

THE INDEPENDENT • SECTION A



Find Out What's Happening

Check Out Section A

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

Council to Look at Parallel Tracks In Deciding Golf Course Future

The Springtown Golf Course will be kept in "suspended animation" while the Livermore City Council gathers information to use in determining the future of the facility.

City staff had recommended closing the golf course and beginning a master planning process to look at future uses for the site.

A crowd of over 300 filled the Elks Lodge for the

special council meeting on Monday to hear from residents on what they would like to see happen. One group wanted to keep the golf course open; a second group wants the council to close the golf course and consider other uses for the property. Neither viewpoint favored any housing development. The council will follow a parallel process that includes both closing

and keeping open the golf course.

To deal with the potential for housing, the council voted unanimously to place a citywide initiative measure on the November 2016 ballot. Its wording would preclude any future council from rezoning the 85-acre to residential and then approving housing. If the measure were approved, a second citywide

vote would be required to allow for housing. Councilmember Stewart Gary made the motion.

The council directed staff to proceed with two other actions.

One would involve proposing a master planning process that considers future uses for the golf course. The vote was unanimous. A report for the council would include a macro assess-

ment regarding the cost of converting and maintaining open space. A consultant would be brought on board to provide the council with a better idea of the cost of open space versus the cost of a golf course, including potential subsidies.

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District and Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District will

(See GOLF COURSE, page 5)

Cook-Kallio to Run for Assembly

Former Pleasanton City Councilwoman Cheryl Cook-Kallio has announced plans to seek the Democratic Party nomination for the 16th State Assembly seat in the state's June 7, 2016 primary.

The seat is currently held by Republican Catharine Baker, who was elected in 2014. Baker is expected to be chosen by Republicans to again represent the party in the June 2016 primary.

In the past, Cook-Kallio said that she has been asked to run for the school board, board of supervisors and the assembly.

Cook-Kallio said she that last spring she was urged to run for the Assembly in 2016 by friends. She had thought about it in 2014. However, Democrats chose former Dublin Mayor Tim Sbranti as the party's candidate.

Cook-Kallio has been a public school teacher for over 39 years. She served on the Pleasanton City Council for eight years, terming out in 2014.

She retired from teaching in June. She believes the subject she taught, government and law, has provided her with expertise that would help her to get things done at the state level.

She said that she doesn't believe the 16th District receives things it needs. BART to Livermore was one example, transportation funding to improve roads another. A third need relates to school facilities.

Cook-Kallio points out that state money is needed to

(See ASSEMBLY, page 12)



Rain moved the annual Dublin tree lighting indoors last Thursday. The weather didn't dampen the fun, as participants were entertained by various groups. Following the tree lighting, a special visitor from the North Pole dropped in to hear Christmas wishes. For another photo, go to page 6.

Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Pleasanton to Explore Happy Valley Annexation

Annexing Happy Valley to Pleasanton will be considered by Pleasanton, but the city is in no hurry to do so.

There is a chance that if there were an annexation, the city's commitment to a future bypass road to keep traffic off Sycamore Road and Alisal Street might not be needed. If the city annexes Happy Valley, it might implement street improvements that would bring safe traffic circulation to such a

level that the bypass road would not be necessary, Pleasanton City Manager Nelson Fialho said during an interview.

The issue of Happy Valley annexation and the bypass road came up at the city council meeting Dec. 1 during the discussion of the Lund Ranch II development. Councilmember Arne Olson made a motion that included having city staff "explore the elimination of the bypass

road, in cooperation with the annexation of all or part of Happy Valley."

The motion was approved 4-0, with Jerry Pentin recused.

The Happy Valley bypass road, if built as shown in the city's general plan, could feed traffic into a street that would also be used by Lund Ranch II. Mayor Jerry Thorne told neighborhood residents who opposed the Lund Ranch II development

because of traffic concerns, "What we do tonight, if we get rid of the need for the bypass road, will make you feel better."

There is no guarantee the bypass road would be eliminated. According to Fialho it would be highly speculative at this time. Fialho added, "Olson's motion clearly did not direct the elimination of the bypass road. Rather the direction was to add the

(See HAPPY VALLEY, page 4)

Lund Ranch II Gets Go Ahead

The Pleasanton City Council approved a new version of the Lund Ranch II development at its meeting last week. The plan was submitted by developer Greenbriar Homes in response to issues raised at previous council meetings. It was not the developers preferred plan.

The 195-acre former Lund Ranch parcel is located in the southeast hills of Pleasanton. Thirty-four acres will be developed. The remaining 161 acres will be designated as permanent open space with public walking trails.

The vote was 3 to 1, with Karla Brown opposed. Jerry Pentin recused himself from the proceedings.

It was the third meeting in a row where a decision had been scheduled. Mayor Jerry Thorne commented in saying there needs to be a decision, "I can't see bringing this back over and over as polarized as this council is. I'm throwing it back to the public to challenge its legality, referend it, whatever you want to do."

Brown had made a motion to delay the decision until the Dec. 15 council meeting, but received no second. Brown wanted time to vet the new version proposed by Greenbriar Homes.

Issues included traffic and compliance with Measure PP, the ridgeline and hillside protection measure approved by voters.

Greenbriar's preferred

(See LUND RANCH, page 4)

Lab Researchers Use 3D Printing to Build Human Physiology Outside the Body

The cardiovascular system is a complex web of tens of thousands of miles of arteries, capillaries and veins, branching throughout the body like tributaries of a great river. Researchers at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory are recapitulating this intricate network using an emerging technology: 3D bioprinting.

Researchers say the precision and 3D structures made possible through bioprinting are enabling them to more effectively reproduce human physiology outside of the body. The process will eventually lead to a better representation of each tissue system that makes up the human body.

Printing implantable organs is not in the immediate future. However, bioprinted tissue patches can be applied to toxicology studies, medical treatment testing and provide a test bed for fundamental science.

"It's going to change

the way we do biology," said Lab research engineer Monica Moya, the project's principal investigator. "This technology can take biology from the traditional petri dish to a 3D physiologically relevant tissue patch with functional vasculature."

Using a 3D printer and a "bio-ink" made of materials compatible with the human body, Moya and her team have successfully printed structures with living cells and biomaterials. The material and environment are engineered to enable small blood vessels, human capil-

laries, to develop on their own.

Initially, tubes are printed out of cells and other biomaterials to deliver essential nutrients to the surrounding printed environment. Eventually, the self-assembled capillaries are able to connect with the bio-printed tubes and deliver nutrients to the cells on their own, enabling these structures to function like they do in the body.

"If you take this approach of co-engineering with nature you allow biology to

(See 3D, PAGE 4)



The Pleasanton Holiday Parade downtown Main Street last Saturday featured a variety of entries. Marching, bands, floats, Star Wars characters, and the Balloon Platoon were among them. For another photo, go to page 6.

Photo - Doug Jorgensen

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PET OF THE WEEK

Here's Johnny! He'll be good for anyone who loves adorable orange tabbies. Don't come late - this two-month-old will go, go, go...they'll be coming from miles around to meet Johnny! Jump up and get to Valley Humane Society, 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton, Tuesday through Saturday from 10am - 4pm. For more information, visit valleyhumane.org or call (925) 426-8656. Photo - Valley Humane Society/K. Jacoby



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

A home at 3671 Chelsea Court in Pleasanton will be featured in the Great Christmas Light Fight next Monday.



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

The Livermore home was the winner in last Monday's Great Christmas Light Fight show.

Dancing Waters, Fire Win \$50,000 for Livermore Holiday Lights Designer

By Ron McNicoll

Matt Phipps' ingenuity won him a \$50,000 first prize in the ABC-TV show "The Great Christmas Light Fight," a series airing this month.

The 25-year-old Livermore resident had four other things going for him -- fire, smoke, dancing waters, and a small lake that he made himself.

The fire came from big jet-like containers, the dancing water shot up high and briefly, and the small lake was filled from the Phipps' swimming pool. They use the pool to catch rainwater during the year, he explained to the TV audience.

Contest judge Taniya Nayak, an interior designer and star of the Food Network's "Restaurant Impossible" was impressed with the containers that shot short bursts of fire into the air. She fired a couple of short bursts herself.

However, more important to Nayak was Phipps' creativity. She said that as an interior designer, she is accustomed to repurposing things. She admired the way Phipps had found ways to achieve a polished look using humble hardware store common items.

Phipps has been improving his display for the past 10 years ago. Crowds have grown so big at about 1000 people every night, that he formed a non-profit for insurance that is covering any liability in the Livermore school district parking lot on East Jack London Drive, where cars can park. It is adjacent to the Phipps' home.

Phipps was given emotional support from his parents Ken and Cheryl and girlfriend Emily Byrnes during the long hard work to put the show together. Filming was done in September. Five 12-hour days of filming were needed to come up with an eight-minute segment.

Phipps loves creating Christmas displays so much that he and a friend have started a two-man company to design shows for others. Phipps had his first job this year installing a show for an Ohio resident.

Phipps and his family knew two months ago they had won, but because of the show's rules against revealing the winners prematurely, they had to keep quiet. "It's was nice to see the world find out we had won. It was almost not real for us, until the show aired," he said.

Phipps' web page shows off the lights at livermorelights.com. A Pleasanton family, Bob and Susan Widmer, will be on "The Great Christmas Light Fight" at 9 pm. Dec. 14.

Bob Widmer said he takes a different approach, not having light shows, but instead featuring displays in his back yard, where adults and kids can see various Christmas stories. People get out of their cars in the Fairlands neighborhood, which is near Santa Rita Road, and walk through the displays at 3671 Chelsea Court. The exhibit opens at 6 p.m. and closes at 9 p.m. every night in December.

This is the 35th year that Widmer has been decorating. The big effort has come in the past few years. With a 1-acre lot, there is much to see, and also room for storage sheds to hold all the material through the year.

As per the rules of the show, Widmer could not say whether he had won or not.

Algae Bloom Found at Lake Del Valle

The East Bay Regional Park District has closed Lake Del Valle in Livermore for swimming due to a bloom of toxic blue-green algae. People and dogs should stay out of the water.

Staff detected the algae Monday afternoon near the boat launch. Water samples are being sent to a laboratory in Florida for further testing. Preliminary test results showed a toxicity of more than 20 parts per billion, which exceeds the Park District's safety threshold.

At five miles long, Lake Del Valle is the largest lake

in the East Bay Regional Park District. It is owned by the California Department of Water Resources as part of the State Water Project. The Park District is currently consulting with the State on the algae condition.

The park, including the marina and campground, remain open. Fishing and boating are safe for visitors, as long as fish are thoroughly rinsed and the guts removed. Boaters should wash their hands after having contact with the water.

Toxic algae can be fatal for dogs. The Park District

strongly urges dog owners to keep their dogs away from the lake until further notice. For people, toxic algae can cause skin irritation, diarrhea, vomiting, headaches and other symptoms.

Toxic algae continues to plague other lakes in the District, including Quarry Lakes in Fremont and Lake Chabot in Castro Valley. Toxic blooms have cleared and warning signs have been removed at Lake Temescal in Oakland and Lake Anza in Berkeley, but the lakes remain closed for the season until April 2016.



By Rob Rosas

IF YOU suffer from lower back pain and sciatica, you are among four out of five Americans who will suffer with this crippling spinal condition.

Shooting, stabbing and burning pains from the lower back region, often teamed with pain through the buttocks and down the legs are all classic symptoms of Sciatica or "pinched nerves".

In severe cases, it often leads to muscle wasting and/or numbness with a constant tingling down to the tip of the toes. Left untreated, the intense pain can rapidly wear you down and drain the joy out of life.

New Treatment Discovery

Recent advances in the treatment of sciatica and lower back pain have led to the development and huge success of Non-Surgical Re-Constructive Spinal Care.

The excellent results of this treatment have been published in major medical journals. Success rates as high as 90% now have some leading back surgeons recommending their patients to try this treatment first before considering back surgery.

In Pleasanton, you can try Non-Surgical Re-constructive Spinal Care at the Intero Chiropractic - the office of the man who has dedicated helping hundreds of people with low back pain and sciatica.

Jerry and his team of fully trained spinal care specialists have helped hundreds of patients find relief from their agonizing back pain and sciatica.

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According to Jerry, "We use a combination of ultra-advanced technology, not found elsewhere in Pleasanton, for precisely diagnosing the cause of your lower back pain and sciatica. From this, a unique program for reconstructing the damaged area causing the pain is designed; this means superior long-term results for most people."

Personal Tailored Recovery Plan

Because the treatment is non-surgical, safe and easy, most patients report an almost immediate relief from their pain.

Patient Hector H. says, "My back pain was unbearable but the worst thing was the searing burning pain I felt in my buttock and leg.

I couldn't work or do anything useful and the drugs my GP prescribed hardly did anything.

My wife insisted I respond to one of these ads, I thought it would be a total waste of time, but I'm so glad she kept on at me.

Thank goodness I called your number, I'm so much better in just a couple of weeks."

Your invitation for a comprehensive consultation and examination to pinpoint the cause of your lower back pain and sciatica...

Rossmoor News has teamed up with the spine therapy specialists at Intero Chiropractic to help readers find relief from their persistent back and sciatic pain.

All you have to do to receive a thorough diagnostic examination with their advanced technology and a comprehensive easy to understand report on your state of health is call (925)255-5805.

- **Mention this article CODE: BOS20SCMS7b and Jerry will happily reduce his usual consultation fee \$100 to just \$20.**
- **That's a saving of \$80 - So hurry, due to obvious reasons - this is a time limited offer**
- **Only 100 reader consultations available at this exclusively discounted rate.**

My advice, don't suffer a moment longer...

Find out if Non-Surgical Re-Constructive Spinal Care can help you, book a consultation with Peter and his team now by calling (925)255-5805, they are waiting to take your call today.

They actually treat the cause of your health problem, not just your symptoms.

That's why hundreds of grateful patients tell them "You gave me back my life!"

Over the years, they've treated hundreds of patients with back

problems and sciatica. The vast majority of them have enjoyed a superior, lasting relief. In fact, many who've suffered and have tried other remedies have told them they gave them back their lives!

Why Prolong Your Agony?

Call them now and get a full and thorough examination to pinpoint the cause of your problem for just \$20, the normal cost of such an exam is \$100!

Don't suffer from the pain and immobility any longer. Discover the natural treatment that can eliminate the cause of your problem and give you the safe, lasting relief you deserve.

Call them now at (925)255-5805 and cut out or tear off this valuable article to take to your appointment. You'll be entitled to a comprehensive examination to diagnose the cause of your problem - and you'll be on your way to lasting relief! Don't delay your important diagnosis and treatment another moment!


Please note, if you call during the week, they are very busy, so if they don't pick up straight away leave a message. You can even call at the weekend and leave a message to secure your spot.



Dr. Jerry Hsieh, DC says, "I've never seen a treatment as effective as Non-Surgical Re-Constructive Spinal Care for patients with sciatica or lower back pain."

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VALLEY ROUNDUP

Hearings on Downtown Proposals in January

The City of Livermore issued Requests for Proposals (RFPs) in September for a new hotel and residential mixed use project in downtown Livermore.

The RFPs are for city owned sites to the west of the Bankhead Theater and in the area near the vacant parking lot north of First Street, surrounded by Livermore Avenue, Railroad Avenue and L Street.

Developers were invited to submit for a hotel, a mixed use residential project or combined project with both components. Included in the proposal was the opportunity to include associated meeting space, a restaurant, and other amenities, and a mixed use development with new housing and commercial uses.

A total of 14 development proposals were submitted. Two are for a hotel only project, eight for a mixed use residential/commercial only project, and four a combined hotel and mixed use residential/commercial project.

The City Council will review the proposals through a public hearing process tentatively scheduled for January 11 and 12, 2016.

DSRSD Seeks Candidates

Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD) is seeking candidates for General Manager to replace Bert Michalczuk, who retired Nov. 2 after 14 years as General Manager. The District's Board of Directors selected recruiting firm Ralph Andersen & Associates to conduct the search throughout the western United States. The application deadline is Jan. 22, 2016; interviews of the top candidates will be held in February 2016.

A brochure describing desired experience and qualifications as well as the responsibilities of the position is available through the District's website at <http://www.dsrdsd.com/careers/current-openings-and-employment-information/current-job-openings> or at www.ralphandersen.com. The annual salary range is \$216,896-\$271,988; the DSRSD Board will negotiate a mutually agreed upon salary with the selected candidate.

To apply, candidates should send a cover letter, resume, and salary history to apply@ralphandersen.com. Direct questions to Heather Renschler at (916) 630-4900.

Pleasanton Revenues Up

The Pleasanton City Council voted to accept its FY 2014/15 Operating Budget (Budget) and amendments to the Budget. City Finance Director Tina Olson reported that the city's revenues exceeded the pre-Great Recessions of 2008 by more than \$10 million.

"With respect to this end of year budget review, coupled with the strength of the economy overall, I'd say we had a pretty good year," said Nelson Fialho, City Manager for Pleasanton.

Of the \$5.7 million surplus, City Staff recommended the following allocations: 10% reserve for economic uncertainties \$374,000; unassigned fund balance \$2,426,211; repair and replacement fund reserves \$500,000; and CIP reserves, \$2,408,218.

Historically, property tax revenues are the single largest revenue source for the General Fund and account for nearly 52% of total revenues. Sales tax revenue is the second largest source.

The City realized nearly \$700,000 more in property taxes for FY 2014/15 than was anticipated. Sales tax revenue

exceeded expectations by \$160,654.

"We generated more revenue due to a strong economy and we saved more money due to being fiscally prudent, which is always a good recipe for financial success. We set a year-end goal of having a rainy day reserve equal to 20% of our expenses, and we exceeded that goal," Fialho concluded.

Flags Flown Half at Staff

Alameda County lowered the flags at all County buildings to honor the victims of a mass shooting that occurred Wednesday at the Inland Regional Center in San Bernardino, California. Fourteen people were killed in the shooting and 21 people were injured.

"On behalf of Alameda County, I wish to extend my condolences to the victims, families and friends affected by this senseless act of violence in San Bernardino," said Supervisor Scott Haggerty, President of Alameda County Board of Supervisors.

Police Arrest Burglar Suspects

On Thursday, December 3, 2015 at 9:36 a.m. a resident of Heatherlark Circle in Pleasanton heard a loud noise in her backyard and was startled to find a young Hispanic male "wearing a gray 'hoodie' jacket" prowling around behind her home. When he saw her, he immediately vaulted back over the fence and fled. She called the police. When officers responded, they were unable to locate anyone matching the description.

About an hour later a homeowner on South Valley Trails, observed a black Ford Mustang convertible unknown to her neighborhood speed onto Haleakala Road and park alongside a neighbor's home. Three young Hispanic males exited the car; two of them entered the rear yard of a neighboring home while the driver remained standing by his car. Pleasanton Police were called. Officers arrived on scene to make contact with the driver and establish a perimeter around the home. A subsequent search of the house confirmed it had been broken into via a rear window. However, the two seen entering the home were no longer inside.

Within five to ten minutes, an undercover officer driving along Hopyard Road near Valley Avenue spotted two young

Hispanic males wearing gray hoodie jackets walking from the Arroyo trail across to the shopping area near Bill's Cafe restaurant. He continued to watch them until officers could arrive. During this time, one of them attempted to hide an article of jewelry under a car. While initially uncooperative and in denial of their involvement, they were nonetheless positively linked to the break-in on Haleakala Road. Subsequent questioning during the investigation revealed that one of the suspects, a 17-year-old juvenile out of San Jose, was also the individual seen by the homeowner on Heatherlark Circle. A vehicle search of the Mustang parked on Haleakala Road yielded several items of property taken from an unreported burglary that also occurred at a neighboring home on Heatherlark Circle.

