marianne Rountree started the program by riding into the arena on their two horses before handing the halters and bridles from their late horses to Allison Lindquist, the executive director of the East Bay SPCA. Allison gave an impassioned speech on the importance of defending animal rights.

"We will not tolerate cruelty against animals. We will not let such a terrible crime go unpunished," Allison said. The SPCA originated a \$5,000 reward to any information leading to the capture of Choctaw and Lucky's killer(s) but the reward has since grown to \$20,000 through a series of private donations.

Choctaw performed in events such as The Parade of Roses and was used as a therapy horse at Shriners Hospital, a hospital that provides free care to children in need. Choctaw was a fifteen-year old black-and-white Tobiano. A local non-profit group, Hoofprints on the Heart, was training

him to work with disabled veterans starting in December.

Lucky was a brown-and-white Paint in his early twenties who was adopted by the Rountree family in March. Lucky had been mistreated, his body was severely underweight. He was scheduled to be euthanized before Marianne and Mike Rountree volunteered to adopt him and nurse him back to health.

Livermore's Vice-Mayor John Marchand identified the crime's perpetrators as "thugs" who have most likely shared their crime with someone. He urged anyone with pertinent information "to come forward and do the right thing."

Prior to the ceremony the crowd, many of whom were members of Livermore's agriculture community, gathered in a tent. Several people said they felt violated and worried that until the person(s) responsible were caught, that their own animals would be in danger. One woman said she drives by the spot where the calf was shot every day.

During the program several members of the audience were heard sniffing. The mood was temporarily lifted when the Painted Ladies Rodeo Performers appeared in the arena. The all-female volunteer group performs on Paint horses at events throughout California and Nevada. Towards the end of the performance several children in the audience declared that they wanted to learn how to ride horses.

SPCA spokeswoman Eliza Fried and Kimberly Simon, a self-described avid horsewoman, organized the vigil. Kimberley is able to walk and ride horses because of a childhood operation at a branch of the same hospital where Choctaw volunteered. She said that when she heard about the tragedy she was horrified. She panicked about her own horses' safety. She still cries over these horses death. However, that in the process of planning the vigil she said she found a sense of community. She expressed empathy for the Rountree's loss but also gratitude for the "hundreds of friends I have made" through putting on the vigil.

To report a tip you should contact the Contra Costa Sheriff's Department at 925-313-2654. Hoofprints on the Heart is accepting donations for the reward fund on their website: <http://www.hoofhar.org/>.

## CUBA

(continued from page one)

tar dedicated to Oshun, one of the main female orisha, or goddess, in the Santeria religion. Both exhibits will be located in the Student Center in Building 1700.

Cultural activities are slated for each evening as follows:

Mon., Dec. 1, 7 p.m., view Cuban art and meet the artists - Building 2400, Room 2401

Mon., Dec. 1, 7:30 p.m., Salsa Master Class - PE Building (Gym) Room 212

Tues., Dec. 2, 12:30 p.m., talk, "Santeria and the Goddess Oshun," presented in the Cafeteria - Building 1700

Tues., Dec. 2, 6 p.m., the Las Positas Jazz Combom performs followed at 7 p.m. by a panel of native Cubans who will discuss the Cuban experience - Building 2400, Room 2401.

Wed., Dec. 3, 12:30 p.m., film, "Miel Para Oshun/Honey for Oshun," shown in the Cafeteria - Building 1700

Wed., Dec. 3, 7 p.m., the Afro-Cuban and Salsa Band Pellejo Seco will perform in the Cafeteria - Building 1700

Thurs., Dec. 4, 12:30 p.m., Rumba Class on the Cafeteria patio - Building 1700

Thurs., Dec. 4, 7 p.m., Orquesta la Moderna Tradicion in the Cafeteria - Building 1700

Frid., Dec. 5, 12:30 p.m., a Cuban Percussion Class on the Cafeteria patio - Building 1700

Fri., Dec. 5, 7 p.m., Lara Greene, an ethnomusicology doctoral candidate at Florida State University and lecturer at Florida International University, will discuss Timba in a talk entitled "Timba, music of struggle, triumph and modernized tradition" - Building 2400, Room

2401.

Timba, a popular Cuban musical genre is most often likened to Salsa. It began to evolve in Cuba in the 1970s and has remained popular there. The music is a blend of styles, including nueva trova, latin jazz, disco, funk and hip hop. Since the 1990s, Miami, with its large Cuban-American population, has become the center of a thriving Timba scene.

Lara Greene has researched and written about Cuban music for nearly a decade. She has presented papers on Cuban music and dance at conferences throughout the United States and is currently writing her dissertation on Timba in Miami at Florida State University. Her talk at Las Positas, which in addition to Cuban Culture Week is also a part of the campus Speaker Series, will take place thanks to support from the Campus Change Network, the Alameda County Arts Fund, the Las Positas Foundation, and BasicNecessities.org.

The culminating event is a Bembe Celebration on Saturday, December 6, beginning at 2 pm in at the Student Center. The Bembe will feature live music, Afro Cuban dance, Cuban drum rhythms and traditional Cuban food.

All events are free to the public. Donations will be collected for Project Shoes and Socks, a program that provides new shoes and socks to school children in rural areas of Cuba.

For additional information, please contact Catherine Suarez, foreign language department coordinator, at (925) 424-1212 or [csuarez@laspositascollege.edu](mailto:csuarez@laspositascollege.edu)

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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

<b>Handel's "The Messiah"</b> Pacific Chamber Symphony Dec 2 • 8pm \$38/\$32/\$26/\$7	<b>Banjo and Horns Family Concert</b> Livermore-Amador Symphony Dec 6 • 2pm \$8/\$5	<b>Celebrating Mendelssohn at 200</b> Livermore-Amador Symphony Dec 6 • 8pm \$28/\$24/\$20/\$8
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**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.  
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# VALLEY ROUNDUP

## Mileage Reimbursement Upped

Congressman Jerry McNerney (CA-11) has announced that the mileage reimbursement rate for veterans traveling to VA medical facilities will climb from 28.5 to 41.5 cents per mile.

This action follows a mileage reimbursement rate increase from 11 to 28.5 cents in January 2008. Both came as a result of historic VA funding increases passed by Congress last year, the largest funding increase in the Department's 77-year history. Before these recent moves, mileage reimbursement for veterans had been frozen at the 1979 level: 11 cents per mile.

Service connected veterans, veterans receiving VA pensions, and veterans with low incomes are eligible for the reimbursement, which went into effect earlier this week.

If any veterans eligible for mileage reimbursement encounter difficulty claiming it, or have other trouble obtaining benefits, they are encouraged to contact one of Congressman McNerney's offices for assistance.

## Crystal Eagle Aware

In October, representatives from the Livermore Downtown Inc. Board of Directors, along with Livermore City Manager Linda Barton and other City Staff members, attended the California Downtown Associations 2008 Crystal Eagle Award Ceremony in Santa Rosa, California. Livermore was honored as the 2008 Crystal Eagle Physical Improvement Award Winner for its First Street Streetscape Project.

The City of Livermore invested \$12.5 million in the downtown changes. For more information about this award, please contact the city at (925) 373-1795.

## Volunteer Drivers Sought

The Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley is looking for Volunteer Drivers to transport seniors to their medical appointments.

The Senior Transportation Program supplements existing public and paratransit services by providing rides via volunteer drivers. Volunteers must have a valid driver's license, a registered vehicle and carry personal automobile liability insurance. Please contact Jennifer Cullen for more information at (925) 931-5387 or email: ja.cullen@yahoo.com.

## Money for Mental Health

Assemblymember Mary Hayashi (D-Hayward) announced that the Mental Health Services and Oversight Accountability Commission approved an allocation of \$4,891,876 for Alameda County's Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) program. The program will provide county mental health care services to children, transition-aged youth, and older adults, with a focus on reducing the stigma of mental illness and reaching diverse communities.

The Commission approved Alameda County's funding, as well as Merced County's PEI plan, at a meeting on Thursday. The two join six other counties that have been approved to implement interventions and programs to prevent the initial onset of a behavioral disorder or mental illness. Prop. 63, the Mental Health Services Act, was passed by California voters in November 2004, and has made \$3 billion available for county mental health funding.

## Unemployment Hits 8.2 percent

Friday morning, the Bureau of Labor Statistics announced that California's unemployment rate had climbed to 8.2 percent - up half a percent from last month. This formal announcement comes on the heels of last night's news that Washington Mutual will close a customer service operations center in Pleasanton, putting 1,200 people out of work.

In response, Congressman Jerry McNerney (CA-11) released the following statement.

"This morning we were greeted with more sobering economic news. California's unemployment rate has risen to 8.2 percent from 7.7 per-

cent last month, a 2.5 percent increase from the same time last year. Additionally, Washington Mutual announced last night that it is laying off 1,600 employees in our region, including 1,200 at the company's customer service operations center in Pleasanton, which it will close entirely.

"Fortunately, just this morning, President Bush signed emergency House legislation to extend unemployment benefits for those who have exhausted their benefits, or will soon. For Californians, it means another 13 weeks of unemployment benefits will be made available to help cushion the impact of job loss.

"I encourage any of my constituents who have questions about this extension, or need help filing for it, to contact my office in Stockton at (209) 475-8552 or in Pleasanton at (925) 737-0727 for assistance.

## Witness to Crash Sought

The Livermore Police Department is asking the members of the community to help in attempting to locate a possible critical witness to a fatal collision that occurred Nov. 15 on Highway 84.

Preliminary investigations suggest that a 2006 black Toyota Corolla was north bound SR 84 entering the city limits of Livermore. At this point in the roadway, two lanes merge into one. The driver and sole occupant of the Corolla was attempting to overtake a vehicle and while doing so lost control. The vehicle began to slide sideways into oncoming traffic and was struck broadside by an approaching 1997 Mercury Mini-van occupied by a mother and her three children.

All five parties were transported to local hospitals. Two children were airlifted to Children's Hospital in Oakland where one; a ten year old boy died. Other involved parties are currently being treated and the extent of their injuries is unknown at this time.

According to police, information they have received indicates there may have been a newer model, box type, full size, yellow van (possibly a dodge) travelling north bound on SR 84 directly in front of the Toyota Corolla at the time of the collision. This van had side windows, but they too were painted yellow. There is no indication this van was involved in the collision, but may be able to provide information as to its cause. Collision investigators would like to locate and interview the occupants of this vehicle.

Anyone with information regarding this collision is asked to call Officer Glen Robbins at 925-371-4855.

The seventeen year old driver of the Toyota Corolla is still in Eden Hospital with chest injuries. The thirteen year old passenger of the minivan was released from Children's Hospital late Tuesday.

## Wood Smoke Forum

The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area along with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District will host a forum on wood smoke and air pollution as they relate to health. Medical and scientific professionals will discuss the public health impacts.

The first topic to be discussed is "smoke gets into more than your eyes." The panel will then focus on "communicating difficult health issues." Educational packets will be provided that contain information about wood smoke and new wood burning regulations.

The session will be Tues., Dec. 2 from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Nile Hall Preservation Park, 12th Street and MLK Jr. Way, Oakland.

For information, email editor@bayareamonitor.org or call 510-839-1608.

## Correction

The photo identification was incorrect for the Amador Valley High School advertising class in last week's Independent. The correct names and order are Nicole Villanueva, Tanya Carter, Angela Sibley, Vinny Stefani and Doug Howe.

## Bankhead Ranch Mistletoe Fund-raiser Supports the Arts

Nancy Bankhead is marketing Bankhead Ranch Mistletoe grown locally on her ranch as a holiday fundraiser for the Bankhead Theater. The theater is named in honor of her mother Evelyn and the Bankhead family. Nancy came up with the idea as a fun and festive way to help out with the annual giving campaign.

Each \$5 bundle is a sizeable cluster of mistletoe tied with holiday ribbons and a loop ready for hanging.

