



Find Out What's Happening

Check out the second section

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

More Toys Are Needed

The Livermore Pleasanton Fire Department is teaming up with the U.S. Marines again this holiday season to collect 'Toys for Tots' at Toys R Us on Saturday, December 12 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Toys R Us is located at 6850 Amador Plaza Road in Dublin.

Program coordinators report that toy collection is down 30% compared to this time last year, when firefighters and Marines met a goal of collecting 15,000 toys. The race is on to meet that same goal this year.

Firefighters will display a 1945 antique fire engine as they accept unwrapped toy donations for the Toys for Tots Program. The 'Toys for Tots' program has been the centerpiece of holiday fundraising for local firefighters and the Marines for more than a decade. The program began in 1947, when Major Bill Hendricks, USCR, and a group of Marine reservists in Los Angeles, collected and distributed 5,000 toys to needy children.

Toys can also be delivered at any one of the Livermore-Pleasanton fire stations in the region as well as police stations in both cities through the holiday period. For more information, please contact (925) 766-9083.

Pleasanton Man Reported Missing

A Pleasanton man's family has reported him missing after he did not call his wife for two days. Jay Lafontaine, 48, is believed to be somewhere between Bodie and Death Valley.

Every year around this time, Lafontaine takes a solitary camping trip to a remote location. He is driving a 2005 black Jeep Wrangler with no side doors. He was supposed to have been home on Dec. 2. He last spoke to his family by cell phone on Nov. 27. Cell phone records do not show any calls since that day.

The Mono and Inyo Sheriff's Departments have been notified, along with State and National Parks services. The area where he could be covers hundreds of square miles. Until a more contained area can be determined, search efforts are limited. The law enforcement jurisdictions in the areas where he could be are actively looking for Lafontaine and his vehicle.

Lafontaine is 6'1" tall 190 pounds, with gray hair and blue eyes. He was last seen wearing a green parka and blue jeans. The Jeep's California license plate number is 5PWX466.

As of Tuesday, there had been no word as to his whereabouts.

Livermore Police Man Checkpoint

The Livermore Police Department will conduct a Sobriety & Driver's License Checkpoint on the evening of December 11 and into the early morning hours of December 12. The checkpoint will be located on a street or highway where a high occurrence of impaired driving arrests and impaired driving related collisions have occurred.

More than thirty department personnel will take part in the checkpoint. It is projected that more than 1,500 drivers will be contacted during the checkpoint. Each driver will be given educational information regarding impaired driving within our community.

County, Cities, Air District Work on Climate Plans

By Ron McNicoll

A dozen or so rural Valley residents huddled for a second time with Alameda County planning consultants concerning new policies that could cut back greenhouse gas emissions in the unincorporated areas.

The meeting Dec. 1 at the Martinelli Event Center was held to take public comments on a document being drafted by the county's consultant, AECOM. The final report, to be delivered later in the winter, will help lead to the creation of a county Climate Action Plan (CAP) for the unincorporated areas.

Many Bay Area cities, including Livermore and Pleasanton, are also beginning to develop CAPs. The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) is working on a plan that would establish specific standards for new development to meet.

Most of the impact in the Alameda County plan would be in the more populous unincorporated areas, such as Castro Valley, San Lorenzo, and Cheryland. That "west county" area has had its own meetings with

the consultants. The Valley's rural residents, though small in number, contributed ideas at a meeting in September, and asked questions last week about what the consultants are putting into the draft report.

Although the draft was not ready yet for publication, some of the material was outlined by the consultants at the meeting.

The amount of carbon gasses that would be saved by various actions was listed in handouts to the group.

One example of carbon sav-

ings that definitely could affect rural Valley residents, if imposed, would be county-imposed rules requiring property owners of existing residences to meet current energy efficiency standards at the point of sale. That has the potential of saving 14,090 metric tons of carbon gases per year.

However, the cost to the individual homeowner would be a consideration, what with the cost of double-pane windows and their installation, and other improvements, said audience members.

One man in one of three breakout discussion groups said it would be better if the buyer, not the seller, would have to pay for retrofitting energy improvements, especially if the buyer winds up tearing down the house. "This has the potential to get into people's dollars," he said.

A woman in the group said that even shifting the cost to buyers could discourage a purchase.

Claire Bonham Carter, one of the consultants, said that there

(See CLIMATE, page 4)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

A blast of winter air brought snow to the low hills around Livermore, providing an opportunity for Savannah Malakoff (right) and Canelia Allen to build a snowman on a hill near Del Valle. Behind, their grandmother, Jan Allen, watches. For more snow photos, see page 2.

Pleasanton Delays Vote on Senior Housing

The Pleasanton City Council held off making a decision regarding the future of two low income senior housing projects in the city.

A task force has been preparing a proposal that would redevelop Kottinger Place and consider other uses for Pleasanton Gardens. The two projects are located on Vineyard Avenue across from each other.

The council asked for more options from staff, including rehabilitating the housing at both locations. In addition, Councilmember Cheryl Cook-Kallio suggested that the mayor, who was absent, would like to participate in the final decision on how many units and what they would look like. The council did agree that the city should move forward to select a nonprofit developer.

Kottinger Place currently has 40 units and Pleasanton Gardens 50 units, all available to low income seniors. The city owns Kottinger Place. Rents range from \$25 a month to \$519 a month, depending on the income of the resident. Pleasanton Gardens is owned and operated by a nonprofit with rents ranging from \$71 to \$554. There are waiting lists at both locations.

The goal of the task force was to retain the current rent levels and increase the availability of housing for low income seniors.

Options proposed by the task force were for 150 units including two and three story buildings or 128 units in two story buildings on the Kottinger Place site. With the 150 unit option, Pleasanton Gardens would donate its land to the city, which could then use the land for anything ranging from a park to market rate housing or additional senior housing. The property could also be sold and the proceeds used to help build the new senior housing.

Pleasanton Gardens' board of directors set a 150 unit level as a minimum requirement for its participation in the redevelopment plans.

Both Councilmembers Cindy McGovern and Matt Sullivan said that 150 units was too dense, too massive for only one site.

Sullivan wanted to spread the 150 units out over both properties. He also wanted a policy in place as to what would happen to the Pleasanton Gardens property, if all of the housing were built on the Kottinger Place site.

McGovern didn't suggest a number of units she would like to see, but wanted to look at rehabilitating the current units. She said that seniors she talked to living in the two projects like the garden style living they have now. Each unit is single story and includes a backyard where they

(See HOUSING, page 2)

Prime Outlets Purchased

Simon Property Group Inc., the largest U.S. shopping mall owner, made its biggest purchase in five years with an agreement to buy Prime Outlets Acquisition Co. from Lightstone Group for \$2.33 billion including debt.

Prime Outlets has been plan-

ning a major shopping center, Livermore Station, near El Charro in Livermore.

City engineer Cheri Sheets stated, "We are viewing the sale as a positive event. Simon is well financed. It is in a much better position to obtain the funds needed

to build Livermore Station. Our expectation is that the project is on target to be up and running in 2011."

Simon Property will pay \$700 million, 80 percent in cash and 20 percent in common operating (See PRIME, page 2)

Downtown Station Favored by Speakers

In contrast to the first public hearing on a BART extension to Livermore, the majority of speakers favored a downtown station built in conjunction with a station near the freeway.

The preferred route to the downtown was underground along Portola and Junction Avenues. Speakers pointed to the positive economic impact such a station could have on the downtown and the entire city. There was a difference of opinion as to whether a freeway station should be located along Vasco or at Greenville.

The purpose of the hearing, held last Wednesday, was to take

comments on a draft programmatic environmental impact report (DEIR). However, most speakers talked about which alignment they preferred.

It was to be the final hearing on the DEIR. However, a third hearing has been added. It will be held in Pleasanton at 6:30 p.m. on Wed., Jan. 6 in the city council chambers, 200 Old Bernal Avenue. In addition, the written comment period has been extended to January 21, 2010.

The DEIR studies nine alternative routes. The eventual outcome will be the selection of a preferred alignment to bring (See BART, page 4)

Thorne Appeals Downtown Music Permit

Pleasanton councilmember Jerry Thorne has appealed a planning commission decision to grant Redcoats pub a permit to have DJ music indoors on Wednesday and Thursday nights.

Redcoats offers DJ music on weekend nights. Thorne said that he has no objection to the pub having the music on Wednesdays and Thursdays. However,

the planning commission set a requirement that sound levels be monitored.

The commission failed to require Redcoats to conduct the monitoring, said Thorne. He wants that specific note added to the condition. Without using sound gauges, judging volume is subjective, said Thorne.

The appeal is due to come before the council on Jan. 19.



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

A decorated tuba added to the festive spirit for the Foothill High School band as it marched in the Pleasanton Holiday Parade. For more photos of community events, see page 8.

Police Take Pay Reduction To Help City

The members of the Livermore Police Officers' Association (LPOA) have voted to take a three and one-quarter percent (3.25%) pay reduction in order to help the City of Livermore continue providing quality police services to its citizens. The sacrifice by the LPOA members will save the City over \$1.4 million during the next three and a half years.

Earlier this year, the City came to the LPOA requesting to re-open the current collective bargaining agreement (CBA) due to declining property tax and sales tax revenues. While not obligated to do so and having already made concessions regarding retiree medical benefits during the prior round of bargaining, the LPOA agreed to discuss additional cost saving measures with the City in order to maintain the current level of police services to the community.

The LPOA and the City worked collaboratively towards reaching a compromise. According to a press release from LPOA, "While having a significant, negative impact on employee compensation, given the current economic downturn, the agreement makes sense for LPOA members and the citizens they protect."

(See PAY, page 2)

Inside

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



PET OF THE WEEK

Precious truly lives up to her name. She is a lovable and charming little lady with a cute, bobbed tail. To cuddle up with Precious, visit Valley Humane Society at 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton, open Tuesday-Saturday from 11AM to 5PM. Call 925-426-8656 for more info. Donate gifts to homeless pets by visiting Valley Humane Society's Virtual Christmas Tree at www.valleyhumane.org and buy food, litter, toys and treats for the homeless animals this holiday season.

HOUSING

continued from page one

can grow flowers and vegetables. She objected to "corridor living," with all entries off a common hall, that would result from the larger buildings. "This is much more institutionalized than I thought it would be," she stated. "It is making a drastic change in the amenities the residents have now."

The architect for the project, Rich Caldwell, assured the council that the project would not have an institutional feel.

Steve Bocian, Pleasanton assistant city manager, told the council that one of the reasons for placing all of the units on one site was a savings in management costs and an increase in programs that could be realized.

The estimated cost to build the 150 units is \$44 million, for the 128 units \$38.7 million. The funds would come from a variety of sources, ranging from the city to HUD.

Pleasanton Gardens currently has 31 section 8 units. In order to keep the rents low at any new housing, the city is working with HUD to transfer them to the new homes. "It is critical that this happen," said Bocian.

Issues raised by neighbors included parking, building heights, density and the lack of a specific use for the Pleasanton Gardens site. In addressing the council, they suggested that the city look at using both properties for the proposed redevelopment and not try to build all of them on one site.

Once a final design is selected, a parking study would be conducted. Bocian added that issues raised by the neighbors are typically addressed during the development process.

Becky Dennis, chairman of the task force, told the council, "You have an unusual opportunity to design a project that will serve the community. The seniors had a lot of opinions on how they wanted their new homes to look. By having more seniors at one location, it will be possible to offer more programs. It is difficult to provide staff with too few residents."

McGovern wondered whether it was worth it to tear down 90 good repair buildings using taxpayer dollars. Then rebuild, again, using taxpayer dollars.

"There are a lot of assumptions that are not finite," she said. "I'm not sure 150 units should be there. However, I'm willing to look at more units and making it better."

The age of the buildings is an issue when it comes to rehabilitating the sites. Bruce Fielder, who manages Pleasanton Gardens, noted that there are no sprinklers or air conditioning in the homes. The units were designed for people who are 62, not the current 78.5 average that live there now. The kitchens and bathrooms are not ADA compliant. The housing would have to be torn down and rebuilt to meet today's codes. However, that would be difficult, since many of the companies from which parts were purchased are out of business. "Pleasanton Gardens is coming to a fork in the road. It would need to be redeveloped or close," said Fielder.

Cook-Kallio commented, "It would be hard to imagine tearing down the housing with a community that is aging. To think we won't have to increase the number of affordable housing for

seniors is like putting our heads in the sand."

McGovern said she too wanted more senior housing. "We need a discussion on how we use city funds to meet the need. To consider 150 units is so drastically different from what is there, I can hardly put my hands around it." She said that the requirement for 150 units made by Pleasanton Gardens in exchange for turning over its property to the city, sounded adversarial.

Dennis, who is also on the Pleasanton Gardens board of directors, explained that Pleasanton Gardens is run by a nonprofit charged with using its assets - land and buildings - to provide very low income housing for seniors. There are now 90 units on both sites. If 128 were built on one that would add only an additional 38 units. "From the board's perspective, that is too small an increase. Our first choice is to partner with the city in using our assets at a level that is justifiable. The buildings are old and can't be rebuilt at the level of affordability

with the assets we have available. If the city can't work with the board, we would probably seek a different partner."

Councilmember Jerry Thorne said there are a lot of things that have to fall into place to make any project work. "The important thing now is to move forward. The goal is to come up with a plan to fit the property that is consistent with what is needed and what neighbors want to see."

Sullivan said he would like to look at 150 units on both sites, keeping a portion of them in the garden style units and some in corridor style living. He was hopeful that the Pleasanton Gardens board would be willing to discuss and modify its minimum requirement of 150 units. He also asked staff for a cost-benefit analysis of rehabilitating the current buildings versus new construction.

Amador High to Host Regional Math Tournament

Amador Valley High School is showing leadership in mathematics by playing host to a regional math tournament in the school's multipurpose room on Dec. 12.

Students who score 50 percent or more on at least one round will receive an invitation to mathleague.org's Northern California Championship. In addition, this competition will serve as one of the tryouts for the Bay Area American Region Mathematics team.

William Chen, head of Amador Valley's math club, said that this is the first time a high school has been host to a tournament sponsored by mathleague.org, which is a national organization.

Chen said he expects all 120 slots in the tournament to be filled by Dec. 10. Earlier in the week, 52 Amador Valley students had

signed up for the contest. Another 45 had signed on from schools throughout the Bay Area.

Mathleague.org allows high schools to play host only when there is a significant adult base to help with the competition, said Chen. Amador Valley met that criterion.

Amador Valley's math teachers will be running the contest, with help from the school's math club, which sponsored a districtwide tournament earlier this year.

The competition begins at 8:30 a.m. Chen said, "It will be great to have so many people from around the Bay Area."

More information about the upcoming competition can be found at www.avmathteam.org/nccqm.



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Sledding was another favorite pastime on Monday, as residents enjoyed the rare snowfall along Patterson Pass Road.



Photo - Kelly McKenzie Hansen

The hills surrounding Wente Vineyards were dusted with snow.

PRIME

continued from page one

partnership units.

Prime Outlets, based in Baltimore, owns outlets in metropolitan areas including Washington D.C., Baltimore, San Antonio and Orlando. The centers were 92 percent occupied as of June 30 and generated sales of about \$370 a square foot.

PAY

continued from page one

In addition to the 3.25% pay reduction which is retroactive to August of this year, the LPOA agreed to extend the current CBA through January 31, 2012, with no salary increase for the duration of the agreement. LPOA points out, "This will mean that by the end of the agreement, police officers working for the City of Livermore will have gone three and a half years with no compensation increase - a big sacrifice in order to continue to provide a high level of service to the citizens of Livermore."

POPPY RIDGE GOLF COURSE
4280 Greenville Road, Livermore

Brunch with Santa!

December 19th, 2009
9 a.m.

Brunch Buffet
Holiday Crafts
Cookie Decorating

\$5.95 Child (2-6 yrs)
\$12.95 Kids (6-12 yrs)
\$19.95 Adults

Reservations: 925-447-6779

Wine Country Pet Spa
Dog & Cat Grooming

All Breeds • Mixed Breeds • Large Dogs Welcome

Pampering Pets in
Tri-Valley & East Bay Since 1985

(925) 606-0946
WineCountryPetSpa.com

Pet Spa • Private Dog Park • Pet Consultation

We're on fire!
The fastest growing real estate company in the Bay Area.

Limited Openings for Productive Agents.
925.251.2501

J. Rockcliff REALTORS

THE EAST BAY'S PREMIER REAL ESTATE COMPANY
WWW.ROCKCLIFF.COM

MEDITERRANEAN ESTATE	PRESERVE COMMUNITY	GORGEOUS CUSTOM ESTATE	KOTTINGER RANCH	LOT ACRES APX: 10.88			
<p>MORGAN TERRITORY RD LIVERMORE Two beautiful custom Estates on a 92 acres. Main house is a 4 bd, 3.5 ba, approx. 9378 sqft, 12 car garage. 2nd house is a 3 bdrm, 4 bath, approx. 3000sqft. Taso Tsakos 925.648.4199</p>	<p>9663 CROSBY DRIVE PLEASANTON This stunningly beautiful, totally custom home is located on the desirable West side of Pleasanton. The finest materials and workmanship. Phyllis & Carolyn Weiner 925.872.1416</p>	<p>833 PIEMONTE DRIVE PLEASANTON Dramatic street presence! Huge gourmet kit, sauna, exercise rm, library, 4 fireplaces, 5-car garage. Incomparable 0.70 acres, pool, spa, outdoor kitchen & more. Diane Giffether 925.648.5443</p>	<p>1332 BORDEAUX STREET PLEASANTON Single story, vaulted ceilings, hardwood flooring, kitchen features granite counters, extra cabinet space and nook. French doors to rear yard and patio, closets. Jon Wood 925.280.6421</p>	<p>16515 GRANT LINE ROAD LIVERMORE Over 10 acres but still in Livermore. Versatility galore with rolling hills and only minutes from 580. Privacy/view/serenity. Older ranch home. Out building. Auto gate opener. PENNY CHRISTENSEN 925.730.5262</p>			
<p>LIVERMORE</p> <p>East Valley Ave \$4,695,000 Fabulous 20+ acre parcel with 8090 +/-sf custom home. Carole Cline, CRS 925.683.0488</p> <p>Caldeira \$2,998,000 Custom estate surrounded by your own Petite Sirah vineyard. Peggy Cortez 925.648.5454</p> <p>Morgan Territory Rd \$1,850,000 108 AC. Fenced Ranch Property - Picturesque Setting The Nagle Team 925.736.4155</p> <p>Mines Road \$895,500 Natural springs and a location with fantastic views. Tom Bramell 925.583.2180</p> <p>Buena Vista Ave \$850,000 2.4 Total Acres, Flat lot, jurisdiction of Alameda County. Vickie Keller 925.583.2182</p>	<p>LIVERMORE</p> <p>Chablis Way \$825,999 Walking distance to downtown. Beautiful curb appeal. Angela Adams 925.583.2186</p> <p>Decker Ln \$695,000 Corner lot w/ enjoyable privacy. 4 bd/3ba, 2,500+/- sq. ft. Sharon Williams 925.583.2181</p> <p>Laurel Creek \$475,000 Come in with some vision, needs a little cosmetic TLC. Sarah Arnold 925.583.7700</p> <p>Lee Ave \$474,000 Spacious home with separate Bonus Room above garage. Tom E. Chance 925.583.2175</p> <p>Inverness Cmn \$395,000 3 Bed 2.5 Bath, 1,879+/- SQ FT, built 1990. Tom E. Chance 925.583.2175</p>	<p>PLEASANTON</p> <p>Golden Eagle Way \$3,187,000 Beautiful custom home in gated Golden Eagle Estates. Peggy Cortez 925.648.5454</p> <p>Gray Fox Ct \$2,450,000 Mediterranean, situated on 2+/- acres w/ panoramic views. Phyllis & Carolyn Weiner 925.872.1416</p> <p>W Ruby Hill Dr \$1,999,000 Stunning Spanish Mediterranean. Salt water pool. Todd Martinez 925.251.2571</p> <p>Castlewood Pl \$1,895,000 Beautiful custom built home with golf course views. Bryan Craft 925.855.4141</p> <p>Concord St \$759,000 Vintage Hills CUSTOM home on almost a 1/2 acre. Pool. Emily Hunter 925.785.3795</p>	<p>PLEASANTON/EAST BAY</p> <p>Nevis Street \$649,900 Completely updated and expanded Jensen Home. Susette Clark-Walker 925.251.2547</p> <p>Kings Canyon Ct \$610,000 Lovely remodel, 1-story home in convenient location. Margarita Cavalieri 925.251.251</p> <p>Vine St \$439,000 Gorgeous Townhome, remodeled with all the goodies. Sam & Mary Nawabi-Parwiz 925.219.5144</p> <p>Redwood Road Oakland \$3,155,000 Equestrian Delight. Business established since 1935. Kristy & Company 925.251.2536</p> <p>Eden Canyon Rd Castro Valley \$1,387,000 Ranch Style Home on 24 acres. 4 bd/2.5ba, 2,215+/- sq.ft. Kristy & Company 925.251.2536</p>	<p>LAND & COMMERCIAL</p> <p>Catalina Dr Livermore (Commercial) \$3,298,000 Self-Service Gas & Food Mart & Monster Burrito store. Tom Bramell & Corey Green 925.667.2100</p> <p>Hansen Road Livermore (Land) \$1,499,000 Court Location, Large Lot. Beautiful/Lavish Courtyard. Tom Bramell 925.583.2180</p> <p>Old 1st St Livermore (Commercial) \$1,248,000 Own & build in newly renovated & exciting downtown. Corey Green 925.583.2173</p> <p>Second St Livermore (Commercial) \$539,000 Corner house converted to office building in business district. Tom Bramell 925.583.2180</p> <p>3059 Hopyard Rd Pleasanton (Commercial) \$299,000 Mr. Pickle's sandwich shop franchise w/ business opp. Tom Bramell 925.583.2180</p>			
<p>Blackhawk 4105 Blackhawk Plaza Cir. Danville, CA 94506 925.648.5300</p>	<p>Blackhawk West 3880 Blackhawk Rd. Danville, CA 94506 925.736.6000</p>	<p>Danville 15 Railroad Ave. Danville, CA 94526 925.855.4000</p>	<p>Lafayette 3799 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Ste. 100 Lafayette, CA 94549 925.253.7001</p>	<p>Livermore 1983 Second Street Livermore, CA 94550 925.667.2100</p>	<p>Orinda 89 Davis Rd., Ste. 100 Orinda, CA 94563 925.253.7000</p>	<p>Pleasanton 5075 Hopyard Rd., #110 Pleasanton, CA 94588 925.251.2500</p>	<p>Walnut Creek 100 N. Main St. Walnut Creek, CA 94596 925.280.8500</p>

VALLEY ROUNDUP

Trail Segment to Be Dedicated

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District will dedicate a new trail segment in honor of Anastasia "Annie" Quinn on Dec. 12 in front of Ravenswood Historic Site.

Quinn served as a volunteer at Ravenswood Historic Site. She loved both Ravenswood and Sycamore Grove Park. The daughter of former LARPD Board Member Alice Quinn, her life was cut short in 2003 by an automobile accident at age 21.

The Annie Quinn Trail segment, part of the South Livermore Valley Trail system, runs from Ravenswood Historic Site to the intersection of Arroyo Road and Wetmore Road. A ceremony to dedicate the trail and signs will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 12, along the trail in front of Ravenswood, 2647 Arroyo Road. The event will be rescheduled if canceled due to inclement weather. For more information, call 925-373-5700.

Certification Achieved

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory has achieved ISO14001 certification for its Environmental Management System, conforming to standards set by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

The purpose of the internationally recognized standard is to foster sound environmental practices that minimize negative affects upon the environment from an organization's operations or work activities. These practices include such things as pollution prevention and waste reduction.

ISO 14001 certification was granted by NSF International Strategic Registrations, an independent, not-for-profit auditing organization that examined the Lab's environmental policy, how the Lab addresses environmental aspects in the planning and execution of work, communication of EMS and related requirements to employees and subcontractors, and the steps taken to establish targets and programs to reduce environmental impacts.

"ISO 14001 certification is a major achievement for the Laboratory," said Steve Liedle, LLNL deputy director. "It demonstrates the Laboratory's strong commitment to environmental stewardship and the strong performance of its formal environmental protection program."

Los Alamos Success

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) announced today that Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) fired its first-ever double-viewpoint hydrodynamic test of a nuclear weapon component mockup. The test, conducted by LANL scientists and engineers, took place at the Dual Axis Radiographic Hydrodynamic Test (DARHT) facility at Los Alamos.

The test is part of the National Nuclear Security Administration's stockpile stewardship program, which uses cutting-edge science, technology, and engineering to experimentally confirm predictions of weapons performance made from computational simulations. This allows NNSA to ensure the safety, security, and effectiveness of the nation's nuclear deterrent without nuclear testing.

Conducted inside a specially designed double-walled containment vessel, the test used high explosives to drive an implosion of a W78 duplicate made from non-nuclear surrogate materials. As the mockup is imploding, the DARHT facility fires two electron accelerators positioned at a 90-degree angle from one another to generate high-power X-rays that are used to create multiple images of the imploding device's inner workings, which are then compared with computer predictions.

The Los Alamos-designed W78 warhead is part of the U.S. nuclear deterrent currently deployed on the Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), a United States Air Force system.

Flu Vaccination Clinic

The Alameda County Public Health Department, in conjunction with the cities of Pleasanton and Dublin, will host an H1N1 flu vaccination clinic on Saturday, December 12. The clinic will take place at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Avenue. Enter through Gate 12 on Valley Avenue.

The free vaccine will only be available to individuals who live in Alameda County and are at the highest risk of complications from exposure to the H1N1 virus, including: pregnant women, persons who live with or provide care for infants under the age of 6 months (parents, siblings and childcare providers), children and young adults ages 6 months to 24 years (children 9 years of age and under will need a second dose of vaccine in at least 3-4 weeks), and all other persons ages 25-64 who have chronic medical conditions that put them at higher risk for flu related complications.