All three suspects were arrested on felony charges of burglary and conspiracy. The juvenile was also charged with prowling and the driver of the Mustang, 18-year-old Christian Castro-Betancourt of San Jose, was charged with possession of stolen property. The third suspect was identified as 18-year-old San Jose resident Juan Garcia-Rincon. Both adults were booked into Santa Rita Jail. The juvenile was released from the police station to the custody of his mother with a Notice to Appear.

Anyone who may have witnessed these incidents, or who may have additional information to provide on possible associated burglaries, is asked to call the Pleasanton Police Department at 925-931-5100.

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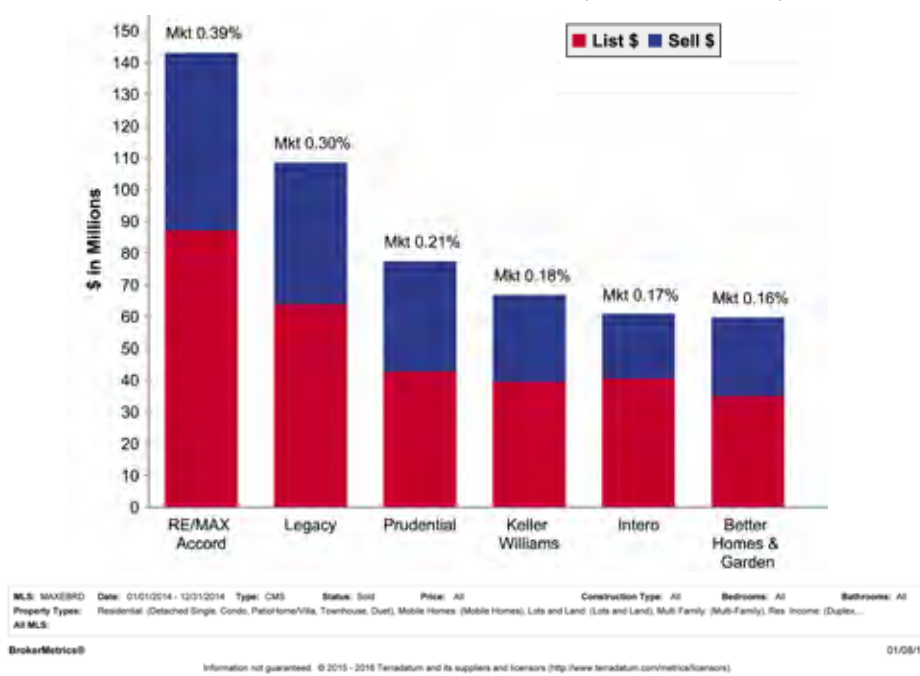
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EDITORIAL

Preserving Land

The decision by the Livermore City Council to sponsor a ballot initiative to prevent residential development on the Springtown Golf Course was the right step to take.

The goal would be to have the measure ready in time for a November 2016 city-wide vote. If approved, no development could be permitted without a vote of the electorate. The land would be preserved as open space.

One of the issues surrounding the golf course has been the belief on the part of many that the city would end up approving housing on the golf course.

Placing the matter in the hands of voters will go a long way in helping residents to explore other options without fear that open space will be replaced with housing.

HAPPY VALLEY

(continued from page one)

matter to the two-year city work-plan for review and consideration and to explore options for annexation and possible elimination of the road. This effort will take years to accomplish and may not be feasible."

Fialho said that the work that lies ahead for the city will involve first studying the option and having comprehensive discussions and community meetings with the Happy Valley community, planning commission, city council and other regional bodies, including Alameda County and LAFCO.

Owners of three properties in Happy Valley near the city have approached LAFCO recently to annex. Their motivation was to obtain water, and in some instances sewer service. During the drought, the water table has been lowered so that wells may not be as reliable as they once were. Also, Happy Valley is under severe restrictions on septic tanks over concern for potential water table pollution. No further development is allowed in the area on the southside of Pleasanton.

Thorne said at the council meeting that LAFCO, on which he serves as a commissioner, will be sending the city a letter asking for a fee reduction in city services for properties annexed into the city. LAFCO would like to have septic tanks removed.

Thorne said it's an issue the council can discuss in the future. He noted that Zone 7 Water Agency and DSRSD charge water service and sewer connection fees. Those agencies would have to be approached separately. LAFCO is involved, because part of its mission is to promote efficient delivery of services to areas, and to decide whether some unincorporated areas can be annexed to a city.

Although an annexation effort in 2002 was defeated in an election by Happy Valley residents, the vote was close. Since further emergence of water and sewer concerns, it might be possible that a majority of the Happy Valley residents would now go for annexation, said Thorne.

Residents of the area have two views. Some want the bypass in order to keep traffic out of their neighborhood. Others would like to have city water and sewer service.

Calls to a couple of Happy Valley residents by The Independent showed that residents are counting on the bypass road. Steve Mix, who lives on Alisal Street, said that he favors the bypass road, especially if there were more building on Alisal Street.

A resident on Clubhouse Drive who did not want to be named said that he is inside the city limit, as are

LUND RANCH

(continued from page one)

plan consisted of 50 homes and one access road through Lund Ranch Road. It would have been in compliance with Measure PP.

City staff had recommended two entrances. The second, over steep slopes, was considered by many to be in violation of Measure PP.

The new plan presented by Greenbriar that was approved by the council includes 48 single family homes on 34 acres. Two roads will serve as access points. One off Lund Ranch Road in Ventana Hills will provide access to 19 homes. The second, off Sunset Creek Lane in Sycamore Heights will serve the remaining 29 homes.

The Sunset Creek Lane access was redesigned to reduce impacts in terms of length, land coverage, and areas of slope. However, the plan would still be considered by many to be in viola-

tion of Measure PP.

A letter from attorney Stuart Flashman written on behalf of The Ridge & Hillside Protection Association ("RHPA"), an unincorporated association of Pleasanton residents and taxpayers, and the Sycamore Heights Neighborhood Association, states, "The city and developer have hurriedly redesigned the Sunset Creek Lane extension in an effort to garner enough support to gain approval of the project. City staff apparently feels that if they can reduce the traffic going through the Sunset Creek Lane extension, it will miraculously make it consistent with Measure PP."

He added that staff continues to assert that the Council can find that a roadway is not a structure. Even if this were true (which it is not), that would not address the retaining walls needed to construct the road due to its traversing slopes of over 25%. He asked that at the very least, the council delay a decision until the new version could be analyzed.

Access to the development has been the main issue. Assistant City Manager Brian Dolan commented, "On the one hand, opponents of a Sunset Creek Lane connection claim that the road would violate PP provisions, whereas opponents of a Lund Ranch road connection believe the opposite."

At last week's council meeting, residents from both neighborhoods voiced their opinions. Those from Ventana Hills, which would be accessed by Lund Ranch Road, said it was not an environmental issue, rather a traffic issue. They said they were already heavily impacted by traffic. In addition, they said that they had been promised by previous councils that there would be no additional access roads through their neighborhood.

Sycamore Heights residents declared the issue was an environmental one with the proposed access to Sun-

set Creek Lane in violation of the provisions of Measure PP. The measure prohibits structures on slopes 25% or greater or within 100 feet of a ridgeline. The access road plus the proposed retaining wall would violate both provisions, they argued.

Mayor Thorne agreed that prior councils had made promises to Ventana Hills that no more traffic would go through the area. "We have to make a decision. What is proposed by Greenbriar is a reasonable compromise. It does compromise the integrity of the prior council and the council as a body."

Councilmember Arnie Olson, who made the motion for approval, stated, "I believe the project should go forward." He said the plan represented a fair and balanced approach to traffic.

What constitutes a structure is one of the terms that was not defined in Measure PP. Some believe a road is a structure because it entails construction. As such a road could not be built on steep slopes. Others have said that a road should be viewed as needed infrastructure. If the road and its wall were viewed as needed infrastructure rather than a structure, then their development in the area would be legal.

Olson said the city attorney offered the opinion that the council could interpret terms in PP that were not defined. In this case, a road would be defined as infrastructure needed to provide access to 29 units, open space and trails. "While I have said that a road is a structure (as defined in the city's general plan), framers of PP indicated roads were not part of it. The modified site plan is an improvement with less impact on PP."

His motion included the provision that if the council's interpretation of Measure PP were successfully challenged, the matter would be considered null and void. The project would then return to city staff and the planning commission for

further action.

Councilmember Kathy Narum pointed out that the application would look a lot different were it not for Measure PP. The original application was for 113 homes. Now it is down to 48 homes that will be built in a bowl. The latest road is shorter and reduces grading. It saves a number of heritage trees. She indicated she was a little uncomfortable with the 19 units off Lund Ranch Road, preferring 10 to 12. However, in voting for the plan, she said, "We need to move this along."

Councilmember Brown stated, "Carving up the hill-sides to build a road or structure or anything else is in violation of Measure PP." Of the interpretation that a road is infrastructure, she said, "It looks as if we are bending the terminology, trying to find a loophole."

She was concerned that allowing the road would set a precedent that future councils could use to circumvent the provisions in the measure.

City Attorney Jonathan Lowell had earlier in the meeting told the council that terms used in PP were ambiguous, such as ridgeline and structure. Now with the application of the measure, the council can define the terms. If litigated, the court will give deference to a legislative body's determination.

Attorney Flashman offered a different view, saying that the council has to look at the intent of voters. In his opinion, if the council's determination does not reflect what voters want, a court will kick it out.

A SECOND MOTION
A second motion by Councilmember Olson drew an unanimous vote. Staff was directed to proceed with the following tasks:

One would be to work with neighbors in Ventana Hills to come up with traffic calming solutions on Junipero and Independence Drives.

Second, work with Alameda County to explore elimination of the Happy Valley bypass road in conjunction with a comprehensive annexation of all or parts of the Happy Valley area. Removing the bypass road would lessen future traffic going through the Sycamore Heights area.

Third, map the ridges in the southeast hills. The map is to be brought back to the council within one year for consideration and adoption. "We need to define where the ridges are located."

his neighbors in a 34-lot development. They have traffic problems, and would like to see the bypass road built.

The resident noted that a judge upheld a suit that said Pleasanton must eventually build the bypass road.

The road was supposed to be paid by development on the Spotorno property. However, the developer did not move forward, because of the recession. Now a further discouragement is Measure PP, which would prevent roads from being constructed on steep grades on the property.

Asked for comment on the judge's decision, or any future lawsuits over not building a bypass road, Fialho said, "It is premature to discuss lawsuits or challenges to any elimination of the road without first studying the road and annexation matters, and involving the stakeholders."

Openings on LARPD Personnel Commission

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District Board of Directors is seeking applicants to serve on the Personnel Commission.

LARPD is accepting applications through 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 18. Commissioners are appointed by the Board to four-year terms.

The Commission acts as a volunteer body that monitors and advises the Board

on the District's personnel policies, approves the eligibility list for the hiring of full-time staff, hears appeals of disciplinary actions and makes recommendations to the Board of Directors on matters of personnel administration. The Commission meets as needed, but normally not more than once a month.

Applicants must be resi-

dents of the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District.

Individuals should submit a letter of interest and information on knowledge and experience with personnel administration to District General Manager Timothy J. Barry, LARPD, 4444 East Ave., Livermore, CA, 94550. For more information about the position, call Tim Barry at 925-373-5700.

3D

(continued from page one)

help create the finer resolution of the printed tissue," Moya said. "We're leveraging the body's ability for self-directed growth. You end up with something that is more true to physiology. We can put the cells in an environment where they know, 'I need to build blood vessels.' With this technology we guide and orchestrate the biology."

Bioprinting complements a different Lab project aimed at replicating the body on a micro scale. That project, known as iCHIP (in vitro Chip-based Human Investigational Platform), re-creates and integrates the central and peripheral nervous systems, the blood-brain barrier and the heart.

"Bioprinting adds another dimension to tissue-on-a-chip platforms," said Lab research engineer Elizabeth Wheeler, the principal investigator for iCHIP. "Having

the ability to control the 3D structural environment, along with growing vessel networks to support the growing tissue, is one part of replicating the complexity of the human body."

Now in the final year of a three-year project funded by the Lab's internal research and development program, Moya has used bioprinting to create an unorganized network of blood vessels, but she wants to go a step further, engineering a directed hierarchy similar to those that exist in the body.

Soon, Moya and other researchers will be able to utilize a brand new 3D bioprinting lab containing a more precise printer capable of higher resolution and larger structures.

The technique, despite being in its infancy, is already opening doors to research opportunities previously unavailable to science.

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.)

Health Care Charles H. Margiotta Livermore

So the naysayers were right: the Affordable Care Act was a misnomer. Now that it has been implemented for a few years, we are seeing the predictable results. Premiums are skyrocketing, payments to doctors are decreasing, and more medical groups are dropping insurance plans to avoid losing large sums of money.

Those of you who drank the Obama Kool-Aid "if you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor," deserve the negative outcome you're now seeing.

Traffic Fiasco Walter Morgan, Pleasanton Barbara Hempill,

Pleasanton

A fourth consecutive Holiday Season marked by gridlocked traffic near San Francisco Premium Outlets has arrived. While a tremendous fiscal success for the City of Livermore coffers, at this time of year the outlet mall is a traffic nightmare for the surrounding community. Gridlock may have been a surprise in 2012, but since then the mall has been allowed a major expansion without addressing their traffic congestion problem. On Black Friday there was no difficulty leaving my residence, but returning to it involved an hour or longer delay. How can emergency vehicles be expected to serve the region? El Charro, Jack London, Stoneridge Drive and I-580 were all backed up a mile or more in all directions..

The failure of Livermore, Pleasanton, and Dublin to plan cooperatively for adequate traffic management at the intersection of I-580 and El Charro is a disgrace. Since all three cities are planning additional high impact development in this area, it can be anticipated that the situation will only worsen. For immediate relief, I suggest that Livermore police be assigned to divert vehicles unable to enter the mall parking lots. Cars can

be sent east to Isabel, or west and north to I-580. Although some will circle around and return, and some will give up, the present situation, filling the nearby streets with stalled cars, is a situation that should not be forced on the public.

Isabel Station Planning John Stein Livermore

I applaud your insight in seeing that the Isabel BART Station Plan represents a vision of the MTC (Metropolitan Transportation Commission) vision and not that of Livermore's residents. You also noticed that there was really only a single basic plan with only minor variations not three different plans. The plan with all multiunit housing up to six stories high seems more appropriate for downtown San Jose or Hayward than an isolated site on the edge of Livermore.

The presentation said the massive multi-story housing project being proposed would be a neighborhood, yet with the overriding goal of maximizing housing there was no space shown for new schools, parks, a public pool or community center, libraries, or more than a token amount of shopping or services. It is difficult to see

how this project will become a sustainable neighborhood.

The consultant said that the parking would be ample yet the single inconveniently located parking structure did not seem adequate for existing commuters and local users and there was no allowance for future expansion. Limiting parking limits ridership which makes it harder to justify the BART extension.

One of the stated goals was to reduce congestion on the I-580 freeway. With 4000 new housing units and 8500 new jobs proposed the increased traffic generated will probably overwhelm any BART generated traffic reduction. Traffic on I-580, Route 84 and local streets will be heavily impacted both by new commuters and residents running local errands and is likely to get worse not better..

The proposed plan does not consider Livermore's community character, protecting scenic views in the Scenic Corridor, Livermore Airport's noise or air pollution from a ten lane freeway in their design. In planning for our community's future it is important to have accurate information not vague and perhaps misleading generalizations. Thank you for pointing this out.

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Senior Housing at Kottinger Gardens Soon to Become a Reality

An idea first envisioned as early as 2001 will become a reality next year with the projected start of construction of the first phase of affordable senior

units in Pleasanton.

The idea was to replace and expand aging senior housing at Kottinger Place and Pleasanton Gardens.

The proposal began to take shape with the formation of a Task Force in early 2004 to come up with a plan to move forward. The start of construction of what

will be known as Kottinger Gardens is anticipated in early 2016.

The Pleasanton City Council received an update on the Kottinger Gardens

project at last week's council meeting.

Consisting of cottage homes and a three-story building, Phase I will be constructed on the former Kottinger Place site on Vineyard Avenue. The 50 garden units will be built first. Phase II will be built on the site currently occupied by Pleasanton Gardens.

The 51 units now at Kottinger Place will be demolished. Seniors living there will be relocated. Once construction is complete they will be moved back into the new units. The construction is expected to take about a year.

MidPen Housing Corporation, the nonprofit developer, will pay the rent for the relocated seniors that exceeds what they are playing at Kottinger Place. There is a budget of \$2.5 million for relocation expenses.

MidPen will also pay all moving expenses and assists seniors in packing their belongings. To date, most of the relocation sites are in Dublin.

The key action allowing the project to move forward consisted of HUD's (Housing and Urban Development) approval to remove Kottinger Place from its list and donate the site to the city.

MidPen was also suc-

cessful in obtaining tax credit funding and was able to sell the credits for \$1.22 each resulting in over \$20 million in equity.

The City of Pleasanton will be loaning MidPen \$13,750,000 from its low income housing fund.

Design and financing work on Kottinger Gardens Phase II will begin following the construction financing closing and construction start at Kottinger Gardens Phase I. The goal would be to complete all phases of construction by 2019.

Dolores Bengtson, a member of the task force, reminded the council that the project was first discussed in 2001. She thanked the council for making the quality, senior affordable housing a reality.

Christine Steiner thanked the council and MidPen. She suggested that any time the city has the opportunity to acquire land on which to build affordable housing the city should do so. She also suggested that with so much taken out of the housing fund, the council should consider increasing the fee or putting money in if possible. "You need land and cash for such projects," she stated.

Councilmember Karla Brown stated, "I'm looking forward to the ribbon cutting."

GOLF COURSE

(continued from page one)

be involved in the process. The report will be due back to the council by May.

The second action directs staff to open a parallel process to look at the golf course and other compatible uses that might be provided by the private sector. It would include looking at a plan proposed by Springtown resident and venture capitalist Mark Kolt.

The vote was 3 to 2, with Lauren Turner and Steven Spedowski voting "no." The two rejected the idea over concerns further subsidies may be required to keep the golf course operating. Turner stated, "I can't spend any more tax dollars on the golf course." She pointed out that more people would use open space, 85,000 versus a couple of hundred golfers each year.

Spedowski commented that the city wrote off a \$736,000 debt. "We have tried subsidizing in the past. It has not worked."

Councilmember Bob Womer, who spoke against any subsidy, was willing to look at the Kolt proposal. His goal would be for the city to get out of overseeing recreation, which he described as the job of LARPD.

One concern on the part of the council majority was appearing to enter into exclusive negotiations with one party. City staff indicated that others could come in with proposals.

City Manager Marc Roberts said that in this case a proposal has been submitted that the council could review. What is being asked for is an additional period of time to allow the Springtown Homeowners Association (SHOA) to hold discussions with Kolt. There is the beginning of a concept. The council could allow 60 to 90 days for a proposal to be fleshed out.

Of interest to the city and the council would be the risk factors. Any report would have to include the level of risk, type of risk and how any risk might be mitigated to the greatest extent possible.

Councilmember Stewart Gary commented, "It is a speculative proposal."

Kolt and SHOA will have until March to provide a report on progress. A final proposal would be due no later than May.

Public Works Director Darren Greenwood presented the reasoning behind staff's recommendation to close the golf course. The main one relates to its apparent inability to be self-sustaining, requiring ongoing financial support from the city. He estimated that \$90,000 per year would be needed to support the operation and an additional \$160,000 per year for capital replacement.

Other reasons included a lack of interest on the part of golf course operators



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Over 300 people were on hand at the Livermore City Council meeting Monday to provide input on the future of the Springtown Golf Course. People were asked to raise their hands if they agreed with a speaker.

to take on the task of running the Springtown Golf Course; a negative response to a survey of residents asking support for forming an assessment district to subsidize the golf course; and a report from the National Golf Foundation that noted that the golf course would be unlikely to succeed without increasing green fees and major improvements to the golf course. A final issue involves water. Currently, water to keep the course green is drawn from the arroyo. A permit is required each year. Greenwood said that there may come a time when a permit would not be issued. At that time, there would be a need to hook-up to the city's water system, which will be costly.

