

Art, Community, & Education



Rock in the New Year at the Bankhead

Find Out What's Happening

Check out the second section

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

Climate Scientist Calls For Speaking Out

Despite personal attacks and pressure to remain silent, scientists today "have voices (and) need to use them" to help the public and political leadership understand that human activity is changing the Earth's climate, according to a prominent Livermore researcher.

At this week's meeting of the American Geophysical Union in San Francisco, researcher Ben Santer sent an open letter to the scientific community with these major points:

- Human activities "have changed the levels of greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere" in ways that "have had profound effects on Earth's climate."
- The problem is getting worse. Human "fingerprints" on climate will become more "visible" in coming decades and "impact many aspects of our lives."
- Scientists must be free to "speak truth to power" but are now experiencing "pervasive" interference from politicians.

Airport Initiative Would Cap Facilities Spending

By Ron McNicoll

Opponents of Livermore's plan to create a special airport zoning district and eliminate the airport's master plan will begin circulating an initiative petition soon.

Max Curtis, one of the co-signers of the initiative proposal, said this week that the group has not set an exact date for circulating the initiative. He said that the group's deadline to turn in petitions to the city is April 19.

If the petitioners obtain signatures of 10 percent of registered voters, or 4600 voters, the initiative would be on the city's next general election ballot, which will be in November 2012. If they collect at least 15 percent of

(See SPENDING, page 8)

Sandia Celebrates 60 Years

Sandia National Laboratories' California site will celebrate 60 years of laboratory achievements at a Dec. 17 commemorative event at Sandia's Livermore campus.

Sandia President and Laboratories Director Tom Hunter will be among the speakers. Hunter and others will reflect on the lab's many achievements and inform key community and government leaders about Sandia's evolving mission. Sandia scientists and executive leadership will showcase a wide range of technologies and programs developed from Sandia's national security mission.

Sandia's first leaders were tasked by President Truman to "render an exceptional service in the national interest." Throughout its history, Sandia has developed science-based technologies that support national security in the areas of energy, transportation, homeland security, nonpro-

(See SANDIA, page 8)

Lab Retirees

Lawsuit Possible to Regain UC Health Care

Those who retired from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory before 1990 appear to have a "viable claim" to be reinstated to University of California health programs, according to attorneys for the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory Retiree Group.

Those who retired in 1990 or later might also have a claim. However, it could be less solid because 1990 seems to be the first year that UC Regents reserved the

right to make unilateral changes to retiree benefits.

The attorneys have formed tentative conclusions based on interviews and on public documents as well as those contained in the files of retirees. To find out for sure, the attorneys advise, it will be necessary to file suit to determine whether there are still more documents indicating what claims the Regents made, when they made them, and how they

communicated them to retirees, if at all.

Lawrence Livermore Lab employees and retirees were provided UC group health coverage under a succession of contracts that lasted more than 50 years but ended in 2008, when a new contractor took over Laboratory management from University of California. At the time, the new contract promised continued benefits that were "substantially

equivalent" to UC's. However, the new contractor changed them a year later.

In order to take the next step toward regaining UC health benefits, Retiree Group leader Joe Requa says, the group will need to generate a budget of \$75,000 to \$150,000 to cover legal costs.

In an email earlier this month, he surveyed Retiree Group members to learn whether they would

support the continued effort, including raising more money. Most responders are willing to do so, he said. Retiree Group leaders will soon meet to discuss next steps, including whether to conduct a formal ballot before undertaking a major fund-raising effort, he said.

The group already has financial reserves. Last summer, while emphasizing its wish to

(See LAWSUIT, page 10)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Lights sparkle on the Pleasanton holiday tree. It is located in front of the Museum on Main.

Cooperation Sought On Entertainment Ordinance in Pleasanton

By Ron McNicoll

The Pleasanton Downtown Association (PDA) wants the city to pass an ordinance that would set up guidelines about what would be permitted downtown for late-night live music, DJ performances, and other kinds of entertainment at restaurants and clubs.

The city's new Firehouse Arts Center, due to open on Railroad Avenue in the fall of 2010, would also be affected by such an ordinance. Although there may not be loud music coming from it, the theater may have other impacts, such as play-goers parking in front of residences on Railroad Avenue.

PDA executive director Christine Saldivar said that restaurant owners' desire to bring in more music and night life is the major stimulus for the ordinance.

Often such ordinances are called a "right to do business" ordinance. However, Saldivar said that the description really isn't a good portrayal. The ordinance doesn't have anything to do with the right to do business, but rather it's about providing

merchants with some guidelines about what they can expect if they do add entertainment, or someone comes in with such a business.

So, it's not about rights, but about cooperation, said Saldivar. She wants to see business owners, the PDA, the Chamber of Commerce, downtown residents, police and the city administration have a discussion about creating the ordinance.

Saldivar will spend the next few months getting the word out to the downtown community about what would be involved in the ordinance. After that, she said that she hopes for a "roundtable discussion" among the stakeholders.

To augment education about what an ordinance can do, Saldivar has been in touch with the Responsible Hospitality Institute. It offers advice to businesses and associations about such issues as public safety and quality of life in entertainment districts.

"Our night life is just starting. This is a good opportunity to form it so that it is a great experience," said Saldivar.

(See ORDINANCE, page 10)

Crime Doesn't Follow BART

An increase in crime isn't likely to occur if BART comes to Livermore.

That was the message delivered by Police Chief Steve Sweeney at a workshop held last week.

The goal of the workshop, the second of three sponsored by the City of Livermore, was to provide an opportunity for residents to give input on a preferred BART extension route and whether there would be one or two stations along the route.

Workshop participants were divided into tables to discuss the issues. There were twelve tables

of between 8 and 10 people each. Those attending expressed a preference for a downtown station. They differed on which stations should connect with the downtown. Greenville and Vasco road stations tied for the top spot. One table wanted the Isabel station as the second station. Two tables wanted both stations on the freeway and no downtown station. Another table preferred one station at Isabel/580.

Supervisor Scott Haggerty noted, "The bad news is we will need \$3 billion for the project. The good news is that we are moving forward. We would

move ahead with the project with the greatest consensus. Once you figure out a way to move forward as a community, we can go to the federal government for funds."

In order to obtain funding, Haggerty said there would need to be a large housing component in conjunction with any station. Vasco Road and downtown provided the most opportunity to meet the criteria, according to reports issued by BART.

Consultant Greg Tung reviewed the results of the first workshop. He said there was

(See BART, page 10)

Lab Director Responds to Criticism of Laser Finances

Criticism that the National Ignition Facility is improperly passing costs on to other programs at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory surfaced last week and were rebutted in an email to employees by Lab director George Miller.

The charges grew out of an October report by the Office of Field Financial Management of the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), which funds most Laboratory work. The report was leaked to the

local anti-nuclear group, Tri-Valley CAREs, which then issued a news release calling for a Congressional investigation.

The news release and a faded, difficult-to-read copy of the report are available at the Tri-Valley CARE website, <http://www.trivalleycares.org/>. The Laboratory and NNSA said they did not have copies of the report to make available.

The controversy generated news articles in the Bay Area for two days last week. Observers

note that it has not drawn the kind of attention that Lab controversies did 20 years ago. There may be multiple reasons that is so.

One major factor is the change in congressional leaders since the 1980s, when Democratic committee chair John Dingell conducted repeated investigations and voiced frequent public criticisms about Laboratory operations ranging from security to bicycle contracts. Dingell is no longer a committee chairman.

(See LAB, page 4)

More Public Involvement Planned in City of Livermore Budget Process

Livermore will be using a new process in creating the next city budget. It will provide for more involvement of the public.

The goal is to make the process more transparent and inclusive. It is the first time such a process has been undertaken by the city.

A citizens survey was con-

ducted. Results will be available in mid-January. In addition, a series of public workshops will be held throughout the city to take input on the budget.

The first series of workshops will review services provided by the city. Information on how the city is doing and what it could do better will be collected. The

workshops are planned for January 28, Feb. 2 and 3, 2010.

The city council will review the information in its annual goal-setting session in February. City staff will then put together a preliminary budget. It will be presented, along with information on how the budget was developed,

(See BUDGET, page 10)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Livermore Mayor Marshall Kamena lights one of the candles on a 9-foot menorah last Saturday at the Livermore Valley Plaza. This was Livermore's 2nd annual Chanukah Celebration. Kamena commented at Monday's council meeting, "There was dancing, a history lesson, traditional food and fellowship. It was grand. The event is shaping up to be an annual event for the whole Tri-Valley hosted by Livermore."

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PET OF THE WEEK

Huey is all dressed up in his tuxedo for the holidays! He is a regal cat with striking white whiskers and eyebrows. Despite his formal attire, Huey prefers a quiet evening at home, curled up in a nice warm lap. To meet Huey, come to Valley Humane Society's Kitty City at 3670 Nevada St in Pleasanton, open Tues-Sat from 11AM to 5PM. Call 925-426-8656 for more info. Purchase gifts like cat food and toys for Huey and other homeless pets this holiday season by visiting the virtual Christmas tree at www.valleyhumane.org.

VALLEY ROUNDUP

Sandia Appointment

Erik Ridley, who spent six years on the staff of former U.S. Rep. Ellen Tauscher, has been named to the government relations team at Sandia National Laboratories in Livermore.

Ridley is a public policy professional with more than 10 years of experience in legislative affairs and government relations.



During his six years on Rep. Tauscher's staff, Ridley served as field representative first in Solano County, then in Contra Costa and Alameda counties. In his role, he was the representative's primary liaison to local and state government officials, community and business leaders, health care stakeholders, veterans organizations and Department of Defense and Department of Energy national security installations.

Ridley also helped lead the development of a nonprofit organization focused on reforming local government finance in California.

Ridley started his career in Washington, D.C., where he worked for a government affairs consulting firm and a health care trade association developing legislative advocacy plans, performing legislative analysis and gathering political intelligence. He received his degree in international relations from the University of California, Davis, and grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area's East Bay.

Body of Missing Man Found

The body of a Pleasanton man who was reported missing after failing to return from a camping trip last week was found.

A Mono County search and rescue team notified Pleasanton police last Thursday that 48-year-old Jay Lafontaine had been found in Bodie State Park, about three miles from where his black Jeep was found earlier in the day.

Lafontaine was expected to return home Dec. 2. After failing to hear from him, the family reported him missing on Dec. 4. He was last heard from on Nov. 27, when he called his wife.

Investigators believe Lafontaine's Jeep got stuck in a ravine. According to police, footprints in the snow indicating that he was attempting to walk out for assistance.

Authorities involved in the search indicated there were no signs of a struggle or foul play. The cause of his death hasn't been determined.

Sociable City Awards

At its first annual Sociable City Awards Program, the Responsible Hospitality Institute (RHI) recognized nine North American cities that are exemplary models for safe and vibrant nightlife. This premiere event set the standards for a 'sociable city' to which future cities will strive.

Among those honored was Livermore, which

received merit awards in safety and vibrancy.

"The cities that received awards are outstanding models for planning and managing nightlife. Their city leaders are at the forefront of innovation for harnessing dining and entertainment as an economic engine to drive revitalization and increase city funds," commented RHI president, Jim Peters.

The criteria for safety was as follows: collaborative strategies and partnerships; enforcement officers trained for hospitality zones; concierge governing to assist new and existing business owners; proactive compliance education and training; patron responsibility campaigns; alternative late-night transportation options; and public services supporting an active nightlife.

Vibrancy criteria included the following: recognition of the value of the nighttime economy; investment in nurturing musicians and other entertainment talent; multi-cultural and/or multi-generational activities; enhanced lighting and pedestrian safety; smooth transition between day, evening and late-night activity; public space entertainment and enhancements; and coordinated promotion of the hospitality zone as a vibrant destination.

All-Weather Fields OKed

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District board of directors approved a preliminary concept plan and budget for the Robertson Park Sports Field project. The project will convert the sand-based soccer fields at the park into synthetic all-weather turf fields.

LARPD staff will now complete the site planning work and obtain agreement approval from the Livermore Youth Soccer League, which is helping fund the project in return for reserved field use. The District expects to bring a final presentation of the plan to the Board and the public in March. The renovation project is estimated to cost \$2.3 million, with \$600,000 coming from the soccer league.

The Board elected its officers for 2010. David Furst will serve as the Board President. Scott Kamena will serve as Vice President. The officer positions will be effective starting Jan. 1, 2010.

Also during the meeting, the Board discussed changes to the Board Policy Manual. District staff will further research Board Members' suggestions and questions and bring new information back for a future meeting.

Correction

There was an error in a story in last week's Independent about local congressional support for the troop surge in Afghanistan. The following statement is correct: Garamendi, in a statement on his web site, makes no direct mention of his opposition to the troop surge, although he appears to imply it. On the site, he says that he remains "convinced that increased diplomatic, economic, social, and educational assistance in the region will result in a lasting solution in Afghanistan." He did not convey any different view to The Independent regarding the use of diplomacy and assisting the Afghan people in a variety of ways.

Grant Helps Support Free2 Succeed Job Center

Wells Fargo Bank has committed to a \$5,000 grant to support the Free2 Succeed Job Center at the Civic Center Library. Representatives from Wells Fargo will present the check to members of the Library Board in front of the Civic Center Library at 10:30 am on Friday, December 18.

The Free2 Succeed Job Center offers one on one career counseling sessions with part time Career Advisor Megan Pittsley. Sessions are averaging 50 per month with a waiting list for scheduling of 35 to 40 people. These private, free sessions offer career planning advice, techniques for successful interviewing and skills for online job applications as well as resume suggestions and critiques with general career and job counseling thrown in.

In addition to counseling, the Career Advisor hosts a monthly "Employer Meet and Greet," and teaches classes such as "Mastering Online Job Boards," "Job Interviewing Essentials," and "Create the Perfect Electronic Resume." Over 100 people have been attending the Employer Meet and Greets and the free classes are very well attended.

Libraries are an excellent resource for coping with the current economic downturn.

Livermore Public Library has gone one step further than traditional services with the creation of the Free2 Succeed Job Center. Designed to meet the crisis in unemployment, the Free 2 Succeed Job Center, located at the Civic Center Library, offers a wide array of services to help people find jobs or change career directions.

Appointments with Career Advisor Megan Pittsley at the Livermore Public Library may be made by calling 373-5500, ext. 5595.

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CLIMATE

(continued from page one)

economic interests" opposed to their warnings about climate damage.

He expressed strong support for two British colleagues, Phil Jones and Mike Mann, who are being attacked in the blog world and in the U.S. Congress as a result of emails hacked from the

University of East Anglia.

Santer, a Lawrence Livermore Lab climate scientist who has been caught up in the same email controversy, stressed that his comments and call for speaking out are an expression of personal views, not institutional ones.

"We are at a crossroads in

human history," he said. "The decisions our leaders reach in (the climate conference in) Copenhagen – or fail to reach – will shape the world inherited by future generations... We no longer have the luxury of remaining silent on these issues."



