

Art, Community, & Education



Find Out What's Happening Check out the second section

Section II is filled with information about arts, entertainment and special events. There are education stories, a variety of features, and the arts and entertainment and bulletin board. Listed below are just a few of the events happening in the Valley.

THIS WEEKEND IN THE VALLEY

The Livermore Art Association (LAA) Gallery annual holiday reception on Sat., Dec. 3 from 1 to 3 p.m. Carnegie Building at 2155 Third Street, Livermore. Admission is free. For more information call the Gallery at 925-449-9927.

Holidays in the Vineyards, Sat. and Sun., Dec. 3 and 4, noon to 5 p.m. at participating wineries. Presented by Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association. No admission charge. However, tasting fees may apply. Arts and crafts, holiday music, special wines, activities and more. www.lvwine.org.

Pacific Chamber Symphony, Handel's Messiah, Fri., Dec. 2, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Livermore Amador Symphony, concert Sat., Dec. 3, 8 p.m. works by Beethoven, Wagner and Sibelius performed with the Pacific Masterworks Chorus. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., downtown Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Pleasanton Community Concert Band, holiday concert Sun., Dec. 4, 2 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org. No admission charge.

Holiday Classics, Sun., Dec. 4, 1 and 5 p.m. Presented by Livermore School of Dance Jazz Division. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Valley Concert Chorale, holiday concerts featuring Harpist Dan Levitan. December 3, 2011-8 pm, Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton; and Sunday, December 4, 2011-3 pm, First Presbyterian Church, Corner of 4th and L Streets, Livermore. www.valleyconcertchorale.org

Dublin Holiday Tree Lighting, Civic Center on Thursday, December 1, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Free refreshments will be served. Those attending will sing carols as they await the arrival of a certain gentleman from the North Pole. Please bring a donation of a warm coat.

Holiday Market, Dublin Heritage Park & Museums, Donlon Way, Dec. 3, 2 to 7 p.m. crafts, holiday goodies, entertainment, hot soups and cider. 2:00 pm an Old Fashioned St. Nick arrives by jingle bell wagon pulled by a vintage tractor. Live performance by the Merrie Old Christmas Carolers at 3:30. Stroll the grounds and shop for unique handcrafted items including, decorations, toys, soaps and more. www.ci.dublin.ca.us

Hometown Holiday Parade and Celebration, Main Street in Downtown Pleasanton, Sat., Dec. 3, 5 to 7:30 p.m. After the parade there will be a tree lighting and sing-along in front of the Museum on Main. For more information, please call (925) 931-5352 or visit www.hometownholiday.com.

Holiday Sights & Sounds Parade and Tree Lighting, Dec. 3, begins at 6 p.m. in downtown Livermore. Hosted by Livermore Downtown Inc. www.livermoredowntown.com



RABBIT OF THE MONTH

Hello. My name is Bob. I'm a regal Lionhead boy, about 3 months old. I'm looking for a lap and security. I'm extremely mellow for a boy my age. I play with my brothers, but I'm happy to chill quietly too. To meet me, call East Bay Rabbit Rescue at 925-519-1723 or email ebrabbit@comcast.net for an appointment. Meet additional rescues daily at the Dublin Petco, located at 11976 Dublin Blvd. Rabbits are available for adoption during store hours. Visit www.eastbayrabbit.petfinder.com to see more profiles.

Analyst Sees Lasting Damage To Los Alamos, Livermore Labs

By Jeff Garberson

An anthropologist who has studied the Livermore and Los Alamos weapons laboratories over the past quarter-century has concluded that the big national labs have been profoundly and perhaps permanently damaged by politicians and other leaders who do not understand science and who interpreted individual

misdeeds as signs of systemic failure.

The for-profit contract system recently put in place with the professed intention of improving the performance of the labs has instead hurt morale and undermined their nationally important capabilities, in the view of Hugh Gusterson, the anthropologist.

"As so often seems to be the

case, well-meaning attempts to make the country more secure are having the opposite effect," he wrote in an article published in the current issue Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, a magazine dedicated to nuclear security and related issues.

Gusterson's article focuses particularly on damage that he believes was done to Los Alamos.

However, he makes it clear that Lawrence Livermore is tarred by the same for-profit brush.

"The new management arrangement extended the process of institutional destruction that began with the Wen Ho Lee (supposed Chinese spy) affair and inflicted great damage on the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, as well as on Los

Alamos," he wrote.

The article is titled, "The assault on Los Alamos: A drama in three acts." It can be found online under the "nuclear weapons" tab of the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists website, www.thebulletin.org

The "three acts" of the title began with sensational allegation (See DAMAGE TO LABS, page 8)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Tom Takahashi served in the 3rd Battalion of the 442nd Regiment in France and Italy during World War II.

Livermore Nisei's Bravery In World War II Recognized

By Ron McNicol

Livermore resident Tom Takahashi, 91, was one of the troops in the Army's all-Japanese 442nd regiment during World War II. The son of a Japanese couple who farmed near San Jose, Takahashi is a Nisei — a second generation Japanese-American.

At a ceremony at the White

House in October, President Obama signed a bill that awards the Congressional Gold Medal collectively to the outfit.

In attendance at the White House ceremony was Floyd Mori, who was mayor of Pleasanton in the 1970s and a three-term Assemblyman. He was born during the war in a Utah internment

camp for native Japanese and Japanese-Americans.

West Coast Japanese-Americans and Japan natives were moved inland. The federal government feared that Japan could bring in agents via submarines and fishing boats to infiltrate America by blending in with the (See BRAVERY, page 9)

Charter School Parents Raise Concerns about Plans

By Patricia Koning

In a recently circulated email, signed "LVCS Parents for Positive Change," concerns were raised over a card room near the Livermore Valley Charter School's (LVCS) new site in north Livermore. In addition, the parent organization asked whether LVCS resources are being used for the proposed Portola Academy. The email encouraged parents to attend the LVCS Site Board meeting tonight at 7 pm in the LVCS library, 543 Sonoma Avenue.

"LVCS is a fantastic school with wonderful administration and staff. Parents want to know what is happening with the move and find out more about Portola Academy," said LVCS parent Katrina Tet. "I have waited for information to come and also sought information from the Board. By going to the meeting, I hope to get information and have some of my questions answered. I think hearing straight from the Board through attending meetings, we parents can understand what is happening."

Bill Batchelor, chief operating officer for the Tri Valley Learning Corporation (TVLC), said

neither issue is cause for alarm. TVLC operates LVCS, the Livermore Charter Preparatory High School (LVCP), and the proposed Portola Academy, a new charter school that comes before the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District's Board of Education on Tuesday, Dec. 13.

In the spring, the City of Livermore approved a conditional use permit for Casino 580, known as the Lucky Buck currently located at Granada Bowl, to relocate to 950 North Canyons Parkway. Casino 580 is a card room, which is regulated by the Bureau of Gambling Control, part of the State of California's Office of the Attorney General.

"It's not ideal," said Batchelor. "My preference would be that it not be there, but this is an issue we can handle." He said the current security plans for the new site adequately address any concerns raised by the proximity of Casino 580. He notes that he has talked with the owners.

The development code for the City of Livermore requires that card rooms have a 1,000 foot separation from schools. The new Casino 580 site is just over 1,000 (See CONCERNS, page 3)

Zone 7 Votes to Join Power-buying Consortium

Zone 7 Water Agency is taking steps to reduce its electric bill by joining a power-buying group of 15 water districts in the Central Valley.

The Central Valley districts are close enough to the Altamont so that the power can be sent to Zone 7 at a cost-saving.

Directors at their meeting Nov. 16 approved the first step toward signing a contract to become part of the joint powers agreement (JPA).

Zone 7 will have to install its own power lines from the poles to its facilities. PG&E will continue to send the JPA's power to the poles. At some locations, Zone 7 may have to buy its own transformers to replace PG&E's. All of these expenditures will total an estimated \$550,000.

Zone 7 is using its own funds

to pay for the capital improvements, and will contract out to maintain the equipment.

The new power should be flowing next summer or fall. Once the power savings offset the \$550,000 capital outlay, Zone 7 will realize \$400,000 savings annually at four facilities, the Altamont Water Treatment Plant, two Arroyo Mocho wells, and the demineralization plant in Pleasanton.

There is potential to switch the power source over at several more sites, bringing the annual savings as high as \$700,000.

Currently, Zone 7 pays \$1.8 million in power costs for 16 facilities. Paying \$400,000 less for power on its "facilities bill" would save Zone 7 some 22 percent. If the project were ex- (See ZONE 7, page 4)

New Councilmember Will Be Appointed

The Livermore City Council will appoint a replacement for councilmember John Marchand, who is now the mayor.

The council needed to choose between a special election and an appointment process. The cost of a special election at \$350,000 was one of the deciding factors. The other was the timing. An election wouldn't be held until April 2012 at the earliest, leaving the council to function with only four members until that time.

Mayor John Marchand commented, "We can't wait that long, nor can we afford a special election."

Newly appointed vice mayor

Doug Horner agreed. "I don't want to have a four person council. We need to decide tonight whether to hold an election or appoint someone to fill the vacancy."

City Attorney John Pomidor noted that the person who is appointed would be eligible to run for two additional terms.

During the public hearing, John Stein said that he would have preferred a special election. However, given the budget he supported the appointment process. He suggested that the council consider whether the two top vote getters not elected would

(See COUNCIL, page 4)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Mother Nature added her own touches of color to holiday decorations along Trevarno Street in Livermore.

Inside

Art & Entertainment.....Section II	Roundup.....3
Bulletin Board.....Section II	Short Notes.....9
Classifieds.....Section 10	Sports.....6
Editorial.....4	Obituaries.....9
Mailbox.....4	



PET OF THE WEEK

I have green eyes and I'm HAMMY!... I am a "total ham" and I will roll over for you and purr in no time. I am a fun loving furry buff colored kitty who loves warm laps and people. I am very easy going and would be purrfect in any home with a sunny spot. To learn more, call 925-426-8656 or visit the website www.valleyhumane.org. Valley Humane Society is located at 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton. Hours are Tues.-Sat. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Event to Raise Dollars for David

Dollars for David, a community fund-raiser benefiting the David Goddard Memorial Fund will be held next to Livermore High School in Cowboy Alley on Sun., Dec. 4 from noon to 4 p.m.

David Goddard, a 17-year-old Livermore resident, died Nov. 22 when a Chevy van, which he was driving, overturned.

Volunteers will be collecting donations and selling in memory t-shirts and banners.

Direct donations can be made at US Bank of Livermore in the name of "The David Goddard Family Memorial Fund 102335573217247."

On January 7, 2012 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. an e-waste and recycling fundraiser is planned. Details will be available soon.

For information, contact Ronza Bargas at rronza@comcast.net.

Information can also be found at www.facebook.com/pages/The-David-Goddard-Family-Memorial-Fund/102335573217247#1/

CVB Selects New Executive Director

The Tri-Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) has announced the appointment of G. Grant Raeside as executive director.

Raeside brings more than 20 years of management, marketing, public relations and event planning experience to the job. In his new position, he is charged with developing and managing the organization's business plan and budget, reflective of the CVB's mission of elevating the Tri-Valley as a top of mind destination for leisure travelers, meetings and events.

Raeside joins the CVB following successful stints as executive director at the Sonoma Valley Vintners & Growers Alliance and San Luis Obispo Vintners Association. During his tenure at Sonoma Valley Vintners & Growers Alliance, Raeside doubled revenues of the organization and



G. Grant Raeside

established innovative programs that continue today.

"The energy and guidance Grant brings to the Tri-Valley CVB will allow us to focus on building strong relationships with stakeholders and to enhance the

marketing and public relations efforts for the region," said Kevin Goebel, chair of the board for the Tri-Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau. "His experience with membership organizations and event planning brings a fresh and exciting approach moving forward."

Raeside is already collaborating with the CVB Board of Directors, Tri-Valley cities and the region's tourism-related businesses.

"Our mission is quite clear. Market and sell the Tri-Valley as a competitive meeting, event and tourism destination," said Raeside. "In the next 90 days we will have a more proactive sales department, a results-driven marketing and public relations plan that together will increase visitor-related economic impact to the Tri-Valley region."

For more information, please visit www.trivalleycvb.com.

County OKs Plan to Deal State's New Criminal Population Policy

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors has unanimously passed the Public Safety Realignment Implementation Plan presented by the County's Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) to deal with the new criminal justice population.

For the past several months, the CCP has been meeting regularly to develop what County officials call an innovative and progressive plan, which reflects shared values of ensuring public safety, reducing recidivism, and promoting community-based alternatives to incarceration.

"I am very proud of our public safety partners who have crafted an ambitious and exciting plan to address this significant new criminal justice population in a meaningful and successful way," said Board of Supervisors' President Nate Miley.

The plan was adopted in compliance with new State law that shifts responsibility for lower level felony offenders from the State to the counties effective

October 1. It also reflects a comprehensive approach to ensuring public safety while addressing the needs of the new populations to be served under realignment: those released from State prison to community supervision, those who previously would have been sent to State prison upon conviction for specified crimes, and a majority of parole violators.

The new realignment legislation mandated the creation of a county CCP Executive Committee. In Alameda County the Executive Committee consisted of Chief Probation Officer Muhammad as the Chair, Sheriff Greg Ahern, District Attorney Nancy O'Malley, Public Defender Diane Bellas, Presiding Judge Jon Rolefson, Oakland Police Chief Anthony Batts, who was later replaced by City of Alameda Police Chief Michael Noonan, and Health Care Services Director Alex Briscoe.

Innovations include a coordinated, inter-agency focus on employment, and the establish-

ment of a Transition Center at Santa Rita Jail, which will be co-staffed by the County's Probation Department, Health Care and Social Services agencies, and will serve as a critical bridge between the custody and community settings.

In addition to managing a new criminal justice population, Alameda County has the additional challenge of doing so with far fewer resources than most other similar sized counties. The State's funding allocation formula for realignment puts the County at a disadvantage because it is already keeping most lower-level offenders at the local level, therefore fewer are being returned to the county. For example, although Alameda and San Bernardino counties have nearly the same crime rate, Alameda County received more than \$16 million less than San Bernardino in first year Realignment funding, because of the the formula's heavy emphasis on pre-Realignment State prison remittance rates.

East Bay SPCA Launches Home for the Holidays Adoption Campaign

To help find shelter animals homes, the East Bay SPCA will kick off its "Home for the Holidays" Adoption Campaign this Thursday, Dec. 1. The campaign runs through Dec. 30. The goal is to find loving homes for 200 plus animals.

The holidays can be a wonderful time of the year, but they can also be a stressful time for animals and families. The East Bay SPCA says while some people are looking to add a new pet to their household, others drop their unwanted pets off at animal shelters.

"Sometimes it seems like for every animal that gets adopted, another one gets surrendered," says East Bay SPCA (EBSPCA) Executive Director Allison Lindquist.

East Bay SPCA has teamed up with Pet Food Express in Oakland to kick off the month-long "Home for the Holidays" adoption campaign. The first 250 adopters will receive a holiday \$10 Pet Food Express gift card to help adopted pets start off on the right paw.

"The East Bay SPCA has a large variety of wonderful dogs and cats in need of good, loving homes," Lindquist says. "Our message to families who are thinking about bringing home a furry friend this holiday season is to consider adopting a pet from a shelter. Shelter animals make great pets and deserve a home for the holidays and beyond."

Those thinking about adopting a pet are invited to the EBSPCA's Adoption Centers in Oakland and Dublin Wednesday through Thursday from 1 PM to 8PM and Friday-Sunday 11 AM to 5PM. "We encourage the entire family to spend time with the dog or cat they are interested in adopting to help ensure a good match," Lindquist explains. "Choosing to share your life with an animal requires careful consideration and a commitment to that pet that goes far beyond the holidays."

Cat adoptions are \$50 and dog adoptions are \$125. Lower adoption fees apply to EBSPCA's Club Second Chance animals - those animals who are older or have a medical condition. A select group of animals that have been at the shelter the longest will have their adoption fees waived. All animals at EBSPCA are spayed/neutered, vaccinated, microchipped, temperament tested and medically evaluated before they are placed up for adoption. All animals in EBSPCA's Adoption program are kept until they are placed in a loving home.

The non-profit organization will have staff on hand to counsel families who are thinking of giving up their pet.

"It's sad but we do see people giving up their dog or cat this time of year because they're leaving town and can't find someone to care for the pet, or their pet's minor behavioral or medical condition becomes too much to handle so they drop the animal off at a shelter," Lindquist explains. She recalls one cat that was surrendered to the EBSPCA because he had accidents outside his litter box. It turns out the cat had a bladder stone that was causing the issue and it was easily removed. "Often times, there is a treatable medical condition that's causing an animal to act out," Lindquist explains.

EBSPCA has a full service Veterinary Clinic, an animal behavior help line, dog training classes and boarding available to the public. Lindquist urges people who are thinking of giving up their pets to utilize community resources like these before dropping off their pets off a shelter. During the month of December, EBSPCA's Vet Clinic will offer \$10 off a vet exam for pets 8 years and older.

"Often times, minor behavioral issues are related to treatable medical conditions that don't cost a lot of money to fix. We counsel families and work with them to seek a solution that benefits the animal and doesn't empty their wallet," Lindquist says animal shelters are already overcrowded this time of year so anything the EBSPCA can do to keep people and pets together a good thing.

For more information about EBSPCA, visit www.eastbayspca.org or call 510.569.0702.

Holiday Concert At the Firehouse

The Pleasanton Community Concert Band's Holiday Concert will be performed at 2 p.m. Dec. 4 at the Firehouse Arts Center.

From "Remember Pearl Harbor" to "Chanukah Is Here" to "The Sounds of Christmas," the program features traditional selections of music from the holiday season. It is December—Remember?

Doors open at 1:40 p.m. The concert is free. However, donations are appreciated.

The Firehouse Arts Center is located at 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton.

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

White House Honors Hertz Foundation Fellows

Two Fellows of the Livermore-based Fannie and John Hertz Foundation were honored last week as recipients of the Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers.

There were fewer than 100 of the awards given this year nationwide. The awards were described by the White House as "the highest honor bestowed by the United States government on science and engineering professionals in the early stages of their independent research careers."

Hertz Foundation recipients are Kartik A. Srinivasan and Hari Shroff. Srinivasan received his

fellowship in 2000. He used it to earn a PhD in applied physics from CalTech in 2006. Today he is project leader at the Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology of the National Institute of Standards and Technology in Gaithersburg, Md.

Shroff received his fellowship in 2002 and used it to earn a PhD in biophysics from UC-Berkeley in 2007. Today he is chief of a research section on high resolution optical imaging at the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering.

Jay Davis, president of the Hertz Foundation, said the

awards were "gratifying" and a recognition of the success that the Foundation has had in "supporting the nation's top graduate students in the applied sciences and engineering."

"America has a critical need for innovation and these young leaders deserve to be honored, recognized and encouraged."

In presenting the awards, President Barack Obama said, "It is inspiring to see the innovative work being done by these scientists and engineers as they ramp up their careers—careers that I know will be not only personally rewarding but also invaluable to

the Nation."

The Hertz Foundation, based in downtown Livermore, has supported some 1100 graduate students since its founding in 1947. Its focus has broadened to include bioscience as well as the original physical sciences.

Hertz Fellowships are highly competitive and unusually generous, offering five years of support at \$50,000 per year. They have yielded a disproportionate number of leaders in industry, the military and academia, as well as members of prestigious groups, like the National Academy of Sciences.



DIABLO
PROSTHETICS & ORTHOTICS, Inc.

Richard Sire, C.P.O.
Call (925) 484-6400
For Free Evaluation

www.DiabloPando.com

Serving 4 Locations:
4479 Stoneridge Dr., Pleasanton, CA
120 LaCasa Via, Suite. 202, Walnut Creek, CA
2723 Crow Canyon, San Ramon, CA
3903 Lone Tree Way, #305, Antioch, CA



REALTORS

DISCOVER HOW TO GET MORE FOR YOUR HOME.
DISCOVER J. ROCKCLIFF REALTORS.
THE EAST BAY'S PREMIER REAL ESTATE COMPANY.
WWW.ROCKCLIFF.COM

Get Instant Mobile Access!
Download J. Rockcliff Realtors' Homes For Sale Application to have all the real estate information you need in the palm of your hand. Scan the QR-Code with your smart phone or text the number below.



Text to get the application
Text: ROCK To: 87778

<p>3429 ASHBURNE CIRCLE NORRIS CANYON</p>  <p>Bed 5 Ba 5.5 5,017^{sq} So.Ft. 0.33^{ac} Acres</p> <p>This Norris Canyon, San Ramon beauty backs up to open space and the Bishop Ranch Regional Open Space. Features a wonderful pool and waterfall, spa and an excellent space for outdoor entertaining.</p> <p>DAVID AZIMI 925.251.2580</p>	<p>3545 CALLE ALEGRE COUNTRY FAIRE</p>  <p>Bed 4 Ba 3 2,916^{sq} So.Ft. 0.29^{ac} Acres</p> <p>Wonderful remodeled and upgraded Trinity model in Original Country Fair! Perfect location, floorplan and amazing backyard including saline pool, spa, waterfalls and spillways. Downstairs bedroom and full bath, maple cabinetry, newer roof and windows.</p> <p>WEINER McDOWELL GROUP 925.251.2550</p>	<p>2889 RUTHERFORD Ct LIVERMORE</p>  <p>Bed 4 Ba 3.5 3,504^{sq} So.Ft. 0.30^{ac} Acres</p> <p>Wonderfully location at the end of a cul-de-sac, near vineyards & open fields. Spacious entry way, gourmet kitchen & grand master bedroom suite. This home has a large backyard w/ a private apartment/office above the garage.</p> <p>SARAH ARNOLD 925.253.7074</p>	<p>5311 WISTERIA WAY AUTUMN VALLEY</p>  <p>Bed 2 Ba 2.5 1,389^{sq} So.Ft. 0.11^{ac} Acres</p> <p>NEW PRICE! Great location and perfect starter home! very well kept moving ready and great 1st time buyer opportunity hurry will not last long!</p> <p>DAVID AZIMI 925.251.2580</p>	<p>5775 JOHNSTON RD PLEASANTON</p>  <p>Bed 3 Ba 2 2,474^{sq} So.Ft. 4.10^{ac} Acres</p> <p>Come Experience Country Living - prestigious Tassajara Ranches, mins to vibrant Shopping & Entertainment. Newer roof, paint & carpet-office, plantation shutters, central vacuum, new irrigation system. Barn/Garage w/ 2+ stalls, & Parks.</p> <p>TESS FOLSTER 925.984.7733</p>	<p>7793 PEPPERTREE RD SILVERGATE</p>  <p>Bed 4 Ba 3 2,240^{sq} So.Ft. 0.19^{ac} Acres</p> <p>Desirable Westside! Gorgeous hardwood floors, fresh 2 tone paint. Master suite downstairs with private ba. Corner lot, RV access + 2 lots. Patio & backyard landscaped & ext paint in 2010. Close to 580/680, Bart, schools & shopping.</p> <p>CATHY AND KARI 925.200.4130</p>			
<p>1695 GERMANO WAY RUBY HILL</p>  <p>Bed 5 Ba 6.5 7,330^{sq} So.Ft. 0.65^{ac} Acres</p> <p>Elaborate Italian Villa with +/-7,330 sq. ft. 5 bedrooms, 6/1 bathrooms, stunning tile work and built less than four years ago. This home offers an impressive entry foyer, stately office, movie theatre, expansive kitchen, walk-in wine cellar and more.</p> <p>THE UWE MAERZ TEAM 925.251.2568</p>	<p>5875 CRESTMONT AVE SPRINGTOWN</p>  <p>Bed 3 Ba 2 1,269^{sq} So.Ft. 0.14^{ac} Acres</p> <p>Tastefully updated home w/ laminate flooring, permitted bonus rm w/ 2 sliders, side yard access, eat in kitchen, romantic wood burning fireplace, close to Groce Elem. and Christensen Middle, close to 580, close to Livermore National Laboratory and more!</p> <p>MICHAEL SWIFT & ASSOCIATES 925.251.2589</p>	<p>4614 BLACK AVE PLEASANT VALLEY</p>  <p>Bed 3 Ba 2 1,377^{sq} So.Ft. 0.17^{ac} Acres</p> <p>A rare find for a single level home on a corner lot in the Pleasant Valley District. Upgraded windows and roof last six years. Walking distance to schools, Amador Community Park and Post Office. Close to downtown.</p> <p>TOM BRAMELL 925.583.2180</p>	<p>42200 VARGAS RD FREMONT</p>  <p>Bed 4 Ba 1 1,320^{sq} So.Ft. 56^{ac} Acres</p> <p>Dream Property, Estate style ranch home with 4 Bedrooms, A Large Barn and over 56 Acres of beautiful rolling hills and level land. Chance of a Lifetime.</p> <p>KRISTY AND COMPANY 925.251.2536</p>	<p>533 STARLING AVE LIVERMORE</p>  <p>Bed 3 Ba 2 1,328^{sq} So.Ft. 0.15^{ac} Acres</p> <p>Come see this 3 bedroom 2 bath Corner lot home, before its to late! It also has side yard access.</p> <p>DAVID AZIMI 925.251.2580</p>	<p>3322 EAST AVENUE LIVERMORE</p>  <p>Bed 1 Ba 1 432^{sq} So.Ft. 0.51^{ac} Acres</p> <p>Great development opportunity on this half acre lot. Zoned RG-16 - up to 8 units possible.</p> <p>UWE MAERZ 925.360.8758</p>			
<p>Blackhawk East 4105 Blackhawk Plaza Cir. Danville, CA 94506 925.648.5300</p>	<p>Blackhawk West 3880 Blackhawk Rd. Danville, CA 94506 925.736.6000</p>	<p>Danville 15 Railroad Ave. Danville, CA 94526 925.855.4000</p>	<p>Lafayette 3799 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette, CA 94549 925.385.2330</p>	<p>Livermore 1983 Second St. Livermore, CA 94550 925.667.2100</p>	<p>Montclair/Piedmont 6116 La Salle Ave., Ste. 200 Oakland, CA 94611 510.339.4800</p>	<p>Orinda 89 Davis Rd., Ste. 100 Orinda, CA 94563 925.253.7000</p>	<p>Pleasanton 5075 Hopyard Rd Ste. 110 Pleasanton, CA 94588 925.251.2500</p>	<p>Walnut Creek 1700 N. Main St. Walnut Creek, CA 94596 925.280.8500</p>

School Districts Prepared for Shortfall on State Revenue Projection

That extra \$4 billion in expected revenue for the California budget is not happening. However, the Livermore and Pleasanton school districts already expected that development, and won't have to make any mid-year personnel cuts.

The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) this month gave what it said is a realistic estimate of \$300 million more revenue over an earlier baseline budget forecast. That falls far short of the \$4 billion upon which Gov. Jerry Brown and the Legislature's Democrats based the budget.

With a shortfall over \$2 billion, specific cuts in the budget bill are triggered. Some will be cuts in school spending.

The only possible change to the dollar amounts could come in mid-December. That is when Brown's finance director, Ana Matosantos, will release her figures for the revenue forecast. The

only new piece of information will include estimates regarding the collection of capital gains tax revenue.

Matosantos' forecast is expected to be about the same as that issued by LAO. The budget bill states that the state will use the higher of the two figures between the LAO report and the Matosantos report.

Matosantos was supposed to make an appearance before a statewide group of school finance officials a couple of weeks ago. However, she canceled her appearance, said Pleasanton assistant superintendent Luz Cázares, who attended the meeting.

The LAO's estimate would deprive Pleasanton schools of \$2.8 million. The budget estimate also looks like the special education transportation fund will cut Pleasanton's share by \$350,000, or about 50 percent of the nearly \$700,000 that it spends in that

category.

However, since the school board and staff did not count on any of the "extra" \$4 billion for its budget, there is no need to make any personnel cuts. The district saved money through concessions from administrative staff and unions.

"As always, I'm appreciative that the board is willing to make decisions to position us to make it possible" to avoid the mid-year cuts, said Cázares.

The cut to Livermore means a \$2.5 million reduction in revenue. The district expected that would happen, said district official Chris Van Schaack.

"We maintained a realistic look at the budget, and did what we needed to do, based on reality versus false expectation," said Van Schaack.

With a 12 percent reserve built up by past personnel cuts and other economies, Livermore will

survive this year without having to make mid-year cuts, said Van Schaack.

It's too soon to tell about next year's state budget. However, economic indicators show that

there may have to be more cuts to the district budget, said Van Schaack.

CONCERNS

(continued from page one)

feet from the proposed LVCS site at the corner of Constitution Drive and North Canyons Parkway.

"We considered whether any foot or car traffic from the school would pass by the card room and determined that was highly unlikely, as the card room is to the left of the light at Airway and North Canyons Parkway and the school is to the right," explained Scott Lee, a senior planner with the City of Livermore.

Batchelor said that identifying anyone on foot who does not belong at the school will be easier at the new site, as it is not in a neighborhood or near another school. "Honestly, I'm more concerned about hits on the Megan's Law list near our current two sites than this card room," he adds.

As for the issue of financial resources, Batchelor said Portola Academy will have its

own operating budget, just as LVCS and LVCP have separate operating budgets. TVLC has spent a few thousand dollars on advertising and outreach for Portola Academy, which has been funded through the organization's outreach budget. Once Portola Academy has its first implementation grant, those funds will be replenished.

