



Sarah Akenhead-York



Athena Lathos

## Teen Laureates Encouraging High School Poets

Two Pleasanton high school freshmen are spreading the word about words, with encouragement to their fellow students to write poems.

Sarah Akenhead-York at Amador Valley High School, and Athena Lathos at Foothill High School serve as the poets laureate at their respective schools.

The idea was the creation of Martha Meltzer, a library assistant at Alisal Elementary School. She serves as the city's poet laureate. Meltzer wanted a way to facilitate students' interest in poetry. She reasoned that if the city could have a poet laureate, so could the high schools.

Originally the idea was to select one laureate. However, with about 18 applications each from Amador Valley and Foothill, Meltzer and a screening committee, which included former city laureate Jim Ott, decided to name one for each school. The two students won their laurels through competition with others. They submitted poetry samples, and talked about their goals for the position.

"Both girls had a sense of enthusiasm, a spirit of wanting to serve their community. Both are amazing writers, and are poised and intelligent," said Meltzer.

The laureates are trying to organize poetry readings at various locations, so that teens can read to teen audiences. Athena said they are looking at such venues as coffee shops and parks. They are also trying to overcome some misapprehensions concerning poetry.

Some students think that poetry is hard to understand, "so they rebel against it. They don't want to read or write it. Sometimes the problem is one of understanding. It's an artistic thing," (See POETS, page 3)

## Livermore Menorah to Honor Mumbai Rabbi

The recent terror attack in Mumbai that killed Mumbai's Chabad Rabbi and his wife and nearly 200 others, have inspired the City of Livermore to add a 9-foot Menorah to its downtown holiday display. Livermore Mayor, Marshall Kamena, will inaugurate the menorah together with the local Jewish community.

The ceremony will take place Tues., Dec. 23 at 6:30 p.m. in downtown Livermore near the flagpole.

"Our response to those terrorists who wished to extinguish goodness and life is to add more light to the world," explains Rabbi Raleigh Resnick, Chabad of the Tri-Valley's director and a friend and colleague of the Mumbai Rabbi. "It is the eternal message of the Menorah lights that has particular significance in light of these current world" (See MENORAH, page 2)

# Pleasanton to Adopt Both Hillside Measures

Supporters of opposing ridgeland protection measures came together at Tuesday's Pleasanton City Council meeting speaking in favor of adopting both as part of the city's general plan.

Measure PP and Measure QQ were approved by voters in the November election. Measure PP received more votes, which means that if there were any conflicts between the two, PP provisions would prevail.

Staff offered four options for the city council to consider in moving forward. The unanimous choice of supporters of both

measures and the council was option one. It would incorporate both measures into the general plan. There would be no new guidelines, ordinances or a committee of stakeholders established. Development would have to be consistent with the policies.

Adopting the measures as general plan policy would require no environmental review.

Assistant City Attorney Larissa Seto noted that PP contains specific language and restrictions with regard to hillside development. QQ reaffirms existing general plan policies related to preserving views and large ar-

reas of open space. Seto told the council there is no direct conflict in the language contained in the two measures. Potential differences would be considered when a specific development was reviewed.

As to the definition of housing to be counted under the 29,000 unit housing cap, Seto also found no conflict. While PP does provide language defining a housing unit as containing a bathroom and a kitchen, it also says that the definition should be consistent with U.S. Census Bureau and state law. QQ describes types of housing that

would be counted such as mobile homes, condos, and apartments. If the Census Bureau and state law definitions were applied, the two measures would be compatible. Second units would not be counted in either case, since state prohibits that practice.

Both Councilmembers Cindy McGovern and Matt Sullivan felt there could be some conflicts. However, they were more interested in moving forward and working together to resolve any conflicts that may occur. McGovern stated, "Adopting the measures as soon as possible is important to me and to voters."

Dolores Bengston, who worked to pass Measure QQ, told the council, "The good news to me is that citizens care about protecting hillsides and having public access to trails and open space." She said people she had talked to on both sides agreed that the most straightforward approach was the best. She referred to option one as the best option.

Bengston went on to say she hoped that the new policies would be used to process development applications in a way that would allow for a viable project and provide dedicated (See HILLSIDES, page 4)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Santa Claus helped Pleasanton Cultural Arts Foundation President, John Loll (far right), and board members, Jerry Pentin and Jaime Dowell (from left) deliver a special gift to Mayor Jennifer Hosterman last week. The package contained a check from the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Foundation for \$275,000 payable to the City of Pleasanton for the construction of the Firehouse Arts Center. This brings the annual donations to the City, from the Foundation, to \$500,000. The funds were donated by community members, businesses, other organizations and foundations.

## School District, Teachers' Union Settle Differences

By Patricia Koning

The Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District and the Livermore Education Association (LEA), the teachers' union, have settled their differences and agreed on a new contract that settles all outstanding issues through the 2010/11 school year. LEA membership approved the tentative agreement last week. The Livermore Board of Education was expected to approve it late Tuesday evening.

"We are pleased to have reached a tentative agreement with LEA. In these difficult economic times, we believe the settlement is fair," said Assistant Superintendent Mike Martinez. "The Board has demonstrated fiscal responsibility over the years to be able to provide such a settlement."

The agreement covers salary

increases, health benefits, evaluations, and the "me too" clause that applied to all other bargaining units in the District except LEA. Teachers will receive a 2% raise retroactive to July 1, 2008, another 2% raise on January 1, 2009, and another increase of 0.53% on July 1, 2009. Martinez says that the length of the agreement will help the District to plan for difficult economic times and budget cuts.

"I'm pleased that we agreed on multi-year salary increases," said LEA President Kathleen Reardon. "The District and our members can budget for the future and hopefully through the end of this fiscal crisis."

The contract also guarantees the teachers a salary increase effective July 1, 2011 if the state increases per pupil funding for (See SETTLEMENT, page 4)

## Ruling May Result In Water Cutbacks

By Ron McNicoll

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) has issued a document that is designed to put the Delta smelt species in better shape. The decision could affect the future water supply for Zone 7 Water Agency.

The document is a biological opinion, which serves as a basis for the permit process when governmental agencies' operations impact endangered species, such as the Delta smelt.

The opinion was issued to

clarify the picture about impacts on the fish, and how the state Department of Water Resources (DWR) may operate the Delta without causing great harm to the fish. DWR supplies water to Zone 7 and 28 other state water project contractors, all of them south of the Delta.

DWR already has had to cut deliveries of water at certain times of the year, because of a ruling by federal judge Oliver Wanger. Overall, Zone 7 has been in good shape since the Wanger ruling.

The new biological opinion has the potential to cut deliveries further. DWR's website shows bar graphs that illustrate just how much might be cut back. In the best-case scenario, the new document would keep the water project operating at the current post-Wanger levels.

However, in the worst-case scenarios, the supply would drop by 500,000 acre feet (AF), or about enough to serve 1 million families, during a year with aver-

(See WATER, page 4)

## District Might Recover The Cost of Neal Suit

By Ron McNicoll

The Pleasanton School District has lost its suit against two developers over the financing of Neal Elementary School, which would have been built on Vineyard Avenue.

The district decided not to appeal an adverse decision in the case. Instead the school board approved a settlement with the developers on Dec. 9 in a closed session.

The suit was brought against

Signature Properties and Standard Pacific. The developers received a discount from the gift fee agreement, which also was signed by other developers. In exchange for the discount, the two developers agreed in principle to build Neal school, and turn the key over to the district.

Signature took the lead in the negotiations, because it has built most of the development between the two firms. While both (See LAWSUIT, page 4)

## Livermore District Awarded \$660,000 for Tech Education

By Patricia Koning

The Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District was one of 32 school districts in the State selected to receive an Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) grant. A total of \$15 million was distributed; Livermore received \$668,031.

"This grant will help us infuse and integrate state of the art technology into mathematics instruction in meaningful ways in order to improve student achievement in math and revitalize classrooms," said Kelly Bowers, Assistant Superinten-

dent with the Livermore School District.

The goal of the EETT grant program, which is funded by No Child Left Behind, is to improve student achievement through the use of technology in grades four through eight. To be eligible, schools must demonstrate a commitment to technology integration and have implemented effective multi-year technology plans. Only one other school district in the region, Newark Unified, received an EETT grant.