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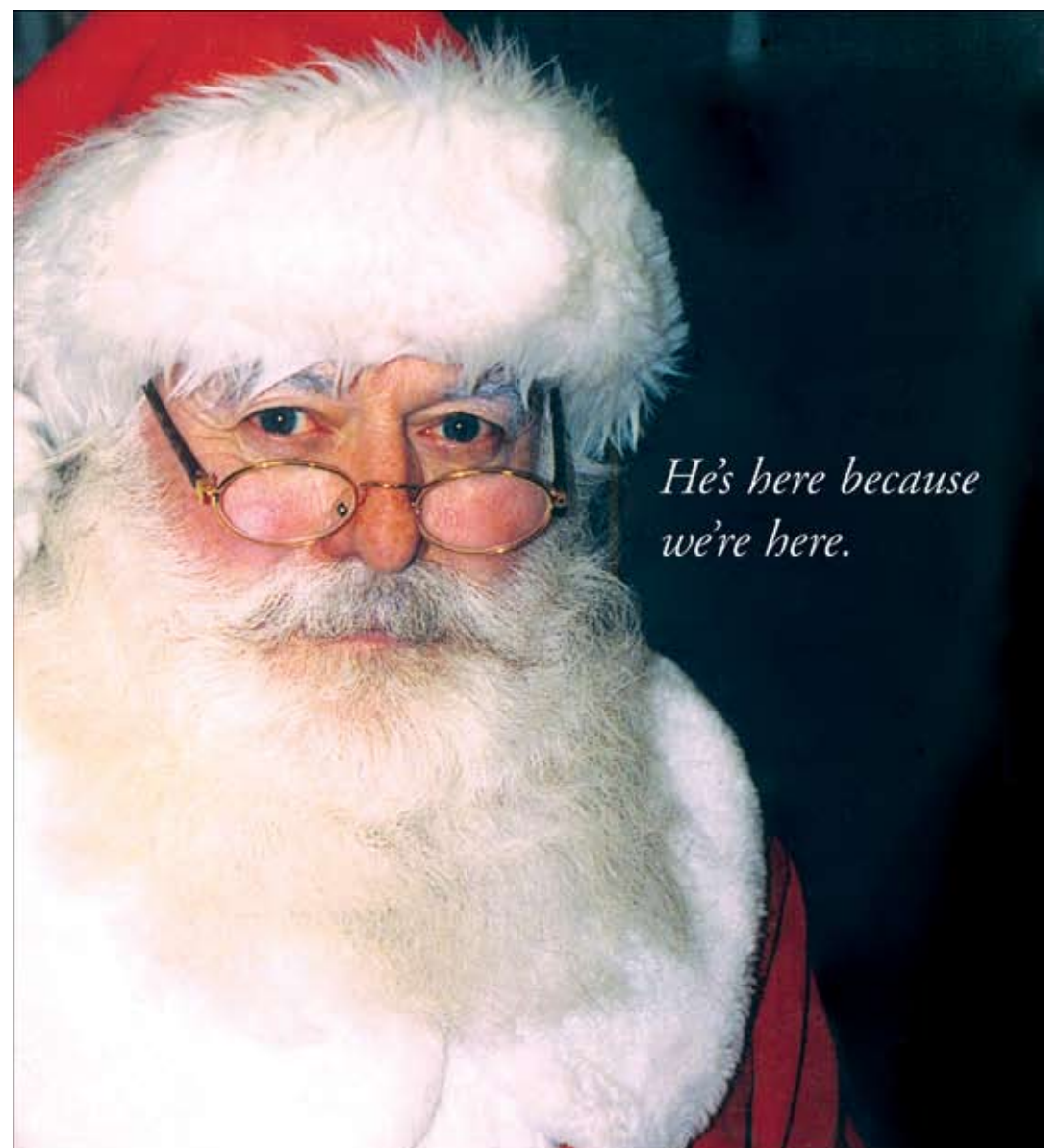
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Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Granada High School's Matt Epps (13) dribbles around the pressure applied by Skyline during the Granada Holiday Invitational opening round. Granada lost the game 54-50. The Matadors ended with a 1-2 record, losing to Enterprise 53 to 43 and defeating Ripon 65 to 45.

SPORTS NOTES

Youth Soccer

The Livermore U11 Bronze Boys Elite Fire club won both of their first two State Cup games on December 5-6 in Manteca, and will be moving on to the Finals.

In game one on Saturday against the Walnut Creek Silver Legends, Fire took an early lead with a goal by Charlie Mitchell. But then the Legends came on strong, scoring three goals in succession during the first half. After a short but rousing half-time speech by coaches Bill Aboumrad, Brett Dupuis, and Dale Stone, Fire came out shooting in the second half, with goals by Kevin Mains and Grant Riddiough to tie it up. With much fanfare from the sidelines, fullback Jack Walker (pushed up past midfield) sent one final shot into the net that soared over the Legend keeper's head, brushed over his fingertips, and brought Fire the 4-3 win with only minutes to spare.

In game two on Sunday against Pleasanton Ballistic United Advanced, Fire dominated the entire first half, taking shot after shot on goal, but with nothing to show for it. Finally, Ballistic got a shot off, and the ball went in the net, giving Ballistic a one point lead. But Fire was not to be denied! On "Fire" Raymond Carlson scored the first Livermore goal with a great cross from Riddiough to Mains, who crossed it back to a wide open Carlson for the goal. This was quickly followed by a second goal from Riddiough for a 2-1 lead in the first half. Mains, assisted by Chad Hemmig, got one more goal in the second half to secure the 3-1 win for Fire. Fullbacks Walker and Brendan McCafferty, and keepers Garrett Stone and Ethan Aboumrad were an absolutely spectacular defensive team, allowing Ballistic only one goal in the whole game. Midfielders Ben Dupuis and Zachariah Eme were instrumental in keeping the ball moving up the field and setting up shot after shot by Livermore.

The Pleasanton Rage U-12 Flight Rowdies took first place in the Sunset tournament. On Saturday morning, The Rowdies took on the San Ramon Dynamite by a score of 5-0. The scoring started on a goal from Gaby Cabrera, and was followed up by a pair of goals each from Aly Isaacs and Sammy Lai. The second game on Saturday was against a very tough squad from Fremont. Aly Isaacs provided a goal in the first half, and the Rowdies wore them down in the 2nd half with a pair of goals from Erin Overland to cap off a 3-0 victory. The Rowdies first day was highlighted by excellent midfield play from Skylar Verduzco and Chloe Reilly, and the defense held both teams scoreless with outstanding performances from Rachel Hoobler, and Olivia Gieringer.

The Rowdies returned on a freezing Sunday morning to finish out their bracket against the league champs from Dublin. The Rowdies kept on rolling with a 3-1 victory, highlighted by goals from Haley

Isaacs, Emma Hims and Erin Overland. The Championship game on Sunday afternoon was against the Mustang Cosmos, who won the other bracket. This was an extremely hard fought, back and forth battle, that saw the Rowdies come away with a 1-0 victory. The lone goal came in the first half, when a beautifully placed corner kick from Aly Isaacs produced a header from Nicole Wilson that found the back of the net. From that point, the game went back and forth, as the Mustang offense was held scoreless thanks to the defensive efforts of Jessica Granucci, Bridget Moe and Taylor Cruz, who had the difficult task of stopping a very speedy front line for the Mustang team. Paige Ryback had an outstanding tournament in the net, only giving up a single goal over all four games. After winning the Sunset Tournament Championship, The Rowdies capped off an undefeated season with 12 wins, 2 ties and no losses.

Livermore's Recreation Plus Soccer team.

Livermore Lightning U12 girls soccer, participated in the District III Season Sunset Champions' Cup Tournament sponsored by San Ramon Soccer at Sycamore Valley Park this last weekend December 5-6, 2009. Livermore Lightning was undefeated in the first, second and third games played at this tournament.

In the championship game held Sunday night at 4:30 pm, the game started out with a big hail storm, followed by massive rain and wind. Regulation play ended in a 0 to 0 tie, and stayed that way through two overtime periods. Then each team converted two penalty kicks, sending the match into a sudden death penalty phase, where Livermore Lightning took the first place championship trophy after a hard, long battle. Livermore Lightning coach Ed Mayo has led the team to a first first finish for the season in Livermore's Rec Plus division which consists of playing against teams from San Ramon, Danville and Dublin, and now first place in the District III Season Sunset Champions' Cup Tournament. Livermore Lightning is playing in CYSA (California Youth Soccer Association) State Championship Division 4 Founders' Cup Tournament.

CYO Basketball

In their most complete game of the season, St. Michael/St. Charles (SM/SC) 8th grade #814 defeated Catholic Community of Pleasanton (CCOP) #815 by a score of 39-26 in CYO basketball. With the game tied at 17-all at half, SM/SC exploded for 13 points in the third quarter, and never looked back. Leading the winners was Josh Reavy with 10 points, 6 rebounds, 3 assists and 3 steals. Grant Perry had 10 points of his own and 7 rebounds. Coming off the bench, Michael Ditzel had nine points, including a deep trey.

Defensively, Matthew Adiao had 5 steals and Nishant Sinha played his best game of the season, contributing two rebounds.

SM/SC 7th grade CYO team #711 fell to St. Raymond's #710 27-31 in a hard fought battle Sunday. Devin Darden and Matthew Wells led SM/SC with 8 points each. Devin Darden chipped in 9 points while Jordan Murdoch added 6 points. Matthew Wells also played an aggressive defensive game with 4 rebounds and 3 steals while David Thomas and Brandon Cory contributed with 6 rebounds each.

SM/SC CYO 7th Grade Girls American League squad took on their counterparts from St. Isidore's Sunday in a match-up that always results in a hard-fought game. As the league season takes shape, a clear front-runner has yet to emerge, and every game is turning out to be a good one! After coming out of the gate aggressively and pulling out to a 26-10 lead, the girls withstood a rally from St. Isidore's, which never goes away easily. In the end, they held on for a 29-22 win, led on offense by Shannon Rosemark with 20 points. Grace Naylor had another solid game at both ends, and Dana Ana had a force on defense throughout the contest.

St. Isidore defeated SM/SC 37 to 27. SM/SC had strong playing by Aezon Fernandez, Bryce Disbrow, and Braden Jackson. Aezon Fernandez scored 10 points, had 2 rebounds, and 2 blocks. Bryce Disbrow scored 4 points and had 5 rebounds. Braden Jackson scored 4 points and had 2 rebounds.

St. Isidore #510 had a come from behind win over SM/SC #514 (Terminators.) The final score was St. Isidore 22, Terminators 18. Nick Strikler and Brandon Drury provided great offensive play for St. Isidore, with Jay Palumbo and Bryce Buener strong on defense. For the Terminators, Joshua Blaha and Matt Benavidez were great on offense and Aaron Lee and JJ Marty played great defense.

SM/SC 5th grade girls (#5011) defeated St. Isidore (#5011) 20 to 12. Alexandra Lonsinger led the team with 10 points. Madison Jackson and Taylor Peterson finished off the scoring with 6 points and 4 points. Mila Steinberg, Jamie Zogaric, JJ Gibson, Malory, Samantha Dukes and Maggie Sneed led the defense with many steals, turnovers and defense rebounds. St. Isidore played evenly with SM/SC in the second half; each scoring 6 points.

SM/SC 5th grade boys "Flying Cows" (#512) played hard against St. Joan (#516) Sunday, but ultimately came up with a 20-28 loss. They were down two key players (Jason Wallis and Miles McPeck) due to

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SPENDING

(continued from page one)

voters, or 6900, the group could call for a special election sooner than that, if it wishes.

The initiative won't aim at the city's proposed rezoning for the airport into a special airport district, which the group opposes. Instead, it would put a limit of \$100,000 on the cumulative amount of annual spending by the city council on capital improvements at the airport.

The \$100,000 annual figure would include private parties' spending on capital improvements. Maintenance of facilities would not be affected.

Any spending over the \$100,000 cumulative amount in any calendar year would have to be approved by a vote of the city's electorate at the following city general election. The city has regular general elections every two years.

Acceptance of any federal grants or any applications for them to build capital facilities also would have to be approved by the electorate.

Curtis said that he wanted to make it clear that the initiative would not prohibit airport facilities expansion. It simply would put decisions about major facili-

ties expansion directly in voters' hands.

Curtis and other opponents have said in the past that adoption of the new ordinance will throw out the long-standing airport master plan. City staff agrees that it will eliminate the master plan, but insists that the special district zoning would allow the city to keep a handle on airport development.

Curtis said that the city is interested more in the commercial expansion of the airport, than in what residents think about any future rise in noise levels, increased number of flights, or any possible safety issues.

He said there are no guarantees in the proposed zoning ordinance about the rate of increase in air traffic, or its ultimate number. He believes that the initiative would make the city responsible to voters about the specifics of expansion.

Livermore owns the 643-acre airport site, and leases out the property to various operators. The airport has 392 aircraft storage hangars, and corporate-style hangars with 18,000 square feet of hangar space and 2400 square feet of office space.

There are also 250 ramp tie-down aircraft spaces. Currently, 100 are rented, according to the city's web page. The airport has more than 150,000 annual take-offs and landings.

SANDIA

(continued from page one)

liferation, defense programs and the safety, security and reliability of our nation's nuclear stockpile.

"This is a unique opportunity to recognize the role that our researchers have played throughout the years in scientific innovation and national security," said Rick Stulen, vice president of Sandia's California site.

Sandia National Laboratories grew out of the Manhattan Project during World War II, where it played a key role in the development of the first atomic bomb. Sandia became an independent laboratory in 1949 and continues to play a critical role in ensuring the nation's nuclear weapons stockpile is safe, secure and reliable and effectively deters our adversaries.

Power of Thinking Differently Topic of Seminar

The Power of Thinking Differently is the topic of a free seminar to be presented by Javy Galindo at the Pleasanton Public Library.

The program will be Sun., Jan. 3 at 2 p.m.

Galindo will be sharing insights from his latest book "The Power of Thinking Differently: An imaginative guide to creativity, change, and the discovery of new ideas."

"I love encouraging others to access their inherent creativity to think beyond habit and conventional wisdom," said the Sunnyvale based author.

Galindo's book on the creative process has already been garnering rave reviews from experts, book reviewers, and book lovers alike.

According to the Midwest Book Review, the book "encourages readers to overcome the barriers to creative thinking and gain a better sense of humor... 'The Power of Thinking Differently' is a solid and highly recommended read for those who want to best understand how to put their mind to work."

The book is "designed to help readers get a new perspective on just about anything," notes Darragh Doiron of The Port



Javy Galindo

Arthur News. "Readers should be warned to be ready for change."

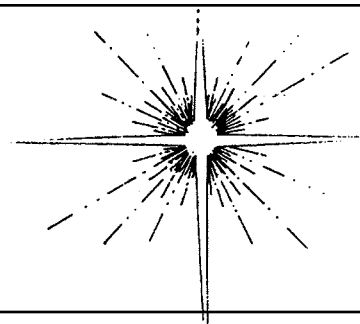
"Galindo clearly explains the roots of creativity in the brain and how to overcome one's own blockages and obstacles in order to...reach a higher state of personal satisfaction," writes reviewer Susan Reimers of Best-SellersWorld.com. "While this book should appeal to those in

business, government and science, it can equally benefit all persons who go about their lives looking to make their personal islands a bit more interesting and productive."

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



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DEC. 25, 10 AM
Festival Communion Service

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



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Friday, December 25
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Drive Through Nativity Presentation

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

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

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Christmas CROSSWINDS 2009

SERVICE TIMES
December 23RD— 7:00 pm
December 24TH— 2, 3:30, 5, 6:30pm*
Candlelight Service— 11:30pm

*Child care (nursery through age 4) provided at all services except 6:30pm (0-12 months only) and 11:30pm (no child care).

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CHRISTMAS EVE, THURSDAY, DEC. 24TH
5:00 p.m.
Family Worship Service
Come on a visit to Bethlehem in Fellowship Hall (K Street between 4th and 5th). Join us at the stable near a manger filled with hay, as we celebrate the birth of our Savior. Stay to share cookies, cocoa, and cider!

7:30 - 8:30 p.m. Christmas Eve concert in the sanctuary.
Come join us for an evening of congregational caroling and Christmas music featuring the choirs of the church and accompanied by a professional brass ensemble.

9:00 p.m. Traditional candlelight service in the sanctuary.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2009

New Year's Eve Labyrinth Walk 8 p.m. - midnight
Come join us for our 5th annual New Year's Eve Labyrinth Walk. The labyrinths will be available

8:00 p.m. to midnight. You're invited to walk the courtyard labyrinth by the light of the Christmas luminaries. Our canvas labyrinth will also be available in the sanctuary, illuminated by dozens of candles and surrounded with beautiful music.



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"Listening..."
Worship - Sundays at 10:30 am

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

Thursday, December 24
6:30 pm - "Listening to God's Song"
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SHORT NOTES

Programs at the Park

Native Garden Volunteer Day will be held on Saturday, Dec. 19 at Veterans Park in Livermore. Meet at 10 a.m. The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District rangers are expanding the small native garden that is near the parkrestrooms. Volunteers are needed to help spread mulch, make a border and possibly put some plants in the ground if the rains have softened the soil enough. Wear clothes that can get dirty, and bring work gloves if you have them.

The Great Yule Log Hunt will take place on Sun., Dec. 20. Meet the ranger staff at 2 p.m. at the Veterans Park group picnic area. Prepare for the hunt by trying your hands at some games and merriment. Then join the fun, old-fashioned hunt for that elusive log. After the hunt, the group will gather around the fire and share some holiday cheer, as well as design and make your own logs to take home. Join this program to help unlock the secrets of this ancient holiday tradition. Canceled if raining.