Kolt described two concepts, stating first that he believes the golf course can be sustainable and profitable. He said he didn't see why use of the golf course for walking and nature programs as well as to play golf were mutually exclusive. One concept involves development on a 6 acre site owned by SHOA; another would refurbish buildings on the site. There would be no housing as part of either concept. The idea would be to subsidize the golf course through rent paid for use of facilities.

The no development option would include exploring turning the pro shop into a restaurant. Work would be done to improve the aesthetics involving both the buildings and golf course. Options to open facilities for public use, such as the pool, would be explored.

"The best solution would be to build new facilities," Kolt stated. Buildings on the site would be demolished. Outside capital would be obtained to add office and retail space. He asked the council to hold off making a decision until he was able to identify the scope of what

is possible and work with city staff and SHOA on a concrete business plan.

Asked how he expected to raise enough money to run the golf course, Kolt replied that 25% of development is land acquisition. In this case, the land is already available. He described the plan as a long term project with long term return.

Members of the public weighed in with their ideas.

One group of people, Save the Golf Course, urged the council to extend the deadline for a decision to allow time for Kolt to flesh out his proposal.

In giving reasons for keeping the golf course, they said that since they are not allowed to fence in their yards, they are concerned about the public having access to their backyards if the golf course reverted to open space or other recreational uses. They feared property values would decline if the course were closed.

Gail Travers presented a petition with 300 signatures supporting preservation of the golf course and an analysis of the Kolt proposal. She noted that LARPD has no money to acquire, maintain, or construct recreational facilities. "If revenue can't be found to sustain the golf course, we see development in the future. The city wants to shed its responsibility as soon as possible. If the proposal by Mr. Kolt does not work, the open space option still remains."

Not all members of the SHOA favored the Kolt proposal, fearing that it would put them at personal financial risk. James Cisco said, "All attempts to preserve the golf course should be abandoned."

Opposing the continuation of the golf course were members of the North Livermore Community Alliance. They expressed the belief that open space would be far less costly and would benefit

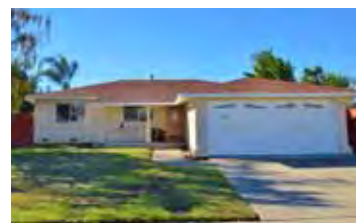
more people. North Livermore is underserved with facilities. They predicted that with access to nearby open space and greater recreational opportunities, property values would be enhanced.

Bruce Anderson declared, "I agree with staff. Keep the area as open space. It's time to move on."

Sean McMenamini noted that there is an unwillingness on the part of residents to support an assessment district. It is time to stop wasting dollars on a failed course.

Speakers suggested many ideas for uses including a farm such as the Sunol Ag Park, community gardens, nature education, nature study, job training, walking and jogging trails.

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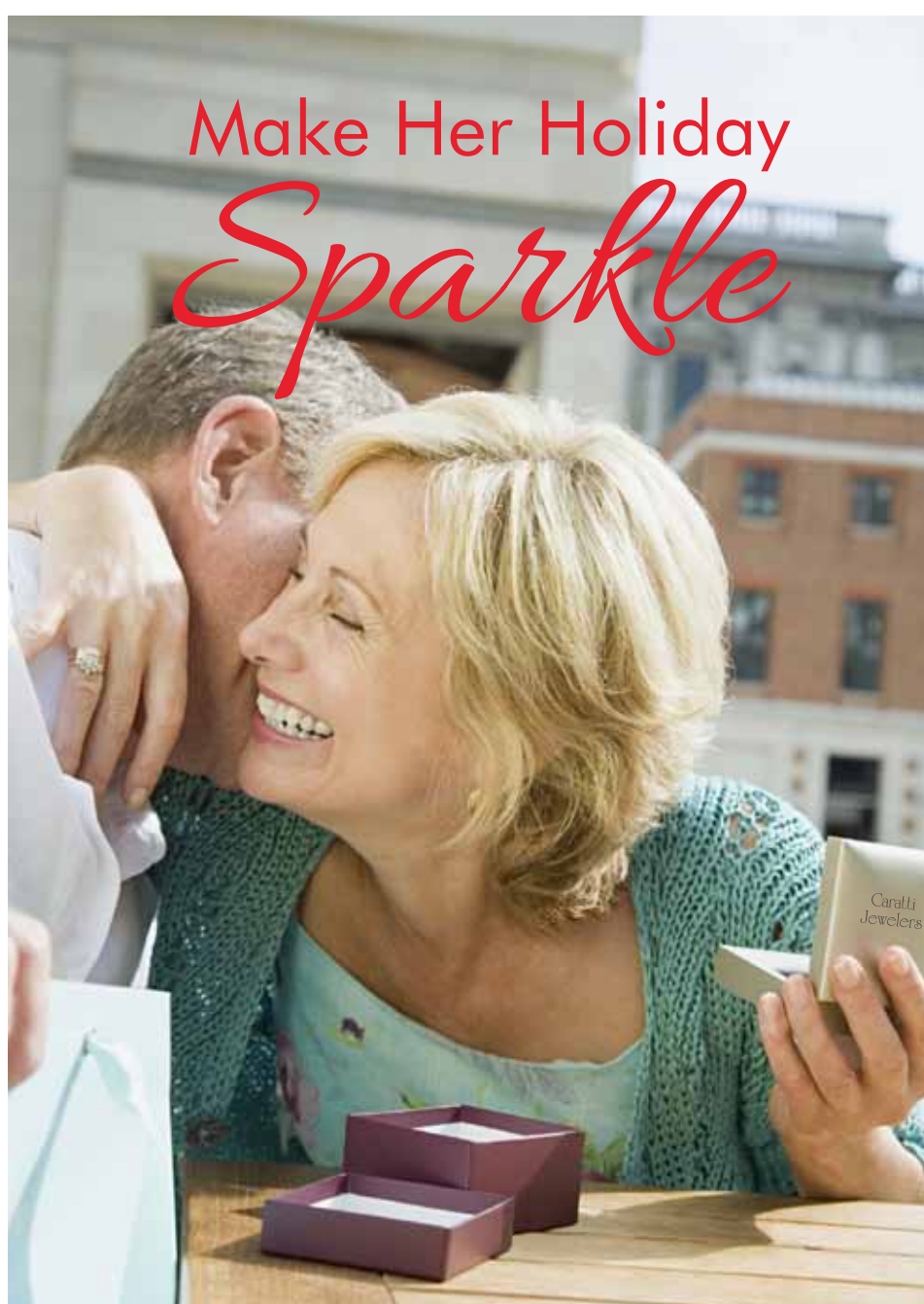
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Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Lights used in Deacon Dave's annual Christmas display light up the skies and the eyes of young visitors. This year's display was unveiled last Friday following a candlelight procession down Hillcrest Street in Livermore.



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Frozen characters from on hand to great youngsters who stopped by Lizzie Fountain last Saturday during the Home for the Holidays festivities. Anna, Olaf and Elsa posed for pictures and performed songs from the movie. The day concluded with a parade and tree lighting ceremony.



Floats were one of the popular entries in the annual Pleasanton Holiday Parade.



Carolers added to the festivities during the annual Dublin tree lighting event.



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Livermore Valley wineries opened their doors over the weekend to celebrate the annual Holidays in the Vineyards. Decorations, wine tasting, food, and gift ideas were all part of the festivities.

Schools to Participate in Safe Routes Cocoa Event

High schools in the Tri-Valley, Albany, Castro Valley, Fremont, Oakland and San Lorenzo are promoting carpooling to school this month by participating in the annual Safe Routes to Schools Cocoa for Carpools event that encourages a new generation of drivers and their parents to fill up their cars, not the roads.

The Measure B-funded Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools program, Cocoa for Carpools provides hot chocolate and encouragement for carpooling students and families when they arrive at school. The successful program is receiving the Tri-Valley Air Quality Impact Award from the Tri-Valley Spare the Air Resource Team and will be recognized at the January 14, 2016 meeting of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors.

"Students that carpool learn early-on of its benefits," says Alameda CTC Chair Supervisor Scott Haggerty, "saving time, money and the environment, reducing traffic congestion, getting a prime parking spot, and in this program, a hot cup of Cocoa for Carpools before class on these chilly mornings. Hopefully this experience will lead to future carpool practices to take advantage of the carpool and express lane network planned throughout Alameda County for I-580, I-680, I-880, and I-80."

Local 2015 Cocoa for Carpools events: December 2: Foothill High; December 15: Granada High; and December 18: Dublin High.

As sponsor of the I-580 Express Lanes and Safe Routes to Schools, Alameda CTC is encouraging all Tri-Valley Cocoa for Carpool

participants to get a FasTrak® Flex toll tag now to be ready to take advantage of the I-580 Express Lanes, which require carpoolers to have a FasTrak Flex toll tag to use the lanes for free. The express lanes will open in early 2016 and will operate Monday through Friday, 5 a.m. to 8 p.m., so those carpooling to and from school will need a FasTrak Flex toll tag.

The I-580 Express Lanes project will provide the first westbound carpool/express lane in the Tri-Valley corridor between Livermore and Dublin, and add one new carpool/express lane in the eastbound direction. All I-580 Express Lane users are required to have a FasTrak toll tag to use the lanes, and carpoolers are required to have a FasTrak Flex toll tag to use the lanes for free. It only takes two to carpool on I-580.

Beacon Lit in Remembrance of Pearl Harbor



Mt. Diablo beacon.

On Monday, December 7th, Mount Diablo's Beacon was relit by survivors of Pearl Harbor.

"The Beacon lighting is a tribute to those individuals who lost their lives at Pearl Harbor," said Earl "Chuck" Kohler, one of the few remaining survivors in Contra Costa County. However, the ceremony is also an opportunity to honor the survivors. When those who experienced Pearl Harbor are gone, the history is lost with them.

The Sons & Daughters of Pearl Harbor Survivors, Chapter 5 co-sponsored this 52nd Annual National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Ceremony with Save Mount Diablo. Presentations were made by the few remaining local Pearl Harbor survivors, Mount Diablo State Park, David Behring (President of Wheelchair Foundation), as well as Save Mount Diablo.

The Beacon on Mount Diablo was originally installed and illuminated in 1928 to aid in trans-con-

tinental aviation. It is one of the four guiding beacons installed along the west coast by Standard Oil of CA and is the only one known to still be operational. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Beacon's light was extinguished during the West Coast Blackout, for fear it may enable an attack on California. It stayed dark until Pearl Harbor Day 1964,

when Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz relit the Beacon in a commemorative ceremony and suggested it be illuminated every December 7th to honor those who served and sacrificed. Since that day, Pearl Harbor Veterans and their families have gathered every December 7th to see the Beacon light shine once again.

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SPORTS NOTES

De La Salle Ends Foothill High's Championship Run

By Travis Summers

DUBLIN – Since 1992, the “reward” for being the second-best football team in the North Coast Section has been to face national powerhouse De La Salle in the championship game.

Foothill claimed this year's prize with a 35-0 loss to the Spartans in the NCS Division I Championship, ending what had been a perfect 12-0 run through 2015.

“I thought we played like champions,” Foothill head coach Matt Sweeney said. “We battled all night. De La Salle is a phenomenal football team, but our effort was unbelievable. We fought. We fought. That's what our guys have done all year.”

Foothill (12-1) showed De La Salle (12-1) its fight earlier in the contest, as the Spartans held a slim 14-0 advantage at halftime. De La Salle has possessed a lead at halftime in all of its games this season, but the 14-point halftime margin was the its smallest since holding a 14-12 intermission in their 26-21 season-opening loss to Eules (TX) Trinity.

The Spartans gained the 14-0 advantage from its first two possessions of the game. Running back Andrew Hernandez broke free for a 35-yard score run for the

Spartans first score, before an onside kick recovery set up a 47-yard option keeper from quarterback Anthony Sweeney.

After those first two possessions, Foothill (12-1) got used to the enhanced level of competition and held De La Salle scoreless and to 80 yards of offense the remainder of the half.

“Trying to go toe-to-toe with those guys is pretty tough to do,” Matt Sweeney said. “They're bigger and faster, but our guys were resilient and tough.”

Any hopes of a Foothill upset were erased on the first play of the third quarter when Antoine Custer took the half's opening kickoff 86 yards for a touchdown.

Hernandez would then add two more touchdowns to his total with runs of 29 and 8 yards each to finish out the game's scoring. The senior running back finished with a game-high 121 rushing yards on only 10 carries, while Anthony Sweeney would add 110 yards on 10 rushes as well.

The victory captured De La Salle's 24th-consecutive NCS championship. The last time the Spartans failed to win the sectional championship was a 35-27 loss to Pittsburg in 1991's title game.

On offense, Foothill was limited by a highly-touted De La Salle defense. Foothill running back Isaiah Floyd was held to only 35 yards, his lowest total in a game this season. Floyd, a shifty, speedy runner had excelled all season with 1,809 yards, but couldn't find space to run on the outside edges due to a Spartan defense that could match Floyd's quickness going sideline-to-sideline.

“When you can't get a push anywhere it's pretty tough,” Matt Sweeney said. “Isaiah's pretty special just to get what he got against those guys.”

The loss ends a special season for Foothill that included an East Bay Athletic League championship and a perfect 10-0 run though the regular season. While the numbers the Falcons accumulated in 2015 are impressive, senior Ruben Mercado says the intangible achievements are what he'll remember most from the season.

“My teammates are what made this year possible,” Mercado said. “We all grew up together. Most of us went to the same middle school. This season was our mission from our freshman year. The tightness of our team is what I'm going to take away.”

That sense of team is



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Foothill High School's perfect season ended with a loss to De La Salle in the NCS Division 1 championship. In the photo, the Falcon defense takes on a De La Salle running back.

De La Salle	35	Foothill	0
Foothill	0	0	0
De La Salle	14	0	14
		7	-35

334. F: Isaiah Floyd 13-35, Clayton Marceau 1-12, Josh Merryman 1-1, Cash Connolly 2-0, Ben Wooldridge 6(-35). Totals: 23-13.

Scoring Summary
 DLS - Hernandez 35 run (Drake kick)
 DLS - Sweeney 47 run (Drake kick)
 DLS - Custer 86 kickoff return (Drake kick)
 DLS - Hernandez 29 run (Drake kick)
 DLS - Hernandez 8 run (Drake kick)

Passing - DLS: Anthony Sweeney 6-10-0, 43 yards; Chris Vanderklugt 1-1-0, -3 yards. Totals: 7-11, 40 yards.
 F: Ben Wooldridge 12-20-0, 120 yards; Josh Merryman 0-1-0, 0 yards; Isaiah Floyd 0-1-0, 0 yards. Totals: 12-22-0, 120 yards.

Receiving - DLS: Isaiah Randle 2-18, Andrew Hernandez 1-10, Devin Asiasi 1-8, Antoine Custer 1-5, Jonathan Harvey 1-2, Daniel Hinckley 1(-3). F: Ruben Mercado 7-64, Blake Braden 1-26, Matt Gates 2-19, Josh Merryman 1-6, Cash Connolly 1-5.

also what Matt Sweeney says is this year's defining characteristic.

“There's this thing about the 'me-first generation,' but these guys are not like that,” Sweeney said. “They can play in any decade. Everything that you can control, they did. They hustled, fought, and they were unselfish. That's what I'll remember.”



The West Coast Warlocks took the field in the State Silver Cup final with a chance to claim first place. The West Coast Warlocks focused on taking home the trophy, achieved some spectacular team soccer. Warlocks' roster includes Anthony Blake, Daniel Ramirez, Dylan Lee, Jeremy Miller, Jordan Tran, Kevin Kovacs, Tyler Wallace, Loudon Philbrick, Mark Sorensen, Raul Olmos, Salvador Ramirez, and Zachariah Valenzuela. Winning the Norcal Silver Cup closes out a great 2015 and a spectacular first year together as a West Coast team. West Coast Soccer is hosting free try-out series for U8-U-10 Boys & girls Monday & Wednesday, Dec. 14, 16 from 6-7:30. For the final session players will be separated into their groups on Saturday 1/9 - at 2:30; U11-U13 boys Monday & Wednesday - 1/11, 13, 18, 20 from 6-7:30; final session they will be separated into their groups on Saturday 1/23 at 2:30.



The West Coast Kaos U13 girls delivered two knockout punches in Norcal Premier State Cup quarter final and semifinal games over the weekend to move on to the championship. Kaos scored 5 goals in two shutout matches against Deanza Force and MVLA Lighting. Pictured is midfielder Maddie Sullivan sending a ball to her forwards.

per hand throughout the game. Klash defense was stout, led by Khushleen Hothi, Mahrosh Qazalbash, and Gaby Valenzuela. West Coast put the pressure on with fabulous runs by Chloe Thomas, Chloe Lucero, Tanea Dayak, and Jennessa Maselli. Mustang tried their luck through the middle of the field but were met with the speed of Taylor Jeffrey and power of Lexi Pletschette to shut things down. In the second half, Klash goalkeeper Amelia Hernandez made some outstanding saves and created attacks with her long punts. In the 43rd minute, Klash won a free kick well outside the 18 yard box. Ashley Stuart ripped the shot over the goalie's head to put the West Coast up 1-0. With a few minutes left, Mustang was able to equalize. The thrilling game went into penalties, with Krush winning behind 3 outstanding saves by Hailey Ann Stubbles.

Lacrosse Signup

Registration is open for the Livermore Phantom Lacrosse spring season. Fall/winter tune-up sessions are under way now and included in the registration fee. Sign up at www.phantomlacrosse.org.

Dublin Little League

Dublin Little League spring registration is now open for the 2016 season. For more information and to register go to <http://dublinll.org> for more information.

Phantom Tryouts

The Pleasanton Phantom 16A travel team will be holding tryouts for the 2016 team on Sunday, Dec. 13 at the Foothill High School softball fields. Please register ahead of time online at www.pleasantonsoftball.org. Tryouts for pitchers and catchers is from 10:00 am-11:00 am. All players is from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm. For additional information or questions, contact Rob Uhl at 925-523-9437 or visit the website at www.pleasantonsoftball.org.

Registration for the Pleasanton Girls Softball League Spring Rec season for girls in K-12 is now open. To register, visit the PGSL website at www.pleasantonsoftball.org. Click on the "Registration" button in the left hand column. All instructions are there.

Girls Softball

Livermore Girls Softball Association welcomes all Livermore girls

West Coast Soccer

The West Coast Kaos U13 girls have earned a spot in the Norcal Premier championship match. The girls bested 22 other teams to reach the final round.

In a quarterfinal game on Saturday against DeAnza Force, Kaos came out firing with a quick goal by forward, Maddie Allum. Midway through the second half, Kaos center defender, Jackie Hurtado, fired a solid shot from midfield that cleared the Force goalie's hands and settled into the corner of the net. With the 2-0 win, Kaos earned a spot in the semifinals on the following day.

In the semifinals, Kaos faced a physically bigger MVLA Lighting squad. Within 5 minutes Kaos scored the first goal. Midfielder Kate Zeck won a ball in the middle and dribbled up the field and fired a shot from the right just past the MVLA keeper and into the net. Later in the first half, forward Maddie Allum broke away on the left and drilled a shot into the back corner of the net. Kaos went into the half with a 2-0 lead.

Late in the second half, Zeck, delivered a perfectly placed pass to Allum who then dribbled around her opponent to go one on one with

MVLA's Keeper. Allum easily found her sweet spot and scored her second goal of the game. This gave Kaos a 3-0 victory and spot in the finals.