"Each school has a separate operating budget, so there is no question of one school drawing financial resources from another," said Batchelor. "In fact, the schools are resource additive to each other, so the addition of a third school will actually decrease costs of shared resources." Those shared resources include his salary, legal fees, accounting, and IT.

He admits that Portola Academy is drawing human resources – his time and that of others at

TVLC. "We are making an organizational investment," said Batchelor. "If the school succeeds, it will pay off very quickly. We will be able to staff to a larger percentage and offer more resources to all three schools."

LVCS and LVCP also have separate nonprofit foundations – LVCS has the Choice for Children Education Foundation and LVCP the LVCP Foundation. Portola Academy will create its own nonprofit foundation.

Batchelor welcomes parents and community members with questions at board meetings for TVLC, LVCS, and LVCP. For more information on TVLC, including corporate documents and the meeting calendar, visit <http://www.trivalleylearning.org>. Visit www.lvcs.org for more on LVCS and www.lvcp.org for more on LVCP.

VALLEY ROUNDUP

Linda Barton Grand Marshal

Livermore City Manager Linda Barton will serve as grand marshal of the 16th annual Livermore Holiday Sights and Sounds Parade this Sat., Dec. 3. The parade, which begins at 6 p.m. will feature local marching bands, music, light displays, and of course Santa Claus. Parade route is First Street from M Street to McLeod St.

Following the parade, the lighting of "Bruce Sprucetree" will take place at the corner of First Street and S. Livermore Avenue.

Barton is retiring after ten years as city manager. She was instrumental in downtown revitalization and establishing Livermore as a preferred destination for tourism, business investment and raising a family is a phenomenal community.

The day begins with Downtown Livermore's Annual Home for the Holidays Celebration, from 12:00 to 4:00pm. There will be snow at Lizzie Fountain, provided by Marcel Orthodontics, horse drawn carriage rides throughout downtown and a holiday performance stage at the Flagpole Plaza featuring local performing arts groups.

Parking is available at the free Livermore Valley Center Parking Garage, 2350 Railroad Avenue.

Third Fatality

A Chevy van traveling northbound on Murrieta Boulevard on Nov. 22 continued straight through the "T" intersection at Portola Avenue. The Chevy entered the parking lot of 1204

Portola Ave. and struck a steel gate and a parked vehicle. The Chevy overturned in the parking lot. The driver, and sole occupant, a 17 year old Livermore resident, was pronounced dead at the scene.

Authorities have identified the 17-year-old as David Goddard of Livermore.

Witnesses reported the Chevy was traveling at a high rate of speed on Murrieta Boulevard just prior to the collision. It appears that alcohol was involved in the collision.

The collision investigation is ongoing. Anyone who witnessed the collision is asked to contact the Livermore Police Traffic Unit at 925-371-4850. This was the third fatal traffic collision in Livermore in 2011.

Pearl Harbor Remembered

Since 1964, the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association has memorialized Pearl Harbor Day by turning on the summit beacon atop Mount Diablo.

The "Eye of Diablo" as it's known, was extinguished in 1941 just after the attack on Pearl Harbor. The beacon is lit at sunset and shines all night on this single evening each year.

This year's event, Wed., Dec. 7, begins at 3:45 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

It will be held at the Summit Museum at the top of Mount Diablo. Allow an hour to drive to the top after entering the park. Park fees apply.

Dress in layers as it can get extremely cold on top of the mountain. Bring a camera, if you like.

LIVERMORE CALIFORNIA

The Livermore City Council is accepting applications to fill a vacant position on the City Council. The term of this Council seat is from the date of the appointment to November 2013.

Applicants must be registered voters in the City of Livermore.

Applications may be obtained from the Livermore City Clerk's Office, 1052 South Livermore Avenue, by calling 925.960.4200, or on the City's website at www.cityoflivermore.net.

Applications must be received in the City Clerk's Office no later than Thursday, December 8, 2011 at 12:00 pm. Selected applicants will be interviewed at a special meeting of the City Council on Monday, December 19, 2011.

You may contact the City Clerk's Office at 925.960.4200 for more information.



Now Under Construction

BUILDING ON 20 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

AFTER NEARLY A DECADE OF PLANNING AND PREPARATION, construction has begun on Stoneridge Creek, the brand-new retirement community in Pleasanton. California's newest Continuing Life® community, Stoneridge Creek builds on a rich tradition with nearly 20 floor plans, including spacious single-story homes, convenient amenities such as restaurant dining, state-of-the-art fitness center, spa and movie theater, numerous services such as landscape maintenance and housekeeping, and access to long-term care that's available and included, if you ever need it. It's been a long time coming and worth the wait.

Don't wait until we're completely reserved! To learn why so many people like you have already secured their future at Stoneridge Creek, call **1-800-984-4279** today, or hear firsthand from our future residents at StoneridgeCreek.com.





A CONTINUING LIFE® RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

5698 Stoneridge Dr. • Pleasanton • StoneridgeCreek.com • 1-800-984-4279

Continuing Life Communities Pleasanton LLC, dba Stoneridge Creek Pleasanton, has received authorization to accept deposits from the California Department of Social Services.

EDITORIAL

A Remarkable Ten Years

Over the past ten years, remarkable changes have taken place in Livermore. Others are underway. Three people responsible for them took part in their final council meeting last Monday.

Mayor Marshall Kamena has been described as the catalyst that resulted in 92 percent of residents rating the quality of life very high.

Kamena was first elected to the council in 1976, leaving in 1985. In 2001, the voters returned him to office as mayor. One of his first acts was to lead the effort to adopt the urban growth boundary (UGB) initiative, focusing development within a clearly identified area. The UGB is considered to be responsible for the revitalization of the downtown. He was in the forefront battling the Pardee development in 2005, when it threatened the UGB.

Most recently, Kamena was instrumental in establishing i-GATE and the Livermore Valley Open Campus with the goal of creating high paying tech jobs. He was a force in bringing the Paragon Outlet Center to Livermore, a long process that required perseverance.

Leaving the council are councilmembers Marj Leider and Jeff Williams.

Leider, who served the city in various capacities for 43 years, was a member of the Planning Commission, Design Review Committee and Beautification Committee. After being elected to the council in 2003, she took on the role as chair of the General Plan Review Committee. While serving on the council, her focus has been on transportation and the environment as a member of the LAVTA and StopWaste.org boards.

Williams was elected to the council in 2007. Prior to that he had been appointed to the Design Review Committee. His areas of interest included working to make downtown businesses successful and to provide diverse housing.

All three have advocated for revitalization of the downtown and supported the urban growth boundary. During the last ten years, the downtown has emerged as the heart of the city. There is a new streetscape. A movie theater and the Bankhead Theater were built. Residents enjoy more restaurants and shopping opportunities. Outside the downtown, the city is surrounded by open space.

The last ten years have been transformative for the city. The legacy that the mayor and councilmembers leave behind will continue to enhance Livermore's quality of life for years to come.

Words of Thanks for Mayor, Councilmembers

Words of thanks were voiced by the audience to the three members of the Livermore City Council leaving office. Those leaving also offered thanks to those they had worked with during their terms of office.

Mayor Marshall Kamena said of his ten years in office, "We had fun. We really had fun. Livermore is not a known as a humor free zone."

He thanked the staff for its efforts in making the city what it is today. "I worked with every city manager the city has ever had. The one leaving its ranks, Linda Barton, is among the very best. It was not just her management, but her leadership style that was outstanding. She taught me to form regional partnerships.

"To the new city council, I say this council is leaving the city in good hands with you. The city is in good shape. I ask that you keep it that way. In each election, everyone has the chance to come forward and make a choice. Good

people have won. I'm here to help you if there is anything you need." Kamena said to the people who were not elected, "Bobby Burger, you developed into a fine candidate. I hope you remain involved. Barbara Hickman, I thank you for your sincerity."

Councilmember Jeff Williams also thanked the staff. He commented, "The staff worked hard faced with challenging and declining budgets. We had to make some difficult decisions. To the new council, I wish you well and an improving economy so that you won't be faced with similar unpleasant and extremely unpopular decisions that we have had to make."

Marj Leider, who was in the hospital, was absent from the meeting.

Livermore Downtown, Inc. executive director Rachel Snedecor brought gifts for the three leaving office. She spoke of learning from each of them. Snedecor said, "Your legacy is

huge in the downtown. I can't touch, drive by or walk by something without thinking of you. I know your passion will keep you involved."

Dale Kaye, executive director of the Livermore Chamber of Commerce stated, "Your time in office has been brilliant. Look around, it's bricks and mortar. It's theaters, restaurants, shops and tech companies. You took dreams and made them realities, never seeing any limitations."

Eric Swallowell, Dublin City Councilmember, said to Mayor Kamena, "You leave a legacy that reaches beyond Livermore. The partnership you forged in Dublin is an important one. Livermore is an inspiration for Dublin as we seek to have our own downtown someday."

City Manager Linda Barton spoke on behalf of the staff. "We thank you for your vision, the tremendous support and respect for staff and the amazing things you have accomplished during

your terms of office."

Bob Baltzer called it an amazing ten years. "Real changes began ten years ago. The present council is a worthy heir to those who started the changes. In particular Mayor Kamena has been the catalyst throughout. The city was a sprawling ever-expanding hollow-centered city with a downtown that was not a downtown. Now we have a thriving downtown. The urban growth boundary enabled the downtown to become what it is today. I remember when the council adopted it and completed the circle around Livermore. The whole city owes Kamena and the people who have served with him a very deep debt of gratitude. I hope the incoming council won't forget that."

Incoming Mayor John Marchand said to Kamena, "It has been a great honor and privilege to consider you as a mentor and a friend. You are leaving big shoes to fill."

Court Ruling Encourages Retirees

The California Supreme Court has ruled that an implied contract may exist requiring a public agency to continue providing benefits to its retirees even when there is no written document explicitly promising the benefits.

The ruling is encouraging to the University of California Livermore Retiree Group, which claims that the University of California has just that kind of implicit obligation to provide them the same health benefits that it offers active employees and campus retirees.

The Livermore Lab retirees were removed from the UC benefits system in 2008, when a for-profit consortium replaced UC in managing Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. The Retiree Group formed, raised money and filed suit in Superior Court in Oakland last year to force UC to restore the benefits.

The Supreme Court ruling last month resulted from a suit filed in federal court against Orange County after the county, seeking to reduce costs, refused to continue benefits for its retirees.

The Orange County retirees claimed the benefits should continue.

"There was nothing promised in writing," said Dov Grunschlag, attorney for the Livermore retirees. "So the (Orange County) retirees claimed, 'Maybe there's nothing in writing, but there was still an implied contract. We relied on that. We worked for the County and retired in reliance on that under an implicit contract.'"

The federal court determined that it could not rule on the Orange County case until the California Supreme Court decided whether state law even allows an implicit contract under those circumstances.

In a unanimous decision, the state Supreme Court affirmed that it does, that an implicit contract may exist under California law.

The ruling does not mean that the Orange County retirees receive their benefits. It does mean that they can proceed in federal court to try to demonstrate the implicit contract in their specific instance.

That will also be the challenge for Livermore retirees. However, at least they should now get the chance to make their case, said Joe Requa, head of the UC Livermore Retiree Group.

UC had moved to dismiss the suit, and "this should be enough" to overcome that motion, he said.

"This (Orange County) case, which some employers must have been hoping would shut the door, instead leaves the door open" for retirees to collect benefits, said attorney Grunschlag.

Requa is optimistic about prospects for the Livermore Retiree Group's case. "Now we've got a fairly good chance," he said. "Of course it's up to the courts, but I think we can show that we had an implicit contract."

ZONE 7

(continued from page one)

It would amount to a 39 percent saving.

The power will be cheaper than PG&Es, because the JPA shops around for the cheapest rates. It can also find green power for members who want that in the mix.

Board member Sarah Palmer noted that other agenda items also were geared toward cooperating with other agencies to bring costs down. "I'm very pleased to see that happen," she declared.

Pleasanton Author's Book Looks at Performance Pressures on Kids

By Ron McNicol

Hearing stories from students in her health classes at Las Positas College, Siah Fried was moved to write a book about the pitfalls of the high expectations that parents set up for their children in competitive sports, academics, and social settings.

Fried, who lives in Pleasanton, came up with the idea for the book even before the Pleasanton school district began to look into the issue of the pressures put on students to succeed.

The district began addressing the topic several years ago, including sponsorship of a talk at Amador Valley High School that drew 100 people.

The decision to present the panel talk was motivated by the grief and concern of parents who were shocked over the suicide of an Amador Valley student. One week earlier, the student had walked in front of a train on the railroad tracks near the school.

A similar tragic event is alluded to near the end of Fried's book. The book's protagonist, named Sasha, notes that her babysitter is two hours late coming from high school. Police and

medical emergency response near the babysitter's school caused the delay.

While the babysitter was not involved in the incident, Sasha says, "Although I asked, I already know the answer. 'It's one of the students, isn't it?'"

The reason Fried knew, grew from her experience as a health teacher of young people, as well as her experience as an author who gathered stories from many other people. The stories were used in the book.

Fried made up names and masked the various incidents, a method fiction writers use in order to present the truth. The book's title is "Tales From Swankville." Although Fried lives in Pleasanton, Swankville is meant to stand for "Suburbia, USA," she said.

However, some residents in Pleasanton thought that she was writing about them. They took it personally. Some vented their anger at her by writing online blogs.

Asked about the anger voiced in response to her book, Fried said that there is some satire in the book. It is constructed as a

series of small essays, but with a narrative going through a chronological time line.

Fried said that she and co-author Georgie Ikuma of Castro Valley felt that by "putting a sarcastic bent to the story, people would pay attention. We find the humor in much of the behavior. If you read the whole book, you see that we don't put ourselves above it."

Fried is referring to the changes in narrator Sasha, who may be pushing her own child too much at first, but gradually sees that she has to step back and listen to her daughter and her wishes.

Instead of having her daughter participate in a variety of activi-

ties, Sasha finally hears that the girl likes reading and soccer the best. As much as Sasha wants to see how cute her daughter looks in leotards or tutus, she accepts that her daughter has her own likes, and becomes enthusiastic and happy about them. That's the path to real fulfillment, she is saying.

That tallies with her conversations with Brandi Chastain, a member of the gold medal women's 1999 World Cup U.S. team, who never played competitive sports until high school.

"From what I've seen and what Brandi has seen, the natural athletes will succeed whether you buy them private lessons or

not. They will just rise to the top, if you don't pressure them too much," said Fried.

In other words, the theme of the book is "encourage, don't push." It's a skill that Fried had to learn, like any other parent, she said.

Anecdotes in the book describe parents' putdowns of other parents' kids who don't achieve straight A's, or who may make dumb moves on sports teams.

Some of the most interesting prose comes from Fried's students at Las Positas College. There is a quote from a student to begin each little chapter. The quotes are real, but the names have been changed.

"Jim" talks about a friend whose parents made him play through his injuries. By the time he got to college, his knee was so bad, he couldn't play sports there.

"Alisa" said her mother tried to involve her in every activity in which the neighborhood girls participated. "I was the fat, quiet kid, and she hated that."

Since the October release of the book, it has sold rapidly. Judy Wheeler, owner of Towne Center Books in Pleasanton, said that the books keep moving.

Fried said that the Pleasanton Library has a long waiting list of those wanting to check out the book.

MAILBOX

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

BART & Measure B3 William A Buchanan Livermore

Enough is enough. 49 years of waiting for the BART extension to Livermore is outrageous in and of itself. Waiting more than 20 plus additional years for its completion is more so. I for one will not vote yes for Measure B3 unless the entire BART project to Livermore is included in this measure with plans to complete the project in a reasonable 5 - 7 year time frame.

Ban the Bag Leane Chen Junior at Foothill High School

Forty-two bags; this is the number of plastic bags that you, an average American, use in one month. One person, one month, forty-two bags. Each year, this adds up to 500 bags per person. Which totals up to 100 billion plastic bags a year nationwide.

I have extracted research from credentialed experts and government officials and personally met with marine biologists, all of whom agree that banning plastic bags is a necessity. Mayor Hosterman agrees that banning plastic bags "is a great idea" since plastic bags "pollute the water, air, and landfills." Councilman Matt Sullivan states how he is "fully supportive" of banning plastic bags, and he hopes to

"move it forward as quickly as possible."

The manufacture, transportation, and disposal of these petroleum-based plastic bags uses up large amounts of oil and other non-renewable sources. Stephanie Bager, the executive director of the Earth Resource Foundation in California, summarizes: "Every time we use a new plastic bag they go and get more petroleum from the Middle East and bring it over in tankers. We are extracting and destroying the Earth to use a plastic bag for ten minutes."

Additionally, all this litter continues to be an increasing threat to wildlife and humans. Councilman Matt Sullivan says, "All the plastic bags in the storm drains are ending up in creeks and oceans." Dr. Doris Nishimoto and Brianna Sanders, workers at the Monterey Bay Aquarium whom I've personally met, have seen first-hand accounts of how plastic bags kill marine animals. They state that, "sea turtles often mistake plastic bags for jellyfish." Moreover, innocent baby marine animals are being brutally choked to death so we can have the convenience of these plastic bags.

Banning plastic bags will help our community be cleaner and healthier. Mayor Hosterman states that banning plastic bags will help "reduce oil consumption and waste sent to landfills." In fact, plastic bags already "pose a severe treat to the (SF) Bay, clogging wetlands, strangling wildlife, and harming water quality" (Save the Bay).

Over 25 countries worldwide and about 15 major cities nationwide, including San Francisco and San Jose, have either banned or taxed plastic bags. If these cities and countries can successfully ban plastic bags, we can too, here in Pleasanton!

We're already on the road to success. According to Councilman Matt Sullivan, this ordinance regarding banning plastic bags will be presented to the board members at the upcoming December meeting. If approved, implementation will be carried out the beginning of January 2013.

Each one of you can make a difference. "People can recycle plastic bags at their local grocery store or reuse plastic bags they already have at home." (stopwaste.org). Mayor Hosterman states that, "We live in a throw-away society, and we need to preserve our natural resources and reuse as much as possible. Individuals can make a difference by changing our own habits, starting with caring for our environment."

Forty-two bags. Forty-two bags multiply to 100 billion bags nationwide every year. Change is necessary. Use recyclable bags or paper bags! Please spread the word about the negative impacts of plastic bags and remember to reuse and recycle them.

Thank you for your support! Special thanks to my English teachers Ms. Lisa Fulton and Ms. Paige Dagen

Thank You Charlie Thiel Director, President, Co-Founder Care 4 My Lambs, Inc

This is the time of year that employees of Lawrence Livermore National Labs (LLNL) and Northrop Grumman Corp. can select charity organization of their choice for giving through payroll deductions. LLNL employees can give through the LLNL HOME Program (Helping Others More Effectively), while Northrop Grumman Corp. employees can give through ECHO (Employee Charity Organiza-

tion). Many local, state, national, and international organizations are in the charity organizations databases. At Care 4 My Lambs (www.care4mylambs.org), we wish to thank our donors who have supported us in the past. Care 4 My Lambs is a 501(c)3 non-profit charity serving those in need in the Tri-Valley and other areas.

BART to Livermore Gail Piché Livermore

As a 44 year resident of Livermore I have looked forward to a Livermore BART station and paid my share of BART taxes. I have read almost all the articles in your paper concerning BART and was pleased to get so much information from the community with all the differing viewpoints. I am sure your staff or your knowledgeable readers could help me make sense of something I recently read in your paper and then another article in the Bay Area News Group paper.

The BART article in The Independent on November 24, 2011 states that the cost of bringing BART to Isabel is \$1.2billion.

The article in the Bay Area News Group on November 26, 2011 is entitled, "BART may find way to San Jose" The article states that a 10 mile extension could be done for \$2.3 billion including some parts underground and completed by 2016!!

How could our short above ground extension, from Pleasanton to Isabel cost more than half of their 10 mile extension? In addition, if we don't get Measure B3 funds, it will be another 20 years before the Livermore extension will even be considered.

What are we doing wrong and how can we get similar costs for a Livermore extension and completed by 2016?

The Independent
(INLAND VALLEY PUBLISHING CO.)

Publisher: Joan Kinney Seppala
Associate Publisher: David T. Lowell
Editor: Janet Armantrout

The Independent is published every Thursday by Inland Valley Publishing Company, 2250 First St., Livermore, CA 94550; (925) 447-8700. Mailed at Periodical Postage Prices at the Livermore Post Office and additional entry office, Pleasanton, CA 94566-9998. The Independent is mailed upon request. Go to www.independentnews.com to sign up and for more information. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Independent, 2250 First St., Livermore, CA 94550.

Advertising rates and subscription rates may be obtained by calling (925) 447-8700 during regular business hours or by fax (925) 447-8212.
Editorial information may be submitted by editmail@compuserve.com.

Diagnosis Will Be Faster, Easier

Picture this: You've brought your sick child to the doctor's office. After checking her pulse and blood pressure, he takes a nasal or throat swab and inserts it into a mysterious black box. Before the doctor finishes his examination, the black box beeps, indicating that the pathogen that's making your child sick has been identified.

This scenario is closer to becoming a reality. Thanks to work by Reginald Beer and his team of scientists and engineers at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), sub-three-minute amplification of nucleic acids (DNA and RNA) via polymerase chain reaction (PCR) is now possible.

With three school-age children of his own, Beer knows all too well the frustration of waiting 24 to 48 hours for lab results to learn whether his sick youngster can be treated with antibiotics. "I was sitting in the pediatrician's office with my daughter several years ago, and it struck me that if we could make PCR fast and easy enough for use in doctors' offices, it would have a huge impact."

PCR is an indispensable technique in medical and biological research laboratories around the world. It allows researchers and clinicians to produce millions of copies from a single piece of DNA or RNA for use in genome sequencing, gene analysis, inheritable disease diagnosis, paternity testing, forensic identification, and the detection of infectious diseases.

The standard approach to PCR typically takes about an hour, which is a vast improvement over pre-PCR techniques that required days. However, PCR for point-of-care, emergency-response or widespread monitoring applications needs to be faster still—on the order of a few minutes.

Beer set out to find out just how fast PCR could go. His goal was to develop a device where the limiting factor would be enzyme kinetics or thermodynamics, not mechanical considerations. He also wanted to use "volumes that are easy to interact with," not microfluidic-scale, knowing that in a diagnostic setting multiple analyses are often needed and the ability to load samples by hand is vital.

As described in a recently published paper in the journal Analyst (<http://pubs.rsc.org/en/content/articlehtml/2011/an/c1an15365j>), Beer and his colleagues created such a device and demonstrated PCR times of less than three minutes. Their work was funded by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and internal LLNL money.

With the device in hand, Beer's next challenge was to see if any commercially available polymerase enzymes could work rapidly enough. Out of a group of 10 polymerases advertised by their manufacturers to be compatible with fast thermal cycling, two enzymes worked in the LLNL device right out of the box.

"We were really encouraged

by the fact that two off-the-shelf enzymes worked at these speeds," said Beer, "and there are a lot of parameters that can be adjusted to potentially go even faster."

The researchers demonstrated their PCR device by amplifying genomic DNA from an Enterobacter bacterium and a portion of SARS DNA. The first tested the device's ability to rapidly amplify a large DNA segment, and the second showed the device's utility in handling a public health threat virus. The device achieved 30-cycle (billion-fold) PCR amplification of the target DNA in as little as two minutes and 18 seconds.

"When I set out to do this, people said it would never work," Beer recounted. "They gave mechanical reasons or enzyme kinetic reasons. But I answered, 'nobody really knows.'"

Now that Beer and his team have demonstrated sub-three-minute PCR, they are working to develop a real-time-detection device. They envision a PCR instrument that can complete a test, from sample to results, in five to 10 minutes.

The market for such a device is considered to be huge. In addition to the traditional public health and medical research applications, an easy-to-use real-time PCR device would be enormously useful in the livestock, poultry, agricultural and processed food industries for ensuring food safety.

Dunlop Rejoins ROP Board

William (Bill) Dunlop, Ph.D., has been appointed by the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) Board of Education to represent LVJUSD on the Tri-Valley Regional Occupational Center/Program (TVROCP) Joint Powers Governing Board, replacing Stewart Gary who was recently elected to the Livermore City Council and was seated November 28, 2011.

Dunlop has served on the LVJUSD Board of Education since 2004 and previously served on the TVROCP Joint Powers Governing Board February 2005 through January 2006 (Member) and January 2006 through January 2007 (Vice President). He is a Senior Scientist at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

where he has held numerous positions since 1972. He received his B.A. in Physics from the University of Pennsylvania, and his M.S. in Physics and Ph.D. in

Nuclear Physics from UCLA.

Dunlop will attend his first JPGB meeting on December 9, 2011, 12:00 p.m., in the TVROCP District Office.



2133A Las Positas Ct, Livermore
(located off of N. Livermore Ave.)

Furniture, Jewelry & Household Items

Monday thru Friday 9am-4pm
925.454.3449
www.futures-explored.org

Nifty Gifts & More
A Thrift Store - Now Open!





Support
Small Business
Saturday in
Downtown Livermore!

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY
NOV 26



See's CANDIES

Livermore Downtown Inc.
is fundraising with See's Candies!

GET YOURS AT THE
MAIN STREET DESIGNS CHRISTMAS STORE
NOVEMBER 19TH - DECEMBER 24TH
56 SOUTH LIVERMORE AVENUE
(925) 449-8573

SEE'S CANDIES HOURS:
MONDAY & TUESDAY: 10AM - 6:00PM
WEDNESDAY - SATURDAY: 10AM - 9:00PM
SUNDAY: 11:00AM - 5:00PM

While Supplies Last!
We can accommodate large corporate orders!
as a fundraiser, we do not accept gift certificates.

proceeds benefit Livermore Downtown Inc.
dedicated to the revitalization of your downtown!

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT
LIVERMORE DOWNTOWN INC.
(925) 373-1795
WWW.LIVERMOREDOWNTOWN.COM



Livermore Downtown
Where Brilliance Thrives!

Shop Your Favorite Stores

We'll get you home!



happy-go-locally



hacienda crossings
DUBLIN



stoneridge shopping center
PLEASANTON

Passengers boarding at Hacienda Crossings ride free every day
November 25 - December 24

Passengers boarding at the Stoneridge Shopping Center bus stop in front of JC Penney ride free on Friday, November 25 and Saturdays and Sundays
November 25 - December 24



Wheels Connecting People to Places in the Tri-Valley

wheelsbus.com 925.455.7500

2011 Holiday Sights & Sounds Parade

SATURDAY DECEMBER 3RD
6 PM

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS
SNOW PLAY AT LIZZIE FOUNTAIN 12PM - 4PM
COMPLIMENTS OF MARCEL ORTHODONTICS
AGE 10 YEARS AND UNDER

MERCHANT OPEN HOUSE
SHOPPING SPECIALS & REFRESHMENTS
THROUGHOUT DOWNTOWN LIVERMORE

PARADE ROUTE IS FIRST STREET
BETWEEN "M" STREET & MCLEOD STREET
FEATURING LOCAL MARCHING BANDS
MUSIC, LIGHTING DISPLAYS, & SANTA CLAUS!

TREE LIGHTING OF "BRUCE SPRUCETREE"
TO FOLLOW THE PARADE
CORNER OF SOUTH LIVERMORE & FIRST STREET

HONORING RETIRING CITY MANAGER
LINDA BARTON
GRAND MARSHALL

PARKING & HANDICAPPED PARKING ARE AVAILABLE AT THE
FREE LIVERMORE VALLEY CENTER PARKING GARAGE
2350 RAILROAD AVENUE

NO DOGS OR ANIMALS ALLOWED IN THE EVENT ENCLOSURE.

2011 HOLIDAY SIGHTS & SOUNDS PARADE SPONSORS





WWW.LIVERMOREDOWNTOWN.COM

CHABAD OF THE TRI VALLEY PRESENTS ...

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE CHANUKAH UNDER THE STARS

MORE INFO VISIT
WWW.JEWISHTRIVALLEY.COM
OR CALL (925) 846-0700



BANKHEAD THEATRE

Saturday December 22
at 7:30pm

8400 1ST STREET DOWNTOWN LIVERMORE

DECEMBER 22ND AT 7:30PM

SPORTS NOTES



West Coast Soccer Wild entered the RAL, Premier 1 division as a "wild card" and proved to be very competitive despite the many injuries that hampered this team coming down the home stretch of the season. This past weekend, November 19 and 20 marked the conclusion of RAL fall league. Wild had 2 tough results dropping games to both Santa Rosa Freeze and Mustang Outlaws. At the end West Coast Wild finished smack in the middle of 10 teams. Wild players worked hard this season to bring home champion titles at the following tournaments: Santa Cruz Beach Soccer, Tracy Orange Bowl, Mustang Stampede, and Ajax Invitational. Pictured is Autumn Smithers, # 3 of West Coast Wild, a defender with the speed and agility to get herself in front of her opponent to steal the ball away, as shown here against a Mustang Outlaw this past Sunday, November 20, 2011.

West Coast Soccer

The West Coast Fury U9 girls, in their first year as a new team in a brand-new club, beat several top teams in Northern California to make it into the Elite 8 at the Norcal Premier Soccer League State Cup finals in Manteca.

In their first game on Saturday, West Coast met a tough team from Castro Valley. Minutes after the whistle blew, West Coast was on the board with a goal from forward Kalena Brongiel. The West Coast defense, led by Gracie Alfonso, Maddie Allum, and Allison Rickman, prevented Castro Valley's offense from any significant attempt at a goal in the first half. West Coast goalie, Haiden

Arruda, had no problem stopping the few shots on goal that came her way. Trinity Sandridge scored the second goal of the game on a break-away.