Individuals who do not meet these high risk guidelines will not receive the vaccine.

Suspicious Device Not a Bomb

The Pleasanton Police Department received a report of a suspicious item found in a locker in the employee's lounge at the Safeway store at Valley and Santa Rita. The call came in at around 11:30 a.m. last

Friday. The item resembled a possible pipe bomb.

Police officers evacuated the store and requested the assistance of the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department and the Alameda County Bomb Squad.

The device was removed from the store using a specialized robot. Once outside the store, one end was detonated to neutralize it. Bomb Squad technicians determined the device had not contained an explosive element and posed no danger to the public.

The swim meet at the nearby swim meet was not affected by the operation.

Customers and employees were allowed back inside the store. The police are following up leads as to who was responsible for the device. Anyone with information about this incident is asked to call the department at 931-5100.

Pleasanton Council

The Pleasanton City Council will hold a special meeting on Monday, December 14 at 6:00 p.m. to appoint and welcome Jonathan Lowell, the new City Attorney. A reception will be held afterward.

HERTZCARSALES.COM • HERTZCARSALES.COM



FLEET REDUCTION SALE

The Advantage of Buying from Hertz:

- Customer Satisfaction Policy.
- 12 month/12,000 mile **limited powertrain warranty**
- Avoid new car depreciation.
- Competitive pricing.
- Factory warranty still in effect on most cars.
- Many makes and models
- Large inventory of used cars.
- Low fixed used vehicle pricing.

<p>2008 Hyundai Accent GLS Vin#182427</p>  <p>HERTZ PRICE \$8,995</p>	<p>2008 Chevrolet Aveo LS Vin#173365</p>  <p>HERTZ PRICE \$8,995</p>
<p>2008 Chevrolet Cobalt LT Vin#225543</p>  <p>HERTZ PRICE \$9,995</p>	<p>2008 Pontiac G6 GT Vin#205483</p>  <p>HERTZ PRICE \$9,995</p>

2008 Saturn Aura XE Vin#191481	\$11,995
2008 Hyundai Elantra GLS Vin#395189...	\$10,995
2008 Mazda 6 Vin#M25062	\$10,995
2008 Chevrolet Malibu LS Vin#195764	\$11,995
2007 Ford Mustang Sdn Vin#140844	\$11,995
2008 Mazda 3 I Vin#844068	\$11,995
2008 Mazda 5 Sport Vin#318906	\$12,995
2008 Mercury Mariner V6 Vin#37718	\$12,595
2008 Toyota Yaris Vin#266432	\$11,995
2008 Ford Truck Escape Vin#D06285	\$13,995
2009 Toyota Corolla S Vin#015300	\$13,995
2008 Mazda CX7 Vin#200184	\$13,995
2008 Honda Accord Vin#50941	\$14,995
2009 Toyota Camry LE Vin#270272	\$14,995
2008 Toyota Sienna LE Vin#186286	\$14,995
2008 Toyota Prius Vin#728188	\$16,995
2008 Toyota Rav4 LTD Vin#073274	\$16,995
2008 Audi A3 Vin#051007	\$21,995
2008 BMW 328i Vin#Z89171	\$23,495

28001 Mission Blvd, Hayward (510) 728-9880



HERTZ
Car Sales
Buy Wisely. Buy Hertz.

**HOURS: MON-FRI: 8AM-8PM,
SAT: 9AM-7PM, SUN: 10AM-6PM**



AAA
Show Your Card & Save

All prices plus government fees and taxes, any finance charges, and any emission testing charge. All cars previously used in rental car service by Hertz. All cars subject to prior sale and supply on hand. All Hertz used vehicles come with a 12 month, 12,000 miles limited powertrain warranty. This warranty covers parts and labor on the engine, transmission, drive shaft and differential for 1 full year or 12,000 miles, whichever comes first. Extended service agreements are available for additional cost. Dealer will not honor pricing errors in this ad. Valid through 12/14/09.

HERTZCARSALES.COM • HERTZCARSALES.COM

Ask About Our Special
\$10 Winter Sprint Sessions &
*Our Private Lessons For
Only \$25!
*December 26-27th Only

The Best Value

... for quality swim lessons in the Bay Area!





You can't beat our combination of quality instructors, comfortable facilities, flexible schedules and great prices for swim lessons anywhere in the Bay Area. Call us today for more information and to schedule a FREE Trial Class.

- Year-round classes: available mornings, afternoons and evenings
- Instruction for all ages and abilities, beginning as early as 6 months
- Specially-designed indoor instruction pools, heated to 92°





New customers! Bring in this ad for a

FREE TRIAL CLASS

Some restrictions apply. Limited time offer. LTRM



AMERICAN SWIM ACADEMY
LIVERMORE • DUBLIN
FREMONT • NEWARK

1.800.810.SWIM

www.AmericanSwimAcademy.com



TOM E. CHANCE

YOUR LIVERMORE REALTOR CA DRE#00824220

WWW.TOMCHANCE.COM

925.487.6360

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year...



J. Rockcliff

REALTORS

THE EAST BAY'S PREMIER REAL ESTATE COMPANY
WWW.ROCKCLIFF.COM

MAKE ONE OF THESE HOMES YOURS FOR THE HOLIDAY!



2065 Altair Ave

Lovely Semi-Custom home with lots of upgrades. 4 Bedroom 2.5 Baths on almost 1/2 acre in South Livermore. Spacious Rooms, Side Yrd Access, Gazebo and more.
Call Tom for an appointment. Asking \$815,000

140 Lee Ave Livermore

Exceptional Home with Bonus Room and separate entrance. 4 Bedroom 3 Full Baths - Walking Distance to Downtown Livermore Eaterys, theatres and ACE Commute.

Asking Just \$474,900 for approx. 2080 sq.ft.

EDITORIAL

More Than Transit At Stake

The location of the proposed Livermore BART Station is much more than a transit issue. Potentially at stake is the North Livermore urban growth boundary (UGB).

BART has committed itself to building its new stations on the transit village mode, complete with high-density housing and other urban development. In the environmental review, BART suggests the UGB would need to be moved to accommodate the transit oriented development if freeway stations were chosen.

In the most recent attempt by Pardee to move the UGB, Livermore voters soundly defeated the proposal. The need for housing around freeway BART stations could open up the UGB to another challenge.

Hearings are currently being held on the question, among others, of whether the BART rail extension from Pleasanton/Dublin to Livermore should follow an I-580 route (along the freeway median) or veer south and come underground into downtown Livermore.

A station in the downtown would help to invigorate the area bringing in people to shop, dine and attend the theaters. Extending the line from downtown to a Vasco Road station would provide an additional location for the development levels BART desires.

Out on the highway, though, at the gateway to the agricultural lands of North Livermore, a BART station and the accompanying transit village would open up those lands to urbanization and bring down the UGB that citizens overwhelmingly support.

BART

(continued from page one)

BART to Livermore. The various options studied in the draft report can be mixed and matched.

Three alignments end at Greenville Road; two go to Vasco Road near the current ACE station; two terminate in the downtown. These options would have two stations. Both the Greenville and Vasco routes include one that goes through the downtown. Several going through the downtown leave the freeway at El Charro and travel through the quarry area. One exits the freeway near Las Positas Blvd.; another goes underground along Portola and Junction Avenue into the downtown.

There are also two one-station alignments. One goes down I-580 and ends at Isabel and I-580; the other uses El Charro, extends through the quarry area and stops at Isabel and Stanley Blvd.

Each of the two station alignments is predicted to add 30,000 riders to the system. The one station alignments would add 20,000. "There would be significant improvements in traffic on I-580," according to the DEIR. Malcolm Quint, BART project manager, stated that the extension would not magically relieve congestion during peak hours. "The further east the station is built, the more congestion relief there is on the freeway. However, over the Altamont, there would be more trips with people driving to access the station."

One of the criteria MTC has established in evaluating the strength of future stations is the amount of transit oriented development (TOD) that could be built within a half mile of the station. The more that can be built, the more likely a station would receive funding through MTC. The Vasco and downtown stations are considered to have the greatest potential for TOD. In addition, they both connect to the ACE train, meeting another goal of providing intermodal connections.

The City of Livermore's general plan includes TOD for the Greenville area. However, the site selected for placement of the station in the study at Greenville is further than the recommended half mile from where housing was projected in the general plan.

Quint commented, that the original location chosen in 2002 for a station at Greenville was rejected on the grounds that, while a station between Herman Avenue and Laughlin Road would be well-positioned for transit-oriented development, neither the terminus station nor Isabel/I-580 would allow transfers between BART and ACE. Also, the nearby Greenville East Station offered similar levels of accessibility and potential for transit-oriented development and would have a connection between BART and

ACE, making it preferable to the Greenville West option. Still, it lacks the desired TOD.

Supervisor Scott Haggerty commented, "We are still at the constructive criticism part of this process. Most of the options are over \$3 billion. The goal is to get to the point where we have a project and can then go out and find the money to build it."

The high price tags of over \$3 billion are for the two station options. The cost includes building the station and an end of the line maintenance yard, as well as the purchase of new trains. The yard is needed to store and maintain the trains. Currently, the maintenance takes place at the Daly City station. The one station alternatives looked at in the DEIR are considered to be stations that would eventually be extended to an end of line station and therefore do not include a maintenance yard. The cost of these stations appears to be much less, in part, because an "apples to oranges" comparison has not been made.

Asked about the potential for a maintenance yard at Isabel/580 if it were to become an end station, Quint stated, "Without the inclusion of a storage and maintenance yard, the Isabel/580 station would not provide adequate train storage and maintenance capacity to serve the extension. Additional yard and storage facilities would be needed to prevent impacts on the core system and to allow efficient operation of the extension. In addition to these needs, this alternative would also require new core system storage capacity to service the additional cars operating on the core system. The storage and maintenance needs of these additional vehicles would need to be accommodated on the West Bay and Fremont/East Bay lines. These needs may be in excess of current BART plans to expand storage and maintenance capacity. For example, BART is currently planning a yard and shop expansion at the Hayward Maintenance Complex to handle future ridership growth. The specific impacts of a BART extension on the vehicle maintenance, storage requirements and other elements of the system will have to be dealt with in detail at the time that a project-level environmental study is performed."

Members of the public voiced their preferences for a BART extension. All of those who wanted a downtown station stated that it should be underground.

Jim Schmidt, Livermore Valley Opera, said that there is an ongoing effort to bring arts to Livermore. "BART downtown would open up the city and say we want to be part of the Bay Area." He pointed out that singers who use BART to come to singing engagements at the Bankhead Theater had to take taxis from the Pleasanton-Dub-

Garamendi Opposes Surge; McNerney Wants More Details

By Ron McNicol

Livermore's new congressman, John Garamendi, opposes the surge of 30,000 troops in Afghanistan, which President Obama called for in his nationwide speech.

Garamendi, a Democrat with an office in Walnut Creek, was sworn into office two days after the Nov. 3 election. He told The Independent through a press aide that he supports Obama's call for more civilian aid to build schools, medical facilities, and other necessary services to build Afghan society. However, he opposes the surge, which would add 30,000 troops to the current level of 62,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan.

In his speech on Dec. 1, Obama said that he wants to add the troops by the summer of 2010, with a few of them shipping out as early as this month.

Obama also set a deadline of July 2011 to hold the Afghan government accountable for beginning to take over its own security and function sufficiently as a democratic government delivering services to its citizens. However, the date appears to have some flexibility in it, because it is tied

to benchmarks about the status of the situation in summer of 2011.

Obama announced that billions of dollars will be spent on creating more infrastructure such as hospitals and schools for Afghan society. It is designed to nurture citizens' confidence in the elected government, as a way to offset Taliban influence.

MCNERNEY WILL WAIT FOR DETAILS

Garamendi's congressional district neighbor, Rep. Jerry McNerney, D-Pleasanton, did not address the troop surge or the deadline date.

McNerney said in a formal statement to the Independent through a press aide that he "will be reviewing the president's strategy, and looks forward to hearing more specifics about the proposal."

McNerney's statement to The Independent also said, "As we decide on our involvement in Afghanistan, first and foremost I will consider the safety of our brave men and women in uniform who are risking their lives."

"In order to ensure the safety of our troops and all Americans,

we need to establish clear and realistic goals for our involvement in Afghanistan. This should include addressing Afghanistan's political and military stability, dealing with corruption, and planning for the safe return of our troops," he said.

Garamendi, in a statement on his web site, makes no direct mention of his opposition to the troop surge, although he appears to imply it. On the site, he says that he remains "convinced that increased diplomatic, economic, social, and educational assistance in the region will result in a lasting solution in Afghanistan."

Sandbags Available to Pleasanton Residents

The City of Pleasanton has free sandbags available for residents concerned about flooding as a result of the first storm of the winter season.

Residents can pick up free sandbags at the City of Pleasanton Service Center, located at 3333 Busch Road in Pleasanton. The sandbags can be picked up at anytime, and are located in the

parking lot under a brown tarp.

Pleasanton Operations Services Director Daniel Smith stated that city crews prepare in advance of the rainy season to clear culverts and drains, and residents are encouraged to clear leaves from neighborhood drains as a part of this effort.

Operations Services crews have spent the past six weeks implementing an annual leaf pick-up program in advance of the rains.

Pleasanton residents who see flooded areas should call the Operations Services Department between 7:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. at (925) 931-5500. Flooding should be reported to the Police Department between 3:30 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. at (925) 931-5100.

lin station or be met and driven to Livermore. A station in the downtown would provide an easier travel option.

Len Alexander favored a downtown and Vasco station combination. "It creates the greatest ridership. There would be a positive impact on redevelopment in the downtown. An I-580 station does nothing for the downtown. Future development along the freeway could destroy the downtown as we know it," he stated.

Clay Widmayer favored an underground downtown stop linking with a Vasco station. "That would provide the greatest economic benefit for Livermore, its theaters, restaurants and shops. It also has the greatest impact in reducing traffic on the freeway and the greatest energy savings."

Bob Baltzer opposed placing any station on the freeway. "They would not be funded without breaching the urban growth boundary (to allow for housing to be built)." He favored underground along Portola to the downtown and at grade from downtown to Vasco. Vasco could work as a freeway intercept station, providing the needed parking. Both would connect with the ACE train. "The alignment provides the best intermodal options at both stations without requiring sprawl," he declared.

Sarah Palmer said that she had lived in areas with public transit. "When you have it a town thrives."

Chris George said that he

spoke for members of the younger generation. He noted they tend to live in apartments in the downtown and could walk to BART to access the rest of the Bay Area.

Tamara Reus commented that she had first thought the freeway option was the best. However, it would have impacts on the UGB given the pressure to build TOD around a station. Given that possibility, Reus said she now supports an underground station to the downtown and a second station at Vasco Rd.

Rachel Snedecor, executive director of Livermore Downtown Inc., favored a downtown station. She said that when cities look at revitalizing a downtown, the most coveted item is a transit center. That brings people into the downtown. Snedecor continued, "Merchants cannot exist on local patronage. There is a need for visitor dollars. Visitors don't require services. They just bring their money and leave." She likened transit to arteries that bring lifeblood to a downtown, the heart of the city.

Other speakers voiced the same views of an underground station in the downtown connecting with an end station at Vasco Rd.

On the other side, John Stein said he favored an alignment that included a station at Isabel/580 and Greenville Road. "It has been studied a long time. It has the greatest potential to bring BART to Livermore in my lifetime."

Denise Lenz, who lives near the downtown, was concerned

that a downtown station would destroy the historic look of the area. She stated, "I don't believe it would bring people to the theaters. Plus, there are more transit benefits on the freeway."

Ted Ellie said he supported keeping BART on the freeway where there is lots of room to build stations any way BART wants. The worst option is Portola, because of the maintenance yard at the end of the alignment.

Valerie Raymond offered the view that the freeway extension would provide the most ridership, have less noise, more ACE transfers and be far less controversial. There is not enough parking at the downtown site to allow it to function as portrayed. She suggested that the station at Isabel/580 would provide the greatest accessibility for Livermore residents.

Rebecca Harris declared, "The idea of a downtown station infuriates me. BART will not bring revenue to the downtown. I don't see that it would bring anything except crime, a decrease in property values, and an increase in traffic."

On a whimsical note, John Shirley declared, "Bring BART in the next 15 years. I'll be 100 and I'll get to ride it." His preference was a downtown station.

Written comments can be sent to: BART Planning Department, Attn. Malcolm Quint, 300 Lakeshore Dr., Oakland, CA 94612; or by email to info@barttolivermore.org.

CLIMATE

(continued from page one)

are some programs available as incentives to help property owners have the work done.

Older homes need to be considered for an exemption, said an audience member. Some that are 80 or 100 years old don't have internal walls to support the addition of insulation, she said. At the same time, the houses should be respected because of their age, she said.

John Pitts, a rural Livermore resident, asked whether South Livermore's agricultural designation can be considered an offset to the carbon gas problem.

Consultant Culley Thomas said that such a study could be done. However, it is outside the scope of the current mission. Another rural resident, Gail Shearer, suggested that the vineyards help ease the problem. "You would think it would be (listed on a chart) there (as beneficial)," she said.

Thomas said that vineyards can reduce emissions, if they keep out housing subdivisions. However, agriculture can also release carbon because of the tilling of the soil and fertilizing.

CITIES ALSO DRAWING UP CAPS

The Valley's cities are also creating CAPs. Livermore will pay \$123,000 to consultant Jones & Stokes to come up with a plan draft that includes public input. The cost will be paid from a \$750,000 federal block grant for energy efficiency and conservation.

on air quality will be tightening because of AB 32.

"A development will be responsible for the traffic it creates, on or off the freeway," said Dolan. "It will have presumed trip length, and number of new trips, based on intensity for new development."

Less certain is what will happen with traffic generated by development that is already existing. "That's more complicated and difficult. We'll address it, but we don't necessarily have the same authority and discretion (as with new development)," said Dolan.

OPTIONS ON JUDGING CARBON IMPACT

Henry Hilken, director of planning and research at the regional air board, said the agency is updating its standards for CEQA because of the new greenhouse gasses law.

There are three alternatives that may be offered as criteria for judging the impact of a new development, said Hilken. One is to meet "a series of rigorous criteria, and see if there is less than a significant impact." If the impact is less than significant, it does not have to be mitigated.

The standards in a city's CAP would be a matrix that the city could apply to all future development, said Hilken. It would help ensure that a development did well in the EIR review process.

Another method would be to require any development that will

put out more than 1100 metric tons of carbon emissions annually to incorporate modifications to reduce the output. The 1100 tons measurement is taken from the greenhouse gas bill, he said.

The third alternative could be "efficiency based." A big development that helps cut carbon emissions, such as transit-oriented development, would receive credit for the good it does since its design tries to eliminate the need for auto trips, said Hilken. That standard could be measured on a per-capita basis, not one big lump sum of carbon emissions, he said.

The air board has met twice on the topic, and will look at it again Jan. 6 for possible adoption. The staff has been asked for a recommendation on when any new process should take effect. Hilken said that 90 days after adoption is the likely recommendation.

There is no state statutory penalty on failure to meet standards set forth by a CAP. However, if residential development doesn't meet CEQA guidelines, it can be rejected by cities or counties. Local government can adopt a statement of overriding considerations that would allow violating CEQA standards. In either case, CEQA standards are sometimes used as the basis for lawsuits by residents or environmental groups against approved development plans.

THE Independent
(INLAND VALLEY PUBLISHING CO.)

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

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

Advertising rates and subscription rates may be obtained by calling (925) 447-8700 during regular business hours or by fax: (925) 447-0212.
Editorial information may be submitted by email to: editor@compuserve.com.

Livermore Takes Innovative Step to Improve Health of City's Residents

The City of Livermore moved to tackle the obesity crisis head on by signing on as a charter member of the Healthy Eating Active Living Cities Campaign (HEAL), a statewide campaign aimed at introducing changes in city policies and environments to reduce local obesity and physical inactivity rates and related costs.

"We are both excited and anxious to move forward with this broad-based community partnership to make Livermore a more healthy community," said Livermore City Manager Linda Barton.

The city will be exploring programs.

In California, where more than half the adult population is obese or overweight, a recent study showed that the epidemic is costing the state more than \$41 billion a year in health care costs and lost productivity. Livermore hopes to control those

costs by drawing on the HEAL campaign's free training and assistance in the adoption of policies to improve the community's physical activity and retail food environments.

While citizens play a pivotal role in the diet and exercise choices they make, Livermore policymakers recognize that local government plays a part in making it easier for their citizens to move to healthier behaviors. To that end, Livermore policymakers have already identified the Livermore Healthy City Collaborative as the key to improve wellness and access to healthcare for all Livermore residents by addressing critical food, nutrition, exercise and behavioral health needs.

"We must pay our respects to Kaiser Permanente Community Grant Program whose sole funding of the Livermore Healthy City Collaborative continues to promote what they preach, well-

ness in all aspects of life," stated Barton.

One of the programs coming out of the collaborative is a Cooking Together Classes. Participants in this city and school district receive cooking lessons and nutritional information they can then use at home.

The Collaborative is a partnership of 40 different community-based agencies, including the Chamber of Commerce, Livermore Winegrowers, nonprofits, faith-based organizations, regional occupational program (ROP) students, etc.

"Livermore is a real pioneer

in addressing the serious and growing epidemic of obesity," said Charlotte Dickson of the HEAL campaign. "It takes an innovative city government to explore new policy approaches that answer both the challenges associated with reduced funding and skyrocketing obesity-re-

lated costs. Livermore's citizens should be rightfully proud that their local government is on the cutting edge of this issue."

For more information about the HEAL Cities Campaign, call (510) 302-3387 or visit www.healthycitiescampaign.org.

Holiday Gifts and Food Needed for a 1000 Families

The pinch of economic hard times is felt most acutely by everyone during the holiday season. Nowhere is this more evident than at Tri-Valley Haven, the Livermore-based nonprofit agency that provides shelter, food and other supportive services to abused, homeless and low-income individuals and families in the Valley.

This year 1,000 local families are signed up to receive assistance with holiday gifts

and food. "That's almost 5,000 people!" exclaimed Samantha Burrows, the Haven's Director of Homeless and Family Support Services. Burrows is in charge of the agency's Holiday Program which will be held on December 10 and 12.

"We really want to ensure that there are gifts for families in need. This is a difficult year for all of us, but especially for those families who were already struggling," Burrows said. "The

goal of the Haven's holiday warehouse program is to help families to celebrate the holidays in a way that empowers them and is sustainable when their economic situation improves. The parents select gifts for each member of the family at our distribution site and take them home to wrap. We need gifts for teens, adults and seniors as well as toys for children."

A list of suggested gifts is available on the Haven's web-

site www.trivalleyhaven.org, or by calling (925) 449-5845. Gift cards to local stores are also welcome.

New, unwrapped gifts can be delivered to the holiday warehouse site at 5860 Las Positas Road, Livermore, behind the 7-11 Store on Vasco Road. Staff will be on site to receive donations from 9am - noon and 1 - 4 pm on Friday, December 11, or by appointment by calling Christine Dillman at (925) 667-2707.

GIFT GUIDE 2009

SHOP Locally & Save!

BUY TWO \$30 GIFT CERTIFICATES FOR \$45
(\$120 value for only \$45)
AND RECEIVE STRINGS Italian Cafe V.I.P. CARD
GOOD FOR \$5 OFF EACH MONTH IN 2010

Gift Certificates can only be redeemed at the location where purchased for up to \$30. Cannot be redeemed for gratuities, cash or cash back.

STRINGS Italian Cafe 2205 Las Positas Rd. (925) 373.1044

IN BETWEEN STITCHES
Quilt & Gift Store

2190 FIRST STREET
LIVERMORE, CA 94550
(925) 371-7064
WWW.INBETWEENSTITCHES.COM
MONDAY-FRIDAY 10-5:30
SATURDAY 10-5
SUNDAY 10-3

Garden • Home • Body & Soul
Outside In etc.

- Jewelry
- Lotions & Soaps
- Gifts for The Home
- Papyrus Cards
- Garden Gifts

2184 First Street
Livermore, CA
(925) 606-6434
www.OutsideInEtc.com

Stop By This Holiday Season

- Holiday Hair Styling
- Haircuts for Men, Women, & Children
- Color & Highlights
- Waxing
- KeraSmooth Hair Straightening
- Large Product Selection

ARTISAN SALON

1837 Holmes Street, Livermore • 925.294-9408
www.artisansalonca.com

Bring This Ad To Receive 15% Off
Gift Certificates Available

VICTORINE OLIVE OIL

Tasting Room Now Open!
Blacksmith Square
21 S. Livermore Avenue, #101
(925) 454-8777
Holiday Hours beginning Dec. 10, daily 11-5
GIFTS FOR FOOD LOVERS

- OLIVE OIL
- BALSAMIC VINEGAR
- OLIVES
- TAPENADES
- SEASONINGS
- OLIVE OIL SKIN CARE

Callippe PRESERVE

GIVE THE GIFT OF GOLF!

- Weekday & Weekend Specials
- Gift Certificates Available

8500 Clubhouse Drive
Pleasanton • 925.426.6666
www.playcallippe.com

Purse Party
Designer Inspired Handbags

Christmas Gifts Starting at \$9.95
2222 Second St, #1 • Livermore (925) 373-8050
New Owners & New Hours
Mon 11-6; Wed 10-6; Tue, Thu & Fri 10-7; Sat 10-5

THE FARMER RESTAURANT
At The Historic Pleasanton Hotel

NEW!
Karaoke Night Wednesdays
Live Music & Dancing Every Friday & Saturday Nights

Holiday Gift Certificates Available

JOIN US THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!
Dining • Full Service Bar • Dancing • Banquets & Events
855 Main Street, Downtown Pleasanton
925.399.6690 | www.pleasantonhotel.com

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

Give the gift of gift certificates!
Available in any amount.