Throughout the weekend, the entire Kaos team was on fire. Wingers Mari Medrano, Emma Valdez, Katie Reid, and forwards Jenna Nielsen, Taylor Sprott, and Maddie Allum kept the pressure on with multiple shots on goal. Midfielders Payton Dinwiddie, Alina Garcia, Jenna Lawrence, Hailey Miller, Maddie Sullivan, and Kate Zeck did an excellent job of disrupting and distributing. Kaos' defensive line of Jackie Hertado, Cassidy Brackett, Kelsie Brumm, Gaby Casillas shut down most of the opponent's offensive attempts. And finally, Kaos Goalie, Tori Morfin, had an amazing weekend with several outstanding saves. She is credited with two shutouts.

West Coast Kaos now moves on to the championship match against West Valley next Saturday in Modesto.

The U11 West Coast Klash brought home the NorCal Bronze 2 State Cup Championship this past weekend from Manteca. The semifinal match pitted Klash against the Mustang Legends, who play Silver in NorCal. This was a back and forth battle with West Coast having the up-



Pictured are U11 West Coast Klash. The team brought home the NorCal Bronze 2 State Cup Championship.

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Survivor Recalls The Attack On Pearl Harbor

By Carol Graham

Dawn broke over Oahu at 6:26 that Sunday morning in 1941.

At 6:45 a.m., the first American shots of WWII rang out when the USS Ward sunk a Japanese midget-sub attempting to enter the narrow mouth of Pearl Harbor. But because there had been recent false reports of submarines, Admiral Husband E. Kimmel, commander in chief of the Pacific Fleet, decided to wait for verification of the report before taking action.

On Pearl Harbor's U.S. military bases, sailors were at ease on the morning of December 7th - attending outside chapel services on the beach, planning tennis tournaments and softball games, or simply recovering from the previous Saturday night ashore.

At 7:02, a private at the Opana Mobile Radar Station on the island's north shore looked at the radar oscilloscope and couldn't believe his eyes. He asked his buddy to take a look. They agreed: dozens of aircraft were bearing down on Oahu. The privates immediately reported the information to Fort Shafter in Honolulu.

Eighteen minutes later, the planes were only 70 miles away. The lieutenant who received the privates' report believed that the radar had picked up a flight of American B-17 bombers coming in from California. For security reasons, he could not tell this to the radar operators. All he said was, "Well, don't worry about it."

At 7:55, the first Imperial Japanese Navy airplanes arrived - more than 180 dive bombers, torpedo bombers and fighters. A second wave of 171 planes would strike within the hour.

On the USS Tennessee moored on Battleship Row, aircraft maintenance officer Adolph Hengl was below deck as the first bombs dropped.

"I couldn't see what was happening outside. When there seemed to be a lull, I came out of the compartment and stepped onto the quarterdeck to see what was going on," said Hengl. "A bomb hit and sent me back through the door, slamming me into a metal wall. I stood up and saw tiny fires all over the linoleum floor. I wasn't hurt, although I guess I might have been out momentarily. Then men came running and said, 'Boy, oh boy, you did a pop!' I hollered at them, 'Get a hose and let's put these fires out.'"

However, the primary concern on Hengl's mind that morning was finding his younger brother Virgil, also serving on the USS Tennessee. "Unknown to me, Virgil had gone aboard the USS West Virginia (moored alongside the Tennessee) to make plans with a friend he'd gone to high school with," said Hengl. "I couldn't find him for the longest time. I finally saw him coming across the gangway back to the Tennessee. The West Virginia was starting to go over, but they sank it straight down so it could be salvaged."



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Adolph Hengl talks about his memories of Pearl Harbor.

This year, on December 26th, Hengl, a Livermore resident, will celebrate his 99th birthday.

"My dad is one of the oldest living Pearl Harbor survivors who was on a battleship during the attack," said Mary Hengl, the fourth of Hengl's five children. "The fact that he will be 99 the day after Christmas is amazing to me. As we've done in the past we will be celebrating his birthday with as many family members and close friends as possible."

For many decades, Hengl spoke little of his WWII experiences. In fact, not until Mary's boyfriend Glen Nestor, a former ship fitter, started asking him questions did many stories come out.

"When Adolph stepped aboard ship it was all about the navy. He said he had to do his job, and worrying about his family would only take away from the job he needed to do. But when he stepped off the ship, it was all about family," said Nestor. "When I met Adolph I was fascinated with his service. I had a need to know not only for myself but for his family and historical significance. When you serve in the navy for 28 years you do great things."

Before retiring from service in 1964, Hengl had earned three Bronze Stars which are awarded for heroic or meritorious achievement, said Nestor.

"I have never met a better man. He stands for everything that makes this country great," Nestor added. "He donates

to military charities, and flies the American flag 24/7. It's kind of a landmark in our neighborhood, and is lit at night. You don't fly the flag at night unlit or he'll knock on your door and school you in American Flag 101.

"He does everything with military precision. He has several clocks throughout the house and they always display the proper time. He gets up at the same time every day, and loves his Frosted Flakes."

Though Hengl's wife of 60 years passed away in 2000, Mary lives with and helps take care of her father.

"My dad lives in his own home and is still pretty much independent. He has a bum knee that requires him to use a walker, and some memory loss which is frustrating to him, but other than that he's great," said Mary. "When the weather permits, he's out walking up and down the street or sitting outside waving to passing cars. He loves to visit and talk to people."

On the 74th anniversary of the surprise attack that cost 2,403 Americans their lives, Mary said, "I would like to thank my dad and all the men and women who've passed away, been injured, and fought for our country. It takes special people to do what they've done - and continue to do - for us and our freedom. It is something we should never take for granted."

To contact Adolph, email Mary at mh-z@att.net.

Author's Book Written to Provide a Message for Her Daughter

By Carol Graham

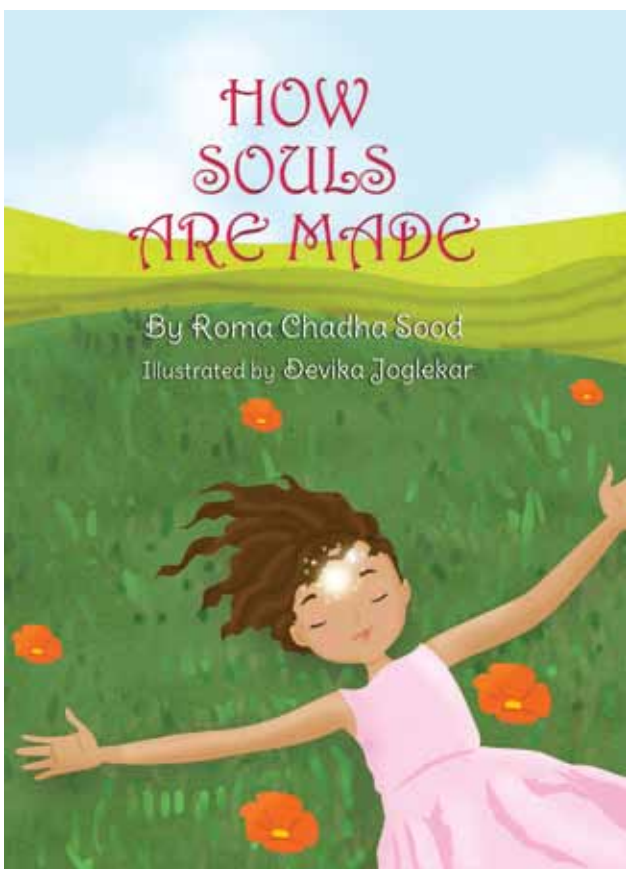
When Roma Chadha Sood wrote a book for her daughter's 5th birthday, she didn't know it would be a gift for all ages.

"Looking at the chaos in our world, at the hatred and especially the fear, my deepest hope is that this book will serve as a reminder to shift our attention to love, connectedness and peace," says Sood. "It reminds us to find our own strength from within, so we can be the change we want to see in the world."

Watching daughter Ekaa grow has been a delight for the Livermore resident.

"Ekaa was the absolute personification of joy, even as a baby," says Sood. "The constancy and ease with which she radiates laughter and happiness has always been a source of wonder for me. When she turned five, I wanted to write something to remind her when she would later hit the turbulent teens or go through more difficult times in life, that her inherent quality was love. It was what comes naturally to her, and it is who she is."

"How Souls Are Made" is a children's book that reads like a song, its lyrics lingering long after the last page is read. The story follows the creation of a soul in the Land of Love, as a divine King's life-giving energy animates a baby. Before vanishing from sight, the King tells the baby she is perfect, that her true home is with Him,



Roma Chadha Sood

haunts within, for something not in sight. It feels the day will never dawn, upon this darkest night."

Yet when she becomes still, she can hear a whisper - someone is telling her, "I'm right here."

"This book is universal," says Sood. "It is a spiritual book, but is in no way religious. Anyone of any faith can embrace the idea that our soul is love. My hope is that as parents read this book to their children at night, it envelops them both in a cloud of love."

and that He will always be with her whenever she needs Him.

"Give love and joy to all you meet, for you and I are one. All I have, I give to you, your journey has begun."

The story shifts to earth where the baby - a happy, spiritual being - starts to go through the human experience.

"Years go by and the baby grows, through sunshine and through rain. She laughs, she cries, she walks, she plays -

learning love and pain."

As she grows older, she feels a yearning that she cannot understand.

"Unknown longing

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THE GOOD DINOSAUR (PG)	12:00	1:30	2:55	4:10	5:35 6:50
					8:15 9:30
MOCKINGJAY PT 2 (PG13)	12:00	1:00	2:20	3:00	4:00 5:20 5:55
					7:00 8:20 9:00 10:00
KRAMBUS (PG13)	11:20	1:55	4:30	7:05	9:40
CREED (PG13)		1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
SPECTRE (PG13)		1:00	4:30	6:45	8:00 9:50
THE PEANUTS MOVIE (G)			12:00	2:15	4:30
THE NIGHT BEFORE (R)		1:35	4:20	7:05	9:50
TRUMBO (R)		12:45	3:45	6:45	9:45
PREVIEW DECEMBER 17:					
STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS (PG13)	7:00	8:00	8:30	9:00	10:15
STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS (PG13)-3D		7:15	7:30	10:30	
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After writing the book for Ekaa, now 11, Sood found herself going back to the story whenever she was going through a rough time.

"I am uplifted by it, and as the years went by, I started to feel perhaps it would be a source of comfort to others as well," says Sood, a reading specialist at Valley Montessori School in Livermore and former journalist in India. "Seeing the effect the book has on others has been especially rewarding. Sometimes they cry, sometimes they smile, but they tell me it is a book that moves them."

"How Souls Are Made" is available on Amazon, both in paperback and on Kindle, as well as on the author's website.

"It would make a great gift this holiday season, especially in light of all the chaos happening around us in the world," says Sood, who says she would be hap-

py to sign books for residents in January when she returns from holiday travels.

"I hope this book reminds us all, myself included, that we are never alone, and that we are loved and protected," she adds. "We are spiritual, eternal beings, supported by our divine source, and being here is an opportunity for us to be the best we can be."

To learn more, visit www.howsoulsaremade.com.

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OBITUARIES

Lynn Robert Witt

Lynn Robert Witt, 71 of Hemet, California entered eternal life with our Lord on Tuesday, November 24, 2015, at Hemet Valley Medical Center in Hemet, California.

For additional obituary comments and service information please visit Miller-Jones website at Miller-Jones.com.

Gail Smith

On the evening of November 27, 2015, Gail Smith passed peacefully away in the comfort of her home. Her memory will be revered by a large circle of friends and relatives.

Our beloved Wife, Mother, Grandmother, Gigi and Friend is survived by her husband, 3 wonderful children, 3 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

Family and Friends will gather on December 18th at 3 o'clock in the afternoon at the First Presbyterian Church 2020 Fifth Street Livermore, CA.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Gail's name to Hope Hospice or the American Diabetes Association.

Sydney S. Crosswhite

Sydney S. Crosswhite, 74, of Livermore passed away from cancer on December 2, 2015.

She was predeceased by husband Edward L. Crosswhite, who died on June 11, 2007. She is survived by four sisters: Charlene Twiggs, LeeAnna Gattis and husband Frank, Chris Helmick, Terry Warwick and husband Ron, as well as sister-in-law Susan Brown. She is also survived by nieces Lisa McBride and Holly Brown, and nephews Andrew Gattis and Jesse Brown.

No services will be held, and pursuant to her wishes her cremated remains will be sprinkled off the coast of West Maui.

Any donations in honor of her memory may be made to one's favorite charity or organization.

Jean Rozsnyai

Jean Senkin Rozsnyai, longtime resident of Livermore, passed away on December 3, 2015. She was born in the Senkin family in Detroit, Michigan on March 7, 1933.

After having earned a degree of Masters in Chemistry from the University of Detroit, Jean taught at the Cass Technical High School in Detroit. Subsequently, Jean taught at the Air Force Dependents' Schools in 1959 in England and in 1960 in Japan. She also travelled extensively in Europe and in Southeast Asia. During her overseas stays, Jean acquired a number of friends, many of them for the rest of her life.

In 1962, Jean accepted a position as a chemist at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. There, in 1964 in the Bio-Medical Division, she met Balazs Rozsnyai, a laboratory physicist, whom she married in 1966. They had a son, Lawrence, in 1968. After a few years, Jean changed her job and taught math and chemistry in the schools of Livermore, including Las Positas College. She was also active in local politics and was a founding

member of the Save Our Hills organization. In her activities in local politics she acquired a few adversaries but many more friends.

She is survived by her husband Balazs, son Lawrence, daughter-in-law Kathy, and grandson Adam.

A vigil will be held at Callaghan Mortuary in Livermore on Friday, December 11 from 5-7 pm, and burial services will be at St. Michael's Cemetery in Livermore at noon on Saturday, December 12.

Floyd Robertson Smith Jan. 20, 1944 - Nov. 24, 2015 Resident of Livermore

Floyd R. Smith of Livermore passed away on November 24, 2015 at the age of 71. Floyd was born in Berkeley, CA and grew up in El Cerrito, CA. He graduated from El Cerrito High School in 1961 and graduated from UC Davis in 1966 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. While at UC Davis, he was a member of the SAE Fraternity and played on the Aggie basketball team. He later received a MBA from the Hass School of Business.

He married Pamela Petersen in 1966. They had three children Chris (Edie), Allison and Erica (Brad). The family moved to Livermore, CA in 1972. Floyd had six grandchildren, Natalie, Leilani, Kyle, Megan, Ashley and Elizabeth. Floyd is also survived by his sister, Carolyn Bybee (Jack), and many nieces and nephews.

Floyd proudly served 4 years in the U.S. Navy. He attended Officer Candidate School in Newport Rhode Island and was then stationed at the Port Hueneme Naval Station in Southern California. He did a tour of duty in Vietnam assigned to a Seabee Mobile Construction Battalion and later was the Public Works Officer at the Fallbrook Naval Weapons Station near Oceanside, CA. After his discharge from the US Navy, the family moved to Concord, CA and Floyd went to work at the Container Corporation of America facility located in the South Bay. He left Container Corporation in late 1970's and went to work for the Weyerhaeuser Paper Company in Emeryville, CA. During his long career with Weyerhaeuser, he held a number of management and executive positions including Plant Manager and Vice President for the West Coast. He retired in late 1990 after a series of medical challenges.

Floyd was a loving, engaged, and fun-loving husband and father. He enjoyed playing tennis with his friends and family; backpacking adventures in the summer; and skiing in the winter. Floyd was a talented musician. He enjoyed singing, as well as, playing the guitar, banjo and autoharp. He organized the Livermore Valley Folk Music Association which was comprised of many like-minded musicians who played a variety of instruments and liked to sing folk songs. Floyd was known as the "King" of the Folk Group. For many years, the Livermore Folk Group put on a Folk Music Concert at the Livermore High School auditorium to raise money for the Livermore schools.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to a charity of your choice. The family is planning a Celebration of Life gathering in January 2016.

Ted Wieskamp Livermore Jan. 17, 1935 - Nov. 24, 2015

Ted is survived by his wife, Ayn; his son, Todd; his daughter-in-law, Barbara; his sisters, Jenny and Stella; and many nieces and nephews. His brother, Chris, and his sister, Agnes, predeceased him.



Ted grew up in Medford, Oregon where he graduated from St. Mary's High School. He attended Southern Oregon College of Education before joining the United States Air Force. His rank was Lieutenant and he served as a navigator from 1955 to 1959.

Ted received his B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Oregon State University in 1962. He worked for Sandia in Livermore from 1962-1971. He worked at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory from 1972 to 2000. During this time he received his Master's degree in Physics from the University of California at Davis. He was especially proud of his work on the "Apollo-Soyuz Test Project" and the "Flat panel ferroelectric electron emission display system."

Ted liked fitness and the outdoors. He loved to bike to work. Ted and Ayn, along with the former Livermore Mayor Dale Turner, started the annual "Livermore Fitness Day" in April 1981. On this day, participants could run or walk a 5K, run a 10K, or bike on two different routes. Ted and Ayn also began the "90 Day Wonder" program, to help participants get ready for the April event. For this, they partnered with ValleyCare Health System. Ted was the coordinator for Fitness day for its first 20 years.

After Valley Care Health System took over running Fitness Day, Ted, as treasurer, used the remaining funds to build the Fitness Day Children's Art Obelisk in LARPD's Robertson Park. A children's art contest was held where all entries were required to be about a sports activity. Ted and Ayn often walked from their home to view it.

Ted served on the Valley-Care Health System (VCHS) Board of Directors from 1984 to 1992. He served as President of the board from 1987 to 1989. He also served on the Board of Directors of the Bank of Livermore and the Livermore Amador Symphony Association.

After Retirement, Ted joined the VCHS Auxiliary and volunteered at the ValleyCare Health Library. He also volunteered at the Livermore Library's English as a Second Language Program. He "adopted" Sergio and Javier Grajeda and their families through this program. He respected their hard work and wanted them to succeed. He helped them with language, citizenship and bringing their families to the USA, he urged Sergio to apply to Wheels, buy a home and encouraged all the children to seek higher education.

When Ayn retired from the Livermore City Council, friends and family purchased the "Puffed Prince," a charming statue that is located by the children's wing of the Livermore Library in her honor. In 2011, Ted celebrated their wedding anniversary, with a surprise addition of the "Puffed Princess," which was placed beside the Prince at the library.

Ted enjoyed photography and loved taking pictures of children, flowers and parks. He was always happy to

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join Ayn on an East Bay Regional Park District Field Trip, where he took some of his best photos.

When Ted's Lewy Body Dementia required 24 hour care, Ayn and Todd were fortunate to discover Livermore Valley Senior Living. Ayn and Todd cannot thank them enough for the loving care Ted received from the caregivers, nurses, chefs, and managers. They even understood and liked his offbeat sense of humor.

Please join us at a Celebration of Life that will be held December 20, 2015 from 4 to 6 pm, at the Veterans Memorial Building, 522 South "L" Street in Livermore.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations in Ted's name to either: The Lewy Body Dementia Association, <http://www.lbda.org/donate> or to the Livermore Homeless Refuge, <http://www.livermorehomelessrefuge.org/donations>

Michael Charles Ozment

Dec. 23, 1954 - Nov. 26, 2015

Michael Ozment passed away after a long illness at the age of 60. He was a 1973 graduate of Livermore High School and he served four years in the US Air Force from 1977 to 1981.

Michael is preceded in death by his parents, Charles Leon Ozment (father) and Hazel June Ozment (mother). He is survived by his wife of 34 years, Gwen Ozment, a resident of Livermore. He is also survived by his sister, Tamara Graver (Kurt) of Citrus Heights and two nephews, Mathew Graver (Jenifer) and Derek Graver also of Citrus Heights, and cousins Tim Larson of Dublin and Anna Brewster of San Ramon.