Approximately \$208,000 of (See EDUCATION, page 4)

## Lab Fee 70 Percent of Available Funds

Based on an assessment of the first year of a contract to operate the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, the Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC (LLNS) was awarded a total fee of \$37,658,235 (approximately 70 percent) out of a possible \$53,742,169 available for the management and operation of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in fiscal year 2008.

LLNS earned a rating of outstanding for its performance in the mission category, a rating of satisfactory for operations performance and a designation of good for institutional management.

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), Livermore Site Office has completed the assessment of Lawrence LLC's fiscal year 2008 performance in managing the Lab.

"The earned fee of \$37,658,235 consists of fixed fee of \$21,862,651 (including \$8.2 million Work for Others fees) and at-risk fee of \$15,795,584," said NNSA Livermore Site Office manager Alice C. Williams. The earned fee was based on NNSA's assessment of the Contractor's performance (See FEE, page 2)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Going over some of the language are (from left) Carla Peck, Judit Zador, Martin Grabske, and Kate Picher.

## Kaffeeklatsch anyone?

By Patricia Koning

When Carla Peck retired after more than 20 years as a German teacher at Granada High School, she found that something was missing from her life—teaching German. She began looking for an opportunity to continue teaching on a smaller scale, and settled on Livermore Adult Education.

Last spring she offered two classes, beginning and intermediate German, and tapped into a community of people wanting to refresh, maintain, and in some cases, return to German after a decades-long hiatus.

The intermediate class brought together people with all sorts of backgrounds and reasons for studying German. There's

Martin Grabske, who as a child resisted his German mother's attempts to teach him her native tongue.

"I was not real receptive to German as a kid. Now I regret not learning it," he says. Even as a resistant child, he picked up quite a bit of German vocabulary, so he joined the class to learn (See GERMAN, page 6)

## Inside

Art & Entertainment.....8	Roundup.....3
Bulletin Board.....6	Short Notes.....11
Classifieds.....9	Sports.....7
Editorial.....4	Obituaries.....9
Mailbox.....4	Gift Guide .....11



### PET OF THE WEEK

All hail Queen Victoria! High atop her regal perch, she surveys all of her loyal subjects. Like most royalty, she is spoiled rotten and likes things done her way. True to her namesake, she is willful and spirited. To request an audience with her highness, visit Valley Humane Society's Kitty City. Open Tues-Sat from 11AM to 5PM (closed holidays). Visit the web site [www.valleyhumane.org](http://www.valleyhumane.org) or call 925-426-8656 for more info.



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

A colorful vineyard setting was the backdrop for David Furst's run through South Livermore.

## FEE

(continued from page one)

against the objectives, measures, and targets set forth in the Performance Evaluation Plan for fiscal year 2008.

The "outstanding" rating for the mission category reflects accomplishments in the scientific and technical fields. Among the positives cited were several accomplishments in support of both NNSA's Stockpile Stewardship Program and its National Security Mission. The National Ignition Facility construction project was executed in accordance with its approved baseline. In addition, there was significant improvement in the understanding of the performance of nuclear weapons in a way that can be used to address risk and risk mitigation through technical reviews, computer modeling, and materials testing. High performance computing facilities are critical to the Stockpile Stewardship Program. The Lab continued to be a world leader in the field, with a national users program committee effectively allocating the heavily sought after capability computing time. NNSA goals were exceeded for the removal of special nuclear material from the Livermore site and continued to perform world leading science despite significant reductions in staff. Advancements continued in technical capabilities supporting nonproliferation

and threat reduction.

The "satisfactory" rating for the Operations category reflects performance in critical operations and infrastructure support functions such as Environment, Safety, and Health, as well as Safeguards and Security. In environmental compliance activities, external regulatory requirements and submitted quality deliverables consistent with regulations, permits, and agreements were met. Issues remain regarding implementation of a full integrated Environmental Management System. Overall, operations were conducted in both a safe and secure manner during the performance period, making improvements to its Nuclear Safety Program and its Security Programs while successfully performing Mission work. However, issues were identified concerning the adequacy of the Chronic Beryllium Disease Prevention Program as well as Physical Security and Information Security Programs. Corrective actions were implemented and improvements in security continued.

The "good" rating for the Institutional Management category reflects performance in business systems, public affairs, and management of the laboratory. The financial systems were upgraded. A workforce restructuring

was successfully implemented that significantly reduced the size of the workforce. Progress was made in implementing a new Contractor Assurance System. The loss of several key managers was a concern.

Effective October 1, 2007, the management and operation of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory transitioned from the University of California to Lawrence Livermore National Security, a limited liability corporation which includes Bechtel National, Inc., the University of California, Babcock and Wilcox, Washington Division of URS Corporation, and Battelle.

## LARPD Elects New Board Officers

At its last regular meeting of 2008, the Board of Directors of the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) elected a new president and vice president for the five-member board.

The vote was unanimous to appoint Maryalice Faltings to serve as new board president, and David Furst as vice president.

The one-year terms will begin Jan. 1. Faltings, who joined the LARPD Board in 1994, has served as Board President four previous times. She will take the place of current President Steve Goodman, who will remain on the

Board as a Director. Furst joined the Board in 2002. The new President will appoint committee assignments during the first meeting of the new year on Jan. 14.

Also on Wednesday night, the Board approved a recommendation to the Livermore City Council to retain Gloria Retzlaff-Taylor as the LARPD representative on the City's Commission for the Arts.

Other items approved from the Consent Agenda were to pursue a grant application for a Tire-Derived Product Grant from the California Integrated Waste Management Board, to support the Tri-Valley Conservancy's efforts to obtain grant funding to purchase the Bobba Property adjacent to Sycamore Grove Park and to approve an agreement for the East Bay Regional Park District to fund the CEQA process for Holdener Park.

The LARPD Board also adopted an Electronic Media Use Policy for its employees. The new rules state that some things are never permitted. These include gambling, accessing other email for personal gain, using voice mail for personal gain, and using the Internet to find outside employment.

With permission, employees would be able to use work related streaming video, computer games, access social networking sites and upload software. Some video, for example, offers training opportunities.

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## MENORAH

(continued from page one)

events. They remind us all too starkly that the forces of oppression and darkness are still present. Chanukah teaches us that a little light can defeat an empire of darkness, human goodness can defy terror and brute force, and life and spiritual vitality can overcome destruction."

Livermore's menorah joins a national and worldwide tradition of public Chanukah menorah displays and candle lighting ceremonies inspired by the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, of righteous memory (1902-1994). They have become commonplace from the White House to the Kremlin, from Berlin's Brandenburg Gate to the Eiffel Tower and Universal Studios' theme parks.

According to the Chabad World Headquarters, Chabad centers will ignite more than 11,000 large public Menorahs throughout the world this Chanukah.

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# POETS

(continued from page one)

versus a logical, dramatic flow of words," said Sarah. With poetry, the idea is to have a phrase that "creates an emotion," she said. If teens could come to readings, they will "recognize, 'Oh, it's not that bad,'" said Sarah. She hopes to talk to a couple

of literature and writing clubs at school to boost the poetry genre. "At the end of our term, we'd like to see a significant increase in activity, so that people are more geared toward it, instead of rebelling against it, because it is more difficult. That's the reason

the teen poet laureates were created. If they hear poetry from peers, they are more likely to follow through with it," said Sarah.

Sarah started writing poetry because "it's hard to talk about feelings with others. I'm introverted. I put it down on paper. I

look at it in calmer times, and see what I was feeling, and why, and not bottled (emotions) up inside."

Sarah's favorite poet is Robert Frost, who was born in San Francisco, and made his reputation in the setting of rural New England in the early part of the 20th century. "He's very expressive. He uses metaphors a lot," she said.

Athena agrees about the emotional outlet of poetry. "I don't think that many people are exposed to poetry. I want to show

that it's a great outlet for stress and emotions," she said.

A writer since age 6, Athena visits libraries frequently. She likes 19th century poets, such as Tennyson, Byron, the Bronte sisters and Elizabeth Barrett Browning. Athena is working on a

novel, and tries to write at least one poem each week. Nature is one of her big inspirations.

