



Find Out What's Happening
Check Out Section A
 Section A is filled with information about arts, people, entertainment and special events. There are education stories, a variety of features, and the arts and entertainment and bulletin board.

Livermore School District to Begin Oversight of Charter School in July

By Patricia Koning

The Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District will begin oversight of the Livermore Valley Charter School (LVCS) on July 1, 2013. This will mark the start of a new relationship between the District and the Tri Valley Learning Corporation (TVLC), which oversees LVCS and

the Livermore Valley Charter Preparatory High School (LVCP). The State Board of Education is currently the authorizing agency of both LVCS and LVCP.

At the Dec. 10 Board of Education meeting, assistant superintendent Chris Van Schaack updated the trustees on the status of the conditions for the petition approv-

al. The District approved the LVCS renewal petition at the Nov. 27 meeting, contingent on TVLC signing and returning a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by Nov. 30.

A set of assurances were added to the MOU based upon conversations between TVLC chief executive officer Bill Batchelor, Van

Schaack, and superintendent Kelly Bowers. TVLC then signed and returned the MOU with the assurances by the deadline.

"The assurances were created to further codify expectations and timelines regarding the requirements of the MOU," said Van Schaack.

Among others, assur-

ances will focus on financial documents and revisions to the petition specified in the MOU. TVLC agreed to produce all requested MOU referenced documents by Jan. 7, 2013. The District agreed to confirm receipt of those documents by Jan. 8. On Jan. 22, the District will either confirm that TVLC has met the conditions of

(See OVERSIGHT, page 4)

Cities Team up to Offer Down Payment Help

The City of Livermore has teamed with other Tri-Valley cities and the Tri-Valley Housing Opportunity Center in the launch of the Tri-Valley Down Payment Assistance (TVDP) Program for qualified applicants seeking to purchase a home in the Tri-Valley.

The Tri-Valley Housing Opportunity Center will administer the program for the Tri-Valley on behalf of the City of Livermore, which received the funding through a recent federal grant award.

Through the TVDPA Program, the City of Livermore will provide low interest, \$10,000 down payment loans to credit worthy first time homebuyers with household income equal to or less than 80% of the area's median income.

The median income for a family of four is \$65,350.

As its highest priority, the program will assist families currently living or working in the Tri-Valley cities to purchase homes in Livermore, Dublin, Danville, Pleasanton, and San Ramon.

"The Tri-Valley Down Payment Assistance program is a resource which helps Tri-Valley employees purchase homes closer to their jobs," explained Mayor of Livermore John Marchand. "A regional balance between housing and jobs confers many benefits, including reduced traffic congestion and driving times, fewer air emissions, lower costs to businesses and commuters, greater family stability, and higher quality of life."

Livermore has selected the Tri-Valley Housing Opportunity Center (TVHOC) to administer the program.

The Center is a 501(c)(3) charitable non-profit corporation that offers expert unbiased and personalized information to guide people through the complex process of home-seeking, home-buying, or saving the home they already own. The Center provides services to families regardless of income and city of residence.

Over the last 12 months the TVHOC provided homebuyer education to 94 families who are preparing for home ownership in the Tri-Valley.

"Providing low cost second mortgages for use as a down payment is a very effective tool in bridging the

(See ASSISTANCE, page 3)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Students were given a close-up look at the inhabitants of local waterways.

A day with the fish at Arroyo Seco

By Patricia Koning

Last week, Arroyo Seco Elementary School received a visit by another school – a school of fish, that is. Students learned about the aquatic animals living in local watersheds through the East Bay Regional Park District's (EBRPD) Mobile Fish Exhibit.

"The idea is to let the

kids experience some of the fish found in our local watersheds and help them understand the impact they can have on the environment," explained naturalist James Frank. "We also teach about the food chain and which fish are safe to eat."

The Mobile Fish Exhibit is a 26-foot long aquarium on wheels, housing a redeer

slider turtle, goldfish, white catfish, smallmouth bass, bluegill sunfish, Sacramento perch, white sturgeon, and rainbow trout in a 1,500-gallon tank. Frank pointed out that many of these fish can be found in Del Valle and Shadow Cliffs regional parks.

He first asked a group of fourth and fifth graders how

many have owned goldfish as a pet. Then he asked those students who answered affirmatively what they did with their goldfish when it became too big.

"Getting a bigger fish tank, giving the fish to a friend, or even returning it to the pet store are all good answers," he told the students.

(See FISH, page 2)

Stoneridge Mall Owner Buys the Livermore Outlets

The 130-store upscale outlet center in Livermore that drew 350,000 people for its four-day opening sales has a new name and a new owner.

The Simon Company, owners of Stoneridge Mall in Pleasanton and other large-scale outdoor centers and indoor malls nationally, purchased Paragon Outlets Livermore Valley. The name has been changed to Livermore Valley Premium Outlets.

The new signs will go up soon after the first of next year, said Michele Rothman, a New Jersey-based spokesperson for Simon.

Livermore Mayor John Marchand and City Manager Marc Roberts met last week with Simon representatives concerning the change in ownership. Marchand told The Independent that Simon is fully committed to the second-phase expansion that had been projected by Paragon to commence next year.

The outlet center covers 543,000 square feet. There are 130 stores, said March-

(See LIVERMORE, page 5)

Project Lend A Hand Is a Clearinghouse for Potential Volunteers

Thanks to Project Lend A Hand Tri-Valley, the community garden at Val Vista Park in Pleasanton has two new sheds.

Volunteers from the Pleasanton Home Depot store erected two prefabricated garden sheds, which replace one shed there. Renters of garden plots at Val Vista will use them to store their tools.

Home Depot general manager Steve Harada and human resources manager Mike Papatpos lined up volunteers among the store's staff to undertake the work on a recent Saturday morning. Harada said, "We are a big business in Pleasanton. We want to give as much as possible." He said that he liked seeing Pleasanton providing its own community garden.

The partnership in the garden project is typical of Project Lend A Hand, which

maintains a handy web page registration, help.lendahand.org, for both would-be volunteers and the more than 40 non-profits that use it to find the volunteers.

The two cities are a little different in how they coordinate volunteers. Pleasanton uses Lend A Hand to list volunteer opportunities both with non-profits and city government. Livermore also uses it for non-profits. However, Livermore uses its own city web page, at www.cityoflivermore.net, to coordinate volunteers with city opportunities.

The Livermore government opportunities are also listed on Lend A Hand's page, but most of the communication comes through the city's web page. The listings there are by each department, which signs up the volunteers.

On the Lend A Hand site, the opportunity listings are

(See VOLUNTEERS, page 3)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

The annual Victorian Yuletide Celebration was held at Ravenswood Historic Site in Livermore over the weekend. The festivities included food, fun and entertainment. Pictured are young dancers from Triple Threater Performing Arts.

Council Denies Appeal of Wine Retail Approval

The Livermore City Council denied the appeal of a Planning Commission decision.

The vote would allow a 9,307 square foot building to be constructed on the northeast corner of Arroyo Road and Hansen Road. The site is zoned for wine country retail. Half of the building would be used as a tasting room. There was no use identified for the remainder of the building. Residents were concerned that a winery would be located there.

Neighbors of the site filed the appeal, citing safety concerns with access to the site from Hansen Road. They asked that it be moved to Arroyo Road.

The applicant was Mitchell Katz, owner of Mitchell

(See APPEAL, page 4)

Inside

SECTION A	Editorial.....4
Art & Entertainment..... 8	Mailbox.....4
Bulletin Board..... 11	Roundup.....3
Milestones 10 & 12	Short Notes..... 9
MAIN SECTION	Sports.....6
Classifieds..... 10	Obituaries.....9



PET OF THE WEEK

Joey is a 2 year old male brown tabby with lots of love to give. He was rescued back in August from a local county shelter. On the ride from the shelter to VHS, he jumped out of his kennel and rode shotgun with the driver, enjoying the scenery outside. Recently, he had an accident at VHS where he broke his leg. The damage was too severe and his leg was amputated. Joey gets along just fine with three legs. His big heart makes up for the loss of the limb! For more information, call 426-8656 or go to www.valleyhumane.org or www.facebook.com/ValleyHumaneSociety to see other adoptable dogs and cats. Valley Humane Society is located at 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton.

FISH

(continued from page one)

“Setting your pet goldfish free in a lake is the wrong thing to do.”

Frank then led the students through a demonstration of what happens when non-native species, like goldfish, are introduced into a lake. One student played the role of a Sacramento perch, a native species, while other students, playing the role of goldfish, multiplied, crowded out the Sacramento perch, and ate all of the available food.

The students also had the opportunity to touch simulated fish slime. The reactions alternated between “ewww” and “that’s cool.” There were more “ewwws” after Frank explained that fish slime is essentially mucus.

“Just like mucus in your nose helps keep germs out of your body, fish slime is a way for fish to get rid of germs,” he said.

To close out the demonstration, Frank talked about pollution and litter, explaining the role that currents have in moving litter around the world’s oceans. “What can you do if you see someone littering?” he asked students. “Well, if you see someone drop something, pick it up, bring it to them and politely tell them



James Frank, from the East Bay Regional Park District, holds up a replica of a catfish during his presentation to students.

Photo - Doug Jorgensen

that you think they dropped this.”

Before they left, the students took the “litter avenger” pledge and were given an up close look at the fish tank. Back in their classrooms, the students wrote letters to EBRPD about what they enjoyed and learned from the Mobile Fish Exhibit. “Reading those letters is the most rewarding part of this program for me,” said Frank.

“This was pretty fun,” said fifth grader Zoe Potter. “I’m going to help keep trash out of our lakes.”

Students in all grades at Arroyo Seco, kindergarten through fifth, participated in Mobile Fish Exhibit activities. This complements the students’ study of fish in science labs this year.

The Mobile Fish Exhibit is one of fewer than 20 mobile aquariums na-

tionwide. The aquarium provides interactive education programs for targeted underserved populations and the public at large through interpretive education programs. The Mobile Fish Exhibit visit is provided is free to schools in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. For more information, visit www.ebparks.org/activities/educators/Mobile_Education_Outreach.

Livermore Downtown, Inc. Chosen to Stage 4th of July Event

Livermore Downtown, Inc. has been granted the right to organize and implement the city’s 4th of July celebration.

The annual festivities were canceled in 2011 due to budget constraints of the city and the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District.

An ad hoc citizens committee was able to raise the funds to allow the 2012 event to go forward at Las Positas College. An estimat-

ed 10,000 people attended the Old Fashioned 4th of July Celebration at Las Positas College in 2012.

Given the success of the event, the city council suggested that a more sustainable plan would allow for a more coordinated effort to continue the 4th of July at the college.

A request for proposals was issued including fund-raising, sponsorships, marketing and event day logistics. Livermore Down-

town, Inc. submitted the only proposal.

Assistant City Manager Troy Brown pointed out that the Livermore Downtown has twenty years experience in producing events.

Councilmember Stewart Gary, who served on the ad hoc committee, stated, “While the citizens group was off to a fabulous start, we do not have a good business model needed to sustain the event. This proposal represents a good public-private

partnership.”

Gary also noted that LARPD Board member Steve Goodman, who also served on the ad hoc committee, was supportive of the proposal.

Rachael Snedecor, executive director of the downtown group, stated, “We look forward to another way in which to provide what the city wants. We will look at ways to bring Livermore to the freeway. The event will look and sound like Liver-

more and hopefully inspire people to come back to the city again and again.”

The contract is for five years. The city will work with the LARPD Foundation to transfer approximately \$45,000 in seed money from the 2012 Old Fashioned 4th of July event to Livermore Downtown Inc., for the 2013 event.

The event is expected to be self-funding with no general fund dollars coming from the city.

Plastic Bag Ban Begins January 1

When the Alameda County Waste Management Authority’s Reusable Bag Ordinance goes into effect January 1, 2013, grocery stores and many other retailers selling packaged foods and/or alcohol will be required to stop distribution of single-use bags at checkout. Recycled content paper or reusable bags may be provided if the retailer charges a minimum price of 10 cents per bag. To avoid the bag charge, customers will be encouraged to bring their own bag when shopping.

Adopted by the Alameda County Waste Management Authority in January of 2012, the Reusable Bag Ordinance will further the agency’s long-term waste reduction goals by helping to decrease the number of bags going to landfill. Plastic bags take hundreds of years to break down, causing a cumulative litter problem. The ordinance will also save cities money on litter and storm drain cleanup, which costs Alameda County jurisdictions approximately \$24 million every year.

With the Reusable Bag Ordinance, Alameda County jurisdictions join the 51 other cities and counties

in California – including San Mateo, San Francisco, San Jose and Los Angeles– working to decrease the number of single-use bags. All 14 cities and unincorporated Alameda County agreed to participate in the ordinance, increasing the number of jurisdictions with bag ordinances statewide by nearly 30 percent. “Plastic bags harm marine life, are difficult to recycle and are one of the most common litter items found in our creeks, storm drains and streets,” said Gary Wolff, P.E., Ph.D., Executive Director of Stop-Waste.Org. “By limiting the distribution of single-use bags and urging people to bring reusable bags, we expect to see far fewer plastic bags littering our cities in future years. One reusable bag can replace as many as 600 single-use bags over its lifetime.”

The Reusable Bag Ordinance affects most grocery stores, minimarts, convenience stores, pharmacies and other retailers that sell packaged foods, as well as stores that sell alcohol, in Alameda County. Stores are still permitted to provide free plastic bags to protect and transport produce, bulk food or meat from within a store to the checkout or cash register. Restaurants and take-out food establishments are exempt from the ordinance. WIC and food stamp customers are not subject to the bag charge.

In preparation for the ordinance going into effect January 1, the Alameda County Waste Management Authority has been providing stores with resources and educational materials on the ordinance and conducting countywide outreach to help consumers and retailers prepare for the changes.



J. Rockcliff
REALTORS

DISCOVER HOW TO GET MORE FOR YOUR HOME.
DISCOVER J. ROCKCLIFF REALTORS.

THE EAST BAY'S PREMIER REAL ESTATE COMPANY.

WWW.ROCKCLIFF.COM



ROCKCLIFF / MOBILE

<p>3530 Welch Creek Rd Sunol</p>  <p>bd 3 ba 3.5 sqft+/- 3,964 \$1,590,000</p> <p>Ready to get away? Serenity driving through a beautiful park, Leads you to your private driveway to this fabulous home. Entertainers delight w/ Bay Views from every window. Step down formal living room. Spectacular Kitchen, Dream Master bdr, 5 car garage on 22 ACRES....</p> <p>Kristy and Company 925.251.2536</p>	<p>7230 Clubhouse Dr Pleasanton</p>  <p>bd 6 ba 5.5 sqft+/- 5223 \$1,999,000</p> <p>Stunning Custom Estate! Dramatic two story entry with elegant crystal chandelier. Double curving iron staircase. Gourmet kitchen, Brazilian hardwood floors. Formal dining and living room. Custom window coverings. 6th bedroom is currently being used as an office.</p> <p>Bonnie King 925.736.8411</p>	<p>2520 Brandini Dr Dublin</p>  <p>bd 5 ba 3.5 sqft+/- 3,081 \$859,900</p> <p>Cortona home @ Positano. Highly upgraded with views! 5 bed+loft+office/den w/ full bed/bath on main level. Distressed hardwood flooring, plush carpeting, plantation shutters, 2 tone paint, gourmet kitchen with stainless appliances to name a few! Don't miss out - WOW!</p> <p>Joe Frazzano 925.735.7653</p>	<p>858 Castlewood Pl Pleasanton</p>  <p>bd 5 ba 4.5 sqft+/- 6,000 \$2,590,000</p> <p>Castlewoods (Cs Street of Dreams Finest. Don't miss a chance to see this magnificent dream home on Oak Studded 1 acre parcel with water falls, Ponds, out door entertainment area. Panoramic Views from all windows, large deck overlooks 18th Green CC & Valley beyond.</p> <p>Steve Mattos 925.980.8844</p>	<p>2439 Lakeside Cir Livermore</p>  <p>bd 5 ba 4.5 sqft+/- 6,000 \$1,059,950</p> <p>Tastefully appointed, highly upgraded. Amazing backyard-custom pool and spa, outdoor kitchen, over 1/3 acre. Gourmet Kitchen, Bonus Room w/bath on 1st floor leading to pool. Master retreat. Custom paint & window coverings. Private circle of homes with views!</p> <p>Cindy Engel 925.580.5107</p>
<p>875 Wall St Livermore</p>  <p>bd 4 ba 2 sqft+/- 1,700 \$495,000</p> <p>Highly upgraded, Tile Entry, Duel Pain Windows, Garden Window, French Doors to Patio, Lots of Granite Newer Roof, 3.5 Ton AC unit in Attic, Soundproof music room in garage no permit. Seller will remove if wanted. Storage shed in yard. Ideal for family with children.</p> <p>Steve Mattos 925.980.8844</p>	<p>294 Trenton Cir Pleasanton</p>  <p>bd 3 ba 2.5 sqft+/- 1,075 \$483,900</p> <p>Newly remodeled single story home featuring new kitchen & baths, two tone paint, vaulted ceilings, open family room to kitchen & laminate flooring throughout. Walking distance to downtown and neighborhood park! Largest lot in community!</p> <p>Joe Frazzano 925.735.7653</p>	<p>7900 Shannon Ct Dublin</p>  <p>bd 5 ba 4.5 sqft+/- 4,008 \$939,000</p> <p>West Dublin Beauty. Entertainers will love the gourmet kitchen, game room, bar, pool & spa, fire pit. Upgrades, such as travertine, coffered ceilings, crown molding, lighting & more! Thousands in upgrades! Unassuming front but a "Must See".</p> <p>Miller/ Kouri Team 925.785.1035</p>	<p>5377 San Simeon Pl Castro Valley</p>  <p>bd 2 ba 2.5 sqft+/- Call \$320,000</p> <p>Updated end unit with Archgard fireplace, plantation shutters, dual pane windows & baths remodeled!</p> <p>Cathy Dean 925.251.2554</p>	<p>5872 Welch Ln Livermore</p>  <p>bd 4 ba 3 sqft+/- 2,898 \$739,900</p> <p>Dunsmuir neighborhood. Open entry, inviting fam room w/ raised hearth & built-in media ctr. Spacious kit, cozy breakfast nook, & butler pantry. Downstairs office, upstairs laundry, & ceiling fans. Lg master bath, walk in closets. Back patio w/ built-in semi-circle benches.</p> <p>Mony Nop 925.575.1602</p>
<p>3128 Tokay Court Pleasanton</p>  <p>bd 4 ba 2.5 sqft+/- 2,437 Coming Soon</p> <p>Premium location. Last home on court sold 3.5 years ago. Views of hills & Mt. Diablo. Vaulted ceilings, needs your personal touch to make this a million dollar plus home. Huge side yard, community pool, large bedrooms with views, gas fireplace in family room. Dining room</p> <p>Craig Einsohn 925.251.2589</p>	<p>4630 Laramie Gate Pleasanton</p>  <p>bd 4 ba 3 sqft+/- 2020 \$749,000</p> <p>Beautifully Remodeled Home Located in a Quiet Court Location. Granite Kitchen Counter Tops, Recessed Lighting, Indoor Laundry, Beautiful Pool/Spa & Backyard. A must See!!</p> <p>Kristy Peixoto 925.251.2536</p>	<p>6882 Crow Canyon Castro Valley</p>  <p>bd 4 ba 3 sqft+/- 2,565 \$749,950</p> <p>Peace & tranquility await the right buyer for this charismatic single level home... While relaxing among the .97+/- acres of land filled w/ a variety of mature trees surrounded by ridge-lines, a private in-ground pool. 6882CrowCanyon.com for over 70 photos!</p> <p>Adam Fettes 510.329.1421</p>	<p>1921 Depot Dr #103 Livermore</p>  <p>bd 3 ba 3.5 sqft+/- 1,780 \$420,000</p> <p>Upgraded townhouse style condo in downtown Livermore. Open floor plan w/ spacious kitchen. Granite counters & stainless steel appliances. Breakfast bar opens to dining room & balcony. Spacious bdrm, 2 walk-in closets, full bd & ba on first floor. Lg tandem garage.</p> <p>Mony Nop 925.575.1602</p>	<p>2917 Moreno Ave Pleasanton</p>  <p>bd 3 ba 2.5 sqft+/- 1,850 \$724,950</p> <p>Contemporary design with high ceilings, natural light, plantation shutters, remodeled kitchen with Lyptus cabinets, high end stainless appliances incl.refrig, granite. Backyard made for entertaining, firepit,bbq, lighting, beautifully landscaped! Mohr School!</p> <p>Weiner McDowell 925.251.2585</p>

Blackhawk East	Blackhawk West	Danville	Lafayette	Livermore	Montclair/Piedmont	Orinda	Pleasanton	Walnut Creek
4105 Blackhawk Plaza Cir. Danville, CA 94506 925.648.5300	3880 Blackhawk Rd. Danville, CA 94506 925.736.6000	15 Railroad Ave. Danville, CA 94526 925.855.4000	3799 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette, CA 94549 925.385.2330	1983 Second St. Livermore, CA 94550 925.667.2100	6116 La Salle Ave., Ste. 200 Oakland, CA 94611 510.339.4800	89 Davis Rd. Orinda, CA 94563 925.253.7000	5075 Hopyard Rd Ste. 110 Pleasanton, CA 94588 925.251.2500	1700 N. Main St. Walnut Creek, CA 94596 925.280.8500

VALLEY ROUNDUP

Achievement Award

Steve Homann, from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, has received a Secretary of Energy Achievement Award for his role as senior science adviser for radiological contingency planning in the Mars Science Laboratory Multi-Mission Radioisotope Thermal Generator (MSL MMRTG) team.

This award is bestowed on a group or team of employees who together accomplished significant achievements on behalf of the Department of Energy. These groups demonstrated cooperation and teamwork in attaining their goals.

Between late June and late November of 2011, the MSL MMRTG team delivered the multi-mission radioisotope thermoelectric generator for NASA's Mars Science Laboratory mission, which launched on Nov. 26, 2011.

As senior science adviser, Homann played a lead role in one of the most comprehensive radiological emergency preparedness systems to monitor a NASA launch. In preparation for the launch, NASA installed 30 radiological monitors — called Environmental Continuous Air Monitors, or ECAMs — on and around the Kennedy Space Center. The detector looks for the unique signature of plutonium-238.

With coordination from LLNL, the ECAMs monitor the air for the release of any radioactivity in the event of a launch accident involving the spacecraft.

The team members, including Homann, received their awards last month via satellite broadcast of DOE's 35th Anniversary celebration and Secretarial Honor Awards Ceremony.

Interim Registrar Selected

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday announced the appointment of Tim Dupuis as the Interim Director of Information Technology and Registrar of Voters effective December 17, 2012.

Dupuis replaces Dave Macdonald, who is retiring. Macdonald has been the County's Director of Information Technology since 1985 and assumed the joint role of Registrar of Voters in 2006.

Dupuis has been Alameda County's Chief Technology Officer since 2000 and in that role has worked closely with Macdonald while being responsible for all day-to-day operations of the Information Technology Department.

Dupuis is credited with developing the County's first iPhone/iPad and Android applications and for establishing a smart phone-friendly web portal on Alameda County's award-winning website, acgov.org.