Third goal of the match came off of a corner kick on the right from midfielder Kate Zeck. Kate's kick sent the ball through the air as it curved back toward the goal. The Castro Valley goalie got her hands on it but a little bobble allowed the ball to roll into the net.

At the start of the second half, Castro Valley was able to break free on a long kick from their goalie to score their one goal of the game. West Coast continued their offen-



West Coast Olympic Gymnastics Academy compulsory gymnasts team members are (top row, left to right) Mariah Murphy, Claire Volkman, Amelia Liao, Audrey Ong, Mia Reeve; (middle row) McKenzie Meyn, Naomi Evans, Phoenix Cabuay, Rachel Shaw; and (front) Juliette Gosselin.

sive pressure with several attacks from both sides of the field. Forwards Megan McCoy, Ally Thompson, Jamie Conklin, and Laura Gonzalez took several shots on goal. Laura sent a cross from the left corner across the center of the field, setting up a goal by Maddie Allum. The Fury beat Castro Valley 4-1 to move to the finals.

In their final match, West Coast met Modesto's top-ranked Ajax. Defense was tough on both sides. The Fury scored first off a nice cross from Trinity Sandridge to Laura Gonzalez. The Ajax responded with a goal off a corner kick to the middle of the box.

Minutes into the second half, Ajax came out strong and scored their second goal of the game. West Coast responded with a powerful left-foot shot from midfield by Kate Zeck. This tied the match at 2-2, with 15 minutes left to play. Both teams stepped up their level of play. Ajax was able to score the go-ahead goal in the final five minutes to end the game 3-2 over West Coast.

The West Coast U9 Fury girls are the youngest team in the West Coast Soccer Club. They are based in Livermore and include players from all parts of Livermore Valley, Tracy, and surrounding cities.

West Coast Soccer U11 Wrath completed their season with a well-contested, 3 to 1 win over Fusion. With the win, Wrath topped the Silver League and won their second trophy of the season. Wrath started strongly and pushed forward against the Fusion team bolstered with 3 gold players. Wrath worked hard to build their attacks from defense and were rewarded with a goal from Tyler Rene Enderlein. Tyler quickly followed this with her second, when she scored from a corner kick. Wrath continued to push, and also defend strongly against

counterattacks from Fusion. Wrath scored a third goal after a run from Kylie Karter which she slotted into the net. The second half started with both teams playing well and a number of chances fell to both teams. The play was open and there was some excellent play from both teams and Wrath had many chances saved. Fusion never gave up the chase, and were rewarded with a well-taken consolation goal.

WCOGA Gymnastics

The West Coast Olympic Gymnastics Academy compulsory gymnasts competed in the NorCal South Level 4 State Championships at Central California Gymnastics Institute on November 19, 2011.

Standout Performances: Claire Volkman - 4th vault, 5th beam and 7th all around, Audrey Ong - 4th beam, 7th vault and 7th all around, Mariah Murphy - 6th bars and 12th all around, Phoenix Cabuay - 9th beam and 7th all around, Juliette Gosselin - 6th beam and 8th all around, Amelia Liao - 2nd vault, 4th beam and 7th all around, McKenzie Meyn - 4th vault and 7th all around, Naomi Evans - 4th beam and 11th all around, Rachel Shaw - 7th vault and 10th floor.

Fastest NCAA Time

Brandon Fischer, a native of Livermore and a senior at the University of Wyoming, posted the fastest breaststroke times so far in college swimming and was named NCAA's top breaststroke in the nation.

He earned this ranking in November after competing in three swim meets and finishing at the Houston Invitational meet in Texas last weekend.



The Livermore Mystics 6th grade girls team, won the Consolation bracket of the MVP Turkey Shoot Tournament. The girls finished 2-1 at the tournament, with their only loss coming in the first round by one point. Players pictured are Sydney Pournaras, Regan Wiedenfeld, Nicole Bartels, Taylor Sullivan, Emily Trask and Ashley Lamb. Not pictured was Gigi Cole.



Seven Pleasanton Seahawks were voted "Most Outstanding in Pacific Swimming." Head Coach, Steve Morsilli, received the George Haines Pacific Swimming Senior Coach of the Year Award. Pictured (left to right) are Nick Silverthorn, Rachel Knowles, Coach Steve Morsilli, Celina Li, Allison Brown and Maxime Rooney. Not pictured: Catherine Breed and Andrew Seitz

SHOP LOCALLY AND SAVE! Gift Guide 2011

Shop Locally and during the
Holiday Season

\$50 Value Holiday Gift Certificates—ONLY \$40.00

STRINGS

Italian Café & Catering

2205 Las Positas Road, Livermore
(925) 373-1044 | www.stringslivermore.com

ENJOY LOCAL HISTORY?

My books are perfect gifts for anyone interested in local history. To purchase copies, please call (925) 443-9440 or email am50homan@yahoo.com

CASA OROZCO

Mexican Food Restaurants

Gift Cards For The Holiday Make A Great Gift Idea!

Available in Any Amount

Livermore 449-3045
Dublin 828-5464
casaorozco.com

Happy Holidays

from The Singing Winemaker and all of us at

Tesla VINTNERS

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

Peach Sparkling

Stop by and pick up your bubbly for the Holidays!

Check out our holiday gifts at

Holiday in the Vineyards

Dec. 3rd & 4th
12:00-5:00 PM

5143 Tesla Rd, Livermore
(925) 606-9463

It's what EVERY GOLFER Wants THIS YEAR!

The ultimate GIFT CARD to use for all things GOLF!

Rounds • Equipment
Apparel • Accessories
Shoes • Food/Beverage & More!

Use at Poppy Ridge AND Poppy Hills

Poppy Ridge 925.447.6779 | Poppy Hills 831.622.8239
www.poppyridgegolf.com/giftcard

JOIN THE FUN

Beginning to Advanced

- Ballroom
- Salsa
- Swing
- Wedding
- Country
- Social & more!

Learn at your own pace!

Singles & Couples Welcome

Arthur Murray

Franchised Dance Studios

Gift Certificates Available for the Holidays
(925) 456-5556

1947 2nd St, Livermore • www.ArthurMurrayLive.com

Terra mia
italian restaurant
4040 East Avenue
Livermore, CA 94550
Phone: (925) 456-3333
www.terramialivermore.com

Give the gift of gift certificates!

Available in any amount.

Galina's Music Studio

Lessons in Piano, Voice, Guitar, & Ukulele
2222 Second St, #2
Downtown Livermore
GalinasMusicStudio.com

Call to order your GIFT CERTIFICATES Today!

(925) 960-1194

Personal Training In Your Home!

Is it time for some healthy changes in your lifestyle? Don't know where to start? I can help!

Call or email for more info.

Personal Training
fit2gopt.com

(925) 200-3491 | www.fit2gopt.com | fit2gopt@yahoo.com

SPORTS NOTES



West Coast U11 Wrath pictured celebrating after sealing the top spot in the Silver League. Coached by Paul Giamona, the former bronze and rec-plus players have built a team that won the silver league in their first season. Pictured are Coach Paul Giamona, Kate Wallace, Kaylie Lawsen, Abigail Hoobing, Kylie Karter, Fran Hyde, Kelsi Green, Annalease Widmann, Alyssa George, Asst Coach Todd Lawsen; (front) Abby Andrews, Lindsey Phillips, Sierra Bettencourt, Hayley Thompson, and Tyler Rene Enderlein.

He achieved four first place titles in the 200 IM and 400 IM as well as his signature event in the 100 and 200 Breaststroke.

Pleasanton Seahawks

The Pleasanton Seahawks swim team recorded a good showing at the B/A+ Meet hosted by the Walnut Creek Aqua Bears on November 18-20. Best Times and new cuts were in abundance during the three day meet.

Novice I: Christina Coatney 2 "A" times, including Lifetime Best Time (LBT) "A" (25 free) and LBT "B" times (100 free and 25 breast)

Intermediate II: Mattias Bengtsson "A" times (25 free/back and 50 breast)

Pre-Junior Group Results: New "B" times: Rachana Mukkamala; New "A" times: Alex Ren, Nick Wonosaputra; New Junior Olympic (JO) Cuts: Lara Serban; 100% Best Times: Vickie Luo, Rachana Mukkamala; Completed their IMX Challenge Events: Nick Wonosaputra

Fall Swim: Drew Kobayashi New JO (200 IM) and New Far Western (FW) cuts (50 by/back)

Junior Group: Grace Kim 1st JO cut (100 IM); Nick Skinner 100% best times; Sofia Barrera 2 New JO cuts; Aditya Gupta 1st JO cut (50 back); Will Rose 100% best times; Jonathan Mui New JO (50 free)

Bocce Kits for Rent

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District is now 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 basis; reservations are not available in advance. Rental of a bocce ball kit does not guarantee a bocce ball court will be available.

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.

Bowling for Baseball

Livermore High School baseball is hosting a Bowling Tournament to raise money for the season. The cost is \$15 per person or \$90 for a team of six. The tournament will be on December 3 from 6-8pm at the Granada Bowl. Those interested in participating, please contact David Perotti at dperotti@lvjhsd.k12.ca.us or 925-586-2811 or go to www.eteamz.com/LHScowboysbaseball for more info.

PGSL Registration

2012 Registration is now open for all divisions in the Pleasanton Phantom Girls Softball League. All girls living in Pleasanton, Dublin and Sunol are eligible to play. Two ways to register: 1) Online at www.pleasantonsoftball.org; 2) Mail-in: PGSL, P.O. Box 911, Pleasanton, CA 94566 (download a registration form from our website). For more information or questions, email Christine Tanis at christine.t@pleasantonsoftball.org.

PGSL Player Evaluations and Tryouts: Evaluations for grades 3-8 are scheduled for January 14-15, 2012. The times and



The Pleasanton Rage U12 Orange soccer team finished a great season as Division 1 Premier League Champions with a 3-0 win over the Walnut Creek Storm at Val Vista Saturday, November 19th. The team, coached by Gordon Lang, enjoyed a very successful season that included victories over two top Mustang teams. This league championship follows a spring league in which they also finished in first place. The Premier League title gives the team positive momentum as they prepare for their state cup tournament in January. Pictured are (back row, left to right) Jenilee Chen, Sayler Bagnall, Claire Wong, Kathryn Lee, Kirsty Brown, Tami Kwong, Lauren Russell, Audrey Goodman, Sophia Pearson; (front row) G'ana Losson, Nikki Lee, Brianna Wolfe, Molly Murphy, Lilly Ryan, Taylor Noval, Jacqueline Templeman. Not Pictured: Samantha Dukes, and Coach Gordon Lang.

locations are to be determined and will be published on the PGSL website (www.pleasantonsoftball.org). Remember to register by December 1, 2011 to avoid the late fee.

Livermore Girls Softball

Livermore Girls Softball registration is open for the 2012 Spring Season. Tryouts for 10U and Middle School will be held Dec 3. For more information go to www.livermoregirlssoftball.org.

Bay Bombers Collect Toys

Jim Fitzpatrick's World Champion San Francisco Bay Bombers Return to Pleasanton for their 2nd Annual Holiday Season Game to benefit Toys for Tots. The roller derby game will take place on Saturday night, Dec 17. The game starts at 8 p.m. It will feature the San Francisco Bay Bombers vs ARSD All-Star, indoors at the Alameda County Fairgrounds

Tickets on sale now and available through the Bombers web site via Pay Pal, Brown Paper Tickets and Goldstar.

Bombers' GM, Jim Fitzpatrick stated, "Starting the Monday prior to our game we'll be holding a training camp, looking for new skaters. The camp will run until early February. We've also started filming our games for syndication."

For more information on the Bombers schedule, becoming a Roller Derby skater

and upcoming TV games visit www.arsd-bombers.com

Bah Humbug 5K

The San Ramon Parks & Community Services will start the holidays with a healthy fun run or walk with its annual San Ramon Bah Humbug 5K Run & Walk, on Saturday, December 3. This very flat and fast 5K (3.1 miles) certified course will follow through the weekend-quiet and monitored streets of Bishop Ranch Business Park.

Bah Humbug proceeds will go directly back into the San Ramon Parks & Community Services programs.

Trophies will go to the top male and female finishers, and medals will be awarded three deep in designated age groups for both male and female participants (check application or Web site for age-groups). Costume awards will go to the "Most Grinch-Like," "Holiday Spirit," and "Group Theme." All participants who wear their holiday garb will receive a special "Bah Humbug" Tree Ornament.

5K entry fee is \$40 for everyone. Check-in and race day registration opens at 7:30 a.m. at Bishop Ranch II, 2694 Bishop Drive (corner of Camino Ramon & Bollinger Canyon Rd.), in San Ramon (East side of freeway 680). Both, the run and walk will begin at 9:00 a.m.

For more Bah Humbug 5K Run & Walk information and/or an application, contact Brad Morris at the San Ramon Parks & Community Services, 925-973-3367 or. On Your Mark Events will provide timing and results of this event. To pre-register for this event, entrants can either download this application and send in with money or online, at Active.com

LNL Little Registration

Livermore National Little is still accepting early bird registration until Nov. 30, 2011 please visit the website www.eteamz.com for details. LNL will have a final walk in registration on Tuesday, Dec 6 at Mt. Mike's Pizza, 1304 First St., Livermore, from 6:30-8:30pm. Please provide copy of birth cert & current proof of residency.

Basketball Clinic

Pro Shot National touring basketball clinic is coming to Dublin on December 3

Making his first appearance in Dublin will be "Shot Doctor" Paul Hoover, creator of the Pro Shot Shooting System. Participants will learn the Shooting Release of MJ and Kobe; the shooting secrets that only the best NBA players possess; develop unstoppable confidence and gain "the edge" over any defender; become the quickest shooter in your league or city; and understand the mindset of what it takes to become a consistent shooter.

Third to 5th grades, 9 a.m. to noon, 6th to 8th grads, 1 to 4 p.m. Sat., Dec. 3, Stager Community Gymnasium; \$50 residents, \$60



The West Coast Soccer U9G Fury team celebrated the close of their first season together as a finalist in the Norcal Premier State Cup Elite 8. The team finished first in their league and made it all the way to the finals at the State Cup tournament. The team is coached by Sara Giroto with assistance from LeeAnn Alfonso. Players include: Gracie Alfonso, Maddie Allum, Haiden Arruda, Kelena Brongiel, Jamie Conklin, Alyssa Garza, Laura Gonzalez, Megan McCoy, Allison Rickman, Trinity Sandridge, Ally Thompson, and Kate Zeck.

nonresidents. www.dublin.ca.gov.

Lacrosse Registration

Join the fastest growing sport in North America. There are still a few players spots left for the Livermore Phantom Lacrosse Spring 2012 season. Limited spots are available for the U9 boys' team and the U13 - U15 girls' teams. Please see www.phantomlacrosse.org for details. The season runs mid-January through May. Register on-line at www.phantomlacrosse.org.

Seahawks: A Year in Review

The 2010/2011 Pleasanton Seahawks (PLS) Awards Banquet held on October 30, included a gala evening full of lifetime memories, gratitude, laughter, speeches and recognition.

A year in review saw an increase in membership, while maintaining the highest team ranking in the area. In addition, PLS is ranked among the top 30 senior level clubs nationwide and has consistently produced swimmers competing at the National and Olympic Trials level since 1986.

Honorable mention goes to the 2010/2011 PLS Attendance and Inspiration Awardees who maintained outstanding attendance or were recognized for their Seahawk Spirit by peers and coaches.

Attendance Awardees: Senior Elite: 13-14 girl - Rachel Knowles, 15-16 girl - Celina Li, 15-16 boy - Nick Silverthorn, 17-18 girl - Sasha Alcon, 17-18 boy - Andrew Seitz; Senior: 13-14 girl - Eva Chung, 13-14 boy - Regis Lachance, 15-16 girl - Bernadine Martin, 15-16 boy - Tony Shen; Junior: 10 and under girl - Miranda Heckman; Intermediate Group I: 8&U boy - Alex Ren; Novice II: 8-under girl - Emily Tsai; Pre-Novice Group: Andrew Li - boy 9-10

Inspiration: Senior Elite: PepsiCo Inspirational Award - Bridget Moran, Jonas Tervydis Inspirational Award - Nick Johnston; Senior: Jonas Tervydis Inspirational Award - Moriah Simmonds; Varsity: Andrew Song; Junior: Tim Yao; Pre Junior: Paulina Umansky; Intermediate Group II: Sruthi Mukkamala; Intermediate Group I: Kyle Kenny; Novice II: Sarang Vadali; Novice I: Mattias Bengtsson; Pre Novice: Amala Rao

Winter Baseball Coach

Livermore High Varsity Baseball Coach David Perotti is hosting a winter baseball camp on December 19-21. Each camper will receive individual instruction from coaches and Livermore High players, a snack each day and a camp shirt. The 5-12 year old camp costs \$110 and runs from 9:00-12:00 everyday. The camp is being held at Livermore High Varsity Field. For more info to sign up please contact David Perotti at (925) 586-2811 or dperotti@yahoo.com or check website www.eteamz.com/lvb

BODY IN BALANCE
COMMUNITY ACUPUNCTURE

Affordable Acupuncture!
\$20 - \$40 Sliding Scale
+ \$10 First Treatment

Kristine M. Buckley, MS, L.Ac.
4133 Mohr Ave., #E, Pleasanton (925) 417-8800
pleasantoncommunityacupuncture.com



Pictured are members of the 2010/2011 Pleasanton Seahawks (PLS) team and coaches who were recognized during the annual awards banquet held on October 30. For more information about the event, see Sports Notes.

Just

MAX

MaxdeVries.com

Your Preferred Realtor®

(925) 525.0116
MaxdeVries10@gmail.com
CA DRE #01373199

J. Rockettiff
REALTORS

753 TRAVISO CIRCLE | GORGEOUS

Alden Lane Community. Beautiful, large, home in sought after Kristopher Ranch/Alden Lane! 50K in upgrades: custom shutters, interior paint, granite tile counters and maple cabinetry, cherry wood & tile floors. 1 bedroom and bathroom downstairs, master suite upstairs with retreat. Private courtyard, custom arbor over brick patio.

OPEN HOUSE SAT & SUN 1-4

1441 CALVARY LANE | REG SALE

39472 SEASCAPE ROAD | PENDING

29190 DIXON ST | SOLD

123 HAWTHORNE CT | SOLD

529 ODIN DR | JUST SOLD

YOUR HOME HERE!
WELL ADVERTISED
AND SOLD
FOR TOP DOLLAR!

Bed 5 | Ba 5 | \$555+/Sq.Ft. | .555+/ACRES

Contact Max Today 925.525.0116
Max will help you determine what's best for all your real estate goals.

Bed 4 | Ba 2 | 3,322+/Sq.Ft. | 0.80+/ACRES

Classic Ranch style home w/ 6 horse stalls, uniquely located near the heart of Livermore. Just minutes away from Shopping, fine dining, schools, & the newly renovated Downtown w/ all the local activities, the location is the perfect place to call home.

Bed 3 | Ba 1.5 | 1,008+/Sq.Ft. | 0.13+/ACRES

One story home with Three bedrooms and One and a half bathroom with a Two car attached garage. The property has a separate family room and a Kitchen/ Dining combo. Fresh paint and new carpet.

REPRESENTING SELLER

Bed 3 | Ba 2.5 | 1,600+/Sq.Ft. | 0.16+/ACRES

Spectacular private park-like setting for this beautiful updated cstm home w/ amazing valley views. Open layout w/ grand entry & luxurious master suite. Remodeled kitchen. Crown molding & cstm designer features throughout. Pool & waterfall.

REPRESENTED BUYER AND SELLER

Bed 4 | Ba 2.5 | 2,799+/Sq.Ft. | 0.22+/ACRES

Single story home in Poets corner. Granite kitchen counter, cherry cabinet, travertine marble floor. Bonus room, Master bath with a huge walk in closet, formal dining room, RV parking and Spa in backyard.

REPRESENTED SELLER

Bed 3 | Ba 2 | 1,240+/Sq.Ft. | 0.20+/ACRES

One story home with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a bonus room with fireplace, hardwood floors, plantation shutters, air conditioner, central heat and views of Mt Diablo.

REPRESENTED SELLER

DAMAGE TO LABS

(continued from page one)

tions in 1999 that Los Alamos computer scientist Wen Ho Lee was spying for China. There followed a series of opportunistic leaks and comments by senior Washington administrators and politicians anxious to show their patriotic toughness. Lee was held in solitary confinement for nine months.

Ultimately, all but one charge against Lee was dismissed. His crime – the gross mishandling of classified information – was real, but it was an individual act. Yet the entire institution and its staff were blamed in harsh terms.

The second act started with the replacement of Los Alamos director John Browne by Admiral Pete Nanos, who alienated staff by publicly denouncing the laboratory's culture and called its employees "cowboys and buttheads" who thought they were above the rules."

After two classified computer disks appeared to be missing, Nanos suspended nineteen lab employees and shut down operations for months of retraining. Then it turned out that the "missing disks" were a false alarm, a mistaken entry in an accounting system.

However, the damage done by overreaction was real. Suspended operations were said to have cost the federal government \$370 million. "A simple mistake in inventory management" was construed as institutional misconduct "at great cost to the Los Alamos National Laboratory and, presumably, to national security," Gusterson wrote.

The third act was the creating of an unprecedented for-profit management arrangement for the nation's two nuclear weapons design labs. The arrangement began at Los Alamos in 2007 and Livermore in 2008. Bechtel Corp. and the University of California were the chief partners.

Gusterson's disdain for the arrangement, and for Bechtel in particular, is clear. The University of California had run the labs as a public service for half a century, but now "Bechtel was in it for the money, (leading to) a tenfold increase in the management fee" as well as personal bonuses to senior managers if they "met contract targets."

He charged that Bechtel managers are basically "a phalanx of outsiders, seen by many (Livermore) lab employees as remote, overpaid interlopers who are obsessed with collecting personal bonuses by ensuring that the labs have no safety or security lapses, but have little interest in the labs' scientific mission."

The article points out that for-profit management meant that less support was available for research because the new organization had to pay taxes. He cites statistics indicating that a key indicator of productivity, the publication of peer-reviewed articles by Livermore scientists, "fell from 1,400 in 2005 to about 800 in 2010."

Gusterson noted another factor in increased costs at the Livermore site, a rise in benefits expense because it no longer enjoyed the reduced rates that the huge University could typically negotiate with insurance companies.

Overall, the labs faced reduced productivity at higher cost. Lawrence Livermore had to lay off a quarter of its 8,000 employees. Gusterson is critical of the

manner as well as the fact of the cutbacks, noting that for the first time employees were treated as untrustworthy, supervised as they packed their personal belongings and escorted immediately off-site.

Gusterson has written two previous books about Livermore and Los Alamos from the anthropological viewpoint. He has often criticized the national security posture and sometimes the laboratories themselves. He thought of writing a third book, about the fortunes of the labs following the end of the Cold War, but until now had been unable to decide on a theme.

What he learned in preparing his magazine article has enabled him to focus and decide how to proceed, he said. More than one publisher has expressed interest in the new book.

"The assault on Los Alamos" evolved from an academic article he prepared for a Culture of National Security panel at the American Anthropological Association in November of last year.

He shared the academic work electronically with some scientists and managers he knew at Los Alamos. They sent him more examples of demoralizing management actions and institutional blame for individual events and suggested he try to publish in a more popular forum.

The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists article is the result. Gusterson has been stunned by the response from readers. He has written a number of articles over the years, but the response to this one exceeds the responses to all his other articles combined.

All his email has been supportive, and most comes from active or retired employees at Los Alamos whom he doesn't know. There has been no single theme to the emails other than "someone needed to stand up for us." An extremely powerful message came from a very senior individual at Los Alamos, whom he declined to name: "My former laboratory is in a death spiral."

This year, a much more formal review of lab management has been undertaken by the National Academy of Sciences under Congressional mandate. Findings are confidential until they are released, but it is clear that the review panel is hearing many negatives – including from current senior managers.

Last April, George Miller, then director of the Livermore Laboratory, told the Academy panel that the contract change had brought additional overhead expenses of about \$130-\$150 million each year. These have sapped the Laboratory's scientific resources and led to personnel reductions and significant losses of morale and sense of stability, he said.

To get a range of views on Gusterson's article and the issues it raises, The Independent contacted several former managers at Livermore and Los Alamos for reaction.

It also asked both laboratories for comment. Neither responded to requests submitted last week and this.

Some former managers were willing to comment on the record, some were not. Most of them found Gusterson's article to be substantially correct.

One who took issue was former director Mike May, who felt that the article "did not present a balanced picture of the labs" in general.

"At LLNL, it seems clear that a wide range of fine and essential research still takes place," he wrote in an email.

The management environment is more complex today than in past decades. "The world outside the U.S. and the domestic consensus have become fragmented," he said. "In addition, issues of environment and safety, always important, have become more bureaucratized."

Decades ago, there were only a few central issues for the weapons labs, most especially competition with the Soviet Union. There was "general consensus about many of the underlying

policies." There was only one responsible congressional committee, the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, while today there are many.

May noted that the current Laboratory operates a very wide variety of programs and management. It is evaluated on the performance of all of them, not just one or two major ones. All these factors make it difficult for today's contractor to operate with the same kind of consensus that used to be taken for granted.

May declined to comment on Los Alamos management. He does agree with Gusterson that the Wen Ho Lee episode was unnecessarily damaging, an individual act that became a reason to attack an effective system. The UC management system worked well, he said. "It was not broken."

Hank McDonald, a Livermore associate director in the 1980s, recalls the old UC system as providing employees freedom to "disagree with the government position on defense, energy policy, arms control or anything else. Often Congress members, business leaders, generals and politicians came to the Lab to get an honest slant on issues of the day. I doubt that happens any more."

Another former Livermore manager, who visited Los Alamos many times over several decades, "never had cause to question their (high) priorities in the area of security and safety. No doubt the LANL security and safety incidents, leading to the period under Nanos as Director, resulted in great harm to morale and the productivity of the organization."

Stronger and more explicit criticism of the current management system came from a former associate director, Jay Davis.

"The contract system has taken a low cost, merit based approach and turned it into a high cost, fee based approach," he said in an interview. "The LLC (for-profit) managers at Livermore are totally focused on \$80 million in fees. The notion that you would

take zero fee because it's in the national interest, the way the University of California used to, is foreign to them.

"This is not the part of Bechtel that builds air bases. It's the part that hunkers down in Washington and looks for fees."

Davis, who has also managed major Defense Department operations in Washington, said he is not sure the present system can be fixed.

John Browne, director of Los Alamos from 1997 to 2003, including the period when the Wen Ho Lee and hard drive episodes occurred, felt that Gusterson's article "caught very well the over-reaction to individual mistakes."

"I did not see a culture of criminal behavior or arrogance or breaking rules just to break rules."

Browne was unwilling to criticize the current, for-profit management system beyond saying that "they don't seem to have the same commitment to national security that the University of California had since World War II. The University was in it for the public service."

Browne's early physics career was spent at Lawrence Livermore. Having worked at both labs, he thought that Gusterson was perceptive in noting the role of geography in some of Los Alamos's difficulties.

Los Alamos research centers are spread widely across mesas over 43 square miles, he noted. Standardization is a huge challenge. The disparate facilities often evolved different financial systems. Their physical separation made the secure sharing of classified information inherently difficult.

When two classified computer disks went missing during the Wen Ho Lee uproar, and were later found behind a photocopy machine in a secure area, many in Washington expressed outrage at another apparent sign of poor security at Los Alamos.

Browne disagrees. Ironically, he points out, the Lab was in the

process of upgrading its electronic security system and the extraordinary furor hindered rather than helped any further change and modernization. As for the disks, he thinks employees were intimidated by the threat of dismissal. So they hid what would ordinarily have been a relatively small infraction, a failure to return the disks on time.

As Gusterson observed, the issue would be unlikely to arise at Livermore because of its compact geography, where information could be shared by secure internal cables rather than stored in a central vault serving as a lending library.

Gusterson sees the constant cycle of sharing and returning and sharing disks over a wide geographic area as "almost guaranteed to generate missing disks." Importantly, it was also a problem that management attention could straighten out. However, Washington overreacted and condemned Los Alamos staff in a demeaning and counter-productive manner.

"It is easier to blame nuclear weapons scientists for a 'culture of arrogance' that fits populist sloganeering about overeducated elites than to investigate structural factors and material practices that may be causing problems," he wrote.

Browne declined to criticize Washington in similar terms, but was emphatic in his defense of Los Alamos staff as both responsible and security-conscious.

RETZLAFF
Estate Wines

Holidays In The Vineyards

Premium Red Wine Sale
\$200/case
Dec 3rd & 4th Only!

1356 S. Livermore Ave.
New Hours: Tue-Fri 12-2pm,
Sat-Sun 12-4:30pm, Mon-Closed
(925) 447-8941

Don't miss Holidays in the Vineyard at Garré

Shop for unique holiday gifts, enjoy our special holiday menu & wine tasting.