Volunteers will be selling Ornaments for the Arts and the Bankhead Ranch Mistletoe in the lobby at all Bankhead Theater performances between Thanksgiving and Christmas. In addition, Bankhead Ranch Mistletoe will be available to purchase from several downtown merchants including Main Street Designs' Christmas Store, Panama Red, The First Street Ale House, Baughman's and Country Morning.

## AWARD

(continued from page one)

of services to at-risk youth while preserving California's resources for future generations."

The Juvenile Justice Center, which opened in 2007, is the first juvenile justice facility in the country to obtain a Gold rating in the US Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system. Located on a hillside in San Leandro, the Center provides integrated health, educational, legal, and correctional services in a healing environment featuring natural light, fresh air, and inspiring art. At the same time, its green operations care for the youth's future by conserving water and energy resources, fighting climate change, and saving taxpayer dollars.

The 379,000 square-foot facility generates 50% of its power using a one-acre, 880-kilowatt rooftop solar system. Its drought-tolerant landscaping uses 52% less water than conventional landscaping. A green cleaning program and low-VOC carpet, finishes, and furniture reduce indoor air contaminants. Green operations reduce CO2 emissions by 2073 tons every year.

## BATTERIES

(continued from page one)

tribute to its success," declared Mayor Jennifer Hosterman.

The five designated drop off sites are: City of Pleasanton Operations Service Center, 3333 Busch Road; Pleasanton City Hall Lobby, 200 Old Bernal Avenue; Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Boulevard; Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Avenue, and Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Station # 2, 6300 Stoneridge Mall Road.

City staff will empty the containers and transfer the collected contents to the Alameda County House Hold Waste (ACHHW) site in Livermore on a weekly basis.

ACHHW has agreed to partner in program under the condition that it can maintain a log of service user's zip codes, in order to track the location and volume of batteries generated. To accommodate this request, each battery recycling site will host a log for individuals to record their zip code and the number of batteries recycled.

For more information, the public can contact the Support Services Division of the City of Pleasanton at (925) 931-5580.

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# EDITORIAL

## Award Winners

Coveted awards have come the Valley's way in recent weeks. They include two of the Valley's new event venues, Pleasanton's Casa Real and Livermore's Bankhead Theater, recipients of the Business Times' East Bay Structures Awards.

Casa Real stands next to the Ruby Hill Winery tasting room, at one of the main gateways to the Livermore Valley Wine country. Twenty thousand square feet in size, this new event center is certain to become a landmark in the years to come.

The Bankhead Theater, it was noted, has been a success since its opening a year ago, with \$1.2 million in ticket sales and 54 additional shows beyond those that were originally scheduled. The Business Times said the theater has become "the centerpiece" of Livermore's downtown revitalization.

Another noteworthy prize winner is Joan Thomas's class at Amador Valley High. They gave a standout performance in a recent statewide milk promotion contest. They finished runner-up, but their effort was so impressive that the judges awarded them \$1000. There was supposed to be only one prize, \$2000 to the winner.

These awards do our Valley honor in a big way. Congratulations to the awardees!

## Legal Actions Could Give More Funds to Livermore

The City of Livermore is looking at further reductions in spending as the economy continues to look bleak.

However, there are two potential legal actions that could add to the city's coffers.

One involves sales tax revenues, the other redevelopment agency funds.

The first is a legal case involving the state's taking of redevelopment money. Livermore lost \$300,000 this year. The Legislative Analyst Office is recommending that the taking become permanent. "That is of great concern to us," said City Manager Linda Barton.

The California Redevelopment Association (CRA) is filing a lawsuit to stop the action. Barton, Northern Vice President of the CRA, explained that the lawsuit argues that the take is unconstitutional, because the state clearly defines how redevelopment agency funds can be used. "I believe there is a good chance the lawsuit will prevail."

The second is a sales tax dispute that involves the City of Fillmore. A medical equipment supplier in Livermore does business in the Bay Area. However, the local share of its sales tax goes to Fillmore. A state Board of Equalization investigation concluded that the arrangement is improper. The state tax board has withheld the sales-tax dollars generated by the business.

Livermore estimates it would lose \$6.2 million over the next three years if the agreement were to remain in place.

Barton told the council on Monday that an official case number has been assigned. The hearing could take place in January or February in front of the State Board of Equalization.

In the meantime, Barton said staff is looking at reducing expenditures, particularly in the development department where there is reduced activity. The

city is also using fewer consultants. "We are looking at more efficiencies and reducing costs," she said.

Director of Finance Monica Potter reported that the city's general fund balance was \$352,000 above projection, mainly because of reduced spending.

Revenues were \$865,000 below projection. Property taxes were \$708,000 under the estimate. On the other hand, sales tax revenues exceeded the estimate by \$103,000.

Potter commented on the East Bay Economic Alliance report on the outlook for the economy. As of August, unemployment is up, home sales are down, and housing values are lower than a year ago. In Livermore, the median value of a home is \$470,000, which exceeds the county's median of \$440,000. In September, the median home value of homes in Livermore rose to \$480,000. There were 182 foreclosures in the city.

At the same time, commercial and industrial construction is up in the county.

Consumer spending is down nationwide, dropping 2.8 percent in October. Potter said that is the largest decline since records began in 1992. Retail has fallen four straight months.

The state is looking at closing a projected \$11.2 billion budget gap by increasing revenues and reducing spending. Revenue proposals include a 1.5 cent sales tax for three years. The tax would be extended to furniture and vehicle repairs, golf, veterinary services, amusement parks and sporting events.

Livermore is looking at cutting spending by \$1.2 million to \$2.2 million in 2008-09.

Mayor Marshall Kamena urged the staff to look for innovative ideas, to protect as many people as possible, while at the same time continuing to provide services the public expects.

## Entrepreneur in Residence Program Being Extended to More Labs

The Department of Energy (DOE) is holding a competitive solicitation for five venture capital firms to participate in the expansion of DOE's Entrepreneur in Residence (EIR) program.

The program places venture capital entrepreneurs at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, as well as at Argonne National Laboratory, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory.

The goal is to accelerate deployment and commercialization of advanced clean energy technologies from DOE's National Laboratories.

Sandia National Laboratories Livermore participated in the pilot program.

"The Department has established the Entrepreneur-in-Residence Program to leverage private sector expertise in ways that will move proven technologies

developed at DOE's National Laboratories down the capital development pipeline and, ultimately, to the marketplace," Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman said.

Under the program, each participating DOE laboratory is proposed to host one EIR at a given time. DOE would support this work by providing up to \$50,000 for each entrepreneur to help defray salary and other expenses. Each firm will match DOE funding and may contribute additional funds to support its entrepreneur's work.

Each entrepreneur would be given the opportunity to work directly with a lab's management and staff to conduct technology assessments, identify market opportunities and accelerate them for commercialization.

The entrepreneurs and their venture capital sponsors would negotiate a license to use the

## Zone 7 Boosts Water Rate; Holds Back On Flood Fees

Rates for treated water will be rising 16 percent next year, Zone 7 Water Agency directors have decided.

The board at its meeting Nov. 19 also granted the joint request of Livermore, Pleasanton and Dublin to delay imposition of a large boost in the flood control fee until February. The cities want the delay so that commercial developments in the building pipeline will escape a huge increase.

The board did vote for a 10 percent boost in the flood control fee, to take effect Jan. 1. However, directors indicated that they would wait until February before moving forward with a whole new ordinance. That would represent a 155 percent increase above the current level, if the board follows a staff recommendation.

The current fee is 73 cents per square foot of impermeable surface. The board's action raises that to 79 cents on Jan. 1. The staff recommendation is \$1.81.

Several city representatives have publicly portrayed that boost as a 250 percent increase. However, while the \$1.81 is 250 percent greater than 73 cents, it does not measure the increase. The actual increase above 73 cents is \$1.10, or a 155 percent increase above the 73 cents.

Livermore is worried that the Prime Outlet development west of the golf course would be dis-

couraged from building if it had to pay a much higher flood control fee than previously planned.

Pleasanton has the same concern about its Staples Ranch development, which is nearing the vested stage of approval. Pleasanton officials said flatly that a big boost in the fee would shut out the proposed development. That would reduce projected tax revenue significantly.

Dublin has concerns about commercial development in several areas.

The board's action appears to give the cities enough breathing room to bring in the developments at a relatively low cost on the flood control fee. Cities' representatives met with Zone 7, and worked out an informal agreement that led to the board's action.

### VOTE ON WATER RATE WAS 6-1

On the treated water rate increase, the board voted 6-1 to implement the staff recommendation. Director Dale Myers was the lone dissenter. He had asked for a shifting of funds from other categories to pay for the increased projected cost of the water to Zone 7.

Myers suggested that the board could spend next year taking a closer look at cost savings, and seeing whether a drought, which always impacts the water budget, does occur. Myers agreed with staff that rates must rise by the 2010 calendar year and be-

yond. However, the timing could be different, and the district would collect much the same amount of revenue over a three-year period, by having rates somewhat higher than those recommended by staff for 2010 and 2011.

Myers at a previous meeting cited the downturn in the economy as a major reason to keep the water rate the same next year. Other directors said little this month, but at the meeting last month they said that Myers' suggestion came at the 11th hour. Next year would be time enough to look at any ideas about restructuring aspects of the funding. They felt that raising more revenue is important to do right away.

The water rate increase will produce a monthly bill rising by \$4.79 per month for the typical household. Myers wanted to save costs, not only for homeowners, but also for the bigger water users, such as large businesses, park districts and schools, where the impact can translate to serious dollars.

Directors find it necessary to raise rates virtually every year, because the Zone 7 regular costs rise with the cost of living. Employee salaries and the cost of equipment are major factors. In addition, Zone 7 is helping to pay for mending the Delta's ecosystem.

Zone 7 obtains its water from

the state, via the Delta, where threatened species need protection because of the manipulation of flows to water agencies. Zone 7 is just one of 29 water agencies that receive their water from the state water project.

Another reason to raise rates is the impact of water conservation on Zone 7. Although most people agree water conservation is a good thing, Zone 7 does collect less revenue per capita when the demand for water is not as high as projected. Therefore, the rates must go up to make sure Zone 7 has the money to pay its continuing costs.

### WASHER REBATE PLAN SUPPLEMENTED

The board took a water conservation step at the meeting by approving \$265,000 to add to its fund for rebates to people who are buying high-efficiency washing machines. Zone 7 started the rebate program in 1999. Only 450 rebates were given in that year. The rebates lagged along at a few hundred per year through 2001, but suddenly jumped in 2001 to 1283. They remained at over 1000 per year, and in 2007, there were 1889 rebates, the highest since the program began.

Some 10,449 rebates were given in the whole program through 2007. For every 1000 rebates, 16 acre feet of water are saved. That's enough to supply water for a year to 32 typical households.

## Livermore Narrows Field to Two Developers

The field has been narrowed to two developers to take on the task of redeveloping the former Lucky Shopping Center in downtown Livermore.

On Monday, the city council approved further study of proposals by Federal Development LLC and Holliday Development for the site.

Originally, eight potential developers had submitted proposals.

Over the next 90-days, the city will undertake a comparative study in order to create more detailed proposals to be used in selecting a developer for what is known as the Livermore Village. Information will include total units and land use, preliminary

site plans and designs, finance structure, and proposed entitlement and construction time lines.

To pay for the studies, the city council authorized \$35,000 for each developer. Payment would occur on a milestone basis. Rob White, director of economic development, explained that by providing the payment, the city could ultimately keep proposals and use them for which ever project is selected.

Councilmember Jeff Williams noted that Federal seems to work mainly on large projects. "I didn't see anything in their portfolio that felt anything like what we want to do."

White said that Federal had worked on projects of 7 to 10

acres. The Livermore Village site is about 7 acres. Federal has assembled a team that has experience working in the East Bay, he added.

One of the key questions to be answered is the financial viability of either company. Federal included a letter from an investment partner indicating there would be access to financing for the Livermore Village. Holliday also has indicated it has financing capability, said White.

Financing will be the first thing that the city looks at. "If one or both is unable to pass that first milestone, we would be back to the council in 30 days for further direction," explained White.