Nate Miley, President of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, said, "By working as both Information Technology director and Registrar of Voters, Dave Macdonald has helped Alameda County keep a leg up in staying on top of the many new technologies that are being created to make our elections operate more efficiently. While we hate to lose him, there is nobody better suited to take over for Dave than Tim Dupuis, who has worked so closely with him for many years."

Missing Teen

The Livermore Police Department is asking for the community's help in locate a missing teen. Shyrrl Fortner, age 14, of Livermore was reported missing on 12/10/12 by her mother.

Fortner is described as a black female juvenile who is 5'-06" tall, weighs 140 lbs, has brown eyes, and reddish brown hair. It is unknown what clothing Fortner may be wearing or what her destination was. At this time it appears that Fortner is voluntarily missing, and may be suicidal.

Anyone with information on Fortner's whereabouts is asked to contact the Livermore Police Department at 925-371-4987.

VOLUNTEERS

(continued from page one)

presented in various ways, including job descriptions, the type of task, and the job locations by city.

CITIES RESPOND TO NON-PROFITS

Lend A Hand Tri-Valley was begun in 2010. In Livermore, the Human Services Commission regularly heard from non-profits about how their projects were going, said human services program manager Jean Prasher.

"Our commission discussed what to do to help (non-profits) be more successful, and get the word out about what they were doing," said Prasher.

The Pleasanton Human Services Commission was experiencing the same dialogue with non-profits, said community services manager Kathleen Yurchak. The logical step was to form Lend A Hand.

"In Pleasanton, the schools require community service, so this time of year students are looking for volunteer work," said Yurchak.

During the holidays, many people want to volunteer to serve meals or put together food packages.

At Monday's Livermore City Council meeting, Councilmember Doug Horner mentioned that a new website had been established where volunteers and organizations can sign up. It is justserve.org.

VARIETY OF JOBS FOR VOLUNTEERS

A sample of the categories open on the website in the past week or two: event planner, teaching/tutoring/assisting, management, office reception, retail sales, visitor/companion, yard work, and graphic design.

Listed as categories are photography, food preparation and delivery, painting

and electrical work, and animal care. However, the range and number are far greater than this small list.

It doesn't matter how long people want to volunteer. If it's just one hour, it's all right, said Yurchak. "It's a great web site. I strongly

encourage non-profits to apply with us concerning opportunities. It's free," she said.

The organization this year to date has made 177 referrals, and has grown in popularity.

Volunteers Sought For Homeless Count

The biennial homeless count won't take place until Jan. 30, 2013. However, now is the time for volunteers to come forward to serve as interviewers.

Livermore Housing and Human Services manager Jean Prasher said that she would like to hear from anyone interested in volunteering.

Although the activity takes only one day, there is a three-hour training course, which teachers volunteers how to conduct the interviews. The training will be held in January, so it is important to sign up now, said Prasher.

Interviews are conducted at several places in the Valley frequented by homeless people, such as food pantries

and Open Heart Kitchen.

There is no effort to interview all homeless people in an area. Enough people are queried to provide a valid statistical base to the survey. The process yields a more accurate picture than any effort to talk to everyone, said Prasher.

Volunteers don't necessarily have to undertake their work in the Valley. If they like, they can go to one of the other sites in Alameda County.

For more information, call 460-4590. Information about the county count is also available at the Every-One Home website, www.everyonehome.org. Click on the "homeless count" line on the left of the home page.

ASSISTANCE

(continued from page one)

large financial gap between what a family can afford and the cost of a home in the Tri-Valley. The Down Payment Assistance Program can make the difference for families who want to live and work in the same com-

munity" said Milly Seibel, Executive Director of the TVHOC.

Certified as a housing counseling agency by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the TVHOC is head-

quartered in Livermore and serves the Tri-Valley and the surrounding cities.

Potential applicants can find detailed information about the program on the Center's website at www.tvhoc.org.

173 Heligan Ln., #11
\$390,000



CA License # 01267853

Livermore's Real Estate Specialist

Ivy LoGerfo

925 998-5312 Open Sat & Sun., 12/15 & 12/16 1-4:30

"Prestigious Living", Livermore Style!

Live adjacent to the hills & vineyards at Montage.
Built in 2008, 2 bdrms., 2.5 bths, approx. 1167 sqft,
2 car garage. Gourmet SS appliances!! SM/ACCORD

www.IvyLoGerfo.com * homes@ivylogerfo.com

THERE ARE 24 HOURS IN A DAY.

*Make every single one
of them all yours.*

☪ A LEISURE CARE PREMIER COMMUNITY

Twenty-four hours to relax, to laugh with friends, to have fun.

Better than twenty-four hours to vacuum the house, cook dinner, and clean the loo, don't you think? And not only will you have more time for yourself, you'll have a lot more choices too. With all our fun programs — PrimeFit,SM Brain Fitness, Travel by Leisure Care,SM and more, you'll never be bored. Seriously, you'll feel like you live in a resort. Call now to schedule your complimentary lunch and tour. And let us help you take back your day.



HERITAGE ESTATES

We Have Something for Every Retirement Lifestyle
Luxury Senior Apartments • Independent & Assisted Living

900 E Stanley Blvd • Livermore • (925) 373-3636

www.heritageestatesretirement.com

EDITORIAL

A Good Step Forward

The Livermore School District and Livermore Valley Charter School efforts to reconcile their differences represents a good sign for education in Livermore.

Provisions in a memorandum of understanding negotiated between the school district and charter school will result in greater oversight of the charter school's operations starting July 1, 2013.

The oversight will include scrutiny of operations to ensure that the charter school is providing the promised education program as well as required services and that it is fiscally stable. The school district will be paid a fee for its oversight.

"We have taken some positive first steps," said charter school chief executive officer Bill Batchelor. "We are happy to be working with the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District. However, there is still work to be done."

The agreement marks a change in what has been a contentious relationship between the two entities. We hope that the adversarial relationship will continue to diminish and that the two will truly work together to provide educational alternatives for students in Livermore.

APPEAL

(continued from page one)

Katz Winery. He has lost the lease at his current location on Vineyard Avenue.

A winery is not among the uses allowed automatically on the site. A conditional use permit would be required. An application in August was turned down by the planning commission, because it included the Mitchell Katz Winery. A revised application, without the winery, was approved in October.

Neighbors asked that the access to the wine country retail center be moved from Hansen Road to Arroyo Road. They noted there are safety issues that would result from using a neighborhood street to carry a higher volume of traffic. People going to and from the tasting room will have consumed alcohol adding to their concerns.

The vote to deny the appeal was 4 to 1 with Laureen Turner opposed. The motion included a requirement for a left turn out, right turn in along with signage directing traffic in the appropriate direction. A bulb-out is to be constructed to make a right turn out more difficult.

Turner agreed with residents that the access to the site represented a safety issue. She asked if there were a way to move the identified site access, as well as access to an adjacent site zoned for a 30-room hotel.

City Attorney John Pomidor said that the specific plan studies focused on Hansen Road as the access. Based on the study, the council could not move the entrance. It must make its decision based on the rules in place at the time of the application. Future use of Hansen Road as an access to an adjacent site could be prevented by amending the specific plan. That could be accomplished by directing staff to conduct a study on the impact. Hearings would be held at the planning commission and city council.

A second motion, which drew unanimous support from the council, directed staff to begin the process to amend the specific plan to prevent an adjoining property from using Hansen Road as its entrance.

The motion also included direction for staff to remove the possibility of locating a winery within the building already approved or on the adjacent site.

John Messier, the appellant, told the council, that 600 residents living in 186 homes oppose a winery use and support an Arroyo Road access. "Using the nar-

row, winding Hansen Road poses a safety risk for the 37 children who live along the road. "If there is no choice but to deny the appeal, we ask that future consideration be given to changing the entrance to deal with our concerns."

Other residents, among the eleven speakers, made similar statements.

Only one speaker, Bill Nevins, voiced support for a winery on the site. He suggested an alternate access route that avoided Hansen Road, which received no support.

Councilmember Stewart Gary commented, "No one will walk away happy tonight. The zoning laws that exist have protected both sides of the issue. The first denial prevented the winery. The second application means the driveway will be on and off of Hansen Road. I find no reason to overturn the approval. It has met the zoning code."

Once construction of the approved building is completed, staff will monitor traffic. Based on the impacts, the city could implement additional traffic calming measures.

OVERSIGHT

(continued from page one)

the MOU or will adopt the staff findings of Nov. 27 and deny the renewal petition. Both Batchelor and Van Schaack do not anticipate any problems related to the documents.

Another assurance covers the LVCS facility relocation scheduled for this spring. As the move will occur before the District assumes oversight, the District will rely on the California Department of Education's approval of the site for occupancy. Upon request, TVLC will provide the District with said approvals by all relevant state and local authorizing agencies. Thirty days prior to the oversight transition, the District will conduct a site visit in accordance with the MOU.

Other assurances clarified that the District's oversight of LVCS begins on July 1, 2013 and amended a statement in the MOU that refers to the "dissolution of the School and/or nonprofit corporation" to remove the reference to the nonprofit corporation, because the District does not have the authority to dissolve the nonprofit corporation.

"We have taken some positive first steps," said

BART Board Approves Moving Ahead with Livermore Studies

Last week, the BART Board of Directors approved sending a request to MTC for \$13 million in bridge toll funds to finance a project level environmental impact review for BART to Livermore.

The funds from MTC would finance the EIR, conceptual engineering studies and ridership planning.

Wording was added to include requirements that the study consider whether the preferred route addresses BART board approved policies. These include interconnectivity and land use.

The project to be addressed in the EIR comprises a 4.8 mile extension of the BART line from the existing Dublin Pleasanton Station within the I-580 corridor freeway alignment to a station in the vicinity of the I-580/Isabel Avenue interchange. A network of express bus service linking interregional rail service, priority development areas (PDAs) in Livermore, and proposed offsite parking facilities is also part of the proposed project. Project alternatives currently under consideration include a No Build, a Diesel Multiple Unit (DMU), an Express Bus, and Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). The projected completion of the EIR is 2016.

The vote to request funds from MTC was 6 to 1, with Robert Raburn opposed. Raburn represents a portion of Oakland. He stated, "Moving forward on this project represents a colossal mistake. It does not pencil out as a successful project the way it's been cobbled together and foisted on us. We should go back to the original proposal (downtown)."

However, Raburn noted, voters in Livermore did not support the downtown route. He stated, "We need to listen to them and work toward solutions to improve connectivity to ACE and the downtown."

Board president John McPartland, who represents the Tri-Valley, said that the decision to move forward with a station at Isabel was influenced by Livermore. "Downtown is a non-starter."

General Manager Grace Crunican added that studies in the EIR were negotiated with and agreed to by Livermore and MTC. Any change would require negotiations to be reopened.

Livermore assistant engineer Bob Vinn, manager of the BART project for the city, said that the funds requested from MTC would be used to study PDAs and

creation of a ridership plan. Land around Isabel and also between Greenville and Vasco where housing is proposed would accomplish MTC, ABAG's and BART's requirements while dealing with airport protection and scenic corridor issues, Vinn stated.

There had been questions about moving forward with the extension planning following the defeat of Measure B1 at the polls. B1 listed \$400 million for BART to Livermore. The board was told that BART partners in the project, which comprise the City of Livermore, MTC and the Alameda County Transportation Commission (ACTC), all supported moving forward.

Carter Mau, Executive Manager, Office of Planning and Budget at BART, noted, "We all recognize that this is one of the most incredibly congested corridors in the region." Because there was no specific project, there was some controversy over including funding for BART to Livermore in B1. Proceeding with the studies will provide concrete information when the measure goes out again.

Directors Raburn, Tom Radulovich, a representative from San Francisco,

and Mary King questioned the notion that the proposed 4.8 mile route along I-580 from Pleasanton-Dublin to Isabel Avenue met the criteria for an extension. They mentioned the need for connectivity using regional rail service to ACE, the downtown, and employment centers, as well as transit oriented development.

King said that such issues are critical to consider as part of the EIR. "We want to make sure this is the most comprehensive study possible. We need to maintain our policies regarding land use."

Radulovich added that the goal of BART is to connect regions. Building a station is not about providing a third park-and-ride lot on the freeway. This project should be identified as multi-phase, with this being the first phase. He was okay with moving forward with the project level EIR if it were made clear that connections beyond Isabel were being considered.

Marianne Payne, the manager of the Livermore to BART project, stated that the 4.8 mile extension of BART, in conjunction with express bus service beyond the Isabel station, would provide the inter-regional connectivity beyond Isabel.

MAILBOX

(Opinions voiced in letters published in Mailbox are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Independent. Letter Policy: The Independent will not publish anonymous letters, nor will it publish letters without names. Abusive letters may be rejected or edited. Frequent letter writers may have publication of their letters delayed. Letters should be submitted by e-mail to editmail@compuserve.com.)

The Homeless Mary McMahon Livermore

Your story of the homeless in Livermore was powerful and very necessary.

Batchelor. "We are happy to be working with the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District. However, there is still work to be done."

The District's methods of oversight will include site visits, attending Board meetings, meeting with LVCS and TVLC leadership, and reviewing achievement data, progress reports, and financial reports.

"The purpose is to ensure that the school is properly implementing the charter," said Van Schaack. "Essentially our job as oversight is to make sure they are adhering to the charter as well as all local and state laws. We are there to ensure there are prudent operations from a governance standpoint. We will be ensuring that they are carrying out the education program they have promised to their community, are providing the required support services, and are maintaining fiscal stability."

TVLC will also provide the District with a proposal on the logistics of oversight. "We are asking for their input on how they perceive oversight. Their proposal will include a contact person and protocols for the visits. In order for this to work, we need input from both sides," said Bowers.

TVLC will pay an annual oversight fee to the District, which is currently being paid to the State, of no more than 1% of the school's annual revenue defined as general-purpose entitlement and categorical block grant funding. Chief business official Susan Kinder estimates the figure

The coverage and respect you showed was very gracious. It was important to let the readers know about the situation and then provide telephone numbers for volunteers, donations and material goods. Thank you for the courage to bring this subject to our attention.

Invasive Species Jo Schwab Livermore

Have learned something about the street trees on my property that I feel I should share. They are called Chinese Tallow trees. If you have one the leaves are down or almost down and so next will come the seeds. A full grown tree can produce as many as 100,000 seeds which will grow very quickly. The seeds, leaves and sap are toxic to humans, animals, soil, plants and fish. They kill soil enriching organisms. Roots also produce saplings. Be especially careful handling seeds and cut limbs due to the sap. The roots are extremely invasive and can travel 16 feet and grow as big as the trunk of the tree. They are on the state invasive plant list and in other states they are on the noxious weed list and outlawed. If you would like more info, here is a link or just use your search engine. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Triadica_sebifera

Climate Change Lex Manwill Livermore

Frankenstorm Sandy is one more dramatic demonstration that climate change and its extreme weather patterns are now part of our future. Although we're unlikely to reverse climate change, we can still mitigate its effects by reducing our driving, our energy use, and our meat consumption.

Yes, meat consumption. A 2006 U.N. report estimated that meat consumption accounts for 18 percent of man-made greenhouse gases. A 2009 article in the respected World Watch magazine suggested that it may be closer to 50 percent.

Carbon dioxide, the principal greenhouse gas, is emitted by burning forests to create animal pastures and by combustion of fossil fuels to confine, feed, transport, and slaughter animals and to refrigerate their carcasses.

The much more damaging methane and nitrous oxide are discharged from digestive tracts of cattle and from animal waste cesspools, respectively.

We have the power of reducing the devastating effects of climate change every time we eat. Our local supermarket offers a rich variety of soy-based lunch "meats," hotdogs, veggie burgers, soy and nut-based dairy products (including cheese and ice cream), and an ample selection of traditional vegetables, fruits, grains, and nuts. Product lists, easy recipes, and transition tips are available at www.livevegan.org.

Garbage Rates Sean Lemson Livermore

20 Gallon users are the ones doing what we're supposed to be doing: separating our trash into recyclables and compost. How many residents are too lazy to do this and just pay more for the larger can? Do you know how many 96 gallon cans I see out on garbage day overflowing with recyclables? Too many. Having only 20 gallons available is quite an incentive to recycle. But even if that weren't the case, am I the only one with a calculator? The price per gallon breaks down like this based on the numbers you published: 20 gallon: \$0.84; 30-36 gallon: \$0.90 to \$0.75; 64 gallon: \$0.83; 96 gallon: \$0.90

The 36 gallon users appear to have the best deal per gallon. So explain to me how the 20 gallon rate is "subsidized" by commercial customers when the rate, per gallon is within pennies of all the other tiers? I find it difficult to believe that it costs the city more money to discard less waste - especially when offset by whatever they recover in increased recyclables from those households. Doesn't it make more sense to provide economic incentive to recycle and make those who won't do it subsidize those of us who do? Why not raise the rates of the 96 gallon users to offset the cuts to commercial customers and leave the rates for recyclers alone?

Councilman Woerner is "opposed to raising fees on a group in the community, commercial ratepayers, just

because we can." But he still wants to raise it for a group in the community, responsible recyclers . . . because he can! I hope I'm missing something here because something stinks and it isn't the garbage.

Rate Increases Walter D. Harvey Livermore

A December 6 article in The Independent reported that Livermore residents who use 20-gallon trash carts can expect to see a rate increase. The article quoted Mayor Marchand as saying that the rate currently paid by 20-gallon cart users is too low in comparison to the other cart sizes. This assertion is not supported by current cart rates that were published in the article that show that per-gallon rates for both 36-gallon and 64-gallon carts are lower than the rate for 20-gallon carts. So why is city hall once again going after 20-gallon cart users who had their rate increased by 22 percent just six months ago?

Garbage Rate Equity Elizabeth Judge Livermore

The Independent revealed last week that Livermore's Public Works Department suggested increasing garbage rates for 20 and 32 gallon carts (currently \$16.74/month and \$26.96 respectively) because they were being subsidized by commercial customers. The idea was to reduce the subsidy and raise the rates for residents. No business had complained.

Councilmembers, with the exception of Mr. Horner, focused on balance for the rates and the imagined distress on commercial users. The current rates provide motive to recycle trash instead of throwing it in the landfill. We who use the smaller carts can do so because we recycle everything possible. Larger families could get by with a 32 gallon cart if they worked on it.

It is outrageous that any resident needs to throw 96 gallons of trash into the landfill every week. It is equally outrageous that the fee for the 96 gallon cart is \$86.21/month especially when the rate for the same size cart in Pleasanton is (More MAILBOX, page 5)

THE *Independent*

(INLAND VALLEY PUBLISHING CO.)

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

THE INDEPENDENT (USPS 300) is published every Thursday by Inland Valley Publishing Company, 2250 First St., Livermore, CA 94550; (925) 447-8700. Mailed at Periodical Postage Prices at the Livermore Post Office and additional entry office: Pleasanton, CA 94566-9998. THE INDEPENDENT is mailed upon request. Go to www.independentnews.com to sign up and for more information. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Independent, 2250 First St., Livermore, CA 94550.

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

New Group Focuses on Hagemann Ranch

Friends of Hagemann Ranch (FOHR) has been formed by Livermore residents.

The organization is focused on supporting the Hoofprints on the Heart program at the ranch, and the five acres of land and buildings that it uses.

The program provides children and adults with disabilities the therapeutic experience of riding and caring for horses.

Currently, there is a dispute involving members of the original Hoofprints board and a new board now managing the program over who should oversee the program.

FOHR has sent a list of 40 questions to the city concerning Hoofprints' operation of the Hagemann Ranch and the city's due diligence in overseeing it.

The ranch is at 455 Olivina Ave., Livermore. Surrounded by housing, it is a small oasis of early farm and ranch land that has been preserved.

The ranch dates back to 1836. The oldest home in the Valley, the Pico-Bernal house, is located there. It originally served as a line

shack on the East Station of the Rancho El Valle de San Jose, a Spanish land grant, before it became the ranch of pioneer family August Hagemann, according to a 2005 local history column by former Valley newsman and amateur historian Barry Schrader.

Livermore city government bought the property with a grant from HUD, which it is bound to pay back with annual payments. In 2010, the city signed an agreement with Hoofprints on the Heart to operate at the ranch.

Hoofprints on the Heart was founded in 2006 by Barbara Soules, Caroline Pierce and Peggy James. At that time the program used the James' ranch in the Altamont. Two horses provided the service there, and later two more.

A change in Hoofprints' board of directors in autumn 2011, led to a split between the reorganized board and some members of the earlier board, which included Soules. The two sides have their different views. A judge has issued some rulings in a suit between the two par-

ties, which is focused on the change in board personnel. More rulings are expected.

The co-founders of FOHR are Karen Hogan and Cynthia Patton. They are not involved in the suit, said Hogan. She said that the group has a Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/HagemannRanch/> that explains its purpose in detail.

Hogan said she met with assistant city manager Troy Brown, who has promised to answer the questions submitted by FOHR regarding its oversight of Hoofprints..

Brown told The Independent that he wants to review all of the data behind the questions that FOHR asked before replying. During Monday's city council meeting, he said that he had not yet formulated the response. However, staff is working on providing answers to as many questions as possible.

Brown said that Hoofprints signed a 55-year lease with the city. The group is to pay \$200 per month rent. He said earlier this week that Hoofprints paid the rent in November, but

before that, did not, but did undertake maintenance work "worth far more than \$200 per month."

According to the terms of the HUD grant, at least 51 percent of the clients served by Hoofprints must be low-income, as set out by federal guidelines.

The other important feature of the lease is that Hoofprints will preserve the historical character of the farm. Asked how the city monitors that, Brown said that the agreement does not spell out what the historical character is.

"How we enforce it is that they can't make specific changes on the site without notifying us. If changes are made, they have to let us know. The regulatory agreement does not outline specific standards, such as you have to keep the grass this long," said Brown.

"We are more concerned about structures on the land. If they make changes out there, we will know. They can't even paint a building, if it is on the historical building registry (which it is)," added Brown.



Henrietta Fankhauser (far left) was honored by members of the Livermore Valley Opera and the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center for her years of participation in and support of their activities. She is shown here receiving a Lady Liberty silver dollar from Jim Schmidt, president, and T J Gilmartin, member of the Opera Board. Henri is also an active member of the Livermore Rotary. She shared food and wine with about thirty friends gathered to express their appreciation for her familiar presence in and generous contributions to our community.

LIVERMORE VALLEY OUTLETS

(continued from page one)

and, who is familiar with the dimensions because of the city planning process. The remaining area is 192,000 square feet. It is ready to develop, as far as city zoning and other regulations are concerned, said Marchand.

Discussions publicly in the past have talked about using part of the expansion land for parking, and the remainder for more stores.

Rothstein confirmed that Simon has acquired the entire property and intends to expand. Simon is "excited about the opportunity." It is too soon to talk about the plan's specifics, she said.

The center has experienced strong results since the day it opened. It is 100 percent leased, said Rothstein.

Contrary to some local speculation that Simon wanted to buy Paragon because it didn't want competition for Stoneridge Mall, Rothstein said that the market for the Livermore Valley Premium Outlets is different from that of Stoneridge.

The Livermore site is

a destination center, with people coming from much greater distances than they would to shop at Stoneridge, said Rothstein.

People shop weekly at malls such as Stoneridge, but trips to the Livermore center will be just a few per year, from much greater distances. It's the type of center where people buy birthday and holiday gifts, and may spend a lot of money doing so, said Rothstein.

Tourist industry firms are including the outlets on their itineraries, in combination with other attractions in the area, notably Livermore wine country. In marketing circles it is called a halo effect, said Rothstein.