Michael was cremated and placed in a beautiful urn, which his wife will keep at her residence.

Helen Shirley Oct. 1, 1931-Dec. 4, 2015

Helen Shirley passed away peacefully following a long struggle with Alzheimer's disease. She was surrounded by her family as she took her final breaths.

Helen was born in Southern California. At a very early age her family moved to

Berkeley where she grew up. She graduated from Berkeley High School and

then attended the University of California Davis majoring in Home Economics. It was where she met her husband of 64 years, John Shirley. They were married April 21, 1951. Following John's graduation in 1952, they moved to Ukiah, CA where John was a staff veterinarian in a large and small animal practice. Their oldest son, Steven, was born there. In 1954, Helen, Steve and John moved to Livermore to establish a veterinary practice that is known as Livermore Veterinary Hospital, now located on Railroad Ave. Four more children, James, Jean, Barbara and Patricia were

born at St. Paul's Hospital in Livermore. Helen is survived by all of her children, four grandchildren and two great granddaughters.

Helen was a wonderful wife and mother who volunteered as a Den Mother in the Cub Scouts and as a leader in the Campfire Girls. Helen had many creative talents and hobbies. She was a musician who loved to play the piano and the guitar and sang songs to her children. She was a seamstress, a fine cook, made creative jewelry, spent many years researching her family genealogy, and is a well-known watercolor artist. She was very active in the Livermore Art Association and took her turn as editor of LAA's newsletter.

She had a warm heart. She will be missed by all who knew and loved her. No memorial service is planned at this time. The family is very appreciative of the fine care she received at Livermore Valley Senior Center. Hope Hospice treated her wonderfully well in her last months. In lieu of flowers, a donation to Hope Hospice, 6377 Clark Ave., Dublin, CA 94568, in her memory will help others like her.

Roy Lee Page

Roy Lee Page of Livermore, California died November, 27, 2015. He was 88. Roy was born October 26, 1927 in Escondido, California.

He served as a Merchant Marine,

was a gunite worker, and fire fighter. His firefighting work brought him to Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in 1962 where he worked his way up to fire captain.

Roy loved hunting, fishing, and was an avid reader, especially westerns. He enjoyed camping with his family where he won more than one camping challenge title and told stories that left his family wondering how much was true. Roy was proud of his Cherokee Native American heritage. He always supported his family and spending time with his grandkids and great grandkids brought him much joy. Roy was very involved with his son's wrestling teams and took many pictures so all the kids could have scrapbooks. He was known by many as "Grandpa."

Roy was preceded in death by his wife Alice (Dottie) Page, and siblings Louise Tucker and Rayburn Page.

He is survived by sons Steven Page and Larry (Tamar) Page, daughter-in-law Susan Page, grandkids Scott (Holly) Page, Stacy (Shane) Davis, Shane Page, and Aaron Page, and three great grandchildren.

There will be a private family interment. A memorial service will be held on Friday, December 18, 2015 at 11:00 a.m., Callaghan Mortuary, 3833 East Avenue, Livermore, CA with a celebration of life following. Donations in his memory can be made to Wounded Warriors, www.woundedwarriorproject.org, or mailing their form to P.O. Box 758517, Topeka, Kansas 66675.

Andrzej "Andy" Bychawski

Andy was born in Krakow, Poland in 1954 to Tadeusz and Leonarda Bychawski. He was the youngest of 4 brothers - Christopher, Adam and Henry.

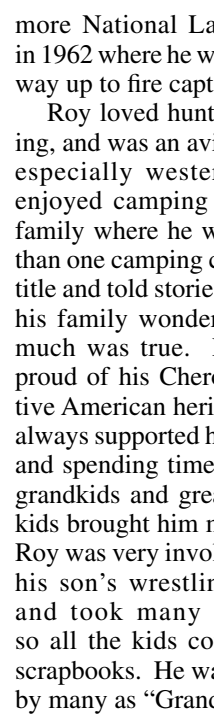
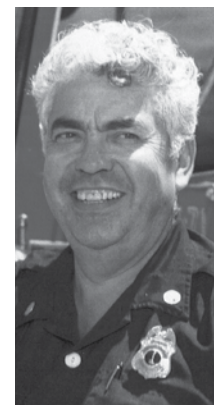
Andy met, his future, wife, in early childhood as they lived on the same street.

Soon their friendship blossomed into love, with a relationship spanning 46 years. In 1981, Andy and Ewa left Poland, spending 9 months in a refugee camp in Austria, before immigrating to Canada. In 1984, Andy and Ewa welcomed their child, Jessica, into the world.

In 1997, Andy, Ewa and Jessica moved to California to join Ewa's family working at Polybau window replacements. In 2012, Andy and Ewa welcomed Jessica's new husband Aaron to the family.

Andy loved trials motorcycle riding. Over the course of his life rode and restored many vintage trials bikes. Ever light-hearted, Andy's calm demeanor and good humor were a mainstay of the family and helped them weather tough times and enjoy good ones. Both Andy and Ewa were proud of Jessica for graduating from Cal.

Andy is survived by his wife, Ewa and daughter Jessica as well as an extended family including Martin, Edyta, Damian, Greg, Agnes, Michael, Paul and Peter.



Obituary/ Memoriam Policies

Obituaries are published in The Independent at no charge.

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Planning for Annual Nativity Drive-Through Led by Members of Youth Group

For one quarter of a century, church members, performing live, have presented the Christmas story in six scenes constructed in the Trinity Church parking lot in Livermore.

This year, for the first time in its 25 year history, two young women from the church's youth group have accepted the responsibility to supervise the activities.

"It is outstanding to see the young people accepting the difficult task to coordinate the many facets of the production and while encouraging the actors for each scene" said past director Bob Boyd. "The talent and energy they bring to the complex task drives us all." The directors not only guide the actor participants but coordinate the scene construction, food provision, child care for participants, and traffic control functions.

Visitors drive past the six scenes dotting the church campus viewing live actors, and animals portray the characters in each scene while listening to the story dialog on their car radios.

For the past 24 years the church has told the story of Jesus' birth at Christmas



Jamie Augustyn and Sara Parlagreco, this year's directors for the Drive-Through Nativity production at Trinity Church, Livermore, check the 400 plus costumes needed for the annual drama presentation of the story of Christ's birth.

time in the "drive-through" format to over 2000 visitors each year. Members of Trinity will fill the over 800 acting and support positions necessary to accomplish the production. The presentation has become a Christmas

tradition for a large number in the tri-valley community; some who were teenagers or younger the first time through are now bringing their children to see the story enactment.

The Live Drive-Through

Nativity story will be presented four nights, December 17th through the 20th at Trinity Church, 557 Olivina Avenue, Livermore, 7 to 9 pm each evening.

The presentation is free and everyone is invited.

Livermore Police Department Offers Vacation Watch Program

Livermore Police Department Vacation Watch program is ready to help keep community members' homes safe while they are away during the holidays.

As the holidays approach and community members take vacations, or visit friends and family out of town, the Livermore Police Department wants to remind everyone of its "Vacation Watch" program designed to help keep homes secure while residents are away. The program works as follows:

If out of town at least 7 days, but no more than 30 days, proceed to the City of Livermore's Website at <http://www.cityoflivermore.net>

Scroll down to the lower left-hand side and click on the picture of the police car in the box.

Look for the link on this page that is to file a non-emergency report. Once there, select the option for "Vacation Watch".

Users will be taken to a secure website and asked to agree to a few disclosures. Next, answer questions about

the property and contact information, and then provide information on anyone or anything that staff may encounter when they go to check the property.

As time and staffing permits, the department's staff of dedicated volunteers will go to the home and check the front exterior to make sure all appears normal.

If at any point one of the volunteers finds anything out of the ordinary or suspicious, the police dispatch center will be notified. A call for service will then be created, and officers will be sent to check the home.

The Vacation Watch program will be staffed solely by department trained volunteers. The volunteers will not check side or back yards, and they will not collect mail or newspapers. Participation in the program means accepting that the Livermore Police Department and the City do not assume any liability for a residence during specified dates.

For further information about the Vacation Watch program, contact our Crime Prevention Specialist Nicole Aguon by calling (925) 371-4978 or emailing NAguon@cityoflivermore.net



Now or Later: Best Time to Buy or Sell

By Cher Wollard

U.S. retailers famously do about one-third of their annual business in November and December, according to the National Retail Institute. It's "the season" for shopping.

But while all those folks are at the malls or perusing Downtown's smaller merchants, fewer of them are thinking about buying or selling real estate.

The traditional "season" for real estate is February through May.

But what if you want to buy or sell now? Would you be spinning your wheels or beating the crowds?

Here are some reasons you should – and shouldn't – buy or sell now:

Wait to sell until 2016

Fewer buyers are actively looking to buy now. Folks are focused on the holidays. They'll think about a new house after the New Year.

It's inconvenient to have your home on the market over the holidays. There's so much to do – put up decorations, shop for gifts, attend parties, plan a stop at Deacon Dave's -- and soon the kids will be out of school.

Decorating is tricky when your home is on the market. How much is too much? What if prospective buyers are put off by your Christmas or Kwanzaa decorations, your Hanukkah menorah, your Diwali lights?

And if you do find a buyer, what then? With banks, title companies and even the county closed for various holidays, there may be delays in closing the transaction.

How will we find time to pack up the house and move?

Sell now while there's less competition

There are fewer homes on the market this time of year. Most people who are thinking about selling will elect to wait. Some current sellers even take their property off the market over the holidays. That means yours will get more attention.

As of Monday, there were only 59 resale single-family homes on the market in Livermore. That's fewer than half the inventory of earlier this year and about a third of what's needed for a "balanced" market.

It's true there are fewer active buyers this time of year, but they tend to be serious, committed buyers.

Some of them have been looking all year. Some may have been outbid on other offers and want to make sure they don't miss out again. Others have to move now because of jobs or family situations. There are not a lot of "looky-lous" in December.

Interest rates are expected to rise next year, which could affect the number of buyers qualified to purchase your property.

Tasteful holiday decorations won't put buyers off. In fact, they make your charming home even more beautiful. The key, of course, is "tasteful." If you're not sure, ask your Realtor. He or she may even connect you with a stager.

It's cold outside. So your warm, inviting home – maybe with a fire in the fireplace or candles to brighten a gloomy day – will feel instantly homey.

Everybody has a lot going on. Nobody wants to waste time over the holidays. So negotiations may go more smoothly. You may find there are fewer sticking points, and that both sides are a little more inclined to work through issues.

Your Realtor probably has fewer listings now, so will have more time and resources for marketing your home.

Wait Until Spring to Buy

There will be more homes to choose from. Right now, of the 59 resale houses on the market in Livermore, six are country properties and more than half are priced over \$1 million. Depending on what you're looking for, you may only find a handful of homes in your price range to choose from.

The same issues about finding time during the holidays that apply to sellers also apply to buyers. Plus you'll have to go through the loan process.

Buy Now While There's Less Competition

Anyone who has experienced, or even read about, the frantic bidding wars in Bay Area real estate over the past two years knows there is an advantage to buying when no one else is. Some markets are still seeing multiple offers, but it tends to be two or three buyers bidding for a property, rather than a half-dozen or more.

Prices have leveled off – for now. No one knows what will happen in 2016, but the economists at the California Association of Realtors are predicting home prices will increase 6.3 percent next year. That's a significantly slower increase than we have experienced the last few years, but it still means that a home that sold for \$700,000 this year would sell for \$744,100 next year.

Interest rates will almost surely increase. Given the positive economic news for October, the Federal Reserve is expected to raise interest rates this month. While that doesn't translate directly to higher mortgage costs, the long-term effect is that mortgage interest rates will go up.

That will impact how large a loan you qualify for. If you qualify for less and prices are higher, you may find that by waiting, you'll have to purchase a smaller home or one in a less desirable neighborhood.

It would be lovely to start the New Year in your new home.

Mortgage 'add-on fee' defeated

A Congressional bid to add a fee to most new mortgages has been defeated.

The Surface Transportation Reauthorization and Reform Act of 2015, which President Obama signed into law last week, does not contain this proposed "add-on fee," which would have been used to fund upgrades in transportation infrastructure.

While the Senate version of the long-term transportation bill included this "mortgage tax," the final version does not.

The California Association of Realtors vigorously fought the proposal, with an estimated 31,000 state Realtors contacting their Senators and representatives to express opposition.

The fee would have cost average California home buyers and homeowners more than \$8,100 over the life of their mortgage on a new home purchase or refinance.

If you are interested in buying or selling property now or in 2016, contact your local Realtor today.

Cher Wollard is a Realtor with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Drysdale Properties in Livermore.

SHORT NOTES

Holiday Crafts

The Livermore Public Library will host several fun craft programs for children this fall. These free events are for ages 3 and up.

Holiday Ornaments – Saturday 12/12/15, 1-3pm at the Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave; and Friday 12/18/15,

1-3pm at the Rincon Branch Library; 725 Rincon Ave.

For further information, call 925-373-5504, or visit the library's website www.livermorelibrary.net.

Nature Programs

Cold Winter Skies will be the

topic of the Sat., Dec. 12 Livermore Area Recreation and Park District ranger staff program. Meet Ranger Glen Florey at 6 p.m. at Sycamore Grove Park, 1051 Wetmore Road.

A Sing-A-Long Campfire will be held on Sun., Dec. 13. Meet Ranger Dawn Soles at 4 p.m. at the reservable picnic area in Sycamore Gove Park.

Feel free to bring a hot dog and fixins' to roast over the fire. S'mores fixins' and hot chocolate will be provided. A \$3 per person donation is requested. There are no seats in the campfire area, so bring a blanket or chair. Canceled if raining. Space is limited in the campfire area, so please call 925-960-2400 for reservations.

There is a \$5 per vehicle parking fee at either entrance to Sycamore Grove Park. A \$3 donation is requested to help support the programs unless other fees are specified. Participants may call 925-960-2400 for more information.

Coat Collection

Livermore – Local insurance agency, Gene Morgan Insurance, is gearing up for the Holiday season by hosting a coat drive for families in need in the Tri-Valley. The agency is collecting new and gently used coats at their Livermore office located on 2020 4th Street. Coats for school-aged children are most in need.

Gene Morgan Insurance is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm, and closed daily from 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm for lunch. They will be accepting donations during regular business hours. Parking is located on site behind the building and on the right side. The drive will end on 12/18/2015.

If there are questions regarding the coat drive, or would like to make arrangements to drop something off after-hours, contact Michelle Morgan at (925) 447-2565 ext. 218 or michelle@genemorganinsurance.com.

Conference for Teens

Middle- and high-school students from across the region are invited to attend the third annual Youth for the Environment and Sustainability, or YES, Conference on Saturday, January 30, 2016, in Berkeley. The free conference will feature youth speakers who will share their environmental sustainability work and stories. The registration deadline for youth presenters is Tuesday, December 15, 2015.

Sponsored by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the event is designed to encourage students from the nine Bay Area counties to share ideas on youth-led actions that improve air quality, sustainability and environmental health in the region and, in doing so, learn how to develop their own leadership.

This year, the YES Conference is partnering with the Super Bowl 50 Sustainability Host Committee to bring an interactive conference where students can have fun and win prizes, but also challenge themselves and the region to take action for change.

Registration for the YES Conference is free and open to students, parents, teachers and youth leaders in the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Students under 18 years of age must have their parents' written permission to attend.

For complete conference information and to register, visit sparetheairyouth.org/2016-yes-conference or youtu.be/w0Ro1Bb11p4. The first 200 students to register will be entered into a drawing to win a pair of tickets to the NFL Experience in Downtown San Francisco. Free shuttles will be provided from the downtown Berkeley BART station and from other designated locations in the region not accessible to BART. Students are asked to RSVP for the shuttle service by January 8, 2016, to Yvonna Cazares at ycazares@baaqmd.gov or 415.749.8432.

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Jazz Musician Returns to His Livermore Roots

By Ron McNicoll

Matt Finders has returned to his Livermore roots, from a music career that saw him playing in New York and Los Angeles with some of the greatest jazz musicians in America.

Finders, (pronounced with a short "i" as in "give,") grew up in Livermore. He started studying trombone when he was a student at the former 5th Street School. Asked why he chose trombone, Finders quoted his father, who said, "We already have one of those." It was a hand-me-down instrument from Matt's older brother, who also played in Livermore schools.

By the 1970s, Finders played in the Livermore High School jazz band, in an era when high schools were starting jazz bands. However, there were none in middle schools. The Livermore High jazz band ended, but Finders is reviving it three periods a week, and finding an enthusiastic group to take part. He is also teaching the Mendenhall Middle School band with music teacher Art Gagnier.

In Pleasanton, Finders teaches at Amador Valley High School after school and Hart Middle School at lunchtime.

Finders is also leading the Element 116 band, which was organized by students and some jazz-savvy parents



MATT FINDERS

who wanted to have their kids perform in a district-wide band. Element 116 was the scientific discovery on the chart of the elements, named Livermorium, for Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, which helped in the discovery. Element 116 -- the band -- played at the dedication of the Livermorium Plaza at Mill Square Park in 2013.

Element 116 has been heard at concerts. Another outlet for their music has been the telephone "hold"

music transcriptions at school district headquarters. If you call there and are put on hold, you will hear at least a few bars of "Basin Street Blues" in swing style.

Swing music from the 1930s and '40s has been Finders first love in orchestral and combo music. After he left Livermore, he studied music at San Jose State. His first big break came when he won an audition that earned him three months on the road with Clark Terry's band.

Terry, who died earlier

this year at 94, was one of the big stars in jazz. He went beyond performing, by mentoring many musicians, including such legends as Miles Davis and Quincy Jones. Like Finders, Terry also taught classes.

After his stint with Terry, Finders finished college, and wound up in New York with substitute work in bands at Broadway shows. He played for such shows as "42nd Street," "Cats," "Anything Goes," and "Grand Hotel."

Finders played in many major jazz bands over the years. Among them were Benny Goodman, Buck Clayton, Natalie Cole, Harry Connick, Jr., Marian and Jimmy McPartland. He was also part of reconstituted bands, or "ghost bands," which were brought back after their leaders died. Those include the Count Basie and Woody Herman bands.

Finders' longest band tenure, from 1992 to 2009, involved playing in the band on the Tonight Show with Jay Leno. Kevin Eubanks was the musical director. Finders wrote more than 400 arrangements over the years for the band.

He almost did not find out about the chance to join the Tonight Show band. His roommate in the days

of playing with Clark Terry was bass player Branford Marsalis, of the noted Louisiana family of musicians, whose most famous member is trumpet player Winton Marsalis.

Branford Marsalis wanted Finders to try out for the Tonight Show band, but didn't have a phone number to reach him. He was able to get in touch with Finders'

parents in Livermore, and made the connection.

Finders has staged a few concerts of youth music in his two years' residence in Livermore. He is looking forward to one with a total of 60 musicians playing at the Bothwell Arts Center, 8th and H Streets in Livermore at 7 p.m. Dec. 11. The concert is free and open to the public.

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ASSEMBLY

(continued from page one)

improve and to build school facilities in order to provide students with a 21st century education. "We can't depend on developers any more, because there is little building taking place. There needs to be a long term plan to improve both education and education infrastructure."

In her view, there is a disconnect between infrastructure and resources in California. There is a need to change policy in how the state addresses infrastructure for water, schools and roads. "We need people at the state level who will challenge the

conventional thinking."

Cook-Kallio described herself as a moderate. She commented on the incumbent's voting recording, stating that Baker's votes in committee on a bill, change when the bill reaches the floor.

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Roy Rogers and The Delta Rhythm Kings Highlight New Year's Gala

Modern master of the slide guitar Roy Rogers and his band The Delta Rhythm Kings with special guest Carlos Reyes will perform at the annual Livermore Valley Performing Art Center (LVPAC) New Year's Eve Celebration at the Bankhead Theater.