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

Free Tax Preparation

Tri-Valley Housing Opportunity Center offers volunteer income tax assistance.

The Center is supporting the Bay Area Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Campaign for the 3rd year. This is a tax credit for low to moderate income wage earners. It reduces the

amount owed or provides a refund. The EITC Campaign promotes the education and outreach for working families to learn about the tax credit in an effort to maximize the tax credits available to qualified households.

Tax preparation is provided by trained IRS Certified Volunteers. Appointments will be available starting Mon., Jan. 18, 2010. Walk-ins will be accepted if available. Free tax preparation will be available Feb. 3 to April 12, 2010 Mondays and Wednesdays 1 to 8 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Bring the following to the tax preparation session: valid photo ID CAID/Driver's License; Social Security card/ITIN; any dependent Social Security cards; income/employment documents/statements; W-2 or 1099; checking/savings account/routing number for a direct deposit return; and previous income tax documents, if possible.

Other programs available at the Tri-Valley Housing Opportunity Center include: homebuyer education certificate program, information about city programs including down payment assistance, first time homebuyer, below market rate/inclusionary homes; post purchase education and consultations such as protecting your investment and early delinquency and foreclosure mitigation, and fair housing referral.

For more information contact Carl Vinson at the Tri-Valley Housing Opportunity Center, 20-A South L St., Livermore; www.tvhoc.org, 373-3930 or cvinson@tvhoc.org.

Alternative Gifts

Sometimes the best holiday gifts are the less-than-obvious choices. For 2009, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has prepared a list of thoughtful alternatives to the usual fruit-and-cheese baskets, tins of popcorn, and bottles of wine.

Emergencies can happen at any time, and most people are unprepared to deal with the aftermath. These gifts can help to ensure the safety of your family and friends, in the event of an earthquake, fire, or other disaster.

According to FEMA, the most important thing any individual can do is to take a few minutes to discuss with their loved ones what they will do in the event of an emergency. The ability to communicate is a fundamental necessity in disaster situations. Developing a simple family communications plan and identifying how everyone will get in touch with each other and meet, if separated, is the first step toward preparedness.

It can be equally important to have supplies on hand, in order to be able to effectively deal with crises until help arrives. FEMA's list of recommended gifts includes the following items:

- Disaster kits for homes, offices and autos (first aid kits, food, water, blankets and flashlights)
- NOAA weather radios with extra batteries
- Smoke detectors
- Fire extinguishers (for kitchen, garage, car, etc.)
- Foldable ladders for second-story escape during a fire
- Car kits (emergency flares, shovels, ice scrapers, flashlights and

fluorescent distress flags)

- Pet Disaster kits (food, water, leashes, dishes and carrying case or crate)
- Battery powered lamps

These items and more can be purchased at Your Safety Place, located at 7197 Village Parkway in Dublin. This local business offers ready-made disaster kits, as well as a comprehensive stock of individual items.

Annual Crab Feed

The Livermore Knights of Columbus are selling tickets for their 37th annual Crab Feed. It will be held on Saturday, January 9, 2010 at the Robert Livermore Community Center on East Avenue in Livermore.

A social hour begins at 5 p.m. and the dinner will be served at 7 p.m. Dancing to the music of the OpenRoad band will begin at 8 p.m. and run until 11 p.m.

The dinner will consist of lots of crab, salad, pasta and cake. There will be several raffles and a Silent Auction during the event. All money raised will go to assist the Livermore Knights and their many charitable endeavors.

Tickets are \$40 each and can be purchased by contacting Mark and Claire Duguid at 925-443-5873

Preschool Registration

A new year will bring a new time and place for a favorite preschool class offered through the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District. The "Mommy and Me" class will be offered for the first time at the Robert Livermore Community Center.

Also held at the Jane Addams House, the Mommy and Me class is designed for parents to attend with their 2- to 3-year-olds. Children are encouraged to be creative with art projects and interactive playtime. Parents can spend time with their children as they experience circle times, movement, art and outside play.

The new Mommy and Me class at the Community Center is scheduled from 9 to 11 a.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 5 to March 9. Mommy and Me classes are offered other days and times at the Jane Addams House. Mommy and Me is \$144, with the exception of a shorter class for \$90.

LARPD offers a variety of other preschool programs, with Winter Session starting Jan. 4. "Baby and Me" is for children 12 months and younger. This class allows parents to discuss normal development and common concerns about child rearing. Music and baby play activities will be presented, along with weekly topics such as nutrition and toys. Baby and Me will be held from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Fridays, Jan. 8 to March 12. \$60.

"Wonderful Ones" is for children ages 12 months to 24 months to play and socialize. This class fosters perceptual motor skills and encourages children to explore and move in an open area. Parents and kids can sing and play in a group setting. This class is offered various days and times, including a new time of 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. Thursdays, Jan. 7 to March 11. \$55.

"Terrific Twos" for children aged 25 months to 36 months offers similar play and socialization opportunities. Additional activities are introduced

that build on the skills learned in Wonderful Ones. This class is offered multiple days and times, with a new time from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Thursdays, Jan. 7 to March 1. \$55.

For more information on class times or to register, call 925-960-2486 or visit the LARPD preschool office at 71 Trevano Road, Livermore. Registration is open now.

New Storytimes

The Livermore Public Library will be making the following changes in storytime schedules, effective January, 2010:

- Family Storytimes:
 - ONLY at the Civic Center Library.
 - Every Monday evening at 7 p.m. beginning Monday, January 11.
- Baby/Toddler/Preschool Storytimes:
 - Civic Center (begins Monday, January 11): Mondays at 10:30 a.m.: Baby and Toddler storytime; Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.: Baby and Toddler storytime; Wednesdays at 11 a.m.: Preschooler storytime
 - Rincon (begins Friday, January 15): Fridays at 10:30 a.m.: Toddler storytime; Fridays at 11:00 a.m.: Preschooler storytime
 - Springtown (begins Thursday, January 14): Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.: Baby storytime; Thursdays at 11:00 a.m.: Preschooler storytime

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

OBITUARIES

Joan P. Accardo

Joan P. Accardo, mom's angel came to take her to God's place of eternal peace on December 3, 2009, after a long courageous battle with ovarian cancer. She leaves behind her loving husband Bob, children Stacy, Gina, and Bobby, grandson DJ, mother Evelyn, sister Gloria, best friend Janis and many nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

Mom was preceded in death by father Melvin, beloved sister Barbara and loving dog Teddy. She was born in Oakland, CA April 20, 1947. She graduated from San Lorenzo High School in 1965. Over the years she spent her time involved in Jobs Daughters and enjoyed volunteering at the SPCA. Italian traditions were very important to her, especially during holidays when her cooking was shared. Mom recently retired from LLNL after 25 years. She enjoyed spending leisure time watching old movies, traveling to South Lake Tahoe and taking rides in the Cobra. Mom touched so many lives.

A memorial mass will be held in her honor Monday, Dec. 21, at 9:30 a.m. at Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Dr., Pleasanton, with lunch to follow at Beeb's Clubhouse 915 Clubhouse Dr. Livermore.

In lieu of flowers, mom requested donations be made to East Bay SPCA at 4651 Gleason Dr. Dublin, CA. 94568

Stanley Gates Burnham

Stanley Gates Burnham (Lee), 71 died on December 3, 2009 in California due to complications from cancer. Born May 23, 1938 in Jersey City, New Jersey; he resided in Monmouth County, New Jersey for most of his life, then Livermore, California for the past seven years. He was a 1956 Graduate of the Choate School and a 1960 Graduate of Yale University. He had varied careers - English teacher, Investment Banker/Bond Trader, and systems analyst for AT&T. Lee had a caring and compassionate spirit to those he encountered putting everyone in front of himself.

Surviving are his devoted wife Sharon; brother, Bentley Burnham; four children and ten grandchildren. Memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society either by phone 1-800-227-2345 or go online to www.cancer.org.

Daniel Edward Thiel passed away Monday, December 7, 2009 at Valley-Care Medical Center in Pleasanton. As impossible as it might sound for someone who was on the heart-kidney transplant list and was a stone's throw from a new lease on life, his death was sudden

and unexpected. He is mourned deeply by all who knew and loved him.

Dan was born in Arcata, Calif., on July 30, 1963. He graduated from Red Bluff High in 1981. An accomplished tuba player, he went to California State University, Chico, where he received a bachelor of arts degree in music in 1987. While taking music-related courses at Chico State, Dan discovered a latent interest that was to become his professional passion for the next two decades: computer science. He received his BS in computer science in 1989, and with fiancée Beth Miller, moved to the hub of the technical world: Silicon Valley, where he got his dream internship at Apple, Inc. He went on to become a senior software engineer in the biotechnology industry, working at Becton Dickinson and Applied Biosystems before his heart condition forced him to quit working.

Dan is survived by his wife of 18 years, Beth Miller Thiel, and son Spencer, 4, of Pleasanton; his parents, Jay and Diane Thiel, and brother and sister-in-law, Jay Jr. and Kathy Thiel, of Red Bluff, Calif.; brother and sister-in-law Mike and Dianna Thiel and grandmother Gwendolyn Graham of Eureka, Calif.; uncle Chris Thiel and his wife Velma of McKinleyville, Calif.; uncle Ron Frank and wife Marci of Sacramento; and cousins Jeanna Doty Thiel, Christina Sanford and husband Don, and Heather Thiel. He also leaves behind lifelong friend and musical collaborator Bryon Birkes and a core group of true friends.

Though Dan's energy and mobility were severely limited over the past few years, anyone who knew him knew he had the heart of a lion. He never gave up fighting, and he lived his life with unblinking honesty and quiet courage. He found new joy and a new reason to keep fighting when his son Spencer was born in 2005.

A memorial service for Dan was held Saturday, Dec. 12, at 2:30 p.m. at Graham-Hitch

Mortuary. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Spencer Thiel's college fund at Fidelity Investments, P.O. Box 770001, Cincinnati, OH, 45277-0003 (made out to Fidelity Investments; Account #617888788 in the memo field).

Jose Gueta Rodriguez

Jose Gueta Rodriguez went home to be with the Lord on December 7, 2009 at the age of 89. He was born Sept. 16, 1920.

He loved football, soccer, music, walking and gardening.

Jose was preceded in death by his wife of 54 years, Katalina in 1996. He is survived by his children Andres (Car-

men), Pedro (Marvie), Lucia, Jamie (Juanita) Jose Efrain, Norma (Raudel) Figueroa, Benjamin, 15 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren. Jose is also survived by his brothers Manuel and Ramon Hernandez of Guadalajara, MX and by many nieces, nephews and friends, all of whom were very dear to him.

He will be dearly missed by all who knew him.



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Donations may be made to St. Jude's Hospital in memory of Kathleen Schmitz.

Mary Frances Jewell-Awtry

Mary Frances Jewell-Awtry witnessed a century's transformation from horse and buggy to cars and other major advances, but it is two basic things - family and food - she credits her longevity.

Awtry, a gracious and pleasant woman whose lingering Southern drawl serves as testament to her roots.

She will be buried by her home in Lucas, KY.

The Kentucky-born Awtry has lived in the Valley for more than 40 years, observing Pleasanton's change from a "cow town" to a diverse city for more than 30 years of them. And she has spent the last 10 years in Dublin and then in Livermore where she passed away peacefully with her daughters by her side, Jeanne

Carolyn Lutes and Paula Awtry-Harris.

In lieu of flowers, you may make donations to Hope Hospice in Dublin.

Arrangements by Graham-Hitch Mortuary.

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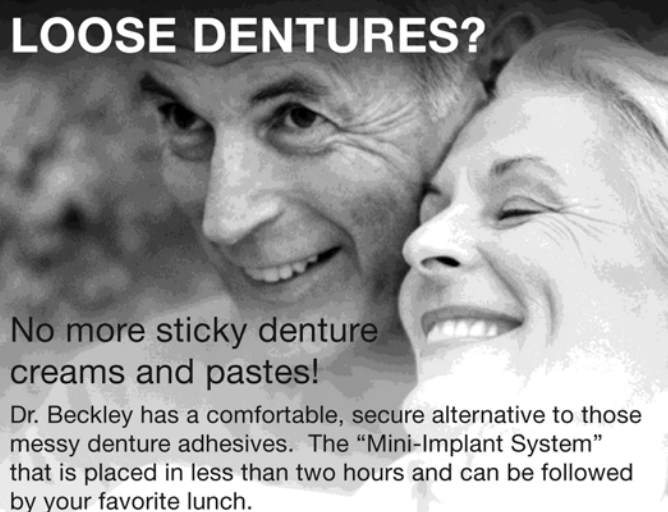
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My granddaughter visits me regularly at Rosewood Gardens, now that I live closer to my family. I am happier now that I have the freedom to live on my own and have my family visit.

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Assisted Living

BUDGET

(continued from page one)

Livermore Mayor Marshall Kamena concluded, "I think this is very exciting."

Livermore Mayor Marshall Kamena concluded, "I think this is very exciting."

ARTS AWARD PROGRAM

The council authorized the Commission for the Arts to create an award program recognizing high school seniors who excel in the fields of performing, visual and literary arts.

The program would issue a total of nine awards. Three each would go to Livermore and Granada high school seniors and three would be available to students attending an alternative high school within the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District.

The program would issue a total of nine awards. Three each would go to Livermore and Granada high school seniors and three would be available to students attending an alternative high school within the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District.

A monetary award of up to \$200 would be given to each student, depending upon the availability of funds.

Awards would be based on accomplishments in a particular field of art in school, extracurricular activities, answers to the application questions and letter or letters of recommendation.

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ORDINANCE

(continued from page one)

Sound will be one of the entertainment district issues. Others include safely moving people around the area, and how to deal with smokers, since there will be more smokers circulating on sidewalks and patios. Special smoking areas might be a solution.

ever, PDA does not intend to copy it. Legislation needs to be tailored to a specific area and its needs, said Saldivar.

Even things that might not be evident to most people in a discussion can be an issue. For example, more restaurant and club patrons downtown will bring about the need for more frequent trash removal, both from kitchens and sidewalk areas.

PDA was successful in asking the city to grant a temporary use permit for the downtown to have music last summer. The permit covered such things as guitar players and singers in various businesses. The permit expires this month.

Even the sound of garbage trucks collecting the trash, and the noise of clubs dumping trash into dumpsters can be issues.

Barone's Restaurant on St. John Street received a permit for outdoor music, the only one so far with an outdoor venue. Redcoats, a British-style pub one block away on St. Mary Street near Main Street, was granted a permit from the Planning Commission for extending its DJ music to Wednesday and Thursday nights. The location is indoors.

"There are so many details that will increase, as demands go up," said Saldivar. However, there are always solutions, she said. Even the noisy dumpsters can be quieted by placing old mattresses in them.

However, the permit was appealed by Councilmember Jerry Thorne, who wanted to modify a detail of one of the conditions set by the commission about monitoring sound. That appeal is set to be heard by the city council Jan. 19.

TEMPORARY MUSIC PERMIT EXPIRING

Livermore has an entertainment district ordinance. How-

Livermore has an entertainment district ordinance. How-

LAWSUIT

(continued from page one)

avoid legal action, it raised some \$80,000 — more than enough to hire three legal firms for an analysis based on their expertise in labor, employment and administration issues.

That would not be the end of the legal action or of costs, however, he advised retirees. The following step, if retirees were willing to proceed, would be a trial or hearing in which "retirees are required to prove...that we are entitled to an injunction (or the equivalent) returning us to the UC system, or alternatively, to an award of monetary damages."

Further fund-raising is needed to be sure the group's Legal Defense Fund can cover all costs prior to signing a contract for formal legal action, Requa says.

He compared the situation to a poker game in which "the hand looks favorable and we need to decide whether to fold or match the current bid. If we match the current bid and get a poor hand we can fold. If we get a good hand, we will have to decide if we can afford to stay in the game, unless the opposition folds.

The next legal step would include a court-enforced "discovery" process in which UC is required to produce relevant documents.

"The amount we need to stay in the game for the moment is probably in the \$75,000 to \$150,000 range."

"Between 1962 and 2005, the Regents passed or modified provisions relating to retiree medical benefits more than one hundred times," Requa wrote in an email to Retiree Group members. Most of the older records are "available only on microfiche," which must be examined through multiple appointments to visit UC's Office of the President — an impracticable task, he said. Newer records are on line but are less relevant to the retiree case.