CASA OROZCO
Mexican Food Restaurants

Gift Cards For The Holiday Make A Great Gift Idea!
Available in Any Amount

Livermore 449-3045
Dublin 828-5464
casaorozco.com

Cooleykatz TOYS

Free Santa Pictures Bring Your Camera!
Thur. Dec. 10 4-8 pm
Fri. Dec. 11 4-8 pm
Thur. Dec. 17 4-8 pm
Fri. Dec. 18 4-8 pm
Sat. Dec. 19 1-5 pm

Cooleykatz Toys
1959 Second Street (across from Casa Orozco)
(925) 245-1035

It's A Rockin' Christmas...

ABC MUSIC SOURCE & ACADEMY

Treat Your Music Side This Holiday!

- Guitars
- Amps
- Drums
- Brass
- Woodwind
- Sheet Music
- Accessories

2156 First Street, Downtown Livermore
(925) 443-1244

REJUVENATE YOUR FACE & BODY AT MASSAGE ENVY SPA

MASSAGES: Relieve pain
Boost the immune system | Reduce hypertension

FACIALS: Delay onset of wrinkles
Increase blood circulation | Nourish the skin

\$49 Introductory 1-hour customized massage session

\$59 Introductory 1-hour Murad Signature facial session

Massage Envy SPA
Murad, m Transforming Skincare

MASSAGE ENVY SPA
2100 Portola Ave., Suite E, Livermore and Portola Ave.
(925) 292-5165

Franchises Available | MassageEnvy.com | Convenient Hours
Open 7 days. M-F 8am-10pm, Sat 8am-8pm, Sun 10am-6pm

*One-hour session consists of a 50-minute massage or facial and time for consultation and dressing. Prices subject to change. Rates and services may vary by location. Additional local taxes and fees may apply. ©2009 Massage Envy Limited, LLC.

Livermore Valley Florist
the customer service you deserve

Beautiful Custom Bouquets

Free Delivery in Livermore (if order is placed by 3 p.m. the day before delivery)

Full Service Floral Boutique
224 South J Street
Livermore, CA 94550
www.livermorevalleyflorist.com



SPORTS NOTES



Pictured are members of the Livermore AquaCowboys at the Junior Olympics (left to right) Cat Elliott; Coach Lisa White, Taylor Brennan, Morgan Roddy, Alex Gonzalez, Coach Alex Silver, Trent Trump, Nina Shahini Ananth, Katie Kulp, and Shelby Swanson. Not present for the photo were Nathan Boas, Allie Clark, Kylie Clark and Haley Hamza.



St. Michael's/St. Charles (SM/SC) Gold Rush (5011) and Catholic Community of Pleasanton (CCOP) (5001), two Tri-Valley CYO 5th Grade girls teams, met at Stanford on Sunday, November 29, for a half time appearance at the Stanford - Gonzaga women's basketball game. They girls got a taste of a major college campus and playing on a large court in front of about 4,000 basketball fans. Pictured are (back, left to right) Kiley Pohlman, Tricia Ritter, Taylor Peterson, Alexandra Lonsinger, Lexi Blair; (middle row) Jennifer Gibson, Daniela Block, Samantha Dukas, Laura Belichak, Mila Steinberg, Jamie Zogoric; and (front row) Madison Jackson and Alexis Simmons.



The newly formed Tri-Valley Judo club based in Pleasanton recently competed in the Winter Nationals Judo Tournament In Southern California. The Winter Nationals were attended by close to 500 competitors from the Western United States and Mexico. Tri-Valley sent 7 competitors and returned with 6 medals. Placing first was 8 year old green belt Jackson Butler and sister Camaryn who is a 10 year old yellow belt and currently ranked as the #2 player in the US. Finishing in second place were 9 year old yellow belt Devon Shah and 11 year old yellow belt Monique Shah of Danville. 8 year old green belt Hannah Crosby of Livermore also placed second. 12 year old orange belt Rachael Butler who ranked #5 in the US placed 3rd. Pictured are Sarah Crosby, Hannah Crosby, Devon Shah, Monique Shah, Rachael Butler, Jackson Butler, Misael Macias, Camaryn Butler and head coach Kevin Butler.

State Cup Soccer

The Pleasanton Ballistic United Soccer Club (BUSC) U12 Premier team won their NorCal State Cup quarter-final and semi-final matches this weekend to advance to the finals in two weeks in Woodland.

In quarter-final action on Saturday against the Vacaville Atlas, Cameron Ritchie scored the equalizer at the beginning of the second half on a direct free kick from the top of the area. Due to darkness, the game was moved across town to a larger lighted field for two additional ten minute periods. The winning goal came off of a Jackson Still pass to Max Gersham who then found Ryan Racers in the area for the goal. Keeper Omeed Ziani and defenders Jeffrey Klei and Mitchell Wilson held the Atlas in check.

On Sunday morning, BUSC faced off against Lodi United in semi-final action with BUSC winning 2 to 0. Jackson Still and Cameron Owens both scored. Outstanding defense was provided by Chudi Ategbu, Bryce Veit and Geoffrey Wiederecht.

Pleasanton Rage U11 White girls battled the Mustang Stampede team in the Norcal State Cup semifinals. With a see-saw battle playing out through the 1st half, Alyssa Bardakos put a ball on goal that was blocked by the Mustang goal keeper. It rebounded out to Jenyce Dutcher who nudged the ball out to Belle Henry who put it in the net. Rage held a 1-0 advantage at the break and 10 minutes into the 2nd half when Jenyce Dutcher knocked the ball onto the left corner off of a great corner kick by Mary Rockwood. Rage won 2-0 to advance to the championship game on Dec. 19th in Woodland, CA. versus the North Valley Lightning. Top Offensive Players: Belle Henry, Jenyce Dutcher, Mary Rockwood, Alyssa Bardakos; Top Defensive Players: Sadie Grozier, Meghan Pickett, Katie Rademann

On Saturday, Rage played the Mustang Spirit. The Rage squad was down 0-1 at the

half, but fought back with 2 second half goals to earn the win. Alyssa Bardakos ran on to a beautiful pass from Sadie Grozier and put it past the Spirit Keeper to tie the game at 1-1. Belle Henry broke through the Mustang defense and put the winner in, midway through the 2nd half. The Rage defense of Sadie Grozier, Olivia Verbeck, Katie Rademann and goal keepers Meghan Pickett and Izzy Neads, then shut down a persistent Mustang attack to earn the win. Top Offensive Players: Alyssa Bardakos, Belle Henry, Jenyce Dutcher; Top Defensive Players: Sadie Grozier, Katie Rademann, Olivia Verbeck, Haley Beltran

Livermore AquaCowboys

Thirteen swimmers from Livermore AquaCowboys braved the cold this past

weekend at Dolores Bengtson Aquatic Center in Pleasanton to participate in the Pacific Swimming Junior Olympics Championship.

New Best Times were achieved by Shihini Ananth, Nathan Boas, Taylor Brennan, Kylie Clark, Cat Elliott, Alexander Gonzalez, Nina Hayes, Katie Kulp, Morgan Roddy, Shelby Swanson and Trent Trump.

Shelby Swanson placed 2nd in the Girls 13-14 100 Fly with a time of 1:02.79. Nina Hayes placed 5th in the Girls 13-14 200 Back with a time of 2:10.68; 6th in the 100 Free with a time of 53.69; 6th and a new Pacific Recordable Time (PRT) of 1:56.89 in the 200 Free; 7th in the 200 IM with a time of 2:11.45 and 7th in the 100 Back with a time of 59.89.

LAC's 13-14 Girls Relay Team - Nina Hayes, Shelby Swanson, Haley Hamza and Katie Kulp place 6th in the 200 Freestyle Relay. The 13-14 Girls Relay Team of Shelby Swanson, Nina Hayes, Kylie Clark and Katie Kulp place 8th in the 400 Freestyle Relay and 8th in the 200 Medley Relay.

GHS Holiday Invitational

Granada High School is hosting the 6th annual Granada Holiday Invitational varsity basketball tournament Dec. 10-12, 2009. The event features one of the top fields in the Bay Area this year, with 7 sectional playoff teams from last season.

Thursday's opening round games will be: Miramonte vs. Ripon (3:30), Berkeley vs. Freedom (5:00), Antioch vs. Enterprise (Redding) (6:30), and host Granada vs. Skyline (8:00).

The championship game is Saturday Dec 12 at 7:00, concluding a day of 4 games starting at 2:30. For more information about the event, send email to mscshaw@yahoo.com.

LHS Wrestling

Livermore High School wrestling team took 4th place in the Ceres Invitational Tourney held 12/5/09.

The individual results as follows (all are from Livermore unless otherwise noted): Weight: 103, Zach Moore, 5th, 0-2; 112, Nick Lang, 4th, 2-2; Zach Conley, 6th, 1-3; 119, Ryan Hasting, 2nd, 2-1; 125, Tanner Eastman, 3rd, 3-1; Brandon Disbrow, 4th, 2-2; 130, Tyler Rardon, 2nd; 135, Matt Fulton, 4th, 3-2; 140, Terrin O'Callaghan, 2nd, 2-1; 145, Alex Baxter, 7th, 3-1; 152, Josh Larsen, 6th, 2-3; 160, Tony Spinella, 1st, Ceres High, 3-0; Kendall Smith, 2nd, Golden Sierra, 2-1; Jason Liao, 3rd, George Washington, 3-1; Xavier Godoy, 4th, Downey, 3-2; Greg Goldner, 5th, Rocklin, 3-1; Cameron Ferry, 6th, Central Catholic, 2-3; 171, Drew Royster, 4th, 3-2; Dillon Mitchler, 6th, 2-3; 189, Kyle Anderson, 7th, 3-1; 285, Jorge Echenique, 6th, 1-3.

Gymfinity Gymnastics

Emily Rakestraw, Zoe Potter and Katie Haegel represented Gymfinity Gymnastics at the Level 4 State Championships held December 5th and 6th in Pinole.

Rakestraw and Potter of Livermore and Haegel of Dublin competed against the best young gymnasts in Northern California. Rakestraw brought home the state championship title in the uneven bars in the 6 to 7 year old age group with a 9.175 and placed 8th in the all-around. Haegel placed 6th on bars in the 9B age group with a 9.125. All-around scores: Rakestraw, 6-7yrs, 34.875; Potter, 8yrs, 33.625; Haegel, 9yrs, 34.025.

California Gymnastics

California Gymnastics Academy competed in the Level 4 State Championships in Pinole on December 5th and 6th.

Chloe McGlynn won the title of State Champion in the All Around for her age division with a 36.95. She is also the State Champion on Uneven Bars with a score of 9.525. She also tied for 3rd on Vault with a 9.350, tied for 5th on Balance Beam with a 9.050 and tied for 9th on Floor Exercise with a 9.025.

Jasmyin Cheng won the title of State Champion in her age division on Vault with a 9.35 and on Uneven Bars with a 9.375. She placed 4th in the All Around with a 36.95, tied for 6th on Balance Beam with a 9.0 and placed 7th on Floor Exercise with a 9.225.

Katie Heckart won the title of State Champion in her age division on Vault with a score of 9.50. She also placed 3rd in the All Around with a 37.10, 3rd on Floor Exercise with a 9.350, 4th on Uneven Bars with a 9.175 and tied for 4th on Balance Beam with a 9.075.

Maya Georgallis won the title of State Champion in her age division on Floor Exercise with a 9.45, she also placed 4th in the All Around with a 36.925, 4th on the Balance Beam with a 9.275, 5th on Vault with a 9.275 and 11th on Uneven Bars with a 8.925.

Edge Gymnastics

At the 2009 NorCAL Level 4 State Championships, Samantha Foon and Sarah Fletcher placed first in the All-Around. Samantha also placed first on the floor and Sarah first on the bars and beam.

Hannah Binder placed second in the All-Around and first on the bars. Brooke Saunders and Gabriela Rego placed first on the bars. Samantha Fredrickson placed first on the floor. Emily Reed, Isabella Romano and Lauren Heller assisted the team to an impressive placing.

CYO Basketball

An exciting triple overtime sudden death game saw Catholic Community of Pleasanton (CCOP) 8th grade boys CYO basketball team #81 come up 2 points short versus St. Isidore 2 team #84, 57-55. Down early by 15 CCOP fought back to within 8 at halftime and then tied it up after 3 quarters. Anubhav Murali hit 2 free throws with 1 second left in regulation to force overtime. Brandon Kirk led all scorers with 19, including 4 three pointers and Anubhav Murali added 13 points.

St. Isidore 8th grade (816) defeated St. Michael's/St. Charles (SM/SC) (814) 47-28. St. Isidore went on a 10 point run in the first period to open up an early lead. SM/SC



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Granada High School shutout Amador Valley High School in the Winter Soccer Classic, taking the gold division title with a 3 to 0 victory. Granada scored on two penalty kicks, one in the 8th minute by Ryan Thomas, and the other in the 80th minute by Jean Carlo Padilla to nail down the win. The third goal was netted by Zachary Addington with an assist by Garret Foster. Granada out-scored its opponents in the tournament 18 to 3. Overall, the Matadors have a 5-0-1 record and have allowed only three goals while scoring 31. In the photo, Amador defenders blocked a shot taken by Granada off a corner kick.

continued to battle but never managed to climb back into the game. SM/SC had balanced scoring with nine of their ten players tallying points. Calvin Rasbold and Josh Revay led with 6 points each and Revay added 4 rebounds. Grant Perry also had 4 rebounds and 4 points of his own, including a trey. Jaylin Valles played a strong game and scored a field goal.

The SM/SC "Nutz" 7th grade girls (#7007) played the only undefeated 7th grade team, SM/SC #7003, for what turned out to be a 1 point game the entire 2nd half going down to the final seconds before the Nutz brought home the win, 13-10. A friendly rival game got serious quick in the first half with both teams playing tough defense and giving up very few points. The second half was played much the same way with quick passes, great rebounds and steals that never quit hitting both teams. With 49 seconds left SM/SC put on the press to stop the Nutz from scoring again. Sarah Partridge got a break and ran coast to coast setting up a final shot opportunity for Katie Johnston. The Nutz earned their second win by playing every minute tougher than the last. Team Captain and Point Guard, Sarah, continues to dominate the court with her relentless effort, dramatic steals and tenacious aggressive attitude. Center, Katie Johnston, led her team with half of the team's points, 6 attempts and 3 rebounds. Jessica Elfin also put up a great defensive effort snagging 5 rebounds. Forward, Alyssa Gonzalez, stepped up her game today playing a very strong defense coupled with 3 steals, 3 attempts and 1 rebound.

SM/SC's 7th Grade Girls American League team hosted St. Joan's Sunday for a share of the early season league lead. Unflustered in the face of a vicious press, the girls built a seemingly comfortable lead at the half with their best balanced attack of the season, getting points from every girl on the squad. Good outside shooting (particularly from Rachel Hernandez, who was also deadly from the line, finishing with 11 points) forced St. Joan's to guard the perimeter, which opened up cutting lanes that were exploited by excellent passes, especially from Delaney Sommerhauser, who had her best complete game of the season. True to form, St. Joan's refused to quit and came back strong in the second half, cutting the lead to a far less comfortable seven points and closing until Grace Naylor capped a strong offensive outing by hitting two clutch free throws on a one-and-one followed by a steal at the other end to turn the tide. St. Joan's made one late final run, but it fell short, and SM/SC came away with a 40-33 win in their best total team effort of the year.

The SM/SC Ballers evened their record to 2-2 with a 26-15 win over CCOP. The Ballers had balanced scoring, Garrett McDonald led the way with 7, Jared Buranis had 6 points and 5 rebounds, Jacob Wohl and Alex Cupps both scored 4 points, and Jacob Mitchell and Jordan Lewis had 3 and 2 points respectively. Patrick Mirron played tough defense. CCOP fought hard, and kept the game close in the first two quarters, but the shots weren't falling in the second half and SM/SC pulled away.

SM/SC 5th grade girls (#5011) took on St. Joan (#5015) coming away with a 16 to 8 win. Alexandra Lonsinger led the team with 6 points. Mila Steinberg followed with 4 points. Jamie Zogoric, JJ Gibson, Mallory Jones finished off the scoring with 2 points

each. Madison Jackson, Taylor Peterson, Samantha Dukes and Maggie Sneed led the defense with many steals, turnovers and defense rebounds. St. Joan's offense got hot scoring 6 of their 8 points in the fourth quarter. It was a great effort by both teams.

SM/SC Cobras lost a close battle to St. Isidore 16 to 15 in 3rd grade action. Top Cobra players: Tyler Hatton, Alex Cirina, and Joshua Collom.

The Lakers (SM/SC # 332) hosted Scorpions (St. Joan #337) in a well played competitive game. The score was tied at halftime. The Lakers were able pull ahead in the second half mainly behind the scor-

ing efforts of point guard Jayden Hurskin. Xavier Pelican and Christian Pitcher also scored for the Lakers and also played heads up defense. Defensive standouts for the Lakers included Ryan Heise, Trevor White, and Matthew Larson. Alejandro Cabassa and Gabriel Parrish showed a lot of hustle. The Scorpions were led in scoring by Rico Guevara. Elliot O'Grady and Carson Griffey also scored. Casey Cox led the Scorpion's defense in steals while Alex Johnson grabbed several rebounds. Final score: Lakers 12, Scorpions 10.

SM/SC (320) 6, St. Joan (325) 18. Despite their loss, SM/SC fought hard against St. Joan's. The team's offense was led by Evan



U12 Pleasanton Travel Baseball Team - MH Baseball won the Toys for Tots Baseball Tournament at Big League Dreams in Manteca over Thanksgiving Weekend. The team is coached by Don Galli. Kevin Goodman, Sean Mays, Chuck Lind and KC Mays. Team members are Anthony Galli, Jack Geasa, Ruben Mercado, Justin Goodman, Patrick Loughnane, Ronnie Jones, Sam Molz, Jacob Wilson, Connor Mays, Nick Lind, Jared Buranis and Grant Mendoza.

Cooleykatz Toys
"...fun for growing minds!"

"Game Signing!"
SAT. DEC. 12, 1-5 PM

Come meet puzzle and game designer
Harry Nelson
Creator of "Rush Hour," "Treasure Quest," "Pohaku," & others!

Cooleykatz Toys
(925) 245-1035
1959 Second Street
Downtown Livermore

LIVERMORE CINEMAS		2490 FIRST STREET 443-SHOW			
DEC. 17TH AT MIDNIGHT: AVATAR IN 3D					
INVICTUS (PG13) DLP	12:40	3:50	6:50	9:50	
THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG (G) DLP	11:45	12:30	2:00	2:45	
	4:15	5:00	6:30	7:20	8:45 9:40
DAVE MATHEW'S BAND IN 3D (PG) DLP		12:15	2:15	4:35	
			7:05	9:10	
BROTHERS (R) DLP	1:15	4:00	7:10	9:45	
THE BLIND SIDE (PG13) DLP	12:15	1:05	3:15	4:05	6:15
			7:05	9:20	9:50
OLD DOGS (PG) DLP	2:35	4:50	7:00	9:25	
PLANET 51 (PG) DLP				12:20	
TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON (PG13) DLP	12:45	4:10	6:55	9:40	
A CHRISTMAS CAROL IN 3D (PG) DLP	12:10	2:30	4:45	7:15	9:30
2012 (PG13) DLP			1:00	4:15	7:30
EVERYBODY'S FINE (PG13) DLP	12:00	2:15	4:30	6:45	9:10
ARMORED (PG13) DLP	12:10	2:25	4:35	7:00	9:30

4th ANNUAL SHOWING: "A CHRISTMAS STORY"
Sun, Dec. 13 - Party Starts at 12:30 - Film Starts at 1:15
LIVE MUSIC ON PATIO & RAFFLES TO SUPPORT:
Open Heart Kitchen & Tri-Valley Animal Shelter

MNF: 49ers vs. ARIZONA
Mon Dec. 14 at 5:00 - FREE ADMISSION
SEE LIVE NFL ON THE BIGGEST SCREEN
IN THE ENTIRE EASY BAY!

VINE CINEMA & ALEHOUSE
1722 FIRST STREET - LIVERMORE
(925) 447-2545 WWW.VINECINEMA.COM

PIRATE RADIO 4:30 9:10
A SERIOUS MAN 2:00 7:10
AN EDUCATION 2:15 7:00
MEN WHO STARE AT GOATS
PRECIOUS STARTS DEC. 18

Dom's Your Safe Experts

Dom's
OUTDOOR OUTFITTERS
SINCE 1970

We Deliver!

www.domsoutdoor.com

1870 First St, Livermore

Hours: M-F 9 to 8 • Sat. 9 to 6 • Sun. 10 to 5

Ph 925.447.9629

American Security Safes

MADE IN THE U.S.A.

SPORTS NOTES

Capurro, who scored 4 points and Michael Honeycutt, who scored 2 points. Joseph Fields played a strong defensive game with multiple rebounds and steals.

SM/SC vs CCOP. Noah Rakestraw had 4 rebounds and a steal, Jacob Marshall had a rebound, a steal and scored, Garret Barker had a steal, and blocked the ball. Conner DeLisle had an assist and a rebound, Nicholas DeLisle had three rebounds.

An aggressive St. Joan of Arc's team beat the Sharks today 18 to 7. It was a fun game with Amber Thomas rebounding and Melanie Laronde passing the ball. Jacqueline Arnold scored twice off of excellent defensive steals and Haley Thompson scored the team's first free throw.

SM/SC CYO boys 3rd grade action saw the Destroyers against the Eagles, with an 8 to 7 final. The Destroyers held the lead thru the first half of the game. In the third

quarter with a penalty shot by Tamur Asur and relentless defense from Michael Gauch the Eagles took the lead. Logan Finch and Nicholas Melendez both scored to hang onto the lead. But with seconds left in the game and the coordinated efforts of Joe Ramos, Noah Weisner, Alex Lewis and Dylan Jess the game ended Eagles one point short of the win. Both teams showed skill and determination.

SM/SC 320, 16 and SM/SC 322, 15. For SM/SC team 320, Michael Honeycutt had an astounding game with great defensive and offensive moves. He scored 8 points and had many rebounds. Manav Patel showed his offensive skills for the team and scored 2 points. The offense was rounded out by Evan Capurro, who scored 6 points for the team. Strong defense was shown by Jake Engemann and Max Silveira, who kept the action alive with several rebounds and steals.

The 3rd grade Thunder posted a 15-8

victory over St. Joan of Arc. Thunder ran up an 13-0 lead through the first three quarters, led on offense by Megan Mossinger, Kamy Farro, and Isabella Carrano. On the defensive side of the court, Kate Hottinger played tight defense on the St. Joan of Arc guards, while Grace and Megan chipped in some key steals. Abby added key rebounding for the Thunder during the 13-0 streak. St. Joan of Arc climbed back into the game with 8 unanswered points during the fourth quarter. The game was put out of reach when Kamy Farro took a steal baseline to baseline with the game's final bucket.

The SM/SC CYO 1st/2nd grade Leopards played the Shooting Sharks. All the basketball players performed with hustle and heart. For the Leopards, Ben Wiesner, Dylan Cole, and Max Jones sunk their first buckets of the season. Charlie Latkowski and Robert Mullineaux had a great offensive game. Enzo DeSantis and Colby Sherer provided some quick steals for the Leopards while Brandon Pillon and Jacob Bryant rebounded with determination. For the Shooting Sharks, Jordan Briggs and Carlisle Spruiell lead the team with aggressive defense and steals. Haiden Arruda and Jilliam Collam made some exciting shots and Isabella LaRosa and Emma Hyde provided tough rebounding. Both teams had fun.

The 1st/2nd grade Livermore CYO Jedis vs. Jr. Warrior Sharks played a fun, fast-paced game on Sunday. Jacob Hoggatt was the Jedi's Player of the Game for his outstanding effort at both ends of the court. Great scoring by Andy Hankins, Thomas Kello, Josiah Knight and Bryce Hall. The Warrior Sharks played a strong offensive and defensive game with some great passes and rebounds. Cameron Stephenson, JJ Knight, Mateo Crivello, and Mikey Christian scored for their team.

Bowling News

Dale Mellerg rolled 146 pins over series average for a 683 in the Getaway Fours league at the Granada Bowl in Livermore. Games included 221-248-214.

Scott Hylton shot a 289 in the Tuesday Match Point league. Ed Tolsdorf bowled 93 over average with a 227 game, Ralph Soto shot a 258 and Denise Grimsley a 228 game. James Murphy had a great set in the 4 Seasons Heating & Air league. He ended the night with a 744 with games of 268-239-237. In the same league, Charles Riley bowled a 224-219-267 to score a 710 series. Bill Lindke Jr. rolled a 694 series with games of 234-237-223. Claude Roberts rolled a 245 (78 over) in the Practice League on Thursday and Don Parento a 232 game (65 over). Zach Michelsen rolled 75 pins over average including a 257 game in the Friday night Cheyenne league. In the Early Years Reno Getaway league, Charlie Butkiewicz bowled 67 pins over average with a 271 game.

In the same league, Stephanie Parvin rolled a 225 game, 127 over series average for a 532. Sandi Thompson rolled 63 over average for a 192 game and Ron Shaffer 71 over for a 254 game. Eric Correa went 57 over average with a 200 game in the Generation Gap on Sunday.

Senior Bowler Joe Bruns bowled 77 over average with a game of 221 and finished with a series of 543 (111 over series average) in the Monday Primetime Seniors.

Youth bowler Shawn Donohue rolled a 758 series with games of 232-247-279 in the Generation Gap league. Zach Savoy, in the same league, shot a 264, Kenny Smith was 84 over average with a 185 game, and Alex Stuber shot a 267.

Baseball Winter Camp

Livermore High Varsity Baseball Coach David Perotti is hosting a winter baseball camp on December 21-23. Each camper will receive individual instruction from coaches and Livermore High players, a snack each day and a camp shirt. The 5-12 year old camp costs \$125 and runs from 9:00-12:00 everyday. Those signing up before December 15 (postmarked), pay only \$105. The camp is being held at Livermore High Varsity Field rain or shine. For more info to sign up please contact David Perotti at (925) 586-2811 or dpperotti@yahoo.com or check website www.eteamz.com/lvb

Track and Field Sign Ups

Athletics America is accepting applications for youth athletes between the ages of 7-17.