The halo effect works this way: People come to wineries. They see that the premium outlets are there, or they come for the outlets, learn about wine country, and decide to stay overnight to take in dinner at a good restaurant and a tour of wine country. Area businesses benefit, and so do local governments that collect some

of the sales tax.

The outlets are expected to add \$2 million each year to Livermore's general fund from property and sales tax revenue.

The top management team from Paragon remains in place. "When Simon acquires properties, it's always ideal when the management team is retained," said Rothstein. Operations manager Mike Liberatore and assistant manager Dave Ackerman "opened the center and have gotten to know people in the community. We think they are a good fit," said Rothstein.

Although there are discounts at the center, the merchandise and merchants are high-end. As a result, people have reported some high-end buys at the stores. Marchand said that officials at the center talked about one woman who bought \$17,000 worth of merchandise. Marchand said he overheard one shopper telling another that she paid \$200 for a \$1000 pair of Ferragamo shoes at Nieman Marcus Last Call.

The mayor said that he helped support the new center by buying a Hugo Boss suit at that brand's store, "at a good price."

B1 DEFEAT PREVENTS MORE BUS SERVICE

Wheels opened westbound and eastbound bus stops at the center on E. Jack London Boulevard prior to the center's grand opening. However, the agency's plans to add to the service were ended by the defeat of Measure B1 on Nov. 6, said LAVTA executive director Paul Matsuoka.

The measure fell 0.14

percentage points below the necessary 66.67 percent required for passage. There was funding in the measure that would have financed the expansion of service.

Service does not run as late as the center closes, so extending weekday service and adding Sunday service would have benefitted shoppers, employees of the center, and potential employees who may need a bus to travel to and from work, said Matsuoka.

The Rapid Bus runs every 15 minutes during commute hours and through the day,

Mondays through Fridays.

The last Rapid Bus stops at the center only as late as about 7 p.m. on the westbound run from Livermore. On the eastbound run from Dublin and Pleasanton, the bus passes the outlets at around 7:36 p.m. The listed time is for a stop before the outlets, because the center's stop is not listed on the schedule's time points.

The 12 bus runs to the center's stops on Saturdays, passing by hourly as late as approximately 6:19 p.m. westbound and a little after 6:09 p.m.

MAILBOX

(continued from page 4)

currently \$34.57! Who is subsidizing Pleasanton? Maybe Livermore needs to check the contract with its private refuse company and

build in some cost-saving motives. Something is out of balance all right.

Councilmembers need to focus on efficiency and recycling as a means to re-

duce the landfill. Businesses and residents alike could recycle more and pay less and the land would be the better for it.

LIVERMORE CALIFORNIA

VOLUNTEER AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE: Volunteer Advisory Bodies are the perfect place to get involved and make a difference in your community. The City of Livermore is actively recruiting Livermore residents for the following bodies:

Human Services Commission: Provides a forum for discussion of community social needs, monitors the expenditure of Housing and Human Services funds, assists local agencies in procuring grants, and submits an annual report to City Council on the status of social conditions and progress toward achieving solutions to the community's human needs. Meets: 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 pm, Multi-Service Center, 3311 Pacific Avenue. Next meeting: 1/8/13

Livermore Area Youth Advisory Commission: Brings together the youths and adults, and private and public sectors of the community to address responsibility for the care, health, safety, welfare and education of Livermore's young people. The Commission consists of 15 youths (ages 12-20) and three adults, and creates a forum for ideas and interests that are communicated to City Council. Meets: 1st Monday at 7:00 pm, Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Avenue. Next meeting: 1/7/13

Livermore Housing Authority: The purpose of the Authority is to administer and oversee the 125 low-income housing units at Leahy Square. Additionally, the Authority oversees the Section Eight Certificate Program and the Voucher Program for subsidized housing. Meets: 2nd Wednesday at 5:30 pm, 3203 Leahy Square. Next meeting: 1/9/13

Applicants to City Advisory Bodies are required to attend at least one meeting of the Advisory Body applied for prior to the interview and must reside within the City limits. For an application or more information, contact the City Clerk's Office at 925-960-4200 or online at www.cityoflivermore.net.

Applications are due to the City Clerk's Office by Friday, January 11, 2013, 5:00 pm.

COUPON OFFERS!

12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE FINANCING, OAC

Caratti Jewelers

\$50 OFF

YOUR PURCHASE OF \$250 OR MORE

Valid only on regularly priced new merchandise purchases. Not valid with any other offer or on previous purchases. Some exclusions apply. See store for details. Expires 12/24/12. 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE FINANCING, OAC

Caratti Jewelers

\$100 OFF

YOUR PURCHASE OF \$500 OR MORE

Valid only on regularly priced new merchandise purchases. Not valid with any other offer or on previous purchases. Some exclusions apply. See store for details. Expires 12/24/12. 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE FINANCING, OAC

Caratti Jewelers

\$500 OFF

YOUR PURCHASE OF \$2,500 OR MORE

Valid only on regularly priced new merchandise purchases. Not valid with any other offer or on previous purchases. Some exclusions apply. See store for details. Expires 12/24/12. 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE FINANCING, OAC

"The Valley's Diamond Center"

Caratti Jewelers

Since 1950
2056 First Street, Livermore | (925) 447-2381
www.CarattiJewelers.com

SPORTS NOTES



Nina Hayes and Trent Trump of the Livermore Aquacowboys swim team and Granada High School competed in the 'Speedo Winter Junior Nationals' Swimming competition December 6-9, 2012 in Knoxville, Tennessee. Both Nina and Trent have also each been awarded the honor of A '2012 Scholastic All American' by USA Swimming. In order to receive this status as a swimmer, one must have achieved a 3.5 or higher GPA and a Junior National qualifying time standard. Only 1200 swimmers from across the nation were selected for Scholastic All-American status.



Judo competitors from the Xtreme Force Judo Team, Livermore, competed in the competition sport Judo recently in San Francisco at the San Francisco City College Judo Tournament. The tournament draws players from all over California. Placing in the top three were the following players from Xtreme Force: 1st place: Eric Maravilla, Livermore, 13-14 yrs., white belt; Kristen Wong, Livermore, 12 yrs., white belt; 2nd place: Bella Andrus, Livermore, 9-10 yrs., white belt; Damean Diggins, Livermore, 11-12 yrs., white belt; Alexa Firestone, Livermore, 7-8 yrs., white belt. Pictured is Eric Maravilla who went undefeated in capturing first place.



The Livermore Fusion U11G Maroon team are the Norcal Gold Region 2-3-4 League Champions with a record season of 8 wins, 1 tie and 1 loss. The girls scored 29 goals for the season. Pictured are (back row, left to right) Sierra Street, Lexi Borgna, Claire March, Coach Paul Nicholson, Isabella La Rosa, Justynne Thomas and Kayla Lewis; (front row) Gracie Dupuis, Drew Pagtakhan, Lilly Ackerman, Dani Groth and Sydney Keshmiry; missing from the photo Mia Mendoza.



Pictured from left to right are West Coast Wave U11 team members (top row) Monique Reil (1 goal, 1 assist), Jessica Carlson, Kara Kolte, Savannah Seals (1 goal, 1 assist), Jackie Parker, Kaila Vasconez, Jordan Goodwin, Jessa Lyons, Club DOC Troy Dayak (bottom row) Coach Phil Parker, Caitlyn Garrison, Jillian Collom (scored the winning goal in double OT), Jessica Keaney, Eliana Eme, Lindsay Plant, Allison Jamison, and Coach David Mahabali.

CYO Basketball

St. Michael's/St. Charles (SM/SC) CYO 6th grade boys' basketball team 622, aka Fireballs, was defeated by St. Raymond 628 on Sunday 28-21 during a thriller of a game. For St. Raymond, Joey Jackson and Noah Lewis got the most points with 8 and 6 respectively. The Fireballs demonstrated positive attitudes and sportsmanship, and Logan Finch and Jack Molitoris were high scorers with 8 and 6 points, in that order. Ben Leggat and Xavier Pelican were standouts on defense for the Fireballs with outstanding rebound skills.

West Coast Soccer

West Coast Wave U11G came away with a 3-2 win in their State Cup quarterfinals against the ACC Mavericks Galaxy. The match went into double OT on Sunday afternoon in Manteca. West Coast Wave U11G played in their State Cup seeding games this weekend. Wave had a cold,

early Saturday morning game v San Juan Soccer Club. Forward Savannah Seals and Midfielder Monique Reil each scored two goals for the game on assists from Kara Kolte, Allison Jamison, and Eliana Eme. Kaila Vasconez also netted one for Wave in the 2nd half. Defenders Jessica Keaney, Jillian Collom, and Jordan Goodwin all had a terrific game along with Goal Keeper Jessica Carlson. Only allowing one goal against them. West Coast ended the game in a 5-1 win over San Juan Soccer Club.


West Coast Wave then went on to play in their 2nd game of the day v Placer United Soccer Club. Scoring three goals in the 1st half was Seals, one on an assist from Vasconez. Scoring in the 2nd half were Kolte, Seals, and Vasconez with an assist from Reil. Forwards Caitlyn Garrison, and Lindsay Plant continued to fight for a win, and with the help of defenders Jessa Lyons, Jackie Parker, and goalkeeper Jessica Carlson. They were able to ensure a 2nd win of the day and ended the game 6-4



The Level 4 gymnasts from West Coast Olympic Gymnastics Academy, located in Pleasanton, McKenzie Meyn, Naomi Evans, Deanna Chang and Mia Reeve, competed at the NorCal Level 4 South State Championships November 17, 2012 in Redwood City. McKenzie Meyn is the 2012 Nor-Cal Child H All-Around State Champion. She is also the Nor-Cal South State Vault Champion and the Nor-Cal South State Floor Champion. Naomi Evans placed 5th on beam.



The level 6 team from West Coast Olympic Gymnastics Academy, located in Pleasanton, competed at the NorCal Level 6 State Championship in Roseville, California on November 3, 2012. Natalie Boyle (pictured at left) placed 5th All-Around. She also placed 2nd on beam with a score of 9.10 and 4th on bars. Abigail McKeag placed 6th All-Around and 3rd on beam.



DIABLO

PROSTHETICS & ORTHOTICS, Inc.

Richard Sire, C.P.O.

Call (925) 484-6400

For Free Evaluation

www.DiabloPando.com

Serving 4 Locations:

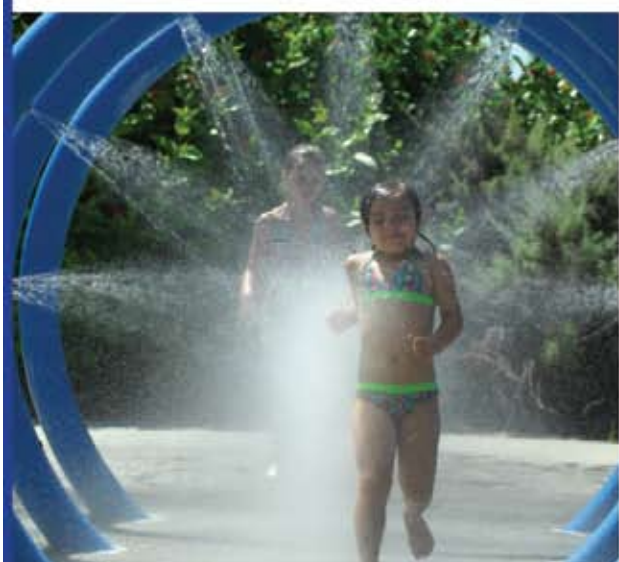
4479 Stoneridge Dr, Pleasanton

120 LaCasa Via, Suite. 202, Walnut Creek

2723 Crow Canyon, San Ramon

3903 Lone Tree Way, #305, Antioch

**See local photos of our Valley only
at www.independentnews.com**



AND

Follow us on Facebook

For additional photos:

www.facebook.com/pages/The-Independent-Newspaper-Livermore-CA/108562409214667?ref=t

SPORTS NOTES

Livermore Brothers Compete in USA BMX Grand Nationals

Brothers Brandon York and Justin York traveled from Livermore to Tulsa, Ok. to compete in the 2012 USA BMX Grand Nationals. The two brothers have traveled all over California, Nevada, and Arizona competing in Club, Redline, State and National Races to earn their current BMX ranking and number plates for 2012-2013 (Brandon York #1 District, #2 State, and #3 Redline Cup/ Justin York #1 State, #1 Redline, #1 7 Year Old Expert Grands National Winner 2012).

To finish off their second successful year as USA BMX Redline/Calabazas Cyclery riders and appearing twice in nationally published Pull Magazine with over 150,000 subscribers. Brandon and Justin headed off to the 2012 USA BMX Grand Nationals as defending title holders (Justin York #1 R.O.C./ Brandon York #2 R.O.C.).

Riders come from all over the world to compete at Grand Nationals, making it the most competitive BMX event of the year. It takes place during the week of Thanksgiving (Nov. 22-25, 2012) in Tulsa, Oklahoma at the quarter mile long Quick Rip event center.

At the 2012 Grands Brandon made it all the way to

the Semi-Mains in Tulsa. Out of 69 of the fastest 9 year old Expert riders in the world he made into the top 16. By making it that far he has secured his spot for #1 as 9 year old Expert in his District.

In Tulsa Justin made it to his mains in both 7/8 year old Open and 7 year old Expert. Justin finished 2nd in the 7/8 year old open and took home the 1st place win in 7 year old Experts.

Brandon was on a bike at 3 years old and off training wheels less than six months later. After watching BMX races at the track in Livermore, he wanted to try racing. His mother finally gave in but only after Brandon promised to wear protective padding from head-to-toe. At the age of 6, Brandon entered his first race won. He trains at BMX race clinics and Bubba camps throughout California. He swims laps in the pool to build up his "wind" because as he says "that makes you fast."

Justin is 7 years old and is in the 1st grade at Livermore Valley Charter School. After watching his big brother race BMX for two months Justin decided he wanted to give it a try too. He won his first race and nine races later advanced from Novice to Intermediate.



Brandon and Justin York take a moment between races to smile for the camera.

and outdoor soccer in 2009 and continues to enjoy the sport. He works very hard at practice and at home to improve his skills, and is an extremely fast learner. He was awarded Most Valuable Player in 2009, 2010 and 2011.

Justin started playing baseball in 2009 with the Livermore Jr. Giants and then later joined the Livermore National Little League where he received the Golden Glove Award and MVP 2 years in a row.

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

When Justin is not at the BMX track he enjoys video games, reading, chess, swimming, playing baseball and soccer, and playing with his brother and friends. Justin started playing indoor

Outdoor Enthusiast
Bushnell
Industry leader in sports optics
Shockproof • Waterproof • Fogproof

DOM'S OUTDOOR OUTFITTERS
1870 First St, Livermore (925) 447-9629
www.domsoutdoor.com

over Placer United Soccer Club.

Girls Softball

LGSA Registration: Livermore Girls Softball Association welcomes all Livermore girls aged 5-18 to register for the Spring 2013 Recreational season. No experience necessary. Register online at www.LivermoreGirlsSoftball.org or in person at Mendenhall Middle School, 1701 El Padro Drive, on December 15th from 9am-1pm. Bring a birth certificate copy. Email registration@LivermoreGirlsSoftball.org or call 925-556-5259 for more information. Register by December 31st to avoid a late fee.

Winter Baseball Camp

The 14th annual Livermore Valley Winter Baseball Camp is set. Former

Livermore High Varsity Baseball Coach David Perotti is hosting a winter baseball camp on January 2-4. Each camper will receive individual instruction from coaches and Livermore High players, a snack each day and a certificate. The 5-12 year old camp costs \$110 and runs from 9:00-12:00 everyday. The camp is being held at Livermore High Varsity Field. For more info to sign up please contact David Perotti at (925) 586-2811 or dp-perotti@yahoo.com or check website www.eteamz.com/lvb

Alumni Soccer Games

Foothill and Amador Valley High School Alumni will be playing in the 10th Foothill-Amador Alumni Soccer Games on Saturday, January 5th. There will be two games featuring men's and women's soccer players from the '70's, '80's, '90's and 2000's.

The games have become an annual event that benefit the Soccer Programs at Foothill and Amador High Schools. All gate receipts (\$8 adults and \$5 students) and Snack Bar proceeds will go directly to the programs.

The teams will be playing for trophies that will be awarded to the schools of the winners. The winning school will gain possession of the trophies each year.

Ryan Gordon was a 2003 graduate of Foothill High School. He was killed in a boating accident shortly after graduating. He played soccer at Foothill for 4 years and was planning on attending Santa Barbara City College where he planned to continue playing soccer. The original Alumni Games were organized to fund a scholarship that benefits a graduating member of the Foothill women's or men's soccer team who aspire to play soccer in college. Since the 1st year all

proceeds now go directly to the men's and women's soccer programs at the two high schools.

Ex-soccer players from Amador or Foothill who would like to play, can obtain more information and/or register at All-Star Sports, 3037-A Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. Another way to register is to download an application from the Amador Website (www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/amador/) and mail it to Curt Gordon, 205 Heritage Lane, Pleasanton, Ca. 94566 There is a \$20 fee to play. The deadline to pre-register is Thursday, January 3rd.

Players and fans are invited to the "Hop Yard Alehouse" after the games. 15% of proceeds will be donated to the programs.

There will be "special entertainment" during each of the halftimes this year.

**LET IT GO
LET IT GO
LET IT GO!**

DON'T UNWRAP IT. UNLEASH IT.

This holiday season, pick up a ride that brings joy to your world. With its unique stance and open-air excitement, a Can-Am Roadster from California Speed Sports is your reward for being good all year.



BUY A NEW 2013, 2012 OR 2011 CAN-AM® SPYDER® AND GET:

FINANCING AS LOW AS

3.9% APR FOR 36 MONTHS[†]
Other financing options also available.

PLUS

ON 2012 AND 2011 MODELS GET SAVINGS OF
\$2,000 | **\$1,000**
on the Spyder RT[†] | on the Spyder RS[†]

VISIT US TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS GREAT OFFER!

www.CALIFORNIA SPEED-SPORTS.com

2310 Nissen Drive • Livermore, CA 94551 • 925.606.1998
speed-sports.com

© 2012 Bombardier Recreational Products Inc. (BRP). All rights reserved. ®, ™ and the BRP logo are trademarks of BRP or its affiliates. In the U.S.A., products are distributed by BRP US Inc. Offers valid in U.S.A. only from November 1, 2012 to January 31, 2013. The terms and conditions may vary from state to state and the promotion is subject to termination or change at any time without notice. FINANCING OPTIONS: Financing as Low as 3.9% APR for 36 Months: Eligible units are new and unused 2011, 2012 and 2013 Can-Am roadsters. On a purchase where the Amount Financed is \$15,000, your Down Payment is \$0 with 36 monthly payments of Tiers A - C Customers: \$442.19 each. ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE 3.9%. Tier C Customers: \$455.65 each. ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE 5.9%. These financing programs are offered by Sheffield Financial, a Division of BB&T Financial, FSB. Minimum Amount Financed \$1,500. Maximum Amount Financed \$50,000. Subject to credit approval. Approval, and any rates and terms provided, are based on credit worthiness. Other financing offers available. Financing promotions void where prohibited. Offer subject to change without notice. BRP is not responsible for any errors, changes or actions related to financing provided by Sheffield Financial. † Savings of \$2000 on Spyder RT; rebate applicable to new and unused 2011 and 2012 Can-Am Spyder RT models. † Savings of \$1000 on Spyder RS; rebate applicable to new and unused 2011 and 2012 Can-Am Spyder RS models. See an authorized BRP dealer for details. Some models depicted may include optional equipment. Always ride responsibly and safely. Always observe applicable local laws and regulations. Don't drink and drive.

can-am



can-am.brp.com

New Sport of Double Road Race To Be Staged in Pleasanton

A new sport comes to America Sunday, Dec. 23 in Pleasanton, with the first-ever staging on American soil of a new running competition called the Double Road Race™ (or Double for short).

A distance race consisting of two legs — an opening 10K (6.2 miles) leg, followed by a 5K (3.1 miles) leg, with a short break in between, winners to be decided on best aggregate time — the Double is the brainchild of Bob Anderson, founder and former publisher of *Runner's World* magazine, and an avid runner for 50 years.

"It's not two races in one day," says Anderson in describing his creation, "It's one race with two legs. This is the only running event with a halftime."

"Our event benefits youth running under the direction of coach Louis Kao and our new Kid's Cup program and the national Just Run! program," says PR director Catherine Cross.

A Christmas family event and world-class athletic competition rolled into one, the Pleasanton Double has already attracted 764 entrants, ranging from parents (and their children, who will run a Kids Christmas One-Mile Run) to elite runners like marathon great Bill Rodgers, Masters runner Christine Kennedy, teenage distance prodigy Jose Pina Jr., and ace marathoners Tyler McCandless and Daniel Tapia who recently won the CIM marathon, the first American since 1999. Over 2000 entrants are expected.

Sponsored by the Ujena Fit Club, the Pleasanton Double will start and finish at Hart Middle School, 4433 Willow Road in Pleasanton. It's part of a morning of competition which will also include the Christmas 5K Run/Walk, to be held in conjunction with the 5k leg of the Double, and the Kids

Christmas One-Mile Run, a Kid's Cup event.

The Pleasanton Double will also serve as the conclusion of the movie, *A Long Run*, which documents Bob Anderson's year-long campaign, in celebration of his 50 years of running, to complete 50 races in one year, covering a total of 350 miles, at an average speed of seven minutes per mile. The 10K and 5K legs of the Double will count as his 49th and 50th races of the year. The question is: Will the man who founded *Runner's World* at age 17 because of his love of running ultimately achieve his goal of averaging under seven minutes a mile when his 50-race series comes to an end at Pleasanton?

The film is scheduled for release in 2013. Director Michael Anderson says, "We will be filming in Pleasanton — and the Double and many of its participants will be part of our film." Co-producer Catherine Cross adds, speaking to all those who may be thinking of participating in the Double, "This will be your chance to be part of this movie."

The schedule of events at the Pleasanton Double and Christmas 5K on Sunday, Dec. 23 will be: **7:45 a.m.** — Start of the Double 10K; **9:30 a.m.** — Start of the Double 5K and the Christmas 5K, which will be run together; **11:00 a.m.** — Start of the Kids Christmas One-Mile Race (10 and under); **11:30 a.m.** — Awards Ceremony.

After completing the 10K leg, runners in the Double will go to an area designated as the Recovery Zone, where they will be provided with hydration, nutrition and physical support, e.g., massage, to help them recover and prepare for the second leg. The Recovery Zone in Pleasanton will be set up indoors as a contingency against inclement weather.

By regulation, the 5K of the Double starts 105 minutes after the start of the 10K. Special two sided medals are being awarded the top five in each age group.

Asked why Pleasanton was selected as the site of the inaugural Double in America, Bob Anderson said, "Pleasanton is a community that is very partial to sporting events. It was very supportive of us holding the event there. Besides, the roads are wide, smooth and flat, and we wanted a fast course. The courses for both the 10K and 5K are fast and flat."

Anderson not only founded *Runner's World*, but in publishing the magazine from 1967 to 1984 played a role in the running boom of the '70s and '80s. As far back as the '70s Anderson was originating innovative running events like the 24-Hour Relay, where teams of anywhere from two to 10 runners ran alternate miles for 24 hours; National Running Week and nearly 400 Fun Run programs all over the US.