Now that Athena has the visibility of being a poet laureate, she says Foothill students come up to her on campus, and tell her that they like poetry.

## VALLEY ROUNDUP

### Holiday Cards Delivered

Last week, Congressman Jerry McNerney (CA-11) delivered holiday cards to soldiers recovering at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., and to sailors and marines at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, MD. The cards were received from residents throughout the 11th district as part of Rep. McNerney's second annual "Holiday Cards for Our Troops" program.

This week, Rep. McNerney will stop by the Parks Reserve Forces Training Area in Dublin to deliver cards to National Guard and Reserve soldiers.

The "Holiday Cards for Our Troops" program has been an enormous success this year as over 9,000 cards were received from families, individuals and school children from across the 11th district. That's nearly 13 times the number of cards received last year.

"I was amazed when I found out that we'd received more than 9,000 cards this year," Rep. McNerney said. "And the fact that so many people from our region took the time out to write messages of thanks to our soldiers is encouraging. It's this kind of effort that will help make a difference in the lives of the men and women who have served our nation."

"I'd like to thank everyone who participated in the holiday card program and especially the troops who have sacrificed greatly for our country," Rep. McNerney continued.

This is the second consecutive year that Rep. McNerney has asked his constituents to participate in the "Holiday Cards for Our Troops" program. For a sample of some of the cards that Rep. McNerney delivered to troops returning from overseas, please visit the following link: [http://mcnerney.house.gov/holidaycards\\_2008.shtml](http://mcnerney.house.gov/holidaycards_2008.shtml).

### McNerney Named to Energy Committee

Congressman McNerney (CA-11) has secured a seat on the powerful Committee on Energy and Commerce of the U.S. House of Representatives. The Energy and Commerce Committee has a broad issue portfolio, including both energy policy and commerce issues, as the name would suggest, as well as healthcare and consumer affairs and protection.

McNerney commented on President-elect Barack Obama's choice for Secretary of Energy, Steven Chu, the Nobel Prize-winning director of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

"Dr. Chu understands the important role scientific research plays in solving our energy problems. And it is refreshing that someone with real science and energy experience is being named to the post," said McNerney. "We face tough energy challenges in the years ahead. But we also have a real opportunity to address those challenges by making a concerted effort to focus on new energy technology, which will help create hundreds of thousands of stable, family-wage jobs. Dr. Chu understands this."

Energy and Commerce is the House's oldest standing committee and considered one of the most important. Throughout its history, it has produced many pieces of landmark legislation.

"I'm thrilled to gain a seat on the Energy and Commerce Committee. I'm anxious to delve into some of the committee's issues, including the development of a new national energy policy that focuses on the use and production of renewable energy and addressing the need for affordable and accessible healthcare for all Americans."

McNerney said.

As a member of the Committee, Congressman McNerney will be able to use his 20-plus years of professional experience with wind and other forms of sustainable energy. Rep. McNerney's new position became official last week after a vote in the Steering and Policy Committee, which considers committee assignment, and then a ratifying vote by the entire Democratic Caucus.

Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA) will chair the committee, and Rep. Joe Barton (R-TX) will serve as the ranking Republican member on the committee.

### Pleasanton News

The City of Pleasanton reports that two of its elected officials have been appointed to serve on state and regional committees that respectively advocate for the East Bay and oversee regional land use, transportation, and clean air quality.

Mayor Jennifer Hosterman, who was elected to her third term as mayor last month, was named as a full member of the Local Area Formation Commission (LAFCO), the Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority (ACTIA), and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD). Mayor Hosterman will serve on the Executive Committee of the Alameda County Mayors Conference.

Mayor Hosterman was also named as a full member of the ACTIA governing board, which directs the new projects and programs generated by Measure B, Alameda County's half-cent transportation sales tax. The ACTIA project list includes the Altamont Commuter Express Rail service, the Iron Horse Transit Route, I-580 improvements, and the Route 84 Expressway.

Pleasanton Councilmember Jerry Thorne has assumed the mantle of President of the East Bay Division of the League of California Cities. The League's East Bay Division is comprised of the 33 cities in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. It serves as an on-the-ground grassroots advocacy team and provides the League leadership with input.

### 245 DUI Arrests

Police in Alameda County have arrested 245 people for driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs during the first three days of the Avoid the 21 anti-DUI holiday crackdown.

Figures cover from the first minute of Friday, Dec. 12, to midnight Monday, Dec. 15.

The total is off by seven percent from last year's 265 arrests at this time during the campaign, said Lt. Mike Peretti of the Livermore Police Dept., campaign coordinator.

Impaired drivers have killed no one in the county so far in the three-week campaign. The multi-jurisdictional effort ends on New Year's Day.

Peretti has advice for the public as the weekend approaches. "People who drink and drive let their egos dictate their actions. They're too stubborn or embarrassed to ask for a designated driver or call a cab. Even the smallest amount of alcohol affects the body. It's simple; if you have a couple of cocktails or glasses of wine at dinner, hand over your keys."

Two sobriety checkpoints and a large DUI strike team are planned for this weekend.

Avoid the 21, like all other 41 countywide police crackdowns in the state, is funded by the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.



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40365842	Active	\$299,900.00	4569 BONRAVEN WAY	ANTIOCH	3	2	1,902
40370605	Active	\$105,500.00	9 MADRID LN	ANTIOCH	2	1	1,251
40370930	Active	\$209,000.00	3508 SHAW CIR	ANTIOCH	4	2	1,876
40343512	Active	\$349,995.00	20115 REDWOOD RD Unit 24	CASTRO VALLEY	2	2	860
40363292	Active	\$179,900.00	393 WILLOW AVE	HAYWARD	2	1	840
40370612	Active	\$260,900.00	187 MESA CT	HERCULES	3	2	1,434
40374761	Pending	\$869,500.00	2599 COWAN WAY	LIVERMORE	5	4	4,600
40380823	Active	\$294,900.00	263 MARTIN AVE	LIVERMORE	3	2	1,400
40382014	Active	\$285,200.00	39865 CEDAR BLVD Unit 242	NEWARK	2	2	1,071
40374088	Active	\$229,900.00	1153 FETZER LN	OAKLEY	4	2	2,041
40353651	Pending	\$425,000.00	5648 BELLEZA DRIVE	PLEASANTON	2	2	1,302

# EDITORIAL

## 'Yes We Can'

One of the greatest achievements in recent history by the people of the Valley has been the creation and growth of Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park.

The park was forged out of a heroic referendum by the people of Sunol in 1983. They stopped Rancho Sunol, a residential subdivision that would have opened up Pleasanton Ridge to urbanization.

Up to that time it was assumed the ridge would eventually be urbanized, but as a result of the referendum the property where some 90 ridgetop estates were to be built instead became a regional park. The park has grown from there, with one addition after another.

The latest was opened to the public December 6. It is one of the grandest additions in the park's history: 1097 acres of steep wooded ridges, rolling hills, grassy valleys, meandering creeks and trails (five rugged miles of trails), located at the northern end of the park.

Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park has expanded to a size of 4085 acres in the 15 years since Sunol's miraculous referendum — and still growing.

On the opening of the new addition, we salute the East Bay Regional Park District and the many residents who've participated over the years. Because of the citizen involvement, Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park is special — a living example of the "yes we can" spirit invoked by our President-elect. This beautiful regional park illustrates what a united, activist community can do.

## SETTLEMENT

(continued from page one)

the 2010/11 school year. The raise would be the total increase minus 1%. Teacher salaries will not be decreased if per pupil funding goes down.

The District received an increase in funding of less than 1% in the current school year and next year no increase is expected. Executive Director of Fiscal Services Susan Kinder says it is likely there will be no increase in the 2010/11 school year. Over the last 10 years, funding increases have ranged from 1 to 6%.

Teachers will see their Health and Welfare benefit contributions increase from \$10,000 to \$10,500 per year in the 2010/11 school year. A major sticking point for LEA was Health and Welfare benefits for early retirees. In the previous contract, those benefits were scheduled to end on July 1, 2010. In the new contract, early retirees maintain that benefit, but the annual contribution by the District is reduced from \$10,000 to \$7,500.

"It's not as much as we wanted. However, I think it's the best we can do right now. The important thing is that our early retirees keep their health benefit contribution," says Reardon.