Athletes 18 and older are also invited to join the club and train during the adult sessions.

Practices are held year round on a voluntary/drop-in basis and are scheduled on Monday through Friday in locations in both Pleasanton and Livermore.

For practice times and locations, please visit www.athleticsamerica.com or call Coach Rik Richardson at 925-518-9356 or e-mail atheniantrack@hotmail.com

Water Polo

Register now for winter water polo. The LARPD Lazars Water Polo Team is currently registering youth and teens for winter water polo, November 30, 2009 to February 7, 2010. To register, call 925-373-5751, or visit www.larpd.dst.ca.us. For more information about the Lazars, visit lazarswp.clubspace.com.

Baseball Camp

NorCal Grizzlies Baseball will host a holiday baseball camp, Dec. 21-23, 1 to 4 p.m. Open to ages 13 through 16. \$145. Tom Graham, (925) 922-5050 or tong@norcalgrizzlies.org



Livermore United took first place in the Rec Plus Sunset Tournament in San Ramon in the boys U12 division. Livermore United won the Championship game 4-2 against the Mustang Flash after winning the preliminary games 5-0, 6-1, and 3-0. The tournament featured top teams from Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin, San Ramon, Danville, Newark, and Fremont. Pictured are (front, left to right) Will Mohler, Justin Ahn, Benny Sanchez, Eric Lopez, Blake Lesky, Devon Shortridge, Michael Henry; (back) Steve Mohler, Weston Nale, Troy Simpkins, Logan Brist, Erik Mork, Colin Schenone, Sebastian Gomez; and coaches (left to right) Ken Mork, Scott Shortridge, Augie Lopez. Missing from photo are Thomas Triantos, Kevin Burkett, Samuel Knuth, and Noah Reno. Photo by Bill Nale.

norcalgrizzlies.org. Website www.norcalgrizzlies.org. Indoor holiday baseball camp for beginning to advanced players.

Softball Try Outs

Livermore Smoke Girls Softball 12A team will be holding try outs Sunday, December 20.

Try outs will be at the Grizzlies indoor facility 3pm-5pm for pitchers and 5pm-6pm for catchers. Please arrive 15-20 minutes early to register.

Address is: Grizzlies Indoor Facility, 1306 Stealth Street, Suite B, Livermore.

For any reason a player cannot attend the tryout a private try out can be arranged: Randy Villazon at 408-639-8452 or rvd38@hotmail.com. Information at www.livermore-girlsoftball.org

PGSL Registration

2010 Registration is now open for all divisions in the Pleasanton Phantom Girls Softball League. All girls living in Pleasanton, Dublin and Sunol are eligible to play PGSL softball. Two ways to register: 1) Online at www.pleasantonsoftball.org; 2) Mail-in: PGSL, P.O. Box 911, Pleasanton, CA 94566 (download a registration form from the league website). Please note, late registration fee applies after December 15, 2009. For more information or questions, contact Christine Tanis at christine.t@pleasantonsoftball.org



Pleasanton Rage U14D3 White team, Green Flight Division champions won 7 games including 6 shutout victories, tied 2 and lost 1 to finish the league's season 5 points clear of the table with 13 goals for and only 2 against. Pictured are (back row) Coach Luis Coelho, Ali Gonsman, Marianne Fernandez, Madi Lingfelder, Danielle Deike, Rachel Black, Shandis Bemanian, Kylie Cardozo, Asst. Coach Majid Bemanian; (middle row) Kylie Kruger, Shelby Richmond, Lauren Antilla, Roni Stone, Annie Geasa; and (front row) Tori Rudolph, Josey Beidleman, Ali Racer, Natasha Coelho.

FREE DELIVERY!*

Only those who have requested delivery of *The Independent* will be ensured of receiving it.

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



THE Independent
NEWSPAPER AND MAGAZINE

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

If you have already responded to *The Independent*, there is no need to do so again.

DON'T WAIT!

Respond today using one of these options:

Phone:

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

Web:

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



Pleasanton Parade entry



Candlelight ceremony at Deacon Dave's (top photo); a view of the light display (lower photo)



Valley Montessori students lead a sing-along at the Livermore festivities (top photo), while the lower photo is of kids playing in the snow at Lizzie Fountain.



Dublin students entertain visitors prior to the tree lighting ceremony.

Lights, Snow, Parades and Music

The website <http://lightsofthevalley.com>, now in its 11th year, offers the most comprehensive list of the best Christmas decorated houses in Northern California. This year, the site, and some of its displays, will be featured on KPIX Eye on the Bay. CBS-5 will do a helicopter flyover. The site is a one-man show, but daily updates from dozens of volunteer city checkers all over Northern California helps keep it accurate and up to date. Pictures on this page are of community celebrations held last week, as well as the annual opening of Deacon Dave's Display on Hillcrest Avenue in Livermore. The photos on this page are by Doug Jorgensen.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS TO CELEBRATE THE SEASON

United Christian Church
Where God is still speaking
 1886 College Avenue, Livermore (at M Street)

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2009
 "Listening..."
 Worship - Sundays at 10:30 am

CHRISTMAS Sunday, December 20
 "Listening... a Word of Love"
 10:30 am - Worship
 UCC Children/Youth Present:
 The Christmas Story
 Rev. Dr. Martha Williams, preaching

Thursday, December 24
 6:30 pm - "Listening to God's Song"
 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
 Children Welcome!

We are an Open and Affirming Congregation. All colors, genders, ages and sexual orientations welcome here!

OUT in the World - making a World of DIFFERENCE!
www.uccliv.org | (925) 449-6820
A partnership church of the United Church of Christ & Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS AT

Trinity

December 6th • 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.
 Children's Choir - Shepherds, Sheep and a Savior

December 13th • 6:00 pm
 Adult Choir drama and musical - *The Advent Cross*

Thursday, Dec. 17th – Sunday, Dec. 20th
 Drive Through Nativity Presentation

December 24th • 5:00 and 7:00 p.m.
 Christmas Eve Services

Sunday Worship Services • 8:30, 11:00 & 6:00

557 Olivina Avenue, Livermore
 (925) 447-1848 • www.trinitylivermore.org

First Presbyterian Church
 4th and L Street, Livermore | (925) 447-2078
www.fpc-livermore.org

Wed., December 16, 2009, 7 p.m. • Blue Christmas Service of Hope
 Chapel at 4th and K Streets
 Advent and Christmas herald for us "good news of great joy to all people," yet for many people the holiday season is a time of grief and loneliness, a time when losses feel especially acute. Those people struggling with loss of relationships, death of loved ones, loneliness, loss of employment, family discord, and so forth, may find this service helpful. An opportunity to walk an indoor labyrinth or share a hot drink with friends will follow.

Christmas Eve Worship Services
 Thursday, December 24, 2009
 at 5 p.m. and 9 p.m.
 Choral concert at 7:30 p.m.

DRIVE THROUGH THE NATIVITY STORY
 Drive by 6 scenes of live actors and animals while listening to the story on your car radio.
DEC. 17, 18, 19, & 20 • 7-9 pm

Trinity Baptist Church
 557 Olivina Avenue, Livermore
 (925) 447-1848
www.trinitylivermore.org

OBITUARIES

Genevieve (Jennie) Loretta Paradiso

Genevieve (Jennie) Loretta Paradiso died December 1, 2009. She was 86.

She was born February 18, 1923 in Oakland, California, to Manuel Cabral and Maria Telles. After graduating from Castle-mont High School, Jennie was married to Tony Paradiso for 46 years and lived in San Leandro, Twain Harte, Tracy, Pleasanton and Manteca.

She is the loving mother of Cory (deceased), Gerri (Bob), Dorene (Pat), Gene (deceased), Jeff (Marcy), George (deceased), Debbie (Don) and Mark and the grandmother of Dean, Danny, Corine, Chase, Amber, Crystin, Anthony, Alex, Daryl, Michael, Monica, Aaron, David (deceased) and Daniel, and godmother to Carol, Angela and Todd. She was also loved and will be missed by her many great-grandchildren.

Jennie was a homemaker, but she dabbled in the real estate field for a while. In her early years, Jennie loved hosting dinner and holiday parties for her family and friends, team bowling, dancing on Saturday nights (or any night someone played music), growing big, beautiful dahlias in her garden, crafting, sewing, knitting, and showering all of the children with many gifts for every occasion. Her greatest gift to her children was passing on family values and traditions.

Services will be held on Saturday, December 19 at 10 a.m. at St. Augustine's Catholic Church, 3999 Bernal Ave, Pleasanton, (925) 846-4489. Reception follows at Trinity Lutheran Church of Pleasanton Fellowship Hall, 1225 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, (925) 846-6363.

Cremation at Graham-Hitch Mortuary, 4167 1st Street, Pleasanton, (925) 846-5624. Private burial at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Hayward.

Jennie's favorite charity was Hannah Boys Center, 17000 Arnold Drive, P.O. Box 100, Sonoma, CA 95476.

Bernard Francis Pikula

Bernard passed away at St. Luke's Hospital in San Francisco, on Dec. 1, 2009 at the age of 76. He was born in Brainerd, Minnesota to Frank and Viola Pikula on Nov. 25, 1933. He was a resident of Pleasanton.

Bernard attended St. Francis Catholic School. After the eighth grade he attended a year at Seminary Nazareth Hall, St. Paul Minnesota. He graduated at Washington Senior High school in Brainerd, MN.

In 1951 he joined the Navy Air Force, where he was a Parachute Rigger. He also jumped his Parachute; which he packed out of his air plane, at Jacksonville, Florida. He was stationed at Port Hueneme, Point Magoo, CA.

He met his wife Alice in California while she was with her parents and sisters at a dance in Visalia, CA. Alice's father invited him to the house for coffee in Sept 1953. The couple married on June 23, 1954 at St. Mary's Church in Santa Maria, CA.

He was a carpenter superintendent in construction in many projects, building many of the buildings in San Francisco, including the restoration of the Cable Car Barn and job Superintendent with Tutor Salida at the S. F International Airport. He was

the Superintendent of the beginning of B.A.R.T. at Second and Montgomery. He also acquired his own contractor's license forming Pikula's Enterprises, building residential homes and apartments. Bernard and Alice were also owners of Rocky Bay Fishing Lodge in the Northwest Territories in Canada on Rutledge Lake, N.W.T. where he enjoyed taking family and friends on vacation. He obtained his pilot license and bought a Comanche Airplane, logging many hours to Minnesota and the lodge in Canada. He was a mentor for his nieces and nephews in sporting events, hunting, fishing and carpentering. He sponsored and managed the Cardinals AA fast pitch softball team for 10 years. Some of his hobbies included vegetable gardening, canning fruits & veggies, fishing, hunting and flying.

Bernard is survived by his loving wife of 55 years, Alice Ramos Pikula of Pleasanton; his sisters Barbara Grater of Brainerd and Paulette Johnson of Florida; brothers; Leslie and Jeff Pikula of Brainerd; and numerous nieces, nephews and godchildren.

Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated December 8, 2009 at St. Michaels Catholic Church 458 Maple St. Livermore. Burial with full Military honors was at St. Michael Catholic Cemetery Livermore.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

David M. Silvey

David M. Silvey was born January 27, 1951 in Hayward to Genevieve and Alvin Silvey. He passed away in Martinez, November 28, 2009. Dave served in Vietnam with the Screaming Eagles, 101st Airborne Division, and was wounded at the Perfume River in the Ashau Valley. He was awarded the Purple Heart among other honor medals.

Dave graduated from San Jose State University; worked in security for Brinks and Wells Fargo Bank; and for many years served as the Supervisor of Corporate Security for Charles Schwab.

Dave will be dearly missed by his children Daniel of San Francisco, Genevieve and Bridget of Ireland; his brother Richard; grandchildren Serena, Julianna and Nathan; and many other nieces, nephews and friends. A celebration of his life was held at Neto's Grill in Santa Clara, last Sunday.

Armel Gail Higgins

Armel Gail Higgins passed away November 21, 2009 at the age of 92.

Armel was born in Wadsworth, Ohio on March 30, 1917. She graduated from Ohio University where she studied cost accounting. She worked as an Auto Underwriter for Continental Insurance Companies for over 25 years. After retirement she moved to El Cajon, California and pursued her love of travel, church and family.

Armel was preceded in death by her parents, Ray and May (Washburn) Higgins, sister Rae-Jean Culp, niece Jean Ann McCreedy and grand nephew Patrick McCreedy. She is survived by her nephew John Culp (Beth) of Vancouver, WA, niece Carole Treadway (Doug) of Livermore, CA and cousin Ellen Bovard, of La Mesa, CA.

Although Armel lived by herself most of her life, she was always surrounded by friends. She thrived at Bosworth Gardens Assisted Living in El Cajon and Silver Oak Manor in Livermore making quick friends with residents and staff. She was loved for her sunny outlook on life and desire to help others. She will be missed by her family and many friends.

Services will be held December 11, 2009 at 2 p.m. at El Cajon First United Presbyterian Church, 500 Farragut Circle, El Cajon, CA. Interment will be at Greenlawn Cemetery at Barber-ton, Ohio.

Torkil Lynardt Bonde (Duke, Boo)

Torkil Lynardt Bonde (Duke, Boo) 80 of Modesto entered into the lord's presence on Dec 5, 2009 in the comfort of his own home with his family closely by his side. Duke was born Aug 15, 1929 in San Jose, Ca to the late Duke Bonde Sr. and Roselma Bonde.

Duke grew up in Pleasanton, Ca. in a very close farming family. He attended Amador Valley High School, where he excelled in numerous sports but most notably at football where he started three years on the varsity team. After graduating from Amador High, Duke joined the army for the next four years. While stationed in Panama, Duke won the middle-weight champion boxing title along with achieving the rank of sergeant first class. Duke attended Cal Poly where he completed courses to become a farrier where he would go on to work in that field for more than fifty years. During that time he became the president of the Horseshoer's Union for the USA and Canada, a position in which he served eight years. His exceptional work as a farrier lead to his induction into the Horseshoer's Hall of Fame in 2005. In spite of all his distinguished accomplishments, his greatest achievement in life was that of husband, father and grandfather. His love for the lord made all of these accomplishments possible.

Duke is survived by his loving wife of 56 years, Ginger Bonde, his sons, Jeff Bonde of Pleasanton, Gary Bonde (Terry Ellen) of Byron, Ron Bonde (Maryanne) of Livermore and David Bonde (Gina) of Modesto, 14 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his brother Wayne Bonde (Jean) of Chincoteague Island Va. and his sister Gail Hendricksen of Modesto. He also leaves behind many nieces and nephews

Funeral services will be Friday, December 11, 2009, 1:00 pm, Graham-Hitch Mortuary, 4167 First St., Pleasanton, CA 94566 925.846.5624

Please send donations to Modesto Community Hospice Inc.

Bobbie Jean Wright

Bobbie Jean Wright passed away Sunday, December 6, 2009 in Pleasanton, Ca, after 6 short weeks of lung cancer. She was a very young, vibrant 83. Born in Appleton, Ark. on July 31, 1926 to Eunice (Turk) and Cora Woods, she moved to California to marry Frank Wright, of Hector, Ark. They lived 66 wonderful years mostly in Southern Calif., then Tracy and Livermore. Bobbie was a wonderful mother, wife and friend. She never met a stranger and truly touched all around her.

She is survived by her husband, Frank Wright, Livermore, daughter and son-in-law, Cynthia Wright Sund and Steve Sund, grandchildren, Laura, Shawna, Suzanna and Christopher Sund of Pleasanton. She is also survived by Lloyd Woods, Russellville, Ark., James Woods, Ind., and nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her beloved sister Billie Woods Wilson, and parents, Turk and Cora Woods, recently by sister-in-law, Mary Woods, niece Carol Lopez and nephew Larry Wilson.

Visitation is Friday, 12/11/2009, 10 am. Funeral service begins at 11 a.m. at Graham-Hitch Mortuary, 4167 First St., Pleasanton. Final resting will be in Livermore.

As a 17 year Breast Cancer survivor, please make donations to American Cancer Society.

Dorothy A. Gordon

Longtime Pleasanton and Livermore resident Dorothy A. Gordon passed on in a nursing home in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts on November 18, 2009, in the arms of her daughter after a struggle with illness. She raised a family in Pleasanton from the early 1960s through the 1990s then moved to neighboring Livermore. Dorothy moved to Massachusetts in 2003 then to Connecticut in mid-2009. Born in 1937 in Washington D.C., Dorothy graduated from D.C.'s Western High School. While driving cross-country looking for adventure, she settled in New Mexico, where she met and married Bill Gordon, fine art photographer and Sandia Lab engineer. They raised two children in Pleasanton before Bill passed

in 1989.

Dorothy and her artistic passion bloomed in Pleasanton and Livermore. She continued to flourish in Boston, Massachusetts, where she had a gallery show in 2007. Over the years, she showed her paintings, drawings and sculptures in many Livermore-Pleasanton art fairs and galleries, as well as in San Francisco, Hayward, other Bay Area cities, and in Los Angeles. She drew numerous portraits on anything handy, from a napkin to a large canvas. Dorothy also loved to teach art, especially to children. She taught art in local schools and juvenile prisons on an ad hoc basis during the 1990s and also taught children in her Livermore art studio. She enjoyed overseeing a joint mural project with juvenile prisoners at a Bay Area facility, and painted other murals in the Bay Area.

Ever the free spirit, whether riding her tiny scooter to her Sunol studio in the 1980s, sculpting with "found objects" from dumpsters and the roadside, or sketching locals on her trips to the middle east, Turkey and Ireland, Dorothy most enjoyed art and connecting with people. She also loved writing poetry, especially with religious and spiritual themes.

Dorothy is survived by her son John, daughter Jennifer, and Jennifer's children Aimee, Justin and Jacob.

Ongoing Memorial Website go to <http://dorothygordon.blogspot.com/> (you can post comments and photos).

Dorothy loved charities dedicated to feeding hungry children and would've appreciated any donation to such a charity.

David Gareth Ash

David Gareth Ash was born May 7, 1953 and entered into eternity on December 4, 2009 in Carrollton, Texas while on business. Dave was a devoted family man and put his wife and children as one of his top priorities.

Dave was born and raised in San Jose CA, then moved to Pleasanton with his wife where they have lived and raised their four children for the past 33 years. Dave was involved in the

community coaching his children in the sports that they all loved. Over the years he coached each of his children in soccer, basketball, softball and Little League Baseball. He was a familiar face at the Sports Park on the soccer fields.

Dave was also an avid sports fan and spent many happy times cheering on the SF Giants and Golden State Warriors. He also was very active in his church and enjoyed the men's ministry and Bible studies.

Dave was highly respected in the business community where he has been in the electronics sales and distribution industry since graduating from San Jose State University in 1975.

He was the devoted husband of Jan Ash, father of Kirsten, Lorien, Jason and Megan.

Dave is also survived by his brother Craig Ash and his wife Marcia; his sister Janice Roloff and her husband Phil; father-in-law Ori DiBenedetto; sister-in-law Joanne McMillen, as well as many nieces and nephews.

A service celebrating Dave's life will be held on Saturday December 12, 2009 at 1:00 pm at Valley Community Church 4455 Del Valle Prkwy Pleasanton.

In lieu of flowers a donation can be made to: the Ash Children's College Fund, First Republic Bank, 249 Main St., Pleasanton, CA 94566 ACCT # 80000420027.

Arrangements by Graham-Hitch Mortuary.

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR
The Independent

VOLUNTARY ANNUAL
SUBSCRIPTION WELCOME!
Local Tri-Valley area: \$18/yr
Out of area: \$70/yr

Submit your subscription at
www.independentnews.com
or call Barbara at
(925) 243-8000.

LOOSE DENTURES?

No more sticky denture creams and pastes!

Dr. Beckley has a comfortable, secure alternative to those messy denture adhesives. The "Mini-Implant System" that is placed in less than two hours and can be followed by your favorite lunch.

This is a one stage procedure that involves minimally invasive surgery, no sutures, nor the typical months of healing.

Michael L. Beckley, DDS

Pacific Oral and Facial Surgery Center
1133 E. Stanley Boulevard, Suite 215
Livermore, CA 94550

Call for your complimentary consultation
(925) 294-4000

Visit our website for more information on implants.
www.pacificofs.com



My granddaughter visits me regularly at Rosewood Gardens, now that I live closer to my family. I am happier now that I have the freedom to live on my own and have my family visit.

Life is good....

for residents at Rosewood Gardens.

Generations Memory Care Opening in Early 2010
Reserve your spot today. Call us for details.

Community Features:

- Restaurant-Style Dining Room
- Barber Shop & Beauty Salon
- Weekly Housekeeping
- 24-Hour Staff
- Close to Medical Services
- Fitness Center & Classes
- Emergency Call Systems
- Close to Shopping Centers
- Walking Paths & Scenery
- Medication Management
- Scheduled Transportation
- Laundry Service


Rosewood GARDENS
Assisted Living

(925) 443-7200
35 Fenton Street
Livermore, CA 94550
www.rosewoodgardensseniorliving.com
Lic# 015601306

Livermore Sunday Farmers' Market

Every Sunday, 9AM-1PM

2nd St. at J St.

Year-round

Bringing the farm to your table every Sunday!

yourfarmersmarket.com

Featuring Winter Favorites: Sweet Potatoes, Winter Squash, Broccoli, Kale, Brussels Sprouts, Apples, Kiwifruit, Oranges, Tangerines, Walnuts & More!



Your Food, Your Community, Your Farmers' Market
1-800-949-FARM
yourfarmersmarket.com

SHORT NOTES

Holiday Campfire

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District ranger staff will present a Happy Holidays Campfire on Sun., Dec. 13. Meet Ranger Dawn Soles at 4 p.m. at the group picnic area in Veterans Park.

Participants will sit around a campfire, drink hot cocoa, sing holiday carols and enjoy good company with neighbors. All are welcome — young and old, Grinch and Who, beautiful voices or those who feel they croak like a frog. Bring some hot dogs to roast if you wish. Canceled if raining.

There is a \$4 per vehicle parking fee. A \$2 donation is requested to help support the programs. Participants may call 925-960-2400 for more information.

Holiday Storytimes

Holiday storytimes will be held at the Livermore Public Libraries and pssts—don't tell anyone, but there will be a special guest. Visits by the special guest will be at the following storytimes as indicated:

Civic Center Library: Family Storytime, Monday, December 14, 7 p.m., 1188 S. Livermore Avenue.

Rincon Branch Library: Children's Storytime, Tuesday, December 15, 10:30 a.m., 725 Rincon Avenue, next to the May Nissen pool.

Springtown Branch Library: Children's Storytime, Thursday, December 17, 10:30 a.m., 998 Bluebell Drive near the duck pond.

In addition to these "special visit" storytimes, the Livermore Public Library will have a number of its regular storytimes in December. Please consult the website for details: www.livermore.lib.ca.us.

All ages are welcome to these free library programs. Contact Youth Services at (925) 373-5504 for more information or pick up a storytime schedule at any one of the Livermore Public Libraries.

Parenting a Parent

At the December "Parenting Your Aging Parent" class, the subject will be "How to Deal with Elders Who Become Abusive." The class

will also discuss ways to make the holidays enjoyable for everyone in the family.

"Parenting Your Aging Parent" is a monthly class designed for baby boomers who are sandwiched between the needs of their growing children, the needs of their aging parents and other relatives, and their own needs.

In this class, students will be provided information and resources to assist them. Instructor Ruth Gasten has taught parenting classes in the Valley for over 35 years. She is a mother and a grandmother, who cared for her own mother until her death at the age of 95.

"Parenting Your Aging Parent" is held once a month. Classes meet from 7:00 to 9:00 PM at Amador Valley High School, 1155 Santa Rita Road, Library-Media Center, Conference Room B. The December class will be held on December 16.

You may register by phone at Amador Valley Adult School at (925) 426-4280 or sign in at the class on December 16. The fee for the class is \$7.00.

Occasio Winery

Occasio Winery owner John Kinney announced that the tasting room, located at 2245B South Vasco Road in Livermore, will have a holiday store featuring artisan gift selections throughout the month of December.

Following are some of Kinney's favorite gift selections from the Occasio Winery tasting room: Tierra Mia Organic Goat Soap - \$8.75; McCauley Olive Oil \$10-\$12; Soi company Holiday Soy candles \$6-\$20; Grape vine wreaths; Savannah Bee Company Beauty Products \$7.99 - \$25; Savannah Bee Company Honey \$5 - \$24; Zaro's English Toffee \$7.95 - \$13.95 and Mulling Spices \$4.

Other gift ideas include: Occasio Society Wine Club one year Gift Membership—surprise the wine lover in your family!; Occasio Winery Gift Certificates—let them choose their own gift this Holiday Season; Gift baskets—enjoy a selection of local products—various sizes/prices; 2008

Zinfandel Futures \$130 for half case; Cheese Books \$24 - \$35; Gaucho gypsy jazz CDs as well as various branded wearables.

The winery is open Friday noon to 5 p.m. and weekends 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Check Occasiowinery.com for seasonal hours.

Please call 925-371-1987 to make a reservation outside of opening hours.

Junior Ranger Project

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District ranger staff is looking for some help from 12 and 13 year olds.

Come out to Veterans Park for a Saturday of fun, adventure and food. As a free introduction to the Junior Ranger program, the rangers will be hosting a volunteer planting project Saturday, Dec. 12.

After spending the morning in the park working to restore the native grasslands, the group will have a barbecue lunch followed by exciting outdoor games.

If you are interested in attending this exciting and unique program, please contact the rangers at 925-960-2400 to reserve your spot, or e-mail rangers@larpd.dst.ca.us.

Wente in January

Wente Vineyards in the Livermore Valley has plans for January, including Thursday Nights at the Table and the Eugenia Zobel porcelain art exhibition at the Wente Vineyards Estate Winery Tasting Room.