Anderson sold *Runner's World* in 1984 and since then has been the CEO and chief photographer of the Ujena Swimwear Company.

In Pleasanton, \$4200 in prize money will be awarded in the Double. The Double Road Race Federation is offering an additional \$1000 for a world record performance. The men's world record at this time is 49:15 (33:41 for the 10K and 15:34 for the 5K), and the women's world record is 55:02 (36:45 10K and 18:17 5K). The caliber of competition expected in Pleasanton should result in a wholesale revision of the existing records.

For additional information go to: <http://www.doubleroadrace.com>



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Rain canceled the annual "snow day" in Livermore planned for Dec. 1. It took place, instead, on Sunday at Lizzie Fountain. The opportunity to play in the snow was presented by Livermore Downtown, Inc.



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Community menorah lightings were held in Livermore and Pleasanton to celebrate Hannukah, the eight-day festival of lights. Livermore Mayor John Marchand was on hand for the lighting of the menorah in front of the Bankhead Theater. In the photo, he is wearing the costume he wore for his appearance in *The Nutcracker* ballet. A Menorah of Giving was lit at the Stoneridge Mall in Pleasanton. The giving menorah is made of clear plastic pipes in which money will be collected over the next few weeks by members of the Jewish community. The money will be donated to local charities. The Mall celebration included holiday games and crafts, live music and Hannukah treats. Both events were sponsored by the Chabad of the Tri-Valley.

Volunteers Set to take Part in Annual Bird Count

An estimated 90 volunteer birdwatchers of all levels of experience will survey for wintering birds in eastern Alameda County this Friday, December 14, as part of the fourth annual Eastern Alameda County Christmas Bird Count. The Alameda Creek Alliance and Ohlone Audubon Society sponsor the bird count, which covers a 15 mile radius circle in the vicinity of Pleasanton, Sunol and Livermore, within the Alameda Creek watershed.

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 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 health of bird populations and help guide conservation actions.

"Nearly 100 local birders, ornithologists and public lands agency staff will participate in this year's bird count. There is room for more volunteers of any level of experience," said Rich

Cimino, Conservation Chair of the Ohlone Audubon Society, and Events Director for the Alameda Creek Alliance. "Our bird count contributes to bird conservation and monitoring efforts and promotes stewardship of bird populations and their habitats within the Alameda Creek watershed," added Cimino, initiator of the Eastern Alameda count.

There are 21 different Christmas Bird Counts in the San Francisco Bay Area. The Eastern Alameda count area is in the vicinity of Sunol, Pleasanton and Livermore, and includes five East Bay Regional Parks, San Francisco watershed lands, and birding hotspots such as lower Mines Road, Sunol Wilderness, Del Valle Reservoir, and the Springtown area in Livermore. Volunteers walk, bicycle or drive count areas, or monitor backyard feeders during a 24 hour period on December 14. Additional surveys during the count week of December 11 to 17 will 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.

Rare and notable bird species found during the past few years of the Eastern Alameda count include bald eagles, golden eagles, ferruginous hawks, per-

egrine falcons, prairie falcons, northern pygmy-owls, short-eared owls, burrowing owls, Lewis' woodpeckers, yellow-billed magpies, rock wrens, canyon wrens, tri-colored blackbirds, and uncommon sparrows (rufous-crowned lark, vesper and grasshopper sparrows).

Yellow-billed magpies are endemic to central California and have declined due to West Nile virus and loss of oak woodland habitat. Bald eagles only recently began breeding in the Bay Area and were removed from the endangered species list. Golden eagles are threatened locally by collisions with wind turbines at Altamont Pass. Western burrowing owls are declining rapidly in the Bay Area due to habitat loss from urban development and are also killed in large numbers by Altamont wind turbines. Lewis' woodpeckers are brightly colored denizens of open-canopy forests that are a state spe-

cies 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 get involved, visit ohloneaudubon.org or www.alamedacreek.org.

The Ohlone Audubon Society is a chapter of the national Audubon Society serving southern Alameda County that works to preserve the natural world through education, conservation, and advocacy. The Alameda Creek Alliance is a community watershed group with over 2,000 members, dedicated to protecting and restoring the natural ecosystems of the Alameda Creek watershed.



Free Santa Pictures
Bring Your Camera!

Thur. Dec. 13 4-8 pm
Fri. Dec. 14 4-8 pm
Sat. Dec. 15 1-5 pm

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

CHOLULA'S
CUISINE

MEXICAN FOOD

Hours: Mon-Fri 11am-8pm
Sat 11am-6pm
2852 Kitty Hawk Road,
Livermore, CA 94551
(925) 294-9005

1/2 PRICE
Get a **1/2 OFF**
for **1/2 OFF**
with purchase
of any entrée

Entrée must be equal or lesser value. Not valid with any other offer. Expires Jan. 15, 2013.

LIVERMORE CINEMAS		2490 FIRST STREET 443-SHOW	
THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY (PG13) DLP THX	12:15	4:00	7:45
THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY (PG13) DLP D-BOX	1:00	4:45	8:30
THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY 3D (PG13) DLP THX	1:45	5:30	9:15
THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY 3D (PG13) DLP	2:30	6:10	9:45
PLAYING FOR KEEPS (PG13) DLP	12:00	2:25	4:45
LIFE OF PI (PG) DLP	12:00	3:15	6:10
RISE OF THE GUARDIANS (PG) DLP	12:05	2:20	4:40
FLIGHT (R) DLP			9:20
TWILIGHT: BREAKING DAWN PART 2 (PG13) DLP	1:30	4:15	7:00
LINCOLN (PG13) DLP	12:30	1:20	4:05
SKYFALL (PG13) DLP	12:00	1:10	3:10
WRECK IT RALPH (PG) DLP	4:20	6:20	7:30
KILLING THEM SOFTLY (R) DLP	12:20	3:40	6:10
OPENS WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19TH			
MONSTERS INC 3D (G) DLP	11:30	2:00	4:25
GUILT TRIP (PG13) DLP	12:05	2:30	4:50

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



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

RETZLAFF
Estate Wines

Holiday Wine
Specials

PORT buy 2 get 3!
expires 12/13/12

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

Mindblowing DIGITAL CINEMA now at the Vine!

Holiday Classics Coming in December:

ELF - Dec. 13 @ 7pm
A CHRISTMAS STORY Dec. 15 & 19
WHITE CHRISTMAS Dec. 18 & 22
IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE Dec. 20

Lincoln & The Life of Pi coming soon

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

Anthony Hopkins, Helen Mirren & Scarlett Johansson

HITCHCOCK
Fri - Sun: 12:00 2:20 4:40 7:10 9:20

ANNA KARENINA
Fri - Sun: 1:15 4:00 6:45 9:15

Gift Cards available at the Box Office and Online - The Perfect Christmas gift!

Recount Stopped after One Day Study Finds Temperature Changes Related to Human Activities

The Alameda County Transportation Commission (ACTC) informed the Alameda County Registrar of Voters late last Wednesday that it accepts the certified election outcome of the November 2012 election. Measure B1, which would have brought almost \$8 billion in transportation investments into the County, did not meet the threshold necessary to pass, despite receiving 66.53 percent of the vote. The required threshold to pass is 66.67 percent and Measure B1 was just 0.14 percent below this.

The recount cost less than \$8000.

The recount began the morning of Tuesday, December 4, 2012. By close of business that day, the Registrar's office had recounted 28,000 votes. At that time, it had only tallied an additional seven yes votes for Measure B1. Based on this outcome, it became clear that continuing the recount would not yield the almost 750 yes votes necessary to meet the minimum 66.67 percent for passage.

"I am confident that the decision to request a recount

was the right one, as was our decision to discontinue it," said ACTC Executive Director Arthur Dao.

ACTC will use the current Measure B funds until they sunset in 2022, continuing to implement important projects and programs throughout the county.

By placing Measure B1 on the ballot, ACTC said that it was responding to the need to continue its work improving mobility and quality of life in Alameda County by best using resources that exist and developing new funding solutions for transportation.

"A clear majority of Alameda County demonstrated their support for Measure B1 - a transportation plan that supports forward-thinking solutions, economic vitality, environmental sustainability and a true multi-modal approach," said Alameda CTC Chair Mayor Mark Green. "These numbers show the urgent need to lower the voter approval threshold for special taxes in California."

One group, Citizens Alliance for Property Rights (CAPR) issued a press

release congratulating its partners in opposition to Measure B1 and Alameda County taxpayers on the end of last week's recount. The recount was called off after one day.

Opponents of the measure included unpaid volunteers from CAPR, Alameda County Republican Party, Bay Area Taxpayers' Coalition, California for Liberty, the Conservative Forum of Silicon Valley, Organization for Justice & Equality, SFBay 912 Project, The Transportation Solutions Defense and Education Fund (TRANSDEF), taxpayer groups, transportation activist groups and TEA Parties along with other concerned citizens.

"ACTC doesn't realize yet that it unwittingly built a coalition of people that would not normally cooperate to hold it accountable. It is a great situation for voters when such a diverse group of concerned citizens bands together to hold government responsible for proper stewardship of public funds," said Chris Pareja, Board Member and VP, CAPR.

By comparing simulations from 20 different computer models to satellite observations, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory climate scientists and colleagues from 16 other organizations have found that tropospheric and stratospheric temperature changes are clearly related to human activities.

The team looked at geographical patterns of atmospheric temperature change over the period of satellite observations. The team's goal of the study was to determine whether previous findings of a "discernible human influence" on tropospheric and stratospheric temperature were sensitive to current uncertainties in climate models and satellite data.

The troposphere is the lowest portion of earth's atmosphere. The stratosphere sits just above the troposphere, between 6 and 30 miles above earth's surface.

The satellite temperature data sets were produced by three different research groups, and rely on measurements of the microwave emissions of oxygen molecules. Each group made different choices in processing these raw measurements,

and in accounting for such complex effects as drifts in satellite orbits and in instrument calibrations.

"It's very unlikely that purely natural causes can explain these distinctive patterns of temperature change," said Laboratory atmospheric scientist Benjamin Santer, who is lead author of the paper appearing in the Nov. 29 online edition of the journal, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. "No known mode of natural climate variability can cause sustained, global-scale warming of the troposphere and cooling of the lower stratosphere."

The new climate model simulations analyzed by the team will form the scientific backbone of the upcoming 5th assessment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which is due out in 2014.

In both satellite observations and the computer model simulations of historical climate change, the lower stratosphere cools markedly over the past 33 years. This cooling is primarily a response to the human-caused depletion of stratospheric ozone. The observations and model simulations also show a common pattern of large-scale warming of the

lower troposphere, with largest warming over the Arctic, and muted warming (or even cooling) over Antarctica. Tropospheric warming is mainly driven by human-caused increases in well-mixed greenhouse gases.

The team analyzed results from climate model simulations with specified historical changes in human and natural external factors, and from simulations with projected 21st century changes in greenhouse gases and anthropogenic aerosols. They also looked at simulations with no changes in external influences on climate, which provide information on the year-to-year and decade-to-decade "noise" of internal climate variability, arising from such natural phenomena as the El Niño/Southern Oscillation and the Pacific Decadal Oscillation.

The team used a standard "climate fingerprint" method to search for the model signal pattern (in response to human influences, the sun and volcanoes) in the satellite observations. The method quantifies the strength of the signal in observations, relative to the strength of the signal in natural climate noise.

SHORT NOTES

Toys for Tots Drive

Better Homes and Gardens Mason-McDuffie Real Estate is holding its 8th annual Toys for Tots toy drive this year and will collect toys from the community and their own agents, managers and staff.

BHG Mason-McDuffie is working directly with the U.S. Marines Toys for Tots program for their annual toy drive collection. In past years up to a thousand toys have been collected and they hope to surpass that this year.

"Our annual Toys for Tots drive is an event that each of our 28 offices and 1200 agents love to participate in each year to help the kids in their communities," said Kathy Ollerton, Director of Charities.

You can help a child in need by dropping off your unwrapped toys at any Better Homes and Garden office in the greater Bay Area. For a full list of offices, please visit www.bhghome.com.

Nature Programs

Glorious Geminids Meteors is the topic of Livermore Area Recreation and Park District ranger staff's Fri., Dec. 14 program. Meet Ranger Glen Florey at 9 p.m. at Sycamore Grove Park, 1051 Wetmore Road.

Dress warm for this Friday night walk to see one of the most spectacular meteor showers of the year. If the weather cooperates, there will be beautiful dark skies from the new moon to go with the multicolored meteors of this impressive shower. Feel free to bring blankets and chairs, as the group will sit out and watch the meteors for about an hour from a dark part of the park. Canceled if raining.

Deer will be the focus on Sun., Dec. 16. Meet Ranger Dawn Soles at 2 p.m. at Sycamore Grove Park, 5211 Arroyo Road.

Santa is coming to town pulled by reindeer - though we are only visited by reindeer, we do have deer in the area year-round. Join this program to learn about local deer, as well as deer from around the world. Participants may be shocked at the variety in shape, size and color that is found in this group of critters. Canceled if raining.

There is a \$5 per vehicle parking fee at either entrance to Sycamore Grove Park. A

\$2 donation is requested to help support the programs unless other fees are specified. Participants may call 925-960-2400 for more information.

Holiday Toy Drive

The City of Dublin, the Alameda County Fire Department and the Alameda County Fire Fighters Association are again sponsoring the annual Holiday Toy Drive.

Donate a new unwrapped toy or give gift cards, cash or check at any Dublin fire station, the Senior Center or at City Hall. The Holiday Toy Drive helps to supplement efforts by the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots, Tri-Valley YMCA, Tri-Valley Haven and Sheperd's Gate in Livermore.

Donations can be made through December 24. For more information, please contact Dublin Fire Prevention office at (925) 833-6606 or Alameda County Fire Community Relations at (925) 556-4584.

Holiday Events on TV

Community holiday parades and tree lightings are being shown on Tri-Valley Community TV30. Featured are the 2012 celebrations from Dublin, Livermore, and Pleasanton. TV 30 is broadcasting the taped holiday events for each city at various times throughout the holiday season. The shows may be viewed on Comcast TV Channel 30 and AT&T U-verse via Channel 99 as well as streaming live and video demand on the Tri-Valley TV website at www.trivalleytv.org. DVDs are also available for purchase on the website.

Kicking off the festivities was Dublin's 29th Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony held on Thursday, November 29th at the Dublin Civic Center Plaza with entertainment caroling and refreshments. The Dublin Unified School District Children's Choir provided lively sounds as well as the Dublin High School Jazz Band.

The Pleasanton Hometown Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting was held on Saturday, December 1st on Main Street in downtown Pleasanton. The annual community celebration included a parade with floats, marching bands, drill teams, and more. It was followed by the lighting of the holiday

tree in front of the Museum on Main Street.

Also on December 1st was the 17th annual Downtown Livermore Holiday Sights & Sounds Parade featuring local marching bands, music, light displays, and the lighting of "Bruce Sprucetree."

Mobile devices can be used to access the stations without an app by going to trivalleytv.org and clicking on the station desired.

Rates Rising

The Pleasanton City Council on November 27, 2012 approved a portion of a rate adjustment request from Pleasanton Garbage Service, Inc. resulting in a five percent rate increase for all commercial and residential customers effective January 1, 2013. The rate increase covers increases in projected operating costs related to Pleasanton Garbage Service, Inc., refuse collection and recycling operations, including the Busch Road Transfer Station operations and a one percent increase to the City franchise fee. The cost of the residential 35-gallon refuse cart service will increase by approximately \$1.45/month resulting in a \$30.59 per month

fee. The 96-gallon refuse cart service will increase by \$1.73/month resulting in a \$36.30 per month fee.

As part of the rate approval, the City Council authorized the City Manager to continue discussions with Pleasanton Garbage Service concerning outstanding rate and operations issues pertaining to the current franchise agreement, including implementation of Alameda County's new mandatory commercial recycling law. The City Manager will report back to the City Council regarding these matters within nine months.

Questions regarding refuse and recycling services should be directed to Pleasanton Garbage Service, Inc., at info@pleasantongarbage.com or by calling (925)846-2042.

YMCA Board Members

The YMCA of the East Bay has appointed four new members to its Board of Directors.

They are the following: John Escobar, a resident of Pleasanton, is retired and was previously Assistant General Manager for the East Bay Regional Park District.

Seth Hamalian, a resident

of Lafayette, is Owner of Mission Bay Development Group, LLC in San Francisco.

Brenda Jemmott, a resident of Oakland, is a Tax Manager at RINA Accountancy in Oakland.

Douglas Park, a resident of Oakland, is a Principal at Park Financial Solutions.

"Over the years, we have been very fortunate to have many insightful board members. I'm extremely happy to see that tradition continue," said Robert A. Wilkins, President and CEO of the YMCA of the East Bay.

Docents Sought

Anyone with an interest in local history, gardening, canning, or how people lived in Victorian times is invited to attend informational meeting on Tuesday, January 8, 2012 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. to learn about volunteer opportunities at Forest Home Farms Historic Park.

This orientation will introduce potential volunteers to several programs at the farm. Follow up with training would be provided.

Farm Life Field Trip Docents introduce 3rd grade students to the agricultural history of the San Ramon Valley. There are four dif-

ferent areas to choose from: Grandpa and Grandma-lead tours and activities, Gardeners- leads gardening chores in the organic garden, and Canner- presents a canning demonstration.

Farm Tour Docents lead "All About the Farm" tours when Forest Home Farms Historic Park is open to the public the 2nd Saturday of each month for "Fun on the Farm" and present after school programs for community groups such as daycare centers and Scouts on weekday afternoons.

Glass House Museum Docents are trained to lead a variety of tours, provide educational programs and participate in historic preservation at this fully restored, Italianate style Victorian home which was completed in 1877.

For more information or to RSVP for this meeting please contact Sharon Peterson at (925) 973-3282 or speterson@sanramon.ca.gov. Forest Home Farms Historic Park is located at 19953 San Ramon Valley Blvd., just south of Pine Valley Road in San Ramon.

OBITUARIES

Stephanie Ann Miller

Stephanie Ann Miller loved to travel. She climbed Machu Picchu, walked the Great Wall of China and visited European countries from England to Russia.

The one-year resident of Brentwood died suddenly Nov. 27, 2012, at the age of 65 when a case of the flu worsened into pneumonia.

She and her husband, Robert Van Miller Sr., celebrated their one-year anniversary on Nov. 5. Prior to Brentwood, Miller lived for 10 years in Danville and before that lived in Pleasanton for many years.

A native of Oakland, Stephanie was born at Kaiser Hospital in Oakland on Jan. 26, 1947. She grew up in San Lorenzo and was a cheerleader before graduating from San Lorenzo High School. During her years in San Lorenzo, she spent summers with her maternal grandmother on her farm in South Dakota.

She went to work for the Oakland Police Department and served in a variety of roles before retiring after 20 years. She then moved on to a marketing position with the Port of Oakland at the Oakland Airport. After 15 years, she retired from the port.

Throughout her careers, she traveled widely. Italy and England were particular favorites.

She met Robert through an official matchmaker about 2 1/2 years ago. Bob was attracted from the first couple of dates, but Stephanie insisted he date other women until he found one that was "interesting." When she heard that, she decided it was time for marriage.

They built their dream home in Brentwood after their marriage and moved into it six months ago. Before their marriage, she had lived for 10 years in Walnut Creek.

They traveled after their

marriage, recently spending two weeks in Hawaii and taking the train across Canada from Vancouver to Toronto. The couple was planning a trip to her favorite spots in Italy for next year and she wanted to take Bob to the famed Harrods department store in London for its huge fine foods section.

Stephanie is survived by her husband, Bob; his children Robert Van Miller Jr. of Hayward, Mary Elizabeth Hamilton of Pleasanton and Richard Henry Miller of Livermore. She had no children of her own.

Graveside services were held Wednesday, Dec. 3 at 2 p.m. at Oakmont Memorial Park, 2099 Reliez Valley Road, Lafayette.

Obituary/Memorial Policies

Obituaries are published in The Independent at no charge.

There is a small charge for photographs in the obituaries.

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

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

Please send an email to

IF YOU RECEIVED A LETTER FROM ALERE HOME MONITORING REGARDING A PRIVACY BREACH YOU MAY BE OWED MONEY DAMAGES.

Call 415.543.1305 for a free confidential consultation

Eric A. Grover, Esq. • Keller Grover LLP

Callaghan Mortuary & Livermore Crematory
Family owned & operated Since 1906

We Make Pre-Planning Easy
CA Insurance License #0E70297

Call Teri Kneisley for an appointment
(925) 447-2942

FD416 CR38

Free LASIK Consultation

Imagine enjoying life with less dependence on contacts or glasses.

Call Valley EyeCare Center today to schedule a **FREE LASIK CONSULTATION** with an experienced, knowledgeable staff member. Use your flexible spending account and financing is available.

Jonathan Savell, M.D. and Michael Gagnon, M.D.

VALLEY EYECARE CENTER Medical Associates 925-460-5000 Pleasanton 925-449-4000 Livermore

www.ValleyEyeCareCenter.com
See Your Best, Look Your Best

Celebrations of Christmas



GRIEVING? LONELY? DEPRESSED?

A service for those struggling this Christmas.

BLUE CHRISTMAS: A Service of Remembrance & Hope
Sunday, December 16th, 7pm



1020 Mocho Street, Livermore, CA
(925) 447-8840
www.holycrosslivermore.org

Join Us For Advent Worship

Learn about the true meaning of Christmas.

Sundays at 8:30 & 11 am



557 Olivina Ave, Livermore
(925) 447.1848
www.trinitylivermore.org



Celebrate with Us at Our Savior Lutheran Ministries!