DECEMBER 3RD & 4TH • 12-5PM
7986 Tesla Road, Livermore, CA 94550
(925) 371-8200

Tasting Room: Open Fri-Sun 11:30 to 5:00
Café open for lunch daily and breakfast on Sunday

LIVERMORE CINEMAS		2490 FIRST STREET 443-SHOW	
DEC 3 AND 4: POKEMON THE MOVIE: WHITE... (PG) DLP 12:00 2:15			
DAILY			
HUGO 3D (PG) DLP THX	1:05	4:00	6:50 9:30
THE MUPPETS (PG) DLP THX	11:35	1:00	2:05 3:35 4:35 6:10 7:05 8:40 9:40
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS 3D (PG) DLP	1:20	3:50	6:45 9:20
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS 2D (PG) DLP		12:00	2:30
TOWER HEIST (PG13) DLP		6:55	9:25
BREAKING DAWN PART 1 (PG13) DLP	12:15	1:15	3:15 4:15 6:15 7:15 9:15 10:00
HAPPY FEET TWO 3D (PG) DLP *No Show Sat-Sun	11:30*	1:50*	4:25 6:45 9:10
HAPPY FEET TWO (PG) DLP	1:10	3:40	6:05 8:30
PUSS IN BOOTS (PG) DLP	11:45	2:10	4:25 6:40 9:05
JACK AND JILL (PG) DLP	12:10	2:30	4:50 7:10 9:20
J. EDGAR (R) DLP	12:25	3:30	6:35 9:35
IMMORTALS (R) DLP	12:50	4:10	7:00 9:40

Grand Opening Dec. 9

Convenient Location for all of your grocery needs in Springtown

Huge Selection of fresh produce & grocery

Competitive Prices – will match prices for any of our competitors

Providing Best Customer Service around

953 Bluebell Drive, Livermore, CA
(925) 606-1111 • NewDelhiGrocers.com

Classics Night: CHRISTMAS VACATION Thursday Dec. 8

NFL FOOTBALL:
49ers & Raiders Games on Sun

Upcoming Classics:
Christmas Vacation - Dec. 8
A Christmas Story - Dec. 17 & 21
White Christmas - Dec. 18 & 22

VINE CINEMA & ALEHOUSE
1722 First Street - Livermore
(925) 447-2545 www.VineCinema.com

GEORGE CLOONEY IN:
THE DESCENDANTS
FRI-SUN: 11:40 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:20

TAKE SHELTER
FRI-SAT: 1:15 4:15 6:45

MONEYBALL DAILY: 9:00
PLEASE CALL FOR MON - THURS TIMES

ROCKY HORROR SAT @ MIDNIGHT

Visit Our Online Calendars!
See What's Happening Here In The Valley.



NOW!

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

Reed Plumbing Company

Livermore, CA
(925) 371-5671
davidreed@dareedplumbing.com
LIC #601931

Jewelry Wanted

Gold, Diamonds, and Watches For Consignment, Cash Purchase, or Trade

Since 1996

Jay Alan Jewelers

ANTIQUITIES • FINE ART
GEMSTONES • JEWELRY REPAIR
739 Main Street, Suite J
Pleasanton
(925) 462-5200

BRAVERY

(continued from page one)

Japanese-American communities on the West Coast.

Mori is national executive director of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL). In his speech at the ceremony, Mori said that the Japanese-American fighters "made the world a better place for all Japanese-Americans in subsequent years."

"We will be forever grateful for their sacrifice and dedication to life and liberty. They suffered untold ridicule, discrimination, bigotry, and hardship, but they triumphed. The veterans are most deserving of this long overdue honor," said Mori.

Takahashi could not attend the White House ceremony. However, there will be an awards ceremony in San Jose in February, so that Bay Area veterans can pick up the medals.

Takahashi, who worked his way up to staff sergeant, was wounded while leading his squad in an attack to save a battalion of 220 American soldiers surrounded near Epinal, France, about 25 kilometers west of the Franco-German border.

Takahashi led his squad in the reconnaissance that located the lost battalion, and assessed the strength of the German forces.

Takahashi reported back to his commanding officer, a colonel, who was talking to a visiting general. The general was pleased to hear the battalion was found, but used a racial slur about the troops, Takahashi related.

In response, the colonel became visibly angry, "jabbed his finger into the general's chest, and said, 'These are Japanese-Americans. I want you to never forget that.' I was never more proud of my colonel than at that moment," recalled Takahashi.

Approximately 40 of the rescuers died, and 800 were wounded, including Takahashi. In the lost battalion, 20 men died. The remaining 200 got out alive.

MAKING BIG MONEY BEFORE PEARL HARBOR
The bombing of Pearl Harbor changed Takahashi's life, as it did for 117,000 of his fellow West Coast Japanese-Americans who were placed in relocation camps farther inland.

Takahashi was making \$15,000 a year as one of 13 tuna fishers on a commercial boat based in San Diego. That was very big pay in 1941, when \$3000 was considered a good annual wage, he said.

The money enabled Takahashi

to buy the best 35mm camera available to help his hobby of photography. His earnings paid for a brand new 1941 Plymouth convertible, which cost him \$1200.

Takahashi was on the fishing boat in Mexican waters on Dec. 7, 1941, and knew nothing about the Pearl Harbor bombing. He learned about it a few days later, when a U.S. Navy ship's crew boarded the fishing boat, and took all 13 Japanese-American crew members to a Navy brig in San Diego. Only the Portuguese captain was able to stay with the boat.

After three days, the Navy let all the men go. Takahashi could not rejoin the fishing boat crew. He found work driving a truck at the Farmers Market in Los Angeles.

At that time, all of the West Coast Japanese-Americans were subject to curfew, and couldn't go anywhere from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. Takahashi found a way around it. He had Chinese-American friends who had special arm bands that said, "I am a Chinese-American," next to a picture of the American flag.

But eventually Takahashi was rounded up with thousands of

others in Southern California, and sent to an internment camp in Poston, a place in southwest Arizona that was built on an Indian reservation, without the tribes' cooperation.

The Colorado River Indian tribes did not want to see the same thing happen to the Japanese that happened to Indians, who were also rounded up, and forced to live in one place, said Takahashi.

Poston was the biggest of the 10 West Coast camps. It consisted of three separate communities, three miles apart. The entire camp was built by businessman Del Webb, who went on to construct Sun City retirement communities in five states.

"I call it a concentration camp. It was surrounded by barbed wire. The guards carried machine guns. You had these punk PFCs shouting, 'Get back there,' if you walked anywhere near the fence," said Takahashi.

MOVING ON FROM CAMP

Takahashi didn't like being idle, so he volunteered his services to interpret for new Japanese coming to the camp, and making them comfortable. Arizona was so hot in the summer that the men

in each of three camp dormitories dug 8x8-foot "rooms" under the buildings, so they could sleep at night.

The only problem with a make-shift room under a building was that scorpions and black widow spiders spent the night there, too. "We were always swatting them. A lot of people became ill," said Takahashi.

Takahashi was able to leave the camp with his brother George by volunteering to harvest a farmer's crops near Scotts Bluff, Neb., along with six other men.

"Mr. Dillman was a rotund fellow, six feet tall and jovial. He needed people to harvest 280 acres of beets. That took about three weeks. When we are ready to leave, Dillman called the FBI agent (who had brought them to Dillman's farm). He wanted us to harvest more crops," said Takahashi.

It went on like that, with a couple of weeks on one crop, another call to the FBI man, another extension of crop work. Then Takahashi asked Dillman, why didn't he just tell everyone upfront that he needed many weeks of picking. Dillman replied, "Well, you know the FBI." The farmer developed his own

effective way of dealing with government red tape.

Takahashi stopped off in Denver on his way back to Arizona. That stop changed his life. He met his future wife there, and was able to remain in Denver, and work in photography.

All this time, Takahashi had been classified 4-C, which was "enemy alien," and not eligible for the draft. Two weeks after he was married, he was reclassified to 1-A. He received a draft notice, and reported for duty.

Takahashi said that if he had known the government was about to change his draft status, he would have postponed his marriage. To this day, he does not know why his status changed.

After the war, he obtained a job with Sandia in New Mexico in a photography group. Among his duties was designing electronic equipment for field testing.

Takahashi came to Livermore in 1961 with Sandia. His duties included explosives containment work at Area 8. He retired in 1982.

Takahashi's two daughters, June Ferreri and Sharon Takahashi, live in Livermore. His son, Thane Takahashi, moved to Sacramento.

SHORT NOTES

Book Sale

Friends of the Livermore Library will hold its regular monthly book sale on Sunday, December 4 from noon to 4 p.m., rain or shine.

This month, the event will also feature a fantastic selection of Christmas and holiday books at great prices. There will be cookbooks, craft books, fiction and classics, and a delightful assortment of children's books.

The sale is held at the outdoor plaza in front of the former library, corner of Pacific Ave. & S. Livermore Ave., Livermore.

For more information, go to www.friendslivermorelibrary.com.

Dublin Nominations

The City of Dublin is accepting nominations for the 2011 Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year and Organization of the Year.

The purpose of these awards is to recognize outstanding individuals and groups who have contributed to the quality of life in Dublin this past year. Nomination criteria for both the Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year Awards are based on the Dublin

Pride—Integrity in Action Program's 10 Characteristics: Responsibility, Respectfulness, Caring, Giving, Positive Attitude, Trustworthiness, Cooperation, Doing One's Best, Honesty, and Self-Discipline. The Young Citizen of the Year recognizes the volunteer service of Dublin's youth in 1st – 12th grade.

All nominees will be recognized at the Volunteer recognition event to be held at the Shannon Community Center on Friday, February 24, 2012, where the winners will be announced. The Organization of the Year will receive a \$500 cash prize, and a \$300 donation will be given to each of the Citizen and Youth Citizen of the Year's favorite non-profit organization.

Nominations can be completed online at the City's website, www.dublin.ca.gov, or by calling the City Clerk's office at (925) 833-6650. The nomination deadline is end of day on Thursday, January 26, 2012.

Open Heart Kitchen Grant

Fremont Bank Foundation, a philanthropic arm of the Bay Area's Fre-

mont Bank, recently announced the recipients for its sixth annual holiday grant program. Each November, the Fremont Bank Foundation supports several Bay Area nonprofit organizations with donations to help them provide food and basic necessities to local residents and families.

This year the Fremont Bank Foundation has chosen to support local nonprofits that serve food or distribute food baskets year-round to those with the greatest needs in the communities the bank serves.

"We are grateful for the work these nonprofit organizations perform in our communities all year," says Hattie Hyman Hughes, president of Fremont Bank Foundation and a senior vice president of Fremont Bank. "We know that they will put our holiday grants to great use and will make the season a little brighter for many Bay Area residents and their families."

Among the agencies receiving a \$2500 grant was Open Heart Kitchen.

Nature Programs

A Thanksgiving Recovery Hike will be led by the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District ranger staff on Sat., Dec. 3.

Meet Ranger Jamie Greco at 10 a.m. at Sycamore Grove Park, 1051 Wetmore Road.

Do you feel like you have done nothing other than watch football and eat? Well, then put on your sneakers and come out to Sycamore Grove Park for a brisk fall walk. This program will take participants on a three- to four-mile hike in the upper, hilly part of the park. The hike will be fairly strenuous and steep at times, so it is not recommended for small children or individuals with health issues. Trails may be muddy, but the hike is on rain or shine.

On Sun., Dec. 4, volunteers are being asked to Give a Gift to the Earth. Meet Ranger Amy Wolitzer at 10 a.m. at Sycamore Grove Park, 1051 Wetmore Road.

Volunteers are needed to help

plant oaks, elderberries, sycamores and other native plants in the park. Wear clothing that can get dirty, and bring work gloves if you have them – there will also be some to lend. Please RSVP by calling 925-960-2400.

There is a \$5 per vehicle parking fee at either entrance to Sycamore Grove Park. A \$2 donation is requested to help support the programs, unless other fees are specified. Participants may call 925-960-2400 for more information.

Docent Training

Forest Home Farms Historic Park will have a docent training session for new volunteers on Thursday, January 19, 2012, from 9:30am-12pm. The meeting will be held in the Boone House Apt. B at Forest Home Farms Historic Park. The address is 19953 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon, CA 94583. This training is open to the public and is for anyone who is interested in becoming a volunteer at the farm. Those attending are not required to volunteer after attending the meeting.

This fieldtrip program is great for retirees, stay-at-home moms, part-time workers, and those with extra free time who would like to be involved in the community. There are four different areas for volunteers to choose from: Grandpa- leads tours and activities, Grandma- leads tours and activities, Garden- explains concepts of organic gardening and aids children in gardening chores, and Canning- presents a canning demonstration and leads activities.

Docents lead hands-on activities that teach the agricultural history of the San Ramon Valley and Forest Home Farms Historic Park. Public speaking experience is helpful, but not required. Education docents need to attend a three-hour training session twice per year. Volunteer commitment is 2 times per month minimum, and each tour lasts 3 hours. Volunteers must be available on weekday mornings and be fingerprinted through the San Ramon Police Dept.

Fieldtrips run Tuesday thru Friday, 9am-12pm during the school

year with a short break in winter. Winter/spring fieldtrips for 2012 begin February 4, 2012. Volunteers for this program also participate in a variety of fun and educational networking activities and fieldtrips to areas of local interest throughout the year. For more information or to RSVP for this meeting please contact Sharon Peterson at (925) 973-3282 or speterson@sanramon.ca.gov.

Healthy Food

Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) has made an effort to create crossover programs that encourage students to eat new fruits and vegetables while fueling their academic curiosity.

LVJUSD's Campus Catering department recently organized another nutrition/fitness fair with a new twist: peer educators. Teenagers were trained by a Registered Dietitian to assist with fun and interactive activities connected with a nutrition message or healthy lifestyle choice. To reinforce this teaching strategy and employ the benefit of older kids helping younger kids, the district planned a nutrition fair during the after school program hours with a variety of activities: nutrition education, physical activity, healthy food sampling, and nutrition-related games. Take home materials were provided in Spanish

and English.

The District has a 5+ year partnership with Kaiser Permanente, Chef Ana Villalobos and The City of Livermore. After school and evening cooking classes have been conducted with teens and families for years along with nutrition education and tours to the local Farmers Market. To further support students, Kaiser Permanente helped with the purchase of a kid friendly salad bar.

OBITUARIES

Jeffrey Lynn DeShields

Jeffrey Lynn DeShields, 48, of Pleasanton, died suddenly on November 13, 2011.



Mr. Jeffrey was born April 15, 1963, in Greenville, South Carolina, to Otis Brent and Annette

Campbell-DeShields.

He attended Wade Hampton High School in Greenville, South Carolina, where he played football all four years. He served four years in the U.S. Air force Military. He continued his education at IT Technical institute College in Greenville, graduating March 1, 2001 with an associate's degree in Electronic Engineering Technology.

He enjoyed football, golfing, riding horses, reading and learning. As a dive master, he enjoyed scuba diving and the water. As an ordained minister, he enjoyed teaching and encouraging others.

He is survived by his wife Gloria Owen DeShields of California, son Brent Heath DeShields, father Otis Brent DeShields of Green Ville, and six stepchildren and several grandchildren. He was loved and will be missed greatly.

The memorial will be held Fri., Dec. 16 in the evening at

Celebration Christian Center at 1135 Bluebell Drive, Livermore and the phone number is (925)455-4250.

Edward John Doherty

Resident of Pleasanton Jan. 12 1947- Nov. 17, 2011

Ed was a husband, father, grand father, friend, business owner and an Eagle Scout.

He is survived by his wife Nancie Whiteside

and daughter Kaytlin Doherty, his son Ed Doherty and wife Margaret from Ohio and grandson Zachery Doherty, daughter Tracy and husband Jason Ingebrigtsen and grandchildren Erica and Davin and daughter Cara and husband Chad Ingebrigtsen and granddaughter Emma.

A celebration of life will be held Friday, December 2, 2011 at 2:00 PM at Graham-Hitch Mortuary, 4167 First St. Pleasanton.

In lieu of flowers please make donation to the American Cancer Society in Ed's name.



Caring for the Tri-Valley for over 30 years!

Have a Flexible Spending Account?
LASIK, prescription glasses and sunglasses, contact lenses, and eye care services are a great way to use money in your Flexible Spending Account. Call us today to schedule a free LASIK consultation, update your glasses prescription, see our extensive selection of fashion eyewear, or order contact lenses before December 31. Call today to set up an appointment or come in and visit our optical department where our vision care experts are happy to assist you to **SEE YOUR BEST AND LOOK YOUR BEST!**

Jonathan Savell M.D., Michael Gagnon M.D., Gina Trentacosti O.D. and Jimmy Yip O.D.

925-460-5000
5575 W. Las Positas Blvd. #240, Pleasanton

925-449-4000
28 Fenton St., Livermore

Valley EyeCare Center
Medical Associates
www.ValleyEyeCareCenter.com

NADIA LOEWE, M.S.
Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist
Adult, Adolescent, Child, Couple & Family Therapy

Affordable sliding scale
Located in Pleasanton
(925) 226-6011
www.nadialoewe.com

WINTER SPECIALS

Winter Special
30% OFF
Teeth Whitening
\$350
(Normal Cost \$500)
Present coupon at time of appointment. Expires 01/31/12

\$50
New patient exams & x-rays for patients without insurance.
Can not be used with any other offers. Present coupon at time of appointment. Expires 01/31/12

\$95
New patient exams, x-rays & cleaning for patients without insurance
Can not be used with any other offers. Present coupon at time of appointment. Expires 01/31/12

- Most insurance accepted
- Early and Late appointments available
- New state of the art office
- Digital x-ray
- Caring and friendly staff
- Flexible payment plans available
- Senior discounts available

Downtown Dental

Maria S. David, D.M.D
2300 First St. Suite 106, Livermore (925) 337-5531
e-mail: downtowndental106@gmail.com
website: www.downtowndentallivermore.com

Faith Community
WORSHIP CENTER

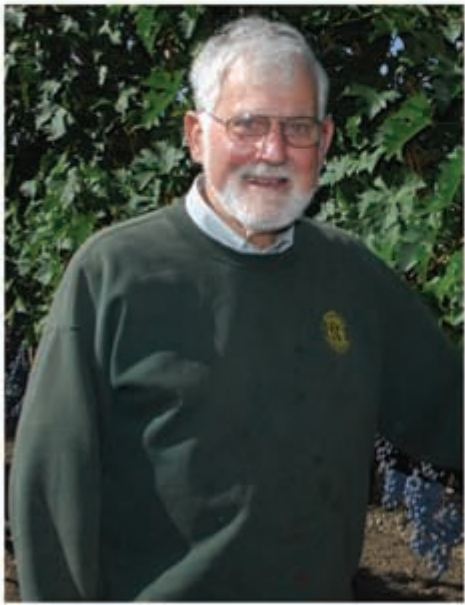
Tri-Valley's Dynamic Church

*"I will praise the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright and in the congregation."
(Psalm 111:1 NKJV)*

COME AND EXPERIENCE OUR PASSION FOR PRAISE & WORSHIP

Sunday Service 10:00 a.m.
Children's ministry is available.
6644 Owens Dr., Pleasanton
(925) 416-7770

What Our Readers Are Saying...



The Independent has been much more to me than an interesting local newspaper. During the 47 years I have read it, I have learned what it takes to be part of a community. The Independent has been a guide showing me how to nudge the community from one path to another more toward my personal vision.

From the Independent I have learned that political fights are not personal fights, and, at the end of the battles, your political enemies may become your personal friends, and new ideas are born.

Having a truly Independent newspaper has been a key factor in the on-going work of distinguishing Livermore as a centre for the arts, and a place of beauty.

Bob Taylor

Owner Retzlaff Vineyards, Resident of Rural Livermore

Have you responded to us to ensure you will continue to receive The Independent *FREE every week?



The Independent is dedicated to giving you, our readers, the news and editorial support to create a livable community.

IF YOU HAVE ALREADY RESPONDED, There Is No Need To Respond Again.

If you haven't, respond today:

By Phone: ☎
Call (925) 447-8700 and let us know that you wish to continue receiving The Independent directly by mail.

By Web: 🌐
Visit www.independentnews.com and follow the home page link that will enable you to submit your request directly to us.

THE Independent
NEWSPAPER AND MAGAZINE

*Subscription is FREE to residents of Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton and Sunol.

LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

www.independentnews.com



LEGAL NOTICES

FOR INFORMATION PLACING LEGAL NOTICES
Call 925-243-8000

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 457434

The following person(s) doing business as: Aahmes Shrine Event Center, 170 Lindbergh Ave., Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Temple Corporation, 170 Lindbergh Ave., 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 8/1/11. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Wayne Green, Gen. Partner/Secretary. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 19, 2011. Expires October 19, 2016. The Independent Legal No. 3108. Published November 10, 17, 24, December 1, 2011.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 458024

The following person(s) doing business as: (1)Prie Winery (2)Prie Cellars (3)Prie Vineyards, 3022 Verdala Dr, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): One Varia LLC, 3022 Verdala Dr, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by

a Limited liability company. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Lisa Gash, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 4, 2011. Expires November 4, 2016. The Independent Legal No. 3110. Published November 10, 17, 24, December 1, 2011.

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL) CASE NO. 662411

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (AVISO AL DEMANDADO): GADIEL SERRANO, and DOES 1 through 20

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTA DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):

PHILIP BRIGGS. NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in a proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You

can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelp-california.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. **¡AVISO! Lo han demandado.** Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación. Tien 30 DIAS DE CAL- ENDARIO despues de cal-

le entreguen esta citacion y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefonica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en lacorte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y mas informacion en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentacion, pida al secretario de la corte que le de un formulario de exencion de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podra quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin mas advertencia. Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remision a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniendose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperacion de \$10,000 o mas de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesion de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y direccion de la corte es): STANISLAUS COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT 801 10th Street, 4th Floor Modesto, California 95354 The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la direccion y el numero de telefono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): GARY C. NELSON, ESQ. #122821 LAW OFFICE OF GARY C. NELSON 421 13th Street Modesto, CA 95354 (209)524-9200 (209)524-9300 fax DATE: (Fecha): FEB 17, 2011 Clerk: (Secretario)

Karime J. Martinez By /s/: Deputy (Adjunto) Karime J. Martinez

The Independent Legal No. 3112. Published November 17, 24, December 1, 8, 2011.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 457622-23

The following person(s) doing business as: (1)Talk of the Town (2)Talk of the Town Hair Design, 43353 Mission Blvd, Fremont, CA 94539, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): (1)Bonnie K. Lewis (2)Robert L. Lewis, 2384 Bettona St, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Husband and wife. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 10/22/93. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Bonnie K. Lewis; Robert L. Lewis. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 25, 2011. Expires October 25, 2016. The Independent Legal No. 3113. Published November 17, 24, December 1, 8, 2011.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 457641

The following person(s) doing business as: Bits and Pieces, 43353 Mission Blvd, Fremont, CA 94539, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bonnie K. Lewis, 2384 Bettona St, 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 10/22/92. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Bonnie Kaye Lewis. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 26, 2011. Expires October 26, 2016. The Independent Legal No. 3114. Published November 17, 24, December 1, 8, 2011.

The following person(s) doing business as: Steel Creek Consulting, 1756 Valley of the Moon Rd, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Scott R. Rohe, 1756 Valley of the Moon Rd, 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 11/14/06. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Scott Rohe, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 14, 2011. Expires November 14, 2016. The Independent Legal No. 3115. Published November 17, 24, December 1, 8, 2011.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 458281

The following person(s) doing business as: Steel Creek Consulting, 1756 Valley of the Moon Rd, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Scott R. Rohe, 1756 Valley of the Moon Rd, 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 11/14/06. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Scott Rohe, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 14, 2011. Expires November 14, 2016. The Independent Legal No. 3115. Published November 17, 24, December 1, 8, 2011.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 458279

The following person(s) doing business as: J & L Import Export Company, 6444 Forget Me Not Cmn, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): (1)Li-Hsia Nieh Wu, 6444 Forget Me Not Cmn, Livermore, CA 94551 (2)Zhi Jian Xue, 17 Redwood Ct, Santa Rosa, CA 95409. This business is conducted by Co-partners. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 9/1/2011. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Li-Hsia Nieh Wu, Co-partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 14, 2011. Expires November 14, 2016. The Independent Legal No. 3117. Published November 17, 24, December 1, 8, 2011.

na St, 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 10/22/92. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Bonnie Kaye Lewis. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 26, 2011. Expires October 26, 2016. The Independent Legal No. 3114. Published November 17, 24, December 1, 8, 2011.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 458281

The following person(s) doing business as: Steel Creek Consulting, 1756 Valley of the Moon Rd, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Scott R. Rohe, 1756 Valley of the Moon Rd, 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 11/14/06. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Scott Rohe, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 14, 2011. Expires November 14, 2016. The Independent Legal No. 3115. Published November 17, 24, December 1, 8, 2011.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 458279

The following person(s) doing business as: J & L Import Export Company, 6444 Forget Me Not Cmn, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): (1)Li-Hsia Nieh Wu, 6444 Forget Me Not Cmn, Livermore, CA 94551 (2)Zhi Jian Xue, 17 Redwood Ct, Santa Rosa, CA 95409. This business is conducted by Co-partners. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 9/1/2011. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Li-Hsia Nieh Wu, Co-partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 14, 2011. Expires November 14, 2016. The Independent Legal No. 3117. Published November 17, 24, December 1, 8, 2011.

DOES 1 through 10, inclusive. YOU ARE BEING SUED BY CROSS-COMPLAINANT: (LO ESTA DEMANDANDO EL CONTRA DEMANDANTE): N2 ELECTRIC, INC.

SUMMONS CASE NO. RG10539882 SECOND AMENDED Cross-Complaint (CITACION JUDICIAL-CONTRA DEMANDADO)

NOTICE TO CROSS-DEFENDANT: (AVISO AL CONTRA-DEMANDADO): GENERAL PLUMBING SUPPLY COMPANY, INC. A California corporation, dba GENERAL WHOLESALE ELECTRIC SUPPLY; JOHN ALAN KURL, individually and dba KURL & JORDAN INSURANCE AGENCY; MICHAEL KURL, individually and dba KURL & JORDAN INSURANCE AGENCY; and

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the cross-complainant. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in a proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these

LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

www.independentnews.com



nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

Tien 30 DIAS DE CAL- ENDARIO despues de que le entregue esta citacion y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al contrademandante. Una carta o una llamada telefonica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en lactore. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y mas informacion en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentacion, pida al secretario de la corte que le de un formulario de exencion de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podra quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin mas advertencia.

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remision a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniendose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene que reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperacion de \$10,000 o mas de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesion de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desearchar el caso.

The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y direccion de la corte es): **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA** 24405 Amador Street Hayward, California 94544 The name, address, and telephone number of cross-complainant's attorney, or cross-complainant without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la direccion y el numero de telefono del abogado del contrademandante, o del contrademandante que no tiene abogado, es): **Elkanah J. Burns, #151676 ALAN D. WILNER, A.P.C. 847 N. Hollywood Way, Ste 201 Burbank, CA 91505 (818)840-8889 (818)840-2708**

DATE: (Fecha): JUN 17, 2011 Executive Officer/Clerk (Secretario) Pat S. Sweeten By: (Por): Deputy (Adjunto) Pat S. Sweeten

The Independent Legal No. 3120. Published November 24, December 1, 8, 15, 2011.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 457830 The following person(s) doing business as: Livermore Tile & Stone, 2801 2nd Street, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): David Anthony DeLima, 2315 Winchester Loop, Discovery Bay, CA 94505 This business is conducted by an individual The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrants: /s/: David DeLima This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 31, 2011. Expires October 31, 2016. The Independent Legal No. 3121. Published November 24, December 1, 8, 15, 2011.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 457521 The following person(s) doing business as: The Dog School, 39 California Ave #301, Pleasanton, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): (1)Christine Salazar, 1926 Paseo Del Cajon, Pleasanton, CA 94566 (2)Susi Hankins, 258 Warwick Ave, San Leandro, CA 94577 This business is conducted by a General partnership The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Susi Hankins - General Partner This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 21, 2011. Expires October 21, 2016. The Independent Legal No. 3122. Published November 24, December 1, 8, 15, 2011.