The performance will begin at 8:00 p.m. on December 31, 2015. It will include a complimentary champagne and dessert reception in the Bankhead Theater lobby immediately following the performance. This is the seventh year that LVPAC has offered a combination of entertainment with a post-show reception has on New Year's Eve. Tickets, which are \$59 each and include

(continued on page 3)



Roy Rogers slide guitarist. Photo - Bob Hakins

'A New Orleans Christmas' Features Jeff Bordes and Friends

Jeff Bordes & Friends returns to the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton for the big annual Holiday Concert on Saturday, December 19, at 8 p.m. This year's theme, "A New Orleans Christmas," will again feature a host of special guest artists, including Bay Area organist and vocalist Don Lewis. Bordes notes, "We'll all

be dancing like it's Mardi Gras in December!"

Reserved seating tickets are \$15, \$20, \$25. Advance purchase at www.firehousearts.org, by calling the Box Office at 925-931-4848, or in person from the Firehouse Box Office, 4444 Railroad Avenue in Pleasanton. Box Office hours are Wednesday - Friday 12:00 noon-6:00pm and Satur-

days 10:00am-4:00pm, and two hours prior to the performance.

Bay Area jazz trumpeter and Pleasanton native Jeff Bordes needs no introduction to jazz fans. A 1997 graduate of the famed jazz incubator Berklee College of Music in Boston, Bordes has been playing since a very young age, and changing the face of jazz. Career

highlights include live performances and recording projects with such greats as Branford Marsalis, Alex Acuna, Richie Cole, Tom Petty, Stevie Nicks, Sheryl Crow, and recently John Mellencamp. He has done performance tours of the US and internationally with a number of groups, including Bill Berry Big Band and the great Dizzy

Gillespie.

In addition to his performance work, Jeff is passionate about spreading the word of Jazz as a featured clinician in schools and music festivals throughout the world, as well as teaching privately. He also writes articles on jazz for numerous music publications, including All About Jazz and Trumpet Player

Online. And if that's not enough, Bordes composes scores for film and commercials, including contributing to the soundtrack of the award-winning documentary "De Colores."

The show is back by popular demand, showcasing holiday favorites with "a taste of New Orleans and the soul of the Blues."



Jeff Bordes

O'Neill Foundation Schedules 'The Play That Changed American Drama'

When playwright Eugene O'Neill premiered his first successful full length play in 1920, it made an impact that has influenced the direction of American drama ever since.

Beyond the Horizon will be presented in a staged reading as part of the Eugene O'Neill Foundation's Playwrights' Theatre series on Saturday, January 9 at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, January 10 at 2:00 p.m. at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, 205 Railroad Avenue, in Danville.

"O'Neill's plays signaled the way audiences looked at American drama," stated Eric Fraisher Hayes, Artistic Program Director for the Foundation. "This play greatly changed drama on the America stage from non-realistic melodrama with exaggerated physical movement and speech to a drama that showed life more realistically and naturally," says Hayes.

Reservations for Beyond the Horizon are available online at www.eugeneoneill.org, or by phone at (925) 820-1818. Tickets

are \$25. Seating at the Museum is limited.

After its successful debut on Broadway in 1920, Beyond the Horizon went on to be awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, the first of four Pulitzers that O'Neill would receive in his career.

In this play of missed opportunities and failed dreams, two brothers, Robert and Andrew, make life-choices that alter their lives forever. Robert Mayo is beckoned by a life on the sea, and his brother, Andrew, wants nothing more than to work on his family farm. Both choose to deny their destinies – decisions that alter their lives forever. The production will be directed by Eric Fraisher Hayes.

"O'Neill gave an American voice to the role that dreams play in our lives and the tragic consequences of being true to those dreams," explained Hayes. "Beyond the Horizon shows that dreams are necessary to sustain life."

The Eugene O'Neill Foundation operates in

partnership with the National Park Service at the Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site in Danville. It is here that O'Neill and his wife, Carlotta, lived from 1937-1944, and where the playwright penned his final and most memorable plays, including A Long Days Journey into Night, and The Iceman Cometh, among others.

"The coming year is an important one for Eugene O'Neill and for the Eugene O'Neill Foundation," said Foundation Co-President Trudy McMahon. "In 2016 we celebrate two centennials: the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service, as well as the 100th anniversary of the first production of an O'Neill play, Bound East for Cardiff, in Provincetown, Massachusetts in 1916."

"The production of Beyond the Horizon is the beginning of a number of 'firsts'," added Eric Fraisher Hayes. "The Foundation has other important O'Neill 'firsts' planned throughout the year."

NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA

(continued from front page)

both the show and reception, are available now through the Bankhead ticket office.

Called "one of the rare guitar heroes who values feeling over flash" by Rolling Stone magazine, Roy Rogers has entertained audiences worldwide with his eclectic mix of modern blues, traditional Americana and roots music. He will be joined by world-renowned harpist/violinist Carlos Reyes, whose musical talents blend smoothly into a variety of musical styles and genres.

A California native, Rogers grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area and started playing guitar at age 12. Although introduced to a wealth of musical styles, he developed a particular passion for the Delta Blues of Robert Johnson. In the 1980s, Rogers toured with John Lee Hooker's Coast to Coast Blues Band, as well as launched his own band, the Delta Rhythm Kings. Rogers continually stretches the boundaries of the slide guitar, finding his own distinctive bridge between the traditional sounds of the Mississippi Delta and modern day rock and roll. With eight solo recordings and numerous collaborative albums, he has been nominated for two Grammy Awards and holds six Grammy credits for his work with John Lee Hooker



and Ramblin' Jack Elliott. Rogers has been invited to appear at festivals around the world and his music has been featured in numerous film and television soundtracks.

Born in Paraguay, Carlos Reyes had been performing on the violin since the age of five, when his father dared the 10-year old boy to learn the complicated 36-string native Paraguayan harp. After relocating to California, Reyes became known as a Bay Area treasure, making his debut with the Oakland Symphony on the harp at the age of 14 and playing violin with the Oakland Youth Symphony throughout his teens. He quickly mastered many other instruments including guitar, bass, mandolin and keyboards, and became known locally with his jazz-rock group, Merlin. Reyes maintains a busy touring schedule worldwide and has released several albums including his first, "The Beauty of It All," which stayed on the Top 10 Contemporary Jazz charts for over 15 weeks.

Throughout the year, the Bankhead observes holidays such as Halloween, when eerie shows were offered during October including L.A. Theater Works' "Dracula" and "Jekyll and Hyde" by Tri-Valley Repertory Theater. In February, the theater will be filled with love and passion



Livermore-Amador Symphony (LAS) performed a special concert of "Peter and the Wolf," on December 5 at the Bankhead Theater. Livermore Mayor John Marchand (bottom photo) narrated Prokofiev's musical story. A different instrument represents each character in Prokofiev's story about a bright young boy who outwits a big gray wolf with the help of his animal friends. The concert also featured a special guest, the Cantabella Children's Chorus, and concluded with an Instrument Petting Zoo (upper left photo). The performance was underwritten by a \$5,000 donation from Shea Homes, with support from the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center (LVPAC). In the photo (upper right) LVPAC Executive Director Scott Kenison, LAS conductor Lara Webber and Mayor Marchand share a light moment.



in honor of St. Valentine's Day. The month begins with Moscow Festival Ballet's magnificent production of "Romeo and Juliet" on February 1st, followed by Livermore Amador Symphony's musical program of "Color and Romance" on February 20th, and the return of Chicago powerhouse comedy in "Hooking Up with The Second City," a fresh and funny mix of romance, rancor and everything in between at the end of the month.

The Bankhead Theater is located at 2400 First Street in downtown Livermore. Tickets to all performances can be purchased at the box office, online at www.bankhead-theater.org, by calling 373-6800 or via the new LVPAC mobile app.

BANKHEAD THEATER	
 <p>SOLD OUT! Pink Martini TIMELESS MUSIC WITH INTERNATIONAL SWING Mon DEC 7 7:30pm</p>	 <p>Winter Pops AVHS MUSICIANS of WIND ENSEMBLES & CONCERT BANDS Tue DEC 8 7pm</p>
 <p>The Nutcracker VALLEY DANCE THEATRE DEC 12 — DEC 20</p>	 <p>Celtic Christmas AT THE BOTHWELL Sun DEC 13 6pm</p>
 <p>NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY Roy Rogers and the Delta Rhythm Kings WITH SPECIAL GUEST CARLOS REYES Thu DEC 31 8pm</p>	 <p>Muriel Anderson AWARD WINNING HARP GUITARIST Fri JAN 8 8pm</p>
<p>925.373.6800 LVPAC.org 2400 First Street, Downtown Livermore</p>	



Bob Williams (lower left) conducts the Pleasanton Community Concert Band.

Concert Band Marks 40 Years of Making Music



The Pleasanton Community Concert Band presented its 40th anniversary Holiday Concert on December 6 at the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton to a full house.

The Band was created by the Pleasanton Bicentennial Festival Committee in 1975 to perform in the new bandstand in Lions Wayside Park that the committee raised funds for. The Lions Club helped the group to construct it. The city manager in 1975, Bill Herlily, asked the Committee chair, Charlotte Severin, "If there was to a bandstand, what about a band?"

Severin collaborated with Amador Valley High School Adult Ed Director Mike Connolly and the band was created. Forty years later it is featured at almost all celebrations in the Valley, including the 4th of July, Veterans Day, Christmas, and Memorial Day.

November Teen Poet of the Month Selected

The Teen Poet of the Month for November is Harry Yee. Harry Yee is a senior at Livermore High. His passions are playing water polo and swimming.

In his free time, Harry likes to write screenplays for his many short films and movies for video production. He also dabbles a bit in poetry.

The Theme for November was "Risk taking"

TO RISK OR TO

Do not hesitate in to that good night
Find peace and tranquility or fight
No one is around to hear or feel
Or even have the thought to beguile
You have no choice in to ally
Only to strive into the tunnel or array
A scene builds either black or dark

While the animals run away to bark
You stand tall in to the unknown
How can this death be or thrown?
You take a step or over the edge
Never mind the reason to pledge
Take chaos and tempest to light
Do not question your right or night

The contest is hosted by Livermore Poet Laurate Kevin Gunn. The theme for December is "Generosity."

Poems should be 30 lines or less, Deadline to submit a work is Dec. 31. Send poems to Livermorepoetry@gmail.com. Reference : December Teen Poetry in the subject line & include poem in the body of the e mail

The poem should have a title. Include name, grade, school and areas of interest.



Participants learn about public art in Pleasanton.

Final Art Walk of the Year Set

Pleasanton's 2nd Saturday Public Art Walk Series concludes its 4th year with the Southern Tour.

During this Saturday's Pleasanton Public Art Walk, December 12, the secrets of Centennial Park with its interesting design and much "hidden" symbolism will be revealed. There will also be a presentation of the newest Pleasanton public art sculpture "On the Count of Three," by artist, Jane DeDecker.

The 2-hour walk and talk begins at 9:00am from the Pleasanton Civic Center parking lot at 200 Old Bernal Ave. This art walk includes the Pleasanton Library, Senior Center with Centennial Park, Civic Park, and the southern portion of Downtown Pleasanton.

Nancy and Gary Harrington, of the Harrington Art Partnership, will lead this walk, showing the existing public art and giving information about the artists and anecdotes regarding their works, the Harrington Art Partnership, and how to participate in bringing more public art sooner to Pleasanton.

Walkers will receive a map of the Pleasanton Art Walk, with location of the art, its name, and the artist.

A Series of 2 Pleasanton 2nd Saturday Public Art Walks will be given March and April 2016. Look in this paper for further information.

Free private group walks are also available, call Nancy or Gary at 925-846-9757 for more information.

Community Invited to Posada

The Pleasanton/Tulancingo Sister City Association is sponsoring a traditional Christmas celebration "Posada."

The Posada is celebrated in Mexico and other Latin America countries through music and carols. Everyone participates. The community is invited to share this cultural holiday tradition celebrated in our Sister City of Tulancingo.

Festivities are Sunday, December 20th, 2015 from 7 to 8 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Building, 301 Main Street, Pleasanton. Dessert and refreshments will follow the program of music and carols. There is no admission charge.

This is a fun family event with participation by local school students and the Pleasanton community. For more information, contact Sylvia or Jorge Victoria at jvictoria45@comcast.net or 462-6723.

4-H Club Project Helped Sort Canned Goods



(left) Adam Heinke , Eric Heinke



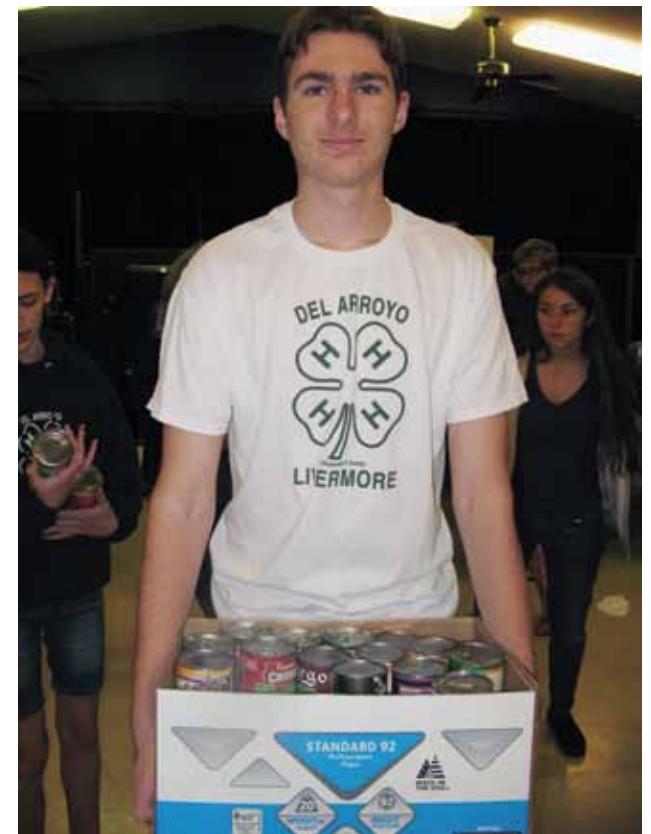
(left) Alex Flegel, Eric Heinke, Adam Heinke



Del Arroyo 4-H member



Del Arroyo 4-H members



Eric Heinke



Livermore Library to Show 'Spaceballs' At the Civic Center Site

There will be a free screening of the Mel Brooks classic *Spaceballs* (rated PG, 96 min) on Saturday, December 19, 2015, 1:30pm, at the Livermore Public Library Civic Center, 1188 S. Livermore Avenue. There is no charge for this event.

A space bum helps rescue a princess from an evil overlord with the help of a benevolent elder in this Star Wars send-up written and directed by Mel Brooks. Lone Starr (Bill Pullman) and his half-man, half-dog co-pilot, Barf the Mawg (John Candy), are content to scour the galaxy living the easy life. They reluctantly come to the rescue when Druish Princess Vespa (Daphne Zuniga) is threatened by the evil Lord Dark Helmet (Rick Moranis), who wants to steal all of the air from her planet, Druidia. Trapped on a harsh desert world with Vespa and her robot chaperone, Dot Matrix (voice of Joan Rivers), Lone Starr and Barf are helpless to prevent Helmet from kidnapping the girl. But assistance arrives in the form of Yogurt (Brooks), a wizard

who turns Lone Starr on to a mysterious power known as The Schwartz. Catching up with Helmet just as he's transforming his spaceship into a giant vacuum cleaner in orbit around Druidia, the reluctant heroes stage a dramatic showdown.

Although it borrows most of its plot from the Star Wars series, *Spaceballs* also pokes fun at Star Trek, Snow White, and Planet of the Apes -- as well as the entire videocassette and movie marketing industries. The large supporting cast includes Dick Van Patten, Jim J. Bullock, and the voice of Dom DeLuise. John Hurt makes a cameo in a parody of the exploding chest scene he played in *Alien*.

Viewer discretion advised - *Spaceballs* is rated PG and contains some off-color humor, strong language and sexual innuendo.

This free screening is sponsored by the Friends of the Livermore Library. It will be held at the Civic Center Library Storytime Room at 1:30pm. For additional events, check the library's website at www.livermorelibrary.net.

Writers Workshop 'A La Carte' Scheduled in December

California Writers Club Tri-Valley Branch will hold a "Workshop A La Carte" in which attendees will be able to join in on three out of five table-top discussions. The event will be held on Saturday, December 19, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. at Four Points by Sheraton, 5115 Hopyard Rd. Pleasanton.

Attendees will take away ideas and concrete examples of ways to improve their writing. Handouts of key points from the discussions the attendee participated in will be available. All attendees will receive the TVW Style Guide, a general style guide that TVW recommends for most publications.

December is also Tri-Valley Writers' book swap month. Bring a book, swap for another book. Bringing more than one book is permitted.

The CWC Tri-Valley Branch invites writers of all genres and experience levels to learn about their craft at its monthly meetings. The meeting will be Saturday, December 19, 2015, 2:00- 4:00 p.m. (registration at 1:30). The cost for CWC Members is \$12, non-members, \$17. Anyone interested in the program or the organization may attend with no obligation to join. Reservations requested by email to reservations@trivalleywriters.org no later than Wednesday, December 16, 2015.

For more information about California Writers Club Tri-Valley Branch, contact Jordan Bernal at president@trivalleywriters.org or visit www.trivalleywriters.org.



James Garner

'A Cash Country Christmas' Playing to Sold Out Audience at the Firehouse Arts Center

James Garner and his long-time backing band The Tennessee Three return to Pleasanton's Firehouse Arts Center for their holiday tribute to the musical legacy of Johnny Cash. "A Cash Country Christmas" plays the Firehouse Theater on Sunday, December 20, at 2:00 p.m. As with each of their previous Firehouse engagements, this show has sold out.

Garner again recreate Johnny Cash's unique and memorable sound and style in a show of beloved signature classics like Ring of Fire, I Walk the Line and A Boy Named Sue, as well as seasonal favorites from Cash's numerous Christmas albums from 1963 through 1991.

Steven Shore of Esses Productions notes. "James Garner is not a Johnny Cash impersonator. He is very much his own performer with his own talent and his own presence. Garner also happens to be a huge Johnny Cash fan, and his tribute show is a classy and authentic production honoring the music of the legendary Man in Black."

This special Christmas production will feature Garner's band, the Tennessee Three, who faithfully recreate those iconic recordings and Cash's unique style and boom-chicka-boom arrangements.

Show and ticket information available at www.firehousearts.org, by phone at (925) 931-4848, or in person at the Firehouse Arts Center Box Office, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton.



On a new edition of "Your Schools", a program about the Pleasanton Unified School District, the Amador Valley High School Chamber Choir and Hart Middle School String Orchestra prepare for their holiday programs. Pleasanton Unified School District Interim Director Jim Hansen interviews Dennis Aquilina, Hart Middle School Orchestra Director; Mark Aubel, Amador Valley HS Chamber Choir Instructor as well as students in the Choir and Orchestra. The 30-minute show features the musical groups rehearsing for their performances. "Your Schools" is currently airing on TV28, TV30 and via video on demand at tv30.org.

Winemaker Offers Comments on 2015 Harvest

Mark Clarin, winemaker at McGrail Vineyards and Winery offered his insights on the 2015 harvest:

The 2015 harvest was here and gone in a blink of an eye. Due to the lower yields across all vinifera varieties, harvest came in early. The good news is that the flavors are excellent with great concentration. It was tricky because the brix levels kept wanting to spike up early, which makes a winemaker a little bit jumpy.

The 2015 Harvest began at McGrail Vineyards on August 20th.

With the Sauvignon Blanc from the Ghielmetti Vineyard, we managed to squeeze out 4 tons from two blocks. I fermented the majority in Stainless steel and about 10% in barrel.