DEC. 24, 7 PM & 10 PM
Candlelight Christmas Eve Services

DEC. 25, 10 AM
Festival Communion Service

DEC. 31, 5:30 PM
New Year's Eve Worship



Our Savior Lutheran Ministries
1385 S. Livermore Ave., Livermore, CA
925.447.1246 | www.oslm.net

*A Christian Family that is—
Rooted in Grace, Growing in Faith, Serving with Joy*



You're Invited

Dec. 23, 2012 | 10am



New Livermore Campus
6500 Garaventa Ranch Road
Sunday Celebration Services
Beginning Dec. 23rd, 10am

VALLEY BIBLE CHURCH
925.227.1301 ext.32 www.thecrossing.org

LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

www.independentnews.com



LEGAL NOTICES

FOR INFORMATION PLACING LEGAL NOTICES

Call 925-243-8000

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 470603

The following person(s) doing business as: Salon on Fourth, 1952 Fourth St., Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Rebecca Day, 1952 Fourth St., Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 9/1/2012. Signature of Registrants :s/ Rebecca Day, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 9, 2012. Expires October 9, 2017. The Independent Legal No. 3344. Published November 22, 29, December 6, 13, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 471733

The following person(s) doing business as: A Graceful Touch, 7667 Amador Valley Blvd, Suite B, Dublin, CA 94568, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kempurd & Co., LLC, 7667 Amador Valley Blvd, Suite A, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability company. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrants :s/ Edmund Kempurd - Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 8, 2012. Expires November 8, 2017. The Independent Legal No. 3346. Published November 22, 29, December 6, 13, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 471422

The following person(s) doing business as: Swarovski 271, 3276 Paragon Outlets Drive, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s):

Swarovski Retail Ventures Ltd, One Kenney Drive, Cranston, RI 02920. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrants :s/ Edward J. Capobianco, Corporate Secretary for Swarovski Retail Ventures Ltd. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 31, 2012. Expires October 31, 2017. The Independent Legal No. 3347. Published November 22, 29, December 6, 13, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 471047

The following person(s) doing business as: Wilsons Leather, 3010 Paragon Outlets Drive, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): A M Retail Group, Inc., 7401 Boone Ave N, Brooklyn Park, MN 55428. This business is conducted

by a Corporation. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrants :s/ Randon Q. Roland, Sr. VP/CFO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 19, 2012. Expires October 19, 2017. The Independent Legal No. 3348. Published November 22, 29, December 6, 13, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 472065

The following person(s) doing business as: E S Motor Cars LLC, 3597 First St, Suite 4, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): E S Motor Cars LLC, 3597 First St, Suite 4, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Limited liability company. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrants

:s/ Eddie Joe, Owner / Officer. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 19, 2012. Expires November 19, 2017. The Independent Legal No. 3350. Published November 29, December 6, 13, 20, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 471447

The following person(s) doing business as: White House / Black Market #3488, 2752 Paragon Outlets Drive, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): White House / Black Market Inc, 11215 Metro Pkwy, Fort Myers, FL 33966. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrants :s/ Kevin R. Schockling, Vice President - Tax. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 31,

2012. Expires October 31, 2017. The Independent Legal No. 3351. Published November 29, December 6, 13, 20, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 471448

The following person(s) doing business as: Chico's #1127, 2782 Paragon Outlets Drive, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Chico's FAS, Inc, 11215 Metro Pkwy, Fort Myers, FL 33966. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrants :s/ Kevin R. Schockling, Vice President - Tax. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 31, 2012. Expires October 31, 2017. The Independent Legal No. 3352. Published November 29, December 6, 13, 20, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 472081

The following person(s) doing business as: Golwvine, 4465 Guilford Pl, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): (1)Eric Payne (2)Marisa Payne, 4465 Guilford Pl, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by Husband and wife. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrants :s/ Eric Payne, Marisa Payne. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 20, 2012. Expires November 20, 2017. The Independent Legal No. 3353. Published December 6, 13, 20, 27, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 471140

The following person(s) doing business as: DMV Smog Center, 1737 First St, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s):

Martin Hernandez Jr, 1737 First St, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrants :s/ Martin Hernandez Jr. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 23, 2012. Expires October 23, 2017. The Independent Legal No. 3354. Published December 6, 13, 20, 27, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 471723

The following person(s) doing business as: Tri Valley Smog Center, 1737 First St, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Martin Hernandez Jr, 1737 First St, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.

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



NOW!
ONLINE CALENDARS



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

Visit us online at www.independentnews.com



THE *Independent*

LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

www.independentnews.com



Signature of Registrants
:s/ Martin Hernandez Jr
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 7, 2012. Expires November 7, 2017.
The Independent Legal No. 3355. Published December 6, 13, 20, 27, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 472306

The following person(s) doing business as: Northern California Brokers, 828 Genieve Place, Pleasanton, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Elaine Sternquist, 828 Genieve Place, Pleasanton, CA 94566

This business is conducted by an individual
The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 11/6/2008.

Signature of Registrants
:s/ Elaine Sternquist
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 29, 2012. Expires November 29, 2017.

The Independent Legal No. 3357. Published December 6, 13, 20, 27, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 471957

The following person(s) doing business as: The T House, 3550 Helen Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94588, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jennifer Marie Curtice, 3550 Helen Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94588

This business is conducted by an individual
The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.

Signature of Registrants
:s/ Jennifer Curtice
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 15, 2012. Expires November 15, 2017.

The Independent Legal No. 3358. Published December 6, 13, 20, 27, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 472516

The following person(s) doing business as: W I T Home Improvement & Repair, 370 Jensen St, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kenneth L. Kline, 370 Jensen St, Livermore, CA 94550

This business is conducted by an individual
The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.

Signature of Registrants
:s/ Kenneth L. Kline
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 5, 2012. Expires December 5, 2017.

The Independent Legal No. 3359. Published December 13, 20, 27, 2012, January 3, 2013.

ANIMALS
2) CATS/ DOGS

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

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

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

EMPLOYMENT
65) HELP WANTED
BUDGET & POLICY ANALYST
Manage co. budget, policies, workflow, & finance reports.
MBA required.
Jobsite: Pleasanton, CA 94566.
Mail resume to:
3S Network Inc., Attn: HR
26000 Town Center Dr.
#230,
Foothill Ranch, CA 92610.

56) ADULT CARE
Independent Contractors Wanted. Senior Home Health Care. Must have experience. Senior Solutions, Inc (925)443-3101.

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

TO PLACE A CLASSIFIED AD
Call (925)243-8000

MERCHANDISE
127) LOST/ FOUND
LOST DOG
in area of North K Street & Chestnut Street Livermore on 11/14/12
Small Breed/Male
13 pounds
Long, thin body / Fox-like. Long legs. Long tail curls up when walking.
Long neck. Small head & ears. Lower teeth underbite.
Blonde / Sandy in color
Purple collar - Rabies Tag / Veterinarian Not neutered
PLEASE CALL (925)447-5441

LOST
Red Poinsettia Clip Earring
Lost downtown Livermore, Friday 12/16. If found, please call (925)447-1762

NOTICES/ANNOUNCEMENTS
155) NOTICES

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

by the Contractors State License Board."

REAL ESTATE
Inland Valley Publishing Co.
Client Code:04126-00001
Re: Legal Notice for Classified Ads
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.

TO PLACE A CLASSIFIED AD
Call (925)243-8000



Is There a New Home on Your Holiday List?

By Cher Wollard

As the song says, "there's no place like home for the holidays." If a new home is on your wish list, you may be wondering if this is the best time to buy.

Shopping, partying, decorating, baking, the season is filled with activities that can crowd the calendars. Plus the weather is not as pleasant for looking at homes.

That's why spring is the traditional real estate buying season.

But for some buyers, the holidays can be the ideal time to make their dreams of home ownership come true.

For one thing, there are fewer buyers out looking, so there is less competition for the best properties.

"November and December can be a good time to buy. People are anxious to get in before the new year and get established," according to Tom Chance, office manager at Prudential California Realty, Livermore.

"I sold a house once on Thanksgiving Day. It was a ranch out in Collier Canyon."

Chance is a second-generation Realtor. His father, Eldred E. Chance, worked in Livermore in the 1950s through the 1970s.

"My dad always said when there are people out looking at holiday time, they are serious buyers," he added. "So if they are serious buyers then, yes, it's a good time to buy."

Inventory tends to be low toward the end of the year, as many sellers wait until January or February to list their property. This year has been especially difficult throughout the Bay Area, as there are even fewer homes on the market than usual, and many are drawing multiple offers.

Chance is currently working with one family who sold their house in late August.

"We've been trying to find them a home ever since. We have written a few offers, but they haven't turned out yet," he said. Nonetheless, Chance is optimistic. "We'll find them the right home."

Other clients of his, a young couple who just had a baby and needs extra room, is shopping now for their move-up home.

"For a Christmas gift," Chance quipped. "They're trying to find a new home and they would like to be in for the holidays."

It's not just families out looking. Investors too are keeping the market hot.

"For the last 15 years, the last quarter of every year has been my best quarter. It looks like that will be true again this year," Chance said. "You are working with investors and other people who have to close before year's end."

If you are one of those buyers shopping for a home during the holidays, keep a few things in mind:

- Hire a good Realtor.
- Get your financing lined up. Your Realtor can refer you to a knowledgeable mortgage specialist, if you are not already working with someone.
- Make a plan. With fewer homes to see, you must be clear on what you are looking for. Where do you want to live? Are there certain neighborhoods you are especially interested in? How large a home does your family require? Everyone is busy this time of year. Don't waste time looking at homes you know will not suit your needs.
- Get on an e-mail alert program. Your agent may have one on his or her website. If not, you can enlist in the program at realtor.com. You input your requirements for city, square footage, number of bedrooms and baths, etc. You will be alerted when a property that meets those requirements comes on the market. Your agent can then help you decide if it is something you should look at.
- Be respectful of sellers' time. Properties may not be as available for viewing as at other times of the year. Sellers are juggling family, community and religious requirements with the needs of the market. Your agent can make an appointment for you to see the home at a time that works for everyone.
- Wear slip-on shoes – especially during inclement weather. Sellers do not want you tracking dirt on their freshly shampooed carpets or meticulously maintained hardwood floors. You don't want that either, especially if this is a place you may call home in the near future!

If you are looking to purchase a home – either now or in 2013 – contact your local Realtor today. The sooner you start making a plan, the better prepared you will be.

R.E.A.L. Elects Officers for 2013

The Real Estate Alliance of Livermore, a marketing group for Realtors and real estate affiliates who serve the Livermore area, has elected a new board of directors for 2013.

Joel Engel of J. Rockcliff will stay on as president.

The incoming vice president is Vickie Keller of Legacy Real Estate. Michelle Elliott of Chase Bank and Dave Toledo of Prudential California Realty will serve together in the treasurer position.

Natalie Swanson of Prudential California Realty will be the new sergeant-at-arms, while Lori Kriens of Coldwell Banker will be tour coordinator.

Public relations/sponsors will be handled by Erin Steele of Pacific Mercantile Bank; Karen Long of Landmark Mortgage and Robin Young of Alain Pinel Realtors will share the role of public relations/speakers.

Michael Koenig is the new media and communications officer, while Debi Zenter and Tim Denbo will continue as affiliate liaisons.

The new board's term begins in January. R.E.A.L. meets most Thursdays, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., at the First Street Alehouse, 2106 First Street. Doors open at 8 a.m. Admission is \$4, and includes light refreshments.

The last meeting of the year is set for Dec. 13, when members will help wrap gifts purchased for needy families the group is helping this holiday season. R.E.A.L. raised over \$900 for this purpose.

At the Dec. 6 meeting, R.E.A.L. also presented a check for \$750 to Open Heart Kitchen.

R.E.A.L. meetings will resume after the New Year.

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

Professionals Choice Real Estate Directory

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

 Fracisco Realty & Investments Residential • Commercial • Property Mgmt (925) 998-8131 www.MikeFracisco.com DRE #01378428	 Ivy LoGerfo Certified Residential Specialist & Distressed Property Expert 2011 Pinnacle Achievement Recipient Livermore's #1 (925) 998-5312 Realtor 2011 RE/MAX Accord www.ivylogerfo.com
 GENE WILLIAMS Mortgage Consultant, REALTOR® (510) 390-0325 CINDY WILLIAMS CRS, GRI - REALTOR® (925) 243-0900 www.williamsteam.net Over Three Decades of Experience!!!	 Sande Uterback (888) 823-8315 DRE#0055150 WWW.SANDEEU.COM Prudential California Realty "Specializing in Livermore's Finest Homes"
 Gail Henderson BROKER ASSOCIATE, MPA COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL (925) 980-5648 www.gailhenderson.com CADRE#10171	<h3>Real Estate... A People Business</h3> <p>Experience, Honesty, Integrity</p> Steve & Lorraine Mattos 925.426.7978 J. Rockcliff REALTORS www.rockcliff.com smattos@rockcliff.com DRE #00315981
 Barbara Duterte DRE#0059903 / NMLS#30205672 (925) 963-9572 Barbara@loansbybarbara.com www.loansbybarbara.com	 Michelle Johnston DRE#01807753 / NMLS#30205698 (925) 784-1169 Mjohnston@mortgagemarket.net www.lender4themichelle.com
 Donna Garrison (925) 980-0273 Susan Schall (925) 519-8226 Search Tri-Valley Homes for Sale at www.FabulousProperties.net CA Lic#s: 01735040, 01713497 kw KELLER WILLIAMS	 Jon Roberts Real Estate Professional 855.566.5661 Jon@RRRealty.info www.RRRealty.info Real Estate's Most Active Agent for 30 years
 Madeline Walker 800-319-8991 homes@madelinewalker.com INTERO REAL ESTATE SERVICES REALTOR®, CDPE DRE # 979059 www.madelinewalker.com	 Bobbie Gregory Broker Associate 209.320.2746 DRE#01481779 Niki Toll REALTOR® 209.320.2743 DRE#0123448 www.c21mm.com SMARTER. BOLDER. FASTER.
 RYAN ANDERSON (925) 371-RYAN (7926) www.371RYAN.com ryan@371ryan.com DRE #0194527217 371-RYAN Real Estate Sales	 Rebecca L. Evans REALTOR® Lic.#01438025 REBECCALEVANS.COM REBEC.I@COMCAST.NET LIVERMORE VALLEY REAL ESTATE SPECIALIST 925.784.2870 1790 FIRST STREET, LIVERMORE

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

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

HEALTH VALLEYCARE HEALTH SYSTEM Visit Us At www.valleycare.com	CONSTRUCTION KITCHENS CABINET REFACING BATHROOMS ROOM ADDITIONS ALL TYPES OF REMODELING Call For A Free Estimate (925) 560-1020 SERVING YOUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1990 CORRAL CONSTRUCTION, CO. Bonded & Insured Lic#586127 www.corral-construction.com	FEED SUPPLY BJ CATTLE & FEED SUPPLY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hay & Bagged Grain • Elk Grove Stable Mix • Buckaroo Leather Products • Mallard Creek Bedding • Hawkings Panels and Stalls We deliver & stack and more! (925) 960-9074 Take N. Livermore under freeway to Manning to Carneal Road 6 miles Hours: Wed - Sat 9am to 5pm, Sun 9am to 4pm, Closed Mon & Tue	EYE CARE VALLEY EYECARE CENTER Medical Associates Specializing in complete eye care Pleasanton (925) 460-5000 Livermore (925) 449-4000
PLUMBING IceMaker FILTERS AQUA-PURE 15% OFF DUBLIN PLUMBING 6883 Village Parkway, Dublin, 828-2010	<p>TO PLACE AN AD IN THE BUSINESS DIRECTORY, CALL 243-8000</p>		

Supervisor Haggerty Helps Open Heart Kitchen Feed the Hungry

Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty spent a morning giving back to the community he represents. Beginning at 9:30am on Tuesday, November 27, 2012, Supervisor Haggerty cleaned, prepared and served 240 hot meals to people in need through the Open Heart Kitchen Program at Asbury United Methodist Church on East Avenue in Livermore.

The Supervisor worked side-by-side a handful of regular volunteers including Gale Van de Roovaart, a self-proclaimed "professional volunteer." Van de Roovaart has volunteered her time every Tuesday and Wednesday through the Open Heart Kitchen program for the last 10 years. Often working up to 10-hour shifts, she cooks, cleans, serves and guides various volunteer groups through the motions of preparing and serving hot meals to the masses— sometimes 500 meals per day. Meals are prepared from food items and cooking supplies all donated to the program. Van de Roovaart says that she feels good about what she does, and as long as she is able, she will continue volunteering her time to help people in need within her community.

Supervisor Haggerty believes spending time with the volunteers of Open Heart Kitchen and some of his constituents in need to be the greatest gift he can both give, and receive. "Working face-to-face and hands-on with the people I often serve from a distance, I believe can be the greatest reminder of why I do what I do. I try to volunteer as often as my schedule will allow. Each time that I do, I come away with a revived spirit and sense of community. Taking the opportunity to serve the community in a much different way reinforces a new perspective on the importance of my role within the community. I truly admire people like Gale Van de Roovaart and all of the regular volunteers at Asbury United Church and Open Heart Kitchen for what they do for their community. It's hard work!" said Haggerty.

Supervisor Haggerty has also launched a holiday food and toy drive. Any food items and unwrapped toys



Supervisor Scott Haggerty serves up food at Open Heart Kitchen.

dropped off at the Supervisor's district office, located on the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton, between now and December 20th will be donated to the Open Heart Kitchen and Abode Services organizations, both serving families and individuals in need in the Tri-Valley.

Lastly, the Supervisor would like to invite all of his

constituents, commissioners and local elected officials to come out to his office on the Alameda County Fairgrounds for a Holiday Open House on December 18. The event will be an informal meet and greet complete with light refreshments. The historic Heritage House (the Supervisor's office building) will be adorned with holiday lights and décor. All are

welcome to come out, take pictures and share in its beauty. Holiday lights and décor are provided by Jim and Brandy Theofanopoulos of the Screen Machine in Livermore.

For more information on the holiday open house, please contact Supervisor Haggerty's Outreach Coordinator at (925) 551-6995.

Commerical Solar Program Would Help Veterans

Another company, Vista Solar has agreed to join the program supporting veterans education at Las Positas College. The program, initiated by The Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Livermore Rotary Club is called RAVE, for "Rotary Assisting Veterans Education."

Complementing other solar company's focus on donations tied exclusively to residential solar, Vista Solar specializes exclusively on commercial solar. From now until the end of February 2013, any Tri-Valley based commercial solar installation which comes to Vista Solar from RAVE will generate a donation of \$20 per kiloWatt (kW). Their goal is to donate \$20,000 based on installing 1,000kW's.

For reference, a typical 20,000sf single story commercial building, now spending \$2,000/mo for electricity would hold approx 75kW's, lower their cost of electricity 10-30% (no capital required), while generating a \$1,500 donation to RAVE — whereas a

building spending \$10,000/mo would expect to see comparable cost savings and generate a \$7,500 donation.

According to Rotary program leader Don Tishman, the Vista Solar donations are coming out of marketing funds, which they would have otherwise spent with larger media companies. "I am pleased that these funds will go to much better use supporting Rotary's local community program assisting Veterans education at Las Positas College. I've had solar for several years so I know it is simply a cleaner and lower cost alternative. Since the Vista offer is targeted towards commercial building owners or their long term tenants, RAVE needs everyone's help spreading the word. Please think about all the business owners you know who could benefit, and ask that they join the cause."

For more information contact Don Tishman at dvt@tishmangroup.com, Rob Blatecky at robert@vista-solar.com, or Todd Steffan at tsteffan@laspositascollege.edu.

ONE NIGHT IN PARIS

A Casbah Café presentation



From
French Café
Music to
French Quarter
Duo
Gadjo

Sunday,
December 16th,
6:00 pm

Their music celebrates the union of two cultures, largely inspired by the sounds of 20's and 30's, when jazz was the thing and Paris was the place to be.

Casbah café
MEDITERRANEAN KITCHEN & BAR

1770 First Street, Livermore (925) 243-1477
Please call for Reservation

Surefire Flashlights The Outdoorsman's Choice In Flashlights



DOM'S
OUTDOOR OUTFITTERS

1870 First St., Livermore
(925) 447-9629 • domsoutdoor.com

NOW OVER 150 GIFT CARDS for the holidays.

Visit Simon Guest Services for more information.



American Express® Simon Giftcards can be used anywhere American Express® Cards are accepted in the US.

Quick Lane™

TIRE & AUTO CENTER

ALL MAKES AND MODELS

Service/Shop/Courtesy Shuttle
Have your car serviced while you shop at Paragon Outlets



THE WORKS FUEL SAVER PACKAGE

NOW REGULARLY \$39.95

\$19.95

Lube, Oil & Filter and Tire Rotation

PLUS 21 Point Inspection

- Brake Inspection • Fluid Top-Off
- Battery Test • Filter Check • Belts & Hoses Check

*Domestic Vehicles Only. Minimum charge of \$19.95. Price is based on 5 quarts of oil plus tax and hazardous waste disposal fees. Excludes diesels, hybrids, modified, RV's, and performance vehicles. Full synthetic oil extra. Call for details. Exp. 12/31/12.

Complete Brake Service

\$179.95

- PADS - Motocraft® brake pads or shoes
- ROTOR or DRUM MACHINING

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

Fuel Saver Special

\$169.95

FREE 21 point inspection

- Lube, Oil & Filter
- Replace Oil Filter
- Replace Air Filter
- Replace Fuel Filter

- Rotate 4 Tires
- Check Brakes
- Check Belts & Hoses
- Fuel Conditioner
- Test Battery
- Top Off Fluids

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

Your RV & Trailer Full Service Center

Call & Ask for Paul at (925) 456-1205



2266 Kitty Hawk Rd., Livermore • (925) 294-7700 • Hours: Mon-Fri 7-5, Sat 8-3

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

American Express® Simon Giftcards®. Use only at US merchants that accept American Express Cards except cruise lines and casinos. Not for use at ATMs or for recurring payments. Not redeemable for cash. No fees after purchase. For more information, customer service, or Cardholder Agreement visit simongiftcard.com or call 1-800-331-5479. Issued by American Express Prepaid Card Management Corporation.



STONERIDGE SHOPPING CENTER

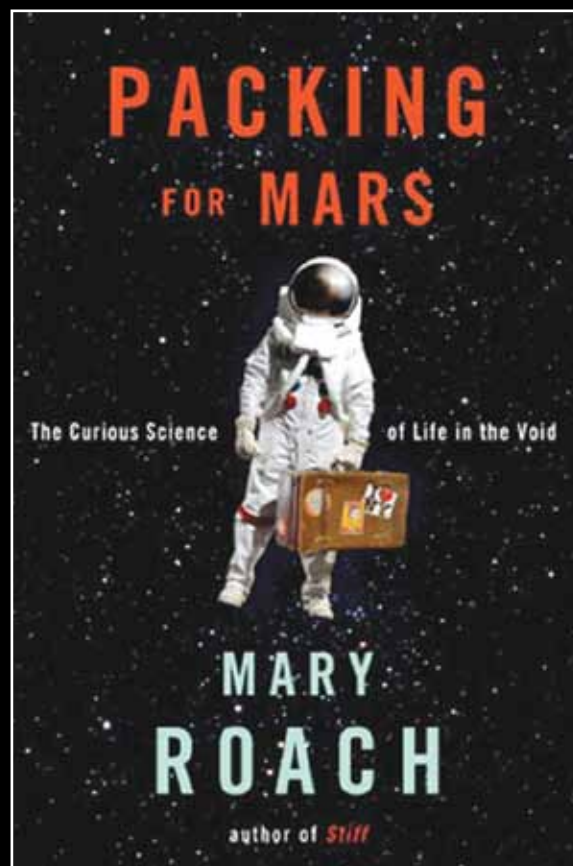
Located in Pleasanton at the intersection of I-680 and I-580.
Shopping Line® 925.463.2778



more choices®

simon.com

THE INDEPENDENT • SECTION A



Pictured, starting lower left and moving clockwise, are Livermore Reads (page 2); Josh (page 4); Flash Cadillac (page 3); and An Evening with . . . (page 5)

Author Mary Roach Talk Kicks Off *Livermore Reads Together 2013*; Variety of Activities Planned

The kick off event for Livermore Reads Together 2013 will be held Sunday, January 27, 2013 at the Livermore Public Library starting at 2pm. The featured speaker is Mary Roach, author of *Packing for Mars: The Curious Science of Life in the Void*.

Livermore Reads Together 2013 is a community reading program, featuring Roach's book. The community of Livermore is encouraged to read *Packing for Mars*, and join their neighbors by participating in free events related to space exploration and Mars during the month of February 2013. Copies of books and event schedules will be available at all Livermore Public Library locations.

Author Mary Roach is game for just about anything. In *Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers*, she explored the postmortem life of human bodies donated for scientific research. For her second book, *Spook: Science Tackles the Afterlife*, Roach investigated reincarnation, clairvoyants, near-death experiences, and more. Roach delved into sex research, sexual devices, and the scandal of William Masters and Virginia Johnson for her third book, *Bonk: The Curious Coupling of Science and Sex*.