NOTICE OF INVITING BIDS Notice is hereby given that

sealed competitive bids will be accepted in the office of the GSA-Purchasing Department, County of Alameda, 1401 Lakeside Drive, Suite 907, Oakland, CA 94612 **NETWORKING/NORTH COUNTY BIDDERS CONFERENCE** RFP #900932 for Hazardous Materials Mobile Command Center, Tuesday, December 6, 2011, 10:00 AM - General Services Agency, 1401 Lakeside Drive, Conference Room 1105, Oakland, CA **NETWORKING/SOUTH COUNTY BIDDERS CONFERENCE** RFP #900932 for Hazardous Materials Mobile Command Center, Wednesday, December 7, 2011, 2:00 PM - Fremont Main Library, 2400 Stevenson Boulevard, Conference Room A, Fremont, CA **Responses Due by 2:00 p.m. on January 5, 2012** County Contact: Jennifer Chan Ngo (510) 208-9604 or via email: jennifer.ngo@acgov.org Attendance at Networking Conference is Non-mandatory. Specifications regarding the above may be obtained at the Alameda County GSA Current Contracting Opportunities Internet website at www.acgov.org. 12/1/11 CNS-2212801# THE INDEPENDENT Legal No. 3123

NOTICE OF INVITING BIDS Notice is hereby given that sealed competitive bids will be accepted at the Health Care Services Agency, 1000 San Leandro Blvd., Suite 300, San Leandro, CA, 94577. ATTN: Connie Yale **MANDATORY NETWORKING/NORTH COUNTY BIDDERS CONFERENCE** RFP HCSA #900112 Downtown Educational Complex (DEC) School Based Health Center Health Provider/Lead Agency, Monday, December 12, 2011, 2:00 PM - Alameda County Health Care Services Agency, 1000 San Leandro Blvd., 2nd Floor, Conference Room 220, San Leandro, CA **NON-MANDATORY NETWORKING/NORTH COUNTY BIDDERS CONFERENCE** RFP HCSA #900112 Downtown Educational Complex (DEC) School Based Health Center Health Provider/Lead Agency, Tuesday, December 13, 2011, 2:00 PM - Alameda County Health Care Services Agency, 1000 San Leandro Blvd., 3rd Floor, Conference Room 325, San Leandro, CA **Responses Due by 5:00 pm on January 4, 2012** County Contact: Kimi Sakashita at (510) 618-3425 or via email: kimi.sakashita@acgov.org Attendance at December 12th Networking Conference is Mandatory. Specifications regarding the above may be obtained at the Alameda County GSA Current Contracting Opportunities Internet website at www.acgov.org. 12/1/11 CNS-2214073# THE INDEPENDENT Legal No. 3124

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 458547 The following person(s) doing business as: Silly White Dog, 2445 Via Espada, Pleasanton, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Erika Keene, 2445 Via Espada, Pleasanton, CA 94566 This business is conducted by an individual The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Erika Keene This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 21, 2011. Expires November 21, 2016. The Independent Legal No. 3125. Published December 1, 8, 15, 22, 2011.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 457825-27 The following person(s) doing business as: (1)Ally Energy Solutions, (2)Ally Life Kits, (3)Ally Management Solutions, 5950 Stoneridge Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94588, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ally HVAC Solutions, Inc., 5950 Stoneridge Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94588 This business is conducted by a Corporation The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A, 02/01/11, N/A. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Jess Michael Almeida, President This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 31, 2011. Expires October 31, 2016. The Independent Legal No. 3126. Published December 1, 8, 15, 22, 2011.

NOTICE OF INVITING BIDS Notice is hereby given that sealed competitive bids will be accepted in the office of the GSA-Purchasing Department, County of Alameda, 1401 Lakeside Drive, Suite 907, Oakland, CA 94612 **NETWORKING/NORTH COUNTY BIDDERS CONFERENCE** RFP #900908-Audit Services Pool, Wednesday, December 14, 2011, 10:00 A.M. - General Services Agency, 1401 Lakeside Drive, Room 1107, 11th Floor, Oakland, CA **NETWORKING/SOUTH COUNTY BIDDERS CONFERENCE** RFP #900908-Audit Services Pool, Thursday, December 15, 2011, 2:00 P.M. - Castro Valley Library, 3600 Norbridge Avenue, Chabot Room, Castro Valley, CA **Responses Due by 2:00 pm on January 12, 2012** County Contact: Ann Marie Romero (510) 208-9742 or via email: annmarie.romero@acgov.org Attendance at Networking Conference is Non-mandatory. Specifications and bid copies regarding the above may be obtained at the Alameda County GSA-Purchasing Department or the Current Contracting Opportunities

Internet website at www.acgov.org. 12/1/11 CNS-2215143# THE INDEPENDENT Legal No. 3127

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 458444 The following person(s) doing business as: Petco #1337, 4500 Las Positas Rd., Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Petco Animal Supplies Stores, Inc., 9125 Recho Rd. ATTN: Licensing, San Diego, CA 92121 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/: Jim Brigham - VP, Internal Audit Services This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 16, 2011. Expires November 16, 2016. The Independent Legal No. 3128. Published December 1, 8, 15, 22, 2011.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 458730 The following person(s) doing business as: SPARKLEEN CHS, 2389 Third Street, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following

owner(s): (1)Hilda Ibarra (2)Carlos Tolentino, 2389 Third Street, Livermore, CA 94550 This business is conducted by Husband and wife The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Hilda Ibarra /s/: Carlos Tolentino This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 28, 2011. Expires November 28, 2016. The Independent Legal No. 3129. Published December 1, 8, 15, 22, 2011.

ANIMALS 2) CATS/ DOGS

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

ADOPT A DOG OR CAT, for adoption information contact Valley Humane Society at 925-426-8656.

EMPLOYMENT 56) ADULT CARE Independent Contractors Wanted, Senior Home Health Care. Must have experience. Senior Solutions, Inc 925-443-310160 **BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY** BE WARY of out of area companies. Check with the local Better Business Bureau before you send money or fees. Read and understand any contracts before you sign. Shop around for rates.

TO PLACE A CLASSIFIED AD call 925-243-8000

MERCHANDISE 115) ESTATE/ GARAGE/ YARD SALES **MOVING SALE 5666 Arlene Way, Livermore. Saturday, 12/3 and Sunday, 12/4. 9:00AM - 2:00PM.**

118) FREE SECTION CLEAN FILL DIRT 2 1/2 cubic yards. You load and you haul. Livermore back yard. Accessible to pick-up or small bobcat. Call (925)447-4841.

NOTICES/ANNOUNCEMENTS 155) NOTICES

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

REAL ESTATE Inland Valley Publishing Co. Client Code:04126-0001 Re: Legal Notice for Classified Ads

The Federal Fair Housing Act, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and state law prohibit advertisements for housing and employment that contain any preference, limitation or discrimination based on protected classes, including race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin. IVPC does not knowingly accept any advertisements that are in violation of the law.



New Homes Selling Again in Tri-Valley

By Cher Wollard

Preliminary figures show sales of new homes edged up in October by 1.3 percent. Compared with last October, sales were up 8.9 percent. That's still not enough growth to satisfy economists, but it's heading in the right direction.

In Livermore, sales associates are reporting that plenty of folks are viewing – and buying – new homes.

Everything from modest condos to sprawling single-family houses on large lots are available, and buyers are shopping.

"We've done pretty well this year," said Josh Santos, sales manager for Montage, a Shea homes master plan development in north Livermore, featuring both attached and detached units at affordable prices. "We've sold 65 homes year to date. Not too shabby for a 'depressed market!'"

Nearly another new community opened just a few weeks ago off Scenic Boulevard, and it is drawing lots of attention for its high-energy efficiency features, including solar energy standard on each home.

Fanfare, a group of 22 single-family, mid-priced homes on five acres, built by Meritage, has just started pouring foundations, but already people are coming through the model and walking out with contracts to purchase.

"They stop by, I think, just because of the fact that the houses are new. But the people who walk through my model are just in awe," said sales manager Katrin Maercz.

South of the freeway, several high-end neighborhoods are closing out sales or entering final phases: Arroyo Crossing by O'Brien off Arroyo Road; Vintage by Signature Homes off Charlotte; and The Grove, a Northbrook Homes community off Mines Road. They too are seeing strong activity.

"We had four homes that we were selling," said Colleen Jacobsen, community sales manager for The Grove, said in an interview just before Thanksgiving. "But then we had one offer that was accepted, so now we have three."

O'Brien has started grading the land for the next phase, so another 14 homes should be available next Spring.

"We started selling a few years ago and built the majority of the community," Jacobsen explained. "Then we pushed pause during the downturn. Now we're building again."

Houses in The Grove range from 2,334 to 2,797 sq. ft. on large lots averaging 10,000 to 14,000 sq. ft. These four and five-bedroom plans are priced in the mid- to high \$600,000s.

"It's such a nice community," Jacobsen said. "The trees are large and mature. The parks are sprawling and beautiful. We have walking trails, a tot lot for the little ones.

"No association dues, which is appealing for some buyers.

"And, of course, this is a great location, very close to downtown, near the Safeway-Lowes shopping center, convenient to the freeway. It's a nice midway point."

Fanfare also offers detached homes. Four models – two single-story and two two-story floorplans – range from 1,416 to 3,911 sq. ft. Lots average about 8,000 sq. ft. The smallest floorplan has three bedrooms. The other plans have four bedrooms, with an option for a fifth bedroom with the largest plan. Prices range from \$454,990 to \$662,990.

"The larger single-story (2,438 sq. ft.) has proven very popular," Maercz said.

Fanfare is an in-fill community, surrounded by existing homes and close to schools and two neighborhood parks.

All units come standard with many energy-saving features, including spray-foam insulation, weather-sensing irrigation for the front yards, high-performance windows and – this is the big plus – solar energy systems that produce electricity to heat water, and heat and cool the interiors.

"It's built so energy efficient the savings are just going to be huge for people!" Maercz said.

People coming through the model home will notice that it is deconstructed to show the technology and building innovations behind the walls.

"We're pretty much the only builder giving people the ability to touch it, feel it, see it," Maercz said.

And with only 22 homes here in Livermore, "this really is a limited opportunity."

Not so small is Montage, the master-planned community near Las Positas College that is comprised of three neighborhoods. Just past the half-way point, there are still another 200 homes to be built.

With 15 floorplans ranging in size from 1,100 to 2,200 sq. ft., with two, three or four bedroom homes, this development offers something for almost everyone. The community also features a recreation center with a pool, spa, fitness center and clubhouse.

"One of the unique things about our community is we offer quite a wide range of floorplan styles – flats, carriage-style homes in which the ground level consists of garage and entry, and then traditional single family homes also," Santos said.

"The flats have been very popular, at least in Livermore. It's the only community that has zero stairs, so it's been very popular with empty nesters."

The wide variety of home styles, plus the affordable price points – \$298,000 to \$560,000 – have drawn all types of buyers.

"We've had first-time buyers, move up buyers and a lot of empty-nesters, which was something we didn't necessarily think of when we opened a few years ago."

"Things are moving along very nicely," Santos added. "Our first residents celebrated their fourth anniversary last summer. Distressed homes have had only a mild impact here, and building is continuing."

"Shea is very committed to this area, very much invested in Livermore. Our corporate office is based in Livermore. We actually have another parcel of land near the freeway to develop in the future."

With the Isabel Avenue overpass due to open this week, Santos predicts even more homebuyers will find his community.

Both Arroyo Crossing and Vintage by Signature offer large, semi-custom homes on lots of about one-quarter to one-third of an acre, with upscale amenities. Homes in both developments are priced in the \$700,000s and \$800,000s. In addition, there are a few newly constructed homes that are offered individually by the builders.

For those seeking a more urban lifestyle, Signature Homes has townhome-style condominiums available at Station Square on Railroad Avenue. These two- and three-bedroom homes, convenient to downtown restaurants, shops and theaters, are priced from \$329,000 to \$427,000.

New home developments usually have offices staffed by sales representatives who can help buyers select a new home.

But if you want full information about all types of housing in Livermore and other nearby communities, contact your local Realtor first. Realtors have information about new homes as well as existing construction, and have toured most of the communities.

Buying a new home allows you to select the size and floorplan that suits you best. If you purchase before construction is complete, you may even be able to choose colors and styles. The drawbacks: You may have to pay for window coverings, landscaping and other items that are usually already installed in resale homes.

Your Realtor can help you compare the pros and cons of purchasing new versus resale.

Plus, if you want your Realtor to represent you in negotiating the best deal on your behalf for a new home, helping you find good financing, and ensuring the property is inspected before you close on it, he or she usually must accompany you on your first visit to the development. Your agent will then sign you in as his or her client.

For details, contact your Realtor today.

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

Professionals Choice Real Estate Directory

Local guide to the Valley's Leading Real Estate Professionals & Services

<p>Fracisco Realty & Investments Residential • Commercial • Property Mgmt (925) 998-8131 www.MikeFracisco.com DRE #01378428</p> <p>Mike Fracisco REALTOR®</p>	<p>Ivy LoGerfo 925-998-5312 RE/MAX Accord DRE#01287853 homes@ivylogerfo.com</p>
<p>GENE WILLIAMS Mortgage Consultant, REALTOR® (510) 390-0325</p> <p>CINDY WILLIAMS CRS, GRI - REALTOR® (925) 243-0900 www.williamsteam.net Over Three Decades of Experience!!!</p>	<p>Sandee Utterback (888) 823-8315 DRE#00855150 WWW.SANDEEU.COM Prudential California Realty "Specializing in Livermore's Finest Homes"</p>
<p>Gail Henderson BROKER ASSOCIATE, MFR, COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL (925) 980-5648 www.gailhenderson.com CALIFORNIA REALTY</p>	<p>Real Estate... A People Business Experience, Honesty, Integrity</p> <p>Steve & Lorraine Mattos 925.426.7978 J. Rockcliff www.rockcliff.com smattos@rockcliff.com DRE #00315981</p>
<p>The Fabulous Properties Team Cunningham • Garrison • Schall "Your Tri-Valley Home Selling Experts"</p> <p>Dave & Fran Cunningham (925) 202-6298 DRE#00030932 / #01220296</p> <p>Donna Garrison (925) 980-0273 DRE#01730040</p> <p>Susan Schall (925) 519-8226 DRE#01713487</p> <p>Free home search at www.FabulousProperties.net</p>	<p>SABRINA BASCOM (925) 337-0194 sabrina.bascom@bhghome.com DRE#01848451 Better Homes & Gardens Tri-Valley Realty 101 E. Vineyard Ave #103, Livermore, CA</p>
<p>MORTGAGE LOAN CONSULTANTS Specializing in VA, CalVet, FHA and Conventional Home Loans Rent vs. Buy...</p> <p>Barbara Duterte DRE#00098330 / NAL#SK200672 (925) 963-9572 barbara@loansbybarbara.com www.loansbybarbara.com</p> <p>Michelle Johnston DRE#01807153 / NAL#SK201098 (925) 784-1169 Mjohnston@mortgagemarket.net www.lender4itemortgage.com</p>	<p>Tammy Yau & Steven Wang, CPA Short Sale/Foreclosure Specialist Property Management & Loans (925) 583-3086 / (408) 309-8920 CaGoldenProperties.com DRE#01260501 & DRE#01368485</p>
<p>TO PLACE YOUR AD, CALL YOUR ACCOUNT REPRESENTATIVE AT (925) 243-8001</p>	

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

<p>HEALTH</p> <p>VALLEY CARE HEALTH SYSTEM. Visit Us At www.valleycare.com</p>	<p>EYE CARE</p> <p>VALLEY EYE CARE CENTER Medical Associates Specializing in complete eye care Pleasanton (925) 460-5000 Livermore (925) 449-4000</p>	<p>FEED SUPPLY</p> <p>EJ CATTLE & FEED SUPPLY • Grass, Oat, Alfalfa hay • ELK Grove Stable Mix • Buckaroo Leather products • Mallard Creek bedding • Hawkins Panels and Stalls We deliver & stack and more! (925) 960-9074 Take N. Livermore under freeway to Manning to Carneal Road 6 miles Hours: Wed - Fri 9am to 5:30pm, Sat & Sun 9am to 4pm, Closed Mon & Tue</p>
<p>PET SITTING</p> <p>Meow's Pet & Home Sitting Service (925) 454-5205 Lots of TLC. Keep pets safe in their own environment. Licensed & bonded. References Available.</p>	<p>CLEANING</p> <p>ProLimpia A FACILITY CLEANING COMPANY Commercial & Industrial FREE WINDOW CLEANING (When you sign a minimum of six months office cleaning contract. Restrictions apply. Call for details. Offer expires 11/30/11) Call 1-855-833-8199 www.ProLimpia.com Bonded and Insured</p>	<p>PLUMBING</p> <p>Icemaker FILTERS AQUA-PURE 15% OFF DUBLIN PLUMBING 6883 Village Parkway, Dublin, 828-2010</p>
<p>TO PLACE AN AD IN THE BUSINESS DIRECTORY, CALL 243-8000</p>		

Robots Take on Food Safety Challenges

By Patricia Koning

Much of the food we eat travels a long path from where it is grown to our kitchens. How that food stays safe from contamination is not something most of us think about, except when an *e.coli* or other outbreak makes the news. However, food safety is something that robotics teams across the country have been thinking about very hard over the past three months in preparation for the **FIRST LEGO League (FLL) Food Factor Challenge**.

In Livermore this Saturday, 12 robotics teams will tackle the Food Factor Challenge at the city's second annual FLL tournament. The teams will send their pre-programmed robots on missions such as harvesting

corn, reversing pollution, fishing, unloading groceries, and removing pests. The teams will also present their innovative solutions to food contamination or spoilage problems.

Teams first chose a food and learned about its journey from ground to table, identifying how and where the food could become contaminated. The teams then developed a solution through research, talking with experts, and experimentation.

One Livermore team, the Think-a-ma-jiggs, tackled the issue of lead contamination in honey. The Dragon Masters, a team from the Livermore Valley Charter School, came up with a humane and nontoxic way to deter mice from storage containers

at a farm.

"I think one of the best parts of the tournament is the teamwork and variety of research methods that the teams get to experience," says Crystal Meyer, one of the Think-a-ma-jiggs coaches. To score well in the tournament, teams must show that every member participated equally.

Of the 12 teams competing, seven are from Livermore: BetterBots, Death by Fig, Dragon Masters, R.O.B., Think-a-ma-jiggs, Trilobots, and TriValley Robotics. The other teams are the Intellibots from El Dorado Hills (Sacramento), Mad Hatters from Riverbank (Central Valley), Notre Dame Fighting iBots from Vacaville, and Lego Legacy and

Lego pHreaks, both from Keyes (Central Valley). Four of the teams – Dragon Masters, Lego Legacy, Lego pHreaks, and Mad Hatters – are rookies, meaning this is their first tournament.

The tournament will take place from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm at Our Savior Lutheran School, located at 1385 South Livermore Avenue, across the street from the Livermore Public Library Civic Center Branch. The public is welcome to attend and the tournament is free of charge.

The Livermore tournament is a qualifier tournament, meaning that the top one-third of teams, in terms of total points earned, will advance to a regional tournament. For more information on FLL, visit www.norcalfll.org or www.usfirst.org.

Lab Technology Monitors Mars Mission Liftoff

When an Atlas V rocket lifted the Mars Science Laboratory into space last Saturday, one of the most comprehensive radiological emergency preparedness systems was on the ground to monitor the launch.

In preparation for the launch, NASA installed 30 radiological monitors – called Environmental Continuous Air Monitors, or ECAMs – on and around the Kennedy Space Center.

With coordination from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), the ECAMs monitored the air for the release of any radioactivity in the event of a launch accident involving the spacecraft.

Steve Homann, who is serving as the Department of Energy's senior science adviser for the mission, was one of two employees from LLNL's National Atmospheric Release Advisory Center (NARAC) deployed to NASA's Kennedy Space Center for the launch. Ron Baskett served as the NARAC liaison for the mission.

Using weather, wind and other information, Livermore's NARAC team develops plume models for releases of radiological, chemical and biological materials to estimate potential downwind impacts.

"The ability to turn around an accurate assessment of a radiological release, if there were an accident, with such extreme detail and speed, is unprecedented in the country's history of radiological emergency preparedness for rocket launches," said LLNL atmospheric scientist Ron Baskett.

Since the Galileo mission to Jupiter in 1989, NARAC has supported five NASA missions involving nuclear-powered spacecraft at the Kennedy Space Center. NARAC provides plume modeling expertise for radiological contingency planning, pre-launch and launch support and after action reporting.

About the size of a small jeep, the Mars Science Laboratory carries the largest and most technologically advanced rover – dubbed "Curiosity" – ever sent to another planet.

The rover will rely upon a radioisotope thermoelectric generator, essentially a nuclear battery, with 10.6 pounds of plutonium-238 dioxide that converts heat into electricity. The battery will provide Curiosity its onboard power and warm its internal systems during the frigid Martian nights, where temperatures can dip as low as -238 degrees Fahrenheit.

Since 1961, radioisotope thermoelectric generators have been used successfully on 26 missions.

Already operational, the 30 ECAM units draw in air and suspend particles that become



LLNL's Steve Homann, who is serving as the Department of Energy's senior science adviser for the NASA Mars Science Laboratory mission, holds a filter for an Environmental Continuous Air Monitor (shown in the background).

trapped on filter paper and are analyzed by a radiation detector. The detector looks for the unique signature of plutonium-238.

The ECAM units, located from near Titusville, Fla. in the north to Melbourne in the south, are currently transmitting and will continue to send real-time data via satellite to the Kennedy Space Center's Radiological Control Center, and simultaneously to NARAC in Livermore.

"By being able to obtain such accurate data so rapidly, we would be able to confirm if a release had occurred and if so, produce updated and refined model estimates of radiological health effects based on real measurements," Homann said.

"In the unlikely event of a launch mishap, people will want to know whether there is a health and safety hazard with airborne plutonium," Homann said. "With the ECAMs units, we will be able to establish whether we see any radiation levels above the natural background radiation."

In addition, 16 mobile field-monitoring teams were deployed during the launch to provide more ground measurement data.

Among the space missions where Livermore's NARAC team has provided support are: the Galileo mission to Jupiter, 1989; the Ulysses mission to the sun, 1990; the Mars Pathfinder

effort, 1996; the Cassini mission to Saturn, 1997; MER 1 and MER 2 mission to Mars, 2003; and the New Horizons mission to Pluto, 2006.

With a payload more than 10 times the size of previous Mars rovers, the goal of Curiosity is to study whether conditions are or have been favorable for microbial life and Mars' geologic record.

Outfitted with six wheels and a sophisticated suite of scientific equipment that includes a large robot arm, a laser, a weather station and a drill, the rover is expected to have a lifespan of one Mars year (687 Earth days) or more.

The rover is expected to visit regions of Mars that have not

been previously explored and to analyze dozens of samples drilled from rocks or picked up from the ground.

The radioisotope thermoelectric generator is designed and built by the U.S. Department of Energy to contain its nuclear material in a variety of potential accident scenarios using several layers of protective materials.

BINGO

1	24	43	52	63
11	16	25	56	74
27	32	45	60	79
6	24	35	54	80
2	22	39	46	65

FEELING LUCKY?
CMS PTA invites you to test your luck!
 Saturday, December 3rd (and every 4th Saturday)
 The Bingo Ranch, 3070 Pacific, Livermore

WHERE EVERY GAME PAYS A WINNER!
 Open 4:00, Buy-in 5:00, Warm Up 6:30, Regular Games 7:00
Last game of the evening will be DOUBLE ACTION
 FREE Treasure Hunt and Flash to first 150 at buy-in
 FREE nachos, coffee, dessert bar and popcorn for players.

Reserve your table now for our **NEW YEARS EVE** program for \$45 per person
 Includes a catered dinner, regular bingo games, and a toast at midnight.
 Prepaid reservations taken at the Bingo Ranch Monday-Saturday (closed Tuesday).

Casbah cafe
 MEDITERRANEAN KITCHEN & BAR

TRY OUR
LUNCH SPECIALS
\$7.95






A generous Persian or Mediterranean plate
 With soup or salad

Top-notch food and service
 Always the best value in town

Casbah Cafe Livermore
 1770 First St. Livermore
 (925) 243-1477
www.casbahexotic.com


Palo Alto Medical Foundation
 Community Health
 Education Programs

December 2011


For a complete list of classes and class fees, lectures and health education resources at pamf.org/healtheducation.

Services at the Dublin Center



A Mother's Place: Postpartum Support Group
 Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
 4050 Dublin Boulevard, Dublin, 925-875-6223

Meet with an R.N. and certified lactation consultant to ensure your first weeks of motherhood are healthy and happy.



Private Lactation Consultant Service
Breastfeeding Help for Mother and Baby
 For non-urgent concerns Monday through Friday before 4 p.m., call 925-875-6223. For urgent medical concerns, or calling on weekends, holidays or after hours, please call the advice nurse at 925-875-6100 to schedule an appointment if needed.
 4050 Dublin Boulevard, Dublin

Breastfeeding is a natural process and mothers and babies don't always need professional help. However, if breastfeeding is not going well, the baby is not getting enough milk or breastfeeding is painful for the mother, then timely help can make all the difference for both. A lactation consultant provides assistance with hands-on instruction and reassurance to make this a positive breastfeeding experience for both you and your baby.

Childbirth and Parent Education Classes
 650-853-2960

- Breastfeeding – Secrets for Success
- Preparing for Birth

Nutrition and Diabetes Classes
 510-498-2184

- Heart Smart (cholesterol management)
- Living Well with Diabetes
- Living Well with Prediabetes
- Raising Healthy and Happy Eaters! (for parents of children ages 1-6)

Weight Management Programs

- Bariatric Weight Loss Surgery Program
- Healthy eating. Active lifestyles. (for parents of children ages 2-12)
- Lifesteps® (adult weight management)
- New Weigh of Life (adult weight management)

Community Health Resource Center

The Health Resource Center offers information and support for those who wish to make informed decisions regarding their health and wellness. The center is open to all members of the community, and services are provided at no cost.

- Nurse health educators
- Health reference books
- Health lectures
- Health newsletters
- Informational brochures
- Educational videotapes and DVDs
- Access to health information Websites
- Information on community resources

Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.,
 Dublin, 925-875-6150 and Fremont, 510-623-2231

Palo Alto Medical Foundation
 A Sutter Health Affiliate
 Community Based, Not For Profit

Let's connect!
[facebook.com/paloaltomedicalfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/paloaltomedicalfoundation)
twitter.com/paloaltomedical

Complete Brake Service

\$189.95 WOW

- ✓ PADS - Motorcraft® brake pads or shoes
- ✓ ROTOR or DRUM MACHINING

Ford Vehicles Only. Cars & light trucks. Per axle. Tax and hazardous fees extra. Expires 12/31/11.

Tire & Brake SALES EVENT



FREE Road Hazard Warranty

Call for details. Must present coupon. Not valid with any other offer. Expires 12/31/11.

Quick Lane
 TIRE & AUTO CENTER

FORD | LINCOLN
 2266 Kitty Hawk Road • (925) 294-7700
 Hours: Mon-Fri 8-5, Sat 8-1

Home of the

\$9.95* **Lube, Oil & Filter**

FREE 21 point inspection

- Motorcraft® Premium Synthetic Blend Oil and filter change
- Rotate & Inspect 4 Tires
- Top off fluids
- Test battery

*Domestic Vehicles Only. Price is based on 5 quarts of oil plus tax and hazardous waste disposal fees. Excludes diesels, hybrids, modified, and performance vehicles. Full synthetic oils extra. Call for details. Exp. 12/31/11. *Must be member to qualify for \$9.95 Works Package special.

Fuel Saver Special

\$159.95 FREE 21 point inspection

- Lube, Oil & Filter
- Replace Oil Filter
- Replace Air Filter
- Replace Fuel Filter
- Rotate 4 Tires
- Check Brakes
- Check Belts & Hoses
- Fuel Conditioner
- Test Battery
- Top Off Fluids

Up to 5 quarts oil. Taxes and disposal fees extra. Diesel vehicles extra. Hybrid battery test excluded. Must present coupon. Expires 12/31/11.

\$100 Off
 30, 60, or 90K Major Service

Call for details. Must present coupon. Not valid with any other offer. Expires 12/31/11.

Diesel Oil & Filter Change

\$89.95*

*Price based on up to 15 qts of oil plus tax & hazard fees. Domestic vehicles only. Expires 12/31/11.

FREE Membership Advantage™

Earn 5% back on every \$ you spend! Ask for details.

Art, Community, & Education



Opening scene in the Valley Dance Theatre production of "The Nutcracker." For the story, go to page 3.



Photo - Doug Jorgensen
The Rail World exhibit (pictured at left) will be on display at the Museum on Main in Pleasanton through January 15, 2012. The railroad themed exhibit is presented in collaboration with the Niles Canyon Railway and the Pacific Locomotive Association and other train enthusiasts. It includes model trains, artifacts and memorabilia. The Museum on Main is located at 603 Main Street, Pleasanton; information can be found online at www.museumonmain.org.



Annual light display opens. For details, see page 2.

Grammy Nominee Brings His Cowboy Music to the Bankhead

Western Music Association Hall of Fame inductee Don Edwards will bring to life the sounds of the American West in a concert of cowboy songs and music at the Bankhead Theater on December 6, 2011.

Often called "the voice of the American cowboy," Edwards has a genuine love and respect for the genre and, for more than four decades, has been dedicated to recapturing and preserving the spirit of the Old West. In both traditional songs and original compositions, Edwards paints a colorful picture of day-to-day life in the west. Rather than a romanticized version, he depicts an honest and authentic view, presenting both the high adventure and pleasures of the cowboy life, as well as the bad weather, bad luck, loneliness and many challenges that came with it.

The son of a vaudeville magician, Edwards became fascinated by the American West as a young boy, his interest fueled by the books of Will James, the "B" westerns of the silver screen, and the music of Gene Autry. Edwards taught himself to play the guitar at the age of ten and left home at 16 to chase the rodeo and live out his dreams of the west. After a stint working oil fields and ranches, he got a job as an actor/singer and stuntman at Six Flags Over Texas and subsequently performed throughout Oklahoma and Texas. An appearance at the Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Nevada brought him widespread recognition and launched his career as a cowboy poet and Western troubadour.

Edwards has won numerous awards and, with more than a dozen recordings, continues to cultivate a new and enthusiastic audience for his music. Two of his folklore anthologies have



Don Edwards

been included in the archives of the Library of Congress, and his album *High Lonesome Cowboy* was nominated for a Grammy Award in 2002, marking the first time cowboy music was chosen for the honor.

Fans of Edward's music and his genuine, downhome stage presence were not surprised when actor/director Robert Redford called him "the real deal" and cast him in

the role of "Smokey" for the film *The Horse Whisperer*. Bankhead Theater will host Don Edwards in one performance only on Tuesday evening, December 6th at 7:30 p.m. Tickets range from \$18 to \$40 for adults and \$14 for students.

