

Find Out What's Happening

Check Out Section A

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

Charter School renewal petition

By Patricia Koning

In a unanimous vote, the trustees of the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District approved the renewal petition for the Livermore Valley Charter School (LVCS). The approval is contingent on the Board of the Tri Valley Learning Corporation (TVLC), which oversees LVCS, approving an amended Memorandum as is and delivering the executed version by 5 pm on Friday, Nov. 30.

This marks a first for LVCS and the District, as the District denied both the original LVCS petition in 2004 and the first renewal petition in 2007. The State Board of Education approved both of those petitions.

"We recognize that this

of Understanding (MOU) school has community support and an outstanding educational program for its students," said superintendent Kelly Bowers. "This is the beginning of a process to bring together our two communities over common values, the education of our students."

> The District provided TVLC with its staff report and MOU on Friday, Nov.

23. TVLC held a special board meeting to review the report and MOU on Monday, Nov. 26. On the afternoon of Tuesday, Nov. 27, TVLC chief operating officer Bill Batchelor met with Bowers and assistant superintendent Chris Van Schaack to discuss proposed changes to the MOU, some of which were implemented in the amended

"I'm happy that the District worked with us and I think we've made a lot of progress," said Batchelor. We still need to evaluate this amended version of the MOU."

The MOU covered the District's concerns with the LVCS renewal petition. Those concerns, in general, fell under special educa-(See CHARTER, page 4)

Appeals Court Hearing Is Encouraging To Retirees

Retirees from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory who sued to be returned to University of California health and benefits programs were encouraged by an appeals court hearing in Oakland last week. However, the University of California Livermore Retiree Group must wait for the court to rule on a motion by the University that their suit be dismissed.

The Livermore Lab retirees were removed from the UC benefits system in 2008, when a for-profit consortium replaced UC in managing the Laboratory. Several hundred of the retirees organized, established a legal fund and filed suit in Superior Court in Oakland in 2010 to force the University to restore the benefits.

They claimed that an implicit if not explicit contract existed under which UC had repeatedly promised to continue their health benefits after retirement, and that they had made career decisions based on those promises.

Last week's hearing in he First District Court of Appeal in San Francisco responded to the University's

(See RETIREES, page 8)

Pleasanton Allocates Excess Funds

Pleasanton's 2011-2012 general fund budget included excess funds, making it possible to direct \$2.1 million to other projects.

The final revenues were just over \$90 million; expenditures around \$87 million. The city council voted to assign \$1 million of the \$2.1 million to help reduce the city's unfunded pension liability; \$561,000 went towards Phase II of the Bernal Park development; and \$561,000 into the repair and replacement fund.

The city's director of finance, Emily Wagner, told the council last week that property and sales taxes were lower than expected. However, fees for development services were higher, as was the income from the hotel/motel tax. Wagner added that the increase in the hotel/motel tax is a positive sign that the area is coming out of the recession.

Most of the development fees came from the new Continuing Life Communities senior housing under construction on the Staples Ranch.

Pleasanton lost close to \$2 million in sales tax revenues. Of that \$1 million was paid to the City of Livermore as the result of the state incorrectly paying the tax to Pleasanton. The remaining \$1 million involved taxes paid on goods sold in Pleasanton but shipped from

(See FUNDS, page 8)



Making the announcement that Livermore will host the Amgen Tour in 2013 are (from left) Tim Toonen, Tri-Valley Tourism Bureau, Livermore Mayor John Marchand, and Dave Best, Shea Homes. Both the visitors bureau and Shea Homes have contributed money to bring the tour to Livermore.

Livermore to Host Amgen Stage in 2013

City of Livermore has been ing was Mon., Nov. 26. selected to be a host city. For the 2013 race, Livermore will host the Stage 7 Start on Saturday, May 18 that will test the riders' climbing skills with a finish at Mt. Diablo.

On Monday, the city council reversed a decision not to take part in the bicycle

For the third time, the race. The deadline for apply-

Following the council vote. Amgen was notified of the decision.

At issue for the council was the use of general fund monies to help finance the race. Staff had requested \$100,000. It was noted that other events, such as the 4th of July, were staged using

funds raised by members of hotel rooms and meals for the public.

On Monday, the council agreed to pledge \$35,000 towards funding the race in Livermore. That money will be offset by support from the private sector, according to Rob White, City of Livermore Economic Development Director. The money pays for the cost of

White told the council on Monday that the city was contacted by several community organizations asking the city to host the race. He pointed out that \$35,000 had been pledged to date. He expected to collect an additional \$15,000

(See AMGEN, page 2)

Faster, More **Efficient Service Envisioned** by BART

BART directors liked what they heard concerning the agency's vision to serve more customers and provide more frequent service by

Motivating the report, which directors heard at their meeting Nov. 15, is a call from the Metropolitan **Transportation Commission** (MTC) to all transit agencies to plan more efficient, costsaving service for the future. The goal is to serve 50 percent more riders by 2025, to build on the trend towards increased ridership, and partly the desire to attract even more riders to enhance fare-box revenue.

The BART vision has two general strategies. One involves service to a growing number of planned transit-oriented developments (TOD), in which residents would not only ride BART to work, but also use BART as the preferred transporta tion to go shopping, dining out and visiting entertainment venues.

The TODs can put passengers on trains for two round-trips in one day, not just one, with the increased off-peak usage contributing

(See BART, page 4)

Two Livermore Schools To Institute Free and **Reduced Cost Dinners**

By Ron McNicoll

The Livermore school district plans to begin serving free or reduced cost dinners on school days at Marylin Avenue and Junction Avenue schools soon after the first of the year.

While Livermore and other districts offer free and reduced lunches and breakfasts, Livermore will be the first in the Valley, and the second district in Alameda County, to offer the subsidized dinners.

A meeting was set for this week to plan menus and other aspects to prepare for instituting the program, said Barbara Lee, the district's director of campus catering.

Approximately 50 to 75 children at each of the two schools are expected to participate in the program, said Lee. She has been meeting with her counterparts in

Antioch, Pittsburg, West Contra Costa and Oakland about the dinner program. All reported success with adding the dinners.

The other districts, especially Oakland and West Contra Costa, have much larger enrollment numbers eligible for free and reduced lunches. Livermore qualifies for the dinner program because of the percentages of eligible students compared to the total student population at those schools.

At Marylin Avenue, 83 percent of the 485 students are eligible. Some 62 percent of the 813 students at Junction are qualified. By comparison, districtwide 26 percent of the 12,664 students qualify. At Sunset school, 7 percent of the 810 students are eligible.

> Lee acknowledged that (See DINNERS, page 8)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

A new sculpture was recently installed on Sunol Boulevard in Centennial Park north of the Pleasanton Senior Center. The multi-colored sculpture, "Wind Song," was created by Artist Greg Hawthorne. The \$52,000 sculpture is made of stainless steel and painted in cheerful colors. A cement patio will be added shortly to give onlookers a chance to walk around the sculpture. "Wind Song" was presented to Pleasanton by Nancy and Gary Harrington. The Harringtons have created "Another Harrington Art Partnership Piece for You" (HAPPY) as a way to bring more art to the city. Contributions are sought to help to purchase the art. For more information, visit www.harringtonartpartnership.org

Inside

SECTION A	Editorial4	ļ
Art & Entertainment 8	Mailbox4	ļ
Bulletin Board11	Roundup3	3
Milestones 12	Short Notes7	,
MAIN SECTION	Sports6	ò
Classifieds10	Obituaries)



PET OF THE WEEK

Hello everyone! My name is Thumper and boy, am I one cool dog. I am only about a year old, and guess what breed I am - basset hound and Labrador mix. Neat, right? I think so. I am just under 50 pounds and I look a bit like a sausage, but I'm seriously cute. I have such an outgoing personality- everybody I meet is my friend. Will you be my friend? I hope so! For more information, call us at 426-8656 or go online to www.valleyhumane. org or www.facebook.com/ValleyHumaneSociety to see other adoptable dogs and cats. Valley Humane Society is located at 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton. Photo by Trina Cort

Actions in CAP Mainly Voluntary for Residents and Businesses

The Livermore City Council voted unanimously to adopt the draft Climate Action Plan (CAP).

The state's AB32 requires a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in California to 1990 levels by 2020. In order to do so, local entities are establishing CAPs.

In reviewing the plan for the city council, Senior Planner Ingrid Rademaker, noted that it contains voluntary measures that can be taken by residents along with continued city actions. She pointed out that 75 percent of the actions are already required by state or federal measures.

The largest emissions of greenhouse gases come from transportation, followed by residential energy use and commercial energy use.

Consultant Rich Walter, ICF International principal, described some of the proposed actions and resulting benefits.

Among actions already taken by the city include: solar installations at city hall, a green building ordinance, participation in the regional solar cities program, intensification of development in the downtown, use of recycled water, an increase in recycling, and preservation and expansion of the urban forest.

The proposed plan concentrates in three areas. One is in energy use; the second is transportation and land use; and the third

Energy use could be reduced through voluntary energy efficiency retrofits for existing residences and commercial development, changing streets lights to LEDs, voluntary residential and non-residential rooftop solar, and voluntary solar over parking areas.

Proposed transportation actions include reducing the time trucks are allowed to idle, concentrating on transit oriented development, enhancing transportation opportunities, synchronizing traffic signs, improving bicycle and pedestrian systems, and implementing a small car sharing program.

Reducing the use of water would reduce the amount needing to be conveyed. The main cost of conveyance is the energy needed to move the water. Less water to move would lower energy

Walter said that a CAP would streamline the environmental reviews needed for project approvals. Rather than a complete analysis of greenhouse gas impacts, the EIR would determine if a development were consistent with the CAP.

Other positives include energy savings both in use and cost, reduction in waste, reduction in vehicle miles traveled, health benefits with cleaner air, and an increase

in property values with the remarks, rather concentrate addition of more trees.

The city would need to set up a monitoring and tracking system to determine how the plan is working, added Walter. As part of the implementation, outreach to educate people regarding the voluntary options would be needed.

Four members of the public spoke. They were absolutely opposed to the plan. They declared that it added costs, government mandates and would have a negative impact on private property rights. "Voluntary measures tend to become mandatory," said one speaker. It was suggested that the transit oriented development was social engineering designed to make everyone live in high density housing.

Responding to public comment, Mayor John Marchand asked that speakers not address the issues of climate change in their

on the CAP proposals.

Several took offense at restricting their statements. "I'm disturbed that you don't want to discuss global warming," said one. Pat Ferguson stated that global warming stopped sixteen years ago. She presented the council with information on a study she was using for her remarks. She suggested that the city should conduct an environmental review of the plan.

George Duarte, member of a legal government relations committee for a large realtor group, took an opposite view. "I am encouraged by adoption of the CAP. This is a good plan. As a realtor, I am aware of the importance of energy efficiency in homes. I appreciate they are voluntary programs."

Councilmember Stewart Gary commented that change comes slowing and with inconsistency. He recalled living in Southern California and the thick blanket of smog that obscured the hills. He said one of the good things that came out of the 1960s was an environmental conscious. Gary added that if there were no plan to deal with greenhouse emissions, we would be repeating the mistakes of the past. "This is a good road map. It tries to do the right things the best way it can in an incremental manner."

Councilmember Bob Woerner also said of Los Angeles that breathing smog hurt. "These things do matter. The plan is not perfect. It is reasonably comprehensive and leverages what has already been accomplished in the city.'

Mayor John Marchand added that the voluntary aspect reduces onerous impacts on residents and busi-

(continued from page one)

over the next few weeks. In

addition, Amgen directors reconsidered some of the requirements in order for Livermore to save money.

One cost savings could be realized by using more volunteers. White said that is a greater possibility with a Saturday date. People do not have to take time off work.

Councilmember Bob Woerner asked what would happen if the costs were higher than anticipated.

White said that a number of downtown businesses, the Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce and Livermore Downtown, Inc. could help with the hard costs. He pointed out that a private entity could not contract to host the race. AEG, the race ing a Host City for the ATOC

sponsors, only contracts with cities.

"We welcome the Amgen Tour of California into Livermore's award-winning downtown for the Stage 7 Start," said Livermore Mayor John Marchand. "We invite everyone to enjoy the start of this world class cycling event, to experience the premier shopping at the new Paragon Outlets Livermore, and to explore California's oldest wine region. It all comes down to quality of life – and we define it. Livermore, there's more here."

According to a press release, independent studies suggest the financial benefit and economic impact of beis typically in excess of \$1 million in the local economy over the period of time that the Tour of California takes place in a jurisdiction. These benefits include room nights at local and regional hotels, meals by visitors and participants, local shopping for gifts and memorabilia, and other visitor-oriented

economic activities.

White stated, "The opportunity to partner with AEG to bring the Amgen Tour of California back to Livermore for 2013 demonstrates this community's commitment to quality of life events and healthy life-styles. Several local businesses and organizations partnered with the City of Livermore to raise funds to off-set the costs of this event, including Shea Homes, Chevron Energy Solutions, the Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce, Livermore Downtown Inc., and the Tri-Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau. We are confident that this year's Amgen Tour of California will once again highlight the many outstanding qualities of Livermore by bringing an infusion of tourism straight into the heart of our downtown, filling the coffee houses, restaurants, shops and hotels on a weekend day.'

Twelve cities in all have been named official Host City partners for the 2013 Amgen Tour of California by AEG. The route will take riders on a South to North course for the first time in the eight-year race history.

The official race start, Stage 1, will begin and finish in Escondido, a city located in northern San Diego that had previously hosted 2009's spectacular overall finish. The next day, Stage 2 will take riders through the hot desert terrain from Murrieta to Greater Palm Springs, two cities making their race debut. For Stage 3, the race will return to Palmdale for a stage start and then travel approximately 100 miles west to the city of Santa Clarita. The city, which hosted the race in 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2011, will also serve as the start of Stage 4. From there, the cyclists will ride north toward the Pacific Coast and picturesque Santa Barbara, which last hosted the race in 2008, for the Stage 4 finish.

The race will remain in Santa Barbara for the start of Stage 5 of the 2013 Amgen Tour of California. Racers head north to Avila Beach for the Stage 5 finish. San Jose will play host to Stage 6 and the Individual Time Trial, marking the eighth consecutive year the race has visited the city. San Jose is the only city to participate in all eight editions of the

Stage 7 will start in Livermore and head to Mt. Diablo for an intense mountaintop finish. The eighth and final stage of the 2013 Amgen Tour of California will start in San Francisco and finish in Santa Rosa.



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OPEN SUN 1-3

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Bonnie King 925,736,8411

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OPEN SUN 1-4

bd 5 | ba 4.5 | sqft+/-6,000 Castlewoods CCs Street of Dreams Finest. Don't miss a chance to see this magnificent dream home on Oak Studded 1 acre parcel with water falls, Ponds, out door entertainment area. Panoramic Views from all windows,

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Livermore 875 Wall St

bd 4 | ba 2 | sqft+/-1,700 | \$495,000

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bd 3 ba 2.5 sqft+/-1,599 \$759,000

Beautiful, Remodeled Home, LARGE LOT Cinderella Stairway 2 Entry w/ Rock Walls, Remod. Kitchen, Remod. Bathrooms w/ Tile Showers, Granite Countertops in Kitchen & Baths. New Double Overs, New A/C & Heater, Presidential Roof, Spa, Covered BBQ Area.

1850 El Nido Diablo

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quest house, pool/spa.

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3128 Tokay Court Pleasanton

bd 4 | ba 2.5 | sqft+/- 2,437 | \$949,000

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bd 5 | ba 2.5 | sqft+/- 1,922 | \$742,000 Country Home Property, Nice 5 bed, 2.5 ba, Newer paint and carpet, Move-In Condition, Large finished basement, Boomy Home, HUGE YARD, over 34,000 Sq. "3 Parcels" LOCATION-LOCATION, Near great CV schools, Parks,

shopping, Bart and more....Come on out and take a look

Kristy Peixoto 925,251,7536



bd 4 ba 3 sqft+/2,565 \$749,950 Peace & tranquility await the right buyer for this charismatic single level home. While relaxing among the .97+/- acres of land filled w/ a variety of mature trees unded by ridge-lines, a private in-ground pool.

6882CrowCanyon.com for over 70 photos



Upgraded townhouse style condo in downtown Livermore. Open floor plan w/ spacious kitchen. Granite counters & stainless steel appliances. Breakfast bar opens to dining room & balcony. Spacious bdrm, 2 walkin closets, full bd & ba on first floor. Lg tandem garage,



Nice single story home on a generous size lot. Granite slab kitchen counters, dual pane windows. Great room has vaulted ceiling & a wood burning freplace insert. 3 glass sliders, 6 panel doors, crown molding, backyard includes play structure, covered patio, & side yard access.

Blackhawk East 4105 Blackhawk Plaza Cir. Danville, CA 94506 925.648.5300

Blackhawk West 3880 Blackhawk Rd. Danville, CA 94506 925.736.6000

Danville 15 Railroad Ave. Danville, CA 94526 925.855.4000

Lafayette 3799 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette, CA 94549 925.385.2330

Livermore 1983 Second St. Livermore, CA 94550 925.667.2100

Adam Fettes

Montdair/Piedmont 6116 La Salle Ave., Ste. 200 Oakland, CA 94611 510.339.4800

Pleasanton 89 Davis Rd. Orinda, CA 94563 925.253.7000 925.251.2500

5075 Hopyard Rd Ste. 110 Pleasanton, CA 94588

Walnut Creek 1700 N. Main St. Walnut Creek, CA 94596 925.280.8500

925,337,7303

VALLEY ROUNDUP

Haggerty to Host Open House

Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty will open the doors of his Pleasanton district office, the Heritage House, located on the Alameda County Fairgrounds, for a holiday open house event. The event will take place on Tuesday, December 18, from 5:30pm to 8:00pm.

Supervisor Haggerty and his staff will be on hand to welcome constituents, commissioners, elected officials and anyone who wishes to stop by. This will be an informal social event complete with light refreshments. This open house event will also serve as a great time to drop off a toy or canned food item for donation to local charities, Open Heart Kitchen and Abode Homeless Services.

The historic Heritage house will be decorated with lights and décor through the holidays courtesy of Jim and Brandy Theofanopoulos of the Screen Machine in Livermore.

For more information on this event, please contact Supervisor Haggerty's Outreach Coordinator Leah Doyle-Stevens at (925) 551-6995.

The fairgrounds are located at 4501 Pleasanton Ave., Pleasanton.

Dublin Prepares for Storms

The City of Dublin is preparing for the anticipated series of storms occurring in the Bay Area that were projected to start on Wednesday of this week. City Public Works staff has been preparing for the upcoming storms, including clearing any debris or leaves that have accumulated in the storm drains and inlets. Additionally, crews have checked and cleared the debris racks in the creeks that lead from the hills. Of particular concern with the incoming storms this week are the potential wind gusts on Wednesday morning which weather services have forecast could reach up to 55 mph in Dublin.

Public Works Department staff will continue to monitor the activity during and between storms this week, and staff will be ready to assist should the need arise for clearing streets of broken limbs or any downed street trees, as well as any localized flooding. Residents are reminded to keep their gutters and storm drains clear of debris.

The City offers the following tips and

resources to residents:

- In an emergency, please call 9-1-1
- Public Works Department (925) 833-6630
- After business hours, please contact the police non-emergency number: (925) 462-1212
- For PGE outages contact: 1-800-743-5000
- Sandbags are available to local businesses and residents at the City's Public Works Maintenance Facility located at 5777 Scarlett Court in Dublin.

The City of Dublin Police Department, City staff, and Alameda County Fire Department are here to serve the community. For further updates, please refer to the City's website www.dublin.ca.gov.

Swalwell Greets Voters

Eric Swalwell, 15tth Congressional District's newly elected representative, was on hand Nov. 22 to thank voters and to hear their top priorities.

"Last Thanksgiving I hit the 'Black Friday' sales to introduce myself to constituents and hear what they expected from their Congressman," said Swalwell. "This Thanksgiving, I'm grateful the voters have put their faith in me to listen to them at home and work for them in Washington."

Swalwell was at Toys R Us in Dublin and Target in Hayward on Nov. 22.

"I promised to be accessible and accountable," said Swalwell. "I learned last year that this is a great way to chat with constituents and I'm excited to be back in line."

Swalwell Selects Chief of Staff

Ricky Le has been tapped by Congressman-elect Eric Swalwell as Chief of Staff. Swalwell stated, "Ricky brings more than six years experience working on Capitol Hill and has strong ties to the Bay Area. He understands the needs of the district and my desire to have an office operation focused on our district and being accessible to constituents."

Le currently works on Capitol Hill as Deputy Chief of Staff and Counsel for U.S. Representative Zoe Lofgren and as a Professional Staffer with the Committee on House Administration handling federal elections and House oversight matters. Previously, he served for three years as Executive Director of

the California Democratic Congressional Delegation where he advised the state's 34 Democratic Members of Congress on statewide policy.

Le has worked on a variety of local, state, and federal campaigns over the last twelve years, including a statewide campaign in California. He was born in Da Nang, Vietnam and came to the United States as a political refugee at the age of five. He became a U.S. citizen in 2002.

Le grew up in San Jose, California, earned a B.A. from the University of California, Santa Cruz and a J.D. from Santa Clara University School of Law.

Amazon Center In Tracy

Amazon, the online retail giant, announced plans to build a distribution center on a 70-acre site in north Tracy. The center is expected to open in the Spring with some 1,000 jobs and projected revenues of \$1 million per year for the city, according to news reports.

It's the second Amazon center announced for the region in recent months. Last May, Amazon began work on a distribution center near Patterson, some 20 miles to the south. That center is expected to generate some 350 jobs and have the potential to grow, according to the state Office of Business and Economic Development.

Amazon last week declined to comment on the reasons for building two centers. However, Tracy mayor Brent Ives was quoted by the Stockton Record as saying that the Patterson facility will focus on bulk distribution while the Tracy one "will make use of advanced robotics and offer better-paying jobs."

Beware of Mail Theft

Livermore postal carrier Angela Flemings thwarted a would-be mail thief. She spotted the suspect, contacted police, then followed the suspect until police could arrive to make the arrest.

The Livermore Post Office urges residents to guard their own mail. The office points out that there has been a rash of thefts recently.

The Livermore Police Department has received reports concerning thefts of delivered packages from front porches and mailboxes. This seasonal trend is not specific to Livermore, theft-related crimes have increased nationally over the holidays.

The following may prevent someone from becoming a victim of mail theft:

- UPS offeres a program titled, "UPS My Choice" that provides delivery alerts to electronic devices as well as package tracking. The free service allows a recipient to coordinate delivery to other locations or to a nearby UPS Store. http://www.ups.com/mychoice/features/
- The United States Postal Service also provides several methods of protection through package tracking and "hold mail" services. https://www.usps.com/
- Some companies provide a "special instructions" category allowing for the possibility of placing packages in a more secure location (ie: "place inside fence on side yard").

The police recommend not allowing valuable packages to be left on porches or in mailboxes for extended periods of time

Please report crimes and suspicious persons or incidents to the Livermore Police Department (non-emergency: 925-371-4987 / emergency: 911).

Garamendi Named to Ag Committee

Congressman John Garamendi (D-Fairfield, CA) was recommended to serve as a Member of the House Agriculture Committee. He expected official approval during Wednesday's Democratic Caucus meeting. Garamendi, a lifelong rancher and farmer, will join in bicameral negotiations on the farm bill, which could be voted on by the House in December.

"I didn't enter Congress to twiddle my thumbs and sit quietly in the background. I must be where the needs of my district are and that's in the final negotiations for the five-year farm bill. I want to thank Speaker Boehner and Leader Pelosi for giving me this opportunity to serve where I am needed," said Congressman Garamendi.

"Passing a good farm bill is very important to the family farmers in my district, and the nutrition assistance in the farm bill provides vital help to struggling families throughout California," Garamendi added. "As a farmer and rancher, I know we need to get this done, and I will work around the clock to make sure California specialty crops and commodity programs are protected."

To join the Agriculture Committee, Garamendi is required to resign from the House Natural Resources Committee, which he has done.



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EDITORIALS

Honor Roll for District

The Pleasanton School District was honored for its growth in the percentage of Advanced Placement (AP) students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP exams.

It is one of only of 539 districts in 44 states and Canada to be placed on the third annual AP honor roll. Even more impressive, Pleasanton has been on the honor roll all three years.

The honor roll is published by the College

Pleasanton superintendent Parvin Ahmadi, stated, "We really believe in providing multiple opportunities for students as they go through our schools. We want to make sure students have choices. Offering such an array of AP courses allows students to make choices about what they are passionate about."

The district should be proud of its efforts and the results it has produced in educating students.

AgPark Applauded

Tri-Valley residents enjoy access to agriculture as a quality of life. The Sunol Water Temple AgPark, which has fostered sustainable farming and public education while protecting natural resources since 2006, deserves special

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) and SAGE (Sustainable Agriculture Education) partnered to support agriculture in the region.