In *Packing for Mars: The Curious Science of Life in the Void*, Roach turns her insatiable curiosity to the physical and mental challenges astronauts face during space flight, and scientists'



Author Mary Roach

attempts to find solutions to those vexing problems. When they couldn't gather necessary collision data from crash dummies, Orion spacecraft engineers used dead bodies. Roach describes the engineers' efforts to put a freshly thawed cadaver into a mock spacecraft: "Think of wrestling a comatose drunk into a taxicab." Roach displays her trademark aplomb when discussing human waste disposal and nausea control. She even volunteered for a spin on NASA's "Vomit Comet," a C-9 transport plane modified to fly in parabolas and simulate the experience of weightlessness outside of orbit.

Roach doesn't shy away from touchy subjects. She won't spare any details, no matter how intimate, bizarre, or macabre they may be. In the *San Francisco Chronicle*, Reyhan Harmanci declared Roach

has "carved out a niche for herself writing irreverently about science for a general audience."

Mary Roach says, "I try to be a massive filtration system, filtering out the less interesting parts up front and condensing it down to the weirdest and funniest parts."

Livermore Reads Together 2013 events include the following (unless noted, events are held at the Civic Center Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave):

- Saturday, February 2 at 2pm: *Folding Spaceships: Origami for Teens* with origamist Jeremy Shafer

- Tuesday, February 5 at 7pm: *Confessions of an Alien Hunter: A Scientist's Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence* with author Seth Shostak

- Saturday, February 9 at 12 noon (The Vine Cinema in Livermore): Classic Movie at the Vine: *Mars Attacks!*, a free showing of

the science fiction comedy directed by Tim Burton

- Sunday, February 10 at 2pm: *Why Do Science From Space?* with Dr. Bill Craig, Payload Manager of NASA's NuSTAR Mission, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

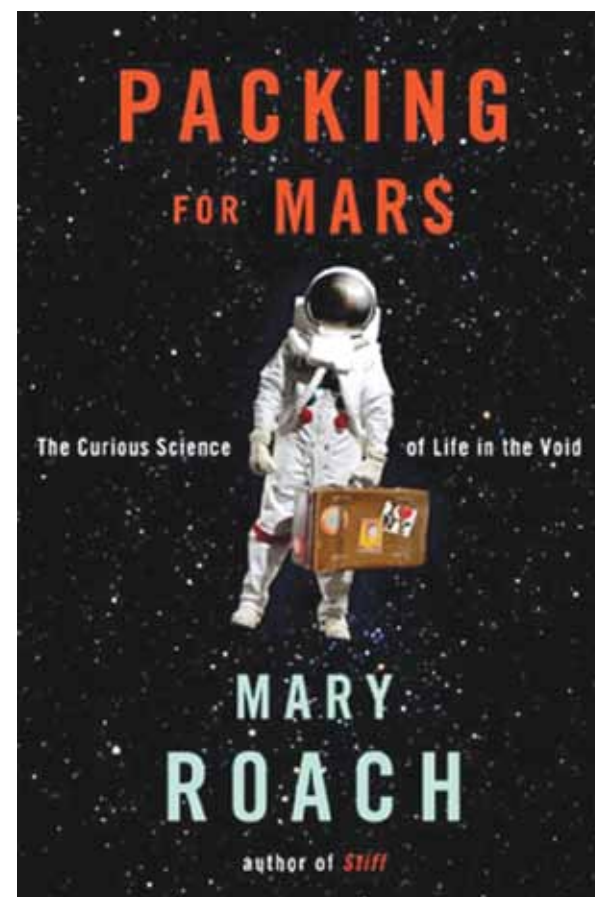
- Tuesday, February 12 at 7pm: *Readers' Theater: Packing for Mars* presented by Shakespeare's Associates

- Saturday, February 16 at 2pm: *Cooking for Geeks: Real Science, Great Hacks, and Good Food* with author Jeff Potter

- Tuesday, February 19 at 7pm: *Astronomy for Everyone: Size & Scale of the Universe* with Dr. Kevin Manning, astrophysicist

- Thursday, February 21 at 7pm: *Left Brain, Right Brain: Visualizing Science Through Art* with Christopher J. Ford, RenderMan Business Director, Pixar Animation Studios

- Saturday, February 23



from 10:30am to 12 noon: *SpaceCrafts! – A Children's Program* with space-related crafts for preschool through grade 3, and have your photo taken as an astronaut.

- Sunday, February 24 at 2pm: *Exploring Mars: Chronicles from a Decade of Discovery* with author Scott Hubbard

- Tuesday, February 26 at 7pm: *The Venusians* featuring global instrumental music

- Wednesday, February 27 at 7pm: *Out of This World Apps*, computer apps that will rock your world!

In addition, several activities will be taking place throughout the month of

February 2013. The Civic Center Library Art Gallery will feature a photographic exhibit titled *Astronauts in Space: Photographs from NASA*. Children can participate in the *Rocket Reader Reading Game* by reading space-themed books to win prizes. Teens can get into the act by joining Livermore Teens Read Together by reading Orson Scott Card's book *Ender's Game* to win prizes.

Livermore Reads Together 2013 is sponsored by The Friends of the Livermore Library. For more information, check the library's website at www.livermorelibrary.net.

Retro Rock and Roll Band Returns for New Year's Eve Celebration

The lively retro rock and roll band Flash Cadillac will again ring out the year at the Bankhead Theater during the fifth Annual LVPAC New Year's Eve Celebration. With a song list of favorites from the 1950s and 1960s such as "Shake Rattle and Roll" and "Peggy Sue," Flash Cadillac will light up the festive evening that includes a complimentary champagne and dessert reception in the lobby immediately following the performance.

For those interested in extending their celebration, LVPAC has collaborated with local businesses to create a special "Sparkling New Year's Eve Celebration Package" for two that adds a dinner before the show and overnight accommodations afterwards.

Flash Cadillac and the Continental Kids arrived on the Colorado club scene in the late 1960s. Clad in black leather jackets with greased-back hair, their energetic old-style rock and roll found instant success entertaining crowds with songs such as "At the Hop" and "I Only Have Eyes for You." After moving to Los Angeles, they caught a lucky break when they were cast as the prom band in the iconic movie, American Graffiti. Participation on the movie's soundtrack led to a recording contract, three Top 100 singles, and landed Flash Cadillac on American Bandstand, The Tonight Show, and the 1950s-themed television show Happy Days in an episode written especially for them. They served as the house band for the syndicated radio show Supergold for many years, but have also continued to perform the irresistible hits of a beloved era in every type of venue, from small nightclubs to symphony pops concerts.

Tickets for New Year's



Eve with Flash Cadillac are either \$55 or \$60 and include the complimentary wine, champagne and dessert post-show reception. The comprehensive "Sparkling New Year's Eve Celebration Package" includes a pair of tickets to the performance and post-show reception, a gourmet three-course dinner at Sanctuary Ultra Lounge across the street from the theater that includes appetizer, salad, entree and a bottle of Livermore Valley wine, and an overnight stay at the Hawthorn Suites by Wyndham (double occupancy) complete with hot buffet breakfast. Other amenities include a com-

plimentary bottle of award-winning Livermore Valley wine, Downtown Guest Pass with discounts to local businesses, and Wine Tasting Card for complimentary or discounted tastings at popular Livermore Valley wineries. A \$399 value, the two-person "Sparkling New Year's Eve Celebration Package" is available on a limited basis for just \$299. For information or to book the package call 373-6800.

New Year's Eve with Flash Cadillac will bring to a close another busy holiday season at the Bankhead Theater. The new years kicks off another with the reigning "Queen of Bluegrass"

Rhonda Vincent. Known for her contemporary approach to classic bluegrass, Vincent's engaging stage presence and flawless vocals are complimented by the lively sound of her mandolin and fiddle. She will appear at the Bankhead Theater for one night only on Thursday, January 3, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets for New Year's Eve with Flash Cadillac and for Rhonda Vincent, as well as all remaining events in the 2012-2013 LVPAC Presents season are available now through the Bankhead Theater ticket office, 2400 First St. downtown Livermore, online at www.bankhead-theater.org or call 373-6800.

BANKHEAD THEATER

SEASON 2012
2013



The Nutcracker

Valley Dance Theatre with the Livermore-Amador Symphony
DEC 14,15,16 2 & 7pm



Amador Valley High School Winter Concert

Orchestra Choir Concert
MON DEC 17 7:30pm

Concert Bands
TUE DEC 18 7:30pm



Moscow Boys Choir Christmas

Christmas Around the World
SAT DEC 22 7:30pm

Big Fat Kiss Off Comedy Show XX

Will Durst and Friends
FRI DEC 28 8pm



New Year's Eve with Flash Cadillac

Retro Rock n Roll
MON DEC 31 8pm



Rhonda Vincent

The New Queen of Bluegrass
THU JAN 3 7:30pm

Mardi Gras Dance Extravaganza

Livermore School of Dance Jazz
FRI JAN 11 7pm

CALL
925.373.6800

CLICK
bankheadtheater.org

COME BY
2400 First Street • Downtown Livermore

Moscow Boys Choir Brings Its Christmas Show to the Bankhead

This holiday season the Bankhead Theater will ring with the sounds of the world-renowned Moscow Boys Choir as they appear in Livermore on their "Christmas Around the World" tour. The program of traditional melodies, folk songs and Christmas classics from many countries will showcase the blend of voices that make the Moscow Boys Choir among Russia's most prestigious all-male choirs.

Tickets for the single performance by the Moscow Boys Choir on Saturday, December 22, 2012 at 8:00 p.m. range from \$43 to \$63 and are just \$14 for students.

Founded in 1957, the Moscow Boys Choir is renowned for their unusually transcendent sound, a remarkable blend of soprano voices with rich, resonant tenor, baritone and bass notes that conveys a distinctively Russian flavor. Current choir director Victoria Smirnova assumed leadership after the unexpected death of Leonid Baklushin whose creativity and enthu-

siasm over the past decade propelled the group to new heights. Both built on the previous work of director Ninel Kambourg, whose 30 years with the Moscow Boys Choir left an enduring legacy of high musical standards and an extensive repertoire that continues today.

In "Christmas Around the World," the precise and lovely harmonies of the Moscow Boys Choir magically transport listeners to distant lands for an enchanting evening of traditional holiday music from a variety of cultures. Remarkably, they sing all works in the original language, whether they are Russian songs, Baroque choral pieces, contemporary works by Leonard Bernstein and Andrew Lloyd Weber, or such familiar Christmas carols such as "Feliz Navidad" and "The Twelve Days of Christmas." Their hauntingly beautiful rendition of the holiday classic "Silent Night" is the highlight of an inspirational and uplifting performance.

Handpicked from hundreds of applicants, each singer in the Moscow Boys Choir is chosen for their musical talent but must have the discipline and dedication to match. Although they may begin training as early as age five, they do not perform in public until at least age nine. The Moscow Boys Choir sings at numerous concerts and festivals throughout the year, participates in operatic productions, and has been welcomed by audiences of all ages around the world. They have made multiple tours throughout the United States, including a special holiday performance for President Clinton at the White House in 1999.

LVPAC Presents features performers in music, dance and other performing arts across a wide range of musical styles and genres throughout the year. "Christmas Around the World" with the Moscow Boys Choir is part of a festive holiday season of music which includes the already sold-out per-



formances of "Chanticleer Christmas" and "Willie K's Hawaiian Christmas" during the same week. The Bankhead Theater will bring 2012 to a close with the annual LVPAC New Year's Eve celebration featuring

the good-time 50's and 60's tunes of Flash Cadillac on Dec. 31 at 8:00 p.m. Tickets for all shows in the 2012-2013 LVPAC Presents are available now through the Bankhead Theater box office.

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



"Josh," a seasoned performer, will make his 17th appearance in "Through Mary's Eyes" at Trinity Church.

Trinity Church Continues Tradition of Live Nativity

"Josh" is looking forward to his 17th appearance in Trinity Church's 22nd annual presentation of the story of Jesus' birth in Livermore.

The story of Jesus birth, titled "Through Mary's Eyes," is told in six scenes featuring live actors and animals. Guests view the presentation from the comfort of their own cars while listening to the actor dialog on their car radios. Each year, for 21 years, over 2,000 people have attended the show.

The members of Trinity will fill some 800 positions necessary to accomplish the production. The presentation has become a Christmas

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

The Live Drive-Through Nativity story will be presented four nights, December 13 through 16 from 7 to 9 p.m..

The presentation has been expanded this year with interpreters for the Deaf available at traffic control and greeting locations and all scenes are translated for the Deaf guests during the performances between 7 pm and 8:15 pm on Thursday, December 13th. For the Spanish, the actor narration is also presented in Spanish.

"Working with children and live animals in the scenes has its challenges", says Bob Boyd, this year's Nativity Director, "so every year and every scene is different than it was the year before." We bring in sheep and a donkey from local ranches and llamas are outfitted with humps to serve as camels.

Pastor Dr. James Meek says, "This is our Christmas gift to the community, to help them celebrate the true meaning of Christmas!"

The church is located at 557 Olivina Avenue in Livermore; www.trinity-livermore.org; (925) 447-1848. All are welcome.

Museum on Main's 2013 'An Evening With . . .' Series Begins with An Evening with George Burns

Museum on Main has announced performers and speakers for the 2013 Ed Kinney Series *An Evening With . . .* at the Firehouse Arts Center beginning in January. In the *An Evening With . . .* presentations, audiences come face to face with people making history today as well as actors who look and sound as if they have stepped out from the pages of history books.

"There's something very special about getting up close with characters from the past," notes Director of Education and coordinator of the series, Jennifer Amiel. "In this style of performance, also known as Chautauqua, the performer is in character from the moment they step onto the stage. They even answer questions in character. It's especially fun when the audience asks questions about events that happened after the character would no longer be alive."

2013 schedule includes:

An Evening with George Burns- Tuesday, January 8th, 7pm

At 100 years young, George Burns left a legacy of laughs as one of the few entertainers whose career spanned vaudeville, film, radio, and television. Join film and Broadway actor Duffy Hudson in this musically entertaining portrayal of the beloved cigar smoking comedian.

An Evening from A Grandmother's Perspective- Tuesday, February 12th, 7pm

In recognition of Black History Month, Ann Collins takes the stage to examine the Civil War through World War II including perspectives of African American women during those trying years. With a degree in speech and theatre, Collins enjoys presenting to Bay Area audiences year-round.

An Evening with Lady Carolyn- Tuesday, March 12th, 7pm

Celebrate Women's History Month with Carolyn Runnells, as the lovely Lady Carolyn. Lady Carolyn weaves her way through the threads of history by wearing and displaying clothing that brings history to life. Runnells entertains as she shares stories about people who wore the clothing and the occasions and special circumstances in which they were worn.

An Evening with Titanic Expert Richard Shaw- Tuesday, April 2nd, 7pm

From the depths of the Atlantic come stories of heartbreak and heroism. Join Titanic Expert Richard Shaw for stories of day-to-day activities on the Titanic as well as the famous and not-so-famous tales of passengers and crew.

An Evening with Dr. Yee- Tuesday, May 14th, 7pm

In honor of Asian-Pacific Islander Month we welcome Dr. Yee, a historical Chinese herbalist who immigrated to the United States during the Gold Rush in 1850. Yee is best known for his successful treatment of Leland Stanford's ill wife. Dr. Yee is portrayed by Charlie Chin.

An Evening with Voices from the Civil War- Tuesday, June 11th, 7pm

Brother and sister performing team, Ethan and Alyssa Foster return to represent opposing sides of the American Civil War. Ethan takes the stage as politician and political theorist for the south, John C. Calhoun. Alyssa will step into the spotlight as abolitionist and Yankee spy, Elizabeth Van Lew.

An Evening with Babe Ruth- Tuesday, July 9th, 7pm



Summertime wouldn't be the same without baseball and baseball wouldn't be the same without Babe Ruth. The Bambino is portrayed by Frank Mullen, a journalism teacher at the University of Nevada and performer of historical characters to audiences nationwide.

An Evening with Pleasanton Firefighters- Tuesday, August 13th, 7pm

From the all volunteer Pleasanton Fire Department of the 1880s to the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department of today, local firefighters continue to be heroes in the community. Join past and present firefighters as they share their experiences and memories through the years. Historic fires, such as Castlewood Country Club and Ruby Hill Winery, will be discussed along with various memorable, and sometimes humorous, emergency incidents from the past.

An Evening with P. T.



Pictured are (top photo) Frank Mullen as Babe Ruth; and Charlie Chin as Dr. Yee.

Barnum- Tuesday, September 10th, 7pm

Credited for coining the phrase, "There is a sucker born every minute," Phineas Taylor Barnum was an American showman, businessman, scam artist, entertainer and is credited for founding the circus that became the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. Barnum is portrayed by Doug Mishler, author of *A History of the Ringling Brothers Circus* and Ph.D. in American cultural history.

An Evening with Flutist Annie Wu- Tuesday, October 8th, 7pm

Enjoy a dynamic evening of solo flute by Foothill High School student, Annie Wu. Earning first place awards in national competitions and playing to audiences across the world, Annie Wu had already played at Carnegie Hall twice by the age of 14. Annie has been a Junior Volunteer with Museum on Main since 2011.

All events are general seating at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. The Tickets are \$10 general admission, \$5 members & seniors, and \$3 students/teachers with ID. Tickets may be purchased at Museum on Main, 603 Main Street, Pleasanton, during regular operating hours or by phoning the museum at (925) 462-2766. Tickets purchased by phone will be available for pick up at Will Call in the lobby of the Firehouse Arts Center on the evening of the event. Tickets may be available at the event subject to availability. Cash, check, Visa and MasterCard accepted.

For more information on the Ed Kinney Series visit www.museumonmain.org or phone Museum on Main at (925) 462-2766.

"The Nutcracker," One of the Magical Moments of the Holiday Season

By Carol Graham

Some of the fundamental delights of the holiday season are colorful lights glowing in the early darkness, carols that suddenly catch in your throat, knowing you've found the perfect gift for someone who means the world to you, and losing yourself in the timeless beauty of The Nutcracker.

With sumptuous costumes and stately settings reflecting an era of courtliness and grace, The Nutcracker weaves its spell of magic that leaves the audience wondering what is real, what is imagined, and what difference it possible makes.

Valley Dance Theatre's 33rd annual full-length, classical production of The Nutcracker opened at the Bankhead on December 8th, and presents its final performances on December 14th, 15th and 16th.

Newly available to over-21 guests this year is the "Nutcracker Sweet" - a festive cocktail blending local Tomas Estate Barbera Port with a Ruby Hill Sparkling Wine offering bright aromas of pear, apple and lemon. Not to be missed.

The performance opens with the Cantabella Children's Chorus. The clear, pure voices of 41 young people sound across the theater, singing a medley of Christmas favorites from tender to playful, beginning and ending with, "I'll be home for Christmas . . . if only in my dreams."

"We've had the Cantabella Chorus perform for at least the last five years," said VDT President Karin Bunnell. "It's our solution to the late comers, and everyone loves them."

The story The Nutcracker tells, for all its



mesmerizing splendor, is actually quite simple. A young girl named Clara receives a nutcracker from her mysterious uncle during a Christmas Eve party. According to German legend, nutcrackers were given as keepsakes to bring good luck. Fierce protectors, nutcrackers bare their teeth to evil spirits and serve as traditional messengers of goodwill.

After the party guests depart and Clara has gone to bed, she creeps back downstairs to see the nutcracker. When the grandfather clock strikes midnight, Clara is startled to see mice appearing from all corners of the living room. She watches in amazement as soldiers and the nutcracker come to life to battle the mice. The fighting reaches a climax when Clara strikes the Mouse King to the floor with her slipper. With their leader fallen, the mice disperse. The victory that Clara has brought about breaks the spell on the nutcracker, transforming him into a gallant prince. Turning to her gratefully, the prince invites Clara to accompany him to the Kingdom of the Sweets, where the Sugar Plum



Photos - Doug Jorgensen
Colorful costumes and sets lend to the magical quality of the dance performance.

believe the first experience with a live performance will be exciting and stimulating - the start of a life-long interest in the magic and vitality of the performing arts. Over the past five years, more than 75,000 students have attended programs at the Bankhead or participated in in-school activities."

The Nutcracker, with its enchanting music and engaging story provides an excellent introduction to live theater. The young people, in fact all ages, at a recent Bankhead performance appeared enthralled. The ballet's lyrical movements, the dazzling costumes and the recognizable music were working their magic.

During the second act, young Clara is entertained in the kingdom by Spanish, Chinese, Arabian and Russian dancers.

"One of my favorite scenes is the Russian Dance," said Burgess. "The music is fast and catchy, plus the audience always claps along and helps make the performance." Young dancer Nicholas Chua, with his coast to coast smile and energetic feats, is a crowd favorite.

But the performance truly belongs to the ethereal beauty of Snow Queen Tory Bettencourt, Waltz of the Flowers' Queen Cheri Wang, and Sugar Plum Fairy Emily Cain - all three whose grace and beauty hold the audience captive as the dancers weave a dream of what Christmas can be.

Valley Dance Theatre's Nutcracker will be performed on Dec. 14, 15 and 16 at the Bankhead Theater in downtown Livermore, 2400 First St.

Information can be found at www.bankhead-theater.org.

Fairy reigns as queen.

Madison Burgess, 23, has been performing with The Nutcracker every year for two decades. "I started as the littlest rosebud and worked my way up to Sugar Plum Fairy," said the San Jose State University graduate student of history. "Even when I was injured I played in our pit orchestra and helped backstage with props."

The cast, all volunteers, range in age from four to 83. "Almost everybody in the show is in high school," noted Burgess. "Yet they perform the same choreography that professionals do."

This year, the production featured several performances by Livermore Mayor John Marchand. "There is something magical about live theater," noted the mayor, whose wife teaches at Jackson Avenue School. "My wife brought her students to the Bankhead to see special performances presented every year for school children. For many of those children, it was their first live performance.

Len Alexander, Executive Director of the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center, said, "We

Do You Remember?

By Anne Homan
Livermore City Historian



Aunt Lizzie Oliver

The Livermore-Amador Symphony recently held an estate sale. One of the items sold was a photograph portrait of “Aunt Lizzie.” I understand that many people at the sale did not know of her.

On his original 1869 plot map of the town of Livermore, William M. Mendenhall named Lizzie Street (now South Livermore Avenue) in honor of his oldest daughter, who was 17 years old at the time. Another Lizzie, Lizzie Oliver, came to Livermore about 1871. She built a little white cottage at the northeast corner of Second and Lizzie, where Joan Boer imagined that “she watched the world go by from her porch rocker.” Before old age confined her to the rocker, however, the “slender, white-haired woman, slightly stooped, wearing a triangular shawl over a long full dress” was a “familiar figure” in Livermore, according to Zylpha Bernal Beck, a longtime resident. Mrs. Oliver wore a bonnet or a wide-brimmed straw hat and used a crooked cane made of manzanita wood. Townspeople affectionately called the eccentric character “Aunt Lizzie.”

As time went by, people began to associate her name with that of the street. She died in 1903. Her obituary in the *Herald* said that she built the first house on Lizzie Street, “which was named in her honor.” So, there we are—with two conflicting ideas about the naming of the street. City fathers unintentionally

removed the dilemma by changing the street’s name to “South Livermore Avenue” in 1927. Leona McGlinchey complained, “The people of Livermore had decided the name ‘Lizzie’ was not sophisticated enough.”