The flavors are ripe citrus, mild honeysuckle and some pineapple.

Next came Chardonnay from the Chandler vineyard. Again this vineyard also picked out short and early. As is our tradition, we barrel fermented this lot and are now in the malo-lactic phase of the process. Malo-Lactic is a secondary fermentation where lactic acid bacteria convert malic acid to lactic acid. This provides the creamy buttery flavor component to our Chardonnay.

Believe it or not, Malbec from Ghielmetti vineyard was standing in line right behind the Chardonnay. I think the June rain hit Malbec the hardest, as there was lots of shatter. (Grapes are self-pollinating. The timing of the rains in June

washed the pollen off of the flowers causing many not to pollenate. The effected berries Shatter and don't become fruit.) We managed to squeeze out 2 barrels for this vintage. This wine is dark and deep already.

Next picked was Merlot from the Picazo Vineyard earlier than ever. The berries were small and concentrated with flavors of Black Cherry and moderate tannins. This wine is barreled down, utilizing some Hungarian oak to add some spice to the mix. Check back in 2018 for this one.

Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot all wanted to be picked the same day. The good news is the weather cooled off a bit, which allowed us to methodically get

Graham Court Vintners Welcome You

by Laura Ness

Although they've got major remodeling planned and they're still sorting things out at their new home, at least two of the three winemakers who recently took possession of Jim Frost's former space on Graham Court, would like you to know that they're ready to taste when you are. That would include Michael Chalkley of Enoteca Five and Rosa Mangin of Rosa Fiero Cellars. You just have to excuse that slightly chaotic jumble of barrels, case goods and other random paraphernalia. Remember when you first moved into your college dorm and things were a little disheveled? Well, it's kind of like that. So give them a little space to get things worked out. But, the wines they have waiting for you are worth checking out at your earliest convenience. After all, it should be all about the wine.

Today, Enoteca 5 has quite an impressive lineup at the ready. Winemaker Michael Chalkley has a definite

talent when it comes to making Bordeaux varieties play their true roles. The new wines he's about to bottle are not just impressive, but some of them might just set your hair afire.

A quick look at the new 2013 releases reveals depth of style and a decidedly terroir-driven approach. He's all about vineyard expression, although he did more blending in 2013 than 2012. Among the most interesting, at least to my Pinot loving palate, is the 2012 Allegría Vineyard Cabernet Franc, a really pretty expression of this lovely grape that's more like a Franc from the Chinon area of the Loire. It's seductive, sleek, savory, elegant, reminiscent of light rye with caraway.

The 2013 Los Carneros Merlot is a standout, from a vineyard Jason Pahlmeyer used to source. Big, rich, intense, with tobacco and leather, this is powerful stuff with a great texture, good length and an exquisite, eternal finish.

"Instant Gratification" is an appealing Bordeaux-inspired blend of Petit Verdot (5%), Malbec (63%) (from Aguirre vineyard) and Cabernet Franc (32%). It offers floral notes, with red plum, cigar, mulberry and loganberry. The high-toned aromatics come from the Malbec and American oak. It's an appealing, interesting wine.

Then there's "Attitude Adjustment," which grabs you by the nose hairs and takes you on a heady romp of brewed coffee, tanned leather and cherry tobacco, then leads you on a wild road of lovely cherry and chocolate, with decadent and satisfying gingerbread. This winsome blend of Napa Cabernet and Lodi Cabernet Franc delivers lovely, supple and silky tannins that are Rutherford-like in profile. This wine makes a great gift for someone who could use just the right kind of attitude adjustment.

Should you wish to pro-

cure some of these wines, contact Michael at enoteca5@comcast.net or (925) 852-1861, to purchase or to arrange a tasting at the new tasting room at 5937-B Graham Court. Initially, Enoteca Five and Rosa Fiero Cellars plan to share the tasting room on weekends from 12:30 - 4:30pm. Come by and visit on the weekends, or set up an appointment for a tasting/tour.

ENTWINE RED BLEND

Wente's partnership with the Food Network has spawned several forays into what gives a wine broad consumer appeal. Aside from walking the safe path of commonly produced varietals, i.e., Chardonnay, Cabernet and Merlot, blends can be a good way to bring flavor to the fore. With that in mind, Wente just released a red blend called "Red Blend," a combination of Cabernet, Petite Sirah and Barbera. This 2012 wine is a winner with the spine and structure of Cab, the dark velvet plush of Petite and the racy, wild acid streak of Barbera.

Packaged in a high-shouldered Bordeaux bottle, the 2012 entwine Red Blend is definitely consumer-friendly, with its aromas of black fruit, pepper, cherries and smokey plum sauce. Built for food, this baby bounces from roasted chile peppers to sweet red cherry pickled peppers, with pretty flavors of sundried tomatoes, fresh cherries and red plums, and a nice undercurrent of eggplant caponata with a chocolate mole finish. The suggested pairings listed on the back of the bottle include salted peanuts, sweet potato fries, steamed dumplings with plum sauce, carne asada burritos and BLTs. Excellent suggestions! This is a versatile and enjoyable wine that clocks in at 13.5%. We'd add eggplant parmesan and pasta putanesca to the list. Find some at your local Safeway. Prices will range from \$8.99 to \$12.99.

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.

Members of the Pleasanton Art League Public Art Circuit are currently exhibiting art at six businesses in the Pleasanton - Dublin Area. Viewing locations are: Bank of America at 337 Main Street, Pleasanton; Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce at 777 Peters Street, Pleasanton; Sallman, Yang, & Alameda CPA's at 4900 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton; US Bank at 749 Main Street, Pleasanton; Edward Jones at 6601 Dublin Boulevard, Dublin; and The Bagel Street Café at 6762 Bernal Avenue Pleasanton. If interested in becoming a mem-



Flower by Diana Carey Wearable Art at LAA Gallery

The Livermore Art Association Gallery is hosting its annual Holiday Wearable Art Show and Sale. Artists will be present to share their work and answer any questions. Items for sale will include jewelry, scarves, bags and more.

Stop by the Gallery on December 12th from 11:30 to 2:00 at 2155 Third St., Livermore. For more information call 925-449-9927.

ber of the Pleasanton Art League or for information regarding the Public Art Circuit, call John Trimmingham at (510) 877-8154.

Artwork Showing: Espresso Rosetta Coffee Shop, 206 S. J St., Livermore, (corner of J Street and 2nd Street). Works by Lisa Rigge and Maryann Kot. Experience Lisa Rigge's fall color photographs and Maryann Kot's archival reproductions of original art in the friendly atmosphere of the new coffee shop, Espresso Rosetta, in downtown Livermore. The work will be on display through Dec. 31st.

Studio Art Quilt Associates juried exhibition. New installation at the Harrington Gallery, on display November 12 through December 16. Special note: many of the works on display will be available for purchase. Variety of textile works by artists who are members of the Northern California & Northern Nevada chapter of SAQA (Studio Art Quilt Associates, www.sqa.com). Colorful wall and sculpture pieces integrate materials such as hand dyed and painted cottons, crinolines, silk, organza, batting, and beads. The juror for this exhibition is internationally recognized textile artist, juror, and curator Yvonne Porcella, current board member of the San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles. Regular gallery hours: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday from 12:00-5:00 p.m.; Saturday 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton, 4444 Railroad Avenue. Donations always appreciated.

Pleasanton Art League All Media Show, Dec. 1-30, Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore.

"Mendocino Memories," art exhibit will be on view from December 1-30 at the Livermore Civic Center Library, 1188 So. Livermore Avenue. The public is invited to the free art exhibit reception on Sunday, Dec. 13 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Library. Refreshments will be served.

Simply Seeing photographic show, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., through January 4, 2016.

Invited photographers include Ken Ball, Walter Davies, Marc Davis, Sherry Hennes, Jonathan Miller, Chuck McGregor, Jennie McGregor, Rahul Prasad, Lisa Rigge and Ron Rigge. www.bankheadtheater.org

Celebrate Women 2016! call for artists for this photographic art competition. Submission Delivery Date: 2/24/16/ Deliver to Building 300 between noon - 5 at Las Positas College. Guidelines: Subject of every piece must be of a woman or women. It must arrive framed in a black 16 x 20 frame with hardware on the back (use D-rings) ready to hang. Label on the back with title, pertinent process, for example: "on fiber paper" or "cyanotype" "digital photography" "B & White film"; artist name and price. Hang Day: 3/1. Art Show will be hung in Building 2400.

MEETINGS/CLASSES

Livermore Art Association Annual Holiday Boutique, now through December 31. Handmade items, one of a kind gifts include jewelry, hand crafted scarves, towels, baskets, wooden bowls, photographs, fine art. LAA Gallery in the old Carnegie Library, 2155 Third St. in Livermore. Wednesday through Sunday, 11:30 to 4:00. Admission is free.

Artists at Work, a new monthly event, the second Thursday of each month features a new artist and artists at work at the Livermore Downtown Art Studios, 62 So. L St., Livermore.

Show and Tell, Artists are invited to a monthly function at the Bothwell Arts Center, called "Show & Tell. 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 Eighth St., Livermore. Artists bring finished or unfinished work to show and if desired, receive a critique from the group. Refreshments are brought by some of the artists, and a donation of \$5.00 is desired although not mandatory. Contact for this event is D'Anne Miller at danne_miller@att.net, or Linda Ryan at [\[formingarts.org\]\(http://formingarts.org\)](mailto:LRyan@Livermoreper-</p>
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ACC/Art Critique & Coffee

Discuss and share work with Professional Artists in sketching, painting, exhibiting and marketing your work. ACC members currently working on exhibiting theme works, under the Inspiration of "The Artist's Edge /The Edge of Art & Chosen Pathways." Meets and Critiques Friday mornings in Pleasanton. PoetryOnCanvas@Mac.Com

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

Preschool Art classes: Thursday mornings 9:45 - 10:45. Children aged 3-5 are welcome to join this class. Classes cover drawing, painting, print-making, sculpture and ceramics. For further information, contact Thomasin Dewhurst at (925) 216-7231 or thomasin_d@hotmail.com or visit <http://childrensartclassesprojects.blogspot.com/>

Art Classes, For children, teens and adults. Beginner to advanced. Drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture and ceramics taught by highly experienced artist and art instructor, Thomasin Dewhurst. Weekday and weekend classes, Home school classes, Special classes during school breaks offered. (925) 216-7231 or email thomasin_d@hotmail.com for further info.

Piano and keyboard lessons, For children to adult. Beginner to early intermediate level. Half-hour private classes or small group classes offered. Twice-yearly recitals. (925) 216-7231 or email thomasin_d@hotmail.com for further info.

PPL/Pleasanton Poetry League,



On Sunday, December 20th at 9 a.m., Our Savior Lutheran Church will be performing Cantata 140: Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme by J.S. Bach. Soloists for this performance include Sarah Strahl, Amy Giovannetti Ballard, David Knapp, and Ben Kazez. The Our Savior Lutheran Church Choir, directed by Nicholas Mourlam, will be collaborating with the Cantabella Children's Chorus and various instrumentalists from the Tri-Valley and San Francisco Bay area during this performance. This event is free and open to the public.

now meeting the 1st Thursday and 3rd Wednesday of each month 7:00 at The Corner Bakery Cafe in Pleasanton. Join us as we challenge ourselves to poetically relay our thoughts, emotions and experiences through poetry. Become a member & share your work - Contact PoetryOnCanvas@Mac.Com for more info on Theme Challenges, Membership & Opportunities.

Ukulele Circle, Meetings held the last Saturday from 12 noon-1 p.m. at Galina's Music Studio located at 1756 First St., Livermore. Confirm participation by calling (925) 960-1194 or via the website at www.Galinas-MusicStudio.com. Beginners are welcome. Bring some music to share with the group. Ukuleles are available for purchase. Small \$10 fee to cover meeting costs.

Young Artists' Studio has openings in its 2015 - 2016 school year art classes. Artist Peggy Frank offers small group instruction in art to students ages 7 through high school and also is offering an adult class. Projects include all kinds of drawing, painting, printmaking and sculpture. High school students working on advanced portfolios are welcome. Peggy has been an

art instructor in the Livermore Valley since 1980. Contact her at (925) 443-8755 or email frank.a@comcast.net.

Colored Pencil - Basics and

Beyond - Classes are for beginners and intermediate students. Classes start Mon Jan 4th, 9:30 to noon for five weeks and Tues Jan 5th, 6:30 to 9 p.m. for five weeks. Instructor Maryann Kot, Location, Bothwell Art Center 2466 8th St. Livermore. Sign up, Way Up Art and Frame 925-443-3388

Drawing Class- "Basic Drawing:

Focus on Nature" This class is for beginners and the artist who wants to improve drawing techniques. Classes start with the basics and quickly focuses on nature drawing. Included-instruction on site techniques, three dimensional development, and composition. Starts Wed, Jan 6th, 12:30-3 p.m. for 5 weeks. Instructor Maryann Kot, Location, Bothwell Arts Center 2466 8th St. Livermore Sign up at Way Up Art and Frame 925-443-3388

Drawing Class- "Intermediate Drawing: Focus on Nature"

This class is for students who have taken basic drawing classes and want to go to the

ART & ENTERTAINMENT

next level of drawing realistic nature subjects. Starts Thurs, Jan 7th, 12:30 to 3 p.m. for 5 weeks. Instructor Maryann Kot, Location, Bothwell Art Center 2466 8th St. Livermore. Sign up, Way Up Art and Frame 925-443-3388

WINE & SPIRITS

Nottingham Cellars: Vendors:

12/13 Sunday Vendor – Designed by the Sea Seaglass Jewelry. 12/18-20 Ugly Christmas Sweater Weekend – One complimentary Winemaker's Flight for guests wearing an Ugly Christmas Sweater. 2245-C South Vasco Rd., Livermore.

Charles R Vineyards Presents

"From Our Family To Yours" – An Extraordinary Library Wine Event, Saturday, December 12th from 5pm to 8pm. Charles R Vineyards and Julio Covarrubias, owner of Casa de Vinas, Very limited quantities. Savory and sweet pairings will be served with tastings all evening to enjoy with family and friends. Limited tickets available in the Tasting Room, by phone at 925-454-3040 or by emailing bonnie@charlesrvineyards.com 8295 Crane Ridge Road Livermore.

Las Positas Vineyards, Livermore,

Sat., Dec. 12, new Elite Flight: Chocolate Truffles & Chocolate Port Cup featuring the 2012 Casimira, an Angelica Style Dessert Wine served inside a Chocolate Port Cup. Tasting Room is open 11:30am to 4:15pm. Sun., Dec. 13, "Sunday Funday" newest holiday wine and food pairing flight: Cheesecake Cupcake & Chocolate Port Cup. Tasting Room is open 11:30am to 4:30pm. For more information, email curt@laspostasvineyards.com

MUSIC/CONCERTS

Blacksmith Square, music every Saturday 3 to 6 p.m. in the courtyard, 21 South Livermore Ave., Livermore.

Chris Bradley's Jazz Band appears regularly at: The Castle Rock Restaurant in Livermore/ on Portola Avenue-- the 2nd and 4th Tuesday each month from 7:30-9:30--Dance floor, full bar,

small cover.

Asbury Christmas Concert

– Asbury United Methodist Church will hold its 19th Annual Christmas Concert at 7 PM on Sunday, Dec. 6, 2015 in its Sanctuary at 4743 East Ave. in Livermore. All of Asbury's vocal choirs, the Asbury Band, several instrumentalists and the Asbury Ringers will be performing. Asbury's pipe organ will also be part of the evening's musical offerings. The concert is open to the public. A free will offering can be made at the door. There will be a punch and homemade cookie reception immediately following in the Fellowship Hall. For more information call Jean Braun at 449-4168, the church office at 447-1950 or e-mail: TerriG@asburylive.org

2016 Winter Pops, musicians of the Amador Valley High School Wind Ensembles and Concert Bands evening of traditional holiday favorites alongside contemporary band classics. Dec. 8, 7 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Orchestra Concert, Dec. 10, 8 p.m. Las Positas College, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. <http://laspositascollege.edu/performingarts/index.php>

Holiday Concert, Morrison Theatre Chorus performs special songs Thurs.-Sat., Dec. 10, 11, 12 at 8 p.m. and Sun., Dec. 13, 2 p.m. at the Morrison Theatre, Musical Direction by César Cancino. 22311 N. Third St., Hayward. \$18 adult, \$15 adult H.A.R.D. resident, \$15 senior, \$12 junior/student. (510) 881-6777; www.dntonline.org

Classic Rock Christmas, featuring December People. Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton, Saturday, December 12, at 2:00 and 8:00 p.m. (8pm show sold out) Tickets \$30-\$40. Plus food drive to benefit Open Heart Kitchen, feeding the hungry in the Tri-Valley. This high-powered quintet of some of the finest musicians from some of the world's biggest rock 'n' roll bands performs loads of holiday favorites, but in the styles of rock 'n' roll hits. DP puts

on these holiday shows each year to benefit local food banks, and asks ticket holders to bring as much food donations to the concerts as they can. Band: Gary Pihl (Boston), Robert Berry (Greg Kihn Band, Sammy Hagggar Band), David Medd (The Tubes), David Lauser (Sammy Hagggar Band), Jack Foster (Jack Foster Band). Purchase at: www.firehousearts.org, 925-931-4848, or at the Box Office at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue in downtown Pleasanton. SPECIAL GUEST APPEARANCES: Amador Valley High School Marching Band Drumline, and San Francisco hand-bell choir Bell Appeal.

Celtic Christmas Concert, Bothwell Arts Center, Dec. 13, 6 p.m. Tickets www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Concert by Mezzo Soprano Joanna Lynn-Jacobs, Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., 2 to 3 p.m. Sun., Dec. 13. Free admission. 931-3410 X 4

Jeff Bordes & Friends: A New Orleans Christmas comes to the Firehouse Arts Center Sat, Dec. 19, 8 p.m. Pleasanton's own Trumpeter Jeff Bordes returns to the Firehouse for his annual holiday show. This year Jeff will be taking it to the next level, presenting a Jazzy New Orleans Christmas, featuring Bay Area keyboard favorite Don Lewis. They'll perform their holiday original The Santa Claus Second Line along with other original tunes and holiday favorites. A host of special guests. Reserved seating tickets \$15, \$20, \$25. Purchase online at www.firehousearts.org, 925-931-4848, or in person at Firehouse Box Office, 4444 Railroad Avenue in Pleasanton.

"A Cash Country Christmas"

featuring James Garner. Holiday tribute to the songs of Johnny Cash. Back by popular demand at the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton, James Garner and his long-time backing band The Tennessee Three present a holiday tribute to the musical legacy of The Man in Black. Sunday, December 20, 2:00 p.m.

CURRENTLY SOLD OUT

Roy Rogers and the Delta

Rhythm Kings, 8 p.m. Thurs., Dec. 31, followed by a gala reception in the theater lobby. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

JOEL A Tribute to the Songs of Billy Joel, 8 p.m., Jan. 9, Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org, 931-4850.

The Special Consensus, 8 p.m., Jan. 15, Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org, 931-4850.

Castro Valley High School: An Evening of Blues, Jazz & Funk! 7 p.m. Jan. 17, Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org, 931-4850.

Marc Cohn, Grammy Award winner, 8 p.m. Fri., Jan. 22. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Ambrosia, 8 p.m., Jan. 22 and 23, Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org, 931-4850.

Piano Duet: Tamriko Siphshvili & Temirzhan Yerzhanov, 8 p.m., Jan. 23, Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton, www.firehousearts.org, 931-4850.

Wellington International Ukulele Orchestra, Jan. 28, 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Elton John's Greatest Hits, Jan. 29, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

ON THE STAGE

San Ramon Community Theater will perform "A Christmas Carol Radio Musical" for the holidays. Performance dates are weekends Dec. 4-12; 7:30PM for evening shows and 2:00PM matinees. Tickets are available at www.sanramonperformingarts.com or call 925-973-3343. The show will take place at the Front Row Theater, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Rd., San Ramon.