Currently, the 18-acre AgPark provides a home to five small-scale organic farming enterprises. For local customers, the farmers grow an array of organic fruits and vegetables, including, melons, peppers, squash, corn and herbs.

The AgPark, the only education farm in the Tri-Valley, offers field trips for students. More than 2,000 East Bay students have participated in SAGE's Farming in the Watershed field trips and in-school programs.

SAGE is currently collaborating with the SF utilities commission to develop the Alameda Creek Watershed Center, a permanent center to provide hands-on environmental education for schoolchildren, service-learning and job training for youth, and volunteer and stewardship opportunities for community members.

The new center will provide even more focus on the benefits of locally grown produce. The efforts of SAGE and the support of SFPUC in preserving and promoting agriculture are to be applauded.

Those interested in learning more about becoming involved with or contributing to the AgPark can visit www.sagecenter.org.

Breach Of Contract Lawsuit Is Headed For February Trial

A breach of contract lawsuit filed by five former Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory employees who were laid off in 2008 will proceed to trial in Alameda County Superior Court in Oakland in February.

The breach of contract suit is a simplified version of one that was filed in 2009 following formal complaints by 130 of 440 employees who were laid off in 2008. The original complaint also alleged that the Laboratory committed age discrimination violations in the lay-

Judge Robert Freedman separated the complaint into two parts and chose five of the 130 plaintiffs to go to trial on the breach of contract issue alone.

No decision has been made about how or when the age discrimination suit will go to trial. However, a pre-trial conference scheduled for December 20 may settle that as well as other procedural questions.

Randy Strauss, one of the attorneys for the five going to trial in February, said that the firm he works for Gwilliam, Ivary, Chiosso of Oakland – is seeking to restore economic loss for those laid off. Factors in any

final resolution are likely to include lost salary, lost benefits and lost retirement credits, with a total value of hundreds of thousands of dollars or more, he esti-

Punitive damages and attorneys fees are not permitted in breach-of-contract suits, he said. On the other hand, they can be part of age discrimination cases. He anticipates that an eventual resolution of the age discrimination case could cost "millions of dollars."

He said that the Laboratory had "done all it can to delay" a resolution of the case, and that it is "high time" for it to be "held accountable. These people have been waiting a long

The Laboratory's view is that it "has always considered its employees its greatest asset and went to great lengths to prevent this layoff." In a statement, the Lab noted that it believes it "followed all federal guidelines, with concurrence from" its federal sponsor, the National Nuclear Security Administration of the U.S. Department of Energy.

It declined further comment because the matter is now in court.

THE || Independent

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City Tables LARPD Merger Idea

The possible merger of the City of Livermore and the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) has been tabled.

At the same time, Councilmember Stewart Gary suggested that the city and LARPD hold a joint workshop to look at ways they could work together in areas of mutual interest.

The city council on Monday determined there was no interest on the part of LARPD or its constituency in the merger.

No formal vote was taken. However, each councilmember expressed his or her opinion with a mixture of views. Doug Horner wanted to pursue the matter; John Marchand liked the idea but rejected proceeding; Laureen Turner, Stewart Gary, and Bob Woerner all supported not proceeding with a merger.

Turner, who was elected to the LARPD board prior to her election to the council, stated, "I feel we should

table this and take an official stand that puts the issue to rest once and for all." She pointed out that another city (Brentwood) did not reap the projected benefits through consolidation.

The question was first raised two years ago. It was based on the idea that the amount of ERAF (Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund) money taken from LARPD by the state would be reduced, leaving more money for recreation. It was suggested that the proposed merger could provide \$3 to \$4 million more each year for recreation. The state has taken just over \$74 million since 1992.

Assistant City Manager Troy Brown told the council that in order to determine if there would be more funding available, the city would have to apply to LAFCO for a revenue tax sharing agreement that would analyze the ERAF. In discussions with LAFCO, there was disagreement over whether any additional funding would come to LARPD through consolidation. Litigation would likely be required to produce a definitive answer.

Mayor John Marchand, who sits on the LAFCO board as an alternate, said he stated at a recent meeting that no parties would be pursuing an application.

Woerner said when he first moved to Livermore, he was pleased to find that LARPD was a district separate from the city. "There is a lot of value in being a separate district. It's not just about money, but quality of life. The two entities can focus on how to best serve the community. I have no interest in pursuing anything that would combine the two agencies.

Marchand stated, "There is a lot of quality of life available with an extra \$4 million. Our shared constituency could benefit. However, since neither the district nor the shared constituency has any interest in pursing the issue, I agree it should be tabled.'

Horner had an opposite view. "To boost LARPD's income by \$3 to \$4 million would be transformative. Rather than maintain assets, it could buy land and build new parks, sports parks. I do not understand the resistance to entering into talks to get this done. I propose we go to LAFCO and make the determination."

Gary said he agreed that the original question was interesting. Along the way, it morphed into relationship and control issues. "This is messy. It would require extensive litigation to determine what would happen."

He pointed out that ERAF not new money that LARPD would receive. The funds are currently allocated to education, which would lose the money if it were reallocated as part of a merger.

'To have a merger, a willing partner is required. No willing partner exists," added Gary.

BART

to more revenue per day. It's the kind of efficiency that MTC wants to see from BART, Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty and BART director John McPartland told The Independent

In addition to reducing costs, greenhouse gases will be reduced by getting out of their cars to take advantage of more and better transit

The other major strategy is to improve the central core service, with more trains per hour, and longer trains. This strategy also increases fare-box revenue, because more passengers are moved per hour. Speedier service is expected to attract more riders

Staff reported on such ideas as bringing all trains up to the 10-car limit during rush hours, and splitting 10car trains into five cars each at the Bayfair station. One train would go to Fremont (and eventually to the future San Jose Berryessa station) and the other train to Dublin/Pleasanton.

The train-splitting idea is Malcolm Quint.

Another measure would add short-run trains in the core area, including downtown San Francisco and Oakland, as soon as turnaround facilities can be

BART carries more than 400,000 riders per day currently. The single biggest day was Oct. 31, the day of the San Francisco Giants World Series celebration parade in downtown San Francisco. That drew 568,000 riders, and was a preview of things to come. By 2025, BART expects to have 560,000 riders daily, after proposed improvements to the system are implemented.

The system will also grow from 669 cars now to more than 800, and eventually 980 cars by 2025. The study sees phase 1 cutting total annual vehicle miles by 11 percent, and phase 2 will cut it another 5 percent.

Money is the big factor in moving forward. Aside from state and federal sources, since those are low, director James Fang suggested that BART look into privatepublic partnerships. He did not have any specific suggestions, but said that since other projects funded in that manner, BART should explore the idea.

The study looked only at stations that already have extensions funded, namely Berryessa in San Jose and e-BART to Antioch. Livermore was off the list because there is no assured funding

MCPARTLAND, HAGGERTY **ANALYZE B1 LOSS**

Voters rejected Measure B1 on Nov. 6. It failed by less than 1 percentage point. popular in Europe and Asia, McPartland said it fell only said BART project manager about 800 votes short. He told The Independent that he thought the measure lost because of "poor public education" concerning its

benefits. "If I polled the people of Livermore, nearly 100 percent would say they want BART to Livermore. But there was poor public education about the connectivity between B1 and BART to Livermore," said McPart-

"I think people who wanted BART needed to talk together. The support of agencies and supportive stakeholders should have been working together collectively more effectively," said McPartland.

Haggerty said that the failure could be attributed to the lack of an active campaign in the Valley and Fremont. Efforts for the campaign were put into Oakland, where it did pass in some precincts, but the Valley and Fremont were left on their own, he said.

Haggerty said he personally thinks that the "in perpetuity" feature of the tax killed it. "We lost 2000 votes because of the 'in perpetuity' clause. All we needed to do was change 1001 of the votes," said Haggerty.

The goal is to go back to voters in 2016. As a result, there won't be any matching funds coming to the Livermore extension. That will tack four more years on to the completion date, said Haggerty.

However, there is money available to conduct the environmental studies for the extension, and for all of the other projects on the Measure B1 project list, so that work will continue, said Haggerty.

Haggerty said that going to the ballot in 2014 would be too soon, because the Board of Supervisors promised AC Transit that it would be able to put its bond measure before voters then. AC Transit had wanted to go with it this year, but agreed to step aside for Measure

Haggerty said that when B1 does go to the ballot again, it will have the same projects that were promised this year. He said the one thing missing will be the "in perpetuity" clause. It's clear that voters want to be consulted every 20 or 30 years about what is on the project list, as they have been by the previous two transportation tax measures.

The Alameda County **Transportation Commission** (ACTC) wanted the tax "in perpetuity" because state and federal funds are no longer reliable as a source for Bay Area public transportation. Haggerty, an ACTC member, said he agreed with that estimation, but said it will be important to keep the "in perpetuity" provision out of the ballot measure the next

CHARTER (continued from page one)

time to be successful.

tion and English Language Learners, demographics, suspension and expulsion, and fiscal issues.

"None of these are deal breakers," said Van Schaack. "In fact, several just require modifying the language in the petition. We can create a document that allows us to provide oversight, recognizing that this is an outstanding school, but that it still requires legal oversight."

Several trustees and audience members thanked District staff and TVLC for their work on the MOU. "I'm glad to see this MOU complete and I think it is good for our District and the charter school," said trustee Chuck Rogge. "The State hasn't given the Charter School the oversight it needs. In fact, many charter schools have been impacted by the lack of

oversight from the State." The TLVC Board intends to vote on the amended MOU at its meeting on Thursday, Nov. 29. A copy of the amended MOU is available on the District's website at www.livermoreschools.com.

(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. Abusive letters may be rejected or edited. Frequent letter writers may have publication of their letters delayed. Letters should be submitted by e-mail to editmail@compuserve.com.)

Good Neighbors David Hysom Livermore

I live in PalaSage, across the street from Livermore HS. I've lived here for several years, and understand your HS has a lot of athletic/ fundraising/ etc. events. I'd like to ask you this: could you please moderate your loudspeakers?

It's now 9:30 Friday night, and I have to get up early tomorrow for work. I've closed all my windows and my condo is very well insulated, but I still hear the announcer from your

game BOOMING through my house.

Quite frankly, this is not acceptable. I urge you to respect the surrounding community that supports Livermore High. Please moderate the volume.

NIF Ignition Jo Ann Frisch Livermore

At Livermore Lab's National Ignition Facility, the countdown went: 3, 2, 1... ignition (not), and maybe never.

The date set for NIF ignition was September 30, 2012. It didn't happen, continuing a series of missed ignition deadlines.

Now, some Lab scientists are saying maybe by 2015 ignition can be achieved. Other scientists say ignition at NIF is unlikely no matter how much time and money are thrown at the project.

There have been over 1,000 experiments at NIF and, still, no ignition. Not even close. If you count the money for NIF construction and related research and development, so far \$8 billion tax-dollars have been squandered.

An October 6, 2012 New York Times editorial notes "...experiments conducted so far have made it clear that the scientists in charge do not fully understand how the process is working... Congress will need to look hard at whether the [NIF] project should be continued, or

reduce federal spending." NIF's operating cost exceeds \$300 million a year. Can we afford to continue funding failure?

scrapped, or slowed to help

High Speed Rail Robert S. Allen, BART **Director** (1974-1988)

Drop talk of "Blended Rail" - HSR on Caltrain! With 43 grade crossings and many unprotected trackside station platforms, Caltrain tracks are far too dangerous for high speed trains.

Better, safer, and much less costly: HSR from Santa Clara via Mulford to Oakland and Sacramento, the route long used by Amtrak #11/14. Route CapCor this

way also. Grade separate, multitrack, and fence this UP line in stages.

Add an intermodal transfer station in Oakland, where BART crosses over the UP near I-880 and 7th Street. (BART trains from there run every few minutes to eight San Francisco and the many other Peninsula and East Bay stations.)

Prioritize BART around the Bay. Enlarge BART - or form a new 5-County agency - to: Complete BART construction now under way to Berryessa in San Jose; Re-do planning for extending that line further to Santa Clara; and Plan to grade separate and convert Millbrae-Santa Clara Caltrain to BART.

A plan balanced among the five counties would also extend BART to the Golden Gate and Carquinez Bridges, to Brentwood, and over the

Adjusted for inflation and the five-county population, a bond issue like that for BART in 1962 per capita would raise about \$16 billion today.



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Annual Election Period ends December 7, so RSVP today for one of our friendly, informational events to learn how one of our Medicare Advantage plans can be the perfect fit for you.

Fri. 11/30 • 10:00 AM

CareMore Care Center 4270 Rosewood Dr. Pleasanton

Wed. 12/05 • 10:30 AM

Hickory Pit 3064 Pacific Ave. Livermore

Mon. 12/03 • 10:00 AM

Campo Di Bocce 75 E. Vineyard Ave. Livermore

Thu. 12/06 • 10:00 AM

Coco's 7505 Dublin Blvd. Dublin

Mon. 12/03 • 1:00 PM

CareMore Care Center 4270 Rosewood Dr. Pleasanton

Fri. 12/07 • 10:00 AM

CareMore Care Center 4270 Rosewood Dr. Pleasanton

Tue. 12/04 • 11:00 AM

Girasole Grill 3180 Santa Rita Rd. Pleasanton

1-877-211-6614 (TTY users should call: 711)

Reference Code: TI 1129

8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m., 7 days a week. Se habla Español.



CareMore (HMO & HMO SNP) is a coordinated care plan with a Medicare contract. The benefit information provided is a brief summary, not a complete description of benefits. Limitations, copayments, and restrictions may apply. Benefits, formulary, pharmacy network, premium and/or copayments/coinsurance may change on January 1, of each year. You must continue to pay your Medicare Part B premium. This information is available for free in other languages. Please contact Member Services at 1-800-499-2793, TDD/TTY users should call 711. 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., 7 days a week (October 1 - February 14) and Monday - Friday (February 15 - September 30). Esta información también está disponible de forma gratuita en otros idiomas. Por favor llame al departamento de servicios para miembros al 1-800-499-2793 (los usuarios de TTY deben llamar al 711), de 8 a.m. a 8 p.m., 7 días a la semana de octubre 1 a febrero 14 y de 8 a.m. a 8 p.m. de lunes a viernes de febrero 15 a septiembre 30. For more information contact CareMore. A sales person will be present with information and applications. For accommodation of persons with special needs at sales meetings, call 1-800-499-2793; TTY users should call 711 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., 7 days a week (October 1 - February 14) and Monday - Friday (February 15 - September 30). *Free with no obligation while supplies last. Y0017_111237A CHP Accepted (12012012)

Now Is the Time to Prepare Projects for Science and Engineering Fair

The Alameda County Science and Engineering Fair (ACSEF) is getting ready for the 2nd annual countywide science fair for grades 6-12 students in Alameda County. The fair will be held Sat., March 9 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton.

Alameda County based home schooled, charter, private, parochial and public totaling close to \$50,000. school students in middle and high school are invited to participate in the upcoming event to showcase their STEM related projects.

Recognition for winners includes prize money, scholarships, internships, advancement to additional state, national and international fairs and other awards

funding for project materials for Title 1 schools and students on free or reduced lunch programs. Contact the

Don't have

project idea? No

fair director for details.

A grant from Lawrence

Livermore National Secu-

rity, LLC, ACSEF makes

it possible to provide some

alamedacountysef@gmail. com or go to their website for project resources http:// www.acsef.org. Two registration and ap-

problem! E-mail ACSEF

plication deadlines are com-1) Early registration and

application for projects using: Microbes, Human or Vertebrate Animal subjects or tissues, rDNA, or those working with continuation projects, lab grade chemicals, potentially hazardous devices or activities Students need to register online and send their project application proposal to AC-SEF for a pre-experimental safety check – by December 1st. Applications available on our website http://www.

If there is a problem in meeting the deadline, please email the director Patti Carothers at alamedacounty sef@gmail.com.

2) Regular online registration and application deadline for project types not dealing with those items mentioned previously is January 28, 2013.

NARAC to More Quickly Predict Haz Mat Releases

Security Administration (NNSA) recently sponsored the installation of a 336-processor computing cluster at the Lawrence

The National Nuclear Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) National Atmospheric Release Advisory Center (NARAC). This new cluster allows consequences predictions for hazardous

material releases to be completed approximately 50 times faster than with the previous cluster.

NARAC provides atmospheric modeling predictions and analysis to emergency managers and decision makers throughout the country. These predictions inform actions that may be warranted to protect the public and the environment in the event of a hazardous release.

Potential accident scenarios include releases from nuclear power plants as well as transport and fallout from nuclear detonations or radiological dispersal devices. In 2011, NARAC was extensively utilized by the U.S. government to model releases from the damaged Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant following the tragic earthquake and tsunami in Japan.

"I am very pleased to announce the completion of important hardware upgrades to the NARAC computing cluster," said Joseph Krol, Associate Administrator for Emergency Operations. "Lessons learned from the Fukushima response highlighted the importance of providing rapid atmospheric modeling products to a variety of users, from responders in Japan, to senior level policy makers in D.C. This strategic investment will allow us to continue to address all of their needs and advance this vital national

capability."

NARAC creates maps predicting the deposition of hazardous materials using current or forecast weather conditions and complex atmospheric transport and dispersion models, and refines initial predictions using field measurement data. For example, a 3-D calculation of radioactive material transported from Japan to the U.S. that required almost three hours of computer time can now be run in less than three minutes.

Additional software modifications are planned to provide results even faster in the future



Photo - Doug Jorgensen Mrs. Claus is pictured last year at Ravenswood Victorian festivities. This year's event is

set for Dec. 9. For information, see story on LARPD holiday events.

LARPD Has Variety of Holiday Events on the Calendar

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District. entertainment throughout December offers a mix of Holiday Happenings for all ages to enjoy.

 Breakfast with Santa at 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 8, at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ravenswood is located at Ave. This event is open to adults with children ages 10 and younger. Families can enjoy a delicious pan- a personal appearance at a cake breakfast, and children home, office or party with will have a chance to sit on Santa Visits. The jolly, red-Santa's lap and make a holiday craft. Pre-registration is required – no tickets will be sold at the door. Tickets are \$10 per person; everyone needs a ticket.

• Victorian Yuletide at Ravenswood Historic Site from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9. This free event opens the 1890s home for visitors to see all decked out for

the season. There will be the afternoon, buggy rides, drinks and desserts for sale, visits with St. Nicholas and a gift shop. This event is done in conjunction with Ravenswood Progress League. 2647 Arroyo Road. For more

details, call 925-443-0238. • Santa Claus can make suited man himself is available for 10-minute visits between 5:30 and 8:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 21; Saturday, Dec. 22; and Sunday, Dec. 23. Packages may be left on the porch for Santa to bring in and deliver directly to children. Visits are \$45 to Livermore addresses. Registration starts Monday. Dec. 3, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Robert Livermore Community Center on a first-come, first-served basis. Sign-ups will continue after Dec. 3 until slots are full.

 Seniors 55 and up and their families are invited to attend the Holiday Luncheon at noon on Friday, Dec. 14, with special entertainment from the Livermore High Chamber Chorale. Wear festive colors, make a holiday card and enjoy a relaxing tin potatoes, green salad, dessert and beverage. The luncheon is \$8 per person, and tickets must be purchased in advance by 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 6. Tickets are available at the Senior Services office at the Robert Livermore Community Center. For details, call 925-373-5760.

· Accomplish some giftbuying errands with the Holiday Shopping Fundraiser Boutique that benefits LARPD's Senior Services. The boutique features jewelry, candles, glass and wire works and more, plus free gift wrapping. It will run from 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 6, at the Robert Livermore Community Center.

• The Holiday Basketball Tournament is open to youth in third through sixth grades. Teams of boys and girls can sign up for \$225 a team to play in the double gymnasium at the Community Center. Third and fourth grades will play Dec. 14, 15 and 17; fifth and sixth grades will play Dec. 18 to 20. Each participant receives a T-shirt. Spectator admission is \$3 for adults; free for those under 18; snack bar will be open. To register, contact Mike Sa at 925-373-5733 or msa@ larpd.dst.ca.us.

• There's another opportunity to get into the holiday spirit - receive a personal message from the North Pole with Letters from Santa. Cost is \$3.50 per letter, and applications are available online or at the LARPD office starting Dec. 1. Deadline to request a letter is noon on Dec. 16.

For more information or to register for the Holiday Happenings, call 925-373-5700 or visit www.larpd. dst.ca.us.

Lawrence Livermore Nabugs in applications as well tional Laboratory (LLNL) as defects in system software researchers have used the and hardware have manifest-Stack Trace Analysis Tool (STAT), a highly scalable, lightweight tool to debug a program running more than one million MPI processes on the IBM Blue Gene/Q

Proves to Be Effective

(BGQ)-based Sequoia supercomputer.

The debugging tool is a significant milestone in LLNL's multi-year collaboration with the University of Wisconsin (UW), Madison and the University of New Mexico (UNM) to ensure

supercomputers run more efficiently. Playing a significant role in scaling up the Sequoia supercomputer, STAT, a 2011 R&D 100 Award winner, has helped both early integrators quickly isolate a

wide range of errors, includ-

ing particularly perplexing

issues that only manifested

at extremely large scales up

to 1,179,648 compute cores.

During the Sequoia scale-up,

ed themselves as failures in applications. It is important to quickly diagnose errors so they can be reported to experts who can analyze them in detail and ultimately solve the problem. "STAT has been indispensable in this capacity, helping the multi-disciplined

Bug Repellent for Supercomputers

integration team keep pace with the aggressive system scale-up schedule," said LLNL computer scientist Greg Lee.

"While testing a subsystem of Blue/Gene Q, my test program consistently failed only when scaled to 1,179,648 MPI processes. Although the test program was simple, the sheer scale access users and system at which this program ran made debugging efforts highly challenging. But Laboratory's Titan. when I applied STAT, it quickly revealed that one particular rank process was consistently stuck in a system call," said Dong Ahn, a tion strategies.

fornia English Language

Development Test (CELDT)

increases the success of

required. One involves

CELDT for students who

have been in the district less

than five years. The second

test is goven to those who

have been present more than

than five years, the require-

ment is 20 percent at profi-

ciency. Pleasanton students

exceeded that with 33 per-

For those present less

Two other tests are also

school districts.

five years.

computer scientist in Livermore Computing.

Based on this finding, a system expert took a close look at the compute core on which this rank process was running and discovered a hardware defect. "Replacing the component suddenly got the entire Sequoia system back to life," Ahn said. "Putting this exercise into perspective, this error was due to a defect in a tiny hardware unit, the decrementor, of a single hardware thread out of a total of 4.7 million hardware threads. I felt it was like finding a needle in a haystack over a coffee

Sequoia delivers 20 petaflops of peak power and was ranked No. 1 in June of this year's TOP500 list. It is currently ranked No. 2, behind Oak ridge National

The team is actively pursuing further optimization of STAT technologies and is exploring commercializa-

SPORTS NOTES

Pleasanton Rage

Pleasanton Rage U10 Black won their division in the Nor Cal Premier Soccer League state cup. Defeating their opponent on Saturday by a 3 on Sunday against the Piedmont Purple Comets. The game kept spectators in perpetual suspense until Rage Black connected passes to score in the last few minutes of the game. Final score 1 - 0.

Bocce Kits for Rent The Livermore Area Recreation

and Park District is making bocce ball kits available for rent to the public. Bocce ball kits can be checked out for a week at a time from the Robert

Livermore Community Center. The kits are available at the front counter from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Rental for one week is \$20, plus

a \$40 refundable deposit by credit card or cash - a total of \$60. The \$40 deposit is refundable if equipment is returned in good condition. Kits are rented on a first-come, first-served in advance. Rental of a bocce ball kit does not guarantee a bocce ball court

The Robert Livermore Community Center is located at 4444 East Ave., Livermore. Bothwell Park is located at 2466 Eighth St., Livermore. For more information, call 925-373-5700.

Girls Softball

christine.t@pleasantonsoftball.org.

PGSL Player Evaluations: Play-

PGSL Registration: 2013 Registration is now open for all divisions in the Pleasanton Phantom Girls Softball League. All girls in grades K-12 living in Pleasanton, Dublin and Sunol are eligible to play. Two ways to register 1) Online - visit our website at www pleasantonsoftball.org; 2) By check & oostal mail - Download a registration form on the league website and mail to PGSL, P.O. Box 911, Pleasanton, CA 94566. For more information or questions, email Christine Tanis at

ers Evaluations will be held December 8-9, 2012, for all players in grades 3-8 No prior experience required. Exact times and location are to be determined and will be published on the PGSL website (www.pleasantonsoftball. org). Remember to register by December 1, 2012 to avoid the late fee.