Thursday Nights at the Table: The Restaurant at Wente Vineyards continues its weekly Thursday Nights at the Table dinner at 7 p.m. Inspired by the Wente family's love of family style dining, every Thursday evening, guests at The Restaurant can enjoy a shared three-course table experience. The meal is just \$29 per person (plus tax and gratuity) or \$39 per person including a selection of Wente Family Estates wines paired to the menu. Reservations are highly recommended, as the menu does not extend past the seating capacity of the table, and can be made by calling (925) 456-2450.

The Restaurant at Wente Vineyards, 5050 Arroyo Road, Livermore.

Porcelain by Eugenia Zobel: exhibit is on display through Feb. 28 at the Wente Vineyards Estate Winery Tasting Room. For more information visit www.eugeniastudio.8m.com/

Christmas Bird Count Scheduled

The Ohlone Audubon Society and the Alameda Creek Alliance are sponsoring a new Christmas bird count on Friday, December 18 in eastern Alameda County, within the Alameda Creek watershed. An estimated 50 to 75 volunteer birders of all levels of experience will survey for wintering birds within a 15 mile radius count circle in the vicinity of Pleasanton, Sunol and Livermore.

The Christmas Bird Count is an annual nationwide volunteer-based bird survey effort coordinated by the Audubon Society to promote bird conservation and assess long-term trends in winter bird populations. In the largest citizen science effort in the world, tens of thousands of volunteer birders and scientists armed with binoculars, bird guides and checklists will take part in Christmas bird counts throughout the Americas from mid-December through early January. Audubon and other organizations use data collected in this longest-running wildlife census to assess the health of bird populations and to help guide conservation actions.

"Our bird count will involve volunteers, ornithologists, and agency staff in bird conservation and monitoring, and will promote stewardship of bird populations and habitats within the Alameda Creek watershed," said Rich Cimino, Conservation Chair of the Ohlone Audubon Society, and the initiator of the new Christmas

Club Wente: Members enjoy exclusive benefits across all property offerings, including The Restaurant, The Course, The Grill and The Concerts including priority ticket purchase. All of these benefits are available for only \$95 for the initial

year, and \$75 each year thereafter. Membership renews automatically. For more information and to sign up for stellar entertainment benefits, please visit <http://www.clubwente.com/> or call (925) 456-2444.

Bird Count. "We're very excited with the response and concern from interested citizens."

Jeff Miller, Director of the Alameda Creek Alliance, added, "The bird count is fun and educational, hones your observational skills, provides friendly competition, contributes to conservation efforts, and gets you outside into some gorgeous areas during the holidays."

The first eastern Alameda County bird count will complement 15 other existing Christmas Bird Counts in the San Francisco Bay Area. The count area is in the vicinity of Sunol, Pleasanton and Livermore, and includes five East Bay Regional Parks, significant San Francisco watershed lands, and birding hotspots such as lower Mines Road, Sunol Wilderness, Del Valle Reservoir, and the Springtown area in Livermore. Volunteers will walk, mountain bike, or drive count areas, or monitor backyard feeders during a 24 hour period on December 18, with some additional surveys during the count week of December 15 to 21 to locate, identify, and record rare bird species. The surveys will be non-intrusive observations of birds, with volunteers following an ethics code to avoid any impacts to birds or habitats.

Notable birds that could be found within the count circle include: yellow-billed magpies, which are endemic to central California and have declined due to West Nile virus and loss

of oak woodland habitat; bald eagles, which only recently began breeding in the Bay Area and have just been removed from the endangered species list; golden eagles, but are threatened locally by collisions with wind turbines at Altamont Pass; western burrowing owls, declining rapidly in the Bay Area due to habitat loss from urban development; and Lewis' woodpeckers, brightly colored denizens of open-canopy forests that are a state species of special concern.

The history of the Christmas Bird Count has its roots in opposition to an early American holiday tradition known as Christmas "side hunts," where teams would compete to see who could shoot more wildlife and come back with the biggest pile of dead birds. Conservationists and scientists concerned about declining bird populations proposed a new holiday tradition beginning on Christmas Day 1900, a "Christmas Bird Count" that would tally birds rather than hunt them.

Birders and volunteers with any level of experience can participate and are assigned to teams based on their bird identification skill level and endurance. The count circle is divided into over two dozen sections, each with a leading birder with specific knowledge of the area. To become involved, go to either ohloneaudubon.org or www.alamedacreek.org.

LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

www.independentnews.com



LEGAL NOTICES

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

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME FILE NO. 370191

The following person(s) has (have) Abandoned the use of the Fictitious Business Name Spring Training USA located at 1453 First St., Livermore Ca 94550

The fictitious business name referred to above was filed on October 12, 2005 in the County of Alameda.

Full name of registrant: R.P. Companies, Inc., 1453 First St., Livermore Ca 94550

This business was conducted by: Corporation
/s:/Richard K. Corbett

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on November 9, 2009. Expires November 9, 2014.

The Independent Legal No. 2621. Publish November 19, 26, December 3, 10, 2009.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 430592

The following person(s) doing business as:Indian Kabob, 865 E Stanley Blvd., Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s):

Nader Nafey, 542 Brookfield Dr., Livermore Ca 94551

This business is conducted by:an individual
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.

Signature of Registrant: /s:/Nader Nafey

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 21, 2009. Expires October 21, 2014.

The Independent Legal No.2622. Publish, November 19, 26, December 3, 10, 2009.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME FILE NO. 430948

The following person(s) has (have) Abandoned the use of the Fictitious Business Name Charco Enterprises dba Magnetic Mantras, 95 Windward Common #2, Livermore Ca 94551

The fictitious business name referred to above was filed on October 30, 2009 in the County of Alameda.

Full name of registrant: Nancy K. McKain, 95 Windward Common Unit 2, Livermore Ca 94551

This business was conducted by:an individual
/s:/Nancy McKain

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on November 16, 2009. Expires November

16, 2014. The Independent Legal No. 2629. Publish November 26, December 3, 10, 17, 2009.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.431605

The following person(s) doing business as:Hey Nay Nay Ink, 252 Main St., Pleasanton Ca 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s):

Nancy K. McKain, 95 Windward Common Unit 2, Livermore Ca 94551

This business is conducted by:an individual
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.

Signature of Registrant: /s:/Nancy K. McKain

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 16, 2009. Expires November 16, 2014.

The Independent Legal No.2630. Publish, November 26, December 3, 10, 17, 2009.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.431721

The following person(s) doing business as:Livermore Gas, 160 Holmes St., Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s):

Double AA Corp., 1435 Huntington Ave Ste 230, So. San Francisco Ca 94080

This business is conducted by:a Corporation
The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name (s) listed above on March 7, 2003

Signature of Registrant: /s:/Jamilah Aish

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 18, 2009. Expires November 18, 2014.

The Independent Legal No. 2632 Publish November 26, December 3, 10, 17, 2009.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.431282

The following person(s) doing business as:Green Earth Carpet Cleaning, 490 No. "K" Street, Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s):

Armando Valdez Barrera, 490 No. "K" Street, Livermore Ca 94550

This business is conducted by:an individual
The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name (s) listed above on October 29, 2009

Signature of Registrant: /s:/Armando Valdez Barrera

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 5, 2009. Expires November 5, 2014.

The Independent Legal No. 2635 Publish December 3, 10, 17, 24, 2009.

Company, 5443 Tesla Road, Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s):

Steven Kent, LLC., 5443 Tesla Rd., Livermore Ca 94550

This business is conducted by:a Limited liability company
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.

Signature of Registrant: /s:/Steven Mirasou

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 4, 2009. Expires December 4, 2014.

The Independent Legal No.2640. Publish, December 10, 17, 24, 31, 2009.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.431699

The following person(s) doing business as:Art 4 Spaces, 3430 Andrews Drive #110, Pleasanton Ca 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s):

Engela W. Wilson, 3430 Andrews Drive #110, Pleasanton Ca 94588

This business is conducted by:an individual
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.

Signature of Registrant: /s:/Engela W. Wilson

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 18, 2009. Expires November 18, 2014.

The Independent Legal No.2643. Publish, December 10, 17, 24, 31, 2009.

NOTICE OF INVITING BIDS

Notice is hereby given that sealed competitive bids will be accepted in the office of the GSA-Technical Services Department, County of Alameda, 1401 Lakeside Drive, 8th Floor, Suite 800, Oakland, CA 94612

MANDATORY NETWORKING/NORTH COUNTY BIDDERS CONFERENCE RFP/SOQ #10020 - ARCHITECTURAL & ENGINEERING PROFESSIONAL BRIDGING DESIGN SERVICES, Tuesday, December 15, 2009 at 12:00 p.m. - Lakeside Plaza Building, 1401 Lakeside Drive, Room 1107, 11th Floor, Oakland, CA

NON-MANDATORY NETWORKING/NORTH COUNTY BIDDERS CONFERENCE RFP/SOQ #10020 - ARCHITECTURAL & ENGINEERING PROFESSIONAL BRIDGING DESIGN SERVICES, Wednesday, December 16, 2009 at 12:00 p.m. - Lakeside Plaza Building, 1401 Lakeside Drive, Room 1107, 11th Floor, Oakland, CA

Attendance at the Mandatory Networking/Info Conference is required. Responses Due by 2:00 pm on January 8, 2010

County Contact : Howard Johnson at (510) 208-9648 or via email: howard.johnson@acgov.org Information

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

NOTICE OF INVITING BIDS Notice is hereby given that sealed competitive bids will be accepted in the office of the GSA-Technical Services Department, County of Alameda, 1401 Lakeside Drive, 8th Floor, Suite 800, Oakland, CA 94612

MANDATORY NETWORKING/NORTH COUNTY BIDDERS CONFERENCE RFP/SOQ #10020 - ARCHITECTURAL & ENGINEERING PROFESSIONAL BRIDGING DESIGN SERVICES, Tuesday, December 15, 2009 at 12:00 p.m. - Lakeside Plaza Building, 1401 Lakeside Drive, Room 1107, 11th Floor, Oakland, CA

NOTICE OF INVITING BIDS Notice is hereby given that sealed competitive bids will be accepted in the office of the GSA-Technical Services Department, County of Alameda, 1401 Lakeside Drive, 8th Floor, Suite 800, Oakland, CA 94612

MANDATORY NETWORKING/NORTH COUNTY BIDDERS CONFERENCE RFP/SOQ #10020 - PROFESSIONAL CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES, Thursday, December 17, 2009 at 12:00 p.m. - Lakeside Plaza Building, 1401 Lakeside Drive, Room 1107, 11th Floor, Oakland, CA

NON-MANDATORY NETWORKING/NORTH COUNTY BIDDERS CONFERENCE RFP/SOQ #10020 - PROFESSIONAL CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES, Friday, December 18, 2009 at 12:00 p.m. - Lakeside Plaza Building, 1401 Lakeside Drive, Room 1107, 11th Floor, Oakland, CA

Attendance at the Mandatory Networking/Info Conference is required. Responses Due by 2:00 pm on January 11, 2010

County Contact : Howard Johnson at (510) 208-9648 or via email: howard.johnson@acgov.org Information

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

NOTICE OF INVITING BIDS Notice is hereby given that sealed competitive bids will be accepted in the office of the GSA-Purchasing Department, County of Alameda, 1401 Lakeside Drive, Suite 907, Oakland, CA 94612

NON-MANDATORY NETWORKING/NORTH COUNTY BIDDERS CONFERENCE RFP/SOQ #10020 - RECORDS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM, January 8, 2010, 10:00 A.M. - General Services Agency, 1401 Lakeside Drive, Room 1107, 11th Floor, Oakland, CA

NON-MANDATORY NETWORKING/NORTH COUNTY BIDDERS CONFERENCE RFP/SOQ #10020 - RECORDS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM, January 8, 2010, 2:00 P.M. - Public Works Agency, Main Conference Room, 4825 Gleason Drive, Dublin, CA

Responses Due by 2:00 pm on February 16, 2010

County Contact : Kelley Smith (510) 891-5670 or via email: kelly.smith@acgov.org Attendance at Networking Conference is Non-mandatory. Specifications and bid copies regarding the above may be obtained at the Alameda County GSA-Purchasing Department or the Current Contracting Opportunities Internet website at www.acgov.org.

NOTICE OF INVITING BIDS Notice is hereby given that sealed competitive bids will be accepted at the Zone 7 Water Agency, 100 North Canyons Parkway, Livermore, CA, 94551

NETWORKING/SOUTH COUNTY BIDDERS CONFERENCE RFP 701-09 - DEL VALLE WATER TREATMENT PLANT - PROCUREMENT OF FILTER VALVES, Friday, December 11, 2009, 10:00 a.m. - Zone 7 Water Agency, Del Valle Water Treatment Plant, 601 E. Vallecitos Road, Livermore, CA

NETWORKING/SOUTH COUNTY BIDDERS CONFERENCE RFP 701-09 - DEL VALLE WATER TREATMENT PLANT - PROCUREMENT OF FILTER VALVES, Friday, December 11, 2009, 2:00 p.m. - Zone 7 Water Agency, Del Valle Water Treatment Plant, 601 E. Vallecitos Road, Livermore, CA

Responses Due by 2:00 pm on December 23, 2009

County Contact : Tom McKimmy at (510) 208-3990 or via email: tom.mckimmy@acgov.org Information regarding the above may be obtained at the Current Contracting Opportunities Internet website at www.acgov.org.

NOTICE OF INVITING BIDS Notice is hereby given that sealed competitive bids will be accepted in the office of the GSA-Purchasing Department, County of Alameda, 1401 Lakeside Drive, Suite 907, Oakland, CA 94612

MANDATORY NETWORKING/NORTH COUNTY BIDDERS CONFERENCE RFP/SOQ #10020 - RECORDS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM, January 8, 2010, 10:00 A.M. - General Services Agency, 1401 Lakeside Drive, Room 1107, 11th Floor, Oakland, CA

NON-MANDATORY NETWORKING/NORTH COUNTY BIDDERS CONFERENCE RFP/SOQ #10020 - RECORDS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM, January 8, 2010, 2:00 P.M. - Public Works Agency, Main Conference Room, 4825 Gleason Drive, Dublin, CA

Responses Due by 2:00 pm on February 16, 2010

County Contact : Kelley Smith (510) 891-5670 or via email: kelly.smith@acgov.org Attendance at Networking Conference is Non-mandatory. Specifications and bid copies regarding the above may be obtained at the Alameda County GSA-Purchasing Department or the Current Contracting Opportunities Internet website at www.acgov.org.

NOTICE OF INVITING BIDS Notice is hereby given that sealed competitive bids will be accepted in the office of the GSA-Purchasing Department, County of Alameda, 1401 Lakeside Drive, Suite 907, Oakland, CA 94612

County Contact : Karen Bartels at (925) 454-5039 or via email: kbartels@zone7water.com Attendance at Networking Conference is Non-mandatory. Specifications regarding the above may be obtained at the Current Contracting Opportunities Internet website at www.acgov.org.

NOTICE OF INVITING BIDS Notice is hereby given that sealed competitive bids will be accepted in the office of the GSA-Technical Services Department, County of Alameda, 1401 Lakeside Drive, 8th Floor, Suite 800, Oakland, CA 94612

MANDATORY NETWORKING/NORTH COUNTY BIDDERS CONFERENCE RFP/SOQ #10020 - PROFESSIONAL CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES, Thursday, December 17, 2009 at 12:00 p.m. - Lakeside Plaza Building, 1401 Lakeside Drive, Room 1107, 11th Floor, Oakland, CA

NON-MANDATORY NETWORKING/NORTH COUNTY BIDDERS CONFERENCE RFP/SOQ #10020 - PROFESSIONAL CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES, Friday, December 18, 2009 at 12:00 p.m. - Lakeside Plaza Building, 1401 Lakeside Drive, Room 1107, 11th Floor, Oakland, CA

Attendance at the Mandatory Networking/Info Conference is required. Responses Due by 2:00 pm on January 11, 2010

County Contact : Howard Johnson at (510) 208-9648 or via email: howard.johnson@acgov.org Information

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

NOTICE OF INVITING BIDS Notice is hereby given that sealed competitive bids will be accepted in the office of the GSA-Purchasing Department, County of Alameda, 1401 Lakeside Drive, Suite 907, Oakland, CA 94612

NON-MANDATORY NETWORKING/NORTH COUNTY BIDDERS CONFERENCE RFP/SOQ #10020 - RECORDS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM, January 8, 2010, 10:00 A.M. - General Services Agency, 1401 Lakeside Drive, Room 1107, 11th Floor, Oakland, CA

NON-MANDATORY NETWORKING/NORTH COUNTY BIDDERS CONFERENCE RFP/SOQ #10020 - RECORDS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM, January 8, 2010, 2:00 P.M. - Public Works Agency, Main Conference Room, 4825 Gleason Drive, Dublin, CA

Responses Due by 2:00 pm on February 16, 2010

LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

www.independentnews.com



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

SELL YOUR USED CAR HERE: Call Barbara at 925-243-8000

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

EMPLOYMENT

56) ADULT CARE

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

60) BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

ALL CASH VENDING! Be Your Own Boss! Your Own Local Vending Route. Includes 25 Machines and Candy for \$9,995. Multi-Vend LLC, 1-888-625-2405. (CAL*SCAN)

BE WARY of out of area companies. Check with the local Better Business Bureau before you send any money or fees. Read and understand any contracts before you sign. Shop around for rates.

71) HELP WANTED

Opportunity Knocking Auto Sales. Self-Motivated. Easy Schedule. No Experience Needed. Will Train! Benefits. Apply Within Or Online @ LivermoreAutoGroup.com Call Parm or Ravi @ (925) 294-7700 **Ford / Lincoln / Mercury**

INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS WANTED for Senior Home Health Care. Must Have Experience. Senior Solutions, Inc. 925-443-3101

ATTN: COMPUTER WORK. Work from anywhere 24/7. Up to \$1,500 Part Time to \$7,500/mo. Full Time. Training provided. www.KTPGlobal.com or call 1-800-330-8446. (CAL*SCAN)

Tired of the Same Routine? **PHAT JOB** Now Hiring! Full time, travel, hotel, transportation provided. 866-350-2220 or 877-856-6960. (CAL*SCAN)

ATTN: COMPUTER WORK. Work from anywhere 24/7. Up to \$1,500 Part Time to \$7,500/mo. Full Time. Training provided. www.mlbwealth.com (CAL*SCAN)

FIREFIGHTER No experience needed. Training, travel, great pay/benefits/vacation! Regular raises. HS grads ages 17-34. Call Mon-Fri 1-800-345-6289. (CAL*SCAN)

ELECTRICIAN NEEDED. Great pay & benefits. 30 days vacation/year, retirement & raises. No experience needed. HS grads ages 17-34. Call Mon-Fri 1-800-345-6289. (CAL*SCAN)

\$15-\$25 hr. Customer Service. 100 year old company. Established customers. Flexible hours. PT/FT Retirees welcome. No starter fee. **FULLER BRUSH** 1-800-655-5435. email defroshaug@aol.com. (CAL*SCAN)

MOTIVATED? GOOD with PEOPLE? Love the Sun? Free to Travel? Call Liz at 888-355-6755. Paid Training and Free Transportation. (CAL*SCAN)

JOBS, JOBS, JOBS! No experience. Get paid to train. California Army National Guard. High School JRVST & Grads/GED. Up to 100% tuition assistance. Part-time work with full-time benefits. www.NationalGuard.com/Careers or 1-800-GO-GUARD (CAL*SCAN)

TO PLACE A CLASSIFIED AD call Barbara 925-243-8000 or go on-line at www.independentnews.com. Also available pay by Credit Card for Classified and Display Ads.

CLASSIFIEDS

Reaches 38,000 Homes Direct mail to Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin & Sunol Call Barbara 925-243-8000

79)HELP WANTED/SALES
OVER 18? AVAILABLE to TRAVEL? Earn Above Average \$\$\$ with Fun Successful Business Group! No Experience Necessary. 2wks Paid Training. Lodging, Transportation Provided. 1-877-646-5050. (CAL*SCAN)

EMPLOYMENT ADS
Reach over 38,000 homes by direct mail to Livermore, Pleasanton & Sunol.
Submit your ad at independentnews.com or call Barbara at (925) 243-8000.

MERCHANDISE

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

121) ESTATE/GARAGE/YARD SALES

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

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

127) LOST/FOUND
LOST or FOUND AN ITEM FREE SECTION
Call Barbara 925-243-8000

130) MISC FOR SALE
Used Chain Link Gate 13'4" Wide x 4' Tall with Hinged Mounting Post and Hardware to Attach to Swing Gate Operator Elite CSW-200-UL Call 925-872-1321 \$250 or BO

Heavy Duty Electric Automatic Gate Opener, Swing Type Model Elite CSU-200-UL Good Working Order Call Lynn 925-872-1321 \$400 or BO

NOTICES/ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

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

PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED ADS ONLINE/CALL IN
Reach over 38,000 homes by direct mail to Livermore, Pleasanton & Sunol.
Submit your ad at independentnews.com or call Barbara at (925) 243-8000.

157) APT/CONDOS/HOUSE/TOWNHOUSE/RENTAL

GOT A HOUSE FOR RENT? Let the 49,119+ households that read the Independent find out about it. To place an ad go to www.independentnews.com or call Barbara at 925-243-8000

160) BOAT/RV and RETAIL
LOOKING FOR RETAIL OR STORAGE SPACE? Great Location Off Hwy 580 On Kitty Hawk Road For Details Email: Pmatharu@lagmail.net

162) HOMES FOR SALE
By Advertising with The Independent reaching over 38,000 homes and businesses with your ad placement. Call Barbara 925-243-8000

165) HOUSE/ROOMS/RENTALS TO SHARE
RENT YOUR EMPTY LIVING SPACE By Advertising with The Independent

reaching over 38,000 homes and businesses with your ad placement. Call Barbara 925-243-8000

170) LAND FOR SALE/OUT OF STATE
By Advertising with The Independent reaching over 38,000 homes and businesses with your ad placement. Call Barbara 925-243-8000

172) LOTS & ACREAGE/OUT OF STATE
20 ACRE LAND FORECLOSURES Near Booming El Paso, Texas. No Credit Checks/Owner Financing. \$0 Down. Take over payments \$159/month. Was \$16,900, NOW \$12,856. 800-755-8953. www.TexasLandForeclosures.net (CAL*SCAN)

SERVICES
176) BUSINESS SERVICES
CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING in 240 Cal-SCAN newspapers for the best reach, coverage,

and price. 25-words \$450. Reach 6 million Californians! FREE email brochure. Call (916) 288-6019. www.Cal-SCAN.com

DISPLAY ADVERTISING in 140 Cal-SCAN newspapers statewide for \$1,550! Reach over 3 million Californians! FREE email brochure. Call (916) 288-6019. www.Cal-SCAN.com (CAL*SCAN)

NEWS RELEASE? Cost-efficient service. The California Press Release Service has 500 current daily, weekly and college newspaper contacts in California. FREE email brochure. Call (916) 288-6010. www.California-PressRelease.com (CAL*SCAN)

180) FINANCIAL SERVICES
Get Out of Debt in Months! Avoid Bankruptcy. Not a high priced consolidation company or a consumer

credit counseling program. Free consultation **CREDIT CARD RELIEF** 1-866-475-5353. (CAL*SCAN)

TAX RELIEF! Do You Owe Over \$15,000 in BACK TAXES? Need to Settle State, Business, Payroll Tax Problems, Eliminate Penalties, Interest Charges, Wage Garnishments, Tax Liens! Call American Tax Relief 1-800-496-9891. FREE, Confidential, No obligation, consultation. (CAL*SCAN)

195) SCHOOLS/TRAINING
Advertisement for Training. **HEAVY EQUIPMENT TRAINING.** Learn to operate bulldozer, backhoe, loader, motor grader, excavator. Job placement assistance. Call 888-210-4534. Northern California College of Construction. www.HEAVY4.com promo code: NCPA1. (CAL*SCAN)

We're Growing! REGIONAL FLAT BED COMPANY DRIVERS NEEDED HOME DAILY - NO WEEK-ENDS
Late Model Equipment
Competitive Pay and Benefits Package.
Consistent Miles
Looking for Safe Professional Drivers
Minimum 1 year Flat Bed Exp.
Limited Openings - Call us Today!
GREATWIDE DEDICATED TRANSPORT
866-839-6345
www.greatwide.com

Automotive Sales People Wanted
We need 10 people who want to make 100K in the next 12 months. Experienced preferred but will train the right people. \$6,000 guarantee for the 1st 90 days for training.
Call or apply online. 925-294-7700, www.livermoreautogroup.com

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

<p>Fracisco Realty & Investments Residential • Commercial • Property Mgmt (925) 998-8131 DRE: #01378428 www.FraciscoRealty.com Mike Fracisco REALTOR®</p>	<p>Ivy LoGerfo 925-998-5312 RE/MAX Accord DRE#01267853 homes@ivylogerfo.com</p>
<p>GENE WILLIAMS Mortgage Consultant, REALTOR® (510) 390-0325 CINDY WILLIAMS CRS, GRI - REALTOR® (925) 243-0900 www.williamsteam.net Over Three Decades of Experience!!!</p>	<p>Sandee Utterback (888) 823-8315 DRE#0885150 WWW.SANDEU.COM Prudential California Realty "Specializing in Livermore's Finest Homes"</p>
<p>Kathleen & Larry Waelde Associate Brokers 1-800-868-2070 MyHomeExperts.com Free Moving Van! "The best Realtor I've ever dealt with." K. Cahill "You exceeded all our expectations." B. O'Conner</p>	<p>LENA PAIVA GRI, REALTOR® Prudential California Realty (925) 980-4489 WWW.LENAPAIVA.COM DRE#01464783</p>
<p>Michael Bowers Broker Associate Selling, Buying, Investing (925) 734-7177 Emily S. Hunter CRS, Realtor® emily@emilyhunter.net (925) 785-3795</p>	<p>BOBBIE GREGORY REALTOR, GRI, SRES 925.980.6838 www.prurealty.com/BobbieGregory DRE#01491719 "Energy, Honesty, and Outstanding Service"</p>
<p>BILL GROTH www.GrothMortgage.com (925) 989-2227 RPM Community Presence. Reputation, Experience</p>	<p>Gail Henderson REALTOR, MFA • COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL (925) 980-5648 www.gailhenderson.com J. Roodloff REALTOR</p>

To Place Your Ad, Call Your Account Representative At (925) 243-8001

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

<p>COMPUTERS Tri-Valley PC Medic "I make house calls!" • Repairs • Training • Upgrades • Tune-Ups • Networking Ken Cook 925-485-9040 925-989-7722 (mobile) WINNER www.TriValleyPCMedic.com Livermore Chamber • BBB • Lic #0111088</p>	<p>PET SITTING Meow's Pet & Home Sitting Service (925) 454-5205 Lots of TLC. Keep pets safe in their own environment. Licensed & bonded. References Available.</p>	<p>EYE CARE VALLEY EYECARE CENTER Medical Associates Specializing in complete eye care Pleasanton (925) 460-5000 Livermore (925) 449-4000</p>	<p>HEALTH VALLEY CARE HEALTH SYSTEM. Visit Us At www.valleycare.com</p>
<p>PLUMBING Icemaker FILTERS AQUA-PURE 15% OFF DUBLIN PLUMBING 6883 Village Parkway, Dublin, 828-2010</p>	<p>PAINTING So Unique Painting & Decorating LIC#624128 SAVE \$250 On a Complete Exterior or Interior Paint Job! * Not valid with any other offer Over 30,000 Satisfied Customers PAINTING EXTERIOR OR INTERIOR 1-925-225-1021</p>		

TO PLACE AN AD IN THE BUSINESS DIRECTORY CALL BARBARA AT (925) 243-8000.