Eliza “Lizzie” Boggs Oliver was born in 1818 in what would become West Virginia. When she was a few years old, her family moved to Missouri. Her uncle, Lilburn Boggs, became the lieutenant-governor (1832-1836), then governor of Missouri (1836-1841), and then state senator (1842-1846). Her father, Lawrence Boggs, was a part of this political circle. He became a wealthy man and was lavish in his hospitality; prominent Missourians were frequently guests at his home. Upset by Governor Lilburn Boggs’s decision to expel the Mormons from the state, a Mormon fanatic shot Boggs in the head with a shotgun in 1842, but he managed to survive. According to her obituary, “In her old age, Mrs. Oliver was fond of speaking of her acquaintance with well-known pioneer politicians, preachers, and lawyers, and she told many interesting anecdotes of men who afterward became of national importance.”

In 1846 Lilburn Boggs and his family traveled to California by wagon train. When they arrived in Sonoma, Mariano Vallejo hosted them at his Petaluma hacienda for some months. Lilburn Boggs was appointed the *alcalde*

of Sonoma in 1847 and served for two years. After retiring, he ran a general store in Sonoma until 1852 when he moved to his Napa Valley farm where he died in 1860 at the age of 64. He never wholly recovered from the effects of the gunshot wounds. Some of the shot remained in his head, and several shots passed through his neck, tearing up his mouth.

Aunt Lizzie married Louis Oliver in 1833; he died in 1838. The following year she married John Griffin, who died eight years later. They had a son, also named John. For some reason, she chose to use the surname “Oliver” for the rest of her life. We don’t know why or how, but we do know that she came to California in 1861. The railroad did not come cross-country yet, so she probably journeyed by wagon train. She became a cook for two different fam-



Aunt Lizzie Oliver (Photo Livermore Heritage Guild)

ilies. Then she was hired as a cook for a hotel managed by Alexander J. McLeod in Centerville, now a part of Fremont. McLeod moved to Livermore in 1869, and perhaps upon his urging, she came to Livermore two years later, bought property from him, and built her house.

Today’s doctors would be happy that Aunt Lizzie Oliver walked around downtown Livermore,

visiting with locals and getting her exercise for almost 30 years. On 27 May 1900 she fell on the sidewalk and fractured her left hip. Several days later, livery owner Eugene Day and Mrs. Michel drove her to the county infirmary. At first, her recovery seemed uncertain, but she was back at her home by September. About a year later, she sold her house and two weeks after that, she was declared

incompetent by the court. Lawyer George W. Langan of Livermore was declared her guardian. Her obituary said that she had “acquired a small competence upon which she lived until a few months ago.” Because of her failing health and the loss of her funds, she was returned to the infirmary in September 1903. “She welcomed the return to the infirmary and it is said that she was happy and contented during these last few months of her career.” She died at age 85 on 9 November 1903.

In April 1976, in honor of both Lizzies, the Livermore City Council created Lizzie Fountain Park at the northwest corner of Mill Square, after the old Hub Saloon was torn down. In 2001, a project to raise money to repair the fountain offered citizens the opportunity to buy commemorative bricks. More than 350 bricks were engraved and installed around the fountain by June 2001. Many people believe that South Livermore and North Livermore Avenues diverge at the flagpole, but the demarcation line is actually Railroad Avenue.

Correction from last week: Our Savior Lutheran Church was originally at East Avenue and Jensen Street.

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

Library to Host Author of 'Waterhole: A Western Saga'

Author Kurt Adkins will discuss his book *Waterhole: A Western Saga*, at 2pm on Sunday, December 16, 2012 at the Livermore Public Library Civic Center, 1188 S. Livermore Avenue.

Set in the old west during the 1870s, *Waterhole* tells the story of a boy whose mother has mysteriously vanished. The book portrays characters with strong friendships and strong enemies, both of which can last a lifetime. The father-and-son quest for the boy’s

mother evolves into an action-packed coming-of-age tale set in a tumultuous time of dramatic change in the western United States. *Waterhole* takes readers on an adventure from Dodge City, to the Oklahoma and Arizona territories, and out to the San Francisco Bay Area.

Kurt Adkins is a public school teacher whose passion is teaching fiction writing. In the past seven years, Kurt has seen 135 of his students have their works



selected for publication in various student anthologies. *Waterhole* is Kurt’s first novel, and he is presently working on a sequel.

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

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

ART & ENTERTAINMENT



The Carnegie Building in Livermore is a great place to shop for that special holiday gift. The Livermore Heritage Guild (LHG) and the Livermore Art Association (LAA) are featuring hundreds of unique gifts for any budget. LHG offerse books for sale from Livermore history to children's books about the Train of Lights and The Light Bulb, as well as other items. The LAA gallery and gift shop includes paintings and art photographs, ceramics and jewelry to name just a few of the gifts available. The Carnegie Building is located at 2155 Third Street, between J and K streets. Hours are Wednesday through Sunday from 11:30 to 4. The building will be open Dec. 17 and 18. Photo by Jennie McGregor

ART/PHOTO EXHIBITS

Livermore Art Association Gallery, located in the Carnegie Building, offers art classes, unusual gifts, painting rentals, art exhibits and information pertaining to the art field, 2155 Third St., Livermore. The gallery has been open since 1974 and is run as a co-op by local artists. Hours are Wed.-Sun. 11:30-4 p.m. For information call 449-9927.

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

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

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

Works by artist Maryann Kot, "Celebrating Reality," will feature paintings in oil, watercolor, and colored pencil. The show is open Nov. 20 through Jan.

20, 2013 at the Prudential CA Realty, 1780 First St., Livermore. For office hours contact Cher Wollard 925-824-4824 cherv@cherv.com

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

Art Happens, Dec. 13, 6 to 8 p.m. on downtown Livermore. Carolers and holiday cheer at the Downtown Art Studios plus other events throughout downtown. More information is available at bothwellartscenter.org.

Livermore Art Association winter show, January 1-31 at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. Information at cheshirkat@mac.com.

California Watercolor Association Juried Exhibit, Jan. 17-Feb. 16, Harrington Gallery at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. Opening reception, Jan. 19, 1 to 3 p.m. www.firehousearts.org or 931-4848.

MEETINGS/CLASSES

Figure Drawing Workshop, every Friday 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Artists bring their own materials and easels. Open to all artists. Professional artist models (nude). No instructor. Students under 18 need written parental permission to attend. Cost \$20 per session. Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 8th St., Livermore. Coffee, tea and refreshments are avail-

able. Call or email Barbara Stanton for more info about the workshop, 925-373-9638 - microangelo@earthlink.net.

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

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

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

Livermore Art Classes, Artist and art instructor, Thomasin Dewhurst offers art instruction to children and adults. Classes cover painting, drawing, sculpture, ceramics, collage, animation and construction. For further information please call (925) 216-7231 email thomasin_d@hotmail.com or visit <http://childrensartclassesprojects.blogspot.com>

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

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

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

WINERY EVENTS

Cuda Ridge Wines and First Street Wine Company has teamed up with Danville Chocolates for "Taste Our Terroir" of Livermore Valley. On Thursday, December 13th from 5:00 - 8:00 PM, Cuda Ridge will taste the new release wines produced from premier vineyards of Livermore Valley. Danville Chocolates, located within the Livermore AVA (American Viticulture Area), has produced truffles from the newly released Cuda Ridge wines. Cuda Ridge winemaker, Larry Dino, will be on hand to sign bottles. The Wine and Chocolate pairing is \$10.00. All the new release wines will be available for purchase. The Truffle pairing will be available to the first 40 people. First Street Wine Company is located at 2211 First Street in downtown Livermore, near the flagpole.

BrushStrokes and Wine Notes, McGrail Vineyards and Winery in Livermore, Sat., Dec. 15, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Artist Sharon Costello will teach participants how to pain to use as a gift or to hang on the wall. Advanced reservations are required and limited to the first 20 people. Tickets are \$50/person includes all supplies and a glass of wine. To purchase tickets, please visit: brushstrokesandwinenotes.com.

Riedel Wine Presentation and Tasting Riedel Vinum XL Glasses, McGrail Vineyards and Winery in Livermore, Thurs., Dec. 20, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Sylvie Laly, from Riedel will demonstrate the relationship between the shape of a glass and perception of enjoyment. After the tasting, to take home a set of 4 Vinum XL Riedel Wine Glasses (Retail for \$123). Tickets are required at \$75 per person; \$60 for club members. Purchase tickets at www.mcgrailvineyards.com

MUSIC/CONCERTS

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

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

Tri-Valley Medieval and Renaissance Collegium playing session for amateur musicians, Peter Maund, director. Mondays 7:30-9:30 p.m. 7600 Dublin Blvd., suite 370, Dublin. \$25. Information collegium2011@gmail.com or 925-424-1209 or 925-984-4395

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

Tingstad & Rumbel, Grammy-winning acoustic duo Eric Tingstad (finger-picking guitar) and Nancy Rumbel (oboe, English horn and double ocarina)

holiday mix of original and cover tunes including Tex-Mex stylings, Caribbean rhythms and Americana. Saturday, December 15 at 8 p.m. \$15, \$20, \$25; child \$12, senior \$22; group discounts available. Tickets available at www.firehousearts.org, 925-931-4848, or at the Firehouse Arts Center box office, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton.

A Veri Jeri Christmas: Jeri Sager, Broadway star of Cats, Evita, and Les Miserables, brings Holiday Show to Firehouse Arts Center for one performance only. Sunday, December 16, 2 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue in downtown Pleasanton. Tickets \$18, \$23, \$28; child \$12; senior \$25; group discounts available. Tickets available at www.firehousearts.org, 925-931-4848, or at the center Box Office.

Amador Valley High School, Orchestra/Choir Concert, evening of classical orchestral pieces, contemporary choral songs, and instrumental and vocal jazz. Mon., Dec. 17, 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Amador Valley High School, Band Winter Concert, bands present an evening of music featuring the talents of over 250 musicians in four concert bands, jazz band and chamber ensembles. 7:30 p.m. Tues., Dec. 18, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org, 373-6800.

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

The Livermore High School Tri-M Music Honor Society will be hosting a winter benefit concert on Wednesday, December 19, at 7 pm in the Livermore High School theater, 600 Maple Street, Livermore. This concert will feature student musicians from Livermore and Granada High Schools. Admission is free, but donations to support music programs in the schools are welcome. Tri-M will also be collecting toys, which will be donated to Toys for Tots. The public is invited to come listen to some amazing young musicians and help support music in the schools.

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

Willie K's Hawaiian Christmas, Dec. 21, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Moscow Boys Choir Christmas, Dec. 22, 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

New Year's Eve with Flash Cadillac, Dec. 31, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Rhonda Vincent, bluegrass, Jan. 3, 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org

or 373-6800.

Happy Birthday Elvis! With Jim Anderson & The Rebels, Jan. 5, 8 p.m. and 6, 2 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org or 931-4848.

Manzarek-Rogers Band, Blues-Rock, Jan. 12, 8 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org

Tom Wopat, Jan. 12, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

John McCutcheon, Sunday, January 13, 2013, Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Avenue, Livermore. www.asburylivepresents.com, 925-447-1950.

Cypress String Quartet, Dvorak's Voices, Jan. 13, 2 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org

Audie Blaylock and Redline, Bluegrass, Jan. 18, 8 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org

Gary Mule Deer, Jan. 22, 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

International Guitar Night, Jan. 23, 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

ON THE STAGE

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

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

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

Princess Ida, Lamplighters Music Theater performs Gilbert & Sullivan, Sat., Jan. 9, 8 p.m. and Sun., Jan. 10 at 2 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

The Full Monty, Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre mainstage musical, weekends Jan. 19 to Feb. 3, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Rent, Pacific Coast Repertory Theater, weekends Jan. 25 to Feb. 10, 8 p.m.

ART & ENTERTAINMENT



The Amador Valley High School performing groups plan two evenings of classical orchestral pieces, contemporary choral songs, and instrumental and vocal jazz at the Bankhead Theater on Dec. 17 and 18. See listings for more information.

Fri. & Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org or 931-4848.

Avner the Eccentric. A master of the art of physical comedy. Jan. 29, 7 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

California Theatre Center, Miss Nelson Is Missing, 9:30 and 11 .m., Jan. 30, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Includes lesson guide. www.ctcinc.org, 800-606-0424.

COMEDY

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

Comedy@ Firehouse Arts, Dennis Regan, headliner, G. King, opener, Wednesday, January 9, 2013 at 7:30 pm. Firehouse Arts Center is located at 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. For tickets, call 931-4848 or go to www.firehousearts.org or 931-4848.

DANCE

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

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

Mardi Gras Dance Festival, Livermore

School of Dance, Jazz, Fri., Jan. 11, 7 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

AUDITIONS/COMPETITIONS

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

2013 Livermore Valley Wine Country

Photo Contest, enter for a change to win a one-year membership to Livermore Valley Wine Country (that means complimentary tastings for two at more than 40 wineries!), 2 tickets to Barrel Tasting Weekend (March 23 & 24, 2013) with a one-night stay at Hawthorn Suites (March 23, 2013). For entry information and entry form, go to the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association website at www.lvwine.org


HORAL

Las Positas College choir, orchestra and wind ensemble perform choruses from Handel's *Messiah* and other seasonal favorites. Thurs., Dec. 13, 7:30 p.m. Las Positas College Barbara Mertes Center for the Arts, 3000 Cam-

pus Hill Dr., Livermore. Advance tickets at www.brownpapertickets.com or call 1-800-838-3006. Further information at 424-1100 or www.laspositascollege.edu/performingarts

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

Cantabella Children's Chorus, winter holiday concert, *Counting the Joys of Christmas*, Saturday, December 15 at 1:00 and 3:30 PM. at Our Savior Lutheran Ministries, 1385 S. Livermore Ave, Livermore. For the 21st year in a row, this musical celebration of the season will feature children aged kindergarten through high school performing choral music accompanied by professional chamber musicians and fine harpist, Dan Levitan. Repertoire includes traditional carols sung in English, French, Latin and Spanish, as well as not so familiar gems in Basque, Hebrew and by composers such as Leonard Bernstein, Zoltan Kodaly and R. Vaughan Williams. Audience participation. Tickets are \$8-\$20. For information and ticket purchase, go to Cantabella.org/tickets.



THE
NEPTUNE SOCIETY
OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

2177 Las Positas Ct, Ste. K, Livermore CA 94551
(925) 454-1974
www.neptune-society.com
Angie Apolinar, Branch Director FD#1823

Ohlone College Chamber Singers, 27th Annual Christmas at the Mission: Hark How the Bells, Ohlone Chamber Singers in collaboration with the Celebration Chimes Bell Choir from the First Presbyterian Church of Livermore, and harpist Dan Levitan. Levitan will perform with the Chamber Singers in the featured work for the concert, Benjamin Britten's "The Ceremony of Carols." Conducted by Michael Morris. Dec. 15, 8 p.m. and Dec. 16, 4 p.m. Old Mission San Jose, 43300 Mission Blvd., Fremont. Advance tickets \$10-\$12. 510-659-6031 or online at www.smithcenter.com

OPERA

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

MISCELLANEOUS

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

We're Talkin' Books! Club is a member-centered book group led by a small group of book club veterans, with reading selections based on member recommendations and consensus. No homework required—share your insights or just listen in! Contact Susan at 337-1282 regarding the *We're Talkin' Books! Club*.

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

of Third and Church St., Livermore. journeytolivingbethlehem@gmail.com 510-377-9711

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

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

Historic photos sought, Pleasanton art patrons, Nancy and Gary Harrington, have created a historical mural of Pleasanton's pioneer founders. They have been unable to find any photos

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

An Evening with George Burns, Tues., Jan. 8, 7 p.m. Museum on Main Ed Kinney Lecture series, Actor Duffy Hudson performs. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.

Granada High Seeking Donations for Adopt A Family

Granada High School students in coordination with the California Highway Patrol invite local Livermore businesses and local Livermore residents to participate in Granada High School's Adopt a Family program.

Granada High School has adopted approximately 40 families in need within the Livermore School District. These families have suffered tragedies and are experiencing other hardships.

Granada High School is accepting donations of new and gently used coats, clothing and general necessities, as well as gift cards and monetary donations.

Granada High Schools Mrs. Newkirk advised, "This is the first year that toys were not specifically requested, but are very much appreciated."

Donations can be delivered to Granada High School located at 400 Wall St., Monday thru Friday from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm through December 21. For additional information contact CHP Officer Cynthia Segundo at (510)455-0548.

All items will personally be delivered to each family by the California Highway Patrol and the students at Granada High School prior to December 25.



Kenneth Billheimer, Au.D.
Audiologist/Hearing Aid Specialist

Sierra Brower, Au.D.
Audiologist/Hearing Aid Specialist

Jacque Pedraza
Hearing Aid Specialist

Are You Hearing And Understanding The Sounds of Life?

HEARING SERVICES

<p>Pleasanton 4460 Black Ave, #F 484-3507</p>	<p>Livermore 1524 Holmes St, #D 960-0391</p>
---	--

www.pleasantonhearingservices.com

Milestones Community

Lab Employees Selected as Fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's (LLNL) Christopher Keane and Jane Long have been awarded the distinction of fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

Election as a fellow is an honor bestowed upon AAAS members by their peers to recognize distinguished efforts to advance science or its applications. This year, AAAS awarded 702 members with this honor.

Keane is being recognized for "distinguished technical and scientific leadership in developing inertial confinement fusion and high energy density science, and leading a robust global science community in this area."

Keane serves as director of the National Ignition Facility's (NIF) User Office at LLNL. He received bach-

elor's degrees in both physics and engineering from the University of Rochester and a doctorate in plasma physics from Princeton University. Following this, Keane joined the Inertial Confinement Fusion Program at LLNL, performing computational and experimental research in X-ray lasers, inertial confinement fusion and ultra-high intensity laser-matter interaction.

Keane joined the Department of Energy (DOE) in 1996 as associate director of the Office of Inertial Fusion within the Office of Defense Programs. In 2000, he was named director of the Division of Secondaries and Inertial Fusion within the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA). He was appointed to the Senior Executive Service in April 2004 concurrent with his selection as the NNSA as-

sistant deputy administrator for Inertial Fusion and the NIF Project. Keane rejoined LLNL in September 2007.

He has increased the scientific collaborative efforts of U.S. inertial confinement fusion and high energy density science research in the United States and internationally. He also is the author of more than 100 scientific publications and has given numerous invited talks at major international conferences and other meetings. He has chaired or co-chaired numerous committees associated with developing the fields of inertial confinement fusion and high energy density science.

Keane is a member of the American Physical Society and a recipient of the NNSA Silver Medal, NNSA Defense Programs Award of Excellence and Fusion Power Associates Special

Award.

Jane Long, who recently retired from LLNL, has been recognized by AAAS for "distinguished contributions to assessing the societal implications of technology development, including in areas of climate change, geoengineering, nuclear waste and energy technology."

Long is a senior contributing scientist for the Environmental Defense Fund, visiting researcher at UC Berkeley, consultant for geoengineering at the Bipartisan Policy Center and chairwoman of the California Council on Science and Technology's (CCST) California's Energy Future committee.

At the Laboratory, Long was the principal associate director at large and fellow in the LLNL Center for Global Strategic Research

and the associate director for Energy and Environment. Her current work is in strategy for climate change including reinvention of the energy system, adaptation and geoengineering.

Long credits former LLNL Director George Miller as part of the reason she received the AAAS fellowship. Miller assigned her to be associate director at large with a job description he summed up as "do what's right."

"In doing this, he gave me a highly unusual chance to develop projects in energy and climate change that are important for society but very difficult to fund," Long said. "I am very grateful for what George Miller did, and feel this award is some recognition of having made good use of the opportunity."

In addition to the AAAS

fellowship, Long has earned many other honors including being named Alum of the Year in 2012 by the Brown University School of Engineering; associate of the National Academies of Science (NAS) and a senior fellow of the California Council on Science and Technology (CCST) and the Breakthrough Institute.

Prior to coming to Livermore, Long was the dean of the Mackay School of Mines with academic departments in geological sciences, mining engineering and chemical engineering and materials science and engineering as well as the Nevada Seismological Laboratory, the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology and the Keck Museum.

Keane and Long will be honored at the 2013 AAAS Annual Meeting in Boston on Feb. 16.

ValleyCare Surgeon Takes Part in Operation Walk USA 2012

ValleyCare Medical Center orthopaedic surgeon Dr. Aaron Salyapongse will provide free hip and knee replacement surgery for two patients as part of Operation Walk USA 2012. ValleyCare was only one of four hospitals in California participating.

While more than one million hip and knee replacements are performed in the U.S. each year, countless men and women continue to live with severe arthritic pain and immobility because they cannot afford

joint replacement surgery.

Operation Walk USA 2012 provides all aspects of treatment – surgery, hospitalization, and pre-and post-operative care – at no cost to participating patients.

Through Operation Walk USA 2012, 109 orthopaedic surgeons across the U.S. provided free hip or knee replacements to more than 200 individuals in 29 states on December 7, 2012.

Operation Walk USA began in 2011 following the success of Operation Walk, an international volunteer

medical service organization that provides treatment for patients with arthritis and joint conditions throughout the world. To date, more than 6,000 patients have received new knees and hips through the International Operation Walk.

The mission of Operation Walk USA, a non-profit organization, is to encourage and enable joint replacement surgeons to provide mobility and quality of life of uninsured patients in the U.S. suffering from disability of

the hip or knee. They target U.S. citizens and permanent residents who do not qualify for government assistance programs.

"We are pleased to be participating in this humanitarian endeavor," says Marcy Feit, CEO of ValleyCare Health System. "With so many people struggling just to make ends meet, being able to provide this surgery is an opportunity for us to help the uninsured, who are in real pain, get the treatment they need."

Dr. Aaron Salyapongse, the ValleyCare surgeon volunteering to perform the hip and knee replacements, added, "Joint pain can severely affect the daily lives of many individuals, even making walking very difficult. Operation Walk USA 2012 gives us the opportunity to get these folks moving and productive again, and I'm sure will be a rewarding experience for all of us involved."

Operation Walk USA 2012 is a collaborative effort

between three orthopaedic organizations and 49 participating hospitals. Device manufacturers Biomet, DePuy, MAKO Surgical, Smith & Nephew, Stryker, Total Joint Orthopedics (TJO), Inc. and Zimmer donated the hip and knee implants. Ortech Data, Inc. is providing a complimentary data system for Op-WalkUSA patients. Ortech will provide this data to the national arthroplasty registry, the American Joint Replacement Registry.

BULLETIN BOARD

(Organizations wishing to run notices in Bulletin Board, send information to PO Box 1198, Livermore, CA 94551, in care of Bulletin Board or email information to edit-mail@compuserve.com. Include name of organization, meeting date, time, place and theme or subject. Phone number and contact person should also be included. Deadline is 5 p.m. Friday.)

Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club will meet on Thursday, December 13, 6:30 p.m. at Alisal School's multipurpose room, 1454 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. The meeting will begin with a potluck (bring a finger food item) followed by a program by the Garden Club members of 192 public gardens within two hours of Amador Valley. Roger Chapin will show pictures of 42 of these gardens. A holiday boutique of gently used holiday, winter or gift items will be held during the meeting. Visitors are welcome. For more information call Bev at 925-485-7812 or visit www.lavgc.org.