LGSA Registration: Livermore Girls Softball Association welcomes all Livermore girls aged 5-18 to register for the Spring 2013 Recreational season. No experience necessary. Register online at www.Livermore GirlsSoftball.org or check the web site for the time and location of our next walk-in registration event. Email registration@LivermoreGirlsSoftball. org or call 925-556-5259 for more information. Register by December 31 to avoid a late fee.

LNLL Registration

Livermore National Little League registration will be held on Dec. 12th at Mountain Mikes Pizza on 1st St from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

LHS Soccer Camp

Livermore High School Girls Soccer Program invites boys and girls ages 6-14 to participate in a socer camp on Saturday, December 1, 2012 at the Livermore High School Football/Soccer Field. Price of camp \$40 and includes a T-shirt.

This camp promotes soccer develment through warm up and technical drills as well as fun games to increase skill and understanding of the game in an enjoyable and positive atmosphere Camp will begin at 10:30a.m., end at 2:00p.m. and will be run by the Senior Varsity players with the support of the high school Varsity, JV, and Freshmar

coaches.
At 5:00p.m., the LHS Girls' Varsity Soccer team will play against Dublin High School. All participants cheer on the players that coached

Go to www.cowboyboosters.org for more information and participa tion forms.

Pleasanton Schools Catch Up, **Meet English Learner Goals** The Pleasanton school

district has met all of the AMAOs (Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives) for English Learners in the district.

In previous years, not all of the goals were met, said superintendent Parvin Ahmadi.

This year, the district surpassed required goals in all three required tests. The state Department of Education confirmed the results to the district earlier this

month. Districts are required to ensure that all English Learners (ELs) gain one level of proficiency in learning English each year. Typically, a non-native speaker can learn sufficient oral English in a year or two. Mastering writting in English is more likely to take five to seven years, said Ahmadi.

The goals set for the district concerning achievement

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on the English Language cent of them reaching pro-Development Test was for ficiency. For those in the district 56 percent of all ELs to more than five years, the make the required progress. Some 73 percent achieved goal was 45 percent. The that one-year goal. The Cali-

achievement was 56 per-The third goal is for ELs to meet their Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) targets for the No Child Left Behind Act in both English Lan-

guage Arts and math. The ELs met those targets. "I'm very proud of our teachers, students, and principals for working so hard the last couple of years, especially this last year, to make sure our English Learners are proficient, and make the required growth,"

PROSTHETICS & ORTHOTICS, Inc. Richard Sire, C.P.O.

said Ahmadi.

Call (925) 484-6400 For Free Evaluation

www.DiabloPandO.com

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SHORT NOTES

Holiday Faire

The City of Dublin is preparing for the holiday season with the Holiday Faire at the Heritage Park and Museums on Saturday, December 1 from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. The event will offer families a festive afternoon full of holiday cheer.

Old St. Nick will arrive on a jingle-bell wagon promptly at 12:00 p.m. Families will have the opportunity to visit with St. Nick and take photos throughout the day.

Visitors will experience a rustic holiday outing while shopping for handmade gifts and making traditional holiday crafts. The Merrie Olde Christmas Carolers, dressed in Victorian costume, will perform traditional carols throughout the park.

Guests are also encouraged to tour the 1910 Kolb House which will be decorated for "A Farm Christmas Morning" and the 1850's Murray Schoolhouse.

General admission to Heritage Park and the Holiday Faire is free. The Faire includes both free and paid activities. Wristbands for the Faire activities can be

purchased at the event for \$5, and includes a jingle-bell wagon ride, holiday craft making, and tours of the Murray Schoolhouse and Kolb House Museums.

The Holiday Faire is a program of the City of Dublin's Parks and Community Services Department. For more information, call (925) 556-4500.

Duct Tape Crafts

Duct tape crafts for tweens and teens will be offered on Wednesday, December 5, 2012 at the Livermore Library.

Livermore tweens and teens in grades 3 through 8 are invited to make Holly Jolly Duct Tape Crafts for the holidays. This free program runs from 3:00pm to 4:30pm in the Storytime Room of the Civic Center Library, 1188 South Livermore Avenue, Livermore.

Participants will make bracelets, rings, wallets and much more with a variety of colorful seasonal duct tape. The library supplies the instruction, duct tape and gift wrap, participants supply imagination.

Registration is required for this event. To register please contact Youth Services at (925) 373-5504. For more information contact Sandy at 925-373-5500 ext. 5583, or consult the Library's website: www. livermorelibrary.net.

Cash Mobs in Pleasanton

Downtown Pleasanton's new shopping initiative, Cash Mobs, will return on January 16 and will continue throughout 2013 at 6 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month. In the new year, all Cash Mob participants will be entered into a monthly drawing to win downtown gift cards, accepted at more than 100 downtown busi-

Cash Mobs are popping up throughout the country as a way to encourage consumers to shop at local, independently-owned retail establishments and thereby strengthen the local economy. Laura Olson, Executive Director of the Pleasanton Downtown Association, said "Cash Mobs will give us all an opportunity to have a measurable through March 2013, in the impact on the businesses in our downtown."

A Cash Mob is like a Flash Mob, but instead of singing, dancing or rioting, Cash Mobbers join together and each spend \$20 (or more!) at a local business.

Anyone interested in participating in the Cash Mob should meet PDA staff members in front of the Museum on Main (603 Main Street) at 6 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month. The PDA will then announce the business selected by random draw for the Cash Mob.

For more information please visit the PDA's Facebook page or call the PDA at (925) 484-2199.

Book Club for Kids

The Livermore Public Library invites second and third graders to join Mr. Jonathan Hamilton for an afternoon of reading, book discussion and fun at the Civic Center Library, 1188 South Livermore Avenue, Livermore. This free book club will meet from 4:00pm to 5:00pm, the second Wednesday of each month Storytime Room.

On the first club meeting, Mr. Hamilton will present several books for nomination. Book club participants will decide which book to read as a group. Each participant will obtain a copy of the chosen book and then read it.

Registration is required. To register for this program or for more information, please contact the Youth Services Desk at 373-5504, or visit the Library's website located at www. livermorelibrary.net.

Winter Camp

The Tri-Valley YMCA will hold winter camp for

K-12th graders. Two sessions are planned with crazy crafts, snowball fights, the winter Olympics,

field trips and more. The first session is Dec. 26, 27 and 28; the second on January 2, 3 and 4. Hours are 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The camp will be held at 6693 Sierra Lane #F,

For registration information, go to www.trivalleyymca.org.

A Crime Prevention Seminar to Be Presented at Hindu Temple

The Hindu Community and Cultural Center will host a crime prevention seminar presented by the Livermore Police Department from 1 to 3 p.m. on Sat., Dec. 8.

The information will cover general, personal, vehicle and residential safety.

The presentation will take place at the Temple

Event Hall, Shiva-Vishnu Temple, 1232 Arrowhead Avenue.

For more information please contact Suman Jain at suman1218@yahoo.com or call the temple at 925-449-6255. Information can be found at www.livermoretemple.org

Wish you could see even more photos of local events in our Valley?







Our photographer, Doug Jorgensen, takes more photos each week than we can fit into our Print Edition.

Fortunately, you can see many of these additional photos featured each week on our website www.independentnews.com. Photo series rotate throughout the week, so you'll want to visit more than once each week to see all the expanded content!

To easily keep up on the rotating content, we've created a facebook page where we link to the new photo series after they appear on the site. You can "Like" us on Facebook to receive notification of new photo series or featured articles.

We hope this gives you a taste of the many WEB ONLY photos that you can see at www.independentnews.com



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DINNERS

Livermore is unusual in being a relatively small district, with 12,664 students, to institute the dinner program. However, the district wanted to respond to the perceived need. Many students are in after-school programs, and are present until 6 p.m., so it's important to feed them then, too, said Lee.

Some students might not find a dinner at home, added Lee. "It's a meal they really need, so they can concentrate on their studies, and not worry about how mom or dad will get food into the kitchen.

The federal government, through the USDA, sets standards on eligibility for free and reduced lunches. For a free meal for someone from a family of four, the cutoff line is a family income of \$29,965. For a reduced lunch, it is \$42,643, which is 185 percent of the poverty line as set by the federal government. The standard applies to all 48 contiguous states

BŘEAKFASTS LAG BEHIND LUNCHES

The participation rate in Livermore and Pleasanton in the free and reduced price lunch program is higher than the county and state averages, according to the California Food Policy Advocates (CFPA), which maintains offices in Oakland and Los Angeles.

The countywide average

69 percent, said the CFPA. Livermore's participation rate is 74 percent of the total 3266 students eligible, according to figures for the 2010-11 school year. Pleasanton listed 76 percent lunch participation out of 1000 eligible students.

Statistics for the breakfast program were much lower. Livermore's participation rate was 11 percent. Pleasanton's was 19 percent. That compares to a 22 percent average for the county and 30 percent for the state.

CNFA is urging school districts to increase their involvement in the breakfast program. Not only is it an important meal, but districts are leaving U.S. Department of Agriculture money on the table, said Markell Lewis, nutrition policy advocate at CFPA.

CFPA estimated that Livermore could pick up as much as \$637,000 for breakfasts, with full participation. Pleasanton would be able to receive \$145,000 more.

However, there are blocks in the way of obtaining the money. The subsidies offered by the USDA may cover food cost, but they don't pay for the overhead or labor, said both Lee and Pleasanton superintendent Parvin Ahmadi.

Pleasanton's breakfast participation statistics reflect the fact that only the high for subsidized lunches is schools and middle schools

64 percent; statewide it is participate. They are able to do so, because the bell schedules are such that there is a very short period in the morning where students can take a break and eat.

There is no such flexibility in the elementary school schedule. However, the district is looking at ways to see what might be done. Currently, if there are hungry children at breakfast time. the office staff and principals know who they are. Breakfast bars, milk and fruit are available, said Ahamdi.

Lee said there are practical constraints that keep breakfast participation low. Some students are slow to wake up, and they skip breakfast. By the time the school day is underway, they are hungry, but it's too late for a formal breakfast.

Junction Avenue is a K-8 school. The schedule is flexible enough to offer breakfast at that site. However, the PTA at another site asked Lee to start a breakfast program there. It started off well, but tapered off, despite the fact that parents helped with the publicity.

Lee tries to promote meals and good nutrition with information posted in the cafeteria. The four basic food groups make up each meal. That's a condition for school districts now if they expect to receive full reimbursement on free and reduced lunches.



The sun shining through vines created a pattern of shadow and light.

(continued from page one)

motion to have that suit dismissed. Alameda County Superior Court judge Frank Roesch ruled in favor of the dismissal motion last year, but the retirees appealed.

The appeal was heard by a three-justice panel led by Barbara Jones. Two of the three justices said that Roesch erred in agreeing with the University's motion. They also found arguments set forth by Joseph Quinn, the contract attorney representing UC, to be unjustified and at times annoying, according to news reports from the hearing.

A particular complaint was that Quinn was trying to verify and reinforce factual details of the case at an inappropriate stage in the legal proceedings. They reminded him that the standard of review at the demurrer stage does not call for fact-finding.

(continued from page one)

outside. That money goes

into a county pool. Pleasanton received \$80,000. Councilmember Jerry Thorne suggested that the

city be aware of the impact the new Paragon Outlets in Livermore is having on sales Wagner said, "We are

especially concerned about Paragon. We are starting to look at the impact.'

Pleasanton has a healthy reserve, reported Wagner. The total is over \$25 million with \$8.9 million set aside for economic uncertainty and just over \$11 million in a temporary recession reserve. The remaining funds are unassigned or in a reserve for golf debt service payments.

The three-judge panel has 90 days to render its final decision.

After the hearing, Joe Requa, head of the retirees group, commented in an email that the justices seemed "well prepared and understood the issues." His "best guess" is that the UC motion for dismissal, called a demurrer, will be rejected.

Assuming he is correct, the legal proceeding then enters the "discovery" phase, in which the University may be required to search its files and turn over records bearing on retiree claims of an implicit contract to provide health benefits in

At stake for Livermore Lab retirees is the quality of health care under the Laboratory's present, for-profit management system, which many retirees have said they find more complicated, less reliable and in many cases more expensive than UC's.

While some retirees pay no more than before, Requa has said that his medical premiums have risen from \$75 to nearly \$600 per month.

In addition, UC was widely recognized as a benign employer that looked out for its employees even after retirement. By contrast, many retirees say they find the Laboratory's present management to be indifferent and at times hostile to their interests.

For example, a Laboratory employee organization threatened to punish the Retirees Association by seizing its funds last year when the Association took active steps to learn more about health plan changes and to counsel distant or disabled retirees.

The Retirees Association is independent of the retiree group that organized to sue UC over health care.

Beyond retiree health care plans, the suit against UC also parallels some other legal actions in the public sector. Just one year ago, in a case involving Orange County retirees, the California Supreme Court ruled that an implicit contract may exist requiring a public agency to continue providing benefits to its retirees even when there is no written document explicitly promising the

The ruling encouraged attorneys for the Livermore retirees to believe that their suit had an increased chance

An attorney for the Orange County retiree case, Ernest Galvan, was also optimistic about the retiree group's chances. He told one reporter that the Lab retirees should be able to prove that the UC Regents intended to provide health benefits for them in retirement.

The cost of continuing the suit remains a challenge for the retirees. The appeal reported added \$75,000 in legal fees on top of a \$150,000 payment already spent on the case. The group has raised tens of thousands of dollars to support legal action to date, but it will soon need more. In an email. Requa announced a new fund-raising drive.

Donations may be made to: UCLRG Legal Defense Fund, 1141 Xavier Way, Livermore 94550. UCLRG, for University of California Livermore Retiree Group, is a non-profit organization recognized by the IRS, so donations are tax deduct-

Springtown Residents Suggesting Sound Wall for New Toyota Dealer

A few residents of Creekside Villas in Springtown have watched the land being cleared for a new Toyota dealership just south of them on North Vasco Road along Interstate 580. There is a park located just opposite the dealership.

They say they might want to see construction of a sound wall to screen off their properties and the park from noise and lights from the operation.

Homeowner Roger Runsvold acknowledges it may be too late to change things. However, he and a few neighbors that he contacted via e-mail want to explore the possibilities.

Runsvold lives in the middle of the condominium development, so it's not a matter of having his view affected by the Toyota agency. However, he is concerned that without good screening, property values on the whole development could

The values already have gone down, because of the economy's impact on homeowners, said Runsvold. He and a neighbor, Rob Peterson, who does have a view of the car lot area, said that earlier prices for units in their development typically were around \$400,000 or \$500,000, depending on house size. Now some are selling in the \$200,000s, they said.

Runsvold doesn't want to see values plummet further. He said the homeowners have no control over the economy, but can do something about the park. However, it's not clear exactly what might be done.

Runsvold said he would prefer a sound wall. Peterson agrees with him. They are aware that homeowners earlier rejected a sound wall. because it could become covered with graffiti or suffer other vandalism. Neither thinks that graffiti would necessarily be a problem at that location.

Another homeowner, Rob Tanner, said he is not so sure which would be a good way to go. Tanner, Runsvold and Peterson and a fourth neighbor met with Livermore planning manager Paul spence at the site on the day before Thanksgiving.

Tanner said that he learned then about the discussions in 2008 concerning a sound wall and the graffiti potential. "If there were graffiti, it's a valid concern. I don't particularly know (which is better). What would ultimately help the value of the homes in the long run is the question,' said Tanner.

'Graffiti is something the city would be responsible of taking care of as it happens,"

said Tanner.

Peterson said, "I can't picture graffiti happening there. When you get closer to I-580 (near north Vasco Road) there is a sound wall. There is nothing on either side to keep kids from spray painting there.'

The city dealt with the objections of residents when it set conditions on the dealership property, said Spence. It required that the site design would use the buildings themselves as a screen from I-580 noise and views. It required Toyota to reorient the service building so the doors did not face the condos. The city also set rules about

lights, and loudspeakers. To screen the site from homes and to deal with concern about graffiti on a sound wall, the city established a requirement for a two-foot wall, with four feet of wrought from on top of it. Trees would be planted along the line, said Spence.

Runsvold acknowledged that, but said he thought it would take 10 years for the trees to be mature enough for screening. A taller wall would be much better, he

Meanwhile, both Spence and Runsvold will get in touch with the dealership's representative to see what might be done. Any action would be voluntary on the

part of the dealer. **Pleasanton Sets Definitions for Ridgeline Protections**

The Pleasanton City Council approved definitions for provisions in Measure PP to provide clearer direction for future development proposals this week.

The vote was unani-

Pleasanton voters approved Measure PP in November 2008. Under the measure, no grading to construct residential or commercial structures could occur on hillside slopes 25% or greater, or within 200 vertical feet of a ridgeline. The staff provided definitions on what constitutes a slope of 25 percent and how they are to be measured. There is also a definition of where measurements would end when determining the 100 vertical distance.

Exempt from the policies are housing developments of 10 or fewer housing units on a single property that was

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Kristine M. Buckley, MS, L.Ac.

in existance as of January 1, 2007.

Not mentioned in the measure were the fate of roads and streets and of manmade slopes of 25 percent or greater. The question regarding roads was whether they counted as structures. The issue of man-made slopes was not addressed in the measure.

The council approved a method to determine how to measure the steepness of slopes. The 25-percent slope will be calculated as a specific value based on the distance between contour lines on a topographic map. The contour lines will be two feet apart. The steepness of a slope is indicated by the spacing of circuit lines. Lines closer together indicate a steeper slope. One difference from staff recommendation was the wording that prohibits the use of

weighted incremental slope measurement, which would provide an average slope over the property.

The method to determine where to measure the end of a ridge in order to determine the 100 vertical foot distance would be dictated by where a ridge ends. The council chose to define the end of a ridge and where to begin measuring the 100 foot setback as when it starts to go down.

Speakers pointed out that neither roads nor man-made slopes are specifically exempted from adhering to the provisions in the measure.

Kay Ayala one of the sponsors of Measure PP said that she thought the staff had done a good job in making its recommendations. She asked for the inclusion of a provision to exempt approvals of PUDs and specific plans approved prior to Nov.

2008. The council agreed to

do so. The council agreed with the staff option that determined that streets and/or roads and their attendant infrastructure are structures in that they are physical improvements on the property intended to accommodate development and are covered by Measure PP.

Man-made slopes are not exempt from Measure PP provisions. However, a review of proposals would be permitted on a case-bycase basis. One example of a property that may be exempt is located at the corner of Dublin Canyon Road and Foothill Road where the slopes were created when the road was widened.

Staff will come back at a future meeting with an ordinance that will be adopted as part of the city's







Holiday Classics Coming in December: ELF, A CHRISTMAS STORY WHITE CHRISTMAS IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

HITCHCOCK coming 12/14 Lincoln & The Life of Pi coming soon

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EARLY OSCAR FAVORITE FOR BEST PICTURE

FRI-SUN: 1:30 4:15 7:00 9:15 THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW

Foundation Has Plans for Fundraising Event in 2013

Francisco East Bay's Mardi Gras event of the year. Enjoy music, dancing, dinner, beads, live auctions, and more on Friday, March 8, 2013, 6:30 to 11 p.m. at the

Ragin' Cajun is the San Palm Event Center, 1184 Vineyard Avenue, Pleasanton.

Ragin' Cajun is the annual fundraiser event for the Sandra J Wing Healing Therapies Foundation,

which provides cancer patients in the East Bay Tri-Valley area with financial assistance for complementary healing services during the course of their chemo and/or radiation therapy that are not

son, Steven Dwight Harrison

of Federal Heights, CO;

daughter and son-in-law,

Marilyn Mihaly and Ed-

ward Mihaly of Seattle, WA;

daughter and son-in-law, Su-

san Kay Harrison and John

Buginas of Modesto, CA;

and daughter and son-in-law,

Sally Ann Schleiger and

Steve Schleiger of Tracy,

CA. She is also survived by

nine grandchildren and four

memorial. In lieu of flow-

ers, please send donations

to Community Hospice,

4368 Spyers Way, Modesto,

CA, 95356 or a charity of

Helen Lorraine Zaro

Helen

was born

to George

and Lena

Smith on

November

3, 1925.

She was

prede-

ceased by

her hus-

band of 39

passed away November 11,

2012 after a brief hospital

stay. No funeral services

years, Angelo "Bumby"

Zaro, siblings Herman

Smith, Norman Smith and

Lois Borlandelli, and niece

Nancy Smith. She is sur-

vived by her daughter and

son-in-law, Carol and Da-

vid Jensen, grandson Peter

and his wife Allison, and

great-grandchildren Alyssa,

Ashley, and Emma, as well

as numerous nieces and

nephews from California

Helen graduated from

San Ramon Valley High

School in Danville. She in-

jured her left leg in an auto-

mobile accident at the tender

age of three but was neither

coddled by her mother nor

allowed to feel she was

any different because of it.

She continued to shadow

her older brother Herman

throughout the hills, streams

and creeks of Danville and

San Ramon, enjoying her

Francisco after graduation

to attend Heald Business

School and quickly made

lifetime friends with several

girls in the women's resi-

dence where she lived. She

moved with her first hus-

band, Walter, to Livermore

in 1957, where she spent the

rest of her life. She later met

bered as a good friend whose

generosity extended to all

those around her. She was a

devoted mother and wife and

a terrific cook who will for-

ever be remembered for her

delicious pies and cookies,

as well as her home-canned

vited to share their memories

of Helen at a celebration at

her home on Friday, Novem-

ber 30, 2012, from 10 a.m. to

2 p.m. In lieu of flowers, the

family requests donations

to Shepherd's Gate, 1660

Portola Avenue, Livermore,

CA 94551, or to a charity of

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laghan Mortuary.

Family and friends are in-

jams and jellies.

Helen will be remem-

and married Bumby.

Helen moved to San

childhood.

and Montana.

were held per her request.

Helen Lorraine Zaro

Resident of Livermore

There will be a private

great grandchildren.

choice.

covered by insurance. Tickets are available online at http://www.healingtherapies foundation.org or by calling (866) 862-7270.

Please contact the Foundation if interested in sponsorship information or can donate a prize for the auc-

The Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation is a 100% volunteer organization. The Foundation

provides funds so that cancer patients can experience the immediate benefit of complementary therapies to help alleviate the side effects caused by cancer treatments.

OBITUARIES

Nicholas James Chakakis

Nicholas James Cha-kakis was born on December 6, 1923 in Hanna, Wyoming.



the son of Greek immigrants James a n d Athena (Kotsifakis) Tsakakis Nick

He was

graduated from Reliance High School in Reliance, Wyoming in 1940.

He was a veteran of World War II serving as a Chief Petty Officer in the US Navy assigned to the Atlantic theater from 1943-1946. In 1948 he received his BS degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Wyoming, and worked briefly in the coal mining industry. He was then called back to service in the Korean War from 1951-1952

In 1954 he married Clara Mazanakis, his wife of 59 years and in 1956 they moved to Livermore, California when Nick took a position as an Electrical Engineer with the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory: he worked for 32 years at the Lab until his retirement in 1987. In 1972, he gained scientific notoriety as the engineer in charge of an archeological project under the direction of Dr. Luis Alvarez in conjunction with the University of California, Berkeley. This joint Egyptian-American project hoped to identify undiscovered burial chambers in the Chephfren pyramid in Giza, and was one of the first to utilize computers for archeological exploration.

Nick was an avid pinochle player, dabbled in winemaking, and was a 65-year member of the Order of Elks fraternal organization.

Nick passed away on November 15, 2012. He was preceded in death by his wife, who died in January this year. He is survived by his four daughters: Athena, Mary, Christine and Antonia and their families that include seven grandchildren, and three great grandchildren. He was much loved.

Memorial services were held November 23, 2012 at the Greek Orthodox Church of the Resurrection in Castro Valley. Funeral services followed on November 24, 2012 at the church. Memorial donations can be made to the Greek Orthodox Church of the Resurrection.

Arrangements are by Callaghan Mortuary.

Frederick L. Zimmerman

11/21/1943 - 11/11/2012

Fred lost his brief battle with cancer at the age of 68. A car lover since an early age, he was a president of the Danville Dukes and a member of the Goodguys. Fred was born in Russell, KS and graduated from Russell High School in

He worked with his dad at the Sky Vu Drive-In while attending Fort Hays State college in Hays, Ks. After college Fred moved to Denver and worked for Western Electric (AT&T). In 1985 he was relocated to

Pleasanton, CA. After retiring with 36 years at AT&T, Fred became the book store manager at Blackhawk Automotive Museum.

He was preceded in death by his father, Dean Zimmerman. Fred is survived by his wife, Artie of Livermore, CA; mother, Helen Zimmerman of Littleton, CO; daughter, Angela (Mark) Drouhard, Mead, CO; stepsons, Tom Denny (Tina), TX, Scott Hassan (Kelly), (NE); sisters, Gwen Gustafson (Ken), Aurora, CO, Mitzi Stambaugh (Leo), Littleton, CO; ten grandchildren, five great grandkids, many nieces/nephews, cousins, plus a

multitude of friends. Services will be held at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, Dec 1, First Presbyterian Church, 1609 W. Littleton Blvd., Littleton, CO. In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Cancer society or charity of choice.