REAL ESTATE NEWS AND NOTICES

Busting Myths: The Truth about Buying and Selling Real Estate, Part 1

By Cher Wollard
We live in the Media Age, and that means people have access to more information about more topics than ever before in the history of the planet.

Want to know how to raise orchids? Google "how to raise orchids" and you'll get 1.34 million answers.

Wonder what the highest building in the world is? Wikipedia has a lengthy article with several lists, depending on the definitions of "highest" and "building," and what era you are interested in.

Unfortunately, not all of the information we have access to is reliable. Certainly this is true in the area of real estate.

Let's take a look at some of the biggest misperceptions out there:

1. To see a lot of homes, call a lot of agents.
All agents who are members of the local real estate board – Bay Area Association of Realtors covers Alameda and Contra Costa counties – have equal access to the Multiple Listing Service. This means they can show you all of the MLS listings.

The only properties they may not have access to are properties being sold by the owners without an agent and those under "Exclusive Agency" agreements (sometimes called a Pocket Listings) in which the listing broker is instructed not to cooperate with other brokers. These properties are not entered on the MLS. In this market, very few properties fall into this category.

Even in these cases, your agent can speak to the owner or the listing broker and try to arrange a showing. If the property has been on the market for awhile, they may agree to cooperate.

Loyalty is a two-way street. Agents work harder for "their" clients than for clients who may or may not use their services when the time comes to write an offer.

2. You should price your home high because buyers will underbid you.

This myth is related to another myth "I can always reduce my price later if it doesn't sell."

Buyers do not know what your strategy is; they only know what price the house is being offered for. If that price is more than they are able or willing to pay, they may not even look at your property, much less make an offer.

The smartest strategy is always to price it at market value. Your agent can help you determine what that is through a Comparative Market Analysis, in which he/she compares your home to other similar properties that have sold recently.

Pricing is as much an art as a science, and market value seldom holds steady, so if you don't get offers within a reasonable time frame, adjust the price without delay.

If someone does bring you a lowball offer, you can always reject it or, better yet, counter at a more reasonable price. But you can't negotiate with anyone until they bring you an offer.

While it's true that many buyers will offer less than asking price, others may offer more. Which brings us to myth No. 3:

3. You should price property low to receive multiple offers.

Properties that are underpriced for their location, size and condition often do receive multiple offers. But attempting to price a property to ignite a bidding war is a dangerous game.

What happens if the offers you receive are less than desired? While it is unlikely you can be forced to sell, you – and your agent – could end up looking unreliable. Further, if the offer you received was at asking price and without conditions, the buyer's broker (and yours) may have the right to a commission.

Serious sellers offer their property at prices they are willing to accept.

4. You will save money by buying without an agent.

In our area, sellers generally pay their broker, who then pays the buyer's broker. Buyers seldom pay broker fees, so the price is right.

The seller has a professional negotiating the best price and terms on his/her behalf. Don't you deserve the same?

5. You will save money by selling without an agent.

We've all seen the signs: For Sale by Owner. Often referred to by the acronym FSBO (pronounced fizzbo).

These sellers believe they will save the cost of hiring a professional to sell their home, thus increasing the bottom line. Sometimes that works. But fewer than 30 percent of FSBOs actually sell. The rest are either taken off the market or, more often, end up as listings with real estate agents.

The properties that do sell by owner net an average of 16 percent less than those sold through an agent, according to a recent study by the National Association of Realtors. In part that's because buyers regard FSBOs as potential "deals," and make offers accordingly.

Plus, about 90 percent of buyers have agents. So owners often end up paying for the buyer to engage the services of a professional negotiator, while going without that advantage themselves.

Since they are now paying half of the customary broker's fee, their "savings" are reduced even more.

What do listing agents do for their share of the fee?

- Assist the seller in preparing the property for sale
- Advise the seller on price and market conditions
- Market the property for exposure to a wide spectrum of potential buyers

- Qualify potential buyers
- Negotiate terms and conditions on behalf of the seller
- Ensure escrow has been established with a reputable company and that the buyer's earnest money is properly deposited

- Troubleshoot issues with mortgages, appraisals, repairs, etc.

- Ensure that all legal requirements are satisfied, and
- Assist the seller in closing the transaction.

"In the open market, in the time it takes a FSBO to successfully sell a home, he or she has to achieve a level of professionalism akin to a level real estate agents spend years obtaining," noted Broderick Perkins, award-winning real estate journalist with Deadline News Group.

Next week: Busting more myths about buying and selling real estate.

Cher Wollard is a Realtor with Windermere Welcome Home Realty, Livermore.

Pleasanton Wood Shop Serves Community



Nearly 17 years after it was founded, the Pleasanton Wood Shop continues to serve the community by making a range of power tools available at low cost to adults who can pass a safety test and work under supervision.

Shop users, in their turn, have built furniture for City of Pleasanton facilities and a museum as well as props for plays and personal projects.

The Wood Shop is located at the north end of Pleasanton's Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. It has ordinary tools like handsaws, a drill press and table saw and less common ones like a jointer, planer and router table.

The mere existence of a drop-in shop is unusual as a community resource. It was established in the early 1990s, not long after the Senior Center itself, because several community leaders were woodworking enthusiasts, according to Ray Figueroa, Pleasanton recreation coordinator. The nearest comparable community facilities are in Santa Clara and Concord.

Users need not be Pleasanton residents, although out-of-towners have to pay a bit more. Pleasanton residents pay \$5 per session, residents of other communities \$6. The shop is open for drop-ins four days: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. to noon.

On Tuesdays, wood carvers use shop space, and on Thursdays, there is a class on making pens.

From time to time, the shop will offer evening classes, depending on interest and the availability of an instructor. The cost for that is higher.

On a typical day, three drop-in participants use the shop, says supervisor Frank Hartley, a volunteer and Pleasanton resident. On a busy day, there might be five users. They are as likely to be women as men. They might have taken an introductory evening class there at the Wood Shop, or they might have previous experience somewhere else. However, to return on a drop-in basis they need to pass a written safety test and demonstrate proficiency around the shop. It's obvious when someone lacks that, Hartley says.

This past Monday, two of the Wood Shop users were making the kinds of seriously attractive ballpoint pens that sell in gift store sets. They had hollowed out wooden shanks using a drill press and now, using a turning machine, were sculpting them into graceful shapes to fit the fingers.

They weren't working for personal profit. After taking a Pleasanton Wood Shop class in May, Art Tenbrink, a retired Las Positas college counselor, found that he could turn out one or two pens a day and sell them to support his favorite peace charities. His pens can be purchased at Millfleure on Ray Street in Pleasanton for about \$27. A third of the price goes to the charity, a third is for Millfleure and the final third covers Tenbrink's costs.

Janene Knudsen took a similar class in February and makes similar sorts of pens for gifts — birthdays, graduations, whatever comes along.

A third participant, Kris Jarvis, works at the Pleasanton's Museum on Main Street, which is part of the Amador-Livermore Valley Historical Society. She has used the Wood Shop for very different purposes, including making ghost cutouts for the museum's fund-raiser, the Halloween Ghost Walk. This week, she was building a walnut and oak gun rack for her home.

Some years ago, Wood Shop volunteers designed and built a large, attractive oak desk, located today at the entrance to the Senior Center where visitors

are greeted.

Wood Shop evening classes can range from basic shop for beginners to more advanced instruction; for example, how to do inlays. Those taking a beginning class will typically commit to three hours a week for eight weeks. They will build something basic like a small table, with features that require use of machines like a drill press and router.

At the moment, no new evening classes are scheduled. Future scheduling will depend on demand and the availability of an instructor. The month's Wood Shop activities schedule is available in a hand-out at the Senior Center, and an activity schedule for the entire Senior Center is posted on-line. (It isn't up to date, however. As the Independent went to press, the latest was for November.)

Those interested in verifying the current schedule can call (925) 931-5365.

Beyond space and utilities, and beyond the time and effort of paid staff who are spread over many programs, the City of Pleasanton supports the Wood Shop at a cost of \$800 to \$1,000 a year, according to Pam Deaton, recreation supervisor. The budget covers expendable supplies like masking tape, sandpaper and tool blades.

The City also insists that participants sign liability waivers. Injuries are almost non-existent. Hartley has not seen a significant one in his nearly five years in the Wood Shop and doubts that



In the photo at left, at the Pleasanton Wood Shop, Art Tenbrink turns wood stock for a pen to be sold as part of a project to raise funds for charity. The photo on the right shows Kris Jarvis, assisted by supervisor Frank Hartley, drilling out slots for a walnut-oak gun rack.

there has ever been one. A rumor circulated recently that the City was threatening to close the shop for fear of liability, but it really is only insisting that supervisors and Wood Shop users pay strict attention to the legalities like filling out waivers and filing prompt reports if accidents do happen, Deaton says.

Janice Pementel
"Thanks Dad"
Cell (925) 997-1387
Specializing In Dead Stock Removal Large & Small

HERE TO SERVE YOU!
CUSTOMER SATISFACTION IS OUR #1 GOAL.

AT LIVERMORE
FORD • LINCOLN • MERCURY

FREE FLUSH!

5 To Choose From: **BUY ANY 3 FLUSHES, GET THE 4TH FLUSH FREE**

- Cooling System
- Fuel Injection
- Power Steering
- Transmission
- Brake System

Call for details. Exp. 12/31/09.

Home of the

\$5⁰⁰*

Lube, Oil & Filter

- Change Motor Oil & Filter
- Top Off All Fluids
- Check Air Filter & Cabin Air Filter
- Check Belts & Hoses
- Rotate & Inspect 4 Tires
- Inspect Brake System
- Test Battery

*Domestic vehicles only. Price is based on 5 quarts of oil plus tax and hazardous waste disposal fees. Excludes diesels, hybrids, modified, and performance vehicles. Synthetic oils extra. Call for details. Exp. 12/31/09. We reserve the right to refuse service.

BUY 3 TIRES, GET THE 4TH FREE!

No rebate required for free 4th tire! Max. savings of \$120 on 4th tire. Mount, balance, hazard waste and tax extra. Excludes modified vehicles. Call for details. Must present coupon. Exp. 12/31/09.

RV Service Available

FREE BATTERY TEST

Visually inspect and test using Rotunda Micro-490 tester.

10% Off Motorcraft BATTERIES

UP TO 100-MONTH WARRANTY
Parts Only. Installation Extra. Exp. 12/31/09

\$50 Off FRONT OR REAR BRAKE JOB

Service must include replacement of shoes or pads, turning rotors, or drums. Must present coupon at time of service. Expires 12/31/09.

WE WILL NOT BE UNDERSOLD!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS!

2266 Kitty Hawk Road, Livermore • (925) 294-7700
www.livermoreautogroup.com

A tradition of excellence since 1971.

MICHELE TAYLOR (510) 209-0976



871 Hazel Street, Livermore \$379,900
Make this diamond in the rough your home today. Priced below comps. Lovely neighborhood with tree lined street. Private courtyard in front.

GREG MUNOZ (510) 744-3536



20850 Mines Road, Livermore \$800,000
A beautiful piece of property! 240 prime acres just 26 minutes from Tesla Rd. Electricity, phone, sprint-fed pond, 2 barns on property. Possible building sites. Completely fenced.

BILL ABOUMRAD (510) 816-3611



1263 Norwood Place, Livermore \$569,000
Totally upgraded kitchen. New carpet. Upgraded baths. Fireplace with granite surrounds. Raised panel doors, crown molding, pool, and side yard access, inside laundry.

ABO MOJADIDI (510) 786-8411



3273 Saratoga Court, Livermore \$1,475,900
Former Model Home, Grand Slate Entry, Solid Cherry Wood Floors Kitchen, Add'l Media/Pool Room, Office/Library, Long Driveway, Large Slate Patio, Fully Upgraded Home.

BILL ABOUMRAD (510) 816-3611



9544 Tesla Road, Livermore \$1,399,000
Great Horse Property and Beautiful Home, and Close to Town. New Roof & Pool. Upgraded Kitchen w/Wood Floors, Two 5,000 gallon water tanks, 10 stall barn, arena, pen, plus more.

MICHAEL GUDDAL (925) 455-2433



944 Marilyn Avenue, Livermore \$279,000
3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1,128 sq. ft. Beautiful home in a quiet North Livermore neighborhood. It has separate dining as well as an office. Professionally landscaped & new fence. Bathroom upgrade.

TRACY VEACH (925) 455-2466



742 South G Street, Livermore \$545,000
3bd, 2 1/2 ba, 1,772 Sq. ft. New in 2007, front steps, carriage garage door, A/C & heat, exterior paint, new sod & sprinkler system. In 2008, new SS appliances, carpet, some hardwoods & int. paint.

DAN FLORES (925) 455-2455



2352 8th Street, Livermore \$739,000
3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath, 2,511 sq. ft. WOW! Cottage with incredible remodel & addition. Brilliant floor plan. Beautiful kitchen with custom granite counters & glass backsplash. Wolf oven/range.

JON P. ROBERTS (925) 292-9498



2776 Decker Lane, Livermore \$646,900
3 Bedroom, 2 Bath, 2190 Sqft. Lovely 3 year new single story home off Vasco Rd. Large corner lot, tile floors, Granite counters and Cherry cabinets. Master Bath with separate shower & tub.

GARY KOEHMSTEDT (925) 518-6650



6109 St. Andrews Way, Livermore \$366,550
3 Bedroom, 2 1/2 Bath, 1350 sqft. Nice home, well cared for, built in 1998. Very cute décor. Upstairs laundry, cute, functional kitchen. Finished patio to enjoy the outdoors and BBQ!

- Locally Owned & Operated
- Deep Roots in our Community
- Superior Client Services
- Highest Professional Standards

4111 Mission Blvd., Fremont
Tel: 510-744-3500

1686 Second Street, Livermore
Tel: 925-447-8100

www.LegacyRealEstateAssociates.com

LEGACY REAL ESTATE & ASSOCIATES

Art, Community, & Education



ILS teacher Marla Silversmith (left), student Kamala Ravivhandran, and Sharon Lohman take a spin around the ice.

Students Say Ice Rink Is Cool

By Ron McNicoll

They may be Sharks on the ice, but the San Jose hockey franchise people are real pussycats when it comes to special education students.

Seventeen Amador Valley High School special education students took their turns skating, or learning to skate, on Dec. 2 at an outdoor ice rink next to the Pleasanton Library.

The rink, which will close after Jan. 10, was constructed in the library parking lot by the San Jose Sharks. It cost them more than \$100,000 to install it. The team is glad to provide the amenity for the community, said Jon Gustafson, who heads projects for the Sharks.

Eventually the Sharks hope to be operating on four indoor rinks in a 140,000-square-foot facility on the Staples Ranch property near El Charro Road and Interstate 580. The Sharks are still working through the approvals and lease agreement with Pleasanton.

The plan is to accommodate general skating, amateur hockey games and instruction, speed-skating clubs, and figure skating.

FEELING THE BREEZE

The hour on the ice last week for the Amador Valley special education students is similar to programs that the Sharks offer at their indoor rinks in Oakland and San Jose.

Gustafson said that the Sharks were happy to be able to "provide the kids with a good experience, something a little

(continued on page 4)

Turtle Island Quartet Performs 'A Solstice Celebration'

As the winter solstice draws near, classical/jazz innovators Turtle Island Quartet are ringing in the season with *A Solstice Celebration: Festival of Lights*.

Winter Solstice marks the shortest day and longest night of the year in the Northern Hemisphere.

The Grammy-award winning group fuses a traditional classical string quartet aesthetic with a contemporary American musical style to explore the music that has been an integral part of winter holiday celebrations around the world for centuries.

This special performance, presented by LVPAC and Del Valle Fine Arts, will be held at the Bankhead Theater on the evening of the Winter Solstice, Monday, December 21, at 7:30 p.m.

Winner of the 2006 and 2008 Grammy® Awards for Best Classical Crossover Album, Turtle Island fuses the classical quartet esthetic with contemporary American musical styles. The journey has taken Turtle Island through forays into folk, bluegrass, swing, bebop, funk, R&B, new age, rock, hip-hop, as well as music of Latin America and India. Consisting of extraordinary improvisers, composers, and arrangers, Turtle Island Quartet is the American quartet for music lovers in the 21st century.

For more than two decades, the Turtle Island Quartet has been defying genres and breaking boundaries, and this program is

no exception. Not satisfied with tried-and-true sacred and secular classics of the Western Christmas tradition, for this program the Turtle Island Quartet – violinists David Balakrishnan and Mads Tolling, cellist Mark Summer and violist Jeremy Kittel – honor their own ancestral roots by taking a voyage through holiday music from Christian, Jewish, and even Hindu traditions.

From the songs of Chanukah (“Chanukah Oh Chanukah”), to the music of India’s Diwali (“Jot Se Jot Jagake Chalo”), to the old English carols and Scottish reels of the 16th century (“Christmas Day I’Da Mornin’”), Turtle Island performs the timeless music that has been an integral part of winter holiday celebrations around the world for centuries. The program also features music from Vince Guaraldi’s beloved *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, as well as revisiting classical gems that have become indelibly tied to the holiday season. As with all of Turtle Island’s live performances, some additional surprises are in store.

“Playing with and on the music of the holiday season has long been an important part of our musical output—there are so many ways to go, from the heartfelt sincerity of your most sacred emotions all the way over into the purifying exhilaration of idiot glee, maybe even in the same piece on a good night,” says Balakrishnan. The quartet’s founder, whose father



Turtle Island Quartet performs at Bankhead Theater.

is from South India, integrates stylistic elements of jazz, European classical, American folk and Indian classical music in his groundbreaking compositional and arrangement work.

The Turtle Island Quartet’s “A Solstice Celebration” takes place at the Bankhead Theater for a single performance only on Mon-

day, December 21, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets range from \$26 – \$46 with student tickets available for \$12. This is the third event in the “LVPAC Presents: World Music Series”; the next event in the series will be the exhilarating modern Taiko drumming experience of TAO on Tuesday, February 9, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.

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

Ravenswood Festivities Take Visitors Back to Victorian Times

The annual Ravenswood Yuletide brings to life the traditional Victorian Christmas celebration.

Presented by the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District and the Ravenswood Progress League, this year’s Ravenswood Yuletide is scheduled from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13. Admission is free and open to the public.

The 1890s historic site will be decorated inside and out for a Victorian holiday. Costumed docents will lead tours of the home. Live music will be provided by Valley Banjos and also by LARPD Board Member Beth Wilson, who will play the flute. Trinity Arts Dance Academy will perform. Old St. Nicholas will be on hand to greet children.

Snacks and hot beverages will be for sale along with a lunch option. The Victorian Gift Shop will be open. A craft fair will be setup as well. Included in the craft fair will be knit goods, woodcrafts, antiques, stained glass ornaments, jewelry and more.

Ravenswood Historic Site is located at 2647 Arroyo Road, Livermore. For more information, call 925-449-8584. There is no admission charge.





Pictured are Scott Phillips as A.C. Gilbert and Jennifer Tice as Mary Gilbert.

'The man Who Saved Christmas - a Heartwarming Holiday Musical'

by Susan Steinberg

Thank heavens for A.C. Gilbert! Who is he? Why, just the man who saved Christmas for America's children during the dark days of WW II.

And thank heavens for Ron Lytle's original holiday show about him! It's just in time to provide a great family entertainment for the season.

This is no syrupy-sweet feel-good Santa Claus story but a real chunk of forgotten American history. Turned into a lively musical, it's the unusual true tale of ordinary citizens and children doing battle with government bean-counters.

Are these men Scrooges? No, they're just unimaginative federal bureaucrats, number-crunchers who figure that it would be more patriotic for parents to buy War Bonds instead of wasting money on frivolous toys for their children.

(Can't you imagine the kids' joy on Christmas morning?)

Mr. A.C. Gilbert had already

become a rich and famous tycoon by inventing the country's most popular toy, the Erector Set. He



Arthur Murray
Franchised Dance Studios

Leader in Ballroom Dancing
Since 1912

Single & Couples Welcome
Beginning to Advanced

Call for a FREE PRIVATE LESSON

1947 2nd Street, Livermore
(925) 456-5556

www.ArthurMurray.com
www.DanceLivermore.com

traveled to Washington, DC, to try convincing the powerful National Defense Counsel that banning toy sales during the holidays would ruin the morale of America's children and their families.

"I can't give away the result of that legendary confrontation," says playwright Lytle with a laugh. "But I can tell you that from that day on, A.C. Gilbert was forever known as 'The man who saved Christmas'."

The very merry show, billed as "A New Old-Fashioned Musical," has won critical raves for its tuneful score (including "All I Want for Christmas," "You and Me," and "No More Love Songs"), as well as its raucous comedy and heartwarming sentiment. Its family fun is guaranteed to put everyone in the holiday spirit.

An A-list of Valley acting talent stars in the show, headed by Pleasanton Playhouse leading man Scott Phillips ("Follies" and "42nd Street") as A.C. Gilbert. Phillips, creator of the original role, is joined by Jennifer Tice, returning as Mary Gilbert (Pleasanton Playhouse regular in "Follies," "42nd Street," "City of Angels,"

"Mame," "Damn Yankees," and "Into the Woods").

Other familiar faces include Martie Muldoon, ("Ragtime," and director of Broadway Kids Chorus and Tri-Valley Rep's youth camp) and her husband John, who has joined her in Livermore's Shakespeare Festival and Valley Opera. Also in the cast are local regulars Tim Ackerman, Jeffrey Morrill, Erin Reiss, Dori Robinson, and Emma Thveldt.

The show will play at Stage One Theatre, the main theater of Newark Memorial High School, 39375 Cedar Boulevard in Newark, a short drive from Highway 880. With only two performances on December 12 and 13, and tickets at a low \$12 to \$20, this hit will certainly sell out. Call for advance reservations at 800-838-3006 or 510-791-0287, or visit www.Stage1Theater.org.

This reviewer was dragged to see the unknown playwright's creation two years ago, and has been singing the show's praises ever since. Go see it yourselves, and you'll understand my enthusiasm. It's a classic!

BANKHEAD THEATER

THE NUTCRACKER

Valley Dance Theatre with Livermore-Amador Symphony

December 12-20 • 2 & 7pm

Tickets: \$24/\$27/\$33/Students \$18

TURTLE ISLAND QUARTET

A Solstice Celebration

December 21 • 7:30pm • Tickets: \$26/\$36/\$46/Students \$12

A CHANTICLEER CHRISTMAS

Grammy Award Winning Orchestra of Voices

December 23 • 7:30pm • Tickets: \$33/\$41/\$56

BIG FAT YEAR END KISS OFF

Comedy Show XVII. Comedy with Will Durst & Friends.

December 27 • 7pm • Tickets: \$15/\$20/\$25

ROCKIN' IN THE NEW YEAR

Doo Wop Performance and early New Year's Party!

December 31 • 8pm • Tickets: \$78/\$88/\$98

Tickets: 925-373-6800 • 2400 First St., Livermore
www.bankheadtheater.org

SKATING

(continued from front page)



Photos - Doug Jorgensen

In the top photo, student James (center) tries his hand at skating with the help of Marla Silversmith and Sharon Lohman. In the photo at right, one of the students gets a steadying hand.

“It’s like roller-blading. You just have to adjust to ice.”

and feel the cool breezes.”

The breezes definitely were on the cool side. Despite the sunny sky, the temperature was in the low 50s when the young people were on the ice. They all seemed to love it.

Most of the students are native Californians, and have little or no experience with ice skating. Daniel Moore said, “It’s like roller-blading. You just have to adjust to ice.”

Moore did his first ice skating last year, when his class went to a rink in Dublin. He said he is doing better this time, now that he has had some practice. He went right back to the skills needed for the sport.

Andrew Galassi, who was also on the Dublin excursion last year, is also a roller-blader. He said he did fairly well last year on the ice outing, but had to hold on to the side railing this time. However, he said he was “beginning to go faster.”

Dasha Foos said that she has been on the ice “many times. It’s a little bit hard (to do). I like it.” Kinsey Young said simply that she likes skating.

SUPPORTING ALL STUDENTS

The class’s teacher, Marla Silversmith, said the trip last year to Dublin was good. This year, because the rink is local, the trip was better, because the entire class walked with her and other teachers and volunteers to the rink.

The walk was good exercise. It also gave Silversmith a chance to provide the students pointers on street smarts, including traffic safety.

Silversmith said that she was grateful to school superintendent John Casey and school board member Pat Kernan, an attorney for the Sharks, for their efforts in making the event happen. “It’s so nice to have a community that supports all students,” said Silversmith.