Mayor Marshall Kamena

asked if the two were working with the hotel developer. "The projects may well be inter-related," he pointed out.

White replied that they had been in contact with the hotelier, as well as the Livermore Valley performing Arts Center (LVPAC).

Jack E. Bariteau, Jr. and the Piazza Hotel Group are proposing to build a four star boutique hotel on the opposite side of Livermore Avenue. LVPAC is negotiating with the city to build a regional theater as part of the redevelopment of the old Lucky Shopping Center.

The center is bounded by Railroad Avenue, Livermore Avenue and L Street. It is located behind retail establishments on First St.

## Lab Environmental Monitoring Shows No Adverse Impacts

Environmental monitoring of operations at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in 2007 indicates no adverse impact to public health or the environment. The findings are presented in the Laboratory's Environmental Report 2007.

The report assesses the impact of Lab operations on the environment, summarizes regulatory compliance and records results of environmental monitoring for the main Laboratory site, as well as for Site 300, the Laboratory's experimental test facility near Tracy. Monitoring samples were taken from air, water, vegetation, wine, soil and wastewater on site and in surrounding communities.

In addition to monitoring, the report documents the actions the Laboratory has taken to comply with federal, state and local environmental laws, including the

Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and National Environmental Policy Act, among others.

The following is a summary of findings in Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's Environmental Report 2007:

Air at the Laboratory and throughout the Livermore Valley and in the Tracy area is monitored by some 65 instruments at 38 separate locations. In 2007, radionuclide and beryllium concentrations in air were well below the levels that would cause concern for the environment or public health.

Data indicate the Lab has good control of its discharges to the sanitary sewer, and discharges to surface water and groundwater do not have any apparent environmental impact. Groundwater and soil vapor extraction and treatment at the Livermore site and at Site 300 continue to reduce contaminants in the subsurface that resulted from past operations. At the Livermore site, contaminants include volatile organic compounds (VOCs), fuel hydrocarbons, metal and tritium, though only the VOCs in groundwater and soil need remediation. In 2007, more than 318 kilograms of VOCs from both groundwater and soil vapor were removed from the Livermore site. At Site 300, 62 kilograms of VOCs were removed from groundwater.

The impact of Lab operations on surface soil, sediment and vadose zone soils in 2007 was in-

significant. Vegetation and Livermore Valley wines were sampled for tritium. In 2007, the median concentrations in all off-site vegetation samples were below the lower limit of detection. The highest concentration of tritium in Livermore Valley wines sampled was 0.3 percent of the drinking water standard.

The Laboratory studies, preserves and attempts to improve the habitat of five animal and plant species at Site 300 that are covered by the federal or California Endangered Species Acts, as well as species that are rare and otherwise of special interest. The 2007 radiological doses calculated for biota at the Lab's main site and at Site 300 were far below screening limits set by the Department of Energy.

Annual radiological doses from emissions at the Livermore site and at Site 300 in 2007 were

found to be well below the regulatory limit for radiation protection of the public.

In 2007, the Laboratory received two Environmental Stewardship awards from the National Nuclear Security Administration. One recognized the Lab's E85 Fueling Station, which dispenses a fuel blend of 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent unleaded gasoline to the Lab's 267 E85 alternative fuel vehicles. The second award acknowledged the Lab's success in reducing the generation of waste and in recycling or reusing materials during the demolition of a large Lab facility. Some 14,580 gallons of dielectric fluid, 1,665 tons of metals and 7,399 tons of concrete were recycled or reused. The team was able to recycle or reuse 89 percent of demolished materials from the 149,987-square-foot building.

## 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)

### Voters Thanked Steve Brozosky Pleasanton

I want to thank the community for the support I received while running for the Mayor of Pleasanton. I ran for mayor to give the community a choice and I appreciate the vote of confidence of the nearly 15,000 of you (and still counting) who voted for me, giving me 46% of the vote. My intent, and I succeeded, was to run a grassroots campaign, without any fund-raisers, to get my message out there.

The most rewarding part of running for office is meeting new people in the community. The conversations, encouragement, and exchange of ideas were enjoyed and I have truly made new friends.

I need to give special thanks to those who walked neighborhoods, made financial contributions, or assisted my campaign in any way. Your generosity was greatly appreciated.

Most of all I thank my family for their assistance, patience, and understanding. Running for office takes an incredible amount of time and keeps the phones ringing.

With the election over, my focus is on family, friends, my business, and the Rotary Club of Pleasanton that I lead next year as president. I continue with a full and rewarding life.

### Thank You Jamie Yee Hintzke Pleasanton

I am so honored to be elected to the Pleasanton School Board and to be able to serve the community. It is exciting to me to be the first person on the board who is a graduate of a Pleasanton high school. I am so blessed to have so many people in this community who supported my campaign.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all who voted for me and contributed to the campaign; by walking, hosting parties, emailing, displaying yard signs and writing letters. The biggest thank you goes out to Tanya Ludden, my volunteer campaign manager and to my family who put life on hold during the campaign season.

Thank you Pleasantonians for electing me.

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# SPORTS NOTES

## Hole in One

Nadine Hall of Livermore recorded a hole-in-one on 7th hole of the Chardonay Course at Poppy Ridge Golf Course in Livermore. Nadine used a Callaway 8 iron. The feat was witnessed by Kevin Hall. It was Nadine's first ever hole-in-one.

## Youth Soccer

The Pleasanton Rage U12D3 captured its league title with a thrilling 1-0 win over the WC Raptors. The game was a hard fought event, with both sides having a number of scoring opportunities. Pleasanton GK's Maddie Aston and Mo Baker each had to make saves on direct kicks from just outside the penalty box, both came up big with their saves. The goal came in the 2nd half by Liz Unpingco, as she nailed a high corner finish from 18 yards out off a beautiful assist from Julia Amos. The game was fast paced and physical, so the win was truly a team victory, as the defensive back line of Jessica Amos, Natalie Reichenbach, Ally Nickel and Lauren Epps did their best to help keep WC off the scorecard. Team members include Jessica Amos, Julia Amos, Maddie Aston, Madalyn Baker, Kate Berrigan, Kamryn Brown, Devon Buteau, Anna Copenhagen, Kalyon Epps, Lauren Epps, Nicole Lindke, Allison Nickel, Jordan Niermeyer, Sarah Pease, Sahar Rad, Natalie Reichenbach, and Elizabeth Unpingco. Top Offensive Players: Elizabeth Unpingco, Kalyon Epps, Julia Amos, Jordan Niermeyer, Kamryn Brown; Top Defensive Players: Jessica Amos, Ally Nickel, Natalie Reichenbach, Lauren Epps, Maddie Aston, Mo Baker.

## CYO Basketball

In 7th grade girls CYO basketball action St. Michael's/St. Charles (SM/SC) team #7003 defeated SM/SC team #7007. Team #7003 exploded for 40 points, their highest total thus far this season. High scorers were Kelly Borden with 14, Natalie Land with 8, Rebecca Bernstein with 6, and Sierra Hoggatt and Brianna Zarrinfar with 4 each. Taylor Smith and Sarah McCallister had strong rebounding games. For SM/SC team #7007 Lauren Huizar and Stephanie Rucker were the top offensive players, and Hannah Mata and Irais Ortis were the top defensive players.

SM/SC 6th grade girls American League team traveled to San Ramon for their first game of the season with a St. Joan's team that has added both size and speed to their roster. The SM/SC girls took a slim lead early, and held it for most of the game as both teams played aggressive defense and disciplined offense, trading baskets with neither team able to put together a run that finally changed midway through the 4th quarter when SM/SC's press break finally translated into fast break points, and they were able to build a lead, which they basically held (largely through their best game of the season from the free-throw line) for the final two minutes of the game, winning 29-21 in a game that felt much closer. In a complete team effort, Anna Neitzel stood out underneath with tenacious defense and great rebounding. Rachel Hernandez had a terrific game both offensively and defensively, and Grace Naylor had a tremendous game in transition, running the break on offense and disrupting St. Joan's going the other way.

SM/SC 6th grade girls (#6005) took on Catholic Community of Pleasanton (CCOP) (#6001) and lost 6 to 21 in their third game of the season. Although they struggled with their offense, SM/SC held a tight 6 point margin in the first half with outstanding defense from Alyssa Gonzalez, Jessica Elin, and Cameo Schubert. Top scorers were Carly Grossano and Elisha Sands.

SM/SC Swishers 5th grade girls (#5004) took on CCOP (#5001) and won 28-18. Outstanding offense by Katy Johnson (10pts), Isabella Widmann (8pts), and Lauren Bueno (2pts) secured the Swishers' win while great defense by Kirsten Floyd (4pts) and Pamela White kept CCOP's top scorers in check. Amanda Stapp, Veronica Strong, and Allison Harizal played well for CCOP.

SM/SC 5th Grade Boys (#514) played CCOP (#515). SM/SC won 20 to 15. Scoring points for SM/SC were Ryan Eckles with 7 pts, Michael Eckles with 2 pts, Parker Turk with 2 pts, Dominic Mingione with 5 pts and Connor Jones with 4 pts. Top defensive players for SM/SC were Curtis McDonnell and Spencer Herrera. For CCOP their top players were Michael, Joseph and Chase with an at the buzzer basket.

In yet another defensive battle, the SM/SC 3rd grade Cobras (#320) came up just short against St. Raymond's (#322) losing 26 to 18. The SM/SC Cobras jumped out to an early lead with great offense from Connor Sweeney and Joseph Murphy, leading at halftime 14-13. St. Raymond's came back in the third quarter with great defense from Devyn Kersnick, Jack Jupina and Manaav Narula and great shooting from Cory Brennan, Nathaniel Eberling, and Elijah Bell. In the fourth quarter the game was kept close by the Cobras defense, led by Cory Hickerson, Riley Van Trease. Putting in another great overall game was Jacob Rassmussen, who showed great hustle on both sides of the ball for the Cobras.

SM/SC 4th grade girls (#4004) played CCOP (#4001), and came away with a 26-6 victory. Alexandra Lonsinger led the SM/SC in scoring with 12 points. Madison Jackson, Taylor Peterson and Jennifer Gibson contributed 4 points each in the win. Samantha Dukes finished off the scoring with 2 points. SM/SC played great team defense; holding CCOP to 6 points. The defense was led by Mila Steinberg, Holly Julson and Maggie Sneed.

The fourth grade boys from SMSC and CCOP met on Sunday and played a great game. The SMSC Spartans won the game by two point over CCOP. Bryce Disbro scored 6 points along with CJ Malski, these two were on fire. Jose Mariscal had 4 steals and kept the game moving. The boys from CCOP kept the Spartans busy with Max Moore and Mark Moltz on defense. Justin Clark scored 8 points and really helped his team out.

SM/SC 3rd grade boys The Golden Dragons battled CCOP 3rd grade boys. Final score was 14 to 16 for CCOP. The Golden Dragons scorers were Ethan Arrowsmith 2 points, Colon Casey 2 points, Andrew Messner 4 points, and Trenton Green 6 points. All of The Golden Dragons put together an awesome game.

SM/SC 1st and 2nd grade boys 2BN7 Warriors vs. SM/SC 2BN4, Wyatt Moseley and Trevor White scored their first baskets of the Warriors season to give the Warriors a great start. Noah Wiesner, Logan Finch and Eric Valdez put more points on the board for the Warriors. Tamur Asar from 2BN4 put pressure on the Warriors throughout the game with his strong offense. Robert Mullineaux, Michael Norton, Ryan Lortie and Kyle Snow helped the Warriors game with some great rebounding. Enzo DeSantis, Kyle Snow and Logan Finch led the Warriors defense and continued to keep the pressure on 2BN4. The Warriors continue to show us they can handle both sides of the ball, and they never quit.