The Bankhead Theater is located at 2400 First Street in Downtown Livermore. To purchase tickets call 925-373-6800 or visit www.bankheadtheater.org

Entertainment, Snow in Downtown Livermore

Livermore Downtown, Inc. will host a holiday open house featuring a variety of activities on Dec. 3 from noon to 4 p.m.

"Home for the Holidays" will offer horse drawn carriage rides, holiday performances and snow in Lizzie Fountain.

Holiday performances will take place at the Flagpole Plaza, corner of First Street and S. Livermore Avenue and in front of the Bankhead Theater.

Flagpole Plaza schedule: Noon: Christmas Dance Show from Amador Dance Xtreme; 1 p.m.: Holiday Gymnastics Routine from West Coast Training Center; 2 p.m.: Holiday Sing Along with

Valley Montessori School; 3 p.m.: Performance from the Tri Valley Rep Theatre; 4 p.m.: Music by Fort Point Garrison Band; and 5:15 p.m. Holiday Sing-a-Long with Trinity.

Amphitheater in front of Bankhead Theater: Tiffany's Dance Academy of Livermore will per-

Foothill Presents 'Carols by Candlelight'

The Foothill High School choirs are kicking off the holiday season with a caroling concert on Monday night, Dec. 5, "Carols by Candlelight." The concert begins at 8 p.m.

The evening will feature desserts and drinks available during

form *Dancin' Holiday Magic*, December 3, at 2 and 4 p.m.

In the evening the annual "Holiday Sights and Sounds Parade" and lighting of Livermore's Holiday Tree "Bruce Sprucetree" will be held.

There is no admission charge for these events.

the concert. This is a fund-raiser to help offset funds for the spring New York City tour. Admission is \$10 including dessert.

The concert will be held in the Foothill multipurpose room, 4375 Foothill Rd., Pleasanton. Information at <http://foothillfalcons.org>.

Christmas Display Grand Opening Dec. 2

The biggest and best holiday display in Livermore is set to open on Friday, December 2 at 6:30 pm. The holiday tradition is now in its 29th 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.

The theme each year changes, and is always kept a secret until opening night ceremonies. On December 2nd, 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 Handbell Choir from Asbury United Methodist Church 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 non-profit 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 love" at shelters, hospitals, and emergency services. Find out more about their work at www.goodnewsbears.org

In 2010, the theme was "The Sounds of Christmas." The scenes throughout the yard depicted some of the crew's favorite Christmas carols. Guests entered through a two story building with matching octagon towers. On the second floor, doors opened to reveal an animated choir conductor. As you progressed down the driveway, there was a "Twelve Days of Christmas" tree, "Frosty the Snowman" and even "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus." The roof of the house featured Santa Claus going up and down a chimney. "Jingle Bells" was depicted with a sleigh being pulled by a near life-size papier mache horse. The exit building was a tribute to military personnel with a soldier coming home to surprise his family to "I'll Be Home for Christmas." Throughout the yard there were over 325,000 lights glowing and lighting up the night sky.

More and more LED lights are added each year. This year, each light is not only a prayer for peace, but for our future – our youth. Approximately 30 volunteers work hard throughout the year to put on the display. They are from many faiths, and welcome guests of all faiths. 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. This year, he plans on greeting guests young and old on Friday, Dec 9, Thursday, Dec 15, Saturday, December 17, and Tuesday, December 20, starting about 7 pm each evening.

Deacon Dave opens his yard from the opening on December 2 until January 1. The hours are 6 pm to 9:30 pm Sunday through Thursday, and from 6 pm until 10:30 pm Friday and Saturday. 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 donated to 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 www.casadelpomba.com for more information on the display, Santa's Secret Service, and Deacon Dave's family history. Unforgettable Memories is providing the opening night sound system.

To reach Casa del Pomba on Hillcrest Avenue in Livermore, take East Avenue to Hillcrest, and then follow the glow. Check out the webcam at www.casadelpomba.com/webcam.htm.

Holiday Tradition Continues with Performance of 'The Nutcracker'

Valley Dance Theatre will present its annual full length production of The Nutcracker beginning December 10, 2011 at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First Street in Livermore. The 2011 production marks the beginning of the company's fourth decade performing the full-length Tchaikovsky classic.

Eight performances will take place with evening shows on December 10, 16, 17 and 18, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. and matinees on December 10, 11, 17, and 18, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. The production features professionally designed costumes, sets and scenery and, in keeping with tradition, is accompanied by the Livermore-Amador Symphony pit orchestra.

This year's pre-show festivities include carols by Cantabella Children's Chorus on December 11 and 17 at 2:00 p.m. and December 16 and 17 at 7:00 p.m. and by Harmony Fusion on December 10 at 2:00 and 7:00 p.m. and December 18 at 2:00 and 7:00 p.m. The Asbury Ringers will be ringing in the theater lobby December 16, 17 and 18.

One of Valley Dance Theatre's promising young male dancers

who is performing in this year's The Nutcracker is Ted Newman. A 19-year-old Pleasanton, resident and computer programming major at Las Positas College, Newman has been with the company for about one year and dances the role of Cavalier.

"I have a musical background and play several instruments, but opted to try out for color guard rather than play drums in the marching band at Amador Valley High School," Newman says. "Color guard is influenced greatly by dance and my positive experience with it my senior year led to dance lessons and then to participating on competitive dance teams. One of those, a jazz team, required ballet classes and I found I really liked them. Last year, a friend told me about auditions for male roles in The Nutcracker and here I am."

Newman is inspired by famous male dancers from Baryshnikov to Fred Astaire to Phillip "Pacman" Chbeeb. Though he does not follow television programs like "Dancing with the Stars" or "Glee" very closely, he recognizes that the shows make him feel more

secure as a dancer. "As more and more males are dancing on those shows, it's becoming more acceptable to be a dancer of any sort," he observed.

According to Newman, studying ballet has made him stronger and more physically fit, but that is not the primary benefit. "Since I started dancing, I've been able to concentrate more on school and work and I've been more relaxed at home," he says. "I've also developed a new circle of friends full of wonderful people."

"Valley Dance Theatre is a fantastic studio to dance with," Newman concludes. "The teachers are great and the dancers are very motivated and talented. I feel as though I'm constantly learning and improving."

Tickets to The Nutcracker are \$33, \$27 and \$24 for adults and \$18 for students 17 years and younger. They may be purchased on-line at www.bankheadtheater.org or by phone at 925-373-6800. Tickets may also be purchased in person at the theater box office, 2400 First St., Livermore, Tuesday-Saturday, 12 noon-6:00 p.m., and for two hours prior to show time.

Holiday Performances at Bankhead

The Bankhead Theater has scheduled a variety of programs for 2011 holiday season with two new Christmas-themed shows, as well as the return of some beloved local traditions concluding with the retro rock and roll of Flash Cadillac on New Year's Eve.

New for this season is Restless Heart Christmas, a special holiday-themed concert by the legendary country band known for their crossover hit singles, "I'll Still be Loving You" and "When She Cries." Returning events include the holiday classic, Handel's Messiah, performed by the Pacific Chamber Symphony, Valley Dance Theatre's full-length production of The Nutcracker, accompanied by the Livermore-Amador Symphony, and the Grammy Award-winning vocal group, Chanticleer, in their inspired program of seasonal and spiritual music.

The seven holiday-themed events scheduled at the Bankhead Theater for 2011 include:

Handel's Messiah: The Pacific Chamber Symphony, under the direction of Maestro Lawrence Kohl, returns with its annual presentation

of this uplifting holiday classic with outstanding guest soloists and a full chorus. Friday, December 2, at 8:00 p.m.

The Nutcracker: The complete classical ballet by Tchaikovsky is staged in an elegant production by Valley Dance Theatre with full orchestral accompaniment by the Livermore-Amador Symphony. Eight matinee and evening performances from December 10-18.

A Chanticleer Christmas: With a remarkably unique "orchestra of voices" ranging from countertenor to bass, Chanticleer returns to enthral audiences with an evening of traditional and beloved Christmas songs, from pensive Gregorian chants to ringing Gospel rhythms. Monday, December 19, at 7:30 p.m.

Restless Heart Christmas: Legendary country music band Restless Heart unites their heartfelt vocals and intertwining five-part harmony in a Christmas special that includes songs of the season, as well as the classic contemporary country hits that made them famous. Friday, December 23, at 8:00 p.m.

Big Fat Year End Kiss Off Comedy Show XIX: America's premier political comedian Will Durst, Bay Area favorite Johnny Steele and others perform a night of stand-up comedy, improvisation, and loosely written sketches satirizing the events of 2011. There will be mocking and scoffing and taunting with taste! Friday, December 30, at 8:00 p.m.

LVPAC New Year's Eve Celebration: The annual New Year's Eve event at the Bankhead starts with a fabulous night of retro rock and roll fun with the party band from the movie American Graffiti, Flash Cadillac. The celebration continues after the show with a wine, champagne and dessert reception. Saturday, December 31, at 8:00 p.m.

The Bankhead Theater is located at 2400 First Street in Downtown Livermore. The ticket office is open Tuesday through Saturday from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m. On performance days the ticket office remains open through intermission. To purchase tickets call 925-373-6800 or visit www.bankheadtheater.org

BANKHEAD THEATER

endless variety,
exciting entertainment

HADEL'S Messiah

Dec 2 at 8pm
Pacific Chamber Symphony

Beethoven, Wagner, and Sibelius

Dec 3 at 8pm
Livermore-Amador Symphony

Holiday Classics

Dec 4 at 1/5pm
Livermore School of Dance -
Jazz Division

Don Edwards

Dec 4 at 7:30pm
A Bottomless Repertoire
of Cowboy Standards

THE Nutcracker

Dec 10 - 18 at 2/7pm
Valley Dance Theatre with
the Livermore-Amador Symphony

Stacey Kent

Dec 14 at 7:30pm
An Enchantingly Elegant Mistress of Jazz

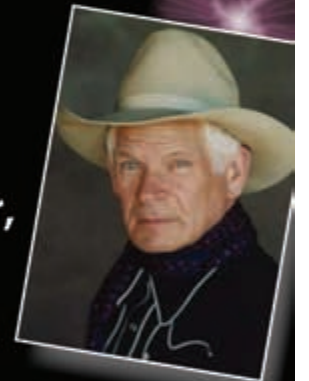
Restless Heart Christmas

Dec 23 at 8pm
Seven Time Country Music Award Nominee

On the Plaza outside the Bankhead Theater
DANCIN' HOLIDAY MAGIC
Tiffany's Dance Academy
Sat Dec 3 from 11am to 5pm

BUY TICKETS 925.373.6800
www.bankheadtheater.org

2400 FIRST STREET | Downtown Livermore



Messiah Sing-Along Planned by Contra Costa Chamber Orchestra

The Contra Costa Chamber Orchestra will host a Messiah Sing-Along on Dec. 18 at 7 p.m. at San Ramon Presbyterian Church, 12942 Alcosta Blvd., San Ramon.

Four soloists will perform with the Contra Costa Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Tim Smith.

The chorus is made up of those in the audience who wish to add their voices to the strains of George F. Handel's most festive of oratorios—The Messiah. There will be free choral workshops to prepare for the Sing-A-Long Messiah under the direction of Dean Christman.

Choral Workshops are held at the San Ramon Community Center, 12501 Alcosta Blvd., San Ramon on Dec. 6 at 7:30 p.m., Dec. 10 at 9:30 a.m. and Dec. 13 at 7:30 p.m.

Librettos are available at the workshops and the performance for \$10.00.

Tickets at \$10.00 on available online Dec. 1, at www.srvmessiah.info or at the workshops or at the door the night of the performance.

For information please log onto the Arts Foundation website at www.sanramonarts.org or email will@willdoerlich.com or deanchristman@sbcglobal.net

'A Festival of Carols' Set for Centerpointe Church

The musicians of Centerpointe Church will present A Festival of Carols, Sunday, Dec. 11 at 5 p.m. in the worship center, 3410 Cornerstone Court, Pleasanton.

The theme is "What Child is This." The program features carols interspersed with readings and scriptures read by Lee Lipsker.

The festival includes carols sung by the audience as well as presentations by the church's chancel choir and its handbell choir. Selections will be accompanied by the organ and a string quartet.

Kathryn Walda is the organist and choir director. Betty Gail Hunt directs the handbell choir. Soloists are Lara Marriott, Jenni Festa and Terry Bedell.

A reception will follow the presentation. There is no admission charge.

For more information, please see www.centerpointechurch.org or call 925-846-4436.

St. Charles Hosts Two Advent Events

Internationally-known Christian performer, Sam Kauffman will be at St. Charles Church, 1315 Lomas Ave., in Livermore, on Friday, December 2 from 7:30-9:00 pm to present her inter-generational play *Four Candles*.

Four Candles is an interactive musical presentation that uses the Advent wreath as a symbol of God's light. In this presentation, Sam uses her storytelling abilities and her musical talents to explain the significance of the four Advent candles.

Living the Peace of St. Francis is the title of Fr. Ed Shea's evening of reflection which will be held on Sunday evening, December 4 from 7:30-9:00 pm in the Church. Fr. Ed will use his unique gift of storytelling to bring the *Prayer of St. Francis* to life and challenge us to go deeper into relationship with God during this season leading up to Christmas.

Following Friday and Sunday evening presentations, refreshments and fellowship will be hosted in Borromeo Hall. The St. Charles Community wishes to invite and welcome the entire Tri-Valley, independent of faith, to join them in making the Christmas season more than just one big shopping spree but one about unity.

There is a donation of \$5/person for each event. For more information about either event, please contact Julie Gallagher at upcatholic@aol.com or 925-447-4549 ext 114.



Sam Kauffman



Sonos to perform at Asbury in Livermore.

Asbury to Present A capella Standouts In December Concert

A cappella standouts, Sonos, brings their creative sound to Livermore on Saturday, December 17 at Asbury United Methodist Church. The five members of Sonos hail from southern California. As graduates from UCLA, USC and UC Irvine all were students of vocal/jazz performance, composition, opera and acting. They blend all their training into a compelling and energetic sound.

One of the sixteen groups competing on this autumn's NBC show "The Sing Off" Sonos is expanding its fan base and currently at work on their third CD. With extensive experience in the growing world of a cappella music, Sonos is making its first East Bay appearance.

A "vocals + electronics" group with fabulous harmonies and brilliant arrangements have been exploring adding electronic sound assists to their live shows and recordings. Sonos writes, "We love working with electronics in both our live show & in our recordings. This aspect of our music has grown from just an octave pedal and a loop station to include gadgets, such as a harmonizer, delay pedal, phase shifter, and EQ pedals. In the future, we hope to have all kinds of crazy toys with us on stage to expand our sound and ignite our live show."

For their 2009 CD — "Sonosings" — the group covered indie artists like Radiohead, Bjork,

Imogen Heap, Fleet Foxes, Bird and the Bee. A second album "December Songs" was produced last year by group member Christopher Given Harrison. Writes Sonos "With this album, we tried to personify the feelings that one has during the wintertime, rather than a collection of Holiday songs that you would hear in a department store...although we wouldn't mind it being played in one".

After their numerous nominations and wins at the 2011 international A cappella awards ceremony in May the group has expanded their touring schedule and begun work on a third CD they are writing and producing themselves. As their fan base has grown they have received increased attention and critical acclaim, as reviewer Andrzej Pilarczyk recently wrote: "In truth, though, the individual voices were just the icing on the

cake. What makes Sonos stand out from the rest of the we-still-ain't-got-no-band crowd is their glorious ensemble work. Their voices blend perfectly, and yet, their arrangements are full of glorious surprises."

Information on Sonos can be found on Facebook and their web site: www.sonosings.com.

Tickets for the concert at Asbury United Methodist Church on December 17 are just \$15 in advance, for students and senior (\$20 at the door). Additional information on the event and on-line tickets can be found at www.asburylivepresents.com. Tickets can also be purchased at the church office, 4743 East Avenue, Livermore, from 9 to 3 Monday through Friday. Doors to the concert open at 6:15 p.m. For more information call 447-1950.



Are You Hearing And Understanding The Sounds of Life?

HEARING SERVICES

<p>Kenneth Billheimer, Au.D Audiologist/Hearing Aid Specialist</p> <p>Jacque Pedraza Hearing Aid Specialist</p>	<p>Pleasanton 4460 Black Ave, #F 484-3507</p> <p>Livermore 1524 Holmes St, #D 960-0391</p> <p style="text-align: center;">www.pleasantonhearingervices.com</p>
---	--

Livermore High School presents “The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon”

By Patricia Koning

Ready for a fast-paced, roller coaster ride through a fairytale-filled magical kingdom? Guided by five narrators, Livermore High School’s fall production, “The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon,” features princes and princesses, devils, dwarfs, grandmas, crab people, a talking fish, and many more favorite fairytale characters.

Narrators Austin Andrade, Aubrianna Decker, Tyler Persson, Abby Peterson, and Zoe Tranter will strive to tell 209 fairy tales in under two hours, ranging from classics like Snow White, Cinderella, Rapunzel, and Hansel & Gretel to more obscure and bizarre stories like The Devil’s Grandmother and The Fisher Girl & the Talking Fish. The show is a wild, free-form comedy with lots of audience participation as the fairy tales of the Brothers Grimm are turned on their heads.

Bringing the characters to life are Livermore High School students Brooke Bistline, Nicole Blair, Hannah Conner, Delaney Corbitt, Katherine Hall, Meghan Hornbacker, Brianna Jackson, Andrew Kolb-Gouveia, Sean McGrory, Gabriel Pasillas, Alyssa Proudfoot, Molly Ratermann, Allison Reggiardo, Dylan Spooner, Zoe Tranter, Jeffrey Warner, Debbie Watson, and Ashley Watts. Doing the behind the scenes work are Chrissie Miille, stage manager, and the tech crew: Adam Danska, Mitchell Jakula, and Hannah Peterson.

Livermore High School drama teacher Carol Hovey says she chose “The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon” because she was looking for a comedy that could accommodate a large cast. “The challenge with this kind of show is the comedic timing,” she says. “It has to be spot on or the jokes don’t work as well.”

Hovey says she’s been amazed at the talent of her cast. “They are flexible and work well together. This is really a great ensemble piece. I can use the unique talents of each student in the smaller roles,” she adds.

She’s so pleased with the comedic timing of her students that she chose a similar comedy, “I Hate Shakespeare,” for the winter production. Described as a “rip roaring rundown of Shakespeare’s classics,” the show features zombies, talking cows, and an appearance by Jerry Springer.

“The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon” is appropriate for all ages. “It’s a very tongue in cheek look at the Brothers Grimm with some subtle adult humor,” explains Covey. “Younger children will recognize many of the characters and enjoy the energy of the production and the live lyc costumes.”

Performances of the “The Grimm Brothers Spectaculathon” are at 8 pm in the Livermore High School Theater on December 2, 3, 8, 9, and 10. Tickets are \$10, reserved seating only, and can be purchased online at www.livermorehighonline.com.



Appearing in Nuncrackers: The Nunsense Christmas Musical are (from left) Sister Robert Anne-Suzanne Henry, Mother Superior- Peggy Coleman, Sister Hubert- Shari Oret, Sister Mary Leo- Shauna James, Sister Mary Paul (Amnesia)- Joan Evans. The Tri-Vallet Repertory Theatre production will be performed at the Studio Theatre in Pleasanton. Tickets are still available for closing weekend, Dec 16, 17, 18. Other performances are sold out. Performances are 8pm Fridays/Saturdays and 2pm Sundays at the TVRT Studio Theatre, 1048 Serpentine Lane, Suite 309, Pleasanton. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$22 for seniors, and \$20 for students online: www.trivalleyrep.org (click on TICKETS), by phone at 925-462-2121. (Photo - Mike Padua)



See The Tri-Valley’s Most Complete Online Interactive Calendar To See What’s Happening In Your Community.



For 48 years, *The Independent* has received and printed the most arts and community events notices of any newspaper. Now you can see them online. *The Independent’s* 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 and update your events, too! In addition, calendars have links to 41 cultural arts and 179 community websites from the movies and performing arts sites, to local governments, wineries and churches all within reach of your fingertips.

See what’s happening in your community at www.independentnews.com

Sleepy Hollow Pinots A Great Mate for Mushrooms



by Laura Ness

It's hard to go wrong pairing Pinots with mushrooms, especially the complex kind of Pinot that is filled with earthy aromas and often a touch of mushroom, fern and damp redwood forest. Such are the Pinots from a hallowed piece of ground in the Santa Lucia Highlands, The Sleepy Hollow Vineyard. Owned by the Talbott family since 1981, this rather large expanse of vines is responsible for some of the most famous Pinot and Chardonnay in all of winedom. It was planted in 1972, making it one of the original plantings in this now world-famous Pinot growing region, and consequently offers some of the most mature and intense Martini clone fruit, giving these wines an innate structure and depth of flavor, rich with velvet robes of raspberry, currant and forest floor.

When winemaker Tom Stutz told Steven Mirassou about this vineyard from which he had been making wine since 1982, he warned, "You know those beautifully manicured vineyards you're used to buying fruit from? Well, it's not that kind of vineyard." Steven was indeed shocked by the rather out of control looking vines, freely waving their arms in the winds that race down at them from the ocean to the west. What these vines lacked in discipline, though, they more than made up

for in character of fruit. There is something absolutely gripping, captivating and mesmerizing about the wines that come from this place.

Paired with mushroom dishes prepared by Chef Jimmy Connors (whose day job is Country Gourmet in Palo Alto) and his able assistant, Shawn Robison, who works the San Jose market for Southern Wine & Spirits, the rare vertical of La Rochelle Sleepy Hollow Pinots were splendid dance companions. They couldn't have been better suited to one another than Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers.

Chef Jimmy was blessed with a crop of mushrooms that only a true gourmet mycologist could have assembled: such a person is Todd Spanier, King of Mushrooms, whose Italian, German and French heritage serves him well in foraging for and preparing fungal favorites like Oyster and Porcini mushrooms, along with more obscure types, like Clamshell and Abalone. The latter are now my absolute favorite funghi: I adore their firm, slightly chewy flesh that tastes a bit like a cross between artichoke stems and sweet scallops.

The first course, served with the last of the 2005 Sleepy Hollow Pinot, was a panoply of mycological mastery, combining Porcini-crusted scallops, Oyster, Clamshell and Abalone mushrooms with a delightful sea-salty soy reduction.

The 05 was huge and dense, with a hefty dollop of sweet, ripe fruit. It seemed to be making its finest stage appearance, and was the crowd favorite of all the lot for its total integration and bold, yet very approachable nature, like a jovial Santa Claus. Too bad it's history!

I thought it would be hard to beat that one, but the second course was a tour de force of shroomy creativity, combining sesame roasted organic Oregon shitakes, wild boar salami, Gambone mushrooms and date gastrique into a fantastic mushroom Napoleon. The little man never tasted anything this good, and I daresay he had no such beverage to quaff as the 2006 SHV Pinot, chewy, dense, complex and not yet approaching its prime. This is a wine for the ages: Tom and I felt it was the one with the most legs, and fittingly so, as that is the literal translation of Gambone, the mushroom that starred in the accompanying dish. Also called the Trumpet, this mushroom is indeed long of leg and firm of flesh, like biting into a turkey thigh. I'm already salivating at the thought of this wine with turkey drumsticks accompanied by a wild mushroom laden stuffing. Oooh la la! There is still some 2006 available, and I'd lay a case of this down for a decade.

The third course featured an organic chicken stuffed with Full Circle farms bok choy, prosciutto

Todd Spanier with a basketful of mushrooms.

and quinoa, with Wood Ear mushrooms in a citrus-tamari glaze. Wood Ears are one of the most widely eaten mushrooms worldwide, along with buttons.

They are specially prized in Asian cuisine for their crunch texture, and are believed to thin the blood. Drinking the 2007 along with this dish did nothing to thin the blood, however, as it is a heady, dark-fruited, powerful, smooth and elegant cup of pure raspberries and chocolate. Of all the Sleepy Hollow vintages, to me this was the most mouthfilling and appealing, at least right now. Divine!

And then when I thought I could not eat another bite, arrived a BN Ranch beef Bourgogne, accompanied by Golden Chanterelles, pearl onions, thyme and truffle smashed purple potatoes. Rich? Dense? Indeed. And yet, the Chanterelles, with their sublimely golden hue, shone through with their pumpkin and apricot flavors. These would be a wonderful accompaniment to the Thanksgiving feast, and would star nicely in a vegetarian entrée. Paired with the reserved, yet promising 2008 Pinot, the dish

was decadent. Tom fashioned what is going to be a brilliant wine from this restrained vintage: this is one to buy cases of to cellar. Like an ancient scroll to which you are still searching for the Rosetta stone key, this wine has so much to share, so many stories to tell. And it's not going to give away its secrets early.

While there are only two more vintages of Sleep Hollow Vineyard Pinot in the La Rochelle cellar (sadly, there will be nothing under the La Rochelle label after 2010), happily, there are over 40,000 kinds of mushrooms, so this dinner barely made a dent. However, it left everyone with a very keen appreciation of the delicate ecosystem that produces these wonderful fungal delicacies. Mushroom King Todd reminds you that you can obtain selections of nature's finest directly from him (kingofmushrooms.com) and at select specialty markets.

Here's to the lovely symbiosis of mushrooms and Pinot Noir: a heavenly match made right here on earth.

Recycled Tree on Display

In recognition of Rodrigue Molyneux Estate Winery's certification as a green business and environmental leader in water, waste and energy conservation for 2011, Executive Chef Tracy Flores created an unusual Christmas tree for Rodrigue Molyneux. Chef Tracy wanted to not only celebrate the Christmas season, but also celebrate going green.

On the morning of November 21, Chef Tracy's "team" began creating this modern-day "green" Christmas tree. Her team consisted of General Manager Lindsey Roffey and her daughter, Taylor Flores. After over 15 hours, 74 overstock wine bottles, 24 pounds of confectioner's sugar, 5 dozen eggs, 264 M & M's, 320 red and green gumdrops, four strand of lights and 240 mini candy canes, the four foot tall "Green" Christmas Tree was born. Taylor joked that not a single tree was hurt in the making of this tree. General manager Lindsey Roffey felt that tree was not only statement for the winery in honor of their recognition, but also a reminder for people to stay "green" this holiday season.

Chef Tracy creates a 6 foot tall replica of the historic Castlewood Country club displayed in the Clubhouse every year. A few years ago at the winery, she created a 3 foot tall gingerbread house that was an exact replica, including grapevines. This year, the winery asked to come back again to create something "fantastic" and "magical," but also something that reflected the spirit of the winery.

The tree will be on display at the winery for the remainder of December and through the month of January. After January, the entire piece will be recycled, piece by piece. To see the tree, visit the winery weekends 12:30-5:00 PM Saturday and Sunday at 3053 Marina Avenue, Livermore.



Mini Sheep Munch Weeds

Mini weed munching sheep (pictured at left) returned to Concannon Vineyard this past Sunday.

Miniature sheep (Olde English BabyDoll Southdown sheep to be exact) are being used to control weeds in Concannon's organic vineyards. These sheep, at only 24" at the shoulder, are too short to do damage to the vines and graze peacefully under the drip line.

Without tractors spewing emissions and chemicals poisoning the ground, these sheep are the perfect sustainable agriculture answer to weed control in the vineyard.

Sheep are contained with solar-powered electric fencing that is moved as the sheep graze. Two Livestock Guardian Dogs (Bonnie & Belle) will accompany the sheep for protection against predators.

For more information about grazing mini sheep in the vineyard, contact Allison Batteate at Allison@BatteateRanch.com



Harvest Takes Place at Ravenswood Vineyards

The recent harvesting of grapes at Ravenswood Historic Site echoes back to the golden days of the Victorian estate.

The current vines were planted in 2006, however the Ravenswood grounds historically held vineyards when the home was in its heyday in the 1890s. Some of the vines currently at Ravenswood mimic the historic style that allows for sustainably grown grapes with one vine per stake. Planted in this historic way are some of the varieties traditionally grown in the area, including Grenache, Mourvedre and Zinfandel.

Operated by the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District, Ravenswood was built by Christopher Buckley Sr., who was known as the "Blind Boss" of San Francisco politics in the 1870s and 1880s. Buckley Sr. died in 1922 and left Ravenswood to his son, Christopher Buckley Jr. The estate was sold in 1931 to a Catholic order, the Redemptorist Fathers, which used it as a retreat for more than 30 years.

The estate was sold in 1971 to a real estate developer. The larger portion of the property was developed for housing, and the remaining property – about 30 acres – was given to the public as a park site to be administered by LARPD in 1972. Using funds from



the State Beach, Park, Recreation and Historical Facilities Bond Act, the District restored the larger Main House and the Tank House in 1979. The 1885 Cottage House was restored in 1986.

The vineyards – removed by the Redemptorist Fathers at the recommendation of Joseph Concannon because of improper soil conditions – were restored five years ago through a partnership with the City of Livermore and Coastal Viticultural Consultants. Restoration was made possible by a donation from local nonprofit Friends of the Vineyards.

In addition to its vineyards providing grapes for winemaking, Ravenswood serves a variety of uses today. The historic site serves as a serene setting for event rentals, including about 20 weddings and receptions annually. LARPD park

rangers hold educational events on site, such as the annual Applefest that uses fruit from the antique apple orchard and Ravenswood Days for third- and fourth-graders to learn about history.