Community Holiday Posada Celebration, Pleasanton/Tulancingo Sister City Association hosting the event Sun., Dec. 16. The Posada is celebrated in Mexico through music, carols, and everyone's participation. Posada program 7 to 8 p.m. followed by dessert and refreshments. Veterans Memorial Building, 301 Main St., Pleasanton. Free admission. All are invited. This is a fun family event with participation from local school students and the Pleasanton community. For more information, contact Sylvia or Jorge Victoria at vjvictoria45@comcast.net or 462-6723.

Diabetes Self-Management Classes, 7-week series will teach how to manage diabetes with exercise, healthy eating and medications. Two locations: Fridays Jan. 11 through Feb. 22, 10 am -11:30 at the Dublin Senior Center and Sundays Jan. 13 through Feb. 24, 2:30-4:30 at Heritage Estates, Livermore. Class is open to adults of all ages (not just Seniors) with pre diabetes or type 2 diabetes. Please call the Alameda County Diabetes Program at 510-383-5185 to register. Space is limited.

Cheerleading Clinic taught by Amador Valley High School Competition Cheer Team, Sat., Jan. 12, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the high school, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. Open to K-8th grade. \$45 preregistered, \$50 at the door, sibling discount available. Includes lunch, snack, instructions and an Amador gift. Parent performance at 3:00 pm. Cheer at an Amador Basketball Game on Friday, January 25. Information, contact Sue Carlstrom at 925-600-7810 or carlstrom5@att.net

Democrat Potluck Party, Tri-Valley Democratic Club, San Ramon Valley Democratic Club & Diablo Valley Democratic Club, Senator Majority Leader Ellen Corbett, Assembly Member Joan Buchanan and Congressman-elect Eric Swalwell will host the seasonal potluck party with music by JUICE. Fri., Dec. 14, 6:30 p.m. IBEW 595, 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin. Meet Democrats and elected officials. Last name A to I please bring side dishes, J to R salads & S to Z desserts. Serving Tri-tip and other main dishes. Please bring some canned or dry food to donate to our local food banks or a warm coat or blanket for "Christmas for Everyone." Volunteer for set up & clean up - contact EllisG237@aol.com & RSVP to SHGold237@aol.com in order to know how many main dishes to order.

Tai Chi, 10 a.m., Dec. 13, 18 and 20. **Chi Kung**, an integration of physical postures, breathing techniques, and focused intentions, 11 a.m. Dec. 13, 18 and 20. **Zumba Gold**, fitness program that combines Latin music and easy-to-follow dance moves. The routines incorporate interval training, alternating fast and slow rhythms and resistance training, 9 a.m. Dec. 13, 20. CareMore Care

Center, 4270 Rosewood Drive, Pleasanton. No cost for any of the programs. No registration required. www.caremore.com

2013 Valley Humane Society Calendar is available for a \$15 donation which helps animals all year long by funding much-needed rescue and rehabilitation programs. 3670 Nevada St., Pleasanton. www.valleyhumane.org.

M.I. Hummel Club, San Francisco Bay Chapter, meets second Saturday of each month at 1 p.m. at a member's home. Guests always welcome. Topics include sharing of Hummel figurine news and information. For information, contact Joan Mumma, club secretary, 447-5164 or www.mumma.org/hummel/

Valley Spokesmen Bicycle Touring Club, Sat., Dec. 8, 35 miles from Livermore over Altamont Pass, meet 9 a.m. at old Nob Hill, Brahm Satoutah, 462-7390. Sun., Dec. 9, 35-60 miles loop from Central Park to Livermore and back, meet 9:30 a.m. in San Ramon, Gail Blanco, 872-1001. Wed., Dec. 12, 35-55 miles, from Heather Farm, meet 9 a.m. Dick Skow, 939-6964. Wed., Dec. 12, 33 miles loop through Blackhawk and Alamo, meet 9 a.m. at Central Park, Dick Ward, 389-6738. Anyone planning to go on a ride is asked to contact the leader for details on where to meet and what to bring.

M.I. Hummel Club, San Francisco Bay Chapter, meets second Saturday of each month at 1 p.m. at a member's home. Guests always welcome. Topics include sharing of Hummel figurine news and information. For information, contact Joan Mumma, club secretary, 447-5164 or www.mumma.org/hummel/

Tri-Valley Rotary collecting and distributing coats to local school age children. Donation of a new or gently used coat for children ages 2-16 will benefit those in need. Adult and infant sized coats will also be accepted. Coats can be dropped off through December 8. Distribution is set for Dec. 15. Collection locations are the following: Club Sport Pleasanton, 7090 Johnson Drive, Pleasanton; Hairlights Salon, 4307 Valley Ave Suite F, Pleasanton; Bank of America Downtown Pleasanton (on Main); Pacific Coast Seed, 533 Hawthorne Place, Livermore; Casse Croute Bakery, 50 S. Livermore Ave (downtown Livermore near intersection with First St.); Coffee Co., 5424 Sunol Boulevard, Pleasanton in Roy's Shopping Center. For information send an email to info@trivalleyrotary.org or contact Bonnie at 443-5450 or visit www.trivalleyrotary.org.

Christmas Potluck, Livermore-Pleasanton Elks Lodge #2117. Fri., Dec. 14, 6 p.m. White elephant exchange, photo recognition contest, ornament decorating party. Bring a dish to share, call 455-8829 to coordinate the food. The lodge is located in Livermore.

Membership drive, Tri-Valley Republican Women Federated, a member of the California Federation of Republican Women, and the National Federation of Republican Women is now accepting new members. RWF is the largest, strongest, and oldest volunteer women's partisan political organizational network in the US. Mission is to see women (and men) from all age groups and walks of life as key players at the political table in national, state and local races. Monthly meeting with speakers and dinner, and meet with like minded women and men. Conduct voter registration at the Pleasanton Farmers Market, provide high school seniors with scholarships, support local military support groups and veteran's activities. For more information contact Karan Healy, TVRWF Membership Chair, at kajore@aol.com.

Pleasantonians for Peace, Because the fourth Wednesday is on December 26, Boxing Day for you Anglophiles, the

December protest is canceled. Regular War Protest will resume on Wednesday, January 23, between 5 - 6 at the corners of First and Neal Streets. Please join us if you can. Call Cathie Norman at (925) 462-7495; Matt Sullivan at mjs7882@gmail.com; or www.Pleasantonians4Peace.org

Widowed Men and Women of Northern CA., Breakfast/lunch in San Ramon, Dec. 16, noon. RSVP by Dec. 13 to Hilda, 398-8808. Happy hour in Pleasanton, Dec. 20, 5 p.m. RSVP by Dec. 18 to Marge, 828-5124. Lunch and optional shopping in Blackhawk, Dec. 27, noon, RSVP by Dec. 23 to Marsha, 830-8483. Lunch in Livermore, Dec. 30, 1 p.m., RSVP by Dec. 27 to Ruby, 462-9636.

Drop in computer tutoring. Need help with downloading E-Books from the library to your E-Reader, sending E-mail attachments, social networking, blogging, general internet questions; Pleasanton Library offers assistant Thurs. 6 to 8 p.m. Ask at the Reference Desk or call 925-931-3400 (press 7 for Ref. Desk). Library programs are free and open to everyone. No registration required. Call Merry Luskin at 925/931-3400 for information.

Writing Club, young adults, ages 12-21, are invited to join The Writing Club at the Livermore Public Library for fun-filled evenings of writing with author J.L. Powers. This free event will meet from 6:30 to 8:00 pm on the following Monday, December 17, 2012 in the Small Conference Room of the Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave. For more information, please visit TEEN SPACE on the library's website: www.livermorelibrary.net, or contact Jennifer at 925-373-5500, extension 5576.

Livermore Peripheral Neuropathy Support Group meets every fourth Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m. in the second floor conference room at Heritage Estates Retirement Community. The address is 900 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore All are welcome. Contacts are: Sandra Grafath 443-6655 or Lee Parlett 292-9280.

Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), Josefa Higuera Livermore Chapter, meets 9:30 a.m. first Saturday of the month from September to May at Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., Livermore. DAR is a women's service organization. Members are descended from a patriot of the American Revolution and are dedicated to patriotism, preservation of American history, and securing America's future through education. Contact Pat at 447-8254 for more information.

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness), Tri-Valley Parent Resource and Support Group is a twice-a-month parent support group for parents with children to age 18 diagnosed with or suspected of having bipolar or other mood disorders. It meets First and third Tuesdays of each month from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Pathways To Wellness, 5674 Stoneridge Dr., Suite #114, Pleasanton. The group is drop-in, no registration required and is free. Suzi Gloriosi by phone: (925) 443-1797 or by e-mail: glorios4@comcast.net

Operation: S.A.M. "Supporting All Military" is a 501(c)3 non profit military support organization based in Livermore. S.A.M. has been in operation since January 2004. It is dedicated to the continued support of deployed troops. Preparation of comfort packages takes place every other week - all year long. Providing morale support for those deployed. All information provided is confidential and is not shared for security purposes. To submit a name and address, inquire about donations or helping, please visit www.operationsam.org, email operationsam@comcast.net or call 925 443-7620 for more information and the calendar of events.

RELIGION

First Presbyterian Church, 920 Fifth Street, Livermore. 9:00 a.m. Contemporary Service in the Chapel, 10:30 Traditional Service in the Sanctuary and children's program. For more information www.fpcl.us or 925-447-2078.

Tri-Valley Bible Church, 2346 Walnut St., Livermore, holds Sunday worship at 10 a.m. with Sunday school for all ages at 9 a.m. Children's classes during adult worship service. AWANA children's program Wednesdays at 6 p.m. 449-4403 or www.Tri-ValleyBibleChurch.com.

Unitarian Universalist, 1893 N. Vasco Rd., Livermore. 10:30 a.m. Sunday service. Information 447-8747.

Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton. Information 931-1055.

Tri-Valley Cultural Jews, affiliated with the Congress of Secular Jewish Organizations (csjo.org). Information, Rabbi Judith Seid, Tri-Valley Cultural Jews, 485-1049 or EastBaySecularJews.org.

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Livermore, services 10 a.m. every Sunday. Sunday School for students (ages 3-20) is held at 10 a.m. every Sunday. The church and reading room are located at Third and N Streets. The Reading Room, which is open to the public, features books, CDs and magazines for sale. For information, call (925) 447-2946.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church Sunday Service 9:30 a.m. 1020 Mocho St., Livermore. Information, 447-8840.

Our Savior Lutheran Ministries, 1385 S. Livermore Avenue, Livermore. 8:30 a.m. worship (semiformal); 9:45 a.m. adult Bible study/Sunday school; 11 a.m. worship (informal). For information, call 925-447-1246.

Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Avenue, Livermore. 9 a.m. Sunday worship. Information 447-1950.

Calvary Chapel Livermore, Sunday Services 10:30 a.m. 545 No. L Street Livermore. (925) 447-4357 - www.calvalrylivermore.org.

St. Matthew's Baptist Church, 1239 North Livermore Ave., Livermore. Services on Sunday at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Adult Sunday school 9:30 a.m., Children's Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. Prayer each Wednesday at 7 p.m. followed by Bible study at 7:30 p.m. 449-3824.

United Christian Church, celebrating 50 years in the Tri-Valley. 1886 College Ave. at M St., Livermore; workshops on Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. Children's program on Sunday morning and first Fridays. The community is welcome. United CC is an Open and Affirming ministry. Call 449-6820 for more information.

Granada Baptist Church, 945 Concanon Boulevard, Livermore. Services: Sunday school - 9:45 a.m.; worship service - 11 a.m. All are welcome. 1-888-805-7151.

Seventh-day Adventist Church, 243 Scott Street, Livermore. 925-447-5462, services on Saturday: Sabbath school 9:30 a.m., worship 11 a.m. www.livermoresda.org/ All are welcome.

The deaf community is invited to worship at First Presbyterian Church in Livermore, where ASL translation will be provided every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. The church is located on the corner of 4th and L streets.

Faith Chapel Assembly of God, 6656 Alisal St., Pleasanton, Sunday School for all ages 9:15 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m., Children's Church 11:15 a.m. Women's Bible study Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Intercessory prayer 1st and 3rd Wednesdays. Please call office at 846-8650 for weekly programs.

Trinity, 557 Olivina Ave., Livermore. Sunday worship at 8:30 and 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday school or Bible study for all ages at 9:45 a.m. Awana is Sunday at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday nights there is adult Bible study

at 6:45 and NRG and Re.Gen for youth, and children's choir for kids. Child care during all events. 447-1848, www.trinitylivermore.org.

St. Charles Borromeo, 1315 Lomitas Ave., Livermore. Meditation groups following the John Main tradition, every Monday 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. For details, contact Claire La Scola at 447-9800.

Centerpoint Church, 3410 Cornerstone Court, Pleasanton. Services: 9 a.m. blended with choir and band. Childcare offered for infants through age 6 and children start in the worship service. 10:40 a.m. (new time) contemporary worship led by a band. Sunday school for children and middle-schoolers. www.centerpointchurch.org 925-846-4436

St. Innocent Orthodox Church, 1040 Florence Rd., Livermore. Sunday service at 10 a.m. For details please see our website at www.stinnocent.net or call Fr. Leo Arrowsmith at 456-0845.

St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, Services on Sunday, 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. Children's Sunday School & Chapel at 10:15 a.m. All are most welcome to come and worship with us and to enjoy our hospitality. For more information call the church office 925-462-4802.

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, 678 Enos Way, Livermore, Sunday services with Rev. Joyce Parry Moore - Rector. 8:00 am Contemplative Eucharist with Taize music, 9:15 am Godly Play and Adult Bible Study, 10:30 am Sung Eucharist with choir; child-care available. Youth Group every Sunday from 4:00pm to 5:30 pm in the Parish Hall and youth room; youth oriented programs "Rite 13" and "Journey to Adulthood." www.saintbartslivermore.com/ for more information.

St. Francis of Assisi Anglican Church (1928 Book of Common Prayer), 193 Contractors Avenue, Livermore. Sunday services: 8:45 a.m. (Low Mass) and 10 a.m. (High Mass with Sunday School). Other Holy Days as announced. For information, call msg_center@925/906-9561.

Tri-Valley Church of Christ at 4481 East Avenue, Livermore, worship service 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. Sundays, all are welcome. 925-447-4333 (a.m. to 12:00 p.m.)

Unity of Tri-Valley Church, 9875 Dublin Canyon Rd., Castro Valley. More room for all the new classes, small groups, new children's and teen programs, and Sunday services (at 10 a.m.). All are welcome. Rev. Harriet Hawkins, minister. (925) 829-2733. www.trivalleyunity.com Check out Unity of Tri Valley on Facebook.

Little Brown Church, United Church of Christ 141 Kilkare Road, Sunol. 10:30 a.m. worship. All are welcome here. www.littlebrownchurchofsunol.org 925-862-2580

Pathway Community Church, 6533 Sierra Lane, Dublin. Contemporary Worship Service, Sunday 10:30 am. Children, youth, adult programs. Biblically based practical messages, nondenominational. All are welcomed. www.pathwaycommunitychurch.org (925) 829-4793.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 486 S. J Street, Livermore. 9:00 a.m. worship service. Bible Study/Sunday School 10:20. Bible Basics Class, which explores the main teachings of the Bible, meets at 7:00 Sunday night. Call 371-6200 or email pmjrmueler@gmail.com for more info.

Tri-Valley Church of Christ, 4481 East Avenue, Livermore; 447-433.3 www.trivalleychurch.org. Update on classes for The Story 9:00 a.m. to 10:00a.m.. Worship Service 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.

Lynnwood United Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave., Pleasanton.. Quiet Christmas Dec. 20, 7:30pm; Christmas Sunday with orchestra Dec. 23, 9:00 and 10:30am; Christmas Eve Dec. 24, 5:00pm

(families), 7:30pm & 9:00pm (traditional). All welcome. www.lynnwood.org 925 846-0221.

Light of the World, concert celebrating the seasons of Advent and Christmas. Fri., Dec. 14 starting at 7 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Dr., Pleasanton. Catholic Community of Pleasanton (CCOP) adult choir, teen choir, children's choir, cherub choir, Filipino choir, Spanish choir, cantors and instrumentalists. Food and good cheer follow. All are invited to attend. A free will offering will help defray concert expenses. For information, call 474-2776 or email mjsullivan@catholicsof-pleasanton.org.

Tri-Valley Cultural Jews will be hosting an annual Chanukah celebration on December 16, 2012 from 10:30am to 12:30pm at the Bothwell Arts Center in Livermore. Latkas, dreidals, Menorah lighting, fun for the whole family. Bring a potato to contribute to the latkas. A family in need of help through JFCS/East Bay has been adopted. The family is in need of all household furnishings including food so please bring any items that are new or almost new. Gift cards to any local stores would be greatly appreciated. Bothwell Arts Center is located at 2466 8th Street, Livermore 94550. Free to members, \$15 donation for non-members, which can be applied to a membership if you join. For more information call 925-485-1049, email culturaljews@aol.com, or visit our website at tri-valleyculturaljews.org.

Grief workshops, bi-monthly sessions. St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Dr., Pleasanton. 2nd and 4th Thursday Evenings at 7:30 PM. Dec. 13 & 27, 2012 Jan. 10 & 24, 2013 Feb. 14 & 28, 2013 and March 24, 2013. No preregistration is necessary. These sessions are open to all, regardless of religious affiliation. Please call Mary Hagerty at 925-846-5377 for more information.

Unity of Tri-Valley Church - holiday services. Special speaker Rev. Karen Epps will talk on Sunday, Dec. 23, on "Birth 2012: An Awakened Humanity," and at the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7:00 pm on "Sacred Light, Sacred Life." On Sunday, Dec. 30 Rev. Karen's month-long theme on "Turning Resolutions into Realities" will feature a burning bowl/letting go ceremony. Sunday services are at 10:00 a.m., 9875 Dublin Canyon Rd., Castro Valley. All are welcome. Children's church available. (925) 829-2733. www.trivalleyunity.com

Resurrection Lutheran Church, 7557 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin. Sunday services 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Bible studies & Christian Education for all ages, Sunday School is after Children's Time during the 10:30 worship service. 828-1580, www.resluthdublin.org. Sundays in Advent, 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. through Dec. 23. Christmas Eve celebration, Family Candlelight Service, 5 p.m.; at 9:30 p.m. A Christmas Carol Prelude by Festival Choir and Resurrection Ringers; candlelight service at 10 p.m.

St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, Celebrate Advent at St. Clare's. Holy Eucharist at 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. Music at 8 a.m. on December 23. All are welcome. For more information call the church office 925-462-4802.

St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, Christmas Eve, 3 p.m. Nativity service and Holy Eucharist for young children. 5 p.m. Holy Eucharist with Christmas Pageant. 8:30 p.m. Prelude with String Quartet, Organ and Flute. 9 p.m. Festive Choral Eucharist with the Amador Valley High School String Quartet. All are welcome. For more information call the church office 925-462-4802. Christmas Day, Dec. 25, 11 a.m. 11 a.m. Festive Choral Eucharist.

Milestones Community



Dominic Held, of Troop 934 in Pleasanton, was awarded the highest honor in Scouting. He earned his Eagle Scout Rank on November 7, 2012. His Eagle project consisted of organizing and clearing old school supplies from two large teachers' rooms at Fairlands Elementary and transporting them to Books for Barrios in Concord. Books for Barrios sends school supplies to less fortunate students in the Philippines. Dominic also raised enough money to help with the shipping costs to donate to Books for Barrios.

Education

George Fox University's debate team enjoyed a strong showing at a Lewis & Clark College tournament in Portland, Ore., the weekend of Oct. 13-14. Jenny Newman of Livermore played a key role in the team's success.

Newman, a sophomore, was part of a George Fox contingent that placed sixth in the 52-team British Parliamentary competition.

Corner Bakery Cafe Opens in Pleasanton

Corner Bakery Cafe opened its new cafe in Pleasanton on Monday, Dec. 10.

Diners will find the made-to-order Anaheim Scrambler for breakfast, Chicken Pomodoro Panini for lunch, the Pesto Cavatappi for dinner, or a slice of bakery fresh Cinnamon Creme Cake for dessert at the brand new location at 6770 Bernal Ave.

Corner Bakery Cafe will hold one drawing a day for the first 10 days to award 10 lucky winners free grilled panini for one year. In addition, this cafe will be collecting toys and matching all monetary donations made for the local Toys for Tots organization through December 14, 2012.

This location marks the first in the Greater Bay Area. It is operated by John Sweeney, General Manager of Restaurant Operations for Buon Hospitality, a well-established franchising company that operates more than 500 fuel, restaurant and convenience businesses. Buon Hospitality has signed an agreement to open a total of 32 stores in the Greater Bay Area in the next seven years.

"Having a past relationship with Corner Bakery Cafe as a Regional Director, I knew it was a solid brand with a dedicated following," said Sweeney. "I'm excited to share my passion with the Pleasanton community and show them why I fell in

love with this concept in the first place."

Corner Bakery Cafe is a fast-casual restaurant serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. The made-to-order food is delivered fresh to the table, and with a price point of \$0.99-\$8.59 it is comfortably affordable to all. Corner Bakery Cafe is also recognized for its catering experience delivering signature, made to order breakfasts, lunches and dinners for any occasion.

Founded on a philosophy of creating a place to relax and gather with family and friends, Corner Bakery Cafe offers a casual atmosphere featuring innovative, seasonal menu options ranging

from hot breakfasts and signature panini to hand-crafted salads, sandwiches and mouthwatering sweets. Corner Bakery Cafe delivers a premier bakery cafe experience in the hearts of neighborhoods everywhere.

"There is an inviting community here in Pleasanton and we are thrilled to be a part of it," said CEO Mike Hislop. "As we continue to expand our franchise presence across the country, we know that the Greater Bay area is a prime area for expansion of our brand."

To learn more about Corner Bakery Cafe in Pleasanton, California, please visit www.cornerbakerycafe.com or call 925-484-0102.

TÜV Rheinland Plays Host to Engineers of Electronic Devices

About 120 engineers of electronic devices gathered recently at TÜV Rheinland's office in Pleasanton, for an open house.

They represented virtually every industry where electronic devices are employed: from wireless and medical devices to solar products and machinery. TÜV Rheinland is a global provider of independent testing, inspection, and certification services, with 500 locations in 61 countries, 16,000 employees and an annual revenue of \$1.9 billion (1.4 billion) in 2011.

At the open house, the guests attended a selection of 10 seminars to keep up-to-date on the ever-changing regulations governing electronic devices in their industries. The seminars were led by TÜV Rheinland experts who have many years of experience in product safety, global market access,



Pictured are Sandra Kato, Keith Sinclair, Christine Thompson, Stefani Foster and Christopher Wyman, TÜV Rheinland employees in the Pleasanton office.

Energy Star® programs, and other regulations. TÜV Rheinland's Chief Regional Officer Gerhard Luebken spoke about how understanding and complying with regulations allows US

manufacturers to reach markets worldwide. The open house also included a tour of the facility, lunch and a celebration of the company's 140th anniversary in the testing and certification

industry.

TÜV Rheinland's office is located at 1279 Quarry Lane in Pleasanton, Calif. For more information about TÜV Rheinland, visit www.tuv.com/us.