Evan Gushue

Resident of Livermore

May 20, 1990 - Nov. 14, 2012 Our beloved son, Evan Gushue, who was loved by all and enjoyed music and friendship, passed away on November 14, 2012.

Evan is survived by his father Craig Gushue, mother Julianna Rowe, stepfather Jeffrey Rowe, little brother Nathan Rowe, sisters Kellie Gushue and Olivia Rowe. Rest in Peace, Evan, we will miss you very much and love you very, very much. Goodbye friend and son.

Arrangements are by Callaghan Mortuary.

Phyllis Marie Harrison





Phyllis Marie Harrison, a resident of Livermore for over 70 years, passed away November 8, 2012, at age 89. She was born on March 17, 1923, in Pleasanton, CA. As a child, she moved to Livermore with her parents, Jack and Elvira Silva, where she went to Livermore High School, graduating in 1940.

Phyllis met and married Herbert Harrison in 1938. In 1942 Phyllis worked at Cresta Blanca Winery. While Herb served two tours of duty in Hawaii during WWII, Phyllis worked at the US Naval Hospital at Camp Parks from 1943 until it was decommissioned in 1946. Phyllis also had jobs at the Fuseworks and as a meat wrapper at the original Safeway store on First Street. She completed her working life at the Lawrence Livermore National Labora-

tory, retiring in 1990. Phyllis and Herb built their family home, next door to her parents, on Maple St. in 1950. They built the block walls together and Phyllis loved to tell stories of their endeavors. They enjoyed socializing with their friends and when Herb became Postmaster, they looked forward to the monthly Postmasters meetings where Phyllis was well-known for her joketelling. Phyllis' wonderful jokes and sense of humor will be a warm memory for

everyone who knew her. Phyllis is survived by her

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Lacerial C. Pearson Resident of Livermore

Sept. 30, 1929-Nov. 20, 2012 Lacerial C. Pearson

(fondly known to family and friends as Huss, Pearson, and LC) was



born on September 30, 1929 to Benjamin H. Pearson and Annie Mae MacArthur-

Pearson in Theodore, Alabama. He was the oldest of 12 siblings. As little boys, Lacerial and his brother, Frank aspired to be a truck driver and a mechanic. Using kitchen chairs and boxes from the cupboard, they would often pretend to be driving trucks as they played around the house. They each achieved their childhood aspiration. Lacerial confessed his hope in Christ and was baptized at the age of 14 at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Pine Hollow near the town of Checotah, Oklahoma. He would lead his siblings in song with the old hymn, "Nobody Knows, Nobody Cares," singing "Nobody knows, nobody cares, my heavy burden nobody shares, my only comfort, my only stay, Jesus walked by my side all the way." He spent many of his teenage years in Boynton, Oklahoma, where

he attended high school. As a career Service Man for 20 years in the US Army, Lacerial traveled the world. He received a "Purple Heart" for his services in the Korean War; and achieved a ranking of Sergeant 1st Class, receiving many awards and acknowledgments. While in the military he joined the Scottish Rights Masonic Organization. He was also a Military Instructor at The School of the Americas in Panama. He received an Honorable Discharge in 1968

After retiring from the military, he worked as a Driver for the US Postal Service in Oakland California, which led to his career as a long distance truck driver. He traveled throughout the United States and Canada. He worked for several large trucking companies including Mayflower and Global, before establishing his own trucking company, Pearson Trucking.

He and his wife, Opaline (Joni) Pearson (deceased), resided in Panama, Denver, Stockton, and Oakland before settling in Livermore, California in 1971. They enjoyed a long union together and lived life to the fullest. They enjoyed hosting gatherings with friends and family. They also both adored their children and grandchildren. Lacerial enjoyed fishing and also loved recreational driving and taking his family on outings around town and long distance road trips. He had a love of life and family and was responsible for many relatives reuniting from several different states.

He is survived by sons, Frank Augustus Pearson of Stockton, California, Robert Lacerial Pearson of Livermore, California;

daughters, Barbara Anne Smith of Texas, and Tashenia Pearson of Livermore. California; grandchildren: Larecha Duncan, Robert L. Pearson, Jr., Emil J. Brown; four brothers: Abraham Johnson, James Johnson and Alex Johnson of Houston, Texas; Andrew Johnson of Pensacola, Florida; and five sisters: Fauntilla Pearson-Miller of Boynton, Oklahoma, Delphia (Daisy) Pearson-Presley of San Jose, California, Corene Pearson-Cato of Henderson, Nevada, Bernice Johnson-Williams of Houston, Texas and Isabel Johnson-Williams of Pensacola, Florida, He also leaves many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. He was preceded in death by his wife of 47 years, Opaline (Joni) Pearson; father, Benjamin H. Pearson (who left this earth just 2 months shy of his 106th birthday); mother, Annie Mae.

Funeral Services were held on Wed., Nov. 28 at St. Matthews Baptist Church, final resting place at Roselawn Cemetery in Livermore, CA.

Arrangements were by Callaghan Mortuary.

Ruth Holsen

Ruth Holsen passed away peacefully November 11, 2012 at ValleyCare Medical Center in Pleasanton. She was surrounded by her family. She was 86 years old.

Ruth was born June 23, 1926 in Kewaunee, Wisconsin to Henry and Barbara Hunsader. She was one of ten children.

Ruth left her family's farm when she married her husband Ken in 1956. They moved to California in 1963 where they settled in Danville until Ken's death last

Ruth was an accomplished seamstress and enjoyed fashion, home decorating, cooking, gardening and socializing at her favorite restaurants. She was a very devoted member of St. Isidore's Catholic Church and spent many hours praying for others. She is survived by her 4 children and their spouses; sons Chad and Tom of Livermore, daughters Sue Ferguson of Washington, and Lisa Fazzio of Castro Valley, 8 grandchildren, 1 great-grandchild and 5 brothers and sisters.

A service will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, November 30 at St. Isidore's Catholic Church (440 La Gonda Way, Danville). A gathering to celebrate her life will follow across the street at the church hall.

Mary Agnes Lanza

Resident of Fremont Dec. 24, 1941 - Nov. 21, 2012 Long time resident of Fremont, Mary Agnes Lanza passed away peacefully at the home of her youngest son, Joseph Lanza on November 21, 2012. Mary was born to Michael and Loretta Aleman on December 24, 1941. Mary was a home-

Mary was a devoted wife to Karl Lanza for 44 years until his death in 2009. She was a devoted and loving

maker.

mother to Michael (Ann) and Joseph Lanza. Loving grandmother to Loren Johnson, Alyssa and Kayla Lanza & Nathaniel Marlin; great grandmother to Daniella Marie Johnson; beloved sister to Shirley Giudice.

Friends and family are welcome to come and visit with Mary on Thursday, November 29, 2012 from 10-11am, with a Chapel Blessing Service at 11AM at Callaghan Mortuary 3833 East Ave, Livermore. Burial to follow at Memory Gardens Cemetery 3873 East Ave, Livermore.

In lieu of flowers the family respectfully requests memorial donations in Mary's name be made to The American Lung Association, American Lung Association National Headquarters 1301 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Suite 800. Washington DC 20004.

Robert Henry Lucas

Robert Henry Lucas of Livermore passed away on Nov. 4, 2012. He was born on Oct. 20, 1950 in Chicago,

He attended Sunnyhills High School in Fullerton, CA and graduated from Granada High School in Livermore. He studied at the San Francisco Culinary Academy and became a chef. He worked at various places until he became the chef at the Holiday Inn in Livermore, then at the Holiday Inn in Oakland. He later became a meat broker for Valley Meat Company in Modesto and then became a project manager at the Alliance Group in Dublin.

He is survived by his mother, Eleanor Lucas of Livermore, his aunt Jean Gilbert, his sister Katie Sodermark, son Paul Lucas, grandchildren Krystal and Rachael Lucas. He was preceded in death by his father, Henry Lucas.

Family and friends are invited to gather on Fri., Dec. 14 services at 11 a.m. at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1020 Mocho Street, Livermore. A reception will follow the service.

Obituary/ **Memoriam Policies**

Obituaries are published in The Independent at no charge

> There is a small charge for photographs in the obituaries.

Memoriam ads can also be placed in The Independent when families want to honor the memories of their loved ones.

There is a charge for memoriam ads, based on the size of the ad.

Please send an email to

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Students Took Part in Back to School Kick Off in Livermore

More than 1,200 Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) employees "kicked off" the 2012-2013 school year on Oct. 3 with an event that brought employees from all levels and sites together for the third year to focus for the school year.

The Back-To-School Kickoff, which took place at the Robert Livermore Community Center, began with a "meet and greet" and a performance by the Arroyo Seco Elementary School Bell Choir. Opening welcome and remarks by Superintendent of Schools Kelly Bowers were focused on the District's four theme words, inform, include, innovate and inspire.

In addition to the Bell Choir, students from across the District were showcased during the event. Student artwork was displayed throughout the room. There was a performance of Tuimbe (Let *There Be Music*) by the K-12 Choir Ensemble directed by teachers Kathy Boster and Joanne Fosselman. Groups of Pre-K thru Adult Education students were featured in "Acclaiming the Arts! Visual and Performing Arts through the Years," displaying the accomplishments in Visual and Performing Arts.

Students featured included: Taylor Graham, Croce Elementary School, Kinder Readiness; Memphis Cook, Altamont Creek Elementary School, Transitional Kinder; Anna Van Essen, Michell K-8 School, Transitional Kinder; Ava Leseur, Smith Elementary School, Kindergarten;

Amber Belk, Jackson Avenue Elementary School, First Grade; Rodrigo Salazar Marylin Avenue Elementary School, Second Grade; Valeria Bonfil, Michell K-8 School, Third Grade; Kami Teruya, Rancho Elementary School, Fourth Grade; Raven Jones, Arroyo Seco Elementary School, Fourth Grade; Josiah Knight, Sunset Elementary School. Fifth Grade; Morgan Frazer, Christensen Middle School, Sixth Grade; Juan Fernandez, Junction K-8 School, Seventh Grade:

Jack Turner, Junction K-8 School, Seventh Grade; Christian Webb, East Avenue Middle School, Seventh Grade; Leah Bowser, Mendenhall Middle School, Eighth Grade; Kylie Miller, Livermore High School, Ninth Grade; Faith Bailey, Granada High School, Tenth Grade; Elijah Leon, Del Valle High School, Eleventh Grade;

Summer Smith, Vineyard Alternative School, Twelfth Grade; Michael James Miille, Livermore High School, Twelfth Grade; Zoe Tranter, Livermore High School, Twelfth Grade; Kylie Clark, Granada High School, Twelfth Grade; and Rona Sheeran, Adult Education.

The Granada and Liver-

more High School Cheerleaders, along with the Granada Drum Line, held a cheer rally that celebrated a combined total of 12,508 years of service completed by District employees, including one with more than 40 years of service.

Also acknowledged during the event were winners of the Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce Education Committee Video Contest. Students and community members were tasked with creating a video that communicates why Livermore Schools Rock. Winners for the K-8 category were Shannon Kai, Kiara Steinhorst and Maddie Williams from Christensen Middle School, teacher advisor, staff and students.

Regina Brinker; winner for the high school category was Kaitlyn Baucke from Livermore High School and the community winner was Kate Medina, teacher at Christensen Middle School.

Board of Education President William Dunlop, Clerk Anne White, Trustees Belia Martinez, Chuck Rogge and Kate Runyon recited a Top Ten Things We Are Most Proud of in LVJUSD. Highlighted in this list were the involvement of families and community in the schools, the positive LVJUSD reputation, the commitment to all students from all stakeholders, the breadth of programs in spite of budget woes, rising State test scores and the

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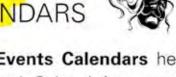








ONLINE CALENDARS



The Independent's new Online Events Calendars help you know all of the Community and Cultural Arts events going on this week, this month and this year. You can even submit your events! See what's happening in The Valley.

Visit us online at www.independentnews.com



EGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS www.independentnews.com

LEGAL NOTICES

FOR INFORMATION PLACING LEGAL NOTICES Call 925-243-8000

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS FILE NO. 471548

The following person(s) doing business as: Two Men and a Truck, 4749 Bennett Drive #C, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the Ziepke Inc, 2986 Blumen Av

enue, Brentwood, CA 94513 This business is conducted by a Corporation The registrant began to

transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrants :s/: Brent E. Larson, Presi

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 2, 2012. Expires November 2, 2017.

The Independent Legal No. 3333. Published November 8, 15, 22, 29, 2012

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 470923-24

The following person(s) doing business as: (1)PowR Enter tainment (2) DJPowR, 363 Clarke Ave, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Charles D. Harding, 363 Clarke Ave, Livermore, CA 94551

This business is conducted by an Individual The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 9/24/2012. Signature of Registrants

:s/: Charles D. Harding This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 17, 2012. Expires October 17,

The Independent Legal No. 3334. Published November 8, 15, 22, 29, 2012 **FICTITIOUS BUSINESS**

FILE NO. 471611 The following person(s) doing business as: Picazo Vinevards, 5600 Greenville

Rd., Livermore, CA 94550. is hereby registered by the following owner(s): McGrail Vineyards and Winery, LLC, 5600 Greenville

This business is conducted by a Limited liability com-The registrant began to transact business under the

listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrants :s/: James McGrail - Managing Member, McGrail Vineyards and Winery, LLC This statement was filed with the County Clerk of

Alameda on November 5 2012. Expires November The Independent Legal No. 3335. Published November

8, 15, 22, 29. 2012. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 470593 The following person(s) doing

business as: Artisan Marshmallows, 260 N. L Street. Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kim Elaine Faulkner, 714 Canterbury Ave, Livermore,

CA 94550 This business is conducted by an Individual

The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 10/15/2007. Signature of Registrants

:s/: Kim E. Faulkner, Owner This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 9, 2012. Expires October 9, 2017. The Independent Legal No. 3336. Published November 8, 15, 22, 29, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 471288

The following person(s) doing business as: ELLA, 1141 Catalina Dr. #123, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Robert P. Legg, 2927 Dani-

elle Lane, Livermore, CA 94550 This business is conducted by an Individual

The registrant began to

transact business under the

fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.

NAME STATEMENT

Signature of Registrants :s/: Robert P. Legg, Owner This statement was filed Rd., Livermore, CA 94550 with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 26. 2012. Expires October 26,

The Independent Legal No. 3337. Published November fictitious business name(s) 8, 15, 22, 29, 2012 **FICTITIOUS BUSINESS**

> FILE NO. 471468 following person(s) doing business as: Polished Crete, 1306 Stealth St, Livermore. CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s):

Bay Area Concretes, Inc. 1306 Stealth St, Livermore, CA 94551

This business is conducted by a Corporation The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrants

:s/: Jonathan D. Vasquez.

C.O.O. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 31, 2012. Expires October 31. 2017

The Independent Legal No. 3339. Published November 15, 22, 29, December 6,

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 470603

The following person(s) doing business as: Salon on Fourth, 1952 Fourth St., Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Rebecca Day, 1952 Fourth

St., Livermore, CA 94550 This business is conducted by an Individual The registrant began to trans-

act business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 9/1/2012. Signature of Registrants :s/: Rebecca Day, Owner This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 9, 2012. Expires October 9, 2017.

The Independent Legal No.

3344. Published November

22, 29, December 6, 13,

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 471733

The following person(s) doing business as: A Graceful Touch, 7667 Amador Valley Blvd, Suite B, Dublin, CA 94568, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kemprud & Co., LLC, 7667 Amador Valley Blvd, Suite A, Dublin, CA 94568

This business is conducted by a Limited Liability com-

The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrants :s/: Edmund Kemprud - Mem-

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 8, 2012. Expires November

8, 2017. The Independent Legal No. 3346. Published November 22. 29. December 6. 13.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 471422

The following person(s) doing business as: Swarovski 271, 3276 Paragon Outlets Drive, Livermore, CA 94551,

is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Swarovski Retail Ventures Ltd, One Kenney Drive, Cranston, RI 02920 This business is conducted

by a Corporation The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrants

:s/: Edward J. Capobianco Corporate Secretary for Swarovski Retail Ventures This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 31,

2012. Expires October 31, 2017. The Independent Legal No. 3347. Published November 22, 29, December 6, 13,

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 471047 The following person(s) doing business as: Wilsons Leather, 3010 Paragon Outlets Drive, Livermore, CA 94551,

following owner(s): A M Retail Group, Inc., 7401 Boone Ave N., Brooklyn Park, MN 55428

is hereby registered by the

This business is conducted by a Corporation The registrant began to transact business under the

fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrants :s/: Randon Q. Roland, Sr. VP/CFO

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 19, 2012. Expires October 19,

The Independent Legal No. 3348. Published November 22. 29. December 6. 13.

NOTICE of INVITING BIDS Notice is hereby given that sealed competitive bids will be accepted in the office of the GSA-Purchasing Department. County of Alameda. 1401 Lakeside Drive, Suite 907, Oakland, CA 94612 NETWORKING BIDDERS CONFERENCES for RFP #901056 Electronic Monitoring and Surveillance of Offenders South County Thursday, December 6

2012 at 2:00 p.m. at Public Works Agency, Room 230B, 951 Turner Court, Hayward, CA North County - Friday, December 7, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at General Services Agency, 1401 Lakeside Drive. Conference Room 201, Oakland, CA Responses Due by 2:00 pm on January 9, 2013 County Contact: Michael Lu (510) 208-9649 or via email: michael.lu@ acgov.org Attendance at Networking Conference is Non-mandatory. Specifica-

tions regarding the above may be obtained at the Alameda County GSA Current Contracting Opportunities Internet website at www. acgov.org.

11/29/12 CNS-2411427# THE INDEPENDENT Legal

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 472065

The following person(s) doing business as: E S Motor Cars LLC. 3597 First St. Suite 4, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): E S Motor Cars LLC, 3597 CA 94551

First St, Suite 4, Livermore, This business is conducted by a Limited liability com-

The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrants :s/: Eddie Joe, Owner / Of-

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of 2012. Expires November 19, 2017.

Alameda on November 19.

The Independent Legal No. 3350. Published November 29, December 6, 13, 20, 2012

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 471447 The following person(s) doing

business as: White House Black Market #3488, 2752 Paragon Outlets Drive, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): White House / Black Market

Inc, 11215 Metro Pkwy, Fort Myers, FL 33966 This business is conducted by a Corporation The registrant began to transact business under the

fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrants :s/: Kevin R. Schockling, Vice President - Lax This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 31, 2012. Expires October 31,

VISA

The Independent Legal No. 3351. Published November 29. December 6, 13, 20, 2012

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 471448

The following person(s) doing business as: Chico's #1127, 2782 Paragon Outlets Drive. Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Chico's FAS, Inc, 11215 Metro Pkwy, Fort Myers,

FL 33966 This business is conducted by a Corporation The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s)

listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrants :s/: Kevin R. Schockling, Vice President - Tax This statement was filed

with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 31 2012. Expires October 31,

The Independent Legal No. 3352. Published November 29, December 6, 13, 20,

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ANIMALS

2) CATS/ DOGS

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Adopt a new best friend: TVAR, the Tri-Valley Animal Rescue, offers animals for adoption every Saturday and Sunday, excluding most holidays. On Saturdays from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm, dogs are available at the Pleasanton Farmers Market at W. Angela and First Streets. Two locations will showcase cats only: Petsmart in Dublin from 12:00 to 4:00 and the Pet Extreme in Livermore from 12:00 to 4:00. On Sundays, cats are available at Petsmart in Dublin from 1:00 to 4:00, and Pet Extreme in Livermore from 12:00 to 4:00. For more information, call Terry at (925) 487-7279 or visit our

website at www.tvar.org. **FERAL CAT FOUNDATION** Cat & kitten adoptions now at the new Livermore Petco on Saturdays from 10:00AM to 2:30PM. We have many adorable, tame kittens that have been tested for FIV & FELV, altered & vaccinated We also have adult cats & ranch cats for adoption.

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MERCHANDISE

127) LOST/ FOUND

LOST DOG in area of North K Street & Chestnut Street Livermore on 11/14/12 Small Breed/Male 13 pounds Long, thin body Fox-like. Long legs. Long tail curls up

when walking. Long neck. Small head & ears. Lower teeth underbite. Blonde / Sandy in color

Purple collar - Rabies Tag / Veterinarian Not neutered PLEASE CALL

(925)447-5441

LOST Red Poinsettia Clip Earring Friday 12/16. If found, please call

155) NOTICES

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5-10 years exp. Knowledge of source code control systems. Design, code, and debug real-time embedded software/firmware for new product development and sustaining projects.



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Selling Your Home over the Holidays

Common wisdom says that the real estate sales year starts around Super Bowl Sunday and ends just after Halloween – Thanksgiving at the latest.

But sometimes there are good reasons for sellers to put their homes on the market during the "off season."

Perhaps you are being transferred out of the area and are expected to report to your new job within the next few months. Maybe you need to short sell a house you can no longer afford. Or you have an opportunity to purchase your dream home, but first have to sell your current house.

Maybe your property is already listed, and you are deciding whether to keep it on the market over the holidays or take a break until January.

In many parts of the country, selling a home in late Fall and early winter can be a challenge – especially if you still live in it.

Dreary, cold weather and the end-of-the-year holidays can keep buyers away. But in the Bay Area winters are generally mild, and the cold, rainy weather doesn't begin in earnest until after the New

This year, housing inventory has been so low for so many months, many buyers are still scrambling to find homes.

For a variety of reasons, this may be the perfect season for you to sell.

Marketing a home over the holidays offers both advantages and concerns:

Low Inventory

Fewer homes are put up for sale – and many sellers choose to take existing inventory off the market – in November and December, resulting in less competition.

This year marks an extreme of this general rule. A "normal" Livermore market has about 250 residential properties on the Multiple Listing Service at any one time, and a "normal" December market can plunge to fewer than half that number.

But as of the beginning of this week, we had a mere 55 Livermore properties on the MLS. Buyers, many of whom have lost out to multiple bids on previous homes, are still shopping. So Livermore homes that do come on to the market are quickly snatched up.

Other Bay Area communities are seeing similar shortages. That means this year you have a good shot at selling your home

quickly, even over the holidays. • More Serious Buyers

Generally, there are fewer buyers out looking this time of year, but the ones who are tend to be serious about purchasing a home. No looky lous. No wannabes who can't afford to buy.

Even in this tight market, that is likely to be the case.

The folks touring properties and visiting open houses over the holidays are the folks who intend to buy now. Otherwise they would be at the outlet mall or spending time with their families.

• Decorations, Scents and Lighting

If you are still living in the property, go ahead and add a little holiday spirit. You don't have to deprive your family of the joy of the season just because your home is on the market.

Days are short and sometimes overcast, so adding festive lights or other bright touches is nice. Just don't overdo it.

Whether it's a tastefully decorated tree, a handsome menorah, Diwali lanterns or a colorful Eid banner, keep it simple. You don't want to overwhelm a potential buyer. You want them to envision the house decorated according to their customs and beliefs.

If you're not certain you have hit the right balance, consult with your Realtor. He or she may also recommend you meet with a stager, who can suggest ways to make your property appealing to potential buyers.

And when you know buyers are coming to view the home, either by appointment or during an open house, turn on the holiday lights along with the rest of the illumination in the house. A bright home is more appealing.

You may even want to light a fire in the fireplace – or fill it with lit candles – to provide a sense of warmth, especially on a chilly day. Mildly scented candles in a woodsy or cinnamon fragrance are inviting.

Accessibility

One problem for many sellers over the holidays is keeping the property accessible for viewing without disrupting family events.

Make sure your agent knows your plans. He or she can put a note on the MLS, or simply inform buyers' agents, if a particular day or time is inconvenient for you. But try to be flexible. When your home is on the market, you have to be prepared for showings.

Perhaps a few scheduled open houses will work well for you and your agent. Believe it or not, successful open houses can be held even on the weekends before Christmas and New Year's. You may not get huge numbers of visitors, but those who come are likely to be serious buyers.

• Tailor Your Marketing Plan to the Season

If you are just now going on the market, your agent will consider time of year when calculating the right price point for your property. Either way, he or she will compare your home with similar homes sold in the last few months.

If your home has been on the market for several months, it's probably time to change your sales approach. Your asking price may be too high for current conditions.

If the marketing materials your agent created – flyers, websites, - show your home in full summer bloom, ask that they be updated to include a few more recent shots. This doesn't mean do away with those sunny-day photographs with green trees and bright flowers, just add a little holiday spirit to the mix.