Longer term, "if a lawsuit were successful," he wrote in his email, "a court could order the Regents to return LLNL retirees to the UC system. Alternatively, a court could order the Regents to pay monetary damages to LLNL retirees who have suffered losses as a result of the changes made by Extend Health, Inc. at the request of LLNS."

"By filing suit, we should be able to compel UC to provide all of the relevant records as part of the 'discovery' process."

Livermore Uses Incentives to Attract Biomedical Manufacturing Business

The Livermore City Council approved use of its high wage business attraction incentive program to bring Admedes Schuessler to the city.

The reasoning is that biomedical firms tend to locate in clusters. Having a major firm such as Admedes in Livermore would attract other such firms.

The biomedical company will locate a manufacturing facility on Collier Canyon Road in Livermore. The plan is to manufacture heart valve cages and vein stents. It would be the only US-based manufacturing plant for the company.

Livermore Mayor Marshall Kamena gave credit to former councilmember Tom Reitter for proposing the incentive program. He also noted that approval of the incentive program did not represent the approval of any permits. The application would be coming to the council at a later date.

It would be the first major biomedical company to locate in Livermore.

Eric Veit of Admedes said that the company had looked at different places. "We liked Livermore," he declared. He added that he likes the vineyards in the background of the new facility in Livermore.

The high wage incentive program had been discontinued. Earlier in the meeting, the council reinstated the program. It provides \$5000 per job over a five year period that meet or exceed a base salary level. Thirty of the 50 jobs at the Livermore site are considered high wage, \$58,928. The determination of what is a high wage is based on the current median home price in Livermore.

Veit provided some background information about the company, noting that 85 percent of its customers are in the United States. It is a privately held company that has exhibited high growth. It was founded in 1996 with two people. It now employees 450 and was valued at \$75 million in 2009.

Admedes Schuessler would qualify for \$150,000. The money is used to offset permit fees. City staff recommended making the money available at the start of

Livermore Chamber of Commerce CEO Dale Kaye commented that if there were ever a

BART

(continued from page one)

consensus that any downtown station would need to be paired with another station in order to be successful. "Tons of parking was not so important." Along the freeway, the highest priority for a station was maximum parking. Infill stations should be paired and contain the maximum level of development.

influence who uses them. For example limiting new parking in the downtown could reduce auto access. There could be preferential parking for Livermore residents.

One of the concerns raised at the first workshop was the potential for crime related to BART coming to Livermore. Others were noise, parking and traffic.

In looking at stations, Nelson said that a study found that at a Isabel/580 station, 70 percent of the riders would come from Livermore, 30 percent from the San Joaquin Valley. The Greenville station would attract 20 percent ridership from Livermore, 49 percent from the San Joaquin Valley, and 31 percent would transfer to ACE (if there were a station). The assumptions included unconstrained parking. The model did not include any impacts from transit oriented development.

There was agreement that stations should have multimodal connections, be near those who use BART, destinations, and jobs. They need to be attractive.

Paired stations showed the following results: Isabel/580 and Vasco: At Vasco, 37 percent would be local, 37 percent from San Joaquin County and 20 percent transfers to ACE; at Isabel, 52 percent would be from Livermore, 48 percent from San Joaquin Valley. A downtown, Isabel combination shows 61 percent local, 20 percent San Joaquin County and 12 percent ACE ridership in the downtown; at Isabel it would be 36 percent local and 64 percent from San Joaquin County.

Chief Sweeney said he conducted his own study of the potential for an increase in crime. He contacted other agencies, particularly those with end of the line BART stations. "Crime did not increase," he said. "I found it difficult to make a connection between crime and the presence of BART." When it came to car thefts and burglaries, Sweeney said the numbers were much lower than he had expected.

A downtown/Greenville combination indicated that 74 percent would be from San Joaquin County and 26 percent from Livermore at Greenville; 61 percent local, 16 percent ACE transfers and 23 percent San Joaquin riders would use the downtown site. Downtown/Vasco combination predicted 25 percent ACE, 23 percent local and 52 percent San Joaquin County at Vasco and 60 percent local, 5 percent ACE and 26 percent San Joaquin County at the downtown station.

Crime at newer stations, in particular, was low. Sweeney credits that to the use of technology to monitor activity at the stations. He noted that different stations create different challenges for law enforcement. Freeway stations are more remote. There is greater activity around stations in downtown. "We have time to plan for security for any station coming to Livermore. I am confident we can bring BART to Livermore without bringing crime with it," he stated.

Nelson pointed out that the downtown station could share parking with other downtown uses such as theaters and restaurants.

Tung pointed to station design as another method to curtail crime. Such things as good lighting, discouragement of pedestrian tunnels, and drop-off zones with lots of activity are examples.

Workshop participants were asked to apply community goals in selecting which stations locations best fit Livermore. The goals included land use, community character, circulation, eco-

Parking and traffic were discussed by Bonnie Nelson of Nygaard-Nelson, a consulting firm. "Who uses the stations varies a lot. How they are designed and where they are located can

time for progressive incentives, it is now. "It is wonderful to see manufacturing coming this way and to Livermore in particular. We tend to see hubs of biomedical companies. I feel strongly this could be a hub in Livermore."

AGREEMENT AMENDMENT

The council, sitting as a Redevelopment Agency, approved an amendment to the disposition and development agreement between the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center (LVPAC) and the Redevelopment Agency.

any time between Jan. 1, 2010 and Dec. 31, 2010.

The agreement provides that if the actual development costs of the improvements exceeds \$2.76 million, the Redevelopment Agency would either pay the excess or reduce the scope of work.

The change would provide an additional amount of money to pay for construction of improvements on city owned property around the proposed regional theater. This includes adjacent roads as well as a public plaza. Originally, a \$1 million advance was proposed. The scope of work has expanded to include more work to retrofit and improve the parking lot near the theater, increasing the estimated cost of improvements to \$4.62 million. The advance would now amount to \$1.65 million with \$350,000 payable by Dec. 15. The remainder of the advance would be paid in installments at

If LVPAC bonds were not issued by July 1, 2011, LVPAC would return the initial funds advanced, reduced by expenses incurred for development of the improvements related to the theater.

John Stein suggested that it was premature to move forward with improvements for the regional theater. He suggested there were a lot of other projects awaiting funding in the downtown that should be funded.

Mayor Kamena added that it would be nice if all the projects were done at one time. "However, it seems orderly to do them one at a time."

Bob Baltzer said, "I am amazed that Mr. Stein continues to find reasons to put off things as far as the theater is concerned. The theater means a great deal to a lot of us in the city. If we keep putting it off, it will never get going."

Mayor Kamena added that it would be nice if all the projects were done at one time. "However, it seems orderly to do them one at a time."

adjacent downtown, which is significantly different from the Richmond BART Station, which more reflects the activity level in that community.

Other factors can contribute to the attractiveness of a station for vagrants and police incidents. The level of effort the local jurisdictions place on monitoring the stations can help thwart activity. For example, a station in Downtown Livermore would receive a considerably higher level of attention than a station in Downtown Oakland partly due to Livermore's emphasis on Downtown vitality and the fact that Livermore has relatively fewer major police actions that detract other jurisdictions from these efforts.

The visibility and activity level of BART officers at stations can also impact the number of illegal incidents. The design of a station, particularly whether the station areas are visible for patrol can be a factor. "Generally speaking, more pedestrian traffic and businesses mean more eyes on the street, which is a deterrent to illegal activities. Activity levels in Downtown Livermore should be especially high in the later evenings given entertainment venues," Sweeney writes.

Stations along the BART right of way can be coupled with transportation to local employment or education centers (LLNL and/or Las Positas Community College) to help assure high activity levels. Finally, the types of services provided at or immediately adjacent to a BART station can contribute to the types of patrons using the facility. For example, locating a performing arts center at a BART station tends to attract a certain clientele, while locating bail bond businesses would tend to attract a different clientele.

The report concludes, "Given Livermore's current crime levels and assuming the station design and businesses are appropriate for the selected site and adjacent surroundings and that BART police staffing for this area is similar to its existing levels, any major increase in crime at or around BART stations in Livermore would not be anticipated."

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

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

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

Full name of registrant Nancy K. McKain, 95 Windward Common Unit 2, Livermore Ca 94551
This business was conducted by an individual
/s/Nancy K. McKain
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on November 16, 2009. Expires November 16, 2014.
The Independent Legal No. 2629. Publish November 26, December 3, 10, 17, 2009.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 431605

The following person(s) doing business as: Hey Nay Nay Ink, 252 Main St., Pleasanton Ca 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Nancy K. McKain, 95 Windward Common Unit 2, Livermore Ca 94551
This business is conducted by an individual
The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name (s) listed above on November 16, 2009
Signature of Registrant: /s/Nancy K. McKain
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on November 16, 2009. Expires November 16, 2014.
The Independent Legal No. 2630. Publish. November 26, December 3, 10, 17, 2009.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 431721

The following person(s) doing business as: Livermore Gas, 160 Holmes St., Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Double AA Corp., 1435 Hun-

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 431282

The following person(s) doing business as: Green Earth Carpet Cleaning, 490 No. "K" Street, Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Armando Valdez Barrera, 490 No. "K" Street, Livermore Ca 94550
This business is conducted by an individual
The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name (s) listed above on October 29, 2009
Signature of Registrant: /s/Armando Valdez Barrera
This statement was filed with

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 431282

The following person(s) doing business as: Lineage Wine Company, 5443 Tesla Road, Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Steven Kent, LLC, 5443 Tesla Rd., Livermore Ca 94550
This business is conducted by a Limited liability company
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.
Signature of Registrant: /s/Steven Mirassou
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on December 4, 2009. Expires December 4, 2014.
The Independent Legal No. 2640. Publish. December 10, 17, 24, 31, 2009.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 432186

The following person(s) doing business as: Lineage Wine Company, 5443 Tesla Road, Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Steven Kent, LLC, 5443 Tesla Rd., Livermore Ca 94550
This business is conducted by a Limited liability company
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.
Signature of Registrant: /s/Engela W. Wilson
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on November 18, 2009. Expires November 18, 2014.
The Independent Legal No. 2632. Publish. December 3, 10, 17, 2009.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 431965

The following person(s) doing business as: Overland Safaris, 336 Christina Ct., Pleasanton Ca 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Walter C. Maina Kiama, 336 Christina Ct., Pleasanton Ca 94566
Signature of Registrant: Jennifer Noelle Perazzo, 336 Christina Ct., Pleasanton,

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 432241

The following person(s) doing business as: Affordable Rain Gutters, 751 Polaris Way, Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Eric L. Stone, 751 Polaris Way, 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 1994
Signature of Registrant: /s/Eric L. Stone
This statement was filed with

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 432420

The following person(s) doing business as: Affordale Rain Gutters, 751 Polaris Way, Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Eric L. Stone, 751 Polaris Way, 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 1994
Signature of Registrant: /s/Eric L. Stone
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ANIMALS

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6)LOST

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AUTOS/BOATS/RVS/TRUCKS

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DONATE VEHICLE: RECEIVE \$1000 Grocery Coupon. Your Choice. Noahs Arc - Support No Kill Shelters, Advance Veterinary Treatments. Free Towing, IRS Tax Deductible. Non-Runners. 1-866-912-GIVE. (CAL/SCAN)

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151)ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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REAL ESTATE NEWS AND NOTICES

Busting Myths: Truths about Buying and Selling Real Estate, Part 2

By Cher Wollard
Last week we explored a few commonly held misperceptions about buying and selling real estate, and what the true story is. We dispelled five myths:

1. To look at a lot of homes, call a lot of agents. – False
2. You should price your home high because buyers will underbid you. – False
3. You should price property low to get multiple offers. – False
4. You will save money by buying without an agent. – False
5. You'll save money buy selling it yourself. – False

Today we'll investigate the facts behind some other real estate myths:

6. You will save money by buying through the listing agent. Sometimes this works well. When one broker represents both sides in a transaction, it is called "dual agency" and it is perfectly legal.

Some buyers believe that if the agent is representing both parties, he/she only receives half the commission, which then can be used to save the buyer money. Some agents will trim their fee in these situations – although seldom by half, since they now are doing twice the work and taking on twice the liability – but it can come at a price. The agent's loyalty is split.

In a simple transaction, in which both parties are motivated and willing to give a little, it can work very well. Any savings may go to the buyer or the seller. If you don't feel completely comfortable with the agent or with the situation, find a Realtor to represent your interests exclusively.

7. Real estate agents get paid 6 percent for selling homes. As with most things having to do with real estate transactions, broker fees are negotiable. While the "norm" in our area is 6 percent, some agents charge more, some charge less. In other parts of the country, especially rural areas, 7 or even 8 percent is usual. Fees for mobile home sales are often 10 percent.

Listing agreements are between seller and broker, with the agent acting for the broker in the transaction. Regardless of how much you pay the broker, your agent will see only a part of that amount. Most often the seller pays his/her broker a commission – let's say it is 6 percent. The broker shares that fee with the buyer's broker, leaving 3 percent. That 3 percent is then split between broker and agent, with a significant portion going for marketing costs, licensing fees, insurance and other costs of doing business.

Unlike sales people in many businesses, real estate agents are seldom paid a salary. If a deal falls apart, they make \$0, regardless of how much time, energy and personal resources they put into it.

Think about that the next time your agent spends hours helping you fill out disclosure documents or strategize a counter offer, or transporting you around to look at property. Agents who build wealth usually do so through investing in real estate, something you can do too.

8. The best way to accumulate wealth in real estate is to buy and flip property.

That sounds exciting. In fact, the moguls of real estate – those who have built and sustained family fortunes – have done so the old-fashioned way, by buying and holding.

In a fast seller's market, when prices are escalating monthly, people are lured by the prospect of easy money. But the key to building true wealth in real estate is through carefully building a portfolio of well-valued properties. This is true whether your real estate investments are in your home or in rental or commercial properties.

Of course, your real estate agent is happy to help you sell the properties you choose to flip. But if you can manage rentals or have a reliable property management company who can handle them for you, you may do better in the long run by holding property for five years or longer, and then exchanging into better properties, rather than exiting the market.

Markets like this one, when real estate is selling at bargain prices and you can lock in interest rates at 50-year lows, are ideal times to buy.

9. Foreclosure sales, short sales and fixer uppers are the best bargains.

Properties in distress or disrepair are generally priced lower than similar properties in the same neighborhood sold conventionally. That does not mean, however, they are always good deals.

These kinds of sales are typically "as is," meaning the seller will not pay for repairs. Many – although certainly not all – foreclosure and short sale properties are in poor condition. Delayed maintenance before the owners left and vandalism once it is vacated have reduced the value of many of these homes.

Properties labeled "fixers" often require major repairs – more than the typical do-it-yourselfer can handle. In contrast, most sellers in traditional sales will work with the buyers on resolving repair issues, often paying for most or all necessary work.

If you are considering purchasing distressed property, make sure you have it thoroughly check out by qualified inspectors.

10. Everything you need to know about real estate is on-line.

Type "real estate" into Google and you will get 452 million hits in 22 seconds. It is one of the most frequent searches on the internet, and there is plenty of helpful information to be found.

Unfortunately, not all of it is reliable. For example, if you want to know the value of a home, you can go to www.zillow.com, the most popular valuation website out there. But even Zillow cautions against using their computer-generated estimates – called Zestimates – as anything more than a starting point.

In Alameda and Contra Costa counties, for example, fewer than half the home valuations are within 10 percent accuracy, according to the web site's own statistics. Accuracy of 10 percent would mean a home with a "Zestimate" of \$450,000 might actually be valued anywhere from \$405,000 to \$495,000 – that's a spread of \$90,000. For approximately 51 percent of properties in these two counties, the site claims even less accuracy.

To get a clear idea of value, you need a trained professional – an appraiser or a real estate agent – to physically inspect the property, noting condition, any special features and pace of the market in that neighborhood.

If you are looking for information about current interest rates, you will find plenty of answers online. Unfortunately, they may not all apply to your area or your situation. For an accurate picture of what a mortgage would cost you on a particular home, you need to consult your trusted mortgage specialist.

If you are looking for information about what's happening in the market, half the bloggers in the country have an opinion to share. But for accurate information about your neighborhood, or a neighborhood you are considering moving to, consult a Realtor.

All real estate is local. That's one common saying that is not a myth.