SM/SC 1st & 2nd grade boys 2BN1 (Morano) vs Dark Knights played an exciting game last Sunday. Top players from an offense for Morano's team Wesley and Tyler, played very well with top defensive teammates, Andrew and Calvin. The Dark Knights coached by Jim Carlson kept a strong offense with Derek Eijansantos and Bryce Hall as they were backed up by solid defense from Jack Mollitoris and Zachary Parodi.

SM/SC 1st and 2nd grade boys Warriors (team #2BN2) played the Cougars (team #2BN10) on Sunday. Both teams played a strong game. On the Warriors, Zachary Macintyre and Caleb Hardesty were the top scorers in the game with strong offensive skills. Frank Silva showed a strong zone defense and passing skills. Matthew Reddick, Amanda Price, Jacob Gutke and Aiden Ackerman also scored and demonstrated their strong defensive and rebounding skills. On the Cougars, Nicholas Melendez was the top scorer in the game. Also scoring for the Cougars was Alex Clarke and Jared Stanley. Both Clarke and Melendez also contributed with one steal each. Jared Stanley led in rebounds along with Nicholas Melendez, Alex Clarke, Noah Lignell, Robert Sandoval and Ethan Payne.

SM/SC 1st/2nd grader boys the Dragons (2BN8) faced off against the Wild Cats (2BN5). Logan Vinson and Michael Gauche helped out with plenty of assists for the Dragons. The Wildcats' Darren O'Neil scored the first basket for the Wildcats and followed up with two more and Jacob Peterson made many attempts, great running up and down the court, Elijah Maravilla and Zachary Hollingshaus showed some great defensive skills on the court for the Dragons, and the Wildcats' Justin Rassmussen showed some great defense and rebounded the ball many times.

For the Lady Warriors (#2GN3), Mallorie Stine and Madison Silva led the offensive with great shooting and rebounding at both



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

**Devin Shaver (14), from Granada High School slams the ball back at San Ramon Valley defenders in the 2008 NCS Division I and II Girls Volleyball championships. San Ramon defeated Granada, 3 sets to 2, 24-26, 25-22, 25-23, 24-26, and 15-8 to move onto the quarterfinals. Also in the quarterfinal round is the team from Foothill High School. Foothill will take on Freedom in a Sat., Nov. 29, 7 p.m. match in Pleasanton.**

ends of the court. Jordan Goodwin assisted with good passes and great defense. Nicole Benjamin kept the Lady Warriors in the game with her ball-handling. For the Wildcats (#2GN2), Amber Brown led the offensive charge, shooting and rebounding at both ends of the court. Brianna Wheelock assisted with good passes and sinking the final shot in the last seconds of the game. Lynday Jones and Morgan Williams kept the Earthquakes in the game with their ball-handling and fast breaks.

## Pleasanton Seahawks

The Pleasanton Seahawks traveled to Palo Alto for a swim meet this past weekend. Nick Silverthorn broke another National Age Group (NAG) record in the 11-12 boys Short Course 400 IM with a time of 4:11.77. This is his third NAG in two weeks. He also recorded New Pacific Swimming record in 11-12 boys Short Course 200 IM (1:59.91). Rachel Knowles is the owner of the PLS Team Record 11-12 girls 200 fly (2:24.64). Recording new Far Western Cuts were Lillian Sun, Brian Lee, Tony Shen, Alex Wang; New JOuts - Chris Dourou. Also swimming well were Caleb Wang 50/100 free, Cassidy Boice, 50/100 free, Roshni Nair 200 breast, Alicia Brown 100 free/200 fly, Jon Ong 100 back.

## California Gymnastics

California Gymnastics Academy LEVEL 5, competed this past Saturday and Sunday in the NorCal State Championships meet hosted by Peninsula Gymnastics in San Mateo. In AGE GROUP JUNIOR G, Alexandra Weissbach took the State Championship finishing 1st all around with the score of 37. Alexandra scored 8.9(8) on vault, 9.3(2T) on bars, 9.5(1) on beam and 9.3(3) on floor. In AGE GROUP CHILD F, Katarina Weissbach finished eighth all around with the score of 35.8. She did great on each individual event scoring 8.275 (17) on vault, 9.0(TT) on bars, 9.425(3) on beam and 9.1(8T) on floor.

## Gymfinity Gymnastics

Sara Vukojevic represented the Level 6 team from Gymfinity Gymnastics at the NorCal Level 6 State Championships hosted by Byers Gymnastics - Roseville at California State University Sacramento on Saturday, November 15, 2008.

She competed with some of the best Level 6 gymnasts in Northern California. She plans to continue her training at Gymfinity Gymnastics in hopes of competing at a Level 7 gymnasium.

Sara's scores are as follows: Level 6 Age Group - Child H: VAULT: 16th, 8.15. BARS: 15th, 7.9. BEAM: 12th, 8.225. FLOOR: 16th, 8.425. ALL-AROUND: 16th, 32.7.

Rachel Pombo and Katie Mathers represented the Level 5 team from Gymfinity Gymnastics at the NorCal Level 5 State Championships. Both girls competed against some of the best Level 5 gymnasts in Northern California at this event. Rachel and Katie will now move on to train as Level 6 gymnasts Rachel and Katie's scores are as follows:

Level 5: Katie Mathers - Child C: VAULT: 15th, 8.45. BARS: 16th, 8.675. BEAM: 17th, 8.8. FLOOR: 19th, 8.525. ALL-AROUND: 19th, 34.45.

Rachel Pombo - Senior D: VAULT: 20th, 7.85. BARS: 13th, 8.575. BEAM: 12th, 8.675. FLOOR: 20th, 8.15. ALL-AROUND: 20th, 33.25.

## Baseball Camps

Livermore High Varsity Baseball Coach David Perotti is hosting two different tier camp winter camps on December 21-23. Each camper will receive individual instruction from coaches and Livermore High players, a snack each day and a camp shirt. The 5-12 year old camp costs \$135 and runs from 9:00-12:00 everyday. Register before December 15th (post marked), pay only \$115. The 13-16 year old camp costs \$100 and is from 12:30-2:30 everyday. This camp is \$85 if postmarked by December 15th. For more info to sign up please contact David Perotti at (925) 586-2811 or lvbinfo@yahoo.com or check website www.eteamz.com/lvb

## Lacrosse Registration

Livermore Phantom Lacrosse Club Registration is now open for Livermore Phantom Lacrosse Spring 2009 season. Accepting both experienced and beginner girls and boys ages 8 through 14 (U15). Whether a returning player or brand new to the game of lacrosse - this is an opportunity to become part of the fastest growing and most unique youth sport in the nation. The season begins in late

January and continues through mid-May. For more information on the Phantom Lacrosse experience and detailed instructions on registration requirements, please visit www.phantomlacrosse.org or contact Bob Mezeul at 925-425-9901.

## Baseball Camp

3rd Annual Tri-Valley Baseball Camps Sunday, Dec. 7th, 10-3pm. Open to boys/ girls ages 5-13. More info contact Julie at (925) 449-6131 or email springtrainingcamp@comcast.net.

## Baseball Clinic

Sign up for the Winter All Skills Baseball Clinic in preparation for team tryouts. The 6-week clinic will be held on Sundays, 9:30-11:30am beginning on December 7th at Heather Farms Field 5 in Walnut Creek. For more information, contact Max at (925) 639-9034 or email maxvbbaseball@hotmail.com.

## Colt .45s Baseball

Sign up for the All Skills Winter Baseball Clinic and be ready for a team tryout. The 6-week clinic will be held on Sundays, 9:30-

# OBITUARIES

## Mickey Elizabeth Jones

Livermore resident Mickey Elizabeth Jones passed away unexpectedly, but peacefully at her home, Friday afternoon Nov. 2008. She was born Nov. 1948.

She is survived by her parents Thomas and Modene Jones, an older sister Lynda Messier and brother-in-law, Hervie, of HI, younger sister Patricia Morrow and brother-in-law, Brett, and nephew Steven Cheeseman, Jr. of Livermore.

Mickey has worked 38 years in the Food Service at Livermore V.A. Hospital. A caring, outgoing person she made friends with many people. She loved doing art work and looked forward to doing more when she retired soon. She will be missed by many.

Funeral services were held Nov. 21 in Livermore. In lieu of flowers, her parents suggest donations in her memory to a charity of your choice.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

## Arthur Ackerman

Arthur Ackerman, age 86, died peacefully in Livermore after an extended illness. He was born in New Plymouth, Idaho on Jan. 18, 1922, the eldest of twelve children.

Art served in World War II as a Naval Aviator in the Pacific. He remained in the Naval Reserve as a Commander of a PV Squadron at the then Oakland Navy Base. He was an educator for 30 years, having spent 18 years as a counselor at Livermore High School. He retired from the Navy and education in 1982.

Upon retirement, he and his wife, Mary, enjoyed travel and also took up the hobby of home winemaking. He

was a devoted 49er football fan, an avid reader, and biked all over town enjoying waves and chats from former couselees.

He is survived by Mary, his wife of 63 years, three sisters and two brothers, daughter Susan Devereux and Dennis of Troy, North Carolina, sons Stephen Ackerman and Maria of Oakland and Kenneth Ackerman and Gwen of Oakland; six grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

His memorial Mass of Resurrection will be celebrated on January 22, 2009 at St. Michael's Catholic Church, 458 Maple St., Livermore. Interment will be at the San Joaquin National Cemetery in Santa Nella, California, on January 23, 2009 with full military honors.

Memorial contributions may be made to a charity of choice or to Education Fund at St. Michael's School, Livermore, CA 94550.

## Lily M. Soares

Dublin resident Lily M. Soares died unexpectedly on November 21, 2008. Her niece and nephew were at her side. She was born July 9, 1932 in Oakland. She was raised and lived there until 2000 when she made her home in Dublin.

She was preceded in death by her husband Bob Soares, sister Henrietta V. Marques and parents Edward and Lucy Vasquez. She leaves behind a son, Edward Soares, his wife Joyce and granddaughters Kethry and Erin Soares of Lompoc. She will be missed by her niece Lucinda Marques Brainerd, her husband Tim and their children, Mickey and Casey Brainerd of Dublin.

She graduated from St. Patrick's Elementary School and Holy Names

High School class of 1951 in Oakland. She worked at Bank of America, Oakland Main for over 35 years. Lily was a member of the Native Daughters of the Golden West Hayward Parlor No. 122, formally of Piedmont Parlor No. 87. She was also a member of the Catholic Community of Pleasanton, as well as the Catholic Professional Women's Club of San Francisco. Lily touched the lives of all who met her and will be greatly missed by her extended

family and friends.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Nov. 26 at St. Elizabeth Seton Church in Pleasanton, followed by a reception. She was laid to rest in the family plots at St. Mary's Cemetery in Oakland.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Sisters of the Holy Names, PO Box 1907, Los Gatos, CA 95031. Arrangements by Graham-Hitch Mortuary.

Real Estate Market update available at [www.Livermorehomes.com](http://www.Livermorehomes.com)

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**PLEASANTON** 4450 Black Ave. #C 484-3507

Kenneth Billheimer, Au. D.  
Jacque Pedraza, Hearing instrument specialist

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**Ask Kathleen**

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Q What sort of food waste is accepted in my Green Waste cart? Doreen

A The following food scraps (along with food-soiled paper and yard trimmings) are accepted in Green Waste curbside carts:

- Anything that is or was edible
- Baked goods, pasta, rice
- Coffee grounds, filters, tea bags
- Dairy products (butter, cheese, yogurt, etc.)
- Food-soiled paper: plates, napkins, towels, take-out containers, pizza boxes, paper grocery bags & newspaper used as WM Kitchen Pail liners
- Fruits, vegetables, peels, pits
- Meat, fish, poultry
- Spoiled, moldy food

Not accepted in Green Waste carts: No plastic bags/other plastics, glass, pet waste, pet-waste soiled paper, Styrofoam™, sanitary napkins, diapers, tissues, dirt, rocks, drywall, particleboard, liquids, metal, foil, painted/ treated wood.