• Baby, It's Cold Outside

Staying on top of winter maintenance and chores is vital. Keep the gutters and walkways clear of leaves. Make sure the furnace is in working order, then keep the house at a comfortable temperature. Stepping from the blustery winds outside into a cozy house makes a good first impression for potential buyers.

Put a mat out and maybe an umbrella stand, so visitors don't track water on the carpet in inclement weather.

Your agent may provide signage asking folks to remove their shoes or wear special booties when they tour the house, especially on rainy days. Most buyers are used to this by now and understand the need to keep carpets beautiful in the home they may buy!

Take yourself on a tour of the house. Is it warm, inviting and uncluttered? Are all repairs completed?

Buyers will see what you see, through even more critical eyes. If you do decide to put your home on the market during the

holidays, talk to your Realtor. He or she can help you determine the best sales plan for your individual property. A property that is comfortable, attractive and priced appropriately can sell even over the holidays.

Cher Wollard is a Realtor with Prudential California Realty, Livermore.

Deacon Dave to Unveil This Year's Holiday Theme

The biggest and what is considered the best holiday display in Livermore is set to open on Friday, November 30 at 6:30 pm. This holiday tradition is celebrating its 30th year. The front yard of Deacon Dave Rezendes' home at 352 Hillcrest Ave in Livermore, Casa del Pomba, is visited by tens of thousands of guests each year. Deacon Dave is also celebrating his 30th year of his ordination as a deacon in the Catholic Church.

The theme each year changes, and is always kept a secret until opening night ceremonies. On November 30th, the home and yard will be dark as a candlelight procession makes its way down the blocked off street. Members of the community are welcome to join the procession, which will feature the St. Michael's choir leading Deacon Dave and Santa and Mrs. Claus to the home. The Trinity Church choir will also perform. There is a blessing of the lights, the theme is announced, and the lights are turned on. At that time, guests are invited to walk through the yard.

Members of the nonprofit group Good News Bears will help Deacon celebrate his special night by serving refreshments. Visitors wishing to support the group are invited to bring a new stuffed animal or cash donation to help them meet the ever-increasing need for "stuffed



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

9:00 pm Sunday through

Thursday, and from 6 pm

until 10:00 pm Friday and

Crowds gathered last year to view the annual light display at Deacon Dave's home in Livermore.

love" at shelters, hospitals, and emergency services. Find out more about their good work at www.goodnewsbears.org

In 2011, the theme was "Do You Believe." Guests walked through the display and joined "Virginia" from the famous "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus" story as she observed the many symbols of Christmas. Scenes depicting themes such as ""Do you believe in giving rather than receiving," "do you believe in the magic in children's eyes," and "do

you believe in charity" were stretched along the driveway building. In the yard, guests were asked if they believed in sweets, angels, and love. One of the most special scenes depicted Mary, Joseph, and Jesus in the manger, and asked "do you believe in the reason for the season." The last scene was a huge lighted "Believe" sign, with Santa and Virginia asking you to join them in believing in all the magic of the season.

This year, each light is not only a prayer for

peace, but also for those who care for our elderly. Over 35 volunteers work hard throughout the year to put on the display. They are from many faiths, and welcome guests of all faiths. Be sure to walk through to gain the total experience. The crew members love to share the spirit of the holidays, and are often on hand to answer any questions. Just look for anyone wearing a red "Casa del Pomba" ball cap or jacket.

Santa loves to visit, and makes times in his busy schedule to stop by often during the season. He often drops in unannounced. Mrs. Claus loves the beautiful lights and story that is told every year, too, so she often joins Santa!

Deacon Dave opens his yard starting on November 30 until January 1. The hours are 6 pm to

have changed from past years) The gates may be closed during inclement weather, although every effort is made to leave the lights glowing. There is no admission charge. All the donations collected in the coin toss, ponds, and at the door are for Santa's Secret Service. This program has provided a visiting Santa, carolers, and gifts to area nursing homes, shelters, and hospitals for over 50 years. Visit the website www.casadelpomba.com for more information on the display, Santa's Secret Service, and Deacon Dave's family history. A big thank you to Unforgettable Memories for the opening night sound system; Good News Bears for serving refreshments; Davey Tree for a bucket truck to help with the "high work", and the fantastic crew who makes it all happen.

Take East Avenue to Hillcrest, and then follow the glow. Check out the webcam at www.casadelpomba.com/ webcam.htm

Annual Holiday Candy Fundraising Effort by Main Street Designs Benefitting the **Bothwell Arts Center Now in Full Swing**

Celebrating their 25th anniversary and the opening of their seasonal Christmas shop in a new location, Main Street Designs is having its most successful season ever selling See's Candies as a fundraiser, with all proceeds going to the Bothwell Arts Center.

The See's Candies available at the Main Street Designs Christmas Shop include a variety of chocolates gifts," said Dennis Swan-(milk, dark, soft centers, nuts and chews, truffles Designs. and assorted mixed) plus other gourmet treats such as molasses chips, peanut brittle, Victoria toffee, peppermints, fancy nuts, and gourmet lollypops. Most candies are pre-wrapped for the holidays and a variety of gift sets are in stock ranging from \$6 mini-samplers to a ½ pound gold box of assorted chocolates with the embossed message "Thank You" or "Happy Holidays" to several multi-pound gift packs in beautiful wrapped gift boxes.

In addition, special orders can be placed and fulfilled in just a few days. "We recently ordered 8 cases of assorted gourmet lollypops for one client in time for customer purchased over 200 pounds of chocolate



son owner of Main Street

The Bothwell Arts Center, part of the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center (LVPAC), nurtures both visual and performing arts, providing individual artists and local arts organizations with studio, classroom, rehearsal, performance and event space. In 2006, the Bothwell Arts Center opened on 8th Street and in 2010, added the Downtown Arts Studios on South L Street, offering artists private and open work spaces that foster interaction. Earlier this year, a monthly event, Art Happens, was introduced, adding to the annual ArtWalk which blankets downtown Livermore each October with exhibits by artists rang-Thanksgiving and another ing from long-time professionals to emerging artisans in every type of media. Held for corporate and employee on the second Thursday

evening of each month, the smaller-scale Art Happens brings together a variety of activities from drop-in craft demonstrations to art exhibits at the Downtown Arts Studios, nearby galleries and local restaurants.

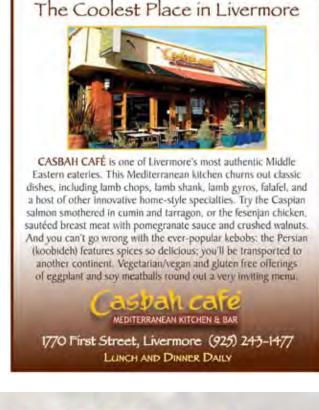
In addition to ArtWalk and Art Happens, the Center mounts annual fundraising events in support of its facilities and programs, including the popular New Orleans Bash at the Bothwell, a joyous celebration of art and artisans on the Friday before Mardi Gras.

Bothwell Arts Center Upcoming Events:

December 9, 6:00 p.m.: Celtic Christmas Concert and Gathering with live music by Pog Mo Thoin and guests at the Bothwell Arts Center.

December 13, 6:00 -8:00 p.m.: Art Happens with carolers and holiday cheer at the Downtown Art Studios plus other events throughout downtown.

February 8, 2013, 5:00-10:00 p.m.: New Orleans Bash at the Bothwell featuring live music, Southern cuisine, pirate bar, silent auction, art and merchandise for sale, and so much more at this Mardi Gras costume party.





Wente Family to Lead Livermore Holiday Parade

The Wente Family will lead the annual Holiday in downtown Livermore this Saturday, December 1.

As the oldest continuously family owned winery in the country and the first to bring Chardonnay cuttings from France to California, Livermore Downtown Inc. elected to honor the family's five generations of commitment to Livermore Valley Wine Country.

During the afternoon, snow will be at Lizzie Fountain for kids 8 and under to play in. Downtown stores will host a holiday open house. A Holiday Village Stroll courtesy of Club 56 will be from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Club has placed miniature Christmas Villages in the windows of some of the downtown stores.

A holiday performance

stage will be located at the Flag Pole Plaza, corner of Sights and Sounds Parade First Street and S. Livermore Ave. Performances are 1 p.m. Valley Montessorri Choral Group; 2 p.m. Steve Kritzer; 3 p.m. Greg Chambers, saxophone; 4 p.m. recorded music.

Streets will close at 4 p.m. to prepare for the Holiday Sights and Sounds Parade that starts at 6 p.m. The

parade runs on First Street, starting at M Street and ending at McLeod Street.

The Tree Lighting is immediately following the Parade at the Flag Pole Plaza. The ABC Music Course Children's Choir will perform sounds of the seasons as well as a Livermore Christmas composition by Choir Director Kim Luty.



Subject to availability. See gift cards for details, terms, conditions and (if applicable) fees. All trademarks are property of their respective owners. Product offer may be

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THE INDEPENDENT • SECTION A

'Puss in Boots' Holiday Panto Comes to The Amador Theater in Pleasanton



Morgan Werder as Puss and KJ Brown as Theophilus.

The Pleasanton Civic Arts Stage Company presents its annual Holiday Panto two weekends, December 7 through 16, at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road in Pleasanton.

This year's fractured fairy-tale musical-comedy production is "Puss in Boots." Shows are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., and matinees Saturdays and Sundays at 2 p.m.

Based on the French fairytale by Charles Perrault, this world-premiere panto musical by local playwright Kate Hawley features a sassy cat who promises to solve the problems of a poor miller's son. Dressed in her trademark red leather boots. Puss charms the Queen, befuddles the Prime Minister, defeats the powerful wizard Kazaam, and helps her shy master and Princess Sweetiepie fall madly in love. Featuring original songs by local composer Chris Houston, the positive message about just being yourself makes this musical a wonderful holiday selection.

"Panto" (short for "pantomime") is not to be confused with the silent "mime" performance genre made famous by French mime master Marcel Marceau (think: black tights and white painted faces). Rather Panto is a lively irreverent musical-comedy produc-



David Moore as the Wizard Kazaam.

tion beloved for centuries in Great Britain, and most often performed during the Christmas and New Year season. The British Panto has strong ties to the Italian Commedia dell'Arte, which was a form of "theater for the people" comprised of troupes of professional actors who travelled the country, first in Italy then later in France, performing improvised comedic stories which told lessons using characters familiar to each locale. American

theater from vaudeville to Saturday Night Live owe their existence to the cherished and iconic Pantos of England.

Puss in Boots follows the panto tradition of being based on traditional children's stories. Plot lines are then adapted for comic or satiric effect, and always incorporate audience participation, slapstick, inside jokes, cross-dressing, song, dance, and all kinds of silliness. Other panto traditions to watch for include

(continued on page 4)





Pictured are the 2012 opening party scene with Nutcracker (above left) and Land of the Snow Scene (above right). Photos - Gary Cain

Valley Dance Theatre Stages 33rd Annual Classical Production of The Nutcracker

Valley Dance Theatre presents its 33rd annual full-length, classical production of The Nutcracker beginning December 8, 2012 at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First Street in Livermore. In keeping with tradition, the holiday classic will be accompanied by the Livermore-Amador Symphony. The performance will feature professionally designed costumes, sets and scenery.

This year, the production will feature appearances by prominent members of the local community, including Livermore Mayor John Marchand and awardwinning Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) design physicist, Heather Whitley.

Eight public performances of the Tchaikovsky classic will take place with evening shows at 7:00 p.m. on December 8, 14, 15,

and 16, 2012 and 2:00 p.m. matinees on December 8, 9, 15, and 16, 2012. For the fifth straight year, two special performances for local-area school children will take place on Tuesday, December 11, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.

This year's festivities include pre-show carols by Cantabella Children's Chorus on December 8 at 2:00 and 7:00 p.m., December 9 at 2:00 and December 16, 2012 at 2:00 p.m., and by Harmony Fusion on December 14 at 7:00 p.m., December 15 at 2:00 and 7:00 p.m. and December 16, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. The Asbury Ringers will be ringing in the theater lobby for selected performances.

Livermore Mayor John Marchand will be performing as a father in the opening party scene on December 8 and 14 at 7:00 p.m. and December 15 and 16 at 2:00 p.m. Marchand first became involved with theater when asked to fill in for an actor in Much Ado About Magic, community theater production by Katzenjammer Company, where he discovered that he truly enjoyed the creativity of all of the aspects of theater – set construction, prop design, stage striking, as well as acting and singing. In high school and college, he performed roles ranging from chorus to lead in many musical theater productions, including the Tin Man in The Wizard of Oz and Mayor Shinn in The Music Man. He met his wife when they were cast together in a play.

"There is something magical about live theater," Marchand says, "My wife and I participate whenever we have the opportunity. I love the creativity and the synergy that develops.

When the players respond to the energy from the audience, it boosts the energy in the performance.

"Valley Dance Theatre presents a wonderful production of The Nutcracker. As a teacher at Jackson School in Livermore, my wife brought her students to the Bankhead to see the special performances done every year for school children. For many of those children, it was their first live performance. Many of the children were so excited that they couldn't sleep the night before."

Also performing with the corps de ballet in Snow and Waltz of the Flowers will be Heather Whitley, one of two young LLNL researchers who recently received a Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE). The award is the highest honor bestowed by the United States government on outstanding scientists and engineers who are early in their independent research careers.

Whitley, who studied dance as a child, resumed ballet classes as a graduate student at UC Berkeley. Upon settling in Livermore . in 2007, she found Valley Dance Theatre on Google and began taking classes, training more intensely beginning in 2009. This year marks her third appearance in The Nutcracker. "I didn't realize it as a child, but dancing really helped to build my confidence and poise," Whitley says. "Even now, if I'm feeling nervous about giving a presentation at work, I'll think about performing at the Bankhead and realize, if I can handle that, giving a presentation should involve much less apprehension. As a graduate student and now, dance classes were and are a much-needed form

of stress release.

"Ballet is a very precise art form and a very intellectually involved form of motion. When I'm in class, I'm able to leave behind the stresses of the day and focus on the choreography and expressing the emotion of the dance rather than being caught up in outside issues."

Tickets to the eight public performances are \$34, \$28 and \$24 for adults and \$18 for students 17 years and younger. They may be purchased online at www.bankheadtheater.org, by phone at 925-373-6800, or in person at the theater box office, 2400 First St., Livermore. Hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 12 noon-6:00 p.m., and for two hours prior to show time.

For teachers interested in tickets for either of the December 11 school performances, a ticket order form is available at www.valleydancetheatre.com.

Symphony Begins 50th Anniversary Season with Holiday Concert

Symphony opens its Golden Anniversary Season with music that celebrates the orchestra's half-century of musical achievement.

The performance will be Dec. 1 at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore. There will be a prelude talk at 7 p.m. followed by the concert at 8 p.m. Dr. Arthur Barnes will conduct.

The concert will begin with Livermore composer Tom Darter's LAS-commissioned work "Celebrations."

Johannes Brahms' Violin Concerto follows. The evening concludes with Brahms' First Symphony. It captures the revolution of musical technique and

mid-nineteenth century.

joined by Stuart Canin, concertmaster of the San Francisco Symphony from 1970

The Livermore-Amador emotion in force during the to 1980 and concertmaster of the San Francisco Opera The orchestra will be from 1970 to 1972. Born in New York City, Canin studied the violin with famed pedagogue Ivan Galamian.



Stuart Canin performs with symphony.

In 1959, he surpassed 25 other violinists to capture first prize at the Paganini International Violin Competition in Genoa, Italy. One year later he was honored by his native city with its highest cultural award, the Handel Medal, in recognition of his musical achievements.

Both the Livermore and Pleasanton city councils have issued proclamations recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the Livermore-Amador Symphony.

The Bankhead Theater is located at 2400 First Street in downtown Livermore. Tickets may be purchased at the box office, by calling or on-line at www.bankheadtheater.org.

Jeff Bordes & Friends: A Jazzy-Funky Christmas

Jeff Bordes & Friends returns for the second annual big Holiday Concert at the Firehouse Arts Center on Saturday, December 8, at 8 p.m. This year's theme is *A Jazzy-Funky Christmas*. It will featur special guest artists, including organist and vocalist Don Lewis, a perennial local favorite. Also on the bill is swinging local big band group The CoolTones. Bordes says the program will include a number of other "terrific surprise guests."

Included in the program will be numbers Jeff dubs "bluegrazz," merging bluegrass and jazz. "We will be performing some music with a back-porch jazz feel, as if we were hanging out on the porch of a cabin in the swamps of Louisiana, playing holiday music and having a good time . . . This group will feature bluegrass instruments including fiddle and washboard," says

Bay Area jazz trumpeter



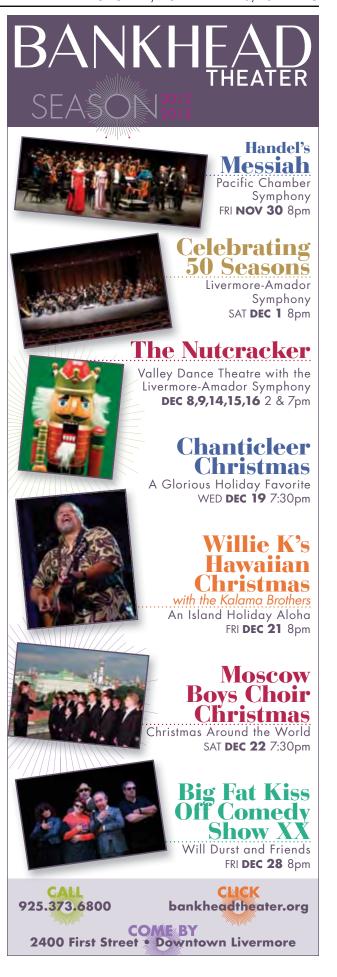
Bordes needs no introduction to jazz fans. A 1997 graduate of the famed jazz school Berklee College of Music in Boston, Bordes has been not only playing since very young, but changing the face of jazz. Career highlights include live per-

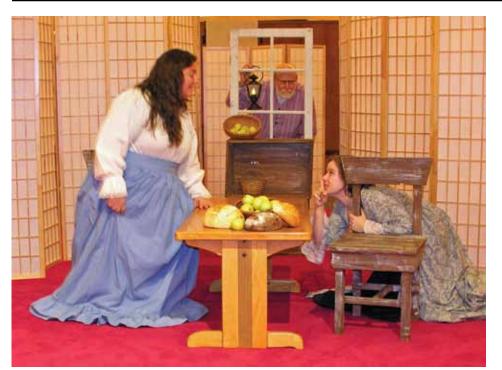
projects with such greats as Branford Marsalis, Alex Acuna, Richie Cole, Tom Petty, Stevie Nicks, Sheryl Crow, and most recently John Mellencamp. He has done performance tours of the US and internationally with a number of groups, and Pleasanton native Jeff formances and recording including Bill Berry Big

Band and the great Dizzy Gillespie.

In addition to his performance work, Jeff is passionate about spreading the word of Jazz as a featured clinician in schools and music festivals throughout the world, as well as teaching privately. He also writes articles on jazz for numerous music publications, including All About Jazz and Trumpet Player Online. And if that's not enough, Bordes has recently begun a new music career composing for film and commercials, including contributing to the soundtrack of the awardwinning documentary "De Colores.'

Tickets are \$15, \$20, \$25; child \$12; senior \$22; group discounts available. Tickets can be purchased in advance at www.firehousearts.org, by calling the Box Office at 925-931-4848, or in person from the Firehouse Box Office, 4444 Railroad Avenue in Pleasanton.





PEEPING SCROOGE. Ebeneezer Scrooge (Dave Rettinger) looks longingly into the happy Cratchit home, where Mrs. C. (Jenny Moy) and her daughter Martha (Ari Moore) plan a Christmas surprise. Scenes from Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" will be performed throughout the Dickens Faire at St. Bartholomew's Church, 678 Enos Way, Livermore. Victorian "shoppes," music and tea also will be offered. Hours are 10 am to 5 pm Saturday, December 1, and 1-5 pm Sunday, December 2. Photo by Mike Atkin

PUSS IN BOOTS

(continued from front page)

recurring comic characters, such as "the two servants," one crafty and one stupid, "the father," "the lover," "the evil wizard," and "the sweet child."

In this version of Puss in Boots, the role of the Queen was written especially for returning guest actor Paula Wujek. Guest artist David Moore, appearing with Civic Arts Stage Company for the first time, takes on dual roles as the snooty Prime Minister Pratt and the evil wizard Kazaam, which makes him a villain doubly worth booing. According to Director Rebecca Ennals, "It's exciting to work with a cast of over 70 local actors, mostly kids aged 6 and up. We're always thrilled to see our young actors

grow into really seasoned performers. This cast includes (2008 first season actors) Morgan Werder as Puss, and Tommy Herz in the comic supporting role of Brutus."

In addition to returning director Ennals, Katie O'Bryon reprises her role as company choreographer, along with set and lighting designer Steve Mannshardt and sound designer Ryan Lee Short. New staff music director Angela Zullinger and costume designer Sophia Thorsen round out the senior production roster.

"I am so excited to see another fun classic brought to life at the Amador Theater this season," says Mark Duncanson, Civic Arts Stage Company Coordinator with the City of Pleasanton. "I get energized when I see and hear the rehearsal process; new songs being sung, new dance routines being worked out, and an enthusiastic production staff that loves what they do."

Tickets are \$10, \$15, \$18: Child or Senior: \$6. \$9, \$12. Tickets can be purchased online at www. firehousearts.org, by calling 925-931-4848, and in person at the Firehouse Arts Center Box Office. 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. Box Office hours are Wednesday -Friday 12:00 noon-6:00pm and Saturdays 10:00am-4:00pm. Tickets are also available at the Amador Theater 2 hours prior to the performance.

Fire Department Launches Annual Toys for Tots Drive

The Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department (LPFD) conducts the local Toysfor-Tots Campaign for the 2012 Holiday Season. Once again designated as an official Local Community Organization by the Toysfor-Tots Foundation, LPFD firefighters have already begun collecting, storing, and sorting new and unwrapped toys that will benefit and provide holiday cheer for the children of the Tri-Valley. This year, toy donations are most critical because local charitable organizations that participated in the past are unable to due to funding shortages.

The LCO designation gives LPFD recognition as an official toy drop-off loca-

TOYS FOR TOTS

tion by the National Toys for Tots Foundation, which lists LPFD on its website (http:// pleasanton-ca.toysfortots. org/local-coordinator-sites/ lco-sites/default.asp) so that businesses and/or individuals can donate toys. Donated toys are given to children who live in the Tri-Valley region and Alameda County. Through the donations of businesses, community organizations, schools and individuals, firefighters exceeded in collecting over 26,000 toys last year.

Many local Livermore and Pleasanton businesses serve as collection points for the Toys for Tots Foundation. All Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department Stations have Toys for Tots containers where the public can drop-off new, unwrapped toys:

Fire Headquarters, 3560 Nevada Street, Pleasanton, (925) 454-2361; Station #6, 4550 East Avenue. Livermore; Station #1, 3560 Nevada Street, Pleasanton; Station #7, 951 Rincon, Livermore; Station #2, 6300 Stoneridge Mall Rd., Pleasanton; Station #8, 5750 Scenic Ave., Livermore; Station #3, 3200 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton; Station #9, 1919 Cordoba St., Livermore; Station #4, 1600 Oak Vista Way, Pleasanton; Statoin \$10, 330 Airway Blvd., Livermore.

Celtic Christmas Concert & Gathering at the Bothwell with Special Guest Michael Mullen

The Celtic Christmas Concert & Gathering will celebrate its second year with a special musical treat.

The festivities will take place from 6 to 9 p.m. on Sun., Dec. 9 at the Bothwell Arts Center in Livermore.

Pog Mo Thoin, fronted by Gabe Duffin, is a local band that features lively jigs and Irish folk songs. For this event they will bring in guest Michael Mullen, hailed as a "fiddle demon" in past press releases.

Mullen is widely known for his frenetic, lively fiddling as a member of the Celtic group, Tempest. Tempest has been in the forefront of the groups that "rebirthed" the Celtic sound in the last two decades and breathed new life into its popularity by emphasizing movement, dance, drums, lively electronic fiddling and a healthy grounding in rock and roll. Mullen, schooled originally in classical violin and graduating to two



decades of Irish and Scottish fiddling, comes alive behind the fiddle and the fiddle becomes a live thing in his hands, and a perfect complement to the sound of Pog Mo Thoin.

Tickets are \$15 at the door, pre-sale tickets \$10 are available at ABC Music Source, Panama Red Coffee Company, from members of the band, and through info@ bothwellartscenter.org.

This family friendly event will feature live mu-

sic, a potluck meal, cider & tea. Wine and beer will be available for an additional charge. Guests are asked to bring the potluck dish of their choice.

The event is produced by Gabe Duffin with support by the Bothwell Arts Center and LVPAC, and is a fundraiser for the Bothwell.

The Bothwell is located at 2466 8th Street and is a project of Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center, a not-for-profit corporation.