The Importance of Being Earnest, December 4-12, Barbara F. Mertes Center for the Arts, Las Positas College, 3000 Campus Hill Drive, Livermore. www.laspositascollege.edu

Ballet Folklorico Mexicano, Dec. 6, 2 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Elf, Jr. – a holiday youth musical theater production. Opens December 11 at Amador Theater in Pleasanton. Based on the holiday film, this hilarious fish-out-of-water comedy follows Buddy the Elf on his quest to find his true identity. The heart-warming tale is brought to life by the City of Pleasanton's Civic Arts Stage Company in partnership with the award-winning Bay Area Children's Theatre Company. December 11 – 20. Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$7-\$18, available at www.firehousearts.org, 925-931-4848, or at the Firehouse Arts Center Box Office, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. Tickets are also available at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton, 2 hours prior to the performance.

The Golden Follies 2015 Holiday Revue. Two big shows on Sunday,

December 13, 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. The Las Vegas-style dance revue returns with a high-stepping holiday show featuring senior performers ages 55-90. They tap, kick and strut to memorable holiday music from Nightclub to Broadway, Sinatra to Bubl  with a touch of Bruno Mars keeping us on trend. Reserved seating tickets \$15-\$25. Tickets available at www.firehousearts.org, 925-931-4848, or at the center Box Office, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton.


Beyond the Horizon will be presented in a staged reading as part of the Eugene O'Neill Foundation's Playwrights' Theatre series on Saturday, January 9 at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, January 10 at 2:00 p.m. at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, 205 Railroad Avenue, in Danville. Reservations for Beyond the Horizon are available online at www.eugeneoneill.org, or by phone at (925) 820-1818. Tickets are \$25. Seating at the Museum is limited.

The Pirates of Penzance, weekends Jan. 16 through 31. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets at the box office, www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Good People by David-Lindsay Abaie, Jan. 29-Feb. 14. Role Players Ensemble production, Tickets and Information at www.RolePlayersEnsemble.com. The Village Theatre, 233 Front Street, Danville.

Disney's The Little Mermaid, Pacific Coast Repertory Theatre, 2 and 8 p.m., Jan. 30-Feb. 14,

(continued on page 10)



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ART & ENTERTAINMENT

(continued from page 9)

Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org, 931-4850.

COMEDY

Will Durst & Friends: The Big Fat Year-End Kill-Off! 8 p.m., Dec. 27, Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org, 931-4850.

MOVIES

The Snowpiercer (movie), 7:30 p.m., Jan. 13, Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org, 931-4850.

DANCE

The Nutcracker, Valley Dance Theatre with the Valley Dance Theatre Pit Orchestra, Dec. 12, 19, 20, 2 and 7 p.m., Dec. 13, 2 p.m. and Dec. 18, 7 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankhead-theater.org or 373-6800.

Valley Concert Chorale, Holiday

Concerts: Classical to Contemporary, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 12 at the First Presbyterian Church, 4th and L Streets, Livermore; and at 7 p.m. Dec. 13 at Lynwood Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave., Pleasanton. www.valley-concertchorale.org, or 866-4003.

Choir Recital, Dec. 13, 3 p.m. Las Positas College, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. http://laspositascollege.edu/performingarts/index.php

MISCELLANEOUS

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*.

Storied Nights: An Evening of Spoken Word. 2nd Thursday of each month. Features local authors reading their work 7:30 to 9 p.m. at Peet's Coffee and Tea, 152 So. Livermore Ave., Livermore. Sponsored by LVPAC and Peet's. Information go to <http://facebook.com/StoriedNights>

Dublin Schools, 1915, 1950 and Today, special exhibit, Oct. 17 through January 2016. Little Classroom, Dublin Heritage Park and Museums, 660 Donlon Way, Dublin. www.DublinRecGuide.com.

Speech Performance, Dec. 11, 7 p.m. Las Positas College, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. <http://laspositascollege.edu/performingarts/index.php>

A Polynesian Experience, Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. 2 to 2:45 p.m. Sat., Dec. 12. Dances from Hawaii, Tahiti, New Zealand and the Cook Islands. No registration required. Free. 931-3410.

19th Annual Victorian Yuletide, Dec. 13, noon to 4 p.m. Ravenswood Historic Site, 2649 Arroyo Rd., Livermore. Decorations, gift shop, entertainment, visit with Mr. and Mrs. St. Nicholas. No admission charge. Livermore Area Recreation and Park District and Ravenswood Progress League. www.LARPD.org.

An Evening With... Phoebe Hearst: Tuesday, January 5th, 7pm. Museum on Main Ed Kinney Speakers Series, Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. Tickets are \$10 general admission, \$7 seniors (65+) / students (with valid ID), \$5 members. Tickets may be purchased online at www.museumonmain.org, at Museum on Main during regular operating hours or by phoning the museum at (925) 462-2766. For more information on the Ed Kinney Speakers Series visit www.museumonmain.org or phone Museum on Main at (925) 462-2766.

(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.)

5th annual Children's Holiday Party, Sun., Dec. 13, 1 to 4 p.m. at the Elks Lodge #2117, 940 Larkspur Dr., Livermore. In addition to Santa, there will be snacks, arts and crafts. Even free to children in the Tri-Valley ages 1 to 12. A parent is asked to help a child with the arts and crafts. Information, contact Tammy Sturgill, project officer, k.sturgill@comcast.net, reference "Elks Children's Holiday Part."

Armchair Travelers, a monthly program, will take place at the Livermore Public Library Civic Center on Thurs., Dec. 10 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Doug and Lindy Webb will share photographs and stories of their first cruise—in 1985 to China and the Orient. The trip was 14 days, departing Hong Kong with China ports of call in Shanghai, Dalian, Xingang (maritime gateway to Beijing), plus the ports of Pusan (Korea), Nagasaki (Japan), and ending in Kobe (Japan). Their ship was relatively small (1/3 today's number of passengers) and in contrast to other cruises, much of the time was spent on land with bus, rail, and small boat excursions to the Great Wall of China, Forbidden City, Summer Palace, Tiananmen Square, Grand Canal, places of work, children's centers, private homes, parks, and streets filled with people. A genuine effort was made by the cruise line and the Chinese travel authority to open the country to cruise visitors—not only to visit famous sites, but also places of work, schools, and private homes. 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.

Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club will meet on Thursday, December 10, 6:30 in the Alisal School multipurpose room, 1454 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. A potluck will start the meeting. Also there will be a sale of gently used Christmas items. Ann Ralph, an expert pruner and author of *Grow A Little Fruit Tree* will talk about trees that take up less space, require less care, and offer an easier harvest. Visitors are welcome. For more information call Bev at 925 485 7812 or visit www.lavgc.org.

Livermore Community Blood Drive: Friday, December 18, 1-7 p.m., Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Avenue. Every single day, Bay Area hospitals need over 300 hundred units of blood to keep sick and injured patients alive. During this season of giving, please come donate, and bring a friend or family member to the drive. There's no better gift than to help save a life. Register at www.redcrossblood.org and use ASBURY925 as the Sponsor Code, or call Thomas Petty at 925-980-8164 for more information.

Daughters of the British Empire, Northern California, Holiday Tea, Dec. 10, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Castlewood Country Club, 707 Country Club Circle,

Pleasanton. \$30. For reservations contact: www.dbenca.org/president4dhenca@yahoo.com or 925-998-3500.

Widowed Men and Women of Northern CA, Dec. 17, 5 p.m. Happy hour in Pleasanton, RSVP by Dec. 15 to Mary, 705-7337. Dec. 20, 12:30 p.m. brunch in Livermore, RSVP by Dec. 17 to Ruby, 462-9636. Dec. 31, 1 p.m. luncheon, Call Hilda, 398-8808 as soon as possible to discuss options for restaurants.

Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society, meeting Dec. 14, 7:30 p.m. at Congregation Beth Emek, Nevada Court, Pleasanton. Stephen Morse will speak on the Case Study: Genealogy of Renee Kaufman. This lecture presents a case study using the One-Step Webpages as well as other websites to develop a family history. It illustrates how, with a minimal amount of initial information, an entire genealogy can be obtained. It also shows how to obtain records in spite of name misspellings and how to avoid accepting wrong information. All are welcome. No Charge. For more information contact Program Chairs, email: Marilyn Glass, program@L-AGS.org

11th Annual Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek Branch of AAUW's Holiday Home Tour, Friday and Saturday, December 11 and 12, 2015. Showcasing five beautiful, festively decorated homes in Danville and San Ramon. Tickets are \$35 each. A senior discount of \$5 will be offered through Saturday, December 5th. To purchase online: go to <http://daw-ca.aauw.net/hht2015>. via US Mail: Send a check postmarked by December 5th payable to Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek AAUW with a self-addressed stamped #10 business size envelope to: AAUW Holiday Home Tour, P.O. Box 996, Alamo, CA 94507. In person: Visit East Bay Flower Company, 206 Sycamore Valley Road W. Mon.-Sat. 9-5. (cash or check only). Purchase will help send 12 middle school girls in the Danville, Alamo and Walnut Creek communities to a one-week Tech Trek math-science camp for girls in a university setting and help fund local women receive their college education. Please, no children under 12 or pets. Tour tickets are not tax deductible. Questions: aauwhht@gmail.com

Diabetes Self Management Classes in Dublin, offered by Alameda County Public Health Diabetes Program. Free 7 week series runs Fridays January 8 through February 19, 10 am - 12 pm, at the Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin. Class is for adults diagnosed with pre diabetes or type 2 diabetes. Learn about the causes of diabetes, healthy eating, exercise, medications, stress management and more. Call 510-383-5185 to register. Requires 5 people registered for class to be held.

Diabetes Prevention Class in Pleasanton, offered by Alameda County Public Health Diabetes Program. Free 3 week series runs Thursdays January 14 through January 28, 9:30- am - 11:30 am, at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5355 Sunol Blvd, Pleasanton. This class is for adults who have pre diabetes or have concerns and want to learn more. Call 510-383-5185 to register. Requires 5 people registered for class to be held.

Volunteer bingo callers, needed for Fridays, 1 to 3:45 p.m. at the Livermore

Senior Center. Friday bingo is currently shutdown due to lack of volunteers. To volunteer, stop by the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore and fill out an application or call the Senior Center, M-Th, 373-5760.

Hope Hospice Grief Support, Hope Hospice staff will hold a special workshop, Handling the Holidays, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. 2 to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, December 15, 2:00 to 4:00 pm. Hope Hospice Grief Support Center, 6377 Clark Avenue, 2nd floor, Dublin. Pre-registration is required. Call 925-829-8770 to reserve space in the workshop.

Democrats Season party with Tri-valley, San Ramon Valley, Diablo Valley, Young Democrats and Lamorinda Democratic clubs. 5:30 p.m. Dec. 12. This is a potluck dinner with main course provided by the clubs. This is an opportunity to meet elected officials and other Democrats. IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin.

Crab Feed, Feb. 27, 2016. The Livermore High School Alumni Assoc. is producing its 4th Annual Crab Feed to benefit the students, faculty & administrators of LHS. Each year the LHSAA funds numerous request from LHS to provide items/programs that are no longer in their budget. LHSAA invites all to take part in the Crab Feed and both Live and Silent Auctions Fundraiser. Go to www.livermore-highalumni.com for additional information, email Ihsalumniassoc@gmail.com or call Ray 925-606-5518.

Free high school level math help offered at Pleasanton Library for students who cannot afford tuition. Contact 925-484-1073.

ClutterLess Self Help Support Group, nonprofit, peer-based, self-help, support group for people with difficulty discarding unwanted possessions. Cluttering is a psychological issue, not an organizing issue. New meeting location: Parkview, 100 Valley Avenue (main entrance), 2nd Floor Activity Room, Pleasanton. Mondays except some holidays 7:00 to 8:30 pm. Come or call a volunteer at 925)289-5356 or 925-922-1467. More information at: www.clutterlesseastbay.org

Writing club for young adults, Whether a seasoned writer or just starting out, join published Young Adult author J.L. Powers at Livermore Public Library for the Writing Club for Young Adults, ages 13 through 21 will meet from 6:30 to 8:00 pm on the third Thursday of the month: Dec. 17. The meetings will be held at the Civic Center Library, 1188 South Livermore Avenue, Livermore. The club is free and no registration is required. For more information, please visit TEEN SPACE on the library's website: www.livermorelibrary.net, or contact Jennifer at 925-373-5576.

Learn Scottish country dancing in Livermore. Enjoy the lively reels and jigs and graceful strathspeys that are the traditional social dance of Scotland. Mondays 8:00 to 9:30 pm at the Livermore Veteran's Hall, 522 South L Street, Livermore. No prior dance experience required. Call Margaret Ward at (925) 449-5932 or Sheena MacQueen at (925) 447-1833 for more information. Youth class (ages 8 and up): Contact Sheena MacQueen (925)447-1833 for info.

Questers is an international organization of lovers of antiques, collectibles, and history who encourage

preservation and restoration of historical landmarks. At chapter meetings, members learn about antiques, share and view member's collections, visit historic sites, museums and antiques shops and help non-profit organizations with restoration and preservation work. Chapter meets the 4th Tuesday monthly from September to May. New members are invited to join the local Amador Chapter. If interested call President Rickie at 925-292-8123 or e-mail rjfgiono@comcast.net.

Tri-Valley Stargazers Astronomy Club. Feed your wonder about the Night Sky and the Cosmos by joining us on the 3rd Friday of the Month for our club meeting. Unitarian Universalist Church, 1893 N. Vasco Rd., Livermore. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. talk starts at 7:30 pm. For more info visit us @ <http://www.trivalleystargazers.org/>

Sons in Retirement (SIR) is a social group of retired men who join together to better enjoy their leisure time. Activities include golf, bridge, photography, travel, fishing, biking, wine tasting, and technology. The Tri-Valley Branch serves men living in Pleasanton, Dublin, Livermore, and San Ramon. The group meets for lunch on the first Thursday of each month at the San Ramon Golf Club, 9430 Fircrest Lane, San Ramon. Please read more about the Tri-Valley SIR at <http://sirs34.org/> and the Statewide SIR at www.sirinc.org/. For information or to attend a meeting, call Rich Osborne 925-785-3549.

NAMI Tri-Valley Parent Resource & Support Group meets monthly for parents/caretakers of children ages 5-17 years with (or suspected of having) emotional/psychiatric disorders. It meets the third Tuesday of the month from 7-9pm at Pathways to Wellness, 5674 Stoneridge Dr., Suite 114, Pleasanton. The group is drop-in and free. Contact person is Marsha McInnis at 925-980-5331.

Sons in Retirement (SIR) is a group for retired men who seek activities to enhance their retirement. Monthly meetings feature lunch and an interesting speaker. Men have the opportunity to learn about and join activities such as hiking, bridge, investment, bowling, bocce ball and wood carving. This is also a neat group of guys to get to know. SIR Branch #121 meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month at the DoubleTree Hotel, Las Flores Road (near Bluebell Drive), Livermore, at 11:30. Any retired man is welcome to drop by to learn about your opportunities. For more information check our website: branch121.sirinc2.org or email Neal Cavanaugh at nealcavanaugh@att.net (put "SIR" in the subject line).

Pleasanton Lions Club welcomes visitors to come experience a great time while making a difference in our community & beyond. Dinner meetings every 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm. The Regalia House, 4133 Regalia Ct., Pleasanton. www.pleasantonlionsclub.org

Assistance League® of Amador Valley invites all visitors to join this dedicated group of volunteers, reaching out to those in need in the Tri-Valley and having fun doing it. Regular meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Parkview, 100 Valley Ave., Pleasanton. For more information, see our website, www.amadorvalley.assistanceleague.org, e-mail assistanceleagueamadorvalley@

BULLETIN BOARD

Milestones

Community



Neima Khailla (right) founded a successful clothing company.

Former Student Offers Tips on Marketing and Economics

On November 16th, 2015, Foothill High School DECA hosted Neima Khailla, the CEO and founder of Pink Dolphin. As a part of Global Entrepreneur Week, students had the chance to meet several entrepreneurs and listen to their stories.

Khailla talked about his past experience as an entrepreneur and how he founded his now successful clothing company.

Neima Khailla is a Foothill DECA alumnus who has been visiting annually to speak to the ROP Marketing and Economics of Business Ownership classes. During his presentation, he spoke about how Pink Dolphin started, some of his marketing techniques, and discussed the upcoming winter clothing line. Students were given the opportunity to ask questions to learn more about his path to success.

Foothill DECA is a Career and Technical Student organization that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in four fields of business: marketing, finance, hospitality, and management. DECA integrates into classroom instruction, applies learning, connects to business, and promotes competition in order to prepare the next generation to be academically prepared, community oriented, professionally responsible, and experienced leaders.

LARPD's New Recreation Manager Begins Work

Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) welcomed a new Division Manager to its team on Nov. 16.

Patricia Lord, LARPD's new Division Manager for Recreation, comes from the City of Santa Clara Parks and Recreation Department. There she served as Recreation Division Manager from 2014 until joining LARPD, and held other positions in Santa Clara for several years prior. She also worked for the City of Sunnyvale for 11 years, including serving as Recreation Manager.

"As the new Recreation Division Manager, it is a pleasure to be part of the LARPD team in support of our mission," Lord said.

A resident of Tracy, Lord holds a master's degree in public administration and a bachelor's degree in recreation administration, both from San Jose State University. She has been an active member of the California Parks and Recreation Society, and also served in a volunteer capacity



PATRICIA LORD

on the Board of Directors of the mayor-appointed San Jose Arena Authority for eight years.

Finalists Chosen in 'There Ought to Be A Law' Contest; Opportunity to Vote for Favorite

Assemblywoman Catharine B. Baker (R-San Ramon) announced the three finalists for the "There Ought To Be A Law" video contest. The contest was open to all high school students in the 16th Assembly District. The contest winner will have the opportunity to join Assemblywoman Baker at the State Capitol to introduce his or her bill before the California State Assembly in committee and receive recognition by the Assembly.

The three finalists are Ahana Sen, and Devika Oak the group entry by Alexander Lee, James Zeng, and Steven Yuan

For this contest, students were asked to identify a problem impacting California that they believe requires a legislative solution, and to propose a bill idea to address the issue. In a short 2 to 5 minute video, students were to explain the problem that their bill addresses, the details of what their bill would do to solve it, and evidence to support the need for their proposed legislation. Students were also encouraged to submit an optional essay component.

Within their video or optional essay, students were asked to address why the problem they identified should be solved by state government rather than local or federal government, the private sector, or non-profits, and how the proposed legislation will be funded. Students were also reminded that their proposed law idea need not necessarily create a new program or regulation; rather, their idea could be to repeal, replace, or modify an existing law.

"We received many terrific submissions. I continue to

be impressed with the thoughtful and dedicated efforts put forward by so many of our students," Baker stated. "All of the submissions show merit. Only after careful consideration have we narrowed it down to three submissions."

These three finalists' videos have been added to the Assemblywoman's YouTube page (<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLVc9ndoWpgkRiI2Fc3WzUNvYL-9POHZGc>). The public is invited to vote for a favorite video by clicking the YouTube "like" button on the video they want to have win. When the contest ends on December 17th, the video with the most "likes" wins.

Baker added, "I am very grateful for the hard work of so many students in the 16th District. I will be honored to carry any of these measures in the Assembly, and look forward seeing the results of the contest."

Education

Katherine Klem of Livermore, was one of 38 University of Dallas students to present her "Junior Poet" project. These presentations are the culmination of intensive research and writing on a major English-language poet and are required of all English majors in order to satisfy degree requirements, though students from other majors choose to take the course as well. Klem's presentation was on the poetry of Richard Wilbur.