She adds that both sides are pleased with the new evaluation system, which is a rubric based on the California State Standards.

## LAWSUIT

(continued from page one)

agreed that the district would pay for the first \$8.5 million, each pointed at the other party as having to pay the remainder, when projected cost overruns as high as \$4 million or \$5 million surfaced. (Inflation has driven the estimate higher in recent years.) Both parties went to court to adjudicate what the contract meant.

Despite the settlement, which lets the developers off the hook for building the school, the prospect of building Neal school is not totally lost, said superintendent John Casey.

Currently the district has no money to put into its construction, said Casey. Further, operating Neal school would probably cost more than \$1 million per year at a time when the state support of schools' operating budgets is dismal because of a huge shortfall in expected revenue.

Casey said, "Building Neal is a desired, but unfunded project. With the funds that we see now, I don't see (it happening) any time soon."

### LAWSUIT LOSS MAY NOT COST ANYTHING

Lawsuit losses usually come at a cost. There are millions of dollars of costs in this case. However, the district intends to collect the money from Lozano Smith, the law firm which lost the case for the district.

The costs will total more than \$5 million. The estimate includes the cost, still to be determined, of having to rent or buy portable classrooms, because Neal has not been built. If Lozano Smith does not pay the demand, which will be sent this week, the district will sue for malpractice, said Casey.

Suing won't cost the district anything. The firm that the district plans to hire will work on contingency, and obtain the money from Lozano Smith, if the district wins. There would be no charge, if the district were to lose.

Bernard, Balgley and Bonaccorsi, which successfully represented Signature Properties and Standard Pacific in the Neal

"It's less arbitrary and ties into what teachers are already accomplishing in teaching the standards," she explains. "The old evaluation was just four blank pages."

The addition of the "me too" clause is another issue that LEA felt was important to its members. The "me too" clause means that any across-the-board salary increases earned by other bargaining units would apply to LEA membership as well. Reardon says she's not sure if this would help LEA because they've never had a "me too" clause in their contract.

The agreement was reached after more than 18 months of negotiations, about 12 hours before both sides were set to go to fact finding. Both sides say they felt pressure to come to an agreement because of the state budget situation. Governor Schwarzenegger had just called a special session of the legislature, and cuts to K-12 education funding were expected. That didn't happen, but Reardon thinks it is just a matter of time.

"We're trying to hunker down and weather this storm," says Reardon. "I think there will be reductions in Livermore's teaching staff. I don't think we'll have layoffs, but there won't be as many positions for temporary teachers in the next school year."

suit, is the firm the district would hire. The firm has a stake in representing the district, since it wants to collect the \$2.5 million owed to it in attorneys' fees by the district.

Casey said the school board, which met with an attorney from an independent firm, decided that the Bernard firm is the best for such litigation, because it is so familiar with the case.

The district would base its malpractice suit on two things, said Casey. "The agreement that was crafted by Lozano Smith, and presented to the board, was found to be not legal by two judges, Judge Ronald Sabraw, and Judge George Hernandez, Jr."

"The second problem that we have is that Judge Hernandez said that if he were to interpret the language of the agreement, he would interpret it the way Signature and Standard Pacific would do it, not the district's way. We're saying (to Lozano Smith) that we need a financial remedy for the path we've been on, because of the work the firm did," said Casey.

### SILVER LINING IN THE SETTLEMENT

One important thing that the settlement achieves is the preservation of the development gift fee agreement, said Casey.

In effect, Hernandez held invalid only the portion of the agreement that dealt with building Neal school. He rendered no decision concerning any other part of the gift fee agreement, said Casey.

The district no longer will be using Lozano Smith for legal services. Instead, it will rely on Kingsley Bogard Thompson, a Sacramento law firm that it has used in negotiations with its employees for many years, said Casey.

Summing up the settlement, Casey said, "It's resolved. The decision has been made. We hope to protect the district's financial interest in pursuing some remedy."

# Pleasanton Schools To Look At Cuts

By Ron McNicoll

Pleasanton school trustees will start looking at cuts at their meeting Jan. 13. The goal will be to preserve as much of the overall educational program as they can.

Superintendent John Casey told The Independent this week that the district wants to cut as much in the short term as it can, so that fewer cuts will have to be made during the next two years.

Trustees will also have to keep an eye on next year's budget, because Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger will be presenting the message for that budget in January.

Further, the Legislature is meeting in special session to deal with the state's projected \$40 billion shortfall. Republicans in the Legislature on Monday presented their alternative budget adjustment, which would slash more than \$10 billion from education over the next 18 months.

Susan Kinder, executive director of fiscal services for the Livermore School District, said that a Sacramento school services firm reported that the GOP plan contains a \$1400 cut per pupil. In the Livermore district, that would amount to losing 24 percent of unrestricted funding, which pays for personnel. Since 95 percent of unrestricted funding goes to personnel, "I don't know how we'd survive," said Kinder.

With a minority of votes in both houses, it's highly unlikely that Republicans would be able to enact such draconian cuts in the education budget.

When Casey meets with his board Jan. 13, he will present two lists. One will contain all items which the district has complete authority to reduce. They include such things as vice principals, reading specialists, and

## EDUCATION

(continued from page one)

tools at their fingertips and will benefit from the collaborative district-wide network that is being created through these shared teaching and learning experiences," says Bowers.

Some of the technology tools will include laptops, projectors, interactive white boards, technology assistive software, electronic learning resources, document cameras, and individual student remote response systems. These tools will be used for activities such as creating spreadsheets and graphs, creating statistical reports, using a database, using online reference software, and narrowing World Wide Web searches.

A number of community partners wrote formal letters of support for the grant application and will help the District integrate and infuse the technology into the classrooms. This was a key component in the grant criteria. These partners are the Alameda County Office of Education, CTAP, Las Positas College, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore Public Library, Livermore TOPScience, Livermore Valley Education Foundation, Santa Clara Office of Education—Migrant Education, and the Tri-Valley Teacher Induction Project.

Teachers from St. Michael's School and Valley Montessori will participate in the program, as stipulated by federal grant funding guidelines. Those teachers may attend training workshops, visit classrooms, and consult with staff and technology mentors regarding integrating technology into the classroom.

## WATER

(continued from page one)

age rainfall. In a dry year, the difference wouldn't be as great, because the rules already impose a big cut on water delivery in dry years, due to the Wanger ruling. The worst-case difference in a dry year, between the Wanger level and the new rule, is about 340,000 AF. That's the amount of water used by 680,000 families.

Zone 7 officials said Tuesday that they have had little time so far to analyze the 400-page report, which FWS released on the previous day. It appears that there may be water cutbacks by DWR in the fall every year, because so much water is released then, the pumps reverse the Delta water flows.

That harms the fish, said Zone 7 spokeswoman Boni Brewer. However, it's not known for certain just how autumn cutbacks might specifically affect Zone 7 water delivery, she said.

Overall, Zone 7 has been in good shape since the Wanger ruling and the two years of drought that have accompanied it, because the agency can depend on underground water storage in the Valley, and also outside the Valley, she said.

Zone 7 currently calls for a 10 percent voluntary water cutback. Zone 7 looks set for getting through another dry year this year, if necessary, thanks to its storage, she said. It's possible, though, that Zone 7 would sug-

costs of students' "pay to play" athletic programs.

The second category will include ways that money might be saved, but the district lacks unilateral authority to make the cuts. They include such things as step-and-column raises and preparation periods for teachers. Such items have to be negotiated with the teachers' union.

After the board sees the two lists, it will have to learn how much money needs to be cut. Although there is no definitive word now, the figure could be as high as \$8 million, said Casey. The board would go through a series of public hearings about the cuts, before making final decisions.

The board already knows that the district will maintain the 3 percent minimum reserve fund in this school year. However, with no cost of living increases pegged by the state for school districts in the next two years, reserves will have to be used. The reserves will diminish below the 3 percent level.

The estimate for next year is that it will drop to 1.78 percent. Because of that dip, trustees at their meeting Dec. 9 approved of sending an interim report to the Alameda County that says the district sees a "qualified" fiscal status for its three-year overview projection. Filing a "qualified" report means that the county superintendent's office gives closer scrutiny to the financial reports that come to it from the district.