Wineries Open Their Doors for Festive Holiday in the Vineyards Weekend

Visitors Asked to Bring Donation for Toys for Tots

Livermore Valley Wine Country celebrates the season with a weekend of cheer during Holidays in the Vineyards this weekend, December 1 and 2.

Hours at participating wineries are noon to 4:30 p.m. each day. There is no ticket required to attend. However, tasting fees may apply and vary by winery.

During this annual wine country tradition, wineries open their tasting rooms featuring arts and craft vendors, special wines, festive activities, Santa visits, carolers, and more.

Guests are encouraged to bring unwrapped toys or monetary donations. All toys and donations will be donated to the Pleasanton-Livermore Fire Department Association's Toys for Tots Program after the event, directly benefitting children in need throughout Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. Some wineries offer discounts on tasting with a toy donation.

For more on the Toys for Tots program, visit http://pleasanton-ca. toysfortots.org/localcoordinator-sites/lco-sites/ default.asp

Many wineries are offering special discounts on wines and cases of wines.

Listed below is just a sampling of what visitors to Livermore Valley wine country will find during Holidays in the Vineyards:

Bent Creek Winery: new release 2009 Livermore Valley Petite Sirah; Two Guys playing light jazz and holiday music - 12:30 - 4:30 pm Saturday and Sunday; arts and



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Barrel room is decked out for the holidays.

crafts, variety of chocolate truffles paired especially for wine

Big White House & John Evan Cellars: Barrel tasting annual Winter Star; shopping for variety of gifts

Bodegas Aguirre Winery: Reserve wine tasting, photography and prints available, complimentary tasting with Toys for Tots donations

Cedar Mountain Winery: BYOB- Bottle Your Own Port Sunday only 12-4, Complimentary Mulled Wine; Holiday Port and chocolate cups in special packaging at a special price; Holiday Gift Shop-Lots of products.

Charles R Vineyards: Holiday Choir singing traditional holiday songs – Saturday afternoon, S'mores packages for two (\$4) and roasting forks for a sweet and belly-warming treat. Variety of crafts available for purchase.

Concannon Vineyard: Horse carriage rides through the vineyard with a glass of wine for a fee and hot chocolate for the kids. Pairing Petite Sirah Port with Petite Sirah Chocolate Sauce. Ken's Wood Fired Pizza will be on hand to make his artisanal creations. Gift ideas.

Crooked Vine & Stony Ridge Winery: Cupcake pairings, hot apple cider, wine discounts, and holiday decorations. Gift vendors including recycled wine barrels turned into art.

Cuda Ridge Wines: Release of new wines; Santa Claus will make appearance Sat & Sun. Tim Goes performing Christmas Carols.

Eagle Ridge Vineyard: Selling lavender items for Valley Humane Society. Accepting monetary donations for Toys for Tots, variety of gifts available for purchase. Tri-tip chili, hot mulled wine, variety of gift items.

Eckert Estates: New wine release of Pinot Noir and Port, variety of crafts including Extra special hand made custom dog clothes by Nikki Goodman

El Sol Winery: Barrel Samples of 2006 Estate Syrah and 2005 Livermore Cabernet Sauvignon. Holiday shopping: hats, scarves, jewelry, jewelry and more jewelry.

Elliston Vineyards: Festive music and décor for enjoyment, craft creations, handmade gifts and novelties

Garré Vineyard and Winery: Garré Sparkling Wine, Red Velvet Port, Cabernet Sauvignon, variety of arts and crafts and jewelry.

Las Positas Vineyards: Wine and Food Pairing. In addition, desserts, cupcakes, truffles, etc. available for purchase.

Les Chênes Estate Vineyards: Food and cheese pairings

Longevity Wines: Sat. 1-4 pm Santa Visit, Sunday Joey T & Friends Live Music. Food from Winemakers Pourhouse both days, variety of crafts.

McGrail Vineyards and Winery: Posada Catering will be selling food Sat. and Sun., Santa Claus will be visiting on Sunday.

Mitchell Katz Winery: Santa Claus will be visiting 1-4 pm both days, variety of arts and crafts for gift giving.

Murrieta's Well: 2008 Los Tesoros Cabernet Sauvignon & 2009 Los Tesoros Cabernet Franc, Complimentary holiday cookies and hot cider

Nottingham Cellars: Petite Sirah, Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon, truffles and jewelry for purchase.

Occasio Winery: Verticals of Zinfandel, Petite Sirah and library wines. Introduction of new dessert wine releases and announcement of Occasio Heritage Collection.

Page Mill Winery: Free tastings with Toys for Tots donation, Chili both days 12-4:30 pm, arts and crafts.

Retzlaff Vineyards: Complimentary hot chocolate, cookies, arts and crafts. Holiday clothing, hand made wooden toys, jewelers

Rios-Lovell Winery: Ports (Sweet ports for the New Year), vendors & hors d'oeuvres.

Tamás Estates: Santa Claus visiting 1-3 pm. Complimentary mulled apple cider

The Singing Winemaker: Assortment of holiday gifts, wine tasting

The Steven Kent Winery and La Rochelle Winery: Wine and cheese pairing stations in the barrel room each day, variety of crafts and truffles.

Wente Vineyards Estate: Santa Claus visit Sunday only from 1-3 pm, Complimentary Mulled Apple Cider

Westover Vineyard & Winery: Pomegranate Sparking Peach Sparking Mataro SF Bay Cabernet Sauvignon, Pleasanton Ridge Chardonnay, Estate LV Petite Sirah Port, Bottle your own port (50% off for members) or Noveau Wine \$6.00 per bottle, bring your own or \$7.00

White Crane Winery: Santa Claus Visiting 12-4 pm Sat. & Sunday. Complimentary meatballs marinated in Port and wine sauce.

Wood Family Vineyards: New release 2010 Zinfandel "Muy Bien." Limited production tasting offered to all who bring a toy or donation for Toys for Tots 10% off case purchase, Soup and wine pairings. Gourmet foods, arts and crafts vendors.

For a complete list of discounts, fees, crafts, etc., go to www.lvwine.org.

Harry Marku, Author of *Rare Earth* to Present Program at the Livermore Library



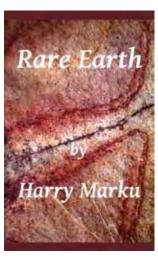
Henry Marku to talk about his book at the Library.

Author Henry Marku discusses his novel *Rare Earth* at 2pm on Sunday, December 2, 2012 at the Livermore Public Library Civic Center, 1188 S. Livermore Avenue.

There is no charge for this event. Books will be available for sale and signing.

Yakov, a maverick geologist, makes an extraordinary Rare Earth mineral find in the Canadian sub-Arctic and becomes an unwilling pawn in the hands of a political cartel. His safety relies on Robb, a promising young scientist protecting US interests in the advancing Rare Earth economies. When Robb's personal coincidences connect Yakov's discovery to the public murder of a toplevel politician, the youthful analyst launches a quest to prove the link—instantly inserting him in the crossfire alongside the beleaguered Yakov. To survive, he must prove who is behind the assassination and why the Rare Earth minerals are being sought with deadly intent. Rare Earth weaves drama, high-tech anecdotes, fictional science, and social conscience to create a novel modeled after those of Michael Crichton.

Harry Marku is the pen



name of a local Livermore scientist working in the field of alternative energy, whose novel is inspired in part by the characters and stories he experienced growing up in the Ukrainian and Romanian immigrant communities of the Western Canadian prairies. Although remotely settled and seemingly mundane, the people of this dying immigrant culture were larger than life, having survived wars, depression and want after risking their lives to escape across the Atlantic to forge a future in the New World. They were well suited to surviving the harsh and unforgiving climate of Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Drawing on his workplace experiences as well, Marku explores scientific and social themes in his book, such as the rejection of science as mere hypothesis and devaluation of the human individual.

The Friends of the Livermore Library have underwritten this program as part of the Friends Authors and Arts Series. For additional events, check the library's website at www.livermorelibrary.net.

TurningWheels for Kids Near Goal of 500 New Bikes

For the past seven years TurningWheels for Kids, a Silicon Valley based 501(c)3 non-profit has made underserved children's dreams come true by providing new bicycles at Christmas-time and throughout the year. This year, the new Tri-Valley Chapter will expand on that with the purchase, assembly and donation of almost 500 new bikes to local charities. On December 1st over 150 volunteers will work togeth-

er at the Alameda County Fairgrounds to assemble all the bikes in about 5 hours!

"It's been a lot of work but we have a very committed group of volunteers and have received tremendous support from local businesses and individual donors to help us get this off the ground." stated Rich Sims one of the group's board members.

With an initial grant from the Safeway Foundation

and cash and in-kind donations from Therma Corporation, Cresco Rentals, The First Presbyterian Church, Livermore, both Hayward and Livermore Rotaries and the Alameda County Fairgrounds, the group has already raised a large portion of the needed funds. "We're still about \$10,000 short of the \$40,000 we need to raise, but we're confident that, as the holidays come around, the community and

local businesses will step up and help us reach our goal." claims Cathryn Griggs another board member

TurningWheels for Kids Tri-Valley is a new, local chapter of an already proven, 501(c)3 organization under the auspices of the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center Foundation. Contact Rich Sims at rich@turning-wheelsforkids.org. Online information is available at www.turningwheelsforkids.org/tri-valley-group

Combines Centerpointe Choirs Perform Festival of Carols

The combined choirs of Centerpointe Church will present their annual Festival of Carols, The Joy of Christmas, Dec. 8 and Dec. 9 at the church's worship center, 3410 Cornerstone Court.

The Saturday performance starts at 7 p.m. The second performance will be at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 9.

The program will include anthems by both the handbell and chancel choirs accompanied by piano, organ and a string quartet. The audience will have the opportunity to sing along with a number of the best-loved Christmas Carols that tell the story of Christ's birth.

"We welcome all to come

join us as we celebrate the true meaning of Christmas," said chancel choir director Kathryn Walda. "We hope to fill everyone's heart with the joy of the season."

Betty Gail Hunt directs the handbell choir, while Diana Cefalo will be the guest director. Lee Lipsker will narrate the program.

A reception will follow the Saturday evening performance. There is no admission charge.

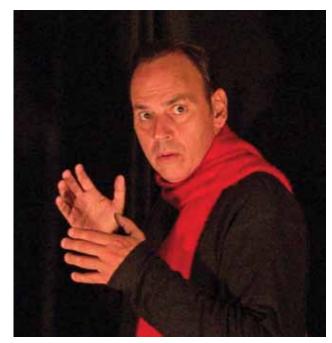
For additional information, please see the web site, www.centerpointechurch. org or call the office at 925-846-4436.

Film and Broadway Actor Duffy Hudson Performs 'A Christmas Carol' at Firehouse Arts Center

Visit the ghosts of Christmas past, present, and yet to come in *A Christmas Carol* on Friday, December 7th at 7pm. Museum on Main brings film and Broadway actor Duffy Hudson back to the Firehouse Arts Center in this unique one-man adaptation of the classic Charles Dickens novella, *A Christmas Carol*.

Nearly 170 years since the first publication of the Dickens tale, Hudson brings the magical story to life as he portrays all 46 characters without the aid of props or costumes. Hudson received standing ovations and praise for his portrayals of Albert Einstein and Edgar Allan Poe at sold-out performances at the Firehouse Arts Center for Museum on Main's Ed Kinney Speakers Series and is sure to draw the same response for this performance.

To purchase reserved seating to this event, please contact the Firehouse Arts Center box office at (925) 931-4848 or go to www.firehousearts.org. Museum member passes or discounts do not apply. Box Office Hours: Wed-Fri- 12-6pm, Sat- 10-4pm. Tickets to the event are \$16 adults, \$12 Youth 12 & under.



Duffy Hudson in A Christmas Carol

Do You Remember? By Anne Homan Livermore City Historian

Responses from Some Readers

This is the fourth of these columns that I have written. Just as I learned through teaching that the teacher always learns from his/her student, so the writer of a newspaper column learns from his/her readers. Thanks to all of you who have responded.

Rich Buckley wrote about his family's early connections with Yosemite. His grandfather Tom Buckley spent many summers camping in the park with his sons. In the 1930s his parents' home in Livermore was a "hotel" for Native Americans who came all the way down from Yosemite to be treated by Dr. Degnan. Rich said, "Dad used to tell us a story about his father sending him on a trail from where they were camping on Glacier Point to the valley floor. Dad said he'd jog down the mountain to fetch fresh bread (from Degnan's) and scamper back up. None of us believed his story until we read your article."

Anne Longmuir also wrote about Dr. Degnan: "I was pleasantly surprised when thumbing through the recent paper I spied my grandmother's maiden name. I read your article about Dr. John Degnan's time in Livermore. He was my great-uncle. . . . Over the years I heard many stories about Yosemite, the Degnan family and Dr. John but your research and article were new things

that I didn't know."

My column on the Hagemann Ranch triggered a response from Christine Ariizumi. She has lived in the same house for 43 years. It shares a fence line with the ranch. "We have thoroughly enjoyed having the ranch behind us. We were worried sick when the developer purchased the land and it went on the market. . . . Fortunately, all turned out well for those of us who want to keep some of the 'old' around. It is an anchor that holds together the Valley's past and present and should be used as a teaching tool for the citizens of Livermore and their children who think we are just a suburb of the Bay Area's larger towns."

Keith Duffus wrote all the way from Ohio. He started working for the Hagemanns in 1972 when he was 12 years old and continued for two years during the summers. "Mr. Hagemann and his mother would have me do simple chores. The highlight of working there was lunch time. They would always serve me a summer sausage sandwich. They made their own summer sausage, and it was wonderful. I am now 52 and I can still remember those sandwiches like it was yesterday. The experience of working for them was more than just the food. It was starting early, working hard and people treating each other

with respect."

I wrote two columns on chickens. I had asked Ashley Ruzicka about her chickens, but she was so busy that she did not get her information to me in time. "I raise bantam Partridge Wyandottes, large and bantam Golden Laced Wyandottes, a bantam White Faced Black Spanish, a large Rhode Island Red, a large Black Maran, and a bantam White Silkie." In all, she has ten chickens and one Mandarin duck. This past summer with her bantam Spanish, she won Best of Class, Best Bantam, and Reserve (second place) of Show at the Alameda County Fair.

Carolyn Hunt wrote, "I enjoy your historical articles. I'm amazed at how you keep coming up with such interesting material! Some aren't especially interesting to me personally, such as last week's article on the Foscalinas, whom I'd never heard of, until WHOA! I read that Simon and his wife lived in the house I lived in when I first came to Livermore in 1963!"

In one of my columns on the year 1913, I mentioned a KisselKar-a make of car I had never heard of. A friend put me in touch with Lynn Kissel, who lived in Livermore until recently and owns two KisselKars. He invited me for a ride through downtown Livermore in his



Anne Homan poses with the KisselKar. Photo by Lynn Kissel

beautifully restored 1914 KisselKar 40 touring car, one of only four left. He had to use hand signals for his turns. He worried about young drivers who would probably not understand what he was doing. The big car attracted a good deal of attention. I had a great time!

William Lokke came to Livermore as "a fresh wide-eyed Minnesota college graduate" to join the Lab in June 1957. He caught a Greyhound Bus to Livermore, where he and his trunks were "dumped behind the Lutz Hotel into a 110-degree" day. The hotel clerk took him upstairs to his room, "directly over the wheezing bus." The only way he could get any fresh air in the room was to open the window, but that let in all the bus exhaust fumes. Needless to say, he was glad when the Lab housing office found him other quarters a week later.

In the 1970s and 1980s, Rick Sanders worked at La Rochelle's restaurant in Pleasanton and served both Masud Mehran and his son, Alex. "During the Iran hostage crisis, I remember his being verbally harassed by local business men for being Iranian; however, he

ALWAYS held his head up high and maintained his dignity and the respectfulness we as servers had known him for. I am glad to know he is still doing well."

Brett Gregory started working at the Livermore Airport in 1992 and knew Dan Lee. "Whenever he was at the airport he was smiling. You could tell it was his passion. Your article was a fitting tribute to a man who made a difference that we all still benefit from today."

(Readers can reach me at am50homan@yahoo.com.)

Pleasanton Concert Band to Perform Holiday Rhapsode Concert at the Firehouse

The Pleasanton Community Concert Band will perform its annual holiday concert at the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton.

Under the direction of Bob Williams, the band presents the sounds of the holiday season including A Rhapsody For Hanukkah, A Rhapsody on Carols,

and Jingle Bells Rhapsody. There will be many other familiar seasonal tunes, medleys, and an opportunity to Sing-Along. This free concert will be performed on Sunday, December 2, 2012 at 2:00 PM at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton.

The Firehouse Arts Center doors will open at 1:40 PM. The concert is free, although donations are appreciated.

For more information call 925-846-5897 or go to the Pleasanton Community Concert Band website. www.pleasantonband.org

ART & ENTERTAINMENT

ART/PHOTO FXHIRITS

Livermore Art Association Gallery, located in the Carnegie Building, offers art classes, unusual gifts, painting rentals, art exhibits and information pertaining to the art field, 2155 Third

St., Livermore. The gallery has been open since 1974 and is run as a co-op by local artists. Hours are Wed.-Sun. 11:30-4 p.m. For information call

449-9927.

Pleasanton Art Walks, meet at 9 a.m. in the parking lot next to City Hall, 200 Old Bernal Avenue (adjacent to the public library). Guest leaders Nancy and Gary Harrington, will lead the walk on Dec. 8. World Walk to Wellness hosts Saturday morning walks for all who are interested. Contact walks@worldwalktowellness.org to receive (free) weekly e-mails of walk locations.

Livermore Art Association Fall Show, Nov. 1-30, Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. On view during regular hours. www. LivermoreArtAssociation.com.

Golden Decade Photographers, the Legacy of Ansel Adams and Minor White, Figurehead Gallery exhibition, Oct. 31-Dec. 1. 2222 2nd St., Suite 21, Livermore. 337-1799.

Seasons of the Valley by Bettie Goosman, An exhibit of large oil paintings and gicle'es depicting the "Seasons of the Valley" currently on display through early January 2013 at the Purple Orchid Resort and Spa, 4549 Cross Rd., Livermore. Art can be viewed every day from 8am to 6pm except when an event is being hosted. For more information call (925)606-8855.

Man at Nature: Using and Leaving, exhibit Harrington Gallery at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. Nov. 7-Dec. 15. www.firehousearts.org.

Artist Norma Webb oil paintings at Wente Vineyards Estate Winery, 5565 Tesla Road, Livermore for the month of November.

Body of Movement Art Exhibit by Linda Ryan at Cuda Ridge Wines through Jan. 6, 2013. The winery is located at 5385 East Avenue in Livermore. Regular Winery Hours: 12-4:30 Fri-Sun; Available by appt. at 510.304.0914.

Works by artist Maryann Kot, "Celebrating Reality," will feature paintings in oil, watercolor, and colored pencil. The show is open Nov. 20 through Jan. 20, 2013 at the Prudential CA Realty, 1780 First St., Livermore. A reception with the artist will be held 5 to 7 p.m. on Tues., Dec. 4. For office hours contact Cher Wollard 925-824-4824 cherw@cherw.com

Collage Collection, Livermore Library show hosted by Livermore Art Association. Dec. 1-30. On view during regular library hours. 1188 So. Livermore Ave.

MEETINGS/CLASSES

Figure Drawing Workshop, every Friday 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Artists bring their own materials and easels. Open to all artists. Professional artist models (nude). No instructor. Students under 18 need written parental permission to attend. Cost \$20 per session. Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 8th St., Livermore. Coffee, tea and refreshments are available. Call or email Barbara Stanton for more info about the workshop, 925-373-9638 - microangelo@earthlink.net.

Classes, colored pencil basics and beyond taught by Maryann Kot. Starting Mon., Jan. 7 9:30 a.m. to noon or 6:30 to 9 p.m. on Jan. 8 for five weeks. Bothwell Arts Center 2466 8th Street, Livermore. Sign up at Way Up Art and Frame, Livermore. 925-443 3388. Space is limited.

Art Critique & Coffee Hangs at Coffee Ali, Friday at 10 a.m. sharing latest work and a gentle critique to fine tune work. Original paintings from a group of Local Professional and Emerging artists, with a New Theme, create New Works each month. Grab a cup of coffee and pull up a chair to hear what we have to say and enjoy Original Fine Art. For more information Google: Poetry on Canvas Pleasanton or call Claudette 510 543-4776.

Pleasanton Poetry League, Catch the Wave and Play with Poetic Journaling lead by local Artist/Poet Claudette McDermott. E-Mail interest to Poetry-OnCanvas@Mac.Com. Meetings at local locations. All Poetry enthusiasts welcome. Get on the PPL mailing list: PoetryOnCanvas@Mac.Com

Piano lessons, Private and small group piano lessons available for beginning students. Lessons include playing practice, theory, expression and an introduction to various types of music and composers. Private classes are \$15 per half hour and group lessons are \$12 per student per half hour (up to 4 students). For more information please call (925) 216-7231 email thomasin d@hotmail.com or visit http://childrensartclassesprojects. blogspot.com/.

Young Artists' Studio has openings in its school year art classes for youngsters in grades 2 through high school and beyond. Classes will begin in October. All kinds of drawing and painting as well as printmaking and sculpture are offered in our large and well equipped home studio. Peggy Frank has been providing art experiences for valley youth for over 30 years. Contact her by email at frank a@comcast.net or by phone at (925) 443-8755.

WINERY EVENTS

Wine Pairing Dinner at Terra Mia Restaurant, Livermore, flavors of Calabria paired with great wine selections from Livermore Valley wineries of Steven Kent and La Rochelle. Thurs., Dec. 2, p.m. Reservations recommended, call the restaurant, 456-3333. www.terramiarestaurant.com. \$100 per person (tax and gratuity included). 4040 East Ave., Livermore.

The Winemaker's Pour House, Be Happy At "Happy Hour" with Livermore Valley Wine. Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri. 4 to 6 p.m. Buy a glass of Livermore Valley Wine or Flight and order a flatbread for half price. Take the wine puzzle challenge. Ask the wait staff for the wine puzzle. Information call (925) 215-2656 or visit www.winemakerspourhouse.com.

Holidays in the Vineyards, Livermore

Valley Wine Country celebrates the season, December 1 and 2, noon to 4:30 p.m. each day. There is no ticket required to attend. However, tasting fees may apply and vary by winery. Guests are encouraged to bring unwrapped toys or monetary donations for Toys for Tots. Information at Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association, www.lvwine.org.

Charles R Vineyards celebrates Holiday in the Vineyards on December 1st & 2nd, Enjoy a full-flight tasting of award-winning wines in a comfortable, friendly environment. Savor homemade, 3-Bean Supper Soup and roast s'mores at the new fire pit. Local artisans will showcase their custom designed jewelry and works of art throughout the weekend, while holiday carolers set the tone on Saturday. Special holiday gift packs, autographed bottles, and case discounts are available. Noon - 5 p.m., Dec. 1st & 2nd, 8195 Crane Ridge Rd., Livermore, www.CharlesRVinevards.com.

Cedar Mountain Winery, Holidays in the Vineyards, Dec. 1 and 2, noon to 5 p.m. weekend of Holiday Cheer. Cup of complimentary Hot Mulled Wine. B.YO.B (Bottle your own Port!) Dec 2nd Only: Earl has created a special "Port Blend" for this event only; bring clean 375 ml wine bottle, fill, and cork and label it for only \$10 per bottle; 750 ml bottle for \$20; empty bottles available for additional \$1. Guests are encouraged to bring an unwrapped toy to benefit the "Toys for Tots Foundation." 7000 Tesla Rd., Livermore.

Gingerbread Class & Wine Tasting,
Wente Vineyards Vineyard Tasting
Room, 5050 Arroyo Road, Livermore.
Dec. 5, 7 to 9 p.m. Build gingerbread
house, taste wine paired with holiday
treats. Tack holiday sweater contest.
Reservations required. www.wentevineyards.com/

wine Pairing Dinner at Terra Mia Restaurant, flavors of Calabria paired with wine selections from Livermore Valley wineries of Steven Kent and La Rochelle. Thursday, December 6, 2012, 6-8.30pm. Reservations recommended, please call restaurant 925.456.3333 - www.terramiarestaurant.com. \$100.00 per person (tax and gratuity included). Terra Mia Restaurant, 4040 East Ave., Livermore.

Wood Family Vineyards will be sampling five wines at Gene's Fine Foods in Pleasanton on Sat., Dec. 8 from 2 - 5 p.m.. Gene's Fine Foods has placed a new order of Wood Family Vineyards wines just in time for the holidays. A sampling will be available on December 8th. The Wine Steward in Pleasanton is also carrying a new supply of Wood Family Vineyards. www.woodfamilyvineyards.com

MUSIC/CONCERTS

Music every Saturday in the tasting room from 12 to 4; open every day if the gate is open and for sure on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays 11 to 5. Red Feather Winery, 5700 Greenville Rd., Livermore. Information at 449–1871 or www.redfeatherwinery.com Blacksmith Square, music every Sat-

urday 3 to 6 p.m. in the courtyard, 21

Tri-Valley Medieval and Renaissance Collegium playing session for amateur musicians. Peter Maund, director.