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

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Woman Decorates Three City Blocks After Using Thera-Gesic®

BEXAR COUNTY – Mary W. applied Thera-Gesic® to her sore shoulder and proceeded to decorate every house for three city blocks in anticipation of the holidays. When asked if she had each homeowner's permission to create her magic, she painlessly replied: "None of your dang business!"

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Recovery House's Future Looks Better

It looks like Tranquility Sanctuary will be saved in time for the holiday season.

Tranquility Sanctuary is a large, modern home in south Pleasanton that houses up to eight women at any one time. They are recovering from alcohol and drug abuse.

The women have been in other programs at the initial stages of recovery. However, Tranquility Sanctuary serves as a sort of halfway house to get them back into society in a more strengthened way.

The house, owned by Seyda Harding Kaynak and her husband, Kamil, was facing foreclosure on Dec. 14. Seyda was hoping for a miracle to save it. She told the Independent on Dec. 14 that she got her miracle.

Deadline Near For Awards Nominations

The Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce is seeking nominations for its 47th Annual Community Service Awards.

Nominees do not have to be Chamber members. The awards will be presented at the Chamber of Commerce dinner on Friday, Jan. 29, 2010 at the Pleasanton Marriott.

Nominations are due by Dec. 31, 2009. The categories include Business Philanthropy Award; Excellence in Business Award; Excellence in Service Award; Distinguished Individual Service Award; and Green Business Award (new category).

The nominations can be found on-line at www.pleasanton.org.

Return form to the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce by mail to 777 Peters Avenue, Pleasanton, CA 94566, or fax (925)846-9697.

For more information, call the Chamber at (925)846-5858

Kaynak filed Chapter 13 bankruptcy on her own on Dec. 11, which automatically halted the foreclosure proceedings. That was no miracle in itself. However, the next day, while she was at her job of managing a store in Stoneridge Mall, she met an attorney who specializes in helping people resolve their foreclosure problems.

The timing and circumstances of finding someone who could move the issue along was miraculous, as far as Kaynak is concerned. "There's a reason we

are here. This house was meant to be here," she said.

Tranquility Sanctuary has served 50 women since it opened two years ago. They pay a fee, and live two to a bedroom. They are expected to go to 12-step recovery meetings regularly, and have to meet expectations about behavior and doing household chores.

Now that the house will remain in Kaynak's hands, she is looking forward to serving the current residents, future newcomers, and possibly one who

will return, because she is having a difficult time after going back to her family.

Annual Posada Planned in Pleasanton

A Mexican "Posada," will be presented on Fri., Dec. 18. This traditional event is hosted by Pleasanton-Tulancingo Sister City Organization 7 to 9 p.m. at the Pleasanton Veteran's Hall, 301 Main St., downtown Pleasanton.

There will be carols, traditional Mexican desserts, coffee, hot chocolate and apple cider. Kids will have pinatas. The event is for the entire family. There is no admission charge. Christmas basket donations of cash is optional.

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<p>GINA HUGGINS 583-1111</p>  <p>Livermore \$529,000 Large addition with tons of extra living space. 4bd/2ba, plus den. Sparkling pool. Great neighborhood with large corner lot.</p>	<p>KEVIN COLLINS 583-1111</p>  <p>Livermore \$499,900 Mostly original, hwdw floors, 2003+/-sf, large corner lot, two fireplaces, currently 4bd/2.5ba easily converted back to 5bd.</p>	<p>MARK LAFFERTY 583-1111</p>  <p>Livermore \$489,950 Beautiful 4bd/2.5ba home in a court location. Features include tile flooring in kitchen/bath, maple cabinets, and new carpets.</p>	<p>OTT/RICHARDS 583-1111</p>  <p>Danville \$466,900 Cute Westside bungalow nestled in a creek side setting. 2bd/2ba possibly 3bds. 1334+/-sf. Must sell fast.</p>	<p>GINA HUGGINS 583-1111</p>  <p>Livermore \$169,000 FHA approved complex... 2bd/1.5ba end unit with private backyard and balcony. Plantation shutters. Neutral colors. Fireplace in living room.</p>

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Art, Community, & Education



The Four Preps



The Buck Ram Platters

Rock in the New Year at the Bankhead

The Bankhead Theater in Downtown Livermore will be “rockin” on December 31, when the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center presents Rockin’ In the New Year

The evening features a look-back-in-time evening of pop/rock, classic doo wop and some all-time favorites from the Great American

Songbook with an all-star lineup of rock and roll legends. In addition to some of the most famous music of the early days of doo wop vocal harmonies including Only You, 26 Miles (Santa Catalina), The Great Pretender, Image of a Girl and many more, party-goers will celebrate New Year’s Eve with a champagne and dessert post-

performance party in the theater lobby.

HEADLINERS

The Four Preps - In the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s, the group amassed eight gold singles and three gold albums. Its million-selling signature tunes include “26 Miles,” “Big Man,” “Lazy Summer Night,” and “Down by the Station.” The Four Preps’ numerous television and motion picture appearances include four years on “The Ozzie and Harriet Show” backing Ricky Nelson and with Sandra Dee in the “Gidget” movie. Their most recent television appearance was the award-winning PBS special, “Magic Moments.” The current incarnation of The Four Preps features the original lead singer, Bruce Belland, Bob Duncan (formerly with the Diamonds and The Crew Cuts), Joe Dickey (of The Crew Cuts), and Skip Taylor. Their performance is an amalgamation of rich harmony and lively comedy.

The Buck Ram Platters - The Platters were one of the most successful vocal groups of the 1950s. Starting with their first hit “Only You,” the group had 15 gold records and 22 consecutive appearances on the Billboard charts. They spent 211 uninterrupted weeks on the charts, and became the first black group to make the Top Ten Pop Chart. The Platters’ greatest hit songs include “The Great Pretender” (1955), “You’ve Got the Magic Touch” (1956), “My Prayer” (1956) and “Smoke Gets in Your Eyes” (1958). The group’s many awards and achievements include Song of the Year (The Great Pretender); Billboard Triple Crown Awards for “Only You” and “The Great Pretender,” Cashbox Awards for Most Outstanding Vocal Group, (1955, 1966); and the England Musical Express’ World’s Best Vocal Group (1957, 1958). Their success resulted appearances with Jackie Gleason, Ed Sullivan, Perry Como, Arthur Murray, and many other stars. The Platters appeared in five movies, including Columbia Pictures’ “Rock Around the Clock.” While the members of The Platters have changed over the years, the singing-style that made the group famous, remains.

The Safaris, featuring Jimmy

(continued on page 3)

Devon Dunne of Pleasanton to Appear in NBC's *Trauma* This Spring

By Patricia Koning

Around Thanksgiving, Devon Dunne was stung by a bee and went into anaphylactic shock. Fortunately, quick work by paramedics Nancy Carnahan and Glenn Morris, along with Dr. Joseph Saviano at San Francisco City Hospital, saved her life.

If those names sound familiar, it's because they aren't real paramedics or doctors, but characters on the NBC television show *Trauma*. For two days in late November, Devon, a 15-year-old sophomore at Amador Valley High School, played "Samantha" in an episode of the popular medical drama. The episode, called "Protocol," will air in the spring following the 2010 Winter Olympics.

"It was an amazing experience," says Devon. "It was great to be on a real production set, where everyone was so professional. This is what I live for."

She was called to audition in mid-November by her agency, J.E. Talent, LLC, and found out days later that she'd landed the part. Devon was rehearsing for Amador's production of *The Crucible*, in which she plays Abigail Williams, when she got a call from her mother, Teri.

"She said, 'you got it' and I didn't know what she was talking about," explains Devon. "I've been on so many auditions you learn to take it in stride. Often, not getting a part has less to do with your abilities than how you look. If they are casting a daughter, and the actor playing her mother has straight hair, I might not get it just because my hair is curly."

Teri says she knew Devon was a performer when she was an infant because putting her in front of a camera was a sure fire way to stop her crying. She's been working at acting and singing practically her whole life. "I'm a double threat," jokes Devon. "I can't dance."

Devon started performing on stage when she was about five and has appeared in a number of local productions. She was in *Annie Get Your Gun* with Newark's Stage 1 Theater and *Camelot* with the Tri-Valley Repertory Theater. At the age of 9 she began voice lessons, which led her to sign on with JE Talent about three years ago.

In the fifth grade, she landed a part in the ABC Family Movie *Love Wrecked* starring Amanda Bynes. Devon was sent to the Dominican Republic, as much of the movie takes place on a resort island, but her part was cut from the movie's final version. She also appeared in a Hewlett Packard commercial.

Devon's other passion is opera singing, which she was introduced to as part of her voice training. She studied at the San Francisco Conservancy of Music this summer and performed at Herbst Theater as part of the program. She's also won numerous awards in opera competitions sponsored by the Music Teachers' Association of California and California Association Music Education.

All of this means that Devon does not have the normal life of a high school sophomore. Between acting and school, she doesn't have much free time. Auditions usually come up suddenly, requiring the family to drop everything. "It's always, what are we going to do with Francis," jokes her 12-year-old brother, who takes the whole thing in stride. Francis has no interest in acting—he's happiest playing soccer and futsal, a version of indoor soccer played on a basketball-style court. He adds that his sister's acting success is "really cool."

The movie and television industry is not new to the Dunne family. Devon's paternal uncle is the writer-director George Armitage, who directed *Gross Pointe Blank*, *The Big Bounce*, and *Miami Blues*, for which he also wrote the screenplay. Several cousins from that side of the family also work in the industry.

With *Trauma* under her belt, Devon is hardly resting on her laurels. She's going to keep plugging away at auditions and is trying to break into voice-over work. She's also thinking ahead to college, where she plans to double major in theater and music.

Devon's favorite actors are Lucille Ball, Robin Williams, and Helena Bonham Carter. In fact, her dream role is Mrs. Lovett in *Sweeney Todd*, the part that Bonham Carter played in the 2007 film of the musical.



"It was an amazing experience," says Devon. "It was great to be on a real production set, where everyone was so professional. This is what I live for."

ROCK

(continued from front page)

Stephens - As lead singer of the Safaris, Jimmy recorded "Image of A Girl" in 1960. It became an instant hit in the Los Angeles area, followed closely by increasing popularity across the country and the world. With eventual sales of over 1,000,000 copies worldwide, the group toured all over the country with other popular acts of that time; the Platters, Fabian, Bobby Vee, Johnny Burnette, Brenda Lee, Jackie Wilson, and many others. The Safaris popularity grew particularly on the East Coast after they appeared in Baltimore, New Jersey, Philadelphia, and the surrounding area. "Image of A Girl" was their only big hit, but was enough to keep them doing oldies shows up and down the West Coast

Hosting Rockin' In the New Year will be comedian Tony Russell. Russell, a master of stand-up comedy, has made appearances in many of the famed U.S. comedy clubs such as The Comedy Store, The Improv in Hollywood, The Ice House, and The Comedy Magic in Hermosa Beach. He also made comedic appearances on "The Merv Griffin Show," "The Dinah Shore Show," "Norm Crosby's Comedy Shop," "Madam's Place," "Make Me Laugh," and "The John Davidson Show" to name a few. He's opened for Las Vegas stars such as Frankie Avalon, Julie London, Roger Miller, Joe Williams, Tony Martin and Lou Rawls. Russell's film credits include "The Black Dahlia" with Josh Hartnett, Scarlett Johansson and Hilary Swank, "Bugsy" with Warren Beatty, "Casino" with Robert De Niro and Joe Pesci, "Ed Wood" with Johnny Depp and Martin Landau, "Out For Justice" with Steven Segal, "Suddenly" with Kirstie Alley, "Living out Loud" with Holly Hunter and Danny De Vito, and "Winchell" with Stanley Tucci

Rockin' In the New Year comes to the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., in Downtown Livermore for one performance only on Thursday, December 31 at 8pm. Tickets are available at the theater ticket office, 2400 First Street, by phone at 925-373-6800 and online at www.bankheadtheater.org.

Handel's Messiah - A Triumph for the Season

By Nancy O'Connell

On a cold, wintry night with our hills sparkling with snow, the audience was warm and snug in the Bankhead Theater on Tuesday night, December 8th for the performance of Handel's *Messiah*, a favorite with listeners for over 250 years. The Pacific Chamber Symphony, under the direction of Maestro Lawrence Kohl, presented this work in its original form for a small chamber orchestra rather than a large ninety piece symphony. In its first performance, Handel conducted this work from the harpsichord.

He composed this major work in just over three weeks, working on it constantly. It was first performed in Dublin in 1742. When this reviewer escorted a group on a literary tour of Ireland and England, two nights were spent on the actual site of that first performance in the George Frederick Handel Hotel. It was fascinating to wander around and find areas that Handel had explored during his lifetime.

When the chorus assembled on the Bankhead stage it was a colorful sight. The orchestra was all in concert black, as were the men in the chorus, but the women often had on bright red, green and lavender blouses over black slacks or long skirts. Their blouses were the colors of Christmas ornaments, and the effect was cheerful and seasonal.

The Overture in this performance had a slightly uneven entrance in the first violins, and in the recitative for John B. Tarr, tenor, his voice did not always carry to the back of the theater. Sometimes his voice carried above the orchestra, but at other times he sang so

softly that the words were lost.

In "Thus Saith the Lord," a recitative for bass, Jeffrey Fields, baritone, had an amazing voice which carried to the last seat in the hall. Handel recitatives are difficult for the soloists, but Fields navigated the 16th notes with ease. Every word could be understood. As he was accompanied by the harpsichord and orchestra, the audience had to strain to hear the harpsichord, even though the lid had been removed. Although it added texture to the overall effect, its sound was muffled, and many in the audience said that they couldn't hear it.

When the chorus entered in "And he Shall Purify," the sopranos sounded angelic with their high, ethereal voices. Their entrance had a tricky 16th note passage for which Handel is well known, and it was echoed in the bass section an octave and a fourth lower. Michael Taddei, on the double bass and the two cellists played constantly on the *basso continuo* part, as did the harpsichordist. Taddei was solid rhythmically throughout the performance and he played exactly with the two 'celli.

Contralto, Jessica Mariko Dear-dorff's voice was like liquid amber, startling in its purity. Her recitative was followed by a solo by the concert master, William Barbini, accompanied by the harpsichord, one cello and one bass player. Barbini had a beautiful tone and played with perfect intonation.

After the intermission, the chorus and orchestra returned to the stage, augmented by the timpani and two trumpets.

Both of the soprano soloists, Lisa Marie May and Elaine Renea Johnson, had lovely voices. They

made the difficult arias and recitatives sound effortless. Lisa was dressed in a glittering black blouse with a long, black sash - quite a dramatic statement in front of the orchestra in somber concert black. Her voice shimmered as she sang, "Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Zion!"

Everyone stood for the Hallelujah chorus which was majestic in its presentation. Maestro Kohl's cues were clear, and his wide, generous conducting motions ended with his arms flung wide open. As Jeffrey Fields, baritone, sang the "The Trumpets Shall Sound," the two trumpets played forth. The first trumpet, Kale Cummins, sounded brilliant, and tossed off the difficult part with its ornamentation, with great musicality.

The final chorus, "Worthy is the Lamb That was Slain," was accompanied again by the full

orchestra, including both trumpets and the timpani. Throughout this complex final chorus, Maestro Kohl gave precise cues which were easily followed. The grand pause just before the *Adagio* with its final five chords was most effective, and the audience responded with enthusiastic applause.


It makes one wonder - will any of the works so popular today still be listened to by rapt and appreciative audiences 250 years from now?

Circle your calendars and plan on coming to the next appearance in the Bankhead Theater by the Pacific Chamber Symphony. The concert will be on Thursday, February 18th, 2010. It's titled "From Corelli to Copland" and will feature the Brass Orchestra and Copland's *Fanfare for the Common Man*.

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One More Weekend for Holiday Productions

Cinderella . . .



City of Pleasanton Civic Arts Stage Company, in partnership with San Francisco Shakespeare Festival perform the children's fairy tale *Cinderella* on December 18 and 19 7:30 p.m., on December 20, at 2:00 p.m., and on December 19, at 11:00 a.m. at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. The show combines elements of the fairy tale, a musical, and a satire in a style called English pantomime. Audience members are invited to cheer, clap and shout 'Presto!' to transform Cinderella for the ball. Tickets to *Cinderella* are \$12, \$16 & \$20 for adults and \$8, \$12, & \$16 for children and seniors. All tickets may be purchased online at www.civictickets.org up to three hours prior to the performance, by phone at (925) 931-3444, or in person at the Amador Theater Box Office. Box office hours are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and for two hours prior to the performance. Group discounts are available.