Q Will my WM service day and pick-up rules change because of the holidays? Simon

A Waste Management closes Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Years Day. If your service day falls on or after these holidays, your pickup will occur one day later through Saturday. WM service-day guidelines are the same throughout the year:

- 1) Place all carts (with lids completely closed) and other recyclables at curbside by 6 a.m.
- 2) Position carts 2 to 3 feet apart, unobstructed by objects such as vehicles, basketball hoops or power poles.
- 3) Never overflow or tightly pack carts.
- 4) Remove all carts and empty containers from curbside by midnight.

Send your questions today! AskKathleen@wm.com

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

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Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Karen Hogan with a copy of the literary magazine.

## Valley Reaps Literary Harvest

More than 70 short works by some 35 local writers are showcased in the "Saturday Salon Literary Harvest," just published.

The writings include both poetry and prose. A broad gamut of styles and points of view are represented by the poets. Most of the prose consists of personal memoirs, much of it insightful and moving.

Among the prose highlights is "Beer in the Afternoon" by David Collins, a Hemingway parody set in the literary cafes of Livermore and Pleasanton - masterfully done and very funny.

The writers whose work is found in the "Saturday Salon Literary Harvest" are participants in the monthly salons organized by the 4th Street Studio of Livermore. The salons take place on a Saturday evening each month. Writers come and read from their own writings. They listen to other writers and give each other encouragement. Those who read get 10 minutes. All are welcome.

Karen Hogan, founder of the 4th Street Studio, believes the studio and its Saturday Salons foster a sense of community among both the writers of the area and the community at large. "I think a community benefits when it has a place where writers can hear their pieces read aloud," she says.

"We call it a Salon," she explains, "because it's a place where people exchange creativ-

ity."

That idea is amplified by Lisa Tromovitch, artistic director of Shakespeare's Associates, who is quoted in the forward of "Saturday Salon Literary Harvest":

"Livermore clearly has a vital writing community. I've attended Saturday Salons at 4th Street Studio. It was invigorating! exciting! It felt to me as if I were witnessing the genesis of theater — community members putting their life experiences into literary form and then reading aloud. This is the beginning of theater. I think Shakespeare would approve."

Hogan observes that visual artists frame their finished work and display it in shows. A literary journal serves the same role for writers, providing the frame for the finished work, she says.

She calls it "a writer's art show: the chance to put the frame around the work so their community can read their work."

Hogan and her fellow writers at the 4th Street Studio have been presenting their work this way once a year since 2005. The studio was a year old when the first publication was produced. The "Saturday Salon Literary Harvest" just published is the fourth. It's a thick book, 175 pages.

It may be purchased by calling Hogan at 456-3100, or contacting her at 4thstreetstudio@pacbell.net.

## Program of Carols Planned by Valley Concert Chorale

The Valley Concert Chorale will perform a series of holiday concerts, including the audience sing-along of traditional carols.

Concert details are as follows: Saturday, December 6, at 8:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 4th and L Streets, Livermore; Sunday, December 7, at 3:00 p.m. Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton.

This year's holiday concerts titled, "An Italian Holiday," will feature the music of two well-known Italian composers: Respighi's *Laud to the Nativity* and Vivaldi's *Gloria*.

"The carols sing-along has always been an audience favorite," says John Emory Bush, the Chorale's Artistic Director. "It's been a VCC tradition for over 40 years. Anyone who comes to the concert will definitely leave with the spirit of the holidays in their heart."

Tickets are \$18 if purchased in advance, and \$20 at the door. Students age 18 and under are always free. Advance tickets may be ordered by calling (925) 866-4003, or by email to info@valleyconcertchorale.org. More information about the Valley Concert Chorale is available at www.valleyconcertchorale.org or by calling the general information line at (925) 866-4003.

## Cool Yule Gala Offers Music Served Up with Dinner

The Tri-Valley's newest performing arts group, The Pride of the Pacific, is holding its inaugural show, Saturday, December 6, 6:30 p.m. at the Aahmes Event Center in Livermore.

Cool Yule is a fund-raising gala that will feature a tri-tip dinner and lots of holiday a cappella music. Special guests include the Voices In Harmony, Northern California's Premier men's chorus.

Pride of the Pacific is a new chapter of Sweet Adelines International. The group is dedicated to helping women find their voices, both literally and figuratively.

All funds raised at the Gala will be used for musical programs which include Young Women In Harmony and their biannual Diva program, a series of free voice lessons for women in the community. The Pride chorus is multigenerational (11-80) and draws members from all over Northern California, due in part to the musical reputation of their Director, Greg Lyne. The chorus is based in Livermore.

Recently the chorus received an invitation to perform at the 10th Annual Barbershop Harmony Festival in St. Petersburg, Russia next August. The Pride of the Pacific was the only American women's chorus invited to perform at this prestigious festival.

## Bid on Inauguration Tickets During 'Music in the Halls'

Carden West School will host "Music in the Halls" on Friday, December 5, at 7:00 p.m. The event will take place at Carden West School, 4576 Willow Road in Hacienda Park in Pleasanton.

Organized in collaboration with the Wine for Wheels Foundation, the event will raise money to provide wheelchairs for those in need. The evening will include wine tasting, chocolate tasting, hors d'oeuvres and music provided by professional and amateur artists. A charity auction will feature four tickets to the Inauguration of the President and an Inaugural Ball in Washington, D.C. and a Valentine's Day dinner cruise.

"Music in the Halls is wonderful way for friends to get together to enjoy great wine, food and music," says Mark Silzer, Principal and Executive Director of Carden West. "I can't think of a better way to start the holiday season."

Tickets are available at the school. A donation of \$25 per

person is requested. Any donation of \$75 or more will be matched by the Wine for Wheels Foundation and will provide one wheelchair to a person in need. For more information, call 925-463-6060.

## Teen Improv Troupe Gets into the Spirit of the Season

City of Pleasanton Civic Arts' teen improv (improvisation) troupe, Creatures of Impulse, will perform *Tri-Valley High: Home for the Holidays* on Thursday and Friday, December 11 and 12, at 7:30 p.m.

Both shows will take place at the Veterans Memorial Building, 301 Main Street in Pleasanton.

At each performance, the audience will be involved in creating the story from start to finish. When the members of the troupe take the stage, they will ask for suggestions from the audience to help develop their characters.

"At our Halloween show, the audience loved it when the teen performers incorporated their suggestions in the show so effortlessly," says Civic Arts Youth Program Coordinator Mark Duncanson. "Big laughs also came when the teen improvisers took little blunders on stage and twisted them into the fabric of the story. The most consistent feedback we continue to get is, 'I've never seen long-form improv before. It's amazing how



Pottery Cart

## Artist Captures Places Traveled

The Livermore Art Association Gallery will feature the watercolors of Karen Fleschler during the month of December.

Karen paints vivid scenes of places where she has traveled. In capturing the essence of the place, she says she tries to evoke the senses to make the viewer feel "in the moment." The gallery will be displaying many pieces from her collection.

There will be a special Holiday Reception at The Gallery on Saturday, December 6, from 1:00-3:30. Drop by and meet the artists. Refreshments will be served. Other Gallery artworks will be displayed, which celebrate the holiday theme of "Silver and Gold."

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

## LPC to Host 'Rain Man'

The Las Positas College (LPC) Department of Psychology and the Psi Beta National Honor Society in Psychology present Kim Peek, "The Real Rain Man," on Thursday, December 4, at 7:00 p.m. in room 2420. The event is open to the public.

Kim Peek is the one-of-a-kind megasavant who inspired the film "Rain Man" starring Dustin Hoffman. Since the film's release, Kim has emerged from a world of comparative isolation to become a warm, outgoing, humorous and brilliant emissary for those with special needs.

Admission is \$5 for students, seniors and staff. General admission is \$7. Tickets are on sale at the Las Positas College bookstore. Seating is limited. Parking is \$2 and tickets may be purchased from ticket machines in the parking lots.

For more information about this special event, please contact Ernie Jones at (925) 424-1217.

**Clint Eastwood's CHANGELING**  
Fri - Sun: 2:20 5:10 8:00 (PG)  
Mon - Thu: 2:20 7:30

Queen Latifah, Jennifer Hudson & Dakota Fanning  
**SECRET LIFE OF BEES** (PG-13)  
Fri - Sun: 12:15 2:30 4:45 7:00  
Mon - Thur: 2:30 4:45 7:00

**ZACK & MIRI** (PG)  
Fri - Sun: 9:10

**HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3** (PG)  
Fri - Sun: 12:00 Mon - Thur: 5:00

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<b>FOUR CHRISTMASSES</b> (PG-13) DLP	10:30*	12:05	12:45	2:25	
	3:00	4:35	5:10	6:50	9:55
<b>TWILIGHT</b> (PG-13) DLP	10:20*	12:30	1:30	3:30	4:30
		6:30	7:15	9:15	10:00
<b>BOLT 3D</b> (PG) DLP	12:00	2:20	4:45	7:05	9:30
<b>BOLT</b> (PG) DLP	10:40*	1:10	3:45	6:20	8:40
<b>QUANTUM OF SOLACE</b> (PG-13) DLP	10:10*	12:15	1:00	3:20	
	4:10	6:15	7:00	8:45	9:50
<b>MADAGASCAR ESCAPE 2 AFRICA</b> (PG) DLP	10:00*			11:00*	
	12:20	1:50	2:30	4:40	5:00 7:20 9:30
<b>ROLE MODELS</b> (R) DLP				7:25	9:45
<b>AUSTRALIA</b> (PG-13) DLP				12:10	4:00 7:30
<b>THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PAJAMAS</b> (PG-13) DLP				10:00*	12:15
				2:30	4:45 7:05 9:20
<b>TRANSPORTER 3</b> (PG-13) DLP	11:45	2:10	4:40	7:10	9:40

\*EARLY SHOWS: FRIDAY 11/28 - SUNDAY 11/30



Leicester Dissels, Whitney Herne and Kelly Flynn in *Tri-Valley High: Home for the Holidays* at Pleasanton's Veterans Memorial Building, December 11 & 12.

these kids can carry an entire 'play' without a script. The word is getting around, too, evidenced by the size of our last audience, which was more than double the previous one.

"The teen members of Creatures of Impulse are having a

blast introducing other Tri-Valley teens to this alternative theatrical experience," continued Duncanson. "The young performers are passionate about studying different genres of movies and storytelling that they combine with spoofing modern

day teen soap operas. As a director, it's fun for me to see the moments when the audience and youth performers connect during a show. It's truly interactive and energizing."

Tickets to the *Tri-Valley High: Home for the Holidays* are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. They may be purchased online at the website www.civartstickets.org up to three hours prior to the performances, by phone at (925) 931-3444, or in person at the Amador Theater Box Office, Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. On performance days, tickets will be on sale at the Veterans Memorial Building beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Creatures of Impulse is comprised of 13 high school students, five boys and eight girls, who attended improvisation classes through the City of Pleasanton Department of Parks and Community Services. They rehearse on Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. They plan several performances each year. More information is available at 931-3481 or www.pleasantoncivartstickets.org.

## ART & ENTERTAINMENT

**The Wild Vine**, Local photographers, Ron and Lisa Rigge will be exhibiting their photographs from December 2-January 6, 2187 First St., Livermore. 243-0700.

**Livermore's Got Talent 2009 Auditions**, applications accepted now to Jan. 3, 2009. Auditions at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First Street, Livermore. \$25.00 application fee. Sponsored by NBC Bay Area, the Rotary Clubs of Livermore, the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District, and Waste Management, Inc. All proceeds go to the Rotary community grants program. www.LivermoresGotTalent.com; auditions@livermoresgottalent.com

**Maurie Louis**, Public Relations Director.

**Irving Berlin's 'I Love a Piano'**, Friday, Nov. 28, 8 p.m.-10 p.m. Grand Theatre Center for the Arts, 715 Central Avenue, Tracy. \$35 & \$40; Grand Box Seats additional \$15.00 and Parterre Seating additional \$5.00. Purchase on-line, by phone or in person. www.athegrand.org Phone: 209-831-6858

**Luma: Theater of Light**, Sun., Nov. 30, 2 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Performers paint images that tell stories. 925-373-6800, or go on line at www.livermoreperformingarts.org.