South Livermore Ave., Livermore,

musicians, Peter Maund, director. Mondays 7:30–9:30 p.m. 7600 Dublin Blvd., suite 370, Dublin. \$25. Information collegium2011@gmail.com or 925-424-1209 or 925-984-4395

Authentic New Orleans Style/Danceable Dixieland Traditional Jazz now at Sunol Jazz Cafe . Comfort food served up with Smokin' Hot Jazz every 1st and 3rd Wednesday Mission Gold Jazz Band. Dinner orders begin at 6 pm: music from 7:30.

Chris Bradley's Jazz Band, plays at the Sunol Jazz Cafe (In the Center of Sunol) the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month 7:30-9:30 p.m. The band features real Jazz from the 1920's.

or www.laspositascollege.edu/performingarts

Pacific Chamber Symphony, Fri., Nov. 30, 8 p.m. Handel: Messiah with soloists and the PCS Chorus and grand finale Hallelujah Sing-along. Bankhead Haater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Ohlone College Chops Big Band, conducted by Ken Crowell, Fri., Nov. 30, 8 p.m., 18-piece big band performs collection of tunes including Gershwin's "Summertime," Porter's "Just One of Those Things," and "It's You Or No One" arranged by Rob Lussier, among others. Smith Center at Ohlone College, 43600 Mission Blvd., Fremont. Smith Center Box Office: (510) 659-6031 or www. smithcenter.com.

Livermore-Amador Symphony, 50th anniversary season, Dec. 1, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800

Tapestry, combined vocal and handbell ensemble, "Dear Santa, A Musical Potpourri of Yuletide Wishes." Saturday, December 1 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Road in Pleasanton. 7 PM and are free to the public. Donations accepted. Visit www. TapestryRingersandSingers.org or call Susana Taylor, 925-768-8025.

Jazz Night Concert, Sat., Dec. 1, 8 p.m. Las Positas College presents vocal and instrumental jazz standards. Las Positas College Barbara Mertes Center for the Arts, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. Advance tickets at www.brownpapertickets.com or call 1-800-838-3006. Further information at 424-1100 or www.laspositascollege edu/performingarts

Pleasanton Community Concert Band, "A Holiday Rhapsody," Sun., December 2, Holiday Concert, 2 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.

Jeff Bordes & Friends: A Jazzy-Funky Christmas comes to Firehouse Arts Center Sat, Dec. 8, 8 p.m. Special guests include local favorites organist/ vocalist Don Lewis, The CoolTones Big Band, among others. Sold out last year. Tickets \$15, \$20, \$25; Child \$12 Senior \$22; group discounts available. Purchase online at www.firehousearts. org, 925-931-4848, or in person at Firehouse Box Office, 4444 Railroad Avenue in Pleasanton

Festival of Carols, The Joy of **Christmas**, featuring the combined choirs of Centerpointe Church Dec. 8 and Dec. 9 at the church's worship center, 3410 Cornerstone Court. The Saturday performance starts at 7 p.m The second performance will be at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 9. Handbell and chancel choirs accompanied by piano, organ and a string quartet. Audience will have the opportunity to sing along with a number of Christmas Carols. Betty Gail Hunt directs the handbell choir, while Diana Cefalo will be the guest director. Lee Lipsker will narrate the program. A reception will follow the Saturday evening performance. There is no admission charge. For additional information, please see the web site, www.centerpointechurch.org or call the office at 925-846-4436.

James P. Connelly with Katsy Chappel, Comedy@Firehouse Arts, Dec. 12, 7:30 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www. firehousearts.org Tingstad & Rumbel Holiday Show,

Dec. 15, 8 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www. firehousearts.org.

Broadway Star Jeri Sager, Presents A Very Jeri Christmas, Dec. 16, 2 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts. org.

Annual Winter Band Concert, Amador Valley High School, Thurs., Dec. 18, 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Chanticleer Christmas, Dec. 19, 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

San Ramon Symphonic Band Holiday Concert, Dec. 21, 7 p.m. Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, Albion Rd., San Ramon; sanramonperformingarts.com. 973-3343. Willie K's Hawaiian Christmas, Dec. 21,

8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater. org or 373-6800. Moscow Boys Choir Christmas, Dec.

22, 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800. New Year's Eve with Flash Cadillac.

Dec. 31, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

ON THE STAGE

All My Sons, Douglas Morrisson Theatre closes its "Family Portraits" 2012 season with Arthur Miller's 1947 classic. Douglas Morrisson Theatre, 22311 N. Third Street, in Hayward. November 15, 2012 — December 9, 2012; Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 PM; Saturday December 1, 2012 at 2:00 PM and 8:00 PM. Sundays at 2:00 PM. \$10 preview, \$20 Sat. matinee; \$28 Thurs., Fri., Sat. eve., Sun. matinee. (510) 881-6777; www.dmtonline.org Christmas Carol, Nov. 30-Dec. 15, San

hristmas Carol, Nov. 30-Dec. 15, San Ramon Community Theatre presents Bah Humbug! Scrooge's Christmas Carol, Front Row Theater, Dougherty Station Community Center, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Rd., San Ramon; san-ramonperformingarts.com. 973-3343.

Puss in Boots, Pleasanton Civic Arts Stage Company presents Holiday 'fractured fairy-tale' musical comedy, Friday Dec 7 and 14, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday Dec 8 and 15, 7:30 p.m.; and 2 p.m. matinees on Saturdays and Sundays Dec 8, 9 and 15, 16. Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. Tickets are \$10, \$15, \$18; Child or Senior: \$6, \$9, \$12. Tickets available at www.firehousearts.org, 925-931-4848, or at the Firehouse Arts Center Box Office, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. Tickets are also available at the Amador Theater 2 hours prior to the performance.

Bay Area Children's Theatre presents Pinkalicious, Dec. 23, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. musical, Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, Albion Rd., San Ramon; sanramonperformingarts.com. 973-3343.

COMEDY

Comedy@ Firehouse Arts, James P. Connolly, headliner, Katsy Chappell, opener, Wednesday, December 12, 2012 at 7:30 pm. Firehouse Arts Center is located at 4444 Railroad Avenue Pleasanton. For tickets, call 931-4848 or go to www.firehousearts.org

Big Fat Kiss Off XX, Will Durst and Company. Dec. 28, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

DANCE

Friday Evening Group Dance! Learn how to dance with great instructors from It's All About Dancing, new dance every week from Salsa, Tango, Swing and more. Group lesson starts at 7:30, followed by open dance until 9:45 in our new location at the Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 8th St., Livermore; 925-449-9292. \$15.

Handel's Messiah Ballet performed by Anastasis Ballet Company Dec. 1 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 2 at 2 p.m. Grand Theatre, 715 Central Ave., Tracy. For more information, please visit www. anastasisballet.org or contact info@ anastasisballet.org. Tickets at \$15-\$25 may be purchased at www.atthegrand. org or 209-831-6858.

The Nutcracker, Valley Dance Theatre presents seasonal favorite features classic choreography paired with Tchaikovsky's score performed live by the Livermore-Amador Symphony. Dec. 8, 9, 15, 16 at 2 p.m. Dec. 8, 14, 15, 16 at 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

AUDITIONS/COMPETITIONS

Auditions, 2013 Sunol Repertory Theatre production, "Murder in the House of Horrors." Auditions Thurs., Dec. 6, 7 p.m. in the Sunol Glen School Auditorium 11601 Main St., Sunol. Directed by Lynn Kozma and produced by Kathy Morris. A Who Done it Murder Mystery Play, Rehearsals are Tues. & Thurs. 7-9pm. Performances Fri. & Sat. 8pm March 2 to 23. For more information call Sandi @ 925.862.9006

Forever Plaid, auditions, Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre production. Auditions

ART & ENTERTAINMENT



"Hurry to the Stable," a free concert of Advent and Christmas music, will be presented at Our Savior Lutheran Ministries, 1385 South Livermore Avenue, Livermore, on Sunday, December 2, at 4:00 pm. The concert includes choral groups, handbell choirs, and brass ensemble, as well as a flute trio, violin piece, vocal duet, and the contemporary praise team. Refreshments will follow the concert in the school gym.

Sat., Dec. 1, 3 p.m., call backs (by invitation only) Sat., Dec. 8. 1020 Serpentine Lane, Suite 101, Pleasanton. Prepare 32 bars up tempo 50's pop; accompanist provided, no tapes, no a cappella. All roles open, no pay, no AEA. PErformances will be at the Village Theatre in Danville March 22-30 To sign up for an auditoin slot email kbreedveld@trivalleyrep.com. For questions, please contact the producer at (925) 899-3451

Open auditions, for Tri-Valley Haven's Production of Eve Ensler's The Vagina Monologues. The show will be performed at the Mertes Center for the Arts at Las Positas College on Friday and Saturday. March 1st and 2nd 2013. Experienced and inexperienced actresses of all ages and ethnic backgrounds are welcome (women only please, transgender females welcome) Auditions will be held on Wed December 12 and Fri., December 14, 2012 from 5 - 9 pm at the Coffee Ali in Pleasanton. Please contact Christine to schedule your audition at (925) 667-2707 or Christine@trivalleyhaven. org. Please bring a current photo and prepare a1 - 2 minute monologue (not from The Vagina Monologues please) to present to the Director. For more information, please contact Christine at Christine@trivalleyhaven.org or (925)

2013 Livermore Valley Wine Country Photo Contest, enter for a change to win a one-year membership to Livermore Valley Wine Country (that means complimentary tastings for two at more than 40 wineries!), 2 tickets to Barrel Tasting Weekend (March 23 & 24, 2013) with a one-night stay at

Hawthorn Suites (March 23, 2013). For entry information and entry form, go to the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association website at www.lvwine.org

Classic Film Series, "Make 'em Laugh," hosted by Candy Klaschus, film historian and coordinator of the Humanities Program at Las Positas College; presented by Las Positas College and the Pleasanton Library. Thurs.. Dec. 6. 7 p.m. The Lady Eve. Free admission. www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/ library

CHORAL

Ohlone College Community Chorale

presents Holiday Prelude directed by Darryl Guzman, Dec. 1, 3 p.m. Centerville Presbyterian Church, 4360 Central Ave, Fremont. Concert featuring Courtney's "A Musicological Journey through the Twelve Days of Christmas," Leavitt's "Missa Festiva," and more. \$5-\$10 at Smith Center Box Office: 510-659-6031 or www.smithcenter.

Valley Concert Chorale, Holiday Songs of Joy: The Chorale's annual holiday performances of familiar and traditional carols will fill your spirit with the joy of the season. Cantabella Children's Chorus joins the Chorale for an enjoyable musical experience. Sun., Dec. 2 3 p.m. Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton; and Sat., Dec. 15, 7:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, 4th & L Streets, Livermore. Tickets are \$20 advance, \$25 at the door. High school and college students \$10 with valid student ID. Children 12 and under are free, www.vallevconcert-

chorale.org or (925) 866-4003. Pacific Masterworks Chorus, Winter

Concert, December 8, 7:30 p.m. Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Avenue, Livermore. Buy tickets online, purchase at the door, or contact Tickets@PacificMasterworksChorus.org

Las Positas College choir, orchestra and wind ensemble perform choruses from Handel's Messiah and other seasonal favorites. Thurs.. Dec. 13. 7:30 p.m. Las Positas College Barbara Merte's Center for the Arts, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore, Advance tickets at www.brownpapertickets.com or call 1-800-838-3006. Further information at 424-1100 or www.laspositascollege. edu/performingarts

Sing-It-Yourself Messiah, Valley Concert Chorale, join in singing Part I of Handel's great masterpiece, including the Hallelujah Chorus. Fri., Dec. 14, 7:30 p.m. Trinity Lutheran Church. 1225 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. Tickets are \$10 each. www.valleyconcertchorale.org or (925) 866-4003.

Cantabella Children's Chorus, winter holiday concert, Counting the Joys of Christmas, Saturday, December 15

at 1:00 and 3:30 P.M. at Our Savior Lutheran Ministries, 1385 S. Livermore Ave, Livermore. For the 21st year in a row, this musical celebration of the season will feature children aged kindergarten through high school performing choral music accompanied by professional chamber musicians and fine harpist. Dan Levitan. Repertoire includes traditional carols sung in English, French, Latin and Spanish, as well as not so familiar gems in Basque, Hebrew and by composers such as Leonard Bernstein, Żoltan Kodaly and R. Vaughan Williams, Audience participation, Tickets are \$8-\$20. For information and ticket purchase, go to Cantabella.org/tickets.

OPERA

Amahl and the Night Visitors, Saturday, December 8, 2 and 5 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 2020 Fifth St., Livermore. Tickets \$12-\$25, purchase at www.livermorevalleyopera.com and at the door

Metropolitan Opera Schedule, screening at Regal Hacienda Cinema in Dublin: La Clemenza di Tito, Dec. 1 9:55 a.m., Dec. 19, 6:30 p.m.; Un Ballo in Maschera, Dec. 8, 9:55 a.m., Jan. 9, 6:30 p.m.; Aida, Dec. 15, 9:55 a.m., Jan. 16, 6:30 p.m.; Les Troyens, Jan. 5, 9 a.m., Jan. 23, 6:30 p.m.; Maria Stuarda, Jan. 19, 9:55 a.m., Feb. 6, 6:30 p.m.; Rigoletto, Feb. 16, 9:55 a.m., March 6, 6:30 p.m.; Parsifal, March 2, 9 a.m., March 20, 6:30 p.m.; Francesca da Rimini. March 16. 9 a.m., April 3, 6:30 p.m.; Giulio Cesaré, April 27, 9 a.m., May 15, 6:30 p.m.

MISCELLANEOUS

Political Issues Book Club meets the 4th Tuesday of each month, and reads hooks about issues and trends that are driving current affairs in both the national and international arenas Topics that have been covered include politics, governance, economics, military affairs, history, sociology, science, the climate, and religion. Contact Rich at 872-7923, for further questions

Museum on Main, preschool preliteracy program, M.o.M.'s Reading Time. For ages 2 to 5 and families, free reading program, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Reading at 10 a.m. with theme crafts following. Donations appreciated. No reservations required. Large groups or playgroups please phone in advance: 925.462.2766 or email: education@ museumonmain.org. 2012 M.o.M.'s Reading. December 12, Light Up the Seasons. The Museum on Main is located at 603 Main Street in historic downtown Pleasanton.

Fall 2012 lecture series, Congregation Beth Emek: Dec. 5 scholar Ken Cohen who will trace the creation of Tel-Aviv in the early 20th century. Admission is \$10. All lectures will begin at 7:30 pm Congregation Beth Emek is located at 3400 Nevada Court in Pleasanton. For more information: 510.318.6453. The series is sponsored by Congregation Beth Emek and the Jewish Federation of the East Bay.

Annual Holiday Tree Lighting Cer**emony**, Thurs., Nov. 29, 7 - 8:30 p.m. at the Dublin Civic Center

St. Bart's Dickens Faire. Saturday. Dec. 1, and Sunday, Dec. 2, at St Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, 678 Enos Way, Livermore. Costumed actors will present excerpts from Dickens' A Christmas Carol: craft "shoppes" will line a Victorian London street in the parish hall. Tea will be served with scones and pasties. Faire hours are from 10 a.m. to 5 pm Saturday, Dec. 1, and from 1-5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2. Donations are recommended Parking is free. Proceeds will support Saint Bartholomew's Church and its outreach programs. (925) 447-3289 or www.saintbartslivermore.com.

Holidays on the Farm, Saturdays, December 1 & 8 at Forest Home Farms Historic Park, 19953 San Ramon Valley Blvd. in San Ramon from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on both Saturdays. Admission is free. Two of Santa's reindeer will make a special visit. Enjoy entertainment, tractor rides, Victorian ornament making, sheep herding demos, tours of the farm & Glass House Museum, and special vendors. For info call (925) 973-3284.

Holiday Faire, Dec. 1, noon to 6 p.m. caroling at 3:30 p.m., Heritage Park and Museums, corner of Donlon Way and Dublin Blvd Dublin Old fashioned St. Nick. old fashioned ornaments in school barn. Kolb House decorated for "A Farm Christmas Morning." Unique handcrafted items available for purchase, as well as holiday foods. Free admission. \$5 wristband for craft making and tractor ride, 452-2101.

Home for the Holidays, Dec. 1, noon to 4 p.m. downtown Livermore, carriage rides, snow in Lizzie Fountain, www. livermoredowntown.com

Pleasanton Hometown Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting Ceremonies, parade 5 p.m. on Main Street followed by the lighting of a holiday tree in front of the Museum on Main. www.

ci.pleasanton.ca.us/

Ravenswood Victorian Yuletide, Sun., Dec. 9, noon to 4 p.m. Music, entertainment, carriage ride, food, crafts, and more. Ravenswood Historic Site, 2647 Arroyo Road, Livermore. Free admission. Docent tours.

Celtic Christmas Concert and Gathering, Sun., Dec. 9, 6 to 9 p.m. Music by Pog Mo Thain and special guest, Michael Mullen. Bring a potluck dish to share. \$15 at the door, children 12 and under free. Benefitting the Bothwell Arts Center. 447-ARTS, www bankheadtheater.org.

Journey to Living Bethlehem, Dec. 13-17, Thurs.-Mon. Walk through a 30,000 sq replica of the village of Bethlehem over 2000 years ago to remember the true meaning of Christmas. Interactive live theatre production. The production is interfaith, free to the public, 6:30 to 9 p.m. repeats every thirty minutes. The event is adjacent to St. Michael's School, corner of Third and Church St. Livermore. journeytolivingbethlehem@ gmail.com 510-377-9711

Stories and speeches, Las Positas College forensics program. Fri., Dec. 14, 7 p.m. Suggested donation \$10. Las Positas College Barbara Mertes Center for the Arts, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore, Advance tickets at www.brownpapertickets.com or call 1-800-838-3006. Further information at 424-1100 or www.laspositascollege edu/performingarts

Holiday Tea, Sat., Dec. 15, 1 p.m. Heritage Park and Museums, corner of Donlon Way and Dublin Blvd., Dublin. \$25 per person. 452-2101.

Historic photos sought, Pleasanton art patrons, Nancy and Gary Harrington, have created a historical mural of Pleasanton's pioneer founders. They have been unable to find any photos or pictures of three of the founders: Walter Briggs/Meadowlark Dairy; Tom Orloff/Orloff Dairy; Con Nevin/ Hop Farming Company. They have searched the Pleasanton Museum on Main, met with local historian, Charles Huff, visited/spoken with the historical societies of both Livermore and Dublin. The Harringtons are asking for help in locating pictures of these three historical figures. Anyone who has lived in the area for many years and who might have in their family albums any pictures of any of these three men, please contact them at nancyrh1@sbcglobal.net or call 925-846-9757





Picazo Wine Poured and Sold at McGrail **Two Primo Vino Ventures Seal a Deal**

by Harry Stoll

Thursday dusk,
November 15: the rain
can't decide to write on
the slated sky, but inside
the high wide and bright
McGrail Vineyards and
Winery tasting room, the
decision is clear: Jose and
Pam Picazo will continue
to grow Merlot in their
vineyard on Kalthoff Commons, but are getting out
of wine production. Picazo
wines are now sold in the
McGrail Vineyards and

Tri-Valley Rotary Collects Warm Coats

Tri-Valley Rotary is collecting and distribution coats to local school age children whose family may not be able to afford warm coats for their children.

Donation of a new or gently used coat for children ages 2-16 will benefit those in need. Adult and infant sized coats will also be accepted.

Coats can be dropped off through December 8. Distribution is set for Dec. 15.

Collection locations are the following: Club Sport Pleasanton, 7090 Johnson Drive, Pleasanton; Hairlights Salon, 4307 Valley Ave Suite F, Pleasanton; Bank of America Downtown Pleasanton (on Main): Pacific Coast Seed, 533 Hawthorne Place, Livermore: Casse Croute Bakery, 50 S. Livermore Ave (downtown Livermore near intersection with First St.); Coffee Co., 5424 Sunol Boulevard, Pleasanton in Raley's Shopping Center.

For information send an email to info@trivalleyrotary.org or contact Bonnie at 443-5450 or visit www. trivalleyrotary.org.

Winery's spacious tasting room, alongside McGrail wines.

On Thursday, November 1, a joint press release from Heather McGrail, marketer for McGrail, and Pam Picazo, announced the arrangement. "It's a natural partnership."

Although the Picazo brand intends to concentrate on Livermore Valley grapes, it now offers some Napa Valley products. Celebrants stand at the long polished bar. Pourer Joan Roland, who is friendly, but sans gush, offers a 2010 Napa Valley Sauvignon Blanc. The vineyard is cooled by breezes coming off of San Pablo Bay so the fruit matures slowly, say the tasting notes. This is a blend of the familiar Clone 1 and Musque. Honeysuckle plays in the aroma, which is also stimulated by gooseberries. It's not grassy, but a classical example of Sauvignon Blanc. Sells for \$29.

Joan pours three Livermore Valley Merlots—a 2005, a 2006, and a 2007. all from Picazo Livermore Valley vineyards. Some tasters spin their glass high in the light to enjoy the rich ruby color then continue the twirl in front of their chest to free the aroma. eyes closed so only the nose is involved. "Black cherry," is the predominant verdict and sensitive tasters claim cassis and anise. The winemaker notes on the 2007 read, "The wine opens with lavender, cassis, and a ménage of baking spices." Ooo la la, a spicy ménage. All the Merlots are grown in gravelly soil 200 feet above the valley floor. They sell from

Marketer Heather McGrail goes easily from group to group. Behind the very pretty pleasant face is a hair-trigger mind. "This is the perfect marriage," says she, also pointing out that McGrail was success-

\$65 to \$80.

ful from day one.

At a counter at the north end of the tasting room, with a view of the headlights on the Altamont searching in the distant dark, tasters try the 2007 Picazo Proprietary Red. It's a Bordeaux blend of Cabernet Sauvignon from both Napa and Livermore valleys, and Merlot from Picazo Vineyards. Oh my, let's hear it for Bordeaux blends and especially for this genius one. It sells for \$45.

Veteran winemaker Mark Clarin is the winemaker for both McGrail Vineyards and Winery and Picazo Vineyards. He wanders easily, looking at home in down home jeans. A ponytail trails down the broad back of his plaid shirt. He made Picazo wine from its inception in 2004, and joined McGrail as a winemaker for the 2009 vintage. Try any wine from these two wineries and you'll know he's ace.

In the barrel room, a nice spread of salads, meats and cheeses invites. Some celebrants are speed eating. An eater points at an inviting browned something wrapped in bacon. "What's that?" Responds a woman, "If it's wrapped in bacon it has got to be good." She was so right.

Near the food, a 2008 Picazo Cabernet Sauvignon from Napa Valley is being poured. This is no time to exhibit envy of that prime spot, this is a rich one replete with those whomping tannins to light up your life. It fills the mouth once more with feeling, and tastes of black currant, cedar, and tobacco. It sells for \$125.

The 2008 McGrail Vineyards and Winery Reserve Livermore Valley Cabernet Sauvignon was named Best Red Wine in the 2012 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition, beating more than 5000 entrants.

When asked by e-mail if there were any difficulty in

offering a Picazo Cabernet Sauvignon when McGrail grows and produces it, Mark wrote, "We plan to bring the focus back to the Livermore Valley appellation."

The tasting room also has a few tall tables with nicely curved small benches, on which sat some tasters. Among them was Livermore Valley eno aficionado Jim Lipman, who had a world of tidbits about the local wine scene, and expressed approval of the Picazo offerings. Also at one the tables were Mark's straightforward parents, Don and Sylvia Clarin. She is forthcoming and considerate in her observations. He is gregarious and plays the banio.

Picazo wines have been made at a custom crush facility at Caldwell Caves in Napa. Beginning with the 2012 vintage, recently harvested, all Picazo wines will be made by Mark at McGrail Vineyards and Winery.



Members of Brownie Troop 30321 (pictured at left), in conjunction with The Art Glass Studio, spent Black Friday gathering warm coats for fellow Livermore Residents. While others were hitting the malls and shopping stores, Girl Scouts from Livermore troops 30321, 32511, 31733, 30524 and 30309 were conducting a One Warm Coat Drive at the downtown Art Glass Studio Location. The Scouts manned their stations from 9:30 am until 7:30 pm and were able to collect 265 coats. These coats, jackets and sweaters will benefit friends, families and fellow Livermore Residents who need a little extra warmth this holiday season. Troop Leader BaBette Munoz and Jennifer Faria stated, "We plan to undertake more events such as this throughout the year. It's important to teach our girls the meaning of Giving Back. Many Thanks to Roberta, owner of The Art Glass Studio, fellow troops within Cresta Blanca and all the parents that came out to support this successful event."