The Nutcracker . . .



The Valley Dance Theatre's full-length production of the Tchaikovsky's holiday classic *The Nutcracker* continue at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First Street in Livermore. Performances are accompanied the Livermore-Amador Symphony pit orchestra. Holiday carols are sung by Harmony Fusion prior to opening curtain and during the "snow" scene. Evening performances will take place December 18, 19 and 20 at 7:00 p.m. Matinee performances will take place on December 19 and 20 at 2:00 p.m. All seats are reserved. Tickets are \$33, \$27 and \$24 for adults and \$18 for students 17 years and younger. They may be purchased online at www.bankheadtheater.org or by phone at 925-373-6800.

Photos - Doug Jorgensen



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Getting the Name On There Vintage 99 Label Maker

by Harry Stoll

It's obvious, but bears repeating: the best wine in the world doesn't do anybody any good if it can't be sold. Savvy wineries are very aware of this and make sure their wine carries a label that grabs attention, is memorable and is durable. Livermore's Vintage 99 Label, an enterprise on Enterprise Court, near Greenville Road and I-580, helps wine brands by producing labels that can enhance sales.

Here's how it works: A judicious wine brand hires professionals to write the description and design the label according to its needs and desires. Then the copy and the art work—photos, drawing, or other images, and layout of the copy as to size, style, and placement—comes to Vintage 99 Label,

which houses an impressive lineup of high tech machinery, including three types of presses.

Affable, knowledgeable, Brent Barker is the account manager. He has been in the label-making business for over 20 years and can explain every part of the operation. He has to know, so he can explain it to potential clients. Brent says Vintage 99 has three types of presses: A digital press that's good for small jobs, a Flexograph press, and a waterless offset press. The machinery is in two building, both owned by Vintage 99, in an industrial park.

A myriad of bewildering possibilities face the client who wants a label. It can be paper or foil, shiny or flat. And then there's coated stock, embossed and stamped,

clear coat, and no doubt much more. Graphic designers are familiar with all of this and talk the talk so Vintage 99 can walk the walk. Or spec the specs so Vintage 99 can roll the rolls.

CMYK are initially very important in the label business. It stands for cyan, magenta, yellow and black. Through magic, these colors can be mixed in various combinations to produce any color. And that means any color. Vintage 99 does CMYK right.

There are rows of adjustable rollers and buttons and handles and monitors and huge rolls of paper running through. Films are made, plates burned, presses run, perhaps chins stroked and hmmm sounded. Machines purr, whirr, click, maybe, clank and somehow

it all comes out well-made. The labels are also given a special coating to protect from scuffing during shipping and handling.

Brent points with pride at the company's success at going green. "It's good for the environment."

The work is checked at each stage. The final check is a serious stint that's rather ceremonial, a rite of passage. It's the press check. Vintage 99 client Crystal Cruise gleaming white liners drop anchor in 40 ports in 30 countries. It has its own wine to be poured in its luxurious dining rooms during the cruise. The wine is made, bottled, and the label affixed, in King City by the Monterey Wine Company, which is owned by Fillini Wines of Los Altos.

Recently, Fillini Wine's Melissa Artacho was in the lounge waiting to do a press check. Graphic designer Greg Heinz of Sausalito sat across a big table from her. The table held a thick notebook with many labels under plastic. Louis Martini, Tailgate Red from the winery at Fresno State University ... A cabinet top held a barrage of bottles with the labels done by Vintage 99 stuck thereon.

For a press check the press checkers get some of the labels of the initial run and check them to make sure the color is right, the printing readable, and generally that the hunky is dory. Some adjustments to the printing might be made. In a bit of bad news for the graphic designer, the art work may have to be done over. It's probably a fantasy left over from an old movie that a cry of, "Stop the presses," is sometimes heard.

The press checkers are real persnickety. All the better for the wine brand and for the consumer who must pass between the rows and rows and tiers and tiers of wines and have one that catches the eye.

Local wineries using Vintage 99 labels include Big White House, Les Chenes, Mitchell Katz, Red Feather, el Sol, and Tenuta.

Vintage 99 does mostly wine labels, but can do labels for any product, such as food, pharmaceutical, cosmetics, or anything else needed a label or a tape.

Last June, the U.S. Commerce Association named Vintage 99 "Best of Livermore" in the Adhesive Papers, Labels, or Tapes category.

Vintage 99 President Kathy Gonzales said, "We are very proud of our products."

Former Residents Releases New CD

Former Livermore resident Karen Marguth and the band, Espacio, recently released a new CD.

Marguth and band members live in Fresno. The band's instrumentation includes mandolin, guitar, bass and drums. Marguth performs the vocals.

The CD includes songs ranging from Black/Bye Bye Blackbird to That Old Black Magic, and In the Land of Ooo BlaDee.

Marguth has been an active performer throughout her life. Her professional background includes choreographing, directing and performing in regional theaters as well as performing in touring shows. She sings in rock, blues, folk and jazz bands. Marguth also does voice-overs and studio work.

Espacio holds a residence every Thursday at The Landmark in Fresno.

For more information, go to www.karenmarguth.com or www.espaciojazz.com.

Unusual Gift Package Offered

The Livermore Shakespeare Festival is offering an unusual gift idea, a performance of Shakespeare's Romeo & Juliet or The Real Thing at the Livermore Shakespeare Festival, performed under the stars at the beautiful Concannon Vineyard.

The package includes the following: One Night Stay at the Hawthorn Suites by Wyndham Livermore in a king or double queen studio suite. Two Tickets to a Livermore Shakespeare Festival performance—please visit the website at www.LivermoreShakes.org for specific performance dates. One gourmet picnic dinner for two provided by Uncle Yu's at the Vineyard. One bottle of Concannon Wine with two engraved Livermore Valley Wine Country glasses A complimentary Winegrowers VIP wine tasting card for two people at participating wineries. Livermore Downtown Guest Pass with shopping and dining discounts at participating businesses. Complimentary full hot buffet breakfast. Access to the indoor whirlpool, outdoor heated pool and fitness center.

The package is good for Thurs., Fri., Sat. or Sunday at a cost of \$229. Book a reservation at www.hotellivermore.com

Romeo & Juliet by William Shakespeare is performed on July 8-11, 24, 30, and August 1, 6, 7. The Real Thing by Tom Stoppard is performed on July 15-18, 23, 25, and 31. More information is available at 443-BARD or www.LivermoreShakes.org.

ART & ENTERTAINMENT

ART EXHIBITS

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

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

Flying Solo, a series of exhibits presented by Poetry On Canvas Pleasanton showing in November & December at the Berry Patch in Downtown Pleasanton on Main & Angela. Schedule: Dee Haag- Dec 13-19; Claudette McDermott- Dec 20-26; Stan Vierk - Dec 27 - Jan 3.

Eugenia W. Zobel Exhibit, December 2009 and January 2010, Wente Vineyards Estate Winery, 5565 Tesla Road, Livermore. New works of porcelain paintings. For information call 925-443-7266.

Karen Fleschler will be showing her paintings at Swirl on the Square, 21 South Livermore Ave., Livermore; Cuda Ridge Winery, 5385 East Ave., Livermore; and Tesla Vintners, 5143 Tesla Rd., Livermore through December.

Barbara Stanton's Figurative Work will be featured at the Wild Vine in downtown Livermore, Dec. 10 to 31. Her Figurative work will be on display at the Wild Vine the entire month of Dec. Most drawings and paintings are drawn from life at the Figure Drawing Workshop on Fri. mornings at the Bothwell Arts Center in Livermore. Works in pastel, oils and a few of her miniatures will be on display. Meet the artist at the reception on Thurs., Dec. 10 from 7:00 - 8:30. For more information, call or write Barbara 925-373-9638, microangelo@earthlink.net, www.barbarastanton.com or the Wild Vine at 925-243-0700, events@wildvinelounge.com. www.wildvinelounge.com/index.php

Textile Artwork by Denise Oyama Miller and Nancy Ryan, "Landscape Impressions," at Alexander's Fine Art in downtown Pleasanton. Jan. 15 and 16. Reception Jan. 15, 6 to 9 p.m. Artists available Sat. 1 to 4 p.m. to discuss their work. 608 Main Street. Pleasanton. 846-6015. Free admission.

WINERY EVENTS

Rodrigue Molyneux Winery, For the remainder of December, the tasting room will feature a 3 foot tall Gingerbread House created by Executive Chef Tracy Flores. Gift ideas include wine, holiday decorations and wine accessories. The Rubino Port is almost gone. Wine Tasting every Saturday and Sunday 12:30-5:00 at 3053 Marina

Ave, Livermore, information 443-1998, www.rmwinery.com

Ocasio Winery, 2245B South Vasco Road in Livermore, holiday store featuring artisan gift selections throughout the month of December. The winery is open Friday noon to 5 p.m. and weekends 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Check Occasiowinery.com for seasonal hours. Please call 925-371-1987 to make a reservation outside of opening hours.

MUSIC/CONCERTS

San Ramon Symphonic Band, Dec. 18, 8 p.m. at Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center. Conductor Larry Colon. 943-ARTS

Turtle Island String Quartet, Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center Presents. Dec. 21, 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets or information at 925-373-6800, www.bankheadtheater.org.

Doo Wop New Year Celebration, Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center Presents. Dec. 31, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets or information at 925-373-6800, www.bankheadtheater.org.

Tom Rush, Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center Presents. Jan. 10, 7 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets or information at 925-373-6800, www.bankheadtheater.org.

Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center Presents. Jan. 14, 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets or information at 925-373-6800, www.bankheadtheater.org.

Laurel Ensemble, Jan. 16, 8 p.m. Del Valle Fine Arts concert. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets or information at 925-373-6800, www.bankheadtheater.org.

Wild Women of Song, Dublin Winter Concert, Thurs., Jan. 21, 6:30 p.m. Dublin Heritage Center, Old St. Raymond's Church, 6600 Donlon Way, Dublin. Traditional jazz and blues with Pamela Rose and her band. Hors d'oeuvres and non-alcoholic beverages served. Sign up for reservations at 556-4500. \$12 adult, \$7 age 12 and under.

ON THE STAGE

Cinderella, Pleasanton Civic Arts Stage Co., Dec. 19, 7:30 p.m., Dec. 20, 2 p.m. Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. Tickets at http://civicartstickets.org or (925) 931-3444.

Playwrights' Theatre, Jan. 9 at 8 p.m. and Jan. 10 at 2 p.m. Museum of the San Ramon Valley, 205 Railroad Ave., Danville. "A Touch of the Poet" by Eugene O'Neill presented by the Eugene O'Neill Foundation. \$20, \$10 students with ID. www.eugeneoneill.org.

Kimberly Akimbo, Role Players Ensemble, Jan. 15-Feb. 6. What might it be like to be a sixteen year old girl saddled with the body of a sixty four year old woman? That is only one paradox of several explored in this play from David Lindsay-Abaire in which he somehow manages to invoke O'Neill, Miller, and Williams into a unique, original, and comedic examination of the greatest dramatic subject of all,

the family. Tickets (925) 314-3400. For other show information please call (925) 314-3463. The Village Theatre, 233 Front Street, Danville.

COMEDY

Big Fat Year End Kiss Off Comedy Show XVII, Comedy with Will Durst and Friends. Dec. 27, 7 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. \$15, \$20, \$24. 925-373-6800, www.bankheadtheater.org.

DANCE

Valley Dance Theatre, celebrates its 30th Anniversary Season with its annual full-length production of the Tchaikovsky's holiday classic The Nutcracker. Performances Bankhead Theater, 2400 First Street in Livermore. December 12-20. Public performances will be accompanied the Livermore-Amador Symphony pit orchestra and holiday carols by Harmony Fusion will highlight the show prior to opening curtain and during the "snow" scene. Evening performances will take place December 18, 19 and 20 at 7:00 p.m. Matinee performances will take place on December 19 and 20 at 2:00 p.m. All seats are reserved. Tickets are \$33, \$27 and \$24 for adults and \$18 for students 17 years and younger. They may be purchased online at www.bankheadtheater.org or by phone at 925-373-6800. Tickets may also be purchased in person at the theater box office, 2400 First St., Livermore, Tuesday-Saturday, 12 noon-6:00 p.m., and for two hours prior to show time. More information is available www.valleydancetheatre.com.

The Nutcracker, performed by The Dance Studio at Gymfinity, Fri., Dec. 18, 7 p.m. Guest tickets \$10 adults, \$5 children ages 12 to 17, under age 12 free. 230 So. Vasco Rd., Livermore. Information, 960-9440.

Jungle Book, City of Pleasanton Civic Arts Presents will host the State Street Ballet production of the children's classic on January 8, 2010, at 7:30 p.m. with a special Satyr YAY! performance on January 9, 2010, at 11:00 a.m. Both performances will be at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. Based on Rudyard Kipling's Jungle Book, State Street Ballet melds the familiar storyline with exciting dance movement and special effects, giving the tale a modern and unique twist. The audience is encouraged to bring food donations to the theater to benefit The Haven Food Pantry. Collection barrels are located in the lobby. Tickets range from \$18-\$35 for adults and \$10-\$25 for children and seniors. All tickets may be purchased online at www.civicartstickets.org up to three hours prior to the performance, by phone at (925) 931-3444, or in person at the Amador Theater Box Office. Box office hours are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and for two hours prior to the performance. Group discounts are available. More information about Civic Arts is available at www.pleasantoncivicarts.org.

AUDITIONS/VOLUNTEERS

Auditions for Opera Chorus, Livermore Valley Opera will hold auditions for their opera chorus for their upcoming performance of Die Fledermaus. Details are as follows: Monday, January 5, 2010 at the Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 8th Street, (corner of H and 8th), Livermore, 7:30 pm. LVO is seeking 24 singers with sight-reading ability, and in particular, tenors and basses. Prior opera chorus experience is not required. Prospective singers should come prepared to sing a song of their choosing in English and bring a copy of the music for the accompanist. Alex Katsman, Music Director and Conductor, will audition the singers. Chorus rehearsals begin Monday, January 25, 2010, 7:30 pm - 10pm at the Bothwell Performing Center. The second rehearsal will be Saturday, January 30, and then every Monday evening thereafter. Prospective singers who were unable to audition on January 5th may audition at the first rehearsal. Singers interested in auditioning should contact Pat Goard, Chorus Coordinator, via email at goardp@att.net. Livermore Valley Opera will perform Die Fledermaus at the Bankhead Theater in downtown Livermore March 13, 14, 20, and 21.

Livermore Talent Competition Semi-Finals, Sat., Jan. 9, 9 a.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Rotary Clubs in Livermore sponsor competition. 925-373-6800, www.bankheadtheater.org.

MOVIES

The Man in the White Suit, Jan. 7, 2010, classic film series hosted by Candace Klaschus, Las Positas College. At 7:00 p.m. in the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton. Free. Information: 925-931-3405.

Dangerous Beauty, San Ramon Branch of the American Association of University Women launches its "Celebration of Women in Film" on Saturday evening, January 23, 2010, with "Dangerous Beauty." Proceeds from the event, which will be held at the Front Row Theater, Dougherty Station Community Center, San Ramon, will go to AAUW funds that support women seeking fellowships and grants to further their education and research. Tickets, call (925) 973-ARTS or go to the Front Row Theater web site at http://www.ci.sanramon.us/parks/theater/frontrow.htm. All tickets are \$25, with minimal processing fees for tickets purchased online or mailed. Seating is limited.

CHORAL

Blackhawk Chorus performs the Sounds of the Season. Dec. 19, 4 p.m. Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, 10550 Albion Rd, San Ramon. New program of music, both sacred and secular, traditional and jazzy, from 'And The Glory Of The Lord' by Handel, to the 'Nutcracker Jingles' by James Pierpoint. Tickets or information, 925.973.ARTS

Messiah Sing A Long, Dec. 20, San Ramon Presbyterian Church (12943 Alcosta Blvd.) Four soloists will perform

with an orchestra. Free choral workshops on 11/16, 11/30, 12/5 & 12/14. For more info go to the Arts Foundation web site www.sanramonarts.org
Chanticleer Christmas, Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center Presents. Dec. 23. 7:30 p.m. Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. 925-373-6800, www.bankheadtheater.org.