Costumed docents from the Ravenswood Progress League offer free tours of the site on the second and fourth Sunday from January to November and the second Sunday in December. In addition, the League annually holds an Old-Fashioned Ice Cream Social, a Victorian Tea and a Victorian Yuletide.

Ravenswood is on the National Register of Historic Places, is a State of California Historical Point of Interest and is a City of Livermore Historic Preservation Landmark Site. To learn more about Ravenswood, visit www.larpd.dst.ca.us or call 925-373-5700.

Special Activities Planned at Charles R Vineyards This Weekend

One of the wineries taking part in this weekend's Holidays in the Vineyards is Charles R Vineyard.

Festivities are this Sat. and Sun., Dec. 3 and 4 from noon to 5 p.m.

The winery will offer a 09 Pinot Noir, 06 Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve Library Tasting. BB's 3 bean supper soup will be served on Saturday, Holiday Carolers will entertain on Saturday 3pm.

Gift ideas are available from Camille Gift Shop - custom jewelry, garden ornaments, soaps, Shellie's Wolves - hand cut stone

jewelry and copper wolf profiles, scarves, Nancy Stamis - handmade purses, Salts of the Earth by Linda Brown - culinary sea salt from around the world, and Stephen and Beverly Barkkarie Designs - custom jewelry, watercolor paintings, origami ornaments.

Charles R is located at 8195 Crane Ridge Rd., Livermore, (925) 454-3040 www.charlesvineyards.com.

There is no admission charge. For activities at other wineries go to www.lvwine.org.

ART & ENTERTAINMENT

ART/PHOTO EXHIBITS

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.

Firehouse Arts Center's Harrington Gallery, 2010 traveling exhibit of the National Watercolor Society October 26-December 10, 2011. 4444 Railroad Avenue in downtown Pleasanton. Admission is \$5. A companion exhibit, "Five Palettes," features works by five California Watercolor Association artists. Harrington Gallery hours are Wednesday-Friday noon-5:00 p.m., Saturday 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., for one hour prior to each Firehouse Arts Center performance. Call (925) 931-4849 for more information or visit the Firehouse Arts Center website, www.firehousearts.org.

Collage Collection, Livermore Art Association exhibit, Dec. 1 to 30, Livermore Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave., Livermore. Open for viewing during regular library hours.

The Livermore Art Association (LAA) Gallery annual holiday reception on Sat., Dec. 3 from 1 to 3 p.m. Meet the Gallery artists, enjoy tasty desserts, and browse the collection of handmade gifts such as jewelry, pottery, accessories, and paintings. Carnegie Building at 2155 Third Street, Livermore. The public is always welcome to visit. Admission is free. Hours are 11:30-4:00 Wed.-Sun. For more information call the Gallery at 925-449-9927.

Lindsay Dirck Brown Art Gallery will feature a dual show with two artists, Bill DiMichele and Trevor Pawlak, during the month of December. It will include poetry written by Trevor, a teen who uses his passion to write poetry as an expressive outlet. His poetry and paintings will be located in the downstairs portion of the gallery. The theme for his exhibit is "Gold Love of Finding Kind Love." Upstairs at the gallery, Bill DiMichele's exhibit, titled "The Alphabet of Everything," which features his abstract paintings that are inspired by the celestial organization, and its opposite, subatomic action and reaction. Bill uses this 'alphabet' to explore humanity's inner and outer worlds. An artists reception will be held 3 to 5 p.m. on Sun., Dec. 4. The exhibit is open during community center hours; Monday-Friday 8:30am-5:00pm. Please call for weekend and evening hours. A special artist's reception is scheduled for Sunday, December 4th 3-5pm. The San Ramon Community Center is located at 12501 Alcosta Boulevard, San Ramon. Please call 925-973-3200 for further information.

Art exhibit by Livermore Art Association (LAA) Gallery artists at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Avenue during the month of December. Located on first floor, the show includes a colorful variety of drawings, paintings and photographs. The community center is open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday.

MEETINGS/CLASSES

Everything Poetry (in two parts), Second Saturday Soup-workshops 2nd Saturday of every month, 10am-12noon Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton; Third Tuesday Trope-poetry critiques 3rd Tuesday of every month, 7pm-9pm Towne Center Books, 555 Main Street, Pleasanton. Contact Cynthia Bryant at PleasantonPoetry@ci.pleasanton.ca.us.

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. At the 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.

Art in Public Places, join a local group of artists and paint on selected Friday mornings around town. ACC/Art Critique & Coffee invites artists to express themselves in watercolor, acrylic, oil. For more details check out the website for Poetry On Canvas Pleasanton or contact Claudette at PoetryOnCanvas@Mac.Com ~ ACC Meets each Friday at various locations.

Tuesday Afternoon Art Classes for Grades K - 5 in Livermore, includes introduction to history of art. Tuesdays, 3:30-4:30/5 p.m. Some materials included in fee. Ongoing. thomasin_d@hotmail.com ; (925) 216-7231; http://childrensartclassesprojects.blogspot.com

Art Classes for teens and adults, Livermore Saturdays 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and Mondays 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Some materials included. Please email instructor a materials list to purchase supplies. Watercolor, oil paints, charcoal, pastel, colored pencil, collage, printmaking. Classes also introduce the History of Art to students. thomasin_d@hotmail.com ; (925) 216-7231; http://childrensartclassesprojects.blogspot.com.

LARP Friday morning Art Classes for Homeschoolers 4-10 years, Livermore, Fridays 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Some materials included. Please email instructor for a materials list to purchase supplies. thomasin_d@hotmail.com ; (925) 216-7231; http://childrensartclassesprojects.blogspot.com/.

Girls Night Out Classes, Make family memories by attending a class together. Painting, jewelry making & paper art are now available to experience locally. Classes led by artist Claudette McDermott. For more information e-mail or call to sign up for classes 510 543-4776 PoetryOnCanvas@Mac.Com ~ Individual and group classes available.

Holiday Themed Classes, choice of Pumpkin-Santa-Trees-Snowman-Angel, choose from Stained Glass, Mosaic Tiles or Fused Glass methods. Class is 3 hours. \$60-75. Thurs. 11-2p, Fri. 5-8p, Sat. 2-5p, Sun. 12-3p. Art Glass Studio, 174 South L St., Livermore. For more information contact Roberta Jones at: 925-447-1962 www.artglassstudio.weebly.com

Beginning Stained Glass, start and finish a small stained glass window (14" x 14") using cutting and manufacturing skills. Learn how to use basic glass tools. Limited to 8 students. Additional studio hours are available at a daily, weekly or monthly rate. Tools and supplies are \$174. Does not include glass. 5 week class, 2.5 hours each. Wed. 10-7p, Thurs.-Sat. 10-9p, Sun 10-4p. Classes are ongoing. Art Glass Studio, 174 South L St., Livermore. For more information contact Roberta Jones at: 925-447-1962 www.artglassstudio.weebly.com

WINERY EVENTS

Wood Family Vineyards will be pouring wine Thurs., Dec. 1 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the First Street Wine Co. in downtown Livermore (near the flagpole). Sneak preview of the 2008 Syrah, Madden Ranch. \$5 tasting fee.

Holidays in the Vineyards, Sat. and Sun., Dec. 3 and 4, noon to 5 p.m. at participating wineries. Presented by Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association. No admission charge. However, tasting fees may apply. Arts and crafts, holiday music, special wines, activities and more. www.lvwine.org.

Cedar Mountain Winery, Holiday in

the Vineyards, Dec. 3 and 4, noon to 5 p.m. Complimentary mulled wine. Boy Scout Troop 931 will be selling Fresh Christmas Wreaths from 1-4 Saturday and Sunday or until supplies run out. Christmas Carolers Saturday from 12:00 - 12:30. Local Honey products by "Judy's Bees." Silpada, fine hand crafted Sterling Silver Jewelry. Bill Dayton's Woodwork. Hand crafted wooden bowls/plates. Holm Family Cookbook. "Barbed Wire Web" Written by Alan Apel. 7000 Tesla Road, Livermore, (925) 373-6636.

Winemaker's Pour House ribbon cutting and grand opening on Wednesday, Dec 7, 2011. Ribbon cutting at 11:30AM at 2241 1st Street, Livermore. One free sample of wine between 5:00PM and 8:30PM. For more information call (888) 316-1499.

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

Tri-Valley Medieval & Renaissance Collegium playing session for amateur 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

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, 30's, 40's.

Asbury Christmas Concert - Asbury United Methodist Church will hold its 15th Annual Christmas Concert at 7 p.m. on Sunday Dec. 4, 2011 in its Sanctuary at 4743 East Ave. in Livermore. All of Asbury's vocal choirs, the Asbury Band, First Watch, and the Asbury Ringers bell choir 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 cookie reception immediately following in the new Fellowship Hall. For more information call Jean Braun at 449-4168, the church office at 447-1950 or e-mail: JoanneP@asburylive.org

Pacific Chamber Symphony, Handel's Messiah, Fri., Dec. 2, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Livermore Amador Symphony, concert Sat., Dec. 3, 8 p.m. works by Beethoven, Wagner and Sibelius performed with the Pacific Masterworks Chorus. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Pleasanton Community Concert Band, holiday concert Sun., Dec. 4, 2 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org. No admission charge.

Fog City Stompers, playing the great old standards from the 1920s and 1930s, including tunes made famous by Bix Beiderbecke, concert at the Pleasanton Public Library on Sun., December 4 at 2 p.m. Admission is free. Sponsored by the Friends of the Pleasanton Library. Doors open at 1:30 p.m. Come early to find parking and ensure a seat. For more information regarding the program call the Reference Desk at 931-3400, ext. 7. No registration is required.

Advent and Christmas music, "Joy to the World," at 4:00 pm on Sunday, December 4, Our Savior Lutheran Ministries, 1385 South Livermore Avenue, Livermore. The choirs, handbell groups, instrumentalists and contemporary ensemble will perform sacred music that includes traditional carols, a bit of jazz, and contemporary Christian music. The audience will also

be invited to sing along on several carols. The concert is free. Offering for assistance to victims of the recent earthquake in Turkey. The concert will be followed by a reception with samples of Christmas treats from around the world.

Asbury Christmas Concert - Asbury United Methodist Church will hold its 15th Annual Christmas Concert at 7 p.m. on Sunday Dec. 4, 2011 in its Sanctuary at 4743 East Ave. in Livermore. All of Asbury's vocal choirs, the Asbury Band, and the Asbury Ringers bell choir 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 cookie reception immediately following in the new Fellowship Hall. For more information call Jean Braun at 449-4168, the church office at 447-1950 or e-mail JoanneP@asburylive.org.

Carols by Candlelight, Foothill High School choirs caroling concert on Monday night, Dec. 5, 8 p.m. The evening will feature desserts and drinks available during the concert. This is a fund-raiser to help offset funds for the spring New York City tour. Admission is \$10 including dessert. The concert will be held in the Foothill multipurpose room, 4375 Foothill Rd., Pleasanton. Information at http://foothillfalcons.org.

Don Edwards, country and western, Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m. LVPAC Presents, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Holiday Concert, Fri., Dec. 9 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Michael Parish, 458 Maple St., Livermore. Golden Gate Boys Choir and Bell Ringers, and the Amici Brass Quintet, as well as St. Michael's Music Ministry. All proceeds from this concert will go toward the Monsignor Adams Memorial Pipe Organ. Ticket donations are \$15 adults, \$5 children 12 and under, \$10 seniors/students, and \$35 for family (immediate family). For tickets, please contact Barbara Pinto-Choate at musicministry33@yahoo.com or 447-1585 ext 18.

Tapestry, the Bay Area's only vocal and handbell ensemble, presents its holiday program, "The Magic of Christmas." Saturday, December 10 at 7:00 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Rd. in Pleasanton. Admission is free. Refreshments will be served following the concert. Both sacred and secular music for the holiday season. A free-will donation will be accepted to benefit Open Heart Kitchen. For more information, please visit www.tapestryringsandsingers.org or facebook: tapestryringsandsingers.

Jeff Bordes and Friends Featuring Zakiya Hooker, Sat., Dec. 10, 8 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.

Bay Bells Winter Concert, featuring over 100 bells and chimes, Sun., Dec. 11, 3 p.m. Dublin Senior Center, Adults \$8, youth 12 and under \$5, children 5 and under \$3. 556-4500.

Stacey Kent, jazz, Dec. 14, 7:30 p.m. LVPAC Presents, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Jazz Night Concert - vocal and instrumental, Las Positas College, Fri., Dec. 16, 8 p.m. Mertes Center for the Performing Arts, on the Las Positas Campus, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. Ticket prices are \$12 general admission and \$8 for students & seniors. www.brownpapertickets.com with the venue of Las Positas College, or call 1-800-838-3006.

San Ramon Symphonic Band, Dec. 16, 7 p.m. "Winter Wonderland," Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, 10550 Albion Rd., San Ramon. www.sanramon.ca.gov

A Cash Country Christmas James Garner's

Holiday Tribute to Johnny Cash, Sat., Dec. 17, 8 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.

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



Restless Heart Christmas, (pictured above) country and western, Dec. 23, 8 p.m. LVPAC Presents, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

New Year's Eve: Flash Cadillac, Dec. 31, 8 p.m. LVPAC Presents, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

ON THE STAGE

Home For The Holidays- A Musical Review, Dec. 3-17, 7:30 p.m. Fri. and Sat., 2 p.m. Sat. and Sun. presented by San Ramon Community Theater & the San Ramon Arts Foundation. Front Row Theater, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Rd., San Ramon. www.sanramon.ca.gov

Nuncrackers: The Nonsense Christmas Musical, Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre Studio Theatre presentation. Dec. 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17 and 18. www.trivalleyrep.com.



Sleeping Beauty, Pleasanton Civic Arts Stage Company school concert series, Dec. 14-15, 9:30 and 11 a.m., Dec. 2021, 9:30 a.m. Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.

Sleeping Beauty, Pleasanton Civic Arts, Dec. 9, 10, 11 and 17 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 10, 11, 17 and 18 at 2 p.m. Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.

Laureates Speak of the World, featuring 15 poets laureate and poets laureate emeritus from California, will read their poetry on Sun., Dec. 18 from 2 to 5 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. Admission is \$5 at the door; students free with I.D. The reading program will be followed by holiday treats, opportunities to meet and speak with the Laureates, buy their books and have the books signed. For further information, contact Pleasanton poet laureate Cynthia Bryant at PleasantonPoetry@ci.pleasanton.ca.us or 925-399-5520.

Rudolph the Ugly Duckling and other cracked-up Holiday Tales presented by Bay Area Children's Theater, Dec. 19-22, 11 a.m., 2 and 4:30 p.m. Front Row Theater, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Rd., San Ramon. www.sanramon.ca.gov

ART & ENTERTAINMENT

COMEDY

Holiday Shorts: a Long Winter's Tale, interactive holiday improv show led by Creatures of Impulse, Thurs., Dec. 1 and Fri., Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org. Audience suggestions will inspire holiday themed games, scenes, and audience interactions in the first act. The audience will then vote for which short scene Creatures of Impulse will make into an entire improvised "play" in the second act. Tickets: Students: \$5.00 advance/\$8.00 door, General: \$10.00 advance, \$15.00 at the door.

Big Fat Kiss Off XIX, Friday, December 30, 2011, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

DANCE

Holiday Classics, Sun., Dec. 4, 1 and 5 p.m. Presented by Livermore School of Dance Jazz Division. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Dance Concert, Las Positas College, Sat., Dec. 10, 8 p.m. Mertes Center for the Performing Arts, on the Las Positas Campus, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. Ticket prices are \$12 general admission and \$8 for students & seniors. www.brownpapertickets.com with the venue of Las Positas College, or call 1-800-838-3006.

The Nutcracker, Valley Dance Theatre's annual production of this holiday classic performed in seven shows from Dec. 10-18 at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Friday Night Dance Parties, themed parties each Friday night from Salsa to Swing, includes a group dance lesson at 8:15. \$15 cover charge, 8:15 dance lesson, 9:00-10:30 for dance parties. It's All About Dancing, 171 So. J Street, Livermore. 925-449-9292, or studio@itsallaboutdancing.com.

AUDITIONS/COMPETITIONS

Audition Notice for The Mikado, Role Players Ensemble: The Mikado (Gilbert and Sullivan; dir: Eric Fraisher Hayes). 8M(20-80), 7F(20-80). Non-AEA. Stipend. Prep 1-min song in the style of Gilbert and Sullivan and 1-min monologue. Audition date 12/5, 7-10pm. Rehs start 2/20. Perfs 4/13-5/5. Village Theatre, 233 Front Street, Danville. Appt/info: efhayes65@yahoo.com or (312) 286-9224.

Auditions for the 31st annual Sunol Repertory Theatre Melodrama. Auditions will be held in the Sunol Glen Cafeteria, 11601 Main St., Sunol. Singing tryout date is Tues., Dec. 6 at 7 p.m. Please bring a music selection. Acting tryout date is Thurs., Dec. 8th at 7 p.m. If selected rehearsal dates are Tues. & Thurs. 7-9 p.m. January through March. Performance dates are Fri. & Sat. 8 p.m. March 9-March 24. Information, contact Barbara Egbert, 862-0729.

MOVIES

Classic films at the Pleasanton Library. Las Positas College and the Pleasanton Public Library present the series. Theme this year is "Three Great Directors." Admission is free. The series is hosted by Candace Klaschus, Professor of Media Studies at Las Positas College. Klaschus offers a brief talk about each film prior to the screening. The three great film directors featured in this year's series are Howard Hawkes, John Ford and Alfred Hitchcock. Refreshments are served. A complete list of the "Three Great Directors" films is available at the Pleasanton Public Library. Movies will be shown

the first Thursday of each month through June 7, 2012. No registration required. The library is located at 400 Old Bernal Ave., Pleasanton. For more information, call Penny Johnson, 931-3405.

CHORAL

Valley Concert Chorale, holiday concerts featuring Harpist Dan Levitan. Selections will include carols from Jackson-Berkey's 21st Century Carols, and Arma Lucis, Rathbone's An A Capella Christmas, Cecelia McDonall's Ave Maris Stella, Winter Wonderland and other light music. December 3, 2011-8 pm, Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton; and Sunday, December 4, 2011-3 pm, First Presbyterian Church, Corner of 4th and L Streets, Livermore. www.valleyconcertchorale.org

Choir Concert, Sun., Las Positas College, Dec. 4, 3 p.m. Mertes Center for the Performing Arts, on the Las Positas Campus, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. Ticket prices are \$12 general admission and \$8 for students & seniors. www.brownpapertickets.com with the venue of Las Positas College, or call 1-800-838-3006.

Pacific Masterworks Chorus, fall concert, Dec. 7 at John Knox Presbyterian Church in Dublin; and program Dec. 16 at the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton. www.pacificmasterworkschorus.org/

Valley Concert Chorale, Annual Sing-It-Yourself Messiah, Friday, December 9, 2011-7:30 pm, Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton: annual holiday event. Join friends and neighbors in singing Part I of Handel's great choral masterpiece. www.valleyconcertchorale.org

Pacific Masterworks Chorus Presents Christmas in the South West, Fri., Dec. 16, 8 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.

Cantabella Children's Chorus Annual Winter Concerts, *A Ceremony of Carols*, Saturday, December 10, 2011, at 2:00 P.M. featuring the performing choirs, and at 4:15 P.M. featuring the training choirs and the performing choirs. First Presbyterian Church, 2020 Fifth Street, Livermore. Children aged kindergarten through high school will perform choral music accompanied by chamber musicians. The title of the concerts refers to Benjamin Britten's choral work, which will be performed in its entirety at the 2:00 concert, and in part at the 4:15 concert. Repertoire also includes pieces sung in French, Latin and Hebrew, and melodies from other international traditions. Audience participation. Tickets at the door: adults \$15, children 10 and under \$10; in advance on-line: adults \$12, children 10 and under \$8, at Cantabella.org.

OPERA

Broadcast from the Met, Dublin Regal Hacienda Cinema. Satagraha, Dec. 7; Rodelinda, Dec. 3, Jan. 4; Faust, Dec. 10 and Jan. 11; Enchanted Island, Jan. 21; Gotterdammerung, Feb. 11; Ernani, Feb. 25 and March 14; Manon, April 7 and 25; Turandot, April 14, May 2. First date is a morning showing, second date afternoon. Check for exact curtain time. 560-0900.

MISCELLANEOUS

M.o.M.'s Reading Time, ages 2 to 5 and families, Museum on Main monthly reading program, 10 to 11 a.m. with theme related crafts immediately following. Admission is free. Donations are always appreciated. No Reservations required. Large groups or playgroups please call in advance: 925.462.2766 or email: education@museumonmain.org. December 14:

Snow Day-You never know where you'll find snow! Join us for a cool morning of books and fun all about snow. 603 Main Street,

Political Issues Book Club meets the 4th Tuesday of each month, and reads books 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

We're Talkin' Books! Club is a member-centered book group led by a small group of book club veterans, with reading selections based on member recommendations and consensus. No homework required—share your insights or just listen in! Contact Susan at 337-1282 regarding the *We're Talkin' Books! Club*.

Dublin Holiday Tree Lighting, Civic Center on Thursday, December 1, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Free refreshments will be served. Those attending will sing carols as they await the arrival of a certain gentleman from the North Pole. The Dublin Unified School District Children's Choir and the Wells Middle School Jazz Combo will perform. Please bring a donation of a warm coat.

Campus Speech Tournament, Las Positas College, Fri., Dec. 2, 1 to 5 p.m. Mertes Center for the Performing Arts, on the Las Positas Campus, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. Ticket prices are \$12 general admission and \$8 for students & seniors. www.brownpapertickets.com with the venue of Las Positas College, or call 1-800-838-3006.

Holiday Market, Dublin Heritage Park & Museums, Donlon Way, Dec. 3, 2 to 7 p.m. crafts, holiday goodies, entertainment, hot soups and cider. 2:00 pm an Old Fashioned St. Nick arrives by jingle bell wagon pulled by a vintage tractor. Children can make gifts and ornaments in the 1870 Sunday School Barn. Live preformation by the Merrie Old Christmas Carolers at 3:30. Stroll the grounds and shop for unique handcrafted items

including, decorations, toys, soaps and more. www.ci.dublin.ca.us

Holiday Sights & Sounds Parade and Tree Lighting, Dec. 3, begins at 6 p.m. in downtown Livermore. Hosted by Livermore Downtown Inc. No admission charge. www.livermoredowntown.com.

Hometown Holiday Parade and Celebration, Main Street, Pleasanton, 5 to 7 p.m. For more information, please call (925) 931-5352 or visit www.hometownholiday.com.

Stories and Speeches, Las Positas College,

Thurs., Dec. 8, 7 p.m. Mertes Center for the Performing Arts, on the Las Positas Campus, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. Ticket prices are \$12 general admission and \$8 for students & seniors. www.brownpapertickets.com with the venue of Las Positas College, or call 1-800-838-3006.

Ravenswood Victorian Yuletide, Sun., Dec. 11, noon to 4 p.m. Music, entertainment, carriage ride, food, crafts, and more. Ravenswood Historic Site, 2647 Arroyo Road, Livermore. Free admission.

Academy to Perform 'Impressions of the Nutcracker'

San Ramon Valley Dance Academy presents, Impressions of the Nutcracker, a holiday tradition for the San Ramon Valley and beyond. Performances are Dec. 10 at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 11 at 1 and

3:30 p.m. at the Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center.

More than just a ballet, San Ramon Valley Dance Academy's production of Impressions of the Nutcracker includes tap dancing Toy Soldiers, tumbling Chinese Tea and performers of all ages. Follow Clara on her magical journey to the Land of the Sweets with her enchanted Nutcracker Prince.

Join us after the performance for a special visit from Santa Claus and a chance to meet the performers.

Tickets are \$22 adults, \$19 children age 12 and under and seniors. They can be purchased at (925) 973-ARTS or on-line at www.sanramonperformingarts.com. The theater is located at 10550 Albion Rd., San Ramon

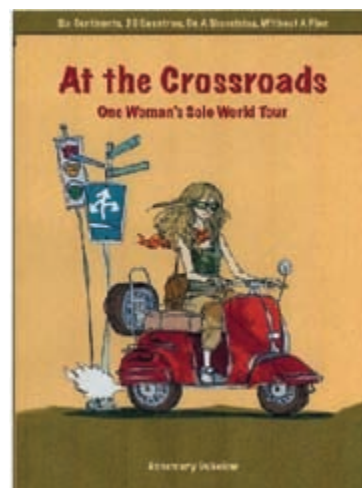
For more information please visit website, <http://www.srvda.com> or call (925) 837-4656



Former Livermore Librarian to Recount Her Solo World Tour

Former librarian at the Livermore Public Library, Rosemary Dukelow, will discuss her book *At the Crossroads: One Woman's Solo World Tour* during a program to be held starting at 7 p.m. on Thursday, December 8 at the Livermore Public Library Civic Center, 1188 S. Livermore Avenue.

At the Crossroads contains the journal of how Rosemary Dukelow found the ultimate cure for her mid-life crisis. In 2010, the 53-year-old career librarian quit her job, left home and spontaneously traveled around the world, following advice from the readers of her blog as she maneuvered her way from country to country. She traveled alone for ten months through 30 countries on six continents, with one suitcase and little money, encountering people, and a few predicaments along the way.



Her journey highlights some usual points of interest as well as exotic, out-of-the-way places she'd never heard of.

Rosemary Dukelow, a northern California native, spent most of the

last thirty years working in libraries, including the Livermore Public Library. As Supervising Librarian, she was instrumental in moving the Library from 1000 S. Livermore Ave. to its current location. Rosemary has worked at several other California libraries. Before her position in Livermore, she worked with children and performed thousands of storytelling programs, including many events outside the library. She graduated from Kansas State University with a Bachelors of Architecture and Emporia State College in Kansas with a Masters of Library Science.

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.

Do You Remember?

By Anne Homan



DEL VALLE MERCANTILE

Have you ever visited a small town and stepped into its general store? I remember the smell of such a store—I'm not sure what contributed to it—maybe the pickles in the jar on the counter or all the different sized nails in wooden drawers or the bulk spices and coffee. The smell was not unpleasant or flowery, just distinctive. Some of you might remember Livermore's general store, the Del Valle Mercantile that closed in 1956.

The Foresters' Hall on the west side of J Street between First and Second Streets was built in 1914. A photograph of that era shows a sign downstairs at the south end of the building: "Geo. Beck and Sons GROCERIES." Beck's store had originally been on First Street. However, when the new Hall was built, he signed up for floor space in the new building. After George's death, his business was run by a partnership that included his son, Chester. When Chester Beck retired in 1924, Louis "Lou" Gardella bought Beck's share of the business. About 1930 Gardella became the sole owner and changed the store's name to Del Valle Mercantile. Although the original sign said "groceries" in large letters, the store actually dealt in groceries, hardware, farming implements, housing utensils, and, according to Louis, "almost any commodity we could sell."

In 1981 Tillie Calhoun interviewed Lou Gardella about the store for the Livermore Heritage Guild. The Guild published a six-page pamphlet of the inter-

view. Most of the information for this column comes from that pamphlet, which is for sale at the Carnegie Building.

The major portion of Del Valle Mercantile's business was based on credit. Many customers were farmers. They were given credit so that they could make their once-a-year payment in October after their crops were harvested. The rest of the customers were given 30 days to pay their bills. By this time many people had telephones. A major part of the business was by phone. Delivery was free. Delivery men took orders all over the city and out to nearby farmers and even to sheep ranches out in the Corral Hollow area with wagons and later pickup trucks. Gardella said, "I was in the business 32 years and in order to carry our load, I never at any time borrowed any money. The business paid its way all the way through."

The 1914 cash register used at the store was about six feet high and had an individual drawer for each clerk. "At that particular time it was the elite of cash registers," Gardella recalled. The store used the same register for all the years it was in business—from 1914 to 1956 without any mechanical problems. The store goods were on shelves that

went from floor to ceiling. At each section of the store—grocery, hardware, and household utensils—they had traveling ladders so that the salesmen could reach the top shelves. "We operated with clerks waiting on each customer separately; they would take the order from the customer and then put the order up," Gardella said. "It isn't like today where you help yourself and then check out at the cash register. No one waited on themselves."

Their produce was shipped in from Oakland three or four times a week. "We had the full line like fruits, vegetables, oranges, potatoes ... We had carrots, turnips, beets, and everything in season—melons ... strawberries." A dealer purchased Gardella's order at the Oakland produce market and then brought everything out to Livermore by 8:30 a.m.

The Del Valle Mercantile sold coffee in cans as we know it today at the supermarkets, but they also sold it in bulk in 100-pound bags. They would grind it, fine or coarse, according to the customer's fancy. "The Italians, French, Spaniards, Greeks ... wanted chicory in their coffee." The store clerks wouldn't mix it, but customers could buy a pound or two of chicory and mix it into their coffee at home. Flour came

in bulk in 100-pound printed sacks of good fabric. Gardella remembered that his mother would wash the material and make towels out of them. "As a matter of fact, a lot of the girls' intimates were made from flour sacks. My mother would make their panties of flour sacks."

The hardware department included nails of every kind and horseshoes. In later years, customers from all over the Bay Area came to buy horseshoes, as not many places were carrying them anymore. The household side included lanterns, lamps, chimneys, and kerosene. They also sold kerosene cook stoves.