BULLETIN BOARD

(Organizations wishing to run notices in Bulletin Board, send information to PO Box 1198, Livermore, CA 94551, in care of Bulletin Board or email information to editmail@compuserve.com. Include name of organization, meeting date, time, place and theme or subject. Phone number and contact person should also be included. Deadline is 5 p.m. Friday.)

Holiday boutique, Saturday, December 1, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. featuring handmade crafts by local artisans, delicious food, fun arts and crafts, free make and takes for kids and adults, music and all day raffles First 50 people get a prize. Livermore Valley Charter School fund-raising, 2451 Portola Avenue, Livermore.

Holiday Boutique, Sat., Dec. 1, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Mendenhall Middle School 1701 El Padro Dr., Livermore. Local artisans featured. Vendors are still needed Contact J.Meyer @ JSTANGL@lvjusd.k12.ca.us

Holiday Book Sale, Sat., Dec. 1, noon to 3 p.m. Dublin Library, 200 Civic Plaza, Dublin. Selection of hardcover books in excellent condition, ideal for gift giving; children's books, holiday books, gourmet cookbooks, gift books, and more. Information, call the Dublin Library (925) 828-1315.

Annual Holiday Boutique, Ladies Auxiliary of the Fleet Reserve Association Unit 287 will present the event on Dec. 8, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Veterans Building, 522 South "L" St., Livermore. 8 ft. tables available for rent at \$25 call Polly 447-5986 Proceeds go to help service men and women who are overseas, along with veterans at home who are always in need of help. Snack bar run by veterans attending classes at Las Positas

Holidays on the Farm, Saturdays, December 1 & 8 at Forest Home Farms Historic Park, 19953 San Ramon Valley Blvd. in San Ramon from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on both Saturdays. Free admission. Two of Santa's reindeer will make a special visit! Enjoy entertainment tractor rides Victorian ornament making, sheep herding demos, tours of the farm & Glass House Museum, and special vendors. For info call (925) 973-3284.

Community Holiday Posada Celebra tion, Pleasanton/Tulancingo Sister City Association hosting the event Sun., Dec. 16. The Posada is celebrated in Mexico through music, carols, and everyone's participation. Posada program 7 to 8 p.m. followed by dessert and refreshments. Veterans Memorial Building 301 Main St. Pleasanton Free admission. All are invited. This is a fun family event with participation from local school students and the Pleasanton community. For more information, contact Sylvia or Jorge Victoria at jvictoria45@comcast.net

2013 Valley Humane Society Calendar is available for a \$15 donation which helps animals all year long by funding muchneeded rescue and rehabilitation programs 3670 Nevada St., Pleasanton, www. valleyhumane.org.

Book sale, Friends of the Livermore Library, Sunday, December 2nd from noon to 4 p.m., rain or shine, regular monthly book sale. There will be craft books, fiction and classics, children's books, and more. Outdoor plaza of former library, corner of Pacific Ave. & S. Livermore Ave., Livermore. For more information, call 925-443-0766. Mention "The Independent" and save \$2 when you spend \$4 or more.

Tri-Valley Republican Women Federated, all are invited to the Tri-Valley Republican Women Federated Christmas Party. Evening of holiday music, good food, and good company, all at Cattlemen's Restaurant, 2882 Kitty Hawk Road, Livermore. Wednesday, December 12, 6 p.m. Dinner choices are Shrimp Scampi, Lemon Herb Chicken, Sirloir Steak, Broiled Salmon, Ravioli, or Caesar Salad topped with either Salmon, Chicken

or Tri-tip; and Dessert. \$26 per person. To reserve a table contact Phyllis Couper. 925-462-4931 or email coupclan1962@pacbell. net by December 7.

Tri-Valley Chapter 397 of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE). Federal employees and retirees are invited to attend a monthly lunchtime meeting on Thursday, December 13, at Vic's All Star Kitchen, 201 A Main St. in Pleasanton, to learn about a national association that advocates for them. Attendees need not be NARFF members Formed in 1921, No host luncheon 11:30 a.m. A business meeting at 1 p.m. Currently elections for chapter officers will be held. Look for chapter signs at the restaurant side entrance. To request more information, directions or transportation to the meeting, please call Gary at (925) 373-6758. Background on NARFE is on the Web at www.narfe.org.

Livermore Library Board, meets 7 p.m. Dec. 6 at the Civic Center Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave. An agenda will be posted at the library 72 hours prior to the meeting.

Armchair Travelers, a monthly program, will take place at the Livermore Civic Center Library Thurs., Dec. 13, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Blanche Angelo will share photographs of her adventures day hiking in Arizona Nevada and Utah. Blanche will show photographs of Chiricahua National Monument, Saguaro National Park, Great Basin National Park, Valley of Fire State Park, Cathedral Gorge State Park Arches National Park Canyonlands National Park, Zion National Park, Snow Canyon State Park, and Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park. Adults are invited to this free program on the second Thursday of each month in the Community Meeting Rooms of the Civic Center Library 1188 S Livermore Avenue Livermore. For additional information please call 925 373-5500.

M.I. Hummel Club, San Francisco Bay Chapter, meets second Saturday of each month at 1 p.m. at a member's home. Guests always welcome. Topics include sharing of Hummel figurine news and information. For information, contact Joan Mumma, club secretary, 447-5164 or www.mumma.org/ hummel/

Lime Ridge hike, Sun., Dec. 2, 9 a.m. to noon. A reservoir of rare plants and animals, a laboratory for restoration and the setting for a triumphant chapter in local conservation history. 4 mile hike with 700 ft, elevation gain tracinge the route outlined in the new Audible Guide for Lime Ridge. R.S.V.P. required (925) 947-3535. Save Mount Diablo.

Ohlone Audubon will meet on December 4 2012 at 7:30 nm at the Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave. 94566, Verne Nelson will present a program on "East Bay Birds." His photos show the beauty and grace of birds as they go about daily business of living. Following the program will be the annual members "slide show" and the holiday cookie exchange. Not a requirement for attending. No admission charge and refreshment served. For more information call 925-447-8843 or go to web site www.

ohloneaudubon.org.

Valley Spokesmen Bicycle Touring Club, Sat., Dec. 1, 60 miles Calaveras-Palomare's loop, meet 9 a.m. at Shannon Center in Dublin, Brahim Satoutah, 462-7390. Sun., Dec. 2, 40 miles 2 options with start at Las Positas College, meet 9:30 a.m., Doug and Janet Ondricek, 980-2490. Wed., Dec. 5, 34 miles San Ramon to Walnut Creek, meet 10 a.m. at Central Park, Peter Rathmann, 336-0973. Club meeting Wed., Dec. 5, 6:30 p.m. pizza dinner, meeting 7 p.m. Round Table Pizza, Dublin, election of officers, holiday wear awarded, www.valleyspokesmen.org. Anyone planning to go on a ride is asked to call the leader for details on where to meet and what to bring

Widowed Men and Women of Northern

CA., general meeting, birthday luncheon, Dec 8 1 n m in Dublin RSVP by Dec 3 to Marge 828-5124. Lunch in Livermore, Dec. 12, 11:30 a.m. RSVP by Dec. 10 to Janet, 443-3317. Breakfast/lunch in San Ramon, Dec. 16, noon, RSVP by Dec. 13 to Hilda, 398-8808. Happy hour in Pleasanton, Dec. 20, 5 p.m. RSVP by Dec. 18 to Marge, 828-5124. Lunch and optional shopping in Blackhawk, Dec. 27, noon, RSVP by Dec. 23 to Marsha, 830-8483, Lunch in Livermore, Dec. 30, 1 p.m., RSVP by Dec. 27 to Ruby,

GNON's A Toy Drive, New unwrapped toys will be collected for the Toys for Tots program at the holiday party on Thurs., Dec. 6. 5 p.m. Girasole Grill Restaurant, 3180 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton, Cost is \$10/pp for members and \$15/pp for non-members. RSVP: To gnoners@gmail.com by December

Love-A-Doll Club meets on the second Thursday morning of each month. Share the love knowledge and collection of dolls and doll related items. For more detailed information, call 925-447-5149.

Healing Touch for Tri-Valley Veterans, December 8. Available time slots: 9:00 a.m., 10:15 a.m., or 11:30 a.m. Free Healing Touch sessions for active, inactive, combat or retired Veterans from any military branch. Healing Touch Program is endorsed by the American Holistic Nurses Association. Advance reservation required as space is limited. Sessions held at Las Positas College, Veterans First Center, Building 1000, Livermore. Student status is not required. For more information or to schedule a session, please call 925-352-8917.

Soroptimist Pleasanton Dublin is accepting applications for Soroptimist Awards. Applications are due by Dec. 2 2012. Violet Richardson Award: Available to young woman between the ages of 14 & 17 who volunteer in the community or School Women's Opportunity Award: Since 1972, Soroptimist has been helping women reclaim their dreams through the Women's Opportunity Awards program. This program provides cash grants to women who are working to better their lives through additional skills training and education. For more information or to complete an application visit: www.sipleasantondublin.org. Please mail applications to: Soroptimist International Pleasanton Dublin; P.O. Box 51, Pleasanton, CA 94566

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness), Tri-Valley Parent Resource and Support Group is a twice-a-month parent support group for parents with children to age 18 diagnosed with or suspected of having bipolar or other mood disorders. It meets First and third Tuesdays of each month from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m at Pathways To Wellness, 5674 Stoneridge Dr., Suite #114, Pleasanton. The group is drop-in, no registration required and is free. Suzi Glorioso by phone: (925) 443-1797 or by e-mail: glorios4@comcast.net

Operation: S.A.M. "Supporting All Military" is a 501(c)3 non profit military support organization based in Livermore S.A.M. has been in operation since January 2004. It is dedicated to the continued support of deployed troops. Preparation of comfort packages takes place every other week - all year long. Providing morale support for those deployed. All information provided is confidential and is not shared for security purposes. To submit a name and address, inquire about donations or helping, please visit www.operationsam.org, email operationsam@comcast.net or call 925 443-7620 for more information and the calendar of events.

Community Resources for Independent Living (CRIL) offers services to help people with disabilities and supports them to live independently and participate in their community for as long as they are willing

and able to do so. CRIL maintains offices in Hayward. Fremont and Livermore to provide information and referrals and provide community education at senior centers and affordable housing complexes to residents of Southern Alameda County. The Tri-Valley office is located at 3311 Pacific Avenue. Livermore 94550 and can be reached by phone at (925) 371-1531, by FAX at (925) 373-5034 or by e-mail at abril.tamayo@ cril-online.org. All services are free.

RFI IGION

First Presbyterian Church, 2020 Fifth Street, Livermore. 9:00 a.m. Contemplative Service in the Chapel, 10:30 Traditional Service in the Sanctuary and children's program. For more information www.fpcl.us or 925-447-2078.

Tri-Valley Bible Church, 2346 Walnut St., Livermore, holds Sunday worship at 10 a.m. with Sunday school for all ages at 9 a.m. Children's classes during adult worship service. AWANA children's program Wednesdays at 6 p.m. 449-4403 or www. Tri-ValleyBibleChurch.com.

Unitarian Universalist, 1893 N. Vasco Rd., Livermore. 10:30 a.m. Sunday service. Information 447-8747

Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton. Information 931-1055.

Tri-Valley Cultural Jews, affiliated with the Congress of Secular Jewish Organizations (csjo.org). Information, Rabbi Judith Seid. Tri-Valley Cultural Jews. 485-1049 or EastBaySecularJews.org.
First Church of Christ, Scientist,

Livermore, services 10 a.m. every Sunday. Sunday School for students (ages 3-20) is held at 10 a.m. every Sunday. The church and reading room are located at Third and N Streets. The Reading Room, which is open to the public, features books, CDs and magazines for sale. For information, call (925) 447-2946

Sunset Community Church, 2200 Arroyo Rd., Livermore. Sunday worship service at 10:30 a.m. Nursery and children's church provided. A "Night of Worship" first Sunday of each month at 6 p.m. Wednesday night program for all ages at 7 p.m. Information, call 447-6282

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

Our Savior Lutheran Ministries, 1385 S. Livermore Avenue, Livermore. 8:30 a.m. worship (semiformal); 9:45 a.m. adult Bible study/Sunday school; 11 a.m. worship (infor-

mal). For information, call 925-447-1246.

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

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

St. Matthew's Baptist Church, 1239 North Livermore Ave., Livermore. Services on Sunday at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Adult Sunday school 9:30 a.m., Children's Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. Prayer each Wednesday at 7 p.m. followed by Bible study at 7:30 p.m. 449-3824

United Christian Church celebrating 50 years in the Tri-Valley. 1886 College Ave. at M St., Livermore; worships on Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. Children's program on Sunday morning and first Fridays. The community is welcome. United CC is an Open and Affirming ministry. Call 449-6820 for more information.

Granada Baptist Church, 945 Concannon Boulevard, Livermore. Services: Sunday school – 9:45 a.m.; worship service – 11 a.m. All are welcome. 1-888-805-7151.

Seventh-day Adventist Church, 243 Scott Street, Livermore. 925-447-5462 services on Saturday: Sabbath school 9:30 a.m., worship 11 a.m. www.livermoresda.

org/ All are welcome.

The deaf community is invited to worship at First Presbyterian Church in Livermore, where ASL translation will be provided every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. The church is located on the corner of 4th and I streets

Faith Chapel Assembly of God. 6656 Alisal St., Pleasanton, Sunday School for all ages 9:15 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m., Children's Church 11:15 a.m. Women's Bible study Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Intercessory prayer 1st and 3rd Wednesdays. Please call office at 846-8650 for weekly programs.

Trinity, 557 Olivina Ave., Livermore. Sunday worship at 8:30 and 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday school or Bible study for all ages at 9:45 a.m. Awana is Sunday at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday nights there is adult Rible study at 6:45 and NRG and Re.Gen for youth, and children's choir for kids. Child care during all events. 447-1848, www.trinitylivermore.org.

St. Charles Borromeo, 1315 Lomitas Ave., Livermore. Meditation groups following the John Main tradition, every Monday 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. For details, contact Claire La Scola at 447-9800.

Centerpointe Church, 3410 Cornerstone Court Pleasanton, Services: 9 a.m. blended with choir and band. Childcare offered for infants through age 6 and children start in the worship service. 10:40 a.m. (new time) contemporary worship led by a band. Sunday school for children and middle-schoolers. www.centerpointechurch.org 925-846-4436

St. Innocent Orthodox Church, 1040 Florence Rd., Livermore. Sunday service at 10 a.m. For details please see our website at www.stinnocent.net or call Fr. Leo Arrowsmith at 456-0845

St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, Services on Sunday, 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. Children's Sunday School & Chapel at 10:15 a.m. All are most welcome to come and worship with us and to enjoy our hospitality. For more information call the church office 925-462-4802.

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, 678 Enos Way, Livermore, Sunday services with Rev. Joyce Parry Moore - Rector. 8:00 am Contemplative Fucharist with Taize music, 9:15 am Godly Play and Adult Bible Study, 10:30 am Sung Eucharist with choir; child-care available. Youth Group every Sunday from 4:00pm to 5:30 pm in the Parish Hall and youth room: yough oriented programs "Rite 13" and "Journey to Adulthood."www.saintbartslivermore.com/ for more information.

St. Francis of Assisi Anglican Church (1928 Book of Common Prayer), 193 Contractors Avenue, Livermore. Sunday services: 8:45 a.m. (Low Mass) and 10 a.m. (High Mass with Sunday School). Other Holy Days as announced. For information, call msg. center at 925/906-9561

Tri-Valley Church of Christ at 4481 East Avenue Livermore worship service 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. Sundays, all are welcome. 925-447-4333 (a.m. to 12:00 p.m.)

Unity of Tri-Valley Church, 9875 Dublin Canvon Rd., Castro Valley. More room for all the new classes, small groups, new children's and teen programs, and Sunday services (at 10 a.m.). All are welcome. Rev. Harriet Hawkins, minister. (925) 829-2733. www.trivalleyunity.com Check out Unity of Tri Valley on Facebook

Little Brown Church. United Church of Christ 141 Kilkare Road, Sunol. 10:30 a.m. worship. All are welcome here. www littlebrownchurchofsunol.org 925-862-2580

Pathway Community Church, 6533 Sierra Lane, Dublin, Contemporary Worship Service, Sunday 10:30 am. Children, youth, adult programs. Biblically based practical messages, nondenominational. All are welcomed. www.pathwaycommuntiychurch. org (925) 829-4793.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 486 S. J Street, Livermore. 9:00 a.m. worship service. Bible Study/Sunday School 10:20. Bible Basics Class, which explores the main teachings of the Bible, meets at 7:00 Sunday night. Call 371-6200 or email pmirmueller@ gmail.com for more info.

Tri-Valley Church of Christ, 4481 East Avenue, Livermore; 447-433.3 www. trivalleychurch.org. Update on classes for The Story 9:00 a.m. to 10:00a.m.. Worship Service 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.

Lynnewood United Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave., Pleasanton. Sunday worship at 9:00 and 10:30 am with childcare and Sunday school at 10:30 am. Rev. Heather Leslie Hammer, minister, All are welcome. www.lynnewood.org, 925 846-0221.

Christmas Nativity Display, St. Elizabeth Seton Chapel, 4001 Stoneridge Dr. Pleasanton. Dec. 2 after 9 and 11 a.m. and 4 and 6:30 p.m. Masses. Sponsored by the Italian Catholic Federation Branch 285 & CCOP Diversity Committee.

Light of the World, concert celebrating the seasons of Advent and Christmas. Fri., Dec. 14 starting at 7 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Dr., Pleasanton Catholic Community of Pleasanton (CCOP) adult choir, teen choir, children's choir, cherub choir, Filipino choir, Spanish choir, cantors and instrumentalists. Food and good cheer follow. All are invited to attend. A free will offering will help defray concert expenses. For information, call 474-2776 or email mjsullivan@catholicsofpleasanton

Asbury Christmas Concert – Asbury United Methodist Church will hold its 16th Annual Christmas Concert at 7 pm on Sunday Dec. 9, 2012 in the Sanctuary at 4743 Éast Ave. in Livermore. All of Asbury's vocal choirs, the Asbury Band, several instrumentalists and the Asbury Ringers will be performing. Asbury's pipe organ will also be part of the evening's musical offerings. The concert is open to the public. A free will offering can be made at the door. There will be a punch and homemade cookie reception immediately following in the Fellowship Hall. For more information call Jean Braun at 449-4168, the church office at 447-1950 or e-mail: TerriG@asburylive.org
Concert featuring Justin McRoberts,

December 1 at 6 p.m. singer, songwriter Justin McRoberts performs a free concert at the Fountain Christian Fellowship in Pleasanton. The event starts at 6 p.m., seating is limited, please arrive early. Fountain Christian Fellowship, 4439 Stoneridge Drive Pleasanton (925) 600-8182

Philosphers' Café/Culture Chat, an informal gathering to discuss ideas, will hold its December meeting Sunday, December 2 at 10:45 a.m. at Café Rumi, 4799 Heyer Ave., Castro Valley. The topic is "Who bears the responsibility of moral education in our society?" Philosophers' Café/Culture Chat is an activity of the Tri-Valley Cultural Jews, open to the entire community. (Non-members are asked to donate \$5 per session.) (925) 240-5612

Tri-Valley Cultural Jews annual Chanukah celebration on December 16, 10:30am to 12:30pm at the Bothwell Arts Center in Livermore. Latkas, dreidals, Menorah lighting, fun for the whole family. Bring a potato to contribute to the latkas. A family in need of help through JFCS/East Bay has been adopted. The family is in need of all household furnishings including food. Gift cards to any local stores would be greatly appreciated. Rothwell Arts Center is located at 2466 8th Street, Livermore 94550. Free to members, \$15 donation for non-members, which can be applied to a membership.Information call 485-1049, email culturaljews@aol.com, or visit our website at tri-vallevculturaliews org

Milestones

Community

Lab Physicist a Senior Member of IEEE

Mark Rowland, a physicist in Global Security' at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, has been named a senior member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). Fewer than 8 percent of IEEE members attain this level.

Rowland, who joined the Laboratory in 1984, has worked in the field of radiation detection for much of his 28-year career.

He has led Livermore teams that developed a pair of identification instruments -- the Detective, to detect and measure gamma rays, and the Fission Meter, to detect and measure neutrons. These technologies, both licensed to Tennessee-based ORTEC, assist in meeting the challenges of inspecting cargo.

In March, 2011, within several days of when the tsunami-crippled Fukushima nuclear plant started leaking radiation, four Detective instruments were shipped to Japan. The instruments were moved around the island nation and used to calibrate the



Mark Rowland (Photo by Jacqueline McBride/LLNL)

aerial measurement systems for about two months.

The Detective's mechanically-cooled design was highly practical in comparison with liquid nitrogencooled systems because of the disaster conditions that prevailed in Japan at that time and because of supply and transportation problems.

As the number of Detective instruments has reached beyond the hundreds, the instrument has become recognized as the gold standard in real-time performance.

Rowland also has led or worked on the develop-

ment of a number of other instruments, including a gamma-ray camera, a large neutron scintillator multiplicity array, a handheld low-resolution sodium iodide nuclear material identification system and an X-ray fluorescent analyzer. In addition, he led a team that designed and built two robots that were delivered to the Chernobyl nuclear plant for fuel characterization.

The holder of 12 patents, Rowland has served as an adviser and policy expert to the International Atomic Energy Agency since 1990.

Eagle Scout Rank Earned

Mac Morgan (pictured at right), a senior at Livermore High School and the son of Barbara and Mark Morgan has earned the rank of Eagle Scout.

He is a member of Troop 903, sponsored by St. Michael's Catholic Church, in Livermore.

Mac built wooden covers for the Long Jump pits at the football stadium at Livermore High School for his Eagle community service project.

In addition to scouting, Mac is a varsity athlete in both wrestling and lacrosse.



Real Estate Leadership Award Given

with the REALTORS® Con-

ference & Expo.

Ed Krafchow, chairman of the board for Better Homes and Gardens Mason-McDuffie Real Estate, was named the 2012 recipient of RISMedia's Real Estate Leadership Award, sponsored by Citibank. Krafchow accepted the award at RISMedia's 17th Annual Power Broker Dinner on November 9 in Orlando, Fla., held in conjunction

The RISMedia Real Estate Leadership Award honors a member of the real estate community who embraces innovation and demonstrates resilience in

order to facilitate success for real estate professionals and consumers alike.

"The individuals who were nominated for this award were chosen for their commitment to consistently blazing new paths in real estate," said John Featherston, publisher and CEO of RISMedia. "Ed Krafchow has long exemplified innovation and leadership in real estate and is an inspiration for his peers, brokers and sales associates. We are thrilled to present Ed with this year's Real Estate Leadership Award."

Krafchow stated, "I am humbled, and accept this honor on behalf of the agents, managers, and em-

ployees of Mason-McDuffie Real Estate."

Krafchow has been closely involved in the development of the company's proprietary WebTop Intranet, a technology platform that has generated leads and created efficient business processes for his sales associates. Mindful of the changing needs of consumers, Krafchow led his company to a full integration of online transaction management and esignatures in 2010. Krafchow is a frequent national speaker on several industry-related topics, and has been identified by the California Association of REALTORS® as one of California's top brokers and recognized as a technological leader by the Employee Relocation Council. He has consulted on a national as well as local level with many Multiple Listing Services (MLS) as well as strategic real estate planning groups.

Pleasanton Launches New Shop and Dine Website

The City of Pleasanton has launched a new shop local website, www.inPleasanton.com which encourages consumers to shop and dine in Pleasanton as well as discover recreation spots to promote Pleasanton as a destination for an extraordinary experience.

An effort by the City's Economic Vitality Committee to support our businesses and provide one comprehensive online resource for shopping, dining and recreation in Pleasanton, www. inPleasanton.com has been in the planning and design stages for the last year. The concept came about from a brainstorming and program prioritization session of the committee as a way to bring other shop-local campaigns already in place, such as those sponsored by the Pleasanton Weekly, Ha-

cienda Business Park, and the Pleasanton Downtown Association, under one "umbrella" resource site. www. inPleasanton.com will provide local retail and dining establishments an opportunity to market themselves and increase awareness of what Pleasanton has to offer to potential visitors as well as residents.

Visitors to the site can look up retail shops by shop-

ping category or shopping center. Users can subscribe to receive newsletters via email for special announcements, campaigns and news. A Facebook page has been created to market the site as well as a Twitter account where businesses may tweet store specials and other announcements. www.in-Pleasanton.com is the place to go to find out where to shop and dine in Pleasanton!