**A Children's Christmas Carol**, Sat., Dec. 13, 2 p.m. Pleasanton Library. Best for ages 7 and older. Interactive reader's theater version this seasonal classic. No admission charge, no registration required. For information, call Penny Johnson, 931-3405.

**Winter Beer Pairing Dinner**, Friday, December 19, 6:30 p.m. Features a four course menu prepared by our award-winning chef and paired with specialty and winter release brews exclusively from Snowshoe Brewery, located in the foothills of the Sierra. Culinary and wine educator Executive Chef Ty Turner will discuss the nuances of beer pairing. \$42

per person includes 4 courses with paired beverages. By reservation only. Garre Winery, 7986 Tesla Road, Livermore. 925.371.8200.

**Messiah**, Valley Concert Chorale and Pacific Chamber Symphony, Tues., Dec. 2, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. 925-373-6800

**Come to the Manger**, a collection of nativity scenes from around the world will be displayed in the sanctuary at Our Savior Lutheran Ministries, 1385 S. Livermore Avenue, Livermore. Visit on Tuesdays, December 2, 9, and 16, from 5-7 p.m. or before or after the Christmas concert on December 7, which begins at 4 p.m.

**Las Positas College Music Department Recital**, Dec. 3, 12:30 p.m., 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. Free admission. 424-1100.

**Tree Lighting**, City of Dublin, Dec. 4, 7 to 9 p.m. Civic Center. No admission charge.

**A Christmas Carol**, Dec. 5, 6, 7, 12, 13 and 14; 7:30 p.m. Fridays; 7:30 and 2 p.m. Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays. Front Row Theater, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Rd. \$16 adults/\$13 underage 12 and seniors 65+. www.SanRamonPerformingArts.com, 973-ARTS.

**Dance Performance**, Las Positas College, Dec. 5 and 6 at 8 p.m. Dec. 7 at 4 p.m. 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. \$10 general admission, \$7 seniors and students. 424-1100.

## Concert Presents Handel's 'Messiah'

The Pacific Chamber Symphony will team up with the Valley Concert Chorale for a special early version of Handel's *Messiah*. The performance will be Tuesday evening December 2nd at the Bankhead Theater in downtown Livermore.

The performance begins at 8

p.m. The soloists will be Christa Pfeiffer, Jessica Deardorff, Darron Flagg, and Jeff Phillips.

Pacific Chamber Symphony is the Best of the Bay when it comes to classical music. It is under the direction of Maestro Lawrence Kohl.

The Valley Concert Chorale,

under the direction of John Emory Bush, is in its 45th season.

Tickets to the Dec. 2 performance are \$26, \$32 and \$38, with student tickets \$7. They can be purchased by calling 373-6800. The theater is located at 2400 First St., Livermore.

## Carols, Broadway Music to Fill Amador Theater

Tri-Valley Repertory presents "Just in Time for the Holidays," a holiday concert featuring the Broadway Chorus. The chorus is comprised of over 75 men, woman and children.

Performances are Fri. and Sat., Dec. 5 and 6 at 8 p.m. and Sun., Dec. 7 at 2 p.m. at the Amador Theater in Pleasanton.

The Broadway Chorus will sing Christmas carols and the timeless music of Broadway. Musical selections from Jingle Bells to "Our Time" composed by Stephen Sondheim and the spectacular arrangement of the Christmas favorite "Silent Night" are on the program. It's a perfect way for you and your family to start your holiday season.

Tickets are \$18 adults, \$15 seniors, and \$10 juniors (under 18). The can be purchased by calling 925-462-2121 or logging on to

www.trivalleyrep.com.

The Amador Theater is located at 1155 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton.

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# Holiday Fund-Raising Festivities Planned

**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, Livermore. 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 an opportunity to win cash prizes and gift baskets. For more information please call President Anita Thompson, 925-449-0612, or Charlotte Newman, 925-449-4079.

**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 breakfast 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 offerings. 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 6 p.m. 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. 925-426-8656 for info. Tickets at [www.valleyhumane.org](http://www.valleyhumane.org).

Peter's Street in downtown Pleasanton will be the site of festivities from 2 to 6 p.m. on Dec. 7. The day will include jazz, discounts at Fine Art by Poetry on Canvas, and various vendors. Homes decorated for the holidays will be open as a fund-raiser for the Valley Humane Society. A percentage of all sales will be donated to the Valley Humane Society.

**Santa & Pet Photo Event** Bring your furry family member to Valley Humane Society for a shot with Santa Claus. Dec. 6 and 7 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at VHS, 3670 Nevada St in Pleasanton. \$25 for two 4 x 6 photos in a holiday framed card- photos digitally printed on site. All animals welcome on a leash or in a carrier. Call 925-426-8656 for details.

**Haute Holidays 2008,** holiday treats, gifts and decorations by twenty Bay Area women artists and direct sales vendors. Dec. 7, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Amador Recreation Center, 4455 Black Ave., Pleasanton. Proceeds support the musical programs of Pride of the Pacific, women's a cappella chorus. There is no admission charge. Information [www.prideofthepacific.org](http://www.prideofthepacific.org).

# Pleasanton PTA Council to Present Reflections Arts Awards

The Pleasanton PTA Council will hold its sixth annual Reflections Arts Recognition Program on Monday, December 1, at Harvest Park Middle School's Multi-Purpose Room. The reception and show-case will begin at 6:30 p.m. with the ceremony to follow at 7 p.m.

The Reflections Program, sponsored by the National PTA, is an arts recognition and achievement program for students. It provides opportunities for students to express themselves creatively and to receive positive recognition for original works of art inspired by this year's theme, "Wow!" The program also raises community awareness on the importance of the arts in education.

Students, from kindergarten through 12th grade, have entered their work in six categories: photography, visual arts, literature, musical composition, dance choreography, and film/video production. A total of 350 young artists from eight Pleasanton schools submitted entries for this year's program to their local PTA or PTSA sponsored program.

Reflections Committees at each school identified students in each category and age level to represent their school at the Council level. A total of 68 entries were submitted to the Pleasanton PTA Council for recognition and will be showcased on December 1st. Entries advancing to the next level, PTA District, will be announced at this event.

This is a free event. The community is invited to attend. For more information or to RSVP to the event, please contact Diane Van Wagner at [vanwagners@comcast.net](mailto:vanwagners@comcast.net).

The evening is made possible with support from Greenbriar Homes.

# 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.

**Pleasanton Hometown Holiday Celebration,** part of the parade - Fri., Dec. 6, 2008 4:30 -7:00 p.m. Seniors will meet at the Pleasanton Senior Center for light refreshments, and will then board Pleasanton Paratransit vans to join the many colorful floats, bands and other festive entries participating in the Hometown Holiday Parade. Only have room for twenty seniors (62 years of age and older), so register early. No Fee. For reservations call 931-5365.

**Valley Spokenmen Bicycle Touring Club,** Nov. 29, 39 miles San Ramon to Livermore, meet 10 a.m. at Central Park, Peter Rathmann, 828-1973. Nov. 30, 60 miles from Dublin to Castro Valley and the Oakland Zoo, meet 9 a.m. at Shannon Center, Curtis Stallins, 922-2461. Dec. 3, 30 miles scenic ride through San Francisco, meet 10 a.m. at the Ferry Building, Peter Rathmann, 336-0973. Club meeting Dec. 3, 7 p.m. Round Table Pizza, Dublin, election of officers for 2009. Anyone planning to go on a ride is asked to call the leader for details on where to meet and what to bring.

**Livermore Library,** board meeting 7 p.m. Thurs., Dec. 4 at the Civic Center Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave. An agenda will be posted at the library 72 hours prior

to the meeting. **Ohlone Audubon,** meets Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m. in the library at Pleasanton Middle School. Irv Tiessen will present a half-hour talk on bluebirds followed by a member slide show and holiday cookie exchange. Refreshments. Information, 510-507-3383.

**Daughters of the American Revolution, Josefa Higuera Livermore Chapter,** meets 9:30 a.m. on the first Saturday of the month between Sept. and May at the Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., Livermore. The chapter is very active in the community.

**Celebrate the Season Safely,** holiday food and beverage choices can interact with your medications and supplements. Keep the cheer in your holidays by learning to avoid the adverse side effects that may be caused by these interactions. Find out how to partner with your doctors and pharmacist to ensure a fun and safe holiday season and beyond! Program at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., Tuesday, December 9, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., \$1.50 Residents/\$2 Nonresidents.

## RELIGION

**Asbury United Methodist Church,** 4743 East Avenue, Livermore. 9 a.m. Sunday worship. Pancake breakfast Nov. 30, 8 a.m. kick off Advent. \$5. Advent celebration Nov. 29, 5 p.m. reading, music and sharing of family creches. Information 447-1950.

**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](http://www.trivalleyunity.com)

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### LEGAL NOTICES

**FOR INFORMATION PLACING LEGAL NOTICES**  
CONTACT BARBARA @ 925 243-8000

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 417308**

The following person (s) doing business as: Sneaky Plan, 578 South "K" Street, Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by an individual

istered by the following owner (s): Charles Sparks Eyer, 578 South "K" Street, Livermore Ca 94550

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 417218**

The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name (s) listed above on October 13, 2008. Signature of Registrant: /s/Charles S. Eyer

The County Clerk of Alameda on October 27, 2008. Expires October 27, 2013.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 417218**

The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name (s) listed above on October 13, 2008. Signature of Registrant: /s/Tessie L. Martinez

**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 Belinda Brooke, 2542 Fourth Street, Livermore Ca 94550

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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 Belinda Brooke, 2542 Fourth Street, Livermore Ca 94550

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 417415**

The following person (s) doing business as: Barb Wired Designs, 1421 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton Ca 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner (s):

Barbara Ann Santos, 1421 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton Ca 94566

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 417353**

The following person (s) doing business as: Shelley's Specialties, 6010 Johnson Drive Ste D, Pleasanton Ca 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner (s):

Shelley Elaine Minor-Scherer, 6872 Vale Ct., Pleasanton Ca 94588

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 417216**

The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name (s) listed above on October 24, 2008. Signature of Registrant: /s/Barbara A. Santos

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 30, 2008. Expires October 30, 2013.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 417216**

The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name (s) listed above on October 24, 2008. Signature of Registrant: /s/Rory Rebmann

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 24, 2008. Expires October 24, 2013.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 417234**

The following person (s) doing business as: Susan BainBridge Interior Design, 1891 2nd Street, Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner (s):

Duthie Ventures, Inc., 1891 2nd Street, Livermore Ca 94550

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 417234**

The following person (s) doing business as: Susan BainBridge Interior Design, 1891 2nd Street, Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner (s):

Duthie Ventures, Inc., 1891 2nd Street, Livermore Ca 94550



# LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS



## 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): Crystel 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/ Crystel 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.

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 417628

The following person (s) doing business as: NewBranch Services 1725 Shattuck Ave #302, Berkeley Ca 94709 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Mark Giorgi, 1725 Shattuck Ave #302 This business is conducted by: an Individual The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name (s) listed above on November 3, 2008. Signature of Registrant: /s/ Mark Giorgi This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 5, 2008. Expires November 5, 2013. The Independent Legal No. 2412. Publish November 27, December 4, 11, 18, 2008.

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 418056

The following person (s) doing business as: TruPro Lending Inc., 39 California Ave #201, Pleasanton Ca 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): TruPro Lending Inc., 4103 Stanley Blvd., Pleasanton Ca 94566 This business is conducted by: a Corporation Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed. Signature of Registrant: /s/ Gary Stange This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 19, 2008. Expires November 19, 2013. The Independent Legal No. 2413. Publish November 27, December 4, 11, 18, 2008.