OPERA

Live Theater-Casts from the Met: 10 a.m. Saturdays at Dublin's Royal Hacienda Cinema. Dates: Dec. 19, Tales of Hoffman; Jan. 9, Rosenkavalier; Jan. 16, Carmen; Feb. 6, Simon Boccanegra; March 29, Hamlet; and May 1, Armida. Replays of each opera will be shown on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. as follows: Jan. 6, Hoffman; Jan. 27, Rosenkavalier; Feb. 3, Carmen; Feb. 24, Simon Boccanegra; April 14, Hamlet; and May 19, Armida.

MISCELLANEOUS

Devcon Holiday Ice Rink in Pleasanton, open through Jan. 10, 2010. Varies depending on day of the week. www.devconholidayicerink.com. 400 Old Bernal Avenue, parking lot of Pleasanton Public Library. (925) 484-4002. \$10-\$16 for 2-hour session, includes skate rental. Skating lessons, school field trips, corporate and private rink rentals are available in addition to regularly scheduled public skating hours.
Mexican "Posada" on Fri., Dec. 18, traditional event, hosted by Pleasanton-Tulancingo Sister City Organization 7 to 9 p.m. at the Pleasanton Veteran's Hall, 301 Main St., downtown Pleasanton. Carols, traditional Mexican desserts, coffee, hot chocolate and apple cider. There will be pinatas for the kids. The event is for the entire family. There is no admission charge. Christmas basket donations of cash is optional.

16th Annual Burns Supper, Jan. 30, 5:30 p.m. no host bar, dinner at 7 p.m., Pleasanton Marriot, 11950 Dublin Canyon Rd., Pleasanton. Pleasanton-Blairgowrie-Fergus Sister City Organization, celebrates the birth of poet Robert Burns, "The Bard of Scotland." Honors Burns in memory, songs and poems. For information, call Kathy Tollworthy, 462-6378. Advance reservations required by Jan. 20. Tickets \$65

Dark Energy and the Runaway Universe, talk by Alex Filippenko, Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center Presents. Jan. 28, 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets or information at 925-373-6800, www.bankheadtheater.org.

Science on Saturdays, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory presentation, lecture series for middle and high school students. Jan. 30, 9:30 and 11:15 a.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Free admission. http://education.llnl.gov/sos

Friday Night Open Mic for Teens, Jan. 23, performers sign up between 6 and 7 p.m. Rules and forms available on ptown411.com. Veterans Hall, 301 Main St., Pleasanton. \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door; student tickets with valid ID \$5 in advance and at the door.

Folk Legend in Livermore

Tom Rush, whose first studio CD in more than three decades, "What I Know," was released earlier this year, will be performing at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore on Sunday, January 10.

Born in Portsmouth, NH, in 1941, Rush was forced to take piano lessons as a child and hated them. But his cousin, the wonderfully named Beau Beals, taught him how to play ukulele, and that's when he "decided that music could be fun. . . . The ukulele morphed into a guitar during the high school years because it seemed more likely to impress girls." Tom not only had a rock 'n' roll band, The Chasers, in school, but was also volunteered by his mother to lead a band of inmates at the local mental institution. "Everyone wore street clothes – the doctors, the patients, me – so you didn't know who was whom," Rush recalls.

Originally a fan of late-Fifties rockers Elvis Presley, Chuck Berry and Little Richard, Tom heard a recording by the great folk-blues singer Josh White on a family trip through Wyoming, a transformative experience. "I knew I had to become just like him. Then came the Kingston Trio, but I didn't like the shirts; then Odetta. Basically I picked up a little from just about everyone I listened to. Eric von Schmidt was a major influence once I got to Cambridge," where Tom had enrolled, and eventually graduated, as an English Lit major.

After he started his career in the mid-Sixties as a folk/blues singer and guitarist based in Boston/Cambridge, Tom helped meld folk and rock with his 1965 album, "Take a Little Walk with Me." His next album, 1968's "The Circle Game," was singled out by Rolling Stone as the record that ushered in the singer-songwriter era since it presented songs by Joni Mitchell, Jackson Browne and James Taylor before they had released any albums themselves. The album also featured what has become Tom's best known and most covered original song, "No Regrets," a hit for other artists in multiple genres; even U2 quotes a verse or two from the song in some of their live shows.

He formed his own record label way before it was fashionable, has been steadily touring for much of the last 40+ years, and, as in his repertoire, mixed well-known and fledgling songwriters in a traveling "Club 47" concert series for more than two decades. And we owe it all to testosterone: "I was inspired

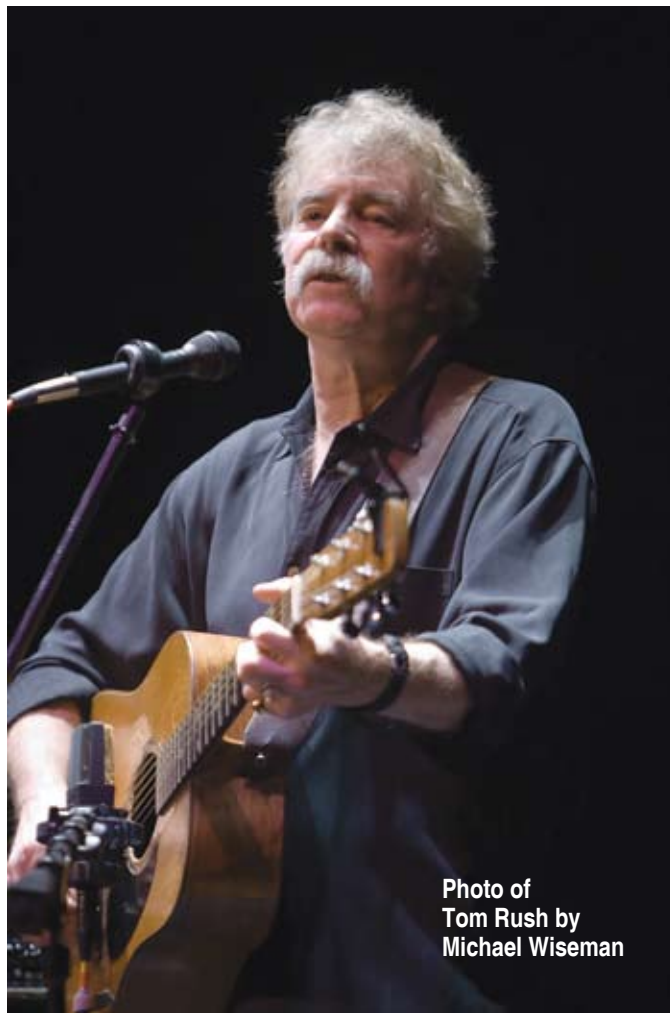


Photo of Tom Rush by Michael Wiseman

to start performing by the desire to meet girls," says Tom.

Produced in Nashville by longtime Cambridge friend and musician Jim Rooney and his subtle crew of country-folk musicians, *What I Know* contains five Rush originals, his arrangement of the traditional "Casey Jones" (with guest vocalist Nanci Griffith) and nine renditions of mostly unfamiliar songs that become instant friends. The best-known song covered is a reflective take on Mentor Williams' "Drift Away," a hit for Dobie Gray, Rod Stewart and uncountable others, performed here minus the "horn section, backup singers, smoke machines and pole dancers" Tom has heard in previous arrangements.

His relaxed, expressive baritone, guitar-playing, droll humor and infallible taste in writing and choosing material have made him a perennial favorite among folk-oriented music lovers. His new "What I Know" CD is "a deceptively informal, warm and engaging collection of acoustic songs from a variety of sources, Rush's steady pulse at the center of every one," according to the San Francisco Chronicle.

Showtime Jan. 10 is 7 p.m. The Bankhead Theater, located at 2400 First Street. Tickets cost \$26, \$36, and \$46. For more information or to purchase tickets, please call 925-373-6800 or go to the website www.livermoreperformingarts.org.

Livermore Valley Opera to Bring Adler Fellows to Livermore

The Livermore Valley Opera is offering some new programs in 2010.

For the first time ever in Livermore, the San Francisco Opera's Adler Fellows will perform at the Bankhead Theater. Some of the Bay Area's best, if not the country's best, up-and-coming young singers and their coaches will present a unique performance on April 11.

An "Intimate Musical Evening" is planned for January 23. A special program is being developed to highlight the music and song, and principal singers from the spring production of *Die Fledermaus*. Alexander Katsman will be the accompanist. Present will be Erie Mills, coloratura soprano and voice coach. She has joined the LVO advisory council.

The spring opera, "Die Fledermaus" will be performed March 13, 14, 20 and 21 at the Bankhead Theater.

More details will be available at www.livermorevalleyopera.com.

An idea for a holiday gift, "Opera in the Box," includes tickets to the Strauss opera, "Die Fledermaus." It will be sung in English. Opera in a Box can be purchased by calling Sara at 925-960-9210: single ticket \$60; two tickets \$120.

Art Workshops Offered

Two workshops are being offered at the Bothwell Arts Center in Livermore.

Art in 2 and 3 dimensions is the topic for December 28. This workshop will combine drawing and clay activities to promote artistic study in 2 and 3 dimensions. The first half of the workshop will focus on a drawing project with the second half of the day creating this same object in clay.

There will be a Winter Watercolor Workshop 2 on December 29. This is a 3 hour intensive study of one watercolor painting. The class is appropriate for ages 8 and up, including adults.

Workshops will run for 3 hours, from 9:00 - 12:00 and are appropriate for ages 6 and up! 10% discounts will apply when signing up for more than one workshop (each workshop is \$50 with materials included). To register contact Jen at 925-858-2801 or jen@jenlock.com.

BANKHEAD THEATER

THE NUTCRACKER

Valley Dance Theatre with Livermore-Amador Symphony
December 18-20 • 2 & 7pm
Tickets: \$24/\$27/\$33/Students \$18

TURTLE ISLAND QUARTET

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

A CHANTICLEER CHRISTMAS

Grammy Award Winning Orchestra of Voices
December 23 • 7:30pm
Tickets: \$33/\$41/\$56/Students \$12

BIG FAT YEAR END KISS OFF COMEDY SHOW XVII

Comedy with Will Durst & Friends
December 27 • 7pm • Tickets: \$15-\$25

ROCKIN' IN THE NEW YEAR

Doo Wop Performance and New Year's Eve Party
December 31 • 8pm • Tickets: \$78/\$88/\$98

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www.bankheadtheater.org

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Church Presents 'The Best Christmas Present Ever'

"The Best Christmas Present Ever," a children's musical, will be presented twice by Centerpointe Church's young people.

The musical traces TV anchor Rod Stark's investigation of Christmas and is filled with upbeat music. It is designed for all people of all ages. It will be presented by the Centerpointe children and youth on Dec. 20 and Christmas Eve, Dec. 24. Both performances will be at 5 p.m. in the Centerpointe worship center at 3410 Cornerstone Court in Pleasanton.

On Christmas Eve, Centerpointe will hold candlelight celebrations at 7:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. Child-care for kids under five will be offered at the 7:30 p.m. worship service.

Both celebrations will feature a mixture of music styles including guitars, the Allen organ and the Centerpointe choir.

For more information, please call the church office at 925-846-4436 or go online to www.centerpointechurch.info

Ask Kathleen

Kathleen Minser

Waste Reduction Specialist offers advice about the 4R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rot (Compost)

Q. What are some tips for lowering our family's heating bill during the winter months?

A. The thermostat is the brain of your heating system. The more wisely you use it, the more money you'll save.

Here are some energy saving habits from PG&E's website:



TURN IT DOWN WHEN YOU'RE NOT AROUND:

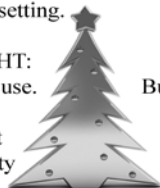
Don't pay for heat you don't need. Keep your thermostat low while you're away at work or on vacation. It takes less energy to warm a cool home in the evening than to maintain a warm temperature all day long.

DON'T CRANK IT UP:

Thermostats are like light switches, not gas pedals. All they do is turn your furnace on and off. Setting the dial to 90° won't heat your home any faster. But it will overheat the house and waste lots of energy if you leave it at that high setting.

KEEP IT LOW AT NIGHT:

68° is great for daytime use. But you can trim your heating bills by 5% to 15% -- or thermostat even lower at health, comfort and safety



more -- by setting your night, consistent with any requirements.

Without spending a penny, there's plenty you can do to put money in your pocket:

- In winter, open drapes on sunny days to help warm the house.
- Do only full loads when using the washer and dryer.
- Clean the dryer lint trap after each use. When possible dry your clothes on a line.
- Close the damper when not using the fireplace and turn your heater way down when using the fireplace.
- Lower the water heater temperature to 120 degrees or "low".
- Wash only full loads in the dishwasher.
- Use the energy saver, air-dry cycle, or, if allowed, open the door and let the dishes dry naturally.
- Use the self-cleaning oven feature only when necessary. Start the self-cleaning cycle immediately after the oven is used to take advantage of pre-existing heat.

Send your questions today!
Askkathleen@wm.com

U.S. Mail: Ask Kathleen
Waste Management
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Education

Las Positas College Welding Instructor Places in National Competition

Las Positas College Welding Technology Department Coordinator and Instructor Scott Miner placed in the top 12 at the American Welding Society's 2009 Professional Welders Competition. Winners competed with more than 138 other professional welders at the November 15-18 event in Chicago, Illinois.

"We congratulate Scott on this professional achievement and, as always, we are grateful to him for his exceptional dedication to teaching and for sharing his time and talent as our welding department coordinator," says Las Positas College President DeRionne Pollard.

Miner is a Las Positas College graduate who has served as Welding Technology Department Coordinator for five years. He says that he continually improves his skills and knowledge of new technology to bring best practices into the classroom for his students. In addition to his latest honor, Miner was the recipient of the 2008 American Welding Society's San Francisco Section Award for Outstanding Welding Instructor.

Miner began teaching welding at Las Positas College 15 years ago when he was vice president of operations for a small manufacturing business because, he says, "I wanted to find good employees for my company, as well as give back to the program that had given me so much."

Las Positas College's Welding Technology Department offers both degree and certificate programs. The Associate of Science (A.S.) Degree is recommended for students who wish to pursue a four-year degree program. The A.S. includes the Certificate, plus additional welding, industrial technology, and general education courses. Students earning the A.S. also will have demonstrated

a broader educational basis and writing ability that can give them an advantage for employment and advancement opportunities in the future, Miner explains.

He notes that his program benefits diverse groups of students who are interested in taking welding classes. Students include professionals with bachelor's degrees who work in engineering and technical professions and take classes to learn new skills and technology. Miner also offers a welding art class where students create sculpture, jewelry, and other metal artwork. An annual welding art show features students' creative work.

This past summer, Miner offered welding classes in conjunction with Las Positas College's Summer Work Program. The College was chosen to receive federal Recovery Act stimulus funding for innovative programs combining training and education in paid internships for at-risk students. Miner notes that two of his summer students were young women. "They were reluctant at first, but I asked them to give welding a try for a couple of weeks. Then, if they wanted to switch programs, they could. Not only did they stay with welding, but they ended up loving it. One student wants to make welding her career."

Making welding technology an inclusive and accessible program for women, traditionally an under-represented population in welding, is one of Miner's priorities. Las Positas College is one of eight California community colleges selected for the CalWomenTech Project, connected with the Institute for Women in Trades, Technology & Sciences (IWITTS), a national nonprofit organization with funding from the National Science Foundation.

Donna Milgram, executive

director and founder of IWITTS, stated, "Las Positas is forging a way for other colleges to attract and retain women in traditionally male-dominated professions, like automotive and welding."

Miner points to Rosie the Riveter, the iconic woman working in nontraditional wartime industries, as a testament to the ability of women to perform in technical fields. "A steady hand, a sharp eye, attention to detail, and working as part of a team are areas where students can excel in welding," he explains. Women can learn more about careers and get to know each other by joining the new Women Technicians Club at Las Positas College.

"There are rewarding opportunities in welding for both men and women who come to learn and apply themselves," says Miner. A welding education will give students the opportunity to help fill the expected 100,000 job openings in the field in the next five years, a figure projected by the American Welding Society.