An early ad for the store listed Grape-nuts for 17¢, large size Super Suds for 15¢, oranges at two dozen for 25¢, medium size Log Cabin syrup (in its log cabin-shaped container) for 40¢, and Pillsbury's SnoSheen cake flour at 28¢ a pack. In his interview with Tillie, Gardella remarked: "We were a general merchandising store. ... We had a tremendous variety of articles and so many people would remark when they came in there, 'how can you find things?' But we knew where everything was."

Besides running his mercantile business from 1924 to 1956, Lou Gardella served on the Livermore City Council for 16 years—four terms as a council member and then as mayor from 1950 to 1954. City flags flew at half-mast when he died in June 1984.

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



Forest Home Farms Plans Festivities

Relive an old-fashioned holiday by visiting Forest Home Farms Historic Park in December. Admission is free. The park will be open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the first two Saturdays in December.

Events include:

Saturday, December 3—A pair of live reindeer will be visiting from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Family entertainment will include "Christmas Capers" by Magical Moonshine, holiday music by the San Ramon Children's Chorus, Victorian ornament making, old-fashioned games, tractor rides, and a visit from Victorian Santa. The Welcome Center, Holiday Tree Lot, Tractor Museum and Gift Shoppe will be open. Delicious food will be available for purchase. The Glass House Museum will be specially decorated just for the holidays. Farm tours are at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Glass House Museum Tours are at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 12 noon & 1 p.m. Tours are \$5 per person per tour or \$8 per person for both tours.

Saturday, December 10—Shop for unique gifts from over a dozen vendors at our Holiday Market. Enjoy entertainment including sheep dog demonstrations, Victorian ornament making, tractor rides, carolers and a Victorian Santa. The Welcome Center, Holiday Tree Lot, Tractor Museum and Gift Shoppe will be open. Food will be available for purchase. The Glass House Museum will be specially decorated just for the holidays. Farm tours are at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Glass House Museum Tours are at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 12 noon & 1 p.m. Tours are \$5 per person per tour or \$8 per person for both tours.

Holiday on the Farm is sponsored by the City of San Ramon, San Ramon Historic Foundation and Chevron. Forest Home Farms Historic Park is located at 19953 San Ramon Valley Blvd. in San Ramon. For more information call (925) 973-3284. Visit our website at www.SanRamon.ca.gov.

Book Documents History of Rose Hill Cemetery

A new book published this year by the East Bay Regional Park District documents the history of the Rose Hill Cemetery, now a part of Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve in Antioch. The book, written by Supervising Naturalist Traci Parent, is based on her 30 years of research into the history of the people buried there.

From the 1860s to the turn of the 20th century, Black Diamond was the site of California's largest coal-producing region. Known as the Mount Diablo Coal Field, the area once boasted the five thriving communities of Nortonville, Somersville, Stewartville, West Hartley and Judsonville.

Rose Hill Cemetery was created in the early 1860s and served as a Protestant burial ground for the coal field families. Although over

200 burials have been documented through research, it is likely that more internments exist. Once the site of neglect and vandalism, the cemetery and many of its grave-stones have been painstakingly restored over recent decades by Park District rangers.

Researched over three decades through newspaper accounts, obituaries, and family histories, *Rose Hill: A Comprehensive History of a Pioneer Cemetery* is the only comprehensive account of the people interred in the cemetery.

Through the records brought together in the 1000-plus-page book, details come to light not just of the residents' deaths, but also of their lives in the then-remote yet bustling communities of the Mount Diablo Coal Field. Accounts of town concerts, weddings

and celebrations paint a picture of the lighter side of life in the towns, in a time when horse-and-buggy was the common mode of transportation, and modern sewage and plumbing were not yet available in this rural community.

Daily life in the mining towns was filled with challenges and hard work. In fact, the majority of the individuals interred in the cemetery are children who died from disease when epidemics swept through the coal field. Some of the more prevalent diseases to claim young lives were diphtheria, scarlet fever, and smallpox. Advertisements and newspaper articles of the day reference cures—many of dubious efficacy. Other articles offer practical advice for limiting contagion. Mine explosions, other industrial mishaps, and horse-rid-

ing accidents were the cause of many of the adults' deaths.

With over 600 images, including diagrams, photographs and contemporary newspaper accounts, the book gives the reader a fascinating look into local history and life as it once was in the coal towns of East Contra Costa County.

The book *Rose Hill: A Comprehensive History of a Pioneer Cemetery* is available at the Black Diamond Visitor Center for \$65. Proceeds from the sale of the book are used for the repair of grave-stones in Rose Hill Cemetery.

For more information about obtaining the book or visiting Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve, contact the East Bay Regional Park District at www.ebparks.org or by calling the Park District at 1 (888) 327-2757.

Milestones

Valley Community Bank Founder to Retire

Valley Community Bank has announced that Brent Chaney, senior vice president and manager of its Pleasanton, office, will retire on December 2, 2011. He is a founder and one of the original organizers of the bank, which opened in 1998.

A graduate of University of California at Davis and a U.S. Air Force veteran, Chaney began his banking career in 1973 with Wells Fargo Bank. His professional experience includes consumer and commercial banking, mortgage lending, retail banking and financial product sales management in several locations throughout Northern California. Before coming to Valley Community Bank from U.S. Bank, he spent 16 years with Wells Fargo Bank and served in management positions at three other banks.

Chaney was an active 13-year member of The Network Exchange where he served two terms as president and was president of the Board of Directors for The Foundation for

Axis Community Health.

Undecided about a career path after college, Chaney took the advice of a professor, Hoy Carman, who suggested he try banking. "He said, 'I think you'd be good at it,'" remembers Chaney. "He must have been right because I stayed 40 years. I've enjoyed being involved with a wide variety of businesses and industries. Every day is different. It has always been an interesting job and it's been gratifying to help people and assist businesses in achieving their goals."

Rick Loupe, president and CEO of Valley Community Bank, stated, "Brent has been invaluable both in helping to organize our bank and establishing it as a significant member of the community. He will be sorely missed."

Chaney and his wife plan to spend more time with their grandchildren and tackle household projects at their home in Walnut Creek, where they have lived for 25 years.

Celebration at Heritage Estates

Heritage Estates in Livermore has invited over one-hundred local Livermore businesses and partners to await Saint Nicholas' arrival on Tues., Dec. 6 from 5 to 7 p.m., just like those in many Northern and Central European countries on this evening.

In Europe, on the eve of December 6 exited and anxious children polish their shoes and usually display them on window sills. Saint Nicholas, the patron saint of children, secretly arrives and places chocolates, mandarins and other goodies in one shoe acknowledging that the child behaved and was a good family member. However, usually coal or rocks are placed in the second shoe, symbolizing the mischievous side in all of us.

During this festive reception traditional hot "glue wine" or mulled wine, Kir Royal, roasted chestnut hors d'oeuvres and other mouth-watering Dutch, Belgian, Swedish, German and Central European delicacies will be offered. Enjoy Santa Claus stories as told by our residents with European roots!

"Our resident mix is so international. Here at Heritage Estates we don't only celebrate American Holidays, but we like to acknowledge and educate our residents of lesser known or recognized holidays, like Bodhi Day, Rohatsu, Hanukkah, Kwanza, Ashura and Yule. We thought that our local business partners would enjoy an 'early' holiday get-together in a festive setting."

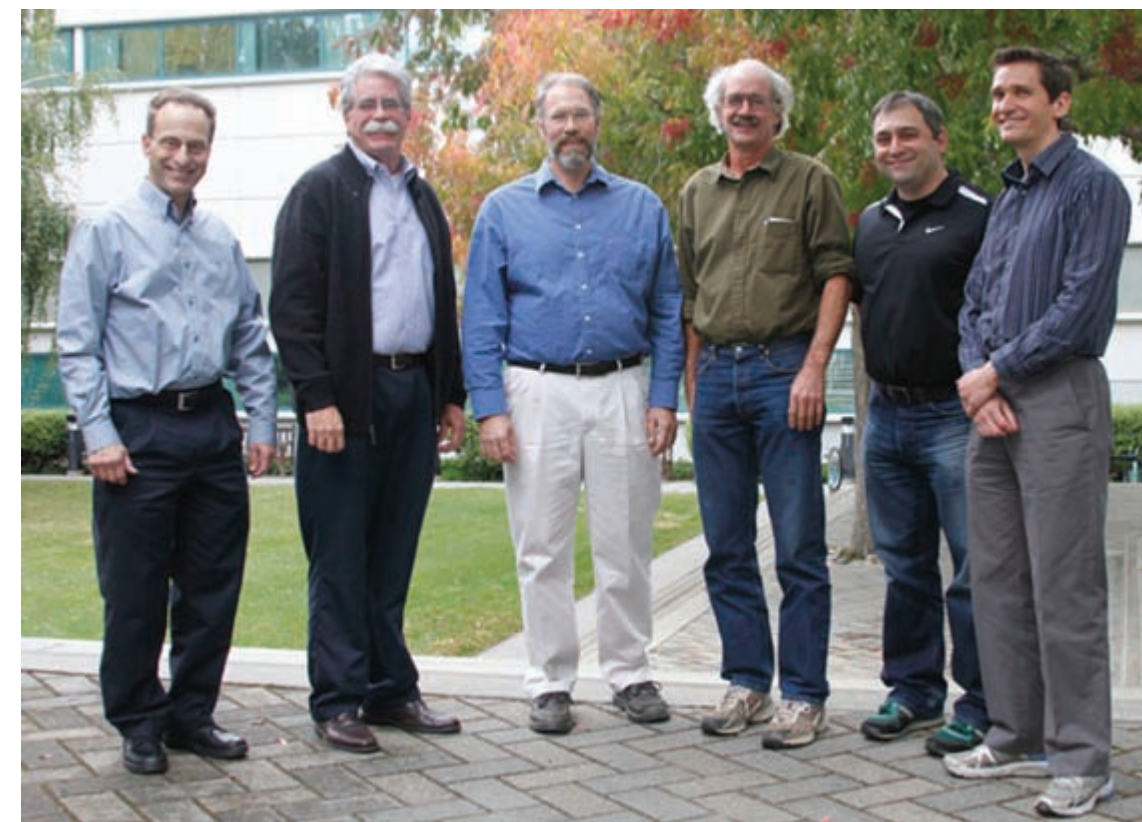
Caltrol, Inc. Earns Western Region Award

Caltrol, Inc, an employee owned company, with headquarters in Las Vegas, Nevada, and a branch office in Pleasanton, has been awarded "2012 ESOP Company of the Year" for the Western Region.

ESOP (Employee Stock Ownership Plan) Western Region is made up of over 360 different employee

owned companies in California, Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, and Utah.

The ESOP Company of the Year award recognizes companies that have demonstrated a commitment to the economic value of the ESOP to benefit their employee-owners. They promote their ESOP in all



Pictured, from left) are Tom Buscheck, Roger Aines, Wayne Miller, Mark Havstad, Chris Spadaccini and Todd Weisgraber. Photo by Julie Korhummel/LLNL

Community

DOE Recognizes Work of Lab Employees

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory researchers Roger Aines, Tom Buscheck, Mark Havstad, Wayne Miller, Christopher Spadaccini, and Todd Weisgraber have been presented with the Department of Energy Secretary's Achievement Award for their contributions to flow rate calculations for the Macondo Well in response to the Deepwater Horizon oil rig disaster.

The Livermore group was part of the Flow Rate Technical Group/Nodal Analysis Team, made up

of researchers from LLNL, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Oak Ridge National Laboratory and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and led by the National Energy Technology Laboratory. Teams from each facility were tasked with estimating the flow rate from the well using different methods. The Lab team approached the problem using calculations based on the properties of the oil, well bore ge-

ometry and damage that occurred due to the explosion. The collective work of the research teams also accounted for the sequence of attempts to cap the well.

On Oct. 27, Secretary of Energy Steven Chu recognized the Flow Rate Technical Group/Nodal Analysis Team for these efforts with the Secretary's Achievement Award, one of the highest internal nonmonetary recognition awards that DOE employees and contractors can receive. The award is bestowed upon a team of DOE employees or contractors who together accomplished a significant achievement on behalf of DOE.

"We worked with an extraordinary group of people, and while our mission was challenging at times, I was really pleased with the way the teams from the different labs came together," said Todd Weisgraber, leader of the Livermore team's efforts. "We are greatly honored to be recognized for the work that we did."

aspects of their work – internally, to their employee-owners, and externally, in marketing, sales and community service. They are involved in the broader ESOP community, volunteering, speaking at conferences, and in government relations.

The winner of this award will

be the California/Western States Chapter's nominee for 2012 National ESOP Company of the Year. The winner wins a free registration to the conference in San Diego, CA in 2011 and also to the Annual Meeting in Washington DC in May 2012.

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.)

Donlon Elementary in Pleasanton is holding its annual Holiday Boutique & Bake Sale fund-raiser on Friday, December 2 from 2:30-6:30 p.m. at the school, 4150 Dorman Road Pleasanton. Admission is free. There will be over 30 high quality, handcraft vendors who personally design and sell everything from jewelry, holiday decor and ornaments, wooden doll houses, repurposed journals, lotions, candles, original artwork t-shirts, gourmet gift baskets, knit and crochet items, children's toys and clothing, note cards and paper art, teacher gifts, and the list goes on and on. Over 30 raffle prizes. Holiday goodies at bake sale tables. All raffle and bake sale proceeds go directly to Donlon's Parent-Faculty Club, which supports school-wide activities and classroom enrichment. For more information, please email us at donlonboutique2011@gmail.com.

Christmas Boutique, Dec. 3 at Veteran's Hall, 5th and South L Streets, Livermore, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Refreshments available. Hosted by Unit 287 Ladies Auxiliary of the Fleet Reserve Association. Funds help troops stationed overseas and/or a veterans's project in Livermore. Vendors interested in participating, contact Polly, 925-447-5986.

Holiday Book Sale, Friends of the Dublin Library on Sat., Dec. 3 from noon to 3 p.m. at the Library, 200 Civic Plaza, Dublin. A great selection of beautiful hardcover books in excellent condition, ideal for gift giving will be offered. They include children's books, holiday books, gourmet cookbooks, collections, gift books, games, and more. Dublin Library (925) 828-1315.

Holiday Boutique, benefit for children and families, at ArtSpace Gallery & Custom Framing on Sat., Dec. 3rd from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Proceeds will benefit A Touch of Love Foundation, directed by Wayne and Vickie Galler of Ventura CA. Cookies and tea will be served. The gallery is located in downtown Livermore at 133 S. Livermore Ave. Handcrafted pieces for sale will include soft embellished merino wool shawls, jewelry sets, bracelets, blouses, and decorative boxes, all priced from \$10-45. More information is available at the gallery (925) 371-2500 and at www.atouchoflove.org.

Texas Roadhouse Drive Thru, fundraiser for Jackson Avenue Elementary School PTO, Thurs., Dec. 15, 5 to 7 p.m. pick up in the school parking lot. Ready to eat meal, \$12 each (nearly half goes to PTO) and includes a pulled pork and rib meal, baked beans, coleslaw and bread. For information on how to order go to <http://jackson.schoolloop.com> and click on groups, then Jackson PTO, click on the current fund-raisers on the right hand side. Last day to pre-order is Thurs., Dec. 8. Information, contact Pam Ison at 292-9923.

Free Flu Shots, Alameda County Public Health nurses will be administering free flu shots for Seniors on Wednesday, December 7 between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. at the Robert Livermore Senior Center on 4444 East Ave, Livermore. Questions call (925) 560-5860

Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club will meet on Thursday, December 8, 7 p.m. at Alisal School's multipurpose room, 1454 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. The speaker will be Gary Bogue, wildlife columnist for the Times, whose topic will be "wildlife in the garden." Visitors are welcome. For more information call Bev at 925-485-7812 or visit www.lavgc.org.

Widowed Men and Women of Northern CA., general meeting Wed., Dec. 7, 1:30 p.m. Dublin Library, voting for officers. Birthday dinner in Dublin, Dec. 10, 4 p.m. RSVP by Dec. 7 to Marge 828-5124. Lunch in Pleasanton, Dec. 15, noon, RSVP by Dec. 12 to David 833-7547. Happy hour in Pleasanton, Dec. 15, 5 p.m. RSVP by Dec. 13 to Kathy 398-8005 or Marge 828-5124. Nuncrackers Play in Pleasanton, Dec. 18, 2 p.m., RSVP by Dec. 12 to Ruby, 462-9636. Lunch in San Ramon, Dec. 28, 11:30 a.m., RSVP by Dec. 26 to Marsha, 830-8483.

Valley Spokesmen Bicycle Touring Club, Sat., Dec. 3, 55 miles from San Ramon to Castro Valley and Moraga, meet 10 a.m. at San

Ramon Bollinger Park & Ride, Alberto Lanzas, 510-825-9581. Sun., Dec. 4, 25 miles country club loop, meet 9:30 a.m. at Draeger's Market in Blackhawk, Karin Ball, 408-406-2286. Wed., Dec. 7, 38 miles through Livermore vineyards, meet 10 a.m. Gail Blanco, 872-1001. Club meeting and election of officers, Dec. 7, 7 p.m. Round Table Pizza in Dublin. Anyone planning to go on a ride is asked to contact the leader for details on where to meet and what to bring.

Try Winter Vegetable Gardening. Garden of Grace Learning Series, Session 1. Saturday, Dec. 3, 11:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. at Garden of Grace behind the Asbury Methodist Church, 4743 East Avenue, Livermore. Rain or shine. Session will cover indoor seed starting, winter crop selection, crop protection, weather issues. Class taught by Mark S. Brunell, Alameda County Master Gardener and Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Univ. of the Pacific. No cost. www.asburygardenofgrace.org or msbrunell@hotmail.com

Ohlone Audubon, meets 7:30 p.m. December 6 at Pleasanton, Middle School, 5001 Case Ave Pleasanton. Software developer Steve Patt will demonstrate benefits of his Birdwatcher Diary app on recording bird sightings, bird counts, life list, etc. Following the program will be the members slide show and cookies exchange. No admission charge. Refreshment served. For more information call 925-447-8843 or go to web site www.ohloneaudubon.org.

Pleasantonians 4 Peace, sponsoring a candlelight Vigil on Wed., Dec. 14 at 7 p.m. in front of the Museum on Main, 603 Main Street, downtown Pleasanton. Participants will reflect on the human and monetary costs of the war, honor veterans who have sacrificed, and visualize ways of moving beyond this conflict to a more peaceful world. Peaceful War Protest on the fourth Wednesday of the month, December 28, between 5 - 6 at the corners of First and Neal Streets. Questions?? Call Cathie Norman at (925) 462-7495; Matt Sullivan at mjs7882@gmail.com; or kdowling@pacbell.net. www.Pleasantonians4Peace.org

Pleasanton, American Legion Post, 237 P.O. Box 823, Pleasanton Ca. 94566. If you served we want you to join our post. Send a "copy" of your dd214 to the American Legion address along with phone number/email and we will contact you. Attend a meeting at 301 Main St., Pleasanton on the second Tuesday of each month from 1930-2030 hrs and meet other veterans. We are involved with active duty personnel so now you can help those who served after you. Members are from every branch of service from the entire Tri-Valley area.

Tri-Valley, Diablo Valley and San Ramon Valley Democratic Clubs, seasonal potluck dinner party, 7 to 9:30 p.m. Sat., Dec. 10. IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Pkwy, Dublin. Present will be Representatives Pete Stark and Jerry McNerney, Assemblymember Joan Buchanan and Senator Mark DeSaulnier. Please bring an appetizer, beverage, or dessert to share. The elected officials will provide the main courses. Here is your chance to meet and talk with elected representatives in a relaxed venue and enjoy the company of fellow democrats. Please RSVP by 12/7 to EllisG237@aol.com or james.r.donnelly@comcast.net

FIRST Lego League is holding its annual robotics tournament in Livermore on December 3 from 9:00-4:00 at Our Savior Lutheran School, 1385 S. Livermore Avenue. Come watch the fun as 12 student robotics teams from the all over the Bay Area, including 5 Livermore teams, put their Lego-based robots into head-to-head competition. FIRST Lego League's mission is to help students find the fun and excitement in science and technology through friendly competition. The League is open to children ages 9-14.

Armchair Travelers, a monthly program, will take place at the Livermore Civic Center Library on Thurs., Dec. 8, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Carol Wilson will show digital photographs of her five-week adventure in India. Carol traveled to India as part of the UC Davis Study Abroad program, and visited New Delhi and Pondicherry during her stay. 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.

San Ramon Valley Newcomers Club, invites new & long-time residents to its monthly luncheon on Dec. 15 at Bridges Golf

Club Restaurant, 9055 S. Gale Ridge Rd., San Ramon. 11:30 to 2 p.m. Cost is \$30. Annual Christmas luncheon includes a gift exchange. Call Grace, 828-8554, for information & reservations.

Would you like help with your resume? The Pleasanton Public Library is offering free consultations with an experienced Employment Recruiter. Sign up at the Reference Desk for a 20 minute consultation. Receive help with resume writing, find employment web sites, learn how to search for a job on the web, and get help with on-line applications. The Pleasanton Library has extensive support material available. For appointments call the Reference Desk at 925/931-3400. Library programs are free and open to everyone. 400 Old Bernal Ave., Pleasanton.

GNON's (Girls Night Out Networking) Tri-Valley Chapter, holiday party. Special Holiday Menu and Drinks, raffle prizes, surprises, specials and awards New unwrapped toys will be collected for the Toys for Tots program. Tuesday, December 6, 5:00 - 8:30 p.m. TGI Fridays (GNON's official caterer) 3999 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton (925) 225-1995. Cost is \$10/pp for members and \$15/pp for nonmembers. Visit www.gnontrivalley.com or call (925) 487-4748. Please RSVP by December 2nd at gnoners@gmail.com

Boy Scout Troop 934 is offering recycling of home and office inkjet and toner cartridges to help the Pleasanton community protect and conserve natural resources. Instead of throwing away used inkjet and toner cartridges, drop them off at U.S. Bank, 749 Main Street, Pleasanton, or arrange for a pick at your local business by contacting the scouts at recycle@bstroop934.com.

Love A Doll Club meets on the second Thursday morning of each month. Come share the love, knowledge and collection of dolls and doll related items. For more detailed information, call 925-447-5149.

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 and is dedicated to the continued support of our 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.

VFW Post 7265, Livermore, invites Veterans of Foreign Wars, all military branches, to join the group. Any age veteran welcome to meetings held 1st and 3rd Mondays at 7 p.m. (2000 hours), 522 South L St., Livermore. Camaraderie, support, connections, advocacy, distinction and community service. Information, contact Vice Commander Virgil Stanger at 455-5039 or go to www.vfwwebcom.org/ca/post7265.

Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), Josefa Higuera Livermore Chapter, meets 9:30 a.m. first Saturday of the month from September to May at Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., Livermore. DAR is a women's service organization. Members are descended from a patriot of the American Revolution and are dedicated to patriotism, preservation of American history, and securing America's future through education. Contact Maris at 443-3087 or mhl3frog@yahoo.com.

D.A.R. Daughters of the American Revolution, Jose Marie Amador Chapter, Pleasanton. Meetings first Saturday of the month. Group is comprised of descendants of Patriots of the American Revolution. It is a service organization that provides contests, awards and scholarships. For members, prospective members, and information on meeting location, contact Ann 510-507-5509 or anarisco@comcast.net.

Pleasanton Military Families is a Pleasanton based support group for those who have a loved one serving in the Military. The group gathers at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of each month to share concerns, fears, and to celebrate the joys that are experienced. There is no better support than being surrounded by others who know what you are going through. Three times per year, the group collect supplies and sends care packages to the troops. Please contact PMFSG.ca@gmail.com for the location of the next meeting.

Livermore Military Families, a support group for families in Livermore who have a loved one serving in the Military, is intended to be a safe place for family members to come and share their experiences and concerns with others who understand what they are going through. All family members are welcome to attend meetings. Meetings on the 3rd Thursday of each month at the Livermore Veterans Memorial Building, 522 South L Street from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. For more information please call Tami Jenkins, 925-784-5014 or email livermoremilitaryfamilies@yahoo.com.

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.

Volunteer Drivers Needed, Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley is looking for Volunteer Drivers to transport seniors to their medical appointments. The Senior Transportation Program supplements existing public and paratransit services by providing rides via volunteer drivers. Volunteers must have a valid driver's license, a registered vehicle, carry automobile liability insurance, and have a clear DMV record. Please contact Jennifer Cullen for more information at (925) 931-5387 or email: ja.cullen@yahoo.com. Funding for this program is provided by Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC) and Measure B Funds.

The Bingo Ranch, 3070 Pacific Ave. in Livermore and is open Mondays, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturdays. Buenas Vidas Youth Ranch has been running Bingo for 16 years and is now working with Livermore Charter, Christensen, Arroyo Seco, East Avenue, Livermore High and Granada High schools, Pleasanton Seahawks and All American Sports Academy Teams. Come play Bingo and support the kids in the Valley. Call 925-606-7777 for more information.

RELIGION

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; worship 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.

Bible Study, offered Wednesdays, 7:30 to 8:30 PM at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 6100 Paseo Santa Cruz, Pleasanton. Refreshments served at no cost. 925-305-9468.

Granada Baptist Church, 945 Concanon 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.

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 Bible study at 6:45 and NRG and Re.Gen for youth, and children's CHR for kids. Child care during all events. 447-1848, www.trinitylivermore.org.

Tri-Valley Unity Church, 2260 Camino Ramon, San Ramon. Class for children, ages 4-8, plus new pre-teen and teen program, dur-

ing church service, 10-11:15 a.m. Sundays. Ongoing adult classes and small groups. All are welcome. Rev. Harriet Hawkins, minister. www.trivalleyunity.com (925) 829-2733.

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.

Women's Christmas Tea, Saturday, December 3, 2:00-4:00 pm, CrossWinds Church, 6444 Sierra Court in Dublin. \$15 covers the afternoon of fellowship, fun and a light lunch. Come and join us amidst the busyness of the holiday season to enjoy some girl time. For information on registering or to be a hostess for a table of eight, contact Samantha Leggat, 925-560-3822 or email sleggat@crosswind-church.org.

Advent Class on Angels, The Rev. Debbie Low-Skinner will offer a three-week Christian Education class called "Angels in the Bible and in Everyday Life." Topics include what are angels, who are the archangels, what kind of angels make up the angelic hierarchy, where are angels mentioned in the Holy Bible, and are angels still around today. Classes are open to everyone. They are Sundays, December 4, 11, and 18 at 12:00-12:45 pm in the Rector's Office at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, 678 Enos Way, Livermore; (925) 447-3289, www.saintbartslivermore.com.

Advent Play, The Four Candles, Friday, December 2, 7:30-9:00 p.m. St. Charles Borromeo, 1315 Lomitas Ave. Livermore, \$5.00/person. People of all ages are invited to join the St. Charles Community for Sam Kauffman's interactive musical presentation - The Four Candles - that uses the Advent wreath as a symbol of God's light and tells the story of each candle. Hospitality will follow in the Hall. For more information contact Julie at upcatholic@aol.com or 925-447-4549 ext 114.

Living the Peace of St. Francis - Advent evening of reflection, Sunday, December 4, 7:30-9:00 p.m. St. Charles Borromeo, 1315 Lomitas Ave., Livermore, \$5.00/person. Fr. Ed Shea, OFM who will be leading the evening of reflection based on the Prayer of St. Francis. All are invited to join the St. Charles Community for the evening of reflection followed by hospitality in the Hall. For more information contact Julie at upcatholic@aol.com or 925-447-4549 ext 114.

Stepping Stones on Grief Journey workshop, bi-monthly event. St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Dr., Pleasanton. 2nd and 4th Thursday at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 8 & 22, 2011 Jan. 12 & 26, 2012 Feb. 9 & 23, 2012 and March 8 & 22, 2012. No pre-registration is necessary. These sessions are open to all, regardless of religious affiliation. Mary Hagerty at 925-846-5377 for more information.

Christmas Sing-Along, Potluck, and Raffle/Auction - at Tri-Valley Unity Church, Dec. 4, starting at 10 a.m. The Sunday service will feature a message by Rev. Harriet Hawkins and music by Clayton Foor and his Bay Area Festival Chorus. At 11:15 the potluck, carol sing-along, and raffle/auction will begin. Over 30 raffle items include food baskets with wine, chocolates, cheeses, jams, homemade candies; service baskets including local trips, energetic healing sessions, massages, and live music for your party; restaurant certificates, children's items, art supplies, original paintings, spiritual CD's, and more. 2260 Camino Ramon, San Ramon. Nancy at nmontier@comcast.net (510) 886-9303.

Catholicism, St. Michael Catholic Church in Livermore will screen all ten episodes of Father Robert Barron's groundbreaking "Catholicism" series, followed by a question and answer session led by Suzanne Slupesky, Catholic theology scholar. One episode will be featured per night for 10 consecutive Mondays: January 9 through March 12, 2012, from 6pm - 9pm in St. Michael Parish Hall located on the 300 Block of Maple Street, Livermore, California. Admission is free. Learn what Catholics believe and why. Discover the full meaning of the faith. For additional information on Father Barron's series visit <http://www.catholicismseries.com>. St. Michael Parish, 458 Maple Street, Livermore, 925-447-1585.

Centerpointe Church, 3410 Cornerstone Court, Pleasanton. Services: 9 a.m. blended-style with choir and band, family worship. 10:30 a.m. contemporary led by band, Sunday School for children and middle-schoolers. www.centerpointechurch.org; 925-846-4436.