## ANIMALS

**1) CATS/DOGS**  
ADOPT A DOG OR CAT, for adoption information contact Valley Humane Society at 925-426-8656.

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

**FOUND AN ANIMAL?** Free Section. Call Barbara 925-243-8000 to place an ad.

**LOST A FAMILY PET?** Free Section. Call Barbara 925-243-8000 to let 49,118 households know!

## AUTOS/BOATS/RVs/TRUCKS

### 9)AUTOS WANTED

**DONATE VEHICLE:** RECEIVE \$1000 Grocery Coupon. Your Choice. Noahs Arc - Support No Kill Shelters, Advance Veterinary Treatments. Free Towing, IRS Tax Deductible, Non-Runners. 1-866-912-GIVE. (CAL\*SCAN)

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

**SELL YOUR USED CAR HERE.** Call Barbara at 925-243-8000 OR

www.independentnews.com Pay by Credit Card for any Classified or Display ads.

## EMPLOYMENT

### 56) ADULT CARE

**CAREGIVERS NEEDED** for elder care. Light housekeeping errands transportation meal prep personal care. Please fax resume 925 371-8118

### 60) BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

**ABSOLUTELY RESSION PROOF!** Do You Earn \$800 in a Day? Your Own Local Vending Route Includes 30 Machines and Candy for \$9,995. MultiVend LLC, 1-888-625-2405. (CAL\*SCAN)

**BEWARE!** Out of area companies. Check with the local Better Business Bureau before you send any money or fees. Read and understand any contracts before you sign. Shop around for rates.

### 71) HELP WANTED

**PROFESSIONALS WANTED PART-TIME.** Paid training & potential sign-on bonus. Great Benefits, flexible schedule, \$ for education. Call Mon-Fri. 1-800-345-6289. (CAL\*SCAN)

**JOBS, JOBS, JOBS!** California Army National Guard. No Experience. Will pay to train. High School Jr/Sr & Grads/Non-Grads/GED. May qualify for \$20,000 BONUS. 1800GoGuard.com/careers (CAL\*SCAN)

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### 72) HELP WANTED/DRIVERS

**DRIVER - CDL Training \$0** down, financing by Central Refrigerated. Drive for Central, earn up to \$40K/year. Owner Operators average \$60K/Year 1-800-587-0029 x4779. www.CentralDrivingJobs.net (CAL\*SCAN)

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**DRIVERS: CALL TODAY!** Sign-On Bonus. 35-41 cpm. Earn over \$1000 weekly. Excellent Benefits. Need CDL-A and 3 months recent OTR. 1-877-258-8782. www.MeltonTruck.com (CAL\*SCAN)

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\*\*\*\*\*  
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### 80) HELP WANTED SALES

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## MERCHANDISE

### 118) FREE/GIVEAWAY

**GOT OLD JUNK FREE/GIVEAWAY SECTION** Call 925 243-8000 Barbara

### 121) GARAGE/FLEA MARKET/YARD SALES

Rain or Shine! Call Barbara 925-243-8000 or go to www.independentnews.com before 8am Tuesdays to get your ad in for the next edition.

**NEED TO SELL YOUR CAR, HOUSEHOLD & MISC. ITEMS**  
Reach over 49,118 homes & businesses with The Independent newspaper plus many more online. The Independent mails your classified ads into homes & businesses. Submit your ad at independentnews.com or call Barbara at (925) 243-8000.

## 125) HOUSEHOLD GOODS

Place your household items here for sale. Call 925 243-8000 or go on-line at www.independentnews.com Also you can pay by Credit Card for Classified and Display Ads.

### 127) LOST/FOUND

#### LOST or FOUND AN ITEM FREE SECTION

Call Barbara 925 243-8000

### FOUND MEN'S EYE GLASSES

Prescription, Black Case says Four Eyes Brown Tiger Eye in Color Found around 7th & McLeod St. 925 337-6680

### 130) MISC. PG&E

**SWITCH YOUR RESIDENCE** from PG&E. Save up to 10%+ off your cost of natural gas. No Cost to Switch. Visit www.BmarkEnergy.com Also Sales/Income Opportunity. (CAL\*SCAN)

## NOTICES/ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 151) ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

### 155) NOTICES

**"NOTICE TO READERS:** California law requires that contractors taking jobs that total \$500 or more (labor and/or materials) be licensed by the Contractors State License Board. State law also requires that contractors include their license numbers on all advertising. Check your contractor's status at www.cslb.ca.gov or 800-321-CSLB (2752). Unlicensed persons taking jobs less than \$500 must state in their advertisements that they are not licensed by the Contractors State License Board."

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### 157) APT/CONDOS/HOUSE/TOWNHOUSE/RENTAL

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### 160) BOAT/RV and RETAIL

**LOOKING FOR RETAIL OR STORAGE SPACE?** Great Location Off Hwy 580 On Kitty Hawk Road For Details Email: Pmatharu@lagmail.net

### 163) HOMES/TOWNHOUSE FOR SALE

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### 165) HOUSE/ROOMS/RENT-ALSTO SHARE

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### 168) LAND FOR SALE/OUT OF STATE

**COLORADO FORECLOSURE 40 ACRES \$29,900.** Outstanding Views. Access to 6,000 acres BLM Rec Land. 300 days of sunshine. Call 1-866-696-5263. (CAL\*SCAN)

**NEW TO MARKET** New Mexico Ranch Dispersal 140 acres - \$89,900. River Access Northern New Mexico. Call 6,000' elevation with stunning views. Great tree cover including Ponderosa, rolling grassland and rock outcroppings. Abundant wildlife, great hunting. EZ terms. Call NML&R, Inc. 1-866-360-5263. (CAL\*SCAN)

### 171) REAL ESTATE AUCTIONS

**FORECLOSED HOME AUCTION** Northern California. 1000 Homes Must Be Sold! Free Brochure: 1-800-470-9314. www.USHomeAuction.com REDC. (CAL\*SCAN)

## NEW MEXICO SACRIFICE!

140 acres was \$149,900. Now Only \$69,900. Amazing 6000 ft. elevation. Incredible mountain views. Mature tree cover. Power & year round roads. Excellent financing. Priced for quick sale. Call NML&R, Inc. 1-888-204-9760. (CAL\*SCAN)

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### 176) BUSINESS SERVICES

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### Looking for a cost efficient way to get out a NEWS RELEASE?

The California Press Release Service is the only service with 500 current daily, weekly and college newspaper contacts in California. Questions call (916) 288-6010. www.CaliforniaPressReleaseService.com (CAL\*SCAN)

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**AAA HANDYMAN SERVICES** BIG OR SMALL WE DO IT ALL! 925 548-4202 Not Licenced

### EMPLOYMENT ADS

Reach over 49,118 homes & businesses with The Independent Classified Section every week plus many more online. The Independent mails your ads into businesses & homes. Submit your ad at independentnews.com or call Barbara at (925) 243-8000.

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# What Is There to be Thankful For in this Real Estate Market?

By Cher Wollard

Realtors these days are often met with pitying glances and expressions of concern for the state of their industry.

In fact, there is much to be grateful for in real estate these days, for agents and for their clients.

"Money is going a lot further when purchasing homes right now," noted Tammy Pryor, a local Realtor with Keller Williams. "This gives everybody an opportunity to have that American dream."

For homebuyers, the fact that prices are down about 25 percent from the peak is something to be thankful for.

And the Affordability Index, which measures what percentage of residents can afford to purchase a median-priced home, has risen from a low of about 18 percent last year to over 30 percent in the Bay Area.

In counting our blessings this Thanksgiving week, here are a few real estate notes worth remembering:

- About 400 Livermore residences – both single family homes and condos – are currently on the Multiple Listing Service. This compares with over 500 a year ago and fewer than 50 at the height of the market.

With 500 plus homes offered, the market was sluggish and sellers were at a real disadvantage. That disadvantage led to many people being unable to move and, in the direst situations, facing foreclosure.

At the height of the market, by contrast, there were so few homes available that buyers snatched up any property they could at whatever price they could manage, whether it was right for them or not. Even sellers struggled, as they often had very little time to decide what terms and conditions they should accept.

Today's market, in contrast, is much more balanced.

- Property is selling. Last month, 93 resale homes went pending and 78 sold in Livermore.

The current "pending rate" is 4.8 months, compared to 15.7 last year at this time and .04 in late 2004. What this means is, if property continued to sell at the current rate and no new homes came on the market, it would take 4.8 months to "sell out." The National Association of Realtors regards a five-to-seven month inventory as balanced.

Not only is this market moving, it offers significant opportunities for many categories of consumers – first-time homebuyers, move-up buyers and investors.

"A lot of first-time homebuyers – because the affordability index is up so much – are able to afford to get into a home now," said Bill Hernandez, a Realtor with Windermere Welcome Home.

"It's a phenomenal opportunity for first-time homebuyers," Pryor agreed.

Sellers are asking less for their property and often offer additional incentives, such as home warranties, repairs, and credits for closing costs, to sweeten the deal for buyers.

New home developments too are offering lower prices, better financing and more perks as incentives to buy now. It's not uncommon for amenities such as granite countertops, upgraded flooring and appliances, landscaping and internet hookups to be included in the price of a new home.

All of this is great news for investors looking to shift their portfolios out of the troubled stock market.

"People who thought they could never invest are able to now," Pryor said. "There are lots of good deals."

Even those who want to transition from their current homes to something larger are seeing advantages.

"The move-up buyer can get into a bigger house, and the cost and the tax base will be lower. Plus, of course, interest rates are still great," Hernandez said. And that brings us to our next two blessings:

- Interest rates are still well under 7 percent for conventional mortgages on owner-occupied property. Over the past 45 years, the average for 30-year fixed conforming loans has been about 8.5 percent, with highs approaching 16 percent in the early '80s, so our current rates are definitely something to be thankful for.

- The federal government this year increased the conforming rate limit – the top dollar amount a consumer can borrow for a home before moving into higher "jumbo mortgage" pricing.

This year the top limit has been \$729,750. It will drop to \$625,500 next year, but that is still more than 50 percent higher than the previous limit. (California Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein are pushing to get the current higher ceiling made permanent.)

This adjustment has been very important to real estate consumers in the Bay Area, where housing prices remain among the most robust in the nation.

Even looking for property has become easier:

- The Bay East Association of Realtors' Multiple Listing Service has been updated to provide professionals and consumers with more photographs and information, plus more interactive maps. Realtors use the MLS directly; consumers can access it through websites such as www.realtor.com and individual broker sites.

Of course, not everyone will buy or sell property this year. Some folks are struggling just to keep the homes they have. Even for them, there are many things to be thankful for:

- Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac's mortgage modification program is scheduled to begin Dec. 15. The program is designed to create work-out options for borrowers who are in default. In addition, they announced this week that they will suspend the eviction of occupants and the sales of properties financed with mortgages in foreclosure until early next year.

- Many other banks have also initiated mortgage modification plans designed to keep people in their homes.

"The banks are starting to work more with people," Pryor noted. "That should help."

The California Association of Realtors has created consumer information sheets detailing the various mortgage modification programs available through the larger lenders and government entities, and also has created an easy-to-use reference chart about available programs.

Consumers can obtain these sheets from their Realtor, or download them directly at: <http://www.car.org/legal/mortgage-workout-programs/?view=Standard>

Reducing the number of foreclosures will, of course, help the individuals involved. It also will benefit sellers who have to compete against these distress properties, and will boost our economy as a whole.

Yes, there is much to be thankful for, even in difficult economic times. For real estate professionals, one of the greatest blessings always is the opportunity to help people realize the dream of homeownership.



# SHORT NOTES

## Birds in Veterans Park

Holiday Birds is the topic of a Livermore Area Recreation and Park District nature program to be held Sun., Nov. 30 in Veterans Park.  
Meet Ranger Pat Sotelo at 8 a.m. at the park, 5211 Arroyo Rd., Livermore. This bird walk will last about two hours. Don't forget binoculars and field guides; ranger staff will also have a few to lend. Beginners are encouraged to attend.

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.