In addition to his work at Las Positas College, Miner is a local business owner and member of the Alameda County Arts Commission representing District 4. He also is a member of the External Advisory Board, Materials Engineering, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. His education includes: graduate, Amador Valley High School, Pleasanton; A.S. Welding Technology, Las Positas College; and B.S. Materials Engineering, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

For more information about the Las Positas Welding Technology Program, please visit the website at www.laspositascollege.edu/WELD. Email Miner at SMiner@laspositascollege.edu or call him

Milestones

Community

New Eagle Scouts

Darryl Paul Kuhn

Darryl Paul Kuhn, an 18 year old freshman at Las Positas College in Livermore, has attained the rank of Eagle Scout. This is the highest rank in Boy Scouts of America.

Darryl graduated from Granada High School early in the fall of 2008. At Granada he was active in track and cross country. Darryl began Las Positas Community College in the spring of 2009. He will be obtaining an Associate's degree before transferring to a four year university and seeking a profession in the Medical Field.

Darryl joined Troop 903 of Livermore, in early 2004 with the encouragement of one of his friends. He has held various positions of responsibility in the troop, including quartermaster and troop guide. He completed Brownsea, National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) in 2007 and has gone to Camp Royaneh every summer during his scouting career. His favorite outings have been rock climbing, kayaking and backpacking treks. He earned a total of 22 merit badges during his six years with the troop.

For his Eagle project, Darryl led Troup 903 and Pack 914 in the construction of 10 new Barn Owl boxes for the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD). Amy Wolitzer was the coordinating Park Ranger for the project. Darryl was interested in helping his community and the environment by reducing chemical use as these birds consume large numbers of small ground-dwelling prey such as mice, rats and gophers up to 3 miles from the nesting site. The Owls also suffer from loss of adequate nesting sites due to urbanization and the clearing of land for agricultural use.



Two of the new boxes were installed in May with a split pole design to facilitate annual maintenance by the LARPD staff. The other eight were put into storage until the owls vacated the old boxes after the nesting season. Darryl and Troup 903, also wish to thank Paul Angeli of the Livermore

Home Depot store for consideration in the purchase of materials and supplies for this project.

An Eagle Scout Court of Honor was held December 12, 2009 at Saint Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Livermore to recognize Darryl's achievement.



Matt Mayeda

Matt Mayeda attained the rank of Eagle Scout

He joined Cub Scouts in 1995 in first grade in Pack 951 of Arroyo Seco. He advanced from a Tiger Cub to a Webelos and received his Arrow of Light in 2000. After receiving his Arrow of Light, Matt went to Troop 903 with one of his fellow peers. During his time with Troop 903, he has served as the Assistant Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader and a Troop Guide. Matt participated in Brownsea Nation Youth Leadership Training camp in 2005. He greatly enjoyed going to Camp Royaneh over the summers with his Troop. Matt received his Eagle in 2008 after ten years.

For Matt's Eagle Project, he constructed and installed two new planter boxes, a very small fence, and two sand box covers for Croce Elementary E.S.S.

Matt graduated Livermore High school in 2008 and is currently an undergraduate sophomore at University of California Davis studying Civil Engineering. He has always valued his academic performance and strived for success. His favorite activity was being a member of the Livermore High School Band and playing trumpet. He enjoyed performing at concerts, performing and band reviews, and participating in the Livermore Holiday Parade and Rodeo Parade

BULLETIN BOARD

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

Valley Spokesmen Bicycle Touring Club, Fri., Dec. 18, 25 miles Osage Park Ride, meet 10 a.m. Dan Granahan, 323-9798. Sat., Dec. 19, 40 miles second occasional, meet 9 a.m. at Peet's Coffee, Pleasanton, Brian Boerman, 510-381-4442. Sun., Dec. 20, 40 miles Winter Solstice ride, meet 9 a.m. at Peet's Coffee, Danville, Dan Granahan, 323-9798. Wed., Dec. 23, 36 miles Berkeley's Aquatic Park to Pt. Richmond, meet 10 a.m. at east end of University Ave. bridge, Bill Goodwin, 487-0521. Anyone planning to go on a ride is asked to call the leader for details on where to meet and what to bring.

Rummage Sale put on by the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District. Sign-ups are open now to sellers seeking a new home for their possessions. A 10-by-10-foot space with an 8-foot table can be rented for \$35. No food, candy, car parts, large furniture, cars, motorcycles or any commercial items are allowed. Sale will be held from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 30, at The Barn, 3131 Pacific Ave. Sellers can sign up by visiting www.larpd.dst.ca.us and printing out and turning in the form along with the space rental fee. Deadline is Jan. 25 for any spaces still available. For more information, call 925-373-5700.

San Ramon Valley Newcomers Club invites new and established residents to its monthly luncheon on Jan. 21, 2010 at Forbes Mill Restaurant, 200 Sycamore Valley Rd. West, Danville. The speaker will be Darlene Kittredge, Crime Prevention Specialist from the San Ramon Police. Meeting is 11:30 to 2:00. Cost depends on menu choice. Call Myrna, 925-560-0656 for info & reservations.

Superior Court Information Centers need people-oriented volunteers to support information centers in the Pleasanton Courthouse. Training provided, (510) 891-6209 or cpulliam@alameda.courts.ca.gov.

Holiday get-together and fund-raising, Sat., Dec. 19, noon at Mines Road Junction, 47300 Mines Rd., Livermore. Raise funds for young family to cover court costs. Includes entertainment by Blues Bottle Band, a raffle and live auction. Information at 408-897-3132 or 1-408-897-3148.

Tri-Valley Holistic Moms Network, meets Monday, December 21 for Candlelight Yoga. The yoga will be led by Arlene Schauer Wu, Katherine Koziowski, Kate Mackinnon, and Michelle Borrero. It will be designed to suit varied levels of yoga. Please bring a yoga mat & water, and wear clothes you can easily move in. The yoga session will be about an 1 hour and 15 minutes in length. Come join our group at Living Vine Fellowship, 4100 First St., Pleasanton 94566. This meeting is free for Chapter members & first time visitors. Meetings are held on the third Monday evening of each month. For further information, please visit www.holisticmoms.org or e-mail Tri-ValleyHMN@hotmail.com

Christmas Tree Pickup, Boy Scout Troop 941 in Pleasanton is holding a Christmas tree recycling program. This community service is offered to help with the collection and recycling of trees. Suggested donation is \$5 for trees up to 8 feet and \$10 for trees over 8 feet or flocked. Donations go directly to support local scouting activities throughout the year. To arrange for a tree to be picked up in Pleasanton, please call 399-1377 or go to www.troop941.org.

A Giving Tree will be set up in the lobby of the Livermore Police Department through Dec. 17, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. Those wishing to donate, select a tag from the tree and bring back a new unwrapped gift with the tag attached. Monetary donations cannot be accepted. However, gift cards are always welcome. The Police Department is located at 1110 So. Livermore Avenue. To arrange for a sponsorship or more information, call 371-4976.

Toys for Tots, collection by Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department (LPFD). Toy col-

lection locations: All Livermore and Pleasanton Fire and Police Stations: STATION 1, 3560 Nevada Street, Pleasanton; Station 2, 6300 Stoneridge Mall Road, Pleasanton; Station 3, 3200 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton; Station 4, 1600 Oak Vista Parkway, Pleasanton; Station 5, 1200 Machado Place, Pleasanton; Station 6, 4550 East Avenue, Livermore; Station 7, 951 Rincon Avenue, Livermore; Station 8, 5750 Scenic Avenue, Livermore; Station 9, 1919 Cordoba Street, Livermore; and Station 10, 330 Airway Boulevard, Livermore. Police Departments: Livermore, 1110 South Livermore Avenue; Pleasanton, 4833 Bernal Avenue.

Mexican "Posada" on Fri., Dec. 18, traditional event, hosted by Pleasanton-Tulancingo Sister City Organization 7 to 9 p.m. at the Pleasanton Veteran's Hall, 301 Main St., downtown Pleasanton. Carols, traditional Mexican desserts, coffee, hot chocolate and apple cider. There will be pinatas for the kids. The event is for the entire family. There is no admission charge. Christmas basket donations of cash is optional.

Friends of the Vineyards Annual Holiday Party, Sunday, December 20, 2 to 5 p.m. Music, good food, and wine at the historic Ravenswood Estate, 2647 Arroyo Road, Livermore. Harpist Dominique Piana will provide holiday music. The board of directors will provide light refreshments. Please bring local wine to share. This invitation is open to all Friends of the Vineyards members and guests.

Widowed Men and Women of Northern CA., Champagne birthday brunch in San Ramon, Dec. 20, 11:45 a.m., RSVP by Dec. 17 to Marsha, 830-8483.

La Leche League International, free woman to woman breast-feeding support. Meets first Monday of each month 10 a.m. to noon, Trinity Baptist Church, 557 Olivina, Building B #205, Livermore. Please RSVP to Stacy Hattori, 373-0987, shattori@sbcglobal.net, www.LLL.org. 24-hour hotline, 1-877-452-5324. Next meetings: Jan. 4, Feb. 1.

Tri-Valley Democratic Club meeting and potluck seasonal dinner party, Mon., Dec. 21, doors open at 6:30 p.m. IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Pkwy, Dublin. The public is invited to attend the potluck. Bring family, friends & neighbors, a favorite dish and good cheer. Public officials are invited and will address the party. The meeting includes nomination of officers for 2010 with elections at the Jan. 18, 2010 meeting.

Livermore Adult Education is seeking a Spanish speaking instructor to teach a bilingual beginning computer class for the Winter/Spring session. Need not be credentialed. For further information call 925-606-4722 ext. 7142.

Livermore Moms (formerly Livermore Moms Club), Monthly meetings are held the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. and are a great way to meet other members as well as learn more about our community and our roles as mothers. The purpose of the Livermore

Moms (formerly Livermore Moms Club) is to share ideas and talents so that we may grow as parents, learn better ways to understand our children to help them become confident and capable individuals. We frequently invite speakers to make presentations. Meetings are free for members, as well as for first time visitors. Contact moms@livermoremoms.com for more information

Livermore Area Blood Drive - Friday, December 18, 1-7:00 p.m. at Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Avenue, Livermore. There is a severe shortage of blood in the Bay Area, and only 3% of the eligible people give blood. Please help save a life by giving blood. The process takes 1-1½ hours, and snacks and refreshments are served after you donate. You must be 17 years old, and have a form of identification with you. To sign up, go to www.GiveLife.org, and use RLCC as the sponsor code. For more information contact Thomas Petty at 925-980-8164 or e-mail BloodDrive@asburylive.org.

Tri-Valley Seniors: rides available to medical appointments. Seniors who require door-to-door service are now eligible for a ride to their medical appointments. Volunteers use their personal vehicles to drive seniors to and from medical appointments. Seniors must be 60 and over, living in Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton or Sunol, and unable to find a ride (relative, friend, bus, paratransit). For a ride or to volunteer to provide a ride, contact Jennifer Cullen at (925) 931-5387 or ja.cullen@yahoo.com. Funding for the Senior Transportation Program is provided by Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority and Measure B Funds.

Eighth Annual Youth Food Drive, Youth service groups in Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin, Sunol, San Ramon, Alamo, Danville, Walnut Creek and Concord may now volunteer and request collection sites for the Eighth Annual Youth Food Drive to be held on March 6, 2010 by signing up at www.youthservice-council.com/Volunteer/Volunteer.html. Girl Scouts, youth ministries, and 4-H Clubs will be participating. Youth Service groups will go door to door to collect nonperishable food and return it to the closest collection site. All donations will go to local food pantries in the Tri-Valley or to the Contra Costa Food Bank. Details of the program and locations of collection sites are available on-line. For more information, call 925-998-6513.

Reading Volunteers Needed, new group forming to start training in January to become a Barton Reading Tutor. No experience is necessary and training is free of charge. Volunteer matched to a student who needs help. All the materials and training provided needed to bring a student's reading and spelling up to grade level or above. For more information about the Barton Reading Program, please contact Christina Clark at Valley View 925/596-0292, or email christina.clark2@comcast.net.

Free English Conversation Classes at Pleasanton Public Library on Tuesdays from 7 p.m. to 8:30 pm, Wednesdays from 12 noon to 1 p.m., and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. 400 Old Bernal Ave. The program is free and open to all. No registration required. For more information call Janice Bauman (925)-931-3411

Sons in Retirement (SIRS), informal social group for retired men who meet once a month for lunch. No fees, dues, etc. Variety of activities include golf, chess, hiking, etc. The Livermore SIRS 101 group meets at the Doubletree Hotel, 720 Los Flores Rd., first Tuesday of each month, 11:45 a.m. Contact Chuck Petty, 447-4704 or cpntrail@comcast.net.

Gardens are being sought to participate in the Going Native Garden Tour, set for Sunday, April 18, 2010, which showcases bird- and butterfly-friendly, pesticide-free, and water conserving gardens. Gardens must be located in Santa Clara County or San Mateo County, and contain 50% or more California native plants. To submit a garden, visit www.GoingNativeGardenTour.org. The deadline is December 1, 2009. For more information, email info@GoingNativeGardenTour.org. The Going Native Garden Tour showcases a wide variety of native gardens: established and mature gardens as well as newly installed ones; large acre lots and townhome gardens and all sizes in between; professionally installed gardens as well as owner-enthusiast inspired ones. Garden contents range from the full horticultural suite of California natives to a mix of natives and Mediterranean plants to locally native plants. If a garden contains 50% or more California native plants, submit the garden by filling out the Garden Submission Form at: <http://www.goingnativegarden.org/>

Job Discovery Group, meets Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. at Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore. Bring resume (and maybe a few extra copies to pass around), ideas, roadblocks & any resources to share in a supportive & proactive atmosphere of networking at UUCIL. Contact Brent Parry or Maureen Hamm (Brent-Parry@aol.com) / (mhamm33@earthlink.net) for more info.

Bingo, every Sunday, Games 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. 18 \$250 pay-outs, 1 \$350 payout, & more! Bingo Ranch, 3070 Pacific Avenue, Livermore. 606-7777. Must be 18 years old to attend. Pacific Avenue, Livermore. 606-7777. Benefits LVCS / CCEF.

RELIGION
Divorce Care, Valley Bible Church, 7106 Johnson Dr., Pleasanton. 13 week seminar and support group for people who are separated or divorced. Meetings Mondays from 7 to 9 p.m. \$25 for workbook and other materials. Preregistration is required. Contact Mark Porter, 846-9693 or mporter@hotmail.com for details or to register.

Tri-Valley Unity Church, Connect with the Spirituality of the Season - Make it a meaningful Christmas by participating in Tri-Valley Unity's holiday programs: Christmas Carol Sing-along, Dec. 20 at 11:30 a.m.; and Christmas Eve service at 7 p.m. All are welcome. 2260 Camino Ramon, San Ramon. (925) 829-2733.

St. Charles/St. Michael's begin a 6-week Winter Bible Study Series on Monday, January 11th. It meets every Monday at 7:30- 9:00 pm in the Pope Room at St. Charles, 1315 Lomas Ave. The topic for this session is 2 Corinthians: Power in Weakness. Come and learn what Paul means when he talks about God's power in human weakness. For more information or to reserve material (\$10/ book), contact Julie at upcatholic@aol.com or at 447-4549 ext 114.

St. Charles Borromeo, 1315 Lomas Ave., Livermore. Christmas Masses Thurs., Dec. 24 at 7 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. and Fri., Dec. 25 at 10 a.m. 447-4549.

Our Savior Lutheran Ministries, 1385 S. Livermore Ave., Livermore. Children's Christmas program, Dec. 24 at 5 p.m.; Candlelight Christmas Eve services, 7 and 10 p.m.; Dec. 25, 10 a.m. Festival Communion Service. 447-1246.

First Presbyterian Church, 4th and L Streets, Livermore. Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, 5 p.m. family worship service; 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Christmas Eve concert in the sanctuary; 9 p.m. traditional candlelight service in the sanctuary. 447-2078.

Livermore Alive, 1040 Florence Ave., Livermore. Christmas Eve service, Dec. 24 at 7 p.m. 337-5581.

United Christian Church, 1886 College Ave., Livermore. Christmas Sunday service at 10:30 a.m. "Listening . . . a Word of Love." Christmas Eve candlelight service, Dec. 24 at 6:30 p.m. Children welcome. 449-6820.

Trinity Baptist Church, 557 Olivina Ave., Livermore. Drive through The Nativity Story, Dec. 17, 18, 19 and 20, 7 to 9 p.m. featuring 6 scenes of live actors and animals, narrative on car radio. Dec. 24 Christmas Eve services at 5 and 7 p.m. 447-1848.



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