The rink is open to the public until 10 p.m. seven days a week. It opens at noon on weekdays, and at 10 a.m. on Saturdays and 11 a.m. on Sundays. Fees, including skate rental, range from \$10 for seniors to \$16 for a non-resident adult.



Opera Launches Annual Fund-raising

Ruby Hill Winery was the scene of Livermore Valley Opera's first ever donor appreciation party, and served as the kick-off for the winter fund-raising campaign last week. Guest speakers were Stage Director David Cox and Coloratura Soprano Erie Mills.

The board reported that despite low ticket sales for "Cav-Pag," thanks to strong fund-raising programs, Livermore Valley Opera (LVO) has slightly more reserves than at the same time last year.

The Die Fledermaus will be the next production. The goal of the winter campaign is to raise \$50,000 by the end of February.

Cox presented a lively talk, pointing out that there are many talented singers who never get to perform on the big stages. The SF Bay Area is full of them. They look to regional opera companies such as LVO for the chance to perform. He said LVO's March 2010 production of Die Fledermaus will be set in the beautiful "belle epoque" era, complete with "bustles for the ladies and coattails for the gentlemen" for the big masquerade ball scene.

Erie Mills has joined LVO's Advisory Council. She is not only a professional in the business of opera, she has performed in many of the "big houses" and is the only singer currently serving on the board of Opera America. With her

encouragement, LVO is now an associate member of Opera America, a service organization for opera companies across the country.

Mills gave a heartfelt talk on how far LVO has come in our 18 consecutive seasons. She praised this community for having the vision to create such an intimate venue as the Bankhead Theater, and further commented, "The close up view of the singers at the Bankhead would have cost a bundle at San Francisco Opera!"

New donor benefits were discussed at the meeting. As the level of donation goes up, so do the perks.

Special thanks to the donors in attendance who will help to sponsor a piece of the next production. It will cost \$85,000 to produce Die Fledermaus. Cards were placed around the tables at the donor event with budget line items. The lead gifts include: Susan Dupree and guest Conductor \$4,500 Susan Dupree; Supertitles \$700 Bill & Sue Rabe; Playbill \$700 Eugene & Chris Schmidt; Wigs & Makeup \$500 Pamela Philbert; and Bothwell Rehearsals \$500 John Shirley.

For more information about how to donate or upcoming events and productions, go to www.livermorevalleyopera.com.

Classic Film, 'A Christmas Story' Screens at the Vine

The Vine Cinema & Alehouse will be playing their 4th annual showing of "A Christmas Story" on Sunday Dec. 13.

The event starts at 12:30 with a live band playing holiday music on the patio.

The movie is expected to start at 1:15. Tickets are \$7.00 for the event.

Saturday Salon Scheduled

Saturday Salon will be held on Sat., Dec. 12 at 7:30 p.m. at the 4th Street Studio.

Theme is "A Carnival (but not secret life) Like Evening on the Catbird Seat," in honor of James Thurber.

This will be the 6th year of reading and listening hosted at the studio. Everyone's a featured writer with up to 10 minutes to read.

Bring a friend, Bring a nosh and something to drink to share. For information, call Karen Hogan at 456-3100. The studio is located at 2245 Fourth St., Livermore.

This classic film is considered the "Best Christmas Movie of All Time" according to most film reviewers. There will be raffles and silent auctions raising funds for two local charities; Open Heart Kitchen and Tri-Valley Animal Rescue. A wish list for both charities is on the Vine Cinema website.

Starting at 12:30, there will be appetizers available from the kitchen of the Zephyr restaurant, as well as eight draft beers and over fifteen Livermore Valley wines to choose from.

The Vine Cinema & Alehouse now exclusively shows first run independent films that previously movie fans would have had to travel to Berkeley or San Francisco see.

They also put on many special events planned during the year, including The Rocky Horror Picture Show and play live NFL on Sunday mornings.

For more information about this Sunday's event please visit www.VineCinema.com, or call (925) 447-2546.



Interfaith Christmas Choir and Creche Festival in Livermore

Christmas Festival featuring the Interfaith Christmas Choir and Creche Festival will be held on Sun., Dec. 13 at 1501 Hillcrest Ave., Livermore.

The event begins with a Creche viewing and instrumental ensemble groups from 6-7 pm.

The choirs will perform beginning at 7:00 pm. There will be choirs from St. Charles Church, St. Michael's Church, Unitarian Universalist Church and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Also joining the festival will be the Livermore Chamber Chorale, Cantabella Children's Choir and the Pleasanton Handbell Choir.

Refreshments will be served immediately following the performances.

Admission is free. For more information please call 449-0407.

Centerpointe Presents Festival of Carols

A Festival of Carols featuring traditional Christmas music as well as some unusual arrangements will be held at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13, at Centerpointe Presbyterian Church, 3410 Cornerstone Court.

Performing the music will be the Centerpointe choir and the church's handbell choir. They will be accompanied by musicians playing stringed instruments.

Special Bible readings for the Advent season, including the Nativity story from Luke 2, will be interspersed with musical selections. The audience will be invited to sing-along on some numbers.

A reception will follow the concert in the church's worship center. The suggested donation is \$10 with proceeds going to support the church's choral music program.



Livermore Mayor Marshall Kamena (left) with Rabbi Raleigh Resnick at last year's celebration.

Community Invited to Chanukah Celebration

On Saturday, December 12 the Livermore Valley Plaza in front of the Bankhead Theater will be home to Livermore's 2nd annual Chanukah Celebration "under the stars."

The event begins at 7:30 p.m. Livermore Mayor Marshall Kamena, joined by community leaders, will kindle Livermore's 9-foot menorah (the 8-branched Chanukah candelabra). The Chasidic Rock 'n Roll band "The Ferris Wheels" will bring cultural entertainment to Livermore's

downtown. Traditional Chanukah treats will be available for all.

The communal celebration is a project of Chabad of the Tri-Valley, the local Jewish Community Center, in partnership with Livermore Downtown Inc. "The festival of Chanukah reminds us that by kindling a candle of light and goodness we dispel and banish darkness," explained Rabbi Raleigh Resnick, Chabad's director.

More information can be obtained by visiting www.Jewish-TriValley.com

St. Charles to Offer Simbang Gabi: a Novena of Masses

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Livermore will celebrate a special Advent novena of masses at 5:30 a.m. daily from December 16 and through December 24. This event is called Simbang Gabi, or sometimes the Misa de Gallo.

Simbang Gabi is a Philippine Advent tradition that helps the faithful prepare for the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ, and is one of the best loved and most significant traditions of Filipinos.

There are several symbols connected with Simbang Gabi. The most popular is the Parol (star lantern). The oldest Philippine symbol is the Belen (nativity set) which was introduced from the tradition begun by St. Francis of Assisi in 1223. The Belen is found mostly in churches and affluent homes; the Parol, everywhere.

The Parol represents the star of Bethlehem. The Filipinos could not have picked a better symbol

to express their important message: 2000 years ago, Joseph and Mary could not find a place for the baby's birth; today and every year, the Parol is set out in the window to serve as the guiding light and sign for Joseph, Mary and Jesus to come in.

But why the star? Aside from the story of the star of Bethlehem, this kind of glow is important in the life of the rural Filipino whose darkness of the night was beautifully set to life by the moon and the glitter of millions of stars.

The St. Charles celebration is sponsored by the local Filipino-American community but is not exclusive, and all are welcome. Refreshments will follow each day's Mass. St. Charles is located at 1315 Lomitas Avenue in Livermore. More details are available at www.stcharlesborromeo.org or by calling (925) 447-4549.

FREE DELIVERY!*

Only those who have requested delivery of The Independent will be ensured of receiving it.



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

THE *Independent*
NEWSPAPER AND MAGAZINE

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


If you have already responded to The Independent, there is no need to do so again.

DON'T WAIT!

Respond today using one of these options:

Phone: 

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

Web: 

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



“Wild about Art,” will feature artwork by kids attending Love Art School of Fine Arts in Pleasanton. It will take place 5 to 8 p.m. Dec. 15 at the school, 1989-G Santa Rita Road. Over 30 pieces of art in various media including paintings, charcoal, pastel, pencil and ceramics will be on display. The selected artworks were created by students age 5 to adult. The community is invited to this evening of art, wine and appetizers. For information, call 484-1378 or go to www.kidsloveart.com. Pictured is one of the students at work.

Writers Club Offers Workshop on Curing 'Block'

The California Writers Club—Tri-Valley Branch offers writers of all genres and experience levels the opportunity to learn about their craft and share their work. The next meeting is on Saturday, December 19 from 11:30 am to 2:00 p.m. at Oasis Grille, 780 Main Street, Pleasanton.

For many writers, writing provokes anxiety, but not writing provokes more anxiety. Eric Maisel, creativity coach, family therapist, cultural observer and author of more than 30 books, including *Fearless Creating*, *The Van Gogh Blues* and *A Writer's Space*, is an expert on stress and the creative life. Maisel will discuss the various anxieties that nag writers and present a menu of tools for managing the inevitable anxieties that accompany the creative process and the creative life.

Maisel is widely regarded as America's foremost creativity coach. His thirty plus books, on topics ranging from handling toxic criticism and performance anxiety to living the writing life in Paris and San Francisco,

have helped countless authors and creative souls. Popular titles include *Coaching the Artist Within*, *Creativity for Life*, and *Creative Recovery*. He hosts two shows on the Personal Life Media Network, and writes a monthly “Coaching the Artist Within” column for *Art Calendar Magazine*. He is an internationally known lecturer and workshop leader who has spoken at the American Psychological Association's annual conference, the Writers Digest Writers conference, the Paris Writers Workshop and numerous other venues. To learn more about him, visit his website: www.ericmaisel.com.

The meeting cost is \$21 for members and \$27 for nonmembers, including lunch. Anyone curious about the group is invited to attend with no obligation to join. Reservations are required.

To make a reservation for December 19, contact Fred Norman at Fnorman300@aol.com or 925-462-7495 by Wednesday, December 16.

For more information on the California Writers Club—Tri-Valley

Branch, contact Lani Longshore at 925-455-1338 or longshore1769@yahoo.com or go to www.trivalleywriters.org.

Showing of 'Dangerous Beauty' to Benefit Women's Education, Research

The San Ramon Branch of the American Association of University Women launches its “Celebration of Women in Film” on Saturday evening, January 23, 2010, with “Dangerous Beauty.” Proceeds from the event, which will be held at the Front Row Theater, Dougherty Station Community Center, San Ramon, will go to AAUW funds that support women seeking fellowships and grants to further their education and research.

“Dangerous Beauty” is a lavishly produced film set in 16th c. Venice and based on the stirring, real-life story of Veronica Franco, a renowned courtesan and published poet. The film, which features scenes of high drama and comedy, and literate and witty dialogue, stars Catherine McCormack



(previously in “Braveheart”) as the “dangerous beauty,” Jacqueline

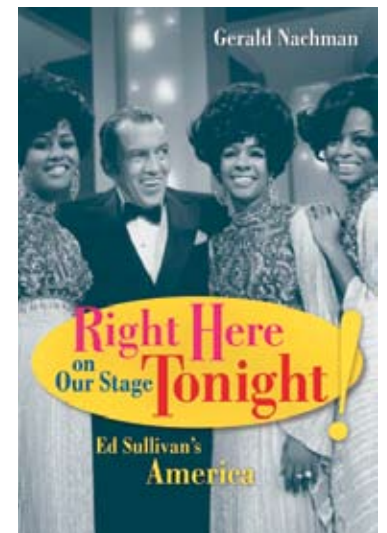
TV and Film Critic to Present Program at Pleasanton Library

TV and film critic Gerald Nachman will present a talk on Dec. 13 at 2 p.m. at the Pleasanton Library. The topic is *Right Here on Our Stage Tonight! Ed Sullivan's America*

Before the advent of cable and its hundreds of channels, before iPods and the Internet, three television networks ruled America's evenings. And for twenty-three years, Ed Sullivan, the Broadway gossip columnist turned awkward emcee, ruled Sunday nights. It was Sullivan's genius to take vaudeville from a worn-out stage genre and transform it into the TV variety show, a format that was to dominate for decades.

Right Here on Our Stage Tonight! tells the complete saga of *The Ed Sullivan Show* and, through the voices of some 60 stars interviewed for the book, brings to life the most beloved, diverse, multi-cultural, and influential variety hour ever to air. Gerald Nachman takes us through those years, from the earliest dog acts and jugglers to Elvis Presley, the Beatles, and beyond.

Sullivan was the first TV impresario to feature black performers on a regular basis—including Nat King Cole, Pearl Bailey, James Brown, and Richard Pryor—challenging his conservative audience and his own traditional tastes, and changing the face of American popular culture along the way. No other TV show ever cut such a broad swath through our national life or cast such a long shadow, nor has there ever been another show like it. Nachman's compulsively readable history, illustrated with



classic photographs and chocked with colorful anecdotes, reanimates *The Ed Sullivan Show* for a new generation.

Nachman has been an entertainment critic, humor columnist, and feature writer for some of the country's leading newspapers, including the *New York Daily News* and the *San Francisco Chronicle* where he was the theater and film critic for fifteen years. He has also written on entertainment for *Esquire*, *GQ*, *Newsweek*, the *New York Times*, and the *Los Angeles Times*. His previous books include *Seriously Funny: The Rebel Comedians of the 1950s and 60s* and *Raised on Radio* (UC Press). He lives in San Francisco.

The program is free and open to all. No registration required. For more information, call Penny Johnson, 925/931-3405.

Bisset as her mother and mentor in the skills needed to be a successful courtesan, and Rufus Sewell as a dashing Venetian senator.

Dr. Karen Van Zino, physician, author and lecturer, will provide commentary during the intermission and lead a brief discussion of how the experiences of this Renaissance beauty and her contemporaries relate to issues faced by women—and men—in today's world. The event starts at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served at the intermission.

To purchase tickets, call (925) 973-ARTS or go to the Front Row Theater web site at <http://www.ci.san-ramon.us/parks/theater/frontrow.htm>. All tickets are \$25, with minimal processing fees for tickets purchased online or mailed. Seating is limited.

ART & ENTERTAINMENT

ART EXHIBITS

Livermore Art Association Gallery, offers art classes, unusual gifts, painting rentals, art exhibits and information pertaining to the art field, 1255 Third St., Livermore. The gallery has been open since 1974 and maintains a video library of art tapes, art and craft books and art magazines and newsletters; hosts art events and workshops. Hours are Wed.-Sun. 11:30-4 p.m. For information call 449-9927.

Artists Angela Johal and Katie Caulk works on display at Windermere Welcome Home realty through Jan. 4. 1790 First Street, Livermore. The show is open for viewing during regular business hours or by appointment. Contact Cher Wollard at 925 824-4824 or cherw@windermere.com for information.

Flying Solo, a series of exhibits presented by Poetry On Canvas Pleasanton showing in November & December at the Berry Patch in Downtown Pleasanton on Main & Angela. Schedule: Judi Caplan- Dec 6-12; Dee Haag- Dec 13-19; Claudette McDermott- Dec 20-26; Stan Vierk - Dec 27 - Jan 3.

Eugenia W. Zobel Exhibit, December 2009 and January 2010, Wenté Vineyards Estate Winery, 5565 Tesla Road, Livermore. New works of porcelain paintings. Artist's reception on Sunday, December 13, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. For information call 925-443-7266.

Karen Fleschler will be showing her paintings at Swirl on the Square, 21 South Livermore Ave., Livermore; Cuda Ridge Winery, 5385 East Ave., Livermore; and Tesla Vintners, 5143 Tesla Rd., Livermore through December.

Barbara Stanton's Figurative Work will be featured at the Wild Vine in downtown Livermore, Dec. 10 to 31. Her Figurative work will be on display at the Wild Vine the entire month of Dec. Most drawings and paintings are drawn from life at the Figure Drawing Workshop on Fri. mornings at the Bothwell Arts Center in Livermore. Works in pastel, oils and a few of her miniatures will be on display. Meet the artist at the reception on Thurs., Dec. 10 from 7:00 - 8:30. For more info call or write Barbara 925-373-9638, microangelo@earthlink.net, www.barbarastanton.com or the Wild Vine 925-243-0700, events@wildvinelounge.com. www.wildvinelounge.com/index.php

WINERY EVENTS

Rodrigue Molyneux Winery, For the remainder of December, the tasting room will feature a 3 foot tall Gingerbread House created by Executive Chef Tracy Flores. Gift ideas include wine, holiday decorations and wine accessories. Our Rubino Port is almost gone. Wine Tasting every Saturday and Sunday 12:30-5:00 at 3053 Marina Ave, Livermore, 443-1998, www.rmwinery.com

MUSIC/CONCERTS

Vocal Jazz and Combos Concert, Las Positas College, Fri., Dec. 11, 8 p.m. Las Positas College Theater, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. \$12 general admission and \$8 for students and seniors. For further information call the Performing Arts Events Line at 925-424-1100 or call Cindy Rosefield at 925-424-1119

Instrumental Jazz Concert, Las Positas College, Sat., Dec. 12, 8 p.m. Las Positas College Theater, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. \$12 general admission and \$8 for students and seniors. For further information call the Performing Arts Events Line at 925-424-1100 or call Cindy Rosefield at 925-424-1119

Christmas Extravaganza, Ohlone Community Band, Wind Orchestra and Tuba Ensemble with special guests Silicon Valley Brass Band, directed by Tony Clements. December 12 at 7:30 pm. Smith Center at Ohlone College, 43600 Mission Boulevard, Fremont. \$10-\$15; 510-659-6031; www.smithcenterpresents.com. Premier of new work, "Evergreen Christmas: A Symphony of Cards," by composer and arranger George Roumanis. For more information or a complete list of concert pieces, contact Jackie Whitehouse at 510-659-6158 or visit www.smithcenterpresents.com.

Amador Valley High School, winter choir/orchestra/jazz concert, Dec. 14 at 7:30 p.m. and winter band concert Dec. 15 at 7 p.m. Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. Free admission.

San Ramon Symphonic Band, Dec. 18, 8 p.m. at Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center. Conductor Larry Colon. 943-ARTS

Turtle Island String Quartet, Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center Presents. Dec. 21. 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets or information at 925-373-6800, www.bankheadtheater.org.

Doo Wop New Year Celebration, Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center Presents. Dec. 31, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets or information at 925-373-6800, www.bankheadtheater.org.

ON THE STAGE

Cinderella, Pleasanton Civic Arts Stage Co., Dec. 11, 12, 19, 7:30 p.m., Dec. 13 and 20, 2 p.m. Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. Tickets at <http://civicartstickets.org> or (925) 931-3444.

COMEDY

Big Fat Year End Kiss Off Comedy Show XVII, Comedy with Will Durst and Friends. Dec. 27, 7 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. \$15, \$20, \$24. 925-373-6800, www.bankheadtheater.org.



DANCE

Valley Dance Theatre, celebrates its 30th Anniversary Season with its annual full-length production of the Tchaikovsky's holiday classic *The Nutcracker*. Performances Bankhead Theater, 2400 First Street in Livermore. December 12-20. Public performances will be accompanied by the Livermore-Amador Symphony pit orchestra and holiday carols by Harmony Fusion will highlight the show prior to opening curtain and during the "snow" scene. Evening performances will take place December 12, 18, 19 and 20 at 7:00 p.m. Matinee performances will take place on December 12, 13, 19 and 20 at 2:00 p.m. All seats are reserved. Tickets are \$33, \$27 and \$24 for adults and \$18 for students 17 years and younger. They may be purchased online at www.bankheadtheater.org or by phone at 925-373-6800. Tickets may also be purchased in person at the theater box office, 2400 First St., Livermore, Tuesday-Saturday, 12 noon-6:00 p.m., and for two hours prior to show time. More information is available www.valleydancetheatre.com.

The Nutcracker, performed by The Dance Studio at Gymfinity, Fri., Dec. 18, 7 p.m. Guest tickets \$10 adults, \$5 children ages 12 to 17, under age 12 free. 230 So. Vasco Rd., Livermore. Information, 960-9440.

AUDITIONS/VOLUNTEERS

Livermore's 2010 Talent Competition is now accepting applications. Aspiring performers are invited to audition and compete in the next Livermore Talent Competition. Information and applications are available at www.LivermoreTalentCompetition.com. Applications must be received by December 11, 2009. The top winners in each age category - youth (17 and under) and adults (18 and over) - will take home \$2,500. This year's event is open to anyone from anywhere, not just Bay Area residents. The two Rotary Clubs of Livermore are again sponsoring this event. All net proceeds will go to the community grants that are presented by the Rotary clubs throughout the year. Information is available at www.livermoretalent.com.

competition.com.

Auditions for "Rent," the Pulitzer Prize-Winning musical at Las Positas College. Monday and Tuesday, December 14 and 15 from 7-10 at the LPC Theater. Bring a prepared song appropriate to the show, with sheet music. An accompanist will be provided. Callbacks on December 21. Rehearsals will be on Monday through Friday nights beginning January 19. Performances are April 2 through 18. Ken Ross will be director and producer. For more information, call (925) 424-1166 or email kross@laspositascollege.edu.

MOVIES

It's a Wonderful Life as part of its new Classic Cinema series Sunday, December 13, at 2:00 p.m. The showing, underwritten by Arts Leadership Alliance, will take place at the Grand Theatre Center for the Arts, 715 Central Avenue, on the corner of Central and Seventh Street, Tracy. Tickets are \$7.50 for General Admission seating. They may be purchased online at www.athegrand.org, by phone at (209) 831-6TKT (6858) or in person at the Leona Darr Willis Box Office.

CHORAL

Valley Concert Chorale Holiday Concert, Dec. 12 and 13, 8:00 p.m. on Saturday in the First Presbyterian Church, corner of 4th and L Streets, Livermore; 3:00 p.m. on Sunday in Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton. Saint-Saens' Oratorio de Noel (Christmas Oratorio), featuring five soloists, harp and organ. Paulus' Christmas Dances, and Courtney's A Musicological Journey Through the Twelve Days of Christmas. Join in singing traditional carols throughout the concert. Information: www.valleyconcertchorale.org.

Ohlone College Chamber Singers directed by Dennis L. Keller. 24th Annual Christmas at the Mission "Angel's Breath," Dec. 12 at 8 p.m. and Dec. 13 4 p.m. Old Mission San Jose, 43300 Mission Boulevard, Fremont. \$10-\$15; Information or tickets 510-659-6031; www.smithcenterpresents.com. Includes audience sing-along. For more information contact Jackie Whitehouse at 510-659-6158.

Blackhawk Chorus performs the Sounds of the Season. Dec. 19, 4 p.m. Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, 10550 Albion Rd., San Ramon. New program of music, both sacred and secular, traditional and jazzy, from 'And The Glory Of The Lord' by Handel, to the 'Nutcracker Jingles' by James Pierpoint. Tickets or information, 925.973.ARTS

Messiah Sing A Long, Dec. 20, San Ramon Presbyterian Church (12943 Alcosta Blvd.) Four soloists will perform with an orchestra. Free choral workshops on 11/16, 11/30, 12/5 & 12/14. For more info go to the Arts Foundation web site www.sanramon-arts.org



Chanticleer Christmas, Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center Presents. Dec. 23. 7:30 p.m. Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. 925-373-6800, www.bankheadtheater.org.

OPERA

Live Theater-Casts from the Met: 10 a.m. Saturdays at Dublin's Royal Hacienda Cinema. Dates: Dec. 19, Tales of Hoffman; Jan. 9, Rosenkavalier; Jan. 16, Carmen; Feb. 6, Simon Boccanegra; March 29, Hamlet; and May 1, Armida. Replays of each opera will be shown on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. as follows: Jan. 6, Hoffman; Jan. 27, Rosenkavalier; Feb. 3, Carmen; Feb. 24, Simon Boccanegra; April 14, Hamlet; and May 19, Armida.

MISCELLANEOUS

Devcon Holiday Ice Rink in Pleasanton, open through Jan. 10, 2010. Varies depending on day of the week. www.devconholidayicerink.com. 400 Old Bernal Avenue, parking lot of Pleasanton Public Library. (925) 484-4002. \$10-\$16 for 2-hour session, includes skate rental. Skating lessons, school field trips, corporate and private rink rentals are available in addition to regularly scheduled public skating hours.

Holiday Shorts, Creatures of Impulse, teen improv group, Dec. 10 and 11, holiday themed short form improv show. Veterans Hall, 301 Main St., Pleasanton. \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door; student tickets with valid ID \$5 in advance and at the door.

Ravenswood Victorian Yuletide, Sun., Dec. 13, noon to 4 p.m. Music, entertainment, carriage ride, food, crafts, and more. Ravenswood Historic Site, 2647 Arroyo Road, Livermore. Free admission.

Bay Bells—Light a Candle, Sunday, December 13, 4:30 p.m., Shannon Community Center, 11600 Shannon Avenue, Dublin. The performance, entitled "Light a Candle," will be a celebration of Love, Hope, Joy and Peace. The show will include "inspirational" readings and some original and familiar music. The show will be approximately one hour. Sign up in advance by calling 556-4500 for reservations or reserve seats on-line at www.DublinRecGuide.com (Activity # 21930). Tickets are also available at the door. \$10/Adult, \$5/Youth (12 and under).



Artist's Work Chosen for On-line Show

Artist Courtney Jane Jacobs of Pleasanton has received a Special Recognition Merit Award for artwork in the "7th Annual Color: Bold/Subtle Juried Online International Art Exhibition" hosted by Upstream People Gallery.

This international exhibition received approximately 300 entries from around the world and 58 artists were selected by juror Larry Bradshaw, Professor of Art at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, U. S. A.

Bradshaw states, "Courtney Jane Jacobs of Pleasanton is quite the abstractionist. Her highly imaginative acrylics are quite expressive. One of the strongest in terms of that excitement and energy is 'Grunkydopsom'." (Pictured above.)

The exhibition will be featured online during December, 2009 at www.upstreampeoplegallery.com and continue for 12 months, closing November 30, 2010.