## Name the Wine

Fenestra Winery is holding a contest among its wine club members. The Fenestra Fanatics, to come up with a name for a blend of Iberian wines created by Winemaker Brent Amos. The blend is comprised mainly of Portuguese and Spanish varieties, including 53% Touriga, 25% Alvaldeão, 8% Tempranillo, 2% Mourvedre?, 8% Malbec, 2% Tinto Cao and 2% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Fenestra has not had a contest in quite a few years, so the owners and staff are very excited to see what their club members come up with. "We're looking for something memorable, unique and of course, fitting," says Owner Fran Replogle. Our wine club members are exactly the type of people to come up with something like that."

The contest officially began at Fenestra's Holiday Wine Tasting last weekend. The winner may be announced as soon as mid-January or February. "Our goal is to bottle the blend in May, 2009," says Amos. "We'll need to finalize the name and get label approval before then."

There are only three rules to the contest: 1) the name cannot already be

taken or used elsewhere; 2) the name cannot be offensive or suggestive; and 3) by submitting an entry, the contestant agrees to waive all legal rights of the name to Fenestra Winery.

The winner of the contest will have an opportunity to help bottle the wine next spring, receive the very first case of the wine, 2 tickets to the Spring Fanatic Dinner, and will be credited in the Summer 2009 Newsletter for coming up with the name. Contestants must be a wine club member in good standing, and are encouraged to submit their entries to info@fenestrawinery.com, or drop off an entry during a visit to Fenestra's tasting room in Livermore. For more information, visit the website at www.fenestrawinery.com or email info@fenestrawinery.com

## 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.

## LPC Information Night

High school seniors and their parents are invited to attend a special informational evening at Las Positas College (LPC) in Livermore on Tuesday, December 2nd from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Physical Education Complex.

Guests will have the opportunity to

hear from campus administration, student leaders, as well as representatives from the University of California and California State University systems. Students and their parents will also be given a chance to meet in small group sessions with current students, LPC counselors, and faculty in their chosen major fields. A Spanish speaking group as well as a nursing information group will be added this year.

Information tables regarding financial aid, scholarship and internship opportunities, student activities and other topics will be available just prior to the event from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Physical Education Complex.

Parking is \$2 and tickets may be purchased from ticket machines in the parking lots.

For more information, please contact Jenna Heath at (925) 424-1487.

## Wine Release

John Christopher Cellars at Blacksmith Square in downtown Livermore plans a wine release event Sun., Nov. 28 to 30 from noon to 6 p.m. The featured wine will be journey 94550, a red blend.

This is a Cabernet- Petite Sirah blend that offers delicious fruit with smooth tannins. There is no cost to attend this event, tasting fees apply, waived with wine purchase. Club members receive complimentary tasting

John Christopher Cellars at Blacksmith Square is located at 25 South Livermore Ave., Suite 103, Livermore. For information call 456-9463 or go to wine@johnchristophercellars.com.

## Shot Clinic

Axis Community Health has scheduled its free immunization clinic for children on Dec. 6, from 9:00-11:30 a.m. The clinics will take place at Axis Pleasanton Clinic only located at 4361 Railroad Avenue in downtown Pleasanton.

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

Immunization appointments are also available at (925) 462-1755.

## Shopping at Stoneridge

Stoneridge Shopping Center in Pleasanton has ongoing programs and activities for holiday shoppers.

There are rejuvenation stations, seating areas at two locations that feature magazines, children's books, free wifi, entertainment at various times, as well as candy, greeters and waters dur-

ing key times.

Free valet parking is offered for vehicles with four or more passengers during operating hours through Dec. 31. California High School cheerleaders will be operating a gift wrap station. There will be no set fee. Donations will be accepted. All proceeds will benefit Cal High Cheer and Simon Youth Foundation.

Entertainment includes a variety of carolers, face painters, balloon artists, etc. on the following days: Nov. 28, 5 a.m. to noon, Dec. 4, 2 to 4 p.m.; Dec.

11, 2 to 4 p.m.; Dec. 18, 2 to 4 p.m., Dec. 22 and 23, noon to 3 p.m.

Greeters will welcome shoppers on Nov. 28, 4:30 a.m. to noon, Dec. 6 and 7, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Dec. 13 and 14, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Dec. 20 and 21, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Community performance groups will make appearances in the Grand Court on Tuesdays, Dec. 2, 9, 16 from 5 to 6 p.m. Photos with Santa are available Monday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Christmas eve until 4 p.m.

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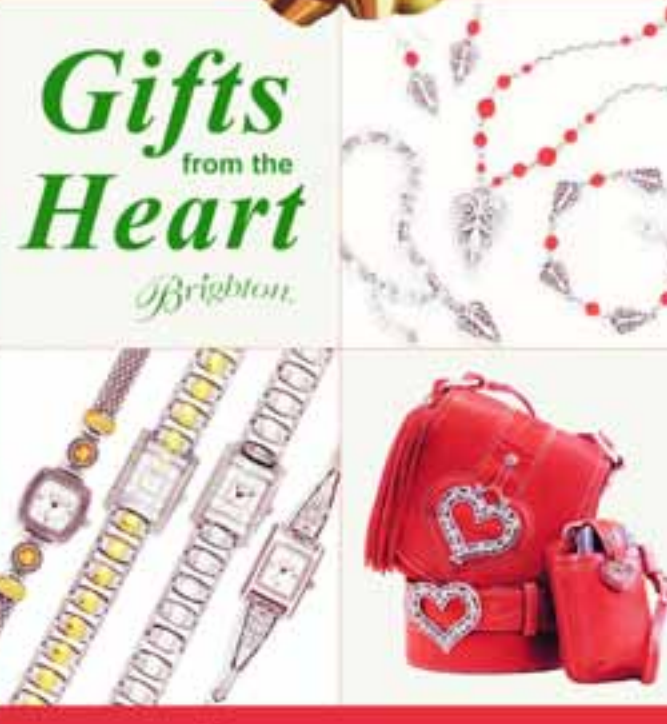
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# Three Livermore Families Compete in the Zero Waste Challenge

By Patricia Koning

This fall, KTVU and Waste Management challenged four local families to reduce, recycle, reuse, and rot their way to victory—victory over trash. For four weeks in October, the Ingwerson, Kerstetter, Lau, and Oakley families shared their trash on television as part of the first ever Zero Waste Challenge.

“We thought the challenge would be a fun way to educate and motivate the public to recycle more,” said Kathleen Minser, government affairs officer for Waste Management.

Over the summer, Waste Management and KTVU put out the call for families of four who were up for the challenge, and received over 1,000 responses from as far away as New York. (Unfortunately, only families within Waste Management’s service area of Oakland, Albany, Emeryville, Hayward, Newark, Livermore, and Castro Valley were eligible).

Through a series of phone and in-person interviews, KTVU narrowed the field down to the four families, three of whom are from Livermore (the Ingwersons, Kerstetters, and Laus). The fourth family, the Oakleys, are from Oakland. In what turned out to be a competitive challenge, the Laus emerged victorious, beating the Ingwersons by just one point.

“We had been practicing the 4R’s (reduce, reuse, recycle and rot) for a number of years. We just thought it would be fun to see how our family would do in this competition and for the kids to see themselves on TV,” explained Lillian Yee of the Lau family.

Each week, Waste Management collected the families’ waste, recycling, and green bins to determine which household



The Lau family Gordon Lau and Lillian Yee, the kids are Andy (age 7) and Elizabeth (age 4)

was producing the smallest amount of waste. The contestants earned one point for every four-gallon bag of waste produced and penalty points for any items disposed of in the incorrect bin. The goal, naturally, was the lowest score possible.

The results from week to week were impressive. In the first week, all four families had between three to five bags of trash each. By the last two weeks, three of the four families had one bag or less each.

The families also made fewer errors along the way. By week three, Jo Zientek of San Jose’s Environmental Services Department who served as one of the judges, noted that the judging was becoming much more difficult as the families learned from their mistakes.

Those mistakes included putting metal lids, yogurt containers, and medicine containers into

the trash bin instead of recycling. A soft plastic lid from a soda fountain drink and candy wrappers were found in the recycling bin instead of the trash can.

One of the families put plastic bags in the recycling bin—a common but significant mistake. Plastic bags jam the sorting bin at the recycling station. They can be recycled at supermarkets (or better yet, use reusable bags).

“We learned a lot from the Zero Waste Challenge about common misconceptions about what goes where,” said Minser. “We’re using that information in our education efforts.”

For example, a lot of pizza boxes end up in the trash instead of the greens bin. Any paper products with food residue, such as paper plates and towels, can go into the greens bin. Plastic can be very confusing—that was one of the biggest mistakes made by the Zero Waste Challenge fam-

ilies. When in doubt, said Minser, it’s better to err on the side of recycling.

Each week the Zero Waste Challenge families went to an education session at Waste Management’s Davis Street Station in San Leandro. They toured the food scrap processing center and the recycling plant to watch the sorting process. The families also visited the East Bay Depot for Creative Use, which they all found eye-opening.

While the Laus, especially their two young children, were pleased with their victory, which includes a trip to Sea World in San Diego, Lillian said they were

most impressed by the families who completely changed their ways. “It gave us hope knowing that if people were more aware, they can also reduce their contribution to the waste stream. If you reduce first, there is a lot less of the other Rs to deal with,” she explained.

Waste Management was pleased with the performance of the Zero Waste Challenge families. “We expected them to be good at recycling. We were surprised by how much they were able to reduce their waste from week to week,” said Minser. “We’d like everyone to think

about ways to recycle and put less waste into the trash can.”

She added that Livermore residents have a great resource in the Alameda County Household Hazardous Waste Center located at La Ribera Street off South Vasco, where you can drop off fluorescent tubes, chemicals such as fertilizer or weed killer, paint, and batteries. See [www.stopwaste.org](http://www.stopwaste.org) for more information.

To read the families’ diaries and view all of the KTVU segments from the Zero Waste Challenge, see <http://www.ktvu.com/wastechallenge/index.html>.

## Program Helps Provide a Happy Holiday

The Surtec Adopt A Family Program was founded by Bill Fields in 1991 to provide a happier Christmas to children of needy families in the Bay Area, Tri-Valley and Central Valley areas.

The program consists of a group of volunteers.

The average cost for the food baskets and gifts for each family is approximately \$200. All of the children receive Christmas gifts, personally chosen for their age group and gender, gift wrapped with personalized name tags stating

One of the main requirements of this program is that there will be no administrative costs taken from the project, that all of the help is on a volunteer basis and all funds and goods go directly to the needy families.

The names of needy families are obtained through various churches, school districts and community service organizations. These organizations screen the families to assure us that they are truly needy and the selection of the families and children are not based on any specific religion or race. The only requirement is that they are truly needy families with children.

In 1991, the organization served 31 families with 114 children. Last year, there were 320 families with 935 children.

The entire project is manned with volunteer help and all money raised comes primarily from an annual golf tournament and donations made by individuals and companies adopting a family or more. Volunteers do all the shopping for food and gifts and the wrapping of these gifts and delivering them directly to the families. Donated warehouse space is also provided to accomplish this goal.

On the Saturday prior to Christmas, all of the food baskets and gifts are delivered directly to the families by Adopt-A-Family volunteers.

The goal for 2008 is to provide food and personally selected gifts for over 300 families with more than 900 children. Volunteers will wrap all the gifts in Liv-

ermore (thanks to Balch Enterprises who has again donated warehouse space). Box assembly and food packing will take place this year at the Surtec facility in Tracy.

The cost of the Programs this year is between \$70,000 and \$75,000. For those of you who would like to contribute financially here are some tax-deductible options: (1) to sponsor a family is \$200, (2) to sponsor 1/2 of a family is \$100, (3) to sponsor 1/4 of a family is \$50, and (4) or any other donation that you would like to make is greatly appreciated.

Please make checks payable to Surtec Adopt-a-Family, Inc. and mail or bring the check to: Surtec, Inc., 1880 N. MacArthur Drive, Tracy, CA. 95376 – Attention: Adopt-a-Family, Inc.

Phone number for this 501 C3 Non-Profit Corporation is (209) 820-3700.

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