Normally there are only three interim reports required each year, but the county will be adding more reporting requirements. The "qualified" status is not as bad as the "negative" status, in which projections show a district that will be operating in red ink, with

no reserve. In that category, the county sends an advisor to a district, which was what happened in the Livermore school district in 2002-03.

The advisor for Livermore had the power to say "yes" or "no" when it came to board fiscal actions. Working together, the staff, board and advisor crafted a way out of the situation. Administrative positions were eliminated, and money was raised through a parcel tax, which was extended this year by voters to 2015.

Susan Kinder, executive director of fiscal services in the Livermore district, said that Livermore started with a "qualified" status report in its first reporting period to the county, just as Pleasanton is doing. However, it went to a negative projection in

## HILLSIDES

(continued from page one)

public open space to the city.

On the other side, Kay Ayala stated, "The message is clear. Preservation of ridgelines is a major big time issue. While there are some concerns about conflicts, I am willing to say let's move on and work together to make open space and trails accessible to the community." She noted that offer was only good if the council adopted option one.

Sharrell Michelotti for Measure QQ and Karla Brown for Measure PP also urged the council to move forward with option one.

One developer spoke to the issue. Lance Smith discussed plans for Lund Ranch II. He said that the application had been changed when PP and QQ were placed on the ballot. "We knew there would be some kind of hillside protection in place. The housing came off the ridgelines and went onto the flatter areas. There is also contiguous open space that would go to the city," he stated.

Smith preferred some type of defining ordinance or guidelines, rather than just having the city adopt the measures as part of the general plan.

Sullivan said after the public hearing, "It is pretty amazing and kind of neat to see proponents of each say they agree on option one. The message I am getting is that the council should get out of the way. It is time for politics to end."

He added that it is incumbent upon staff that the policies are adhered to when development is

## Housing Lawsuit Back to Superior Court

The Pleasanton City Council met in closed session at its Tuesday meeting to discuss options with regard to the lawsuit challenging the city's housing cap, housing element, and growth management ordinance.

The Supreme Court denied the city's petition to review an earlier Court of Appeals decision. The case now goes back to Superior Court for a further hearing.

The California Court of Appeal last summer had reinstated a 2006 lawsuit brought by plaintiffs Urban Habitat and low-income mother Sandra DeGregorio. The lawsuit, filed in Superior Court, asked the court to require the city to zone land for affordable housing as described in the city's housing element. The suit also alleged that the city's land-use policies unlawfully discriminate against families with children by preventing enough housing to be built to accommodate them.

Pleasanton Assistant City Attorney Larissa Seto said, "Pretty much everything is back on the table." She added that Urban Habitat attorneys have indicated that they feel they have a stronger right to challenge the city's land use policies based on re-

## MAILBOX

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

### Regional Theater Mike Bocchicchio

The December 11<sup>th</sup> article regarding the recent City Council presentation of additional plans for LVPAC's proposed 2000-seat regional theater, quoted two audience members expressing doubts as to the ability of the theater to attract sufficient audiences to be successful. For the past eight years, numerous consultants for both LVPAC and the City have studied the area's potential ticket-buying market for Broadway and other first-class performing arts attractions and have concluded that the Tri-Valley can support such a venue, drawing on the over 900,000 people who live within a short drive of down-

town Livermore. This conclusion is reinforced by the first season's experience at the Bankhead Theater with over 76,000 attendees for 201 events drawn from over 30 different area zip codes.

In his recent study, Mitch Gershenfeld, an experienced performing arts center manager, points out that "Livermore and the surrounding area is recognized by agents representing headline attractions and Broadway touring shows as a prime and under-served market" and as such "it is clear that the marketplace can support the wide variety of performances projected." Certainly, individuals may voice their opinions; however, LVPAC and the City have carefully studied this issue and are confident that audiences will not only support the regional theater, but will contribute more than 20 million dollars of annual economic benefits — a significantly higher return on investment than any of the other Livermore redevelopment-related projects currently under consideration.

Trustees have spoken in the past about putting a parcel tax on the ballot. Initially, a few years ago, the notion was to add programs to improve education. Later the idea was to hold on to what the district has. In both cases, surveys showed that the district would not receive the necessary votes to approve the tax. In contrast, the Livermore parcel tax this year passed with 84 percent of the vote.

reviewed.

McGovern stated, "I am so thrilled that residents still believe that ridgelines, open space and trails are important. Future generations will be able to follow the dream and keep it going."

Mayor Jennifer Hosterman noted that the city had a long history of protecting open space. "I am very proud of that." She added that what is important to me is an open public dialog. When we adopt the general plan, people will be able to comment on provisions in both of these measures.

Measure QQ was placed on the ballot by three councilmembers. Measure PP is an initiative that qualified for the ballot with over 5000 signatures.

The council measure (QQ) asked residents to confirm a statement in the general plan calling for establishment of an ordinance to protect the southeast hillsides. Some type of community collaborative effort would be used to develop the ordinance. The ordinance that would result would be subject to environmental review. It would identify such things as elevations and major ridgelines.

The citizens' initiative (PP) prohibits the building of structures and grading on slopes of 25 percent or greater or within 100 feet of a ridgeline. There is an exception made for developments of 10 or fewer units. The initiative also includes a definition of a housing unit that is to be counted under the city's 29,000 cap.

vised numbers issued by ABAG.

While the case was pending in the Court of Appeal, Bay Area cities received their new allocation of affordable housing for the period from 2007-2014. Pleasanton's share totals 3,277 units of housing. Those numbers include 1,804 lower income units.

The closed session Tuesday was a discussion from outside counsel who has been advising the city on the lawsuit.

As part of its housing element, the city had said it would rezone enough land for some 800 units of lower-income housing by June 2004. Four years later, it has not done that.

The suit claims that Pleasanton's Housing Cap violates state law because the city cannot accommodate the fair share of the regional need for new housing without exceeding the voter approved cap of 29,000 units.

A city staff report issued last summer indicated that as of January 1, 2007, only 2,755 more units remained under the cap. The city would not be able to provide the 4,000 units now needed, the 800 lower-income units left over from the old planning period plus the 3,277 new units that were allocated.



Photos (by Randy Wong, courtesy of Sandia National Laboratories)

Lynde Farhat, Karelyn Baker, and Beth Richter prepare gifts for distribution through Sandia's Holiday Spirit Gift Campaign.

## Sandia Spreads Holiday Spirit

By Patricia Koning

Many families are financially squeezed this holiday season, as shown by increased demand at local food banks and soup kitchens. Employees at Sandia National Laboratories are once again stepping up to meet this need through the corporation's annual Holiday Spirit campaign.

Holiday Spirit consists of three drives for donations for the less fortunate. In the "Bring a Turkey to Work" campaign held in November, employees donated 51 turkeys that fed an estimated 200 people on Thanksgiving.

In the grocery campaign, Sandia sets a goal to collect at least 2,000 pounds of food each year, which is distributed to Open Heart Kitchen and Interfaith Sharing in Livermore, Interfaith Ministries in Tracy, and Second Harvest in Manteca. Mike Kurtzer, who works as a computer systems analyst at Sandia, has run the grocery campaign for the last 12 years.

"The idea is for each of Sandia's 800 or so employees to bring in at least a few cans and maybe even a full grocery sack. That adds up to 2,000 pounds pretty quickly," he says. "The need is greater than ever this year. I volunteer at Interfaith Ministries. Their demand has doubled this season."

The biggest effort goes into the gift campaign, which is run like the Salvation Army's Angel Tree. Sandia collects wish lists from seven local organizations including Horizon High School in Pleasanton, the Boys and Girls Club of Tracy, Buenas Vidas Youth Ranch in Livermore, and Friends Outside of Contra Costa County, which supports families

### 'Nutcracker' Ticket Donation Way to Say Thank You

Valley Dance Theatre has donated 100 tickets to its production of Tchaikovsky's holiday classic, *The Nutcracker*, to Tri-Valley Haven. The tickets will be distributed to agency staff and volunteers in appreciation for their dedication and hard work with victims of domestic violence.

Valley Dance Theatre's full-length production of *The Nutcracker* will take place at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First Street in Livermore, Calif., December 13-21.

"We know that this is a demanding and busy time of year for the Tri-Valley Haven staff and volunteers as they help their clients deal with some difficult issues," says Karin Bunnell, who is Valley Dance Theatre's Board of Directors president. "We want them to know that we haven't forgotten that they are part of our community and hope to make their holiday season a bit brighter with our festive production. We know they'll enjoy the beautiful spectacle of dance, costumes and scenery as well as the live accompaniment by the Livermore-Amador Symphony pit orchestra and carols by the Harmony Fusion Chorus and the Valley Concert Chorale. We hope it will be a memorable experience for them."

Additional information about Valley Dance Theatre is available at the website [www.valleydancetheatre.com](http://www.valleydancetheatre.com). Tickets to *The Nutcracker* are available at the website [www.bankheadtheater.org](http://www.bankheadtheater.org) or 925-373-6800.

involved in the criminal justice system.

Sandia employees select cards for individuals or families and purchase gifts from the wish lists. A popular request this year was for bicycles and helmets.

"I had never heard of this type of program before Sandia. I really liked the idea of buying a particular gift for one specific person," says Karelyn Baker, an office management assistant at Sandia. "When you see the entire room full of gifts you realize how many lives will be touched."

Baker coordinates the gift campaign with colleagues Lynde Farhart and Beth Richter. The Tri-Valley Community Foundation also supports Sandia's gift campaign by sponsoring any cards that aren't chosen by employees.

Martha Campiotti has participated in the gift campaign since its inception. Each year she and some friends buy for one family. She buys for another family with members of Sandia's Asian Pacific Leadership Committee. Holiday Spirit is important to her because she knows what it is like to do without. Her father worked as a Captain Steward in the Navy. Her mother struggled to make ends meet for the family of seven

children.

"Money was always tight and gifts were few and far between," Campiotti explains. "I remember strangers coming over with a Christmas tree, decorations, gifts for each of us, and food to eat on Christmas day. We were all very happy! Today, I want to bring happiness to families, especially the children. I do it because it brings me great joy and satisfaction to know they are smiling and getting something they otherwise wouldn't have."

## Lab Raises Over \$2.6 Million For Charities

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory employees, along with Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC (LLNS), have raised more than \$2.6 million to give to their surrounding communities.

Laboratory employees pledged nearly \$1.7 million to the HOME Campaign (for Helping Others More Effectively) - an annual charitable drive that benefits community/nonprofit agencies in the Tri Valley, San Joaquin Valley and Greater Bay Area. In addition, Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC, which manages the Lab, announced it would donate \$1 million in matching funds.

The total contribution, \$2,697,919, represents the largest amount ever raised in more than 30 years of conducting the HOME Campaign. "I am honored by the generosity and commitment of our employees," said George Miller, LLNS president and director of the Laboratory. "The local agencies benefit greatly from our HOME contributions. We are pleased to be able to make a difference in the community."

Since 1997, the HOME Campaign has raised more than \$1 million annually through LLNL employee donations that go directly to agencies selected by employees. Last year, the LLNS Board of Governors announced LLNS would match the first \$1 million raised by Laboratory employees. The match was offered again this year.

The funds for the match come from the fee LLNS receives to manage the Laboratory, not the Department of Energy funds for the Laboratory's operations.

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Palo Alto Medical Foundation wins an IHA award for Top Overall Performance.  
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# 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.

**Volunteer Drivers needed.** The Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley is looking for Volunteer Drivers to transport seniors to their medical appointments. The Senior Transportation Program supplements existing public and paratransit services by providing rides via volunteer drivers. Volunteers must have a valid driver's license, a registered vehicle and carry personal automobile liability insurance. Please contact Jennifer Cullen for more information at (925) 931-5387 or email: ja.cullen@yahoo.com

**Tri-Valley YMCA Leadership Academy** opening January 5, 2009, located on Hart, Harvest Park and Pleasanton Middle school campuses. Academy activities include: Homework Time, Club Activities, Service Learning Projects, Team Building Games, Leadership Training, Public Speaking Opportunities, Interpersonal Communication Skills Development. Weekdays 3 to 6 p.m. Fees vary based on attendance plan. Space is limited. For more information or registration, please contact: Kris Farro, Program Director (925) 475-6110 kfarr@ymcaeastbay.org

**Crab Feed.** Sat., Jan. 24, 6 p.m. White Crane Winery, Livermore. Benefit for the Kids YMCA Camp Arroyo outdoor school. \$40 per person. Live music and dancing after dinner. For reservations, go to www.WhiteCraneWinery.com

**Valley Spokenmen Bicycle Touring Club.** Sat., Dec. 20, 60 miles on Calaveras Road to Milpitas, meet 10 a.m. at Val Vista Park, Pleasanton, Curtis Stallins 922-2461. Sat., Dec. 20, 55 miles Seven Islands Ride, meet 10 a.m. at foot of Rio Vista Bridge, Mike Smith, 628-4333. Sun., Dec. 21, 35 miles from Shannon Center in Dublin to Castro Valley and scenic five canyons area, meet 10 a.m., Elaine Nadeau, 677-6586. Wed., Dec. 24, 25 miles north Livermore section of Cinderella ride, meet 10 a.m. at airport parking lot, 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.

**Recruitment Grant Available.** \$500 for woman student pursuing a career in education. Eligibility requirements: graduate of a high school in Livermore, Pleasanton or Dublin, full-time student of upper division or graduate standing as of fall 2009; must have a good GPA. Deadline for applications is March 20, 2009. The grant is awarded by the local chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, an international honor society for women educators. To receive an application form, send self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Kathy Brooks, 1581 Oslo Ct., Livermore, CA 94550.

**New Year's Eve Party.** Dec. 31, Elks Lodge, 940 Larkspur Dr., Livermore. No host cocktails 6:30 p.m., dinner by Chef Carlous at 7:30 p.m. Champagne toast at midnight, music throughout. \$35 per person. Reservations required by Fri., Dec. 26.

RSVP to Tammy Sturgill, 437-0109 or Bill Biehl at 443-7123/

**Christmas Tree Recycling.** Youth groups representing the Livermore Boy Scouts of America Troops #903, # 924, #931 and #939 have announced plans for their 33rd Annual Christmas Tree Recycling event, scheduled to take place on Saturday, January 3, 2009. For a small donation (\$5 for green trees or \$10 for flocked/oversized trees), scouts representing these four troops will pick up your tree at the curbside of your home for disposal and recycling. Residents and/or businesses interested in this program can make a reservation online at www.scoutgreen.org or by calling 925-373-7815. Reservations for pickup must be made on or before December 28, 2008.

**Friends of the Vineyards.** holiday party at the Ravenswood Historic Site, 2647 Arroyo Rd. in Livermore, Dec. 21, 2 to 5 p.m. Bring a bottle of local wine and a festive dish-finger foods, desserts, etc.--to share. Coffee and other treats will be available. Holiday music. For more information see www.fov.org or call 447-8907.

**RELIGION**  
**First Presbyterian Church.** 2020 Fifth Street, Livermore. Christmas Eve Services, 5 p.m. Friendly Beasts Service; 7:30 p.m. concert and caroling; 9 p.m. candlelight service. Information (925) 447-2078 or www.fpc-livermore.org.

**Asbury United Methodist Church.** 4743 East Avenue, Livermore. 9 a.m. Sunday worship. Dec. 21, 5 p.m. caroling. Christmas Eve candlelight services, 7 p.m., blend carol singing and the traditional scriptures; 11 p.m. traditional service of carols and readings. Information 447-1950.

**St. Elizabeth Seton.** Advent-Christmas Concert, "The Journey silence... the Gift." Dec. 19, 7:30 p.m. 4001 Stoneridge Dr., Pleasanton. Children's choir, adult choir, teen choir and instrumentalists to perform. Information 484-5020.

**Science of the Bible.** St. Michael's/St. Charles' Monday Night Bible Study Group a spiritually invigorating and soul lifting session January 5 - Feb 23, 2009. This study will consist of viewing several of the National Geographic Channel's videos on such topics as Jesus the Preacher & Jesus the Healer. The evening will be broken down into discussions of what was seen, how that affects us, and what it means to our lives. All are invited to attend evenings from 7:30 - 9:15 pm at St. Charles, in the Pope John XXIII Room, 1315 Lomitas Ave., Livermore. This Bible Study is open to all denominations and people interested in this topic. For more information contact Julie at upatholic@aol.com or 447-4549 ext 114.

**Chanukah party.** Sunday, December 21, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 8th St., Livermore. Games and activities for adults and kids. Low-key, potluck brunch. Bring a potato and dish to share. Also collecting new or very gently used coats for One Warm Coat. Secular Humanistic candle-lighting ceremony. No charge, donations accepted. For reservations or info contact CulturalJews@aol.com, Tri-ValleyCulturalJews.org.

**Christmas Eve Service.** Wed., Dec. 24th, 7:00 p.m., Tri-Valley Unity Church, meeting at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. Join us in celebrating the birth of Jesus and the birthing of a new Christ Consciousness in each of us. (925) 829-2733; www.trivalleyunity.com.

**Calvary Chapel Livermore.** "Unequivocally teaching for today the whole counsel of God's Word" Sunday Services 10:30am and 6:00 pm 545 N. L Street Livermore. (925) 447-4357 - www.calvalrylivermore.org

**A live nativity production** will be presented at 6:30 p.m. in the back parking lot of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Valley Ave. and Paseo Santa Cruz, Pleasanton. Refreshments will be served and the public is urged to dress warmly. No charge.

**A youth chorus and bell choir concert.** Performance is at 7 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Valley Ave. and Paseo Santa Cruz, Pleasanton. No charge.

**Catholic Community of Pleasanton:** Christmas Eve services: St. Augustine, 3999 Bernal Ave., Pleasanton, 4 p.m., 6 p.m. and midnight, 11:30 p.m. musical prelude; St. Elizabeth Seton, 4001 Stoneridge Dr., Pleasanton, 4 p.m., 6 p.m. and midnight, 11:30 p.m. musical prelude. Christmas Day: St. Augustine, 8 and 10 a.m. and noon; St. Elizabeth Seton, 9 and 11 a.m.

**Centerpointe Church.** 3410 Centerpointe Court, Pleasanton. Performances of "Christmas County Spelling Bee," Sun., Dec. 21, 5 p.m. and Wed., Dec. 24, 5 p.m. Family Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:30 p.m. 846-4436 or www.centerpointechurch.info.

**Tri-Valley Unity Church.** "The Joy of the World" is the topic of Rev. Steve Maynard's sermon for the fourth Sunday of Advent, Dec. 21, meeting at the Radisson 6680 Regional St., Dublin, at 10 a.m. Ongoing classes and groups as well. All are welcome. (925) 829-2733; www.trivalleyunity.com.

**Burning Bowl Service** - Releasing the old, making space for the new. Tuesday, Dec. 30, 7 p.m. at Tri-Valley Church's Gathering Place, 7567 Amador Valley Blvd., #120, Dublin. (925) 829-2733; www.trivalleyunity.com.

**St. Charles Borromeo Catholic.** 1315 Lomitas Ave., Livermore. Christmas Eve liturgies: 8 p.m. youth mass, 10:30 p.m. carols; 11 p.m. Mass with choir. Christmas Day liturgy, 10 a.m. Mass. Information, 447-4549; www.stcharlesborromeo.org.

**CrossWinds Church.** 6444 Sierra Ct., Dublin. Christmas Eve services at 3, 4 and 6:15 p.m. Christmas Day Communion Service at 11:30 a.m. Information, 560-3800 or www.crosswindschurch.org.

**Lynnwood United Methodist.** 4444 Black Ave., Pleasanton. Christmas Eve services 5:30 p.m. family worship, 8 p.m. adult candlelight service; and 11 p.m. candlelight Communion service. Information, www.lynnwood.org.

**United Christian Church.** 1886 College Ave., Livermore. Christmas Eve service at 7 p.m., candlelight service. Information www.uccliv.org or 449-6820.

## Civics Teams Head to State Competition

Both the Amador Valley High School and Foothill High School "We the People" competition civics teams have moved on in competition. Both won at the regional level and have moved on to the state level competition, which takes place in February.

Foothill's team members include Kris Adkins, Daniel Cobar, Jenny Mei, Smita Patil, James Babb, David Hopper, Erica Guo, Matthew Bloss, Christine Wu,

Kathleen Hitchens, Kapil Gururangan, Nikhil Popat, Brandon Butera, Max Mensinger, Aarshi Vipani, Prachi Naik, Ashyka Dave, Neema Rashidee, Sally Kim, Christine Chang, Charlie See, Hayley Malcolm, and Rohan Ghanta. The team is coached by Jeremy Detamore.

Amador Valley's team consists of Ian Pendleton, Chris Wolfinger, Anisha Mocherla, James Wu, Felicia Dana, Alex

Manaa, Aisha Sleiman, Carol Hu, Tracy Yin, Hanna Pitz, Ashley Salustri, Sean Ketner, Daniel Nato, Nicole Recupero, Josh Miller, Patrick Stueve, Claire Kennedy, Steven Johnson, Tony Perazzo, Odele Bet-Yonan, Uggi Lee, Kaeli Doxey, Amrita Kulkarni, Stephen Rakowski, Aletheia Orphanidys, Alyssa Hanou, Jay Ryoo, and Vinny Stefani. Keldon Clegg is the team's coach.

## GERMAN

(continued from page one)

grammar (which Frau Peck, as her students call her, says is a language teacher's dream).

Ann Kasameyer is one of those students with a decades-long gap in her German studies. She studied German in high school and college and has since returned to the language so she can trace her family's German and Swiss roots.

Katrina Anderson is on the opposite end of the spectrum. She's a senior at Granada High School who has studied German for five years, but couldn't fit it into her schedule this year.

Julie Kaiser's husband is German. She studied the language about 10 years ago when they were dating, and even though he speaks perfect English, she'd still like to speak to him and his family in their native tongue.

The intermediate class formed such a tight bond last spring that Grabske organized an informal *Kaffeeklatsch*, which met weekly at Peet's Coffee over the summer. "We enjoyed each other's company so much and we wanted to continue practicing our German, so it was a natural thing to do during the summer break," he explains.

It turns out there are more German speakers passing through Peet's than you might imagine. At most meetings, passersby would notice the German dictionaries on the group's table and share their own experience with the German language. A few of

those passersby even joined the *Kaffeeklatsch*.

At the *Kaffeeklatsch*, members of the group shared their travel experiences, practiced translating popular songs into German, and even played a version of the popular game "Apples to Apples" developed by one of their own, Kate Picher.

"We lived vicariously through Ann's travels," says Picher, another of the intermediate students. "The games were great conversation starters. Sometimes our conversations venture to topics where even Frau Peck doesn't know the vocabulary."

She's another student returning to German after a long break. Picher studied German in college, but never had the occasion to practice her German after graduating. She's surprised at how easily it came back to her.

This is not the first time Frau Peck has developed a close community of German speakers. A few years ago, members of Granada High School's German Club who were among Peck's first students at the school held a reunion at a local German restaurant.

Peck says she enjoys facilitating the intermediate class because she can imagine being a student in such a class. "It's an opportunity to use the language the students had learned in the past. Of course, the participants are at different levels of proficiency. The trick is to encourage

them to express themselves at their individual levels and to increase their comprehension by listening to the others," she explains.

Her beginning class is more structured and is based around a BBC series on the internet. In the spring semester, Peck will add a third class for continuing beginners to fill the gap between the other two classes. She suggests that new students who have had a little German might want to consider joining this class.

The spring semester starts in late January and continues through the middle of April (12 meetings total). Beginning German will meet on Tuesdays beginning on Jan. 27, intermediate/advanced will meet on Wednesdays beginning Jan. 28, and continuing beginners will meet on Thursdays beginning on Jan. 29.

To learn more about Livermore Adult Education and to register, visit the website www.livermoreadulted.org. Walk-in registration begins on Jan. 5 at the Adult School Office at 1401 Almond Avenue. (The beginning class is offered jointly with the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District, so registration is also available at www.larp.dst.ca.us.) Anyone interested in the informal *Kaffeeklatsch*, which will be meeting during the winter break from classes, can contact Frau Peck at leston@comcast.net.

## SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SERVICES AND PROGRAMS PLANNED

**JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF THE CHRIST CHILD!**

Dec. 24, 5 p.m. - Children's Christmas Program  
Dec. 24, 7 p.m. & 10 p.m. - Candlelight Christmas Eve Services  
Dec. 25, 10 a.m. - Festival Communion Service  
Dec. 31, 5:30 p.m. - New Year's Eve Worship

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557 Olivina Ave. Livermore  
For information, call (925) 447-1848  
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**Lynnwood United Methodist Church**  
4444 Black Avenue, Pleasanton, CA  
www.lynnwood.org

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**

**5:30 P.M.**  
Child-centered Family Worship

**8:00 P.M.**  
Adult Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

**11:00 P.M.**  
Candlelight Communion Service

**Catholic Community of St. Charles Borromeo**  
1315 Lomitas Avenue, Livermore  
www.stcharlesborromeo.org • (925) 447-4549

**2008 Christmas Schedule**

**Christmas Eve Liturgies**  
Wednesday, December 24  
8:00 PM: Youth Mass  
10:30 PM: Carols  
11:00 PM: Mass with Choir

**Christmas Day Liturgy**  
Thursday, December 25  
10:00 AM: Mass

**United Christian Church**  
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**ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2008**  
Opening the doors of our hearts...

**CHRISTMAS**  
**Sunday, December 21**  
"Opening Our Hearts to Love"  
10:30 am - Worship  
UCC Children/Youth Present: The Christmas Story  
Rev. Dr. Martha Williams, preaching

**Wednesday, December 24**  
7:00 pm - "Opening Our Hearts to Light"  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
Children Welcome!

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

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**CHRISTMAS 2008 SERVICES**

Sunday, Dec. 21 at 9:30am, 11:00am  
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Wednesday, Dec. 24 at 11:30pm - Communion Service

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925-560-3800 | www.crosswindschurch.org

The Children of Centerpointe Church Present  
**"The Christmas County Spelling Bee"**

A lively musical that reflects on the many names of Jesus and opens all hearts to the loving Christmas message

**Performance Times:**  
Sunday, December 21st - 5PM  
Wednesday, December 24th - 5PM

**Family Candlelight Christmas Eve Service, Wednesday, December 24th - 7:30PM**  
We hope you and your family can visit us for one or more of our meaningful Advent services. You are welcome!

**Centerpointe Church**  
3410 Cornerstone Court, Pleasanton  
(Corner of Valley Ave. & Busch Rd.)  
846.4436 • www.centerpointechurch.info

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

**Christmas Eve, Dec. 24th**  
**Friendly Beasts Service - 5 p.m.**  
Bring your children to meet the animals there for the Holy Night, sing your favorite Christmas carols and warm up with hot cider and cookies. We'll tell the story of Christmas night from a different perspective in Fellowship Hall.

**Concert & Caroling - 7:30 p.m.**  
Enjoy the Sanctuary Choir, Celebration Chimes, professional brass quartet, pipe organ, and lots of audience caroling in the Sanctuary.

**Candlelight Service - 9 p.m.**  
Worship with us in our beautiful Sanctuary decorated with poinsettias and listen to our choir and bell choir as we celebrate the Holy Birth.

**Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2008**  
**New Year's Eve Labyrinth Walk 8 p.m. - midnight**  
The courtyard labyrinth and indoor labyrinth will be decorated with luminarias, beautiful music will be playing, and you'll have an opportunity to prepare yourself for the New Year.

# Local Boy Scouts Keep Christmas Green

By Patricia Koning

For more than 30 years, local Boy Scouts have been a part of Livermore's Christmas tradition. Residents have come to count on the Scout's Christmas Tree Recycling program as a quick, easy, and environmentally friendly way to dispose of their trees once the holiday is over.

In the weeks before Christmas, the Scouts canvas neighborhoods to sign up households for the recycling program. "We get most of our clients by going door-to-door and through word-of-mouth," says Kraig Gearhart, chairman of the recycling program and a representative of Troop 924. "We have lots of repeat customers. In fact, past customers who don't have real Christmas trees will often make donations so they can continue helping the Scouts."

This year's Christmas Tree Recycling day is on Saturday, Jan. 3. On Friday night, representatives from all four par-

ticipating troops (903, 924, 931, and 939) hold a "mapping party" where they plan how they'll collect all the trees in a single day. This collaboration is a benefit of this particular project, explains Gearhart, because different Scout troops don't work together often.

On Saturday morning, the Scouts fan out across Livermore, collecting the trees that are left curbside and bringing them to Robertson Park. In previous years, 80-100 Scouts have participated, picking up around 800 trees.

At the park, the Scouts separate the flocked trees and cut the green trees to prepare them for Waste Management, who will pick them up for recycling on Monday. The recycled Christmas trees are used in a variety of ways and places, such as on hiking trails, fish habitats, and on beachfronts to prevent erosion, and as garden compost.

"It can be a long day, but it's also a lot of fun," says Nick Fuller of Boy

Scout Troop 924. "The younger Scouts get really excited, plus we earn a lot of money for camps and scouting equipment."

The green part of this project is not limited to the environment—the Boy Scouts also collect a considerable amount of money through the donations that helps pay for their summer camps.

"In these trying economic times, this program is a great way for the Scouts to help their families with the cost of camps," says Gearhart. "Recently, one of our senior Scouts told me, with great pride, how over the last three years he's paid for all of his camps with his own money, made largely through his participation in this program."

According to Gearhart, the Boy Scout camps typically run about \$250-\$350 for a week, but they are well worth the expense. This summer, Troop 924 is planning to attend a camp on Catalina Island and a hiking camp in New Mexico

that will take the Scouts on 25- and 50-mile hikes.

The cost for the curbside Christmas tree pickup is \$5 for a green tree and \$10 for a flocked or oversized tree. Res-

ervations must be made by Dec. 28. If a Scout doesn't knock on your door, you can call 925-373-7815 or make an online reservation at [www.scoutgreen.org](http://www.scoutgreen.org).

## Donation Helps Open Heart Kitchen

Livermore's Open Heart Kitchen will continue serving needy Tri-Valley citizens thanks to a donation from Pacific Service Credit Union. The credit union has donated funds to assist the non-profit in its efforts to provide hot meals and box lunches to low-income senior citizens, families, and children.

The funding donated by the credit union will be used for three Open Heart Kitchen meal programs. The Hot Meals program providing hot meals made from scratch Monday through Friday to families and individuals in need. The Weekend Box Lunch program distributes two box lunches to low-income children each Friday throughout the year so chil-

dren have something to eat over the weekend when school cafeterias are closed. And, the Senior Hot Meal program where volunteers prepare and serve dinner to low-income senior citizens at Ridge View Commons in Pleasanton.

"I'm pleased our credit union is in a position to help," said Michele, Livermore branch manager of Pacific Service CU.

Pacific Service Credit Union provided the grant to Open Heart Kitchen through its Community Involvement Program.

For more information about Open Heart Kitchen, please contact Linda McKeever at (925) 580-1616, or visit the website at [openheartkitchen.org](http://openheartkitchen.org).

## SPORTS NOTES

### Heat Second in JO

The Pleasanton Heat Cross Country team placed second in both the Youth Boys and Youth Girls division at the Junior Olympic National Championships held last Saturday, December 13 in Richmond, Virginia.

The National Championships drew over 2400 athletes from all over the country. Each athlete had to earn a spot in the National Championships by placing in the top 20 in their region. The Pleasanton Heat had the best overall team performance of any team in the country in the Youth division for athletes 13-14 years of age.

The boys were led by All-American Parker Deuel who finished the 4000m course in 13:49 to place 17th overall. Also earning All-American honors was Tyler Sorenson (24th in 13:56). Rounding out the top five scoring positions for the Heat were Ryan Kinney (14:19), Connor McCarthy (14:29) and Nolan Petersen (14:35). Backup was provided by Sean Alyward (14:37), Aidan Goltra (14:45), Theo Carter (14:53), Jacob Schlachte (15:04), Kohlden Hochhaus (15:35), Brendon Chui (15:38), Dilraj Singh (15:56) and Nick Trebes (16:09).

Granite State Flash of New