Jacobs said, "My paintings represent a personal language created through the use of color, texture, composition, and action. By pushing, scraping, dripping, and throwing the paint I create a visual history of my own response to these complex, chaotic elements. It is an active process, intermingling various elements (line, spatter, drip, brushstroke, and squiggle) into one final composition. As I paint I forever seek the balance between negative/positive, lost/found, light/dark, thin/thick. For every 'yin,' I search for the 'yang'. Every splatter, gesture, and stroke is planned in terms of how it will affect the overall whole and where it can be mirrored elsewhere. I find this harmony of seemingly contradictory visual ideas both beautiful and exciting."

Altamont Rock Festival-35 year-old 'Bad Trip'

By Barry Schrader

Reprinted here is a column from December 3, 2004 in which the idea of creating a memorial to the occasion was first suggested. Schrader today writes, "I have corresponded with Michel Ferrucci about the idea of dedicating a monument to mark the 1969 Altamont Rock Festival. I had a friend do this conceptual drawing for me. As you can see it incorporates all the major elements of the festival--the mike and guitar for the music, the cord of marijuana to represent the drugs, and the motorcycle for the Hells Angels. Now all we have to find is a group like E Clampus Vitas to fund it and a site to put it--preferably near the concert site."

December 6, 1969 will go down in Tri-Valley history as its "day of infamy" when the "Age of Aquarius" lost its innocence as 300,000 people tripped out to the music of the Rolling Stones and other rock groups of that era. It was there on the Altamont hills east of Livermore that four people died, and three babies were born.

The 35th anniversary of this horrendous yet mesmerizing rock-fest is still talked about by those who were there. A free-lance photographer for the Oakland Tribune, Larry Medina, remembers it vividly. He had been shooting film all day and into the night near the stage, then had his camera and all the rolls of film stored in canisters on the camera strap ripped from him by Hell's Angels, the camera smashed onto the ground and kicked under the stage. It seems Medina was too close to the "action" where a concert-goer was being beaten and stabbed to death by Angels, and cameras meant photographic evidence, thus the sweep of the area to destroy all visible photo equipment. Medina lost his expensive Mamiya large format



Artist's concept of a potential monument.

camera, but escaped a beating and departed the scene empty-handed. He now works at Lawrence Livermore Lab and occupies the office next to mine. So that's how I got this firsthand account.

Another witness to the musical orgy was former Herald Editor Fred Dickey, now retired from newspapering and residing in Cardiff-by-the-Sea. He drove photographer Lee Estes and reporter JoAnn Cook up to the Altamont Speedway early in the day, when the Stones' appearance and related violence were still hours from happening. They left; but later Estes, staff writers Jeff Garberson and Cathy Smith returned to record the event for the newspaper's

Rolling Stones.

Dickey recalls when he went there the second time "the air was so thick with the pungent odor of marijuana you could cut it with a knife." The Hell's Angels were hired for \$500 worth of beer by the Stones' manager to "police" the event and keep fans from rushing the stage. As the music pulsated, the beer and drugs flowed, the crowd surged, and the Angels used brute force—pool cues, knives, beer cans and whatever else they had at their disposal—to beat back the frenzied fans. Valley Memorial Hospital was swamped with drug overdoses, beating injuries and accident victims that night and early into the next day.

Dickey concluded that "whether we approved of it or not, this should be seen as a significant historical event. History does not seek our approval. It was a signature happening of the hippie generation—all about drugs, sex and rock'n roll." He even thinks a historical marker at the speedway site would be appropriate 35 years later, now that all the anguished souls, angry ranchers and overwhelmed police have let this fade into memory.

Now that's a task for the E Clampus Vitas Chapter in the area! Where are they when you need them?!? The Clampers love to commemorate off-beat or unsung historical events with a marker, and then a party.

It was Woodstock on the East Coast that heralded the flowering of the hippie culture, while four months later the bedeviled Altamont Rock Festival signaled the demise of the "age of innocence."

Classical Clocks & Antiques
 Service • Sales • Repairs
 Come see our large collection of new & used Grandfather clocks!
 Largest selection of antique clocks in the Tri-Valley.
 1086 East Stanley Blvd., Livermore
 (925) 449-2127
 Tues. - Sat. 10 am - 6 pm

Still thinking about LASIK?
 Time to Take a Second Look

- Proven safe superior customized Laser vision correction technology
- Consistent optimal visual results
- Trusted, experienced, and world class surgeons
- Use your Flex Spending Savings Account for added savings
- 0% Financing Available

VALLEY EYECARE CENTER
 Medical Associates
 Jonathan Savell, M.D. • Michael Gagnon, M.D.
 Call (925) 460-5000 to schedule
 FREE no obligation consultation.
 Located in Pleasanton & Livermore
www.valleyeyecarecenter.com

Discover the latest options available in refractive vision correction recommended for your individual needs.

Alumni Association Formed to Support Livermore High School

By Patricia Koning

The 40th reunion for the Livermore High School (LHS) class of 1967 was so much fun that no one wanted it to end. To continue the party and open it up to other classes, several of the organizers of that reunion formed the Livermore High School Alumnae Association (LHSAA), a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

“Because many of our classmates were traveling some distance for the reunion, we decided to make it a weekend event,” says Carla Viale Lewis, one of the reunion’s organizers and a LHSAA Director. “Among the activities were a tour of downtown, wine tasting, and an LHS football game. We became very involved with the high school. They treated us so well, we really wanted to find a way to give back.”

The 40th reunion was a transformative experience for many people involved. “At this stage in our life, when we’re finished raising kids

and some of us are contemplating retirement, going to a reunion makes you realize how important high school was to us,” says Rich Fletcher. He also helped organize the Class of ’67 reunion and is the chairman of the LHSAA Board of Directors.

Lewis recalls how at the reunion, one classmate brought his high school yearbook with him to collect signatures. Back in high school, he’d been so shy he never asked anyone to sign it. Several people resolved 40-year-old arguments. “I reconnected with old friends and made many new friends,” she says. “After 40 years, we’ve all been through a lot so the playing field is very level.”

Lewis and Fletcher both come from longtime Livermore families. Parts of LHS, including the new science wing, were once a farm that belonged to Lewis’ grandparents, Louise and Rose Viale. Lewis and Fletcher think they were in the same kindergarten class at Fifth

Street School. Their fathers were classmates at Livermore High School.

LHS is 108 years old, founded in 1891 with the first class graduating in 1894. Lewis says they were surprised that a school with such a rich history did not already have an alumni association.

LHSAA’s vision is to connect alumni to LHS and each other and to provide lifelong support and resources to the high school. Fletcher says there are really two layers to the alumni association—direct financial support for the school and a networking community for its alumni.

“I’m extremely excited about the LHS Alumni Association and their plans for supporting Livermore High School’s proud traditions,” says LHS principal Darrel Avilla. “Their goal is to unify all graduates and provide a central clearinghouse for alumni information and support. I look forward to working with and supporting their

efforts.”

LHSAA made its first donation last month, \$500 for a high-tech overhead projector. Fletcher says the organization is working closely with Avilla to identify priorities. “We are finalizing our policies regarding donations,” he says. “We want to give the school what it needs while maintaining a degree of independence and oversight over how we make donations.”

One advantage of LHSAA, says Lewis, is that while the organization is focused on one school, its mission space is broad.

As the organization develops it will have a mechanism to direct donations to specific programs, such as agriculture, sports, or music.

Fletcher already has an LHS alumni blog at <http://livermore-highalumni.wordpress.com/> and expects LHSAA to soon have a newsletter, mixers to bring together alumni, and an online database of alumni and supporter information, class reunions, and fund-raising events. Members can choose the amount of personal information they want to share through LHSAA.

There are three types of memberships: lifetime members make a one-time investment of \$1,000 and enjoy all of the organization’s

benefits; annual members pay \$35 each year and are also entitled to all benefits; associate members are not required to invest and receive limited benefits, such as notification of networking events and inclusion in the database.

The first order of business, says Fletcher, is enrolling 50 lifetime members. The hope is that those members will provide a solid financial basis for LHSAA, a talent pool for future activities, and help spread the word to other alumni. “Ideally we want a class representative from each year,” says Lewis.

At the first LHSAA event, a cocktail party held in November, there were alumni from as far back as 1940 and as recent as 1998. The Board of Directors currently represents four decades of LHS alumni. In addition to Lewis and Fletcher (both ’67), other Directors are Ray Brown (’54), Bob Rumberger (’63), Susan (Dopkins) Canfield (’63), Cheryl (Givens) Perry (’67), Max Eckert (’67), Ray Alsdorf (’67), and Ryan Chance (’93).

For more information on LHSAA, visit the website at www.livermorehighalumni.org, send an email to LHSAlumniAssoc@gmail.com, or call 925-373-6601.

For more information on LHS, visit www.livermorehigh.com.



Photographer Doug Jorgensen photographed the vineyards in South Livermore Valley as they changed from green to fall and winter colors.

Park District Offers 2010 Calendars

Bobcats, dragonflies and wild turkeys – oh, my! These are some of the critters and wildlife that can be found in the new Sycamore Grove Park calendar for 2010, in addition to photographs showcasing the unique beauty of this regional park.

Created by the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District park ranger staff, the first calendars printed were for 2009. The 2010 calendar features new glossy color photos taken throughout the 774-acre park. All photos were taken by LARPD Park Rangers Amy Wolitzer and Glen Florey. The LARPD Foundation provided the funding to print the calendars.

Monthly photos include the

almond orchard in bloom, colorful wildflowers and the golden hills in the upper portion of the park. The calendar also indicates park district happenings and times the park is open throughout the year.

The calendars are on sale now. Proceeds will help benefit open space programs and facilities. Calendars are \$8 each or \$6 when purchased with an annual Sycamore Grove parking pass. Calendars can be purchased at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., or by mail or phone at 925-373-5700 (plus a \$2 shipping fee). Order forms and a calendar preview can be found online at www.larpd.dst.ca.us.

Milestones

Community



Pictured are members of the Livermore High School class of 1959. They gathered to celebrate their 50th high school reunion in Livermore. Over 80 members of the 133 member class were on hand for the three day event, which began on Fri., Oct. 2 with a place of honor at the Livermore High School homecoming football game. On Saturday, classmates met for breakfast at the Hilton Garden Inn, followed by a sit-down dinner dance in the evening. A special highlight of the evening was the photography/memorabilia exhibit and recounting of how class members have made a difference in the world. ON Sunday, there was a catered brunch held at the ranch of Mike and Carole (Cardoza) Murray in Livermore. Serving on the committee were Delphine Bankhead Perry, Karen Butts Carter, Carole Cardoza Murray, Robert Henry, Dallas Smith, Marlene Bettencourt Smith, Cherrill Dickey Johnson, Lee Ann Roy Hubbs, Gerry Carling Rhoades and Joanne Moomau Butterfield. Plans are to have another reunion in five years. Photo was taken by Denis Roland.

BULLETIN BOARD

(Organizations wishing to run notices in Bulletin Board, send information to PO Box 1198, Livermore, CA 94551, in care of Bulletin Board. Include name of organization, meeting date, time, place and theme or subject. Phone number and contact person should also be included. Deadline is 5 p.m. Friday.)

Rummage Sale put on by the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District. Sign-ups are open now to sellers seeking a new home for their possessions. A 10-by-10-foot space with an 8-foot table can be rented for \$35. No food, candy, car parts, large furniture, cars, motorcycles or any commercial items are allowed. Sale will be held from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 30, at The Barn, 3131 Pacific Ave. Sellers can sign up by visiting www.larpd.dst.ca.us and printing out and turning in the form along with the space rental fee. Deadline is Jan. 25 for any spaces still available. For more information, call 925-373-5700.

Superior Court Information Centers need people-oriented volunteers to support information centers in the Pleasanton Courthouse. Training provided, (510) 891-6209 or cpulliam@alameda.courts.ca.gov.

Amador Valley Lions Club is having its annual Christmas Dinner Party at Terra Mia Restaurant in Livermore on Thursday, Dec. 10th. At this dinner the club will fill out Christmas and Holiday Greeting Cards for our servicemen and women in conjunction with the SAM program. The club will also have on display the numerous gifts collected for the Toys for Tots program. Additionally, a check for \$500.00 will be donated to the Lions In Sight program for its continued efforts in providing eye examinations and glasses internationally. Exploring New Horizons Outdoor Schools will also receive a check for \$500.00 for scholarship money for Pleasanton elementary students. A Wii computer program will be given to Eden Villa Assisted Living residential housing for the elderly.

BART Station Area Planning workshop. Features presentations and opportunities to share ideas about the planning of potential BART stations in Livermore. Theme for the Thurs., Dec. 10 session is potential station "pairings" and design characteristics. The workshop is 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Shrine Event Center, 170 Lindbergh Ave., Livermore. For more information, please call 925-960-4500. Workshop materials can be viewed at www.ci.livermore.ca.us/eng/eng_BART.html

Christmas Tree Pickup. Boy Scout Troop 941 in Pleasanton is holding a Christmas tree recycling program. This community service is offered to help with the collection and recycling of trees. Suggested donation is \$5 for trees up to 8 feet and \$10 for trees over 8 feet or flocked. Donations go directly to support local scouting activities throughout the year. To arrange for a tree to be picked up in Pleasanton, please call 399-1377 or go to www.troop941.org.

East Bay Innovation Group presents, program on eBig Startups/VCS SIG: Cash - Not King, Just the Entire Empire. Mon., Dec. 14, 6:30 to 9 p.m. Four Points Hotel by Sheraton, 5121 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. Free for members, \$15 for preregistered guests or \$20 at the door. <http://www.ebig.org>, rhilger@ebig.org Rebekah Hilger, Executive Director. Guest speaker Arne Olson has 35 years experience in corporate banking, venture capital and corporate financial management. He is also an active angel investor and he serves as a director in early stage companies.

Valley Spokesmen Bicycle Touring Club, Sat., Dec. 12, 25 miles Feather Pedals holiday ride, meet 10 a.m. Karin Ball, 408-406-2286. Sat., Dec. 12, 20 miles Embarcadero and scenic spots in San Francisco, meet 10 a.m. in front of Ferry Bldg., Randy Huey, 518-8439. Sun., Dec. 13, 30 miles Dublin-Sunol-Palomares, meet 10 a.m. at Livermore Cyclery in Dublin, Bob Heady, 833-8214. Wed., Dec. 16, 35-40 miles off-season base training, meet 10 a.m. at Shannon Center, Dublin, Barb Hailey, 820-8006. Fri., Dec. 18, 25 miles Osage Park, meet 10 a.m. at the park in Danville, Dan Granahan, 323-9798. Anyone planning to go on a ride is asked to contact the leader for details on where to meet and what to bring.

A Giving Tree will be set up in the lobby of the Livermore Police Department through Dec. 17, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. Those wishing to donate, select a tag from the tree and bring back a new unwrapped gift with the tag attached. Monetary donations cannot be accepted. However, gift cards are always welcome. The Police Department is located at 1110 So. Livermore Avenue. To arrange for a sponsorship or more information, call 371-4976.

Toys for Tots, collection by Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department (LPFD). Toy collection locations: All Livermore and Pleasanton Fire and Police Stations: STATION 1, 3560 Nevada Street, Pleasanton; Station 2, 6300 Stoneridge Mall Road, Pleasanton; Station 3, 3200 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton; Station 4, 1600 Oak Vista Parkway, Pleasanton; Station 5, 1200 Machado Place, Pleasanton; Station 6, 4550 East Avenue, Livermore; Station 7, 951 Rincon Avenue, Livermore; Station 8, 5750 Scenic Avenue, Livermore; Station 9, 1919 Cordoba Street, Livermore; and Station 10, 330 Airway Boulevard, Livermore. Police Departments: Livermore, 1110 South Livermore Avenue; Pleasanton, 4833 Bernal Avenue.

Clothing Drive, Collecting men's warm clothing and blankets for veterans and homeless. Also business attire for men and women (on wire hangars please) for Wardrobe for Opportunity. Drop off before 10 a.m. service on Dec. 13, Tri-Valley Unity Church, 2260 Camino Ramon, San Ramon. Questions: Michele Day, 829-1239, michele_day@comcast.net.

Brain Book Club, meets Wednesday, December 16 at 7:00 p.m. at Towne Center Books, 555 Main Street, Pleasanton. The book is "How God Changes Your Brain" by Newberg and Waldman. We all decided during the last meeting that we'd follow our Mind focus rather than simply the Brain focus by choosing to read it. It is a great example of how neuroscience and philosophy have driven each other closer together. Discounted book is available at the store. Everyone's welcome.

Mexican "Posada" on Fri., Dec. 18, traditional event, hosted by Pleasanton-Tulancingo Sister City Organization 7 to 9 p.m. at the Pleasanton Veteran's Hall, 301 Main St., downtown Pleasanton. Carols, traditional Mexican desserts, coffee, hot chocolate and apple cider. There will be pinatas for the kids. The event is for the entire family. There is no admission charge. Christmas basket donations of cash is optional.

Friends of the Vineyards Annual Holiday Party, Sunday, December 20, 2 to 5 p.m. Music, good food, and wine at the historic Ravenswood Estate, 2647 Arroyo Road, Livermore. Harpist Dominique Piana will provide holiday music. The board of directors will provide light refreshments. Please bring local wine to share. This invitation is open to all Friends of the Vineyards members and guests.

Widowed Men and Women of Northern CA., Lunch in Pleasanton, Dec. 15, 11:30 a.m., RSVP by Dec. 12 to Marsha, 830-8483. Happy hour in Pleasanton, Dec. 18, 5 to 7 p.m., RSVP to Lorraine, 846-5695. Friendly bridge, optional lunch in Dublin, Dec. 19, 1 p.m., RSVP by Dec. 16 to Jeanne, 361-6110. Champagne birthday brunch in San Ramon, Dec. 20, 11:45 a.m., RSVP by Dec. 17 to

Marsha, 830-8483.

La Leche League International, free woman to woman breast-feeding support. Meets first Monday of each month 10 a.m. to noon, Trinity Baptist Church, 557 Olivina, Building B #205, Livermore. Please RSVP to Stacy Hattori, 373-0987, dshattori@sbcglobal.net, www.LLL.org. 24-hour hotline, 1-877-452-5324. Next meetings: Dec. 7, Jan. 4, Feb. 1.

Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club (LAVGC), meets Thursday, December 10. Guest speaker is Brian Debasitis who will discuss healthy soil compositions, ecosystems, and its effects on plants, as well, as growing healthy gardens and lawns without chemicals. Debasitis is the owner of Mauby's All Natural in San Jose. LAVGC meets at the Harvest Park Middle School in the auditorium, 4900 Valley Blvd., Pleasanton. The meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. All garden enthusiasts are welcome to attend. For more information call Lydia Roberts at (925) 461-1725, or visit our website: www.orgsites.com/ca/lavgc.

Tri-Valley Democratic Club meeting and potluck seasonal dinner party, Mon., Dec. 21, doors open at 6:30 p.m. IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Pkwy, Dublin. The public is invited to attend the pot luck. Bring family, friends & neighbors, a favorite dish and good cheer. Public officials are invited and will address the party. The meeting includes nomination of officers for 2010 with elections at the Jan. 18, 2010 meeting.

Livermore Adult Education is seeking a Spanish speaking instructor to teach a bilingual beginning computer class for the Winter/Spring session. Need not be credentialed. For further information call 925-606-4722 ext. 7142.

Livermore Moms (formerly Livermore Moms Club), Monthly meetings are held the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. and are a great way to meet other members as well as learn more about our community and our roles as mothers. The purpose of the Livermore Moms (formerly Livermore Moms Club) is to share ideas and talents so that we may grow as parents, learn better ways to understand our children to help them become confident and capable individuals. We frequently invite speakers to make presentations. Meetings are free for members, as well as for first time visitors. Contact moms@livermoremoms.com for more information

Livermore Area Blood Drive - Friday, December 18, 1-7:00 p.m. at Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Avenue, Livermore. There is a severe shortage of blood in the Bay Area, and only 3% of the eligible people give blood. Please help save a life by giving blood. The process takes 1-1½ hours, and snacks and refreshments are served after you donate. You must be 17 years old, and have a form of identification with you. To sign up, go to www.GiveLife.org, and use RLCC as the sponsor code. For more information contact Thomas Petty at 925-980-8164 or e-mail BloodDrive@asburylive.org.

Tri-Valley Democratic Club, seasonal party, Sat., Dec. 12, 5 to 7 p.m. IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Pkwy, Dublin. Congressman Jerry McNerney will host the event. Dinner provided by the campaign, you can bring dessert. Volunteers needed to help with the party,

contact Doug Graven 530 320 7022, doug@jerrymcnerney.org.

Tri-Valley Seniors: rides available to medical appointments. Seniors who require door-to-door service are now eligible for a ride to their medical appointments. Volunteers use their personal vehicles to drive seniors to and from medical appointments. Seniors must be 60 and over, living in Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton or Sunol, and unable to find a ride (relative, friend, bus, paratransit). For a ride or to volunteer to provide a ride, contact Jennifer Cullen at (925) 931-5387 or ja.cullen@yahoo.com. Funding for the Senior Transportation Program is provided by Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority and Measure B Funds.

Eighth Annual Youth Food Drive, Youth service groups in Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin, Sunol, San Ramon, Alamo, Danville, Walnut Creek and Concord may now volunteer and request collection sites for the Eighth Annual Youth Food Drive to be held on March 6, 2010 by signing up at www.youthservicecouncil.com/Volunteer/Volunteer.html. Girl Scouts, youth ministries, and 4-H Clubs will be participating. Youth Service groups will go door to door to collect nonperishable food and return it to the closest collection site. All donations will go to local food pantries in the Tri-Valley or to the Contra Costa Food Bank. Details of the program and locations of collection sites are available on-line. For more information, call 925-998-6513.

Pleasanton VIP Travelers, Senior Center, 3535 Sunol Blvd., Pleasanton. 931-5370. Trip to see "Beach Blanket Babylon," in San Francisco, Dec. 16, includes dinner at the Crab House, \$126. Victorian Christmas trip to Nevada City, Dec. 20, \$42 members, \$44 nonmembers.

Reading Volunteers Needed, new group forming to start training in January to become a Barton Reading Tutor. No experience is necessary and training is free of charge. Volunteer matched to a student who needs help. All the materials and training provided needed to bring a student's reading and spelling up to grade level or above. For more information about the Barton Reading Program, please contact Christina Clark at Valley View 925/596-0292, or email christina.clark2@comcast.net.

RELIGION

Divorce Care, Valley Bible Church, 7106 Johnson Dr., Pleasanton. 13 week seminar and support group for people who are separated or divorced. Meetings Mondays from 7 to 9 p.m. \$25 for workbook and other materials. Preregistration is required. Contact Mark Porter, 846-9693 or mcporter@hotmail.com for details or to register.

A Festival of Carols featuring traditional Christmas music as well as some unusual arrangements will be held at 4 p.m. Sunday,

Dec. 13, at Centerpointe Presbyterian Church, 3410 Cornerstone Court. Centerpointe choir and the church's handbell choir. They will be accompanied by musicians playing stringed instruments. Special Bible readings for the Advent season. A reception will follow the concert in the church's worship center. The suggested donation is \$10 with proceeds going to support the church's choral music program.

Tri-Valley Unity Church, Connect with the Spirituality of the Season - Make it a meaningful Christmas by participating in Tri-Valley Unity's holiday programs: Christmas Carol Sing-along, Dec. 20 at 11:30 a.m.; and Christmas Eve service at 7 p.m. All are welcome. 2260 Camino Ramon, San Ramon. (925) 829-2733. www.trivalleyunity.com.

Golden Friends of St. Michael's Parish invites seniors age 50 and over, to come join us monthly for Mass, catered luncheon, and entertainment. The next luncheon will be Friday, December 18. The Asbury Bell Ringers will be the featured entertainment. Meeting in St. Michael's parish hall at 11:00 a.m. A donation of \$10 is requested to defray the luncheon cost. Anyone interested in attending, please contact St. Michael's rectory, 447-1585, by Wednesday, December 16.

Tri-Valley Unity Church, What was Mary Doing When the Angel Came?" is the sermon topic of guest speaker Rev. Margaret Stortz on Sunday, Dec. 13, at the 10 a.m. service. All are welcome. 2260 Camino Ramon, San Ramon. (925) 829-2733; www.trivalleyunity.com

Tri-Valley Unity Church, Connect with the Spirituality of the Season by participating in holiday programs: Christmas Carol Sing-along, Dec. 20 at 11:30 a.m.; and Christmas Eve service at 7 p.m. All are welcome. 2260 Camino Ramon, San Ramon. (925) 829-2733; www.trivalleyunity.com.

Catholic Community of Pleasanton Marriage Care Ministry, invites engaged, newly and not so newly married couples to an evening of reflection and prayer entitled, "Mall or Manger; Presents or Presence." The event is Mon., Dec. 14, 7:30 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Seton, 4001 Stoneridge Dr., Pleasanton. For additional information, contact Joseph and Daisy Cristosomo, 485-0867 or dcristosomo5@yahoo.com.

Drive Through Nativity, Trinity Baptist Church, 557 Olivina Ave., Livermore. Dec. 17, 18, 19 and 20, 7 to 9 p.m. Six scenes of live actors and animals portray the Nativity Story. Listen to story on car radio. Information, 447-1848 or www.trinitylivermore.org.

Catholic Community of Pleasanton, celebrates the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe with a special Mass on Sat., Dec. 12, 10 a.m. at St. Augustine Catholic Church, 3999 Bernal Ave., Pleasanton. Coffee and pastries will be available after Mass in the vestibule. All are invited.

Hear What You Have Been Missing



Kenneth Billheimer
Audiologist/Hearing Aid Specialist

Most Insurance Companies
Accepted including
Members of Hill Physicians

Hearing Services

Pleasanton
4460 Black Ave, #F
484-3507



Jacque Pedraza
Hearing Aid Specialist

Livermore
1524 Holmes St, #D
960-0391



Did you know?

Axis Community Health provides free and low cost breast exams and mammograms for low income and uninsured women.

Call (925) 201-6088 for an appointment.

Se Habla Español

www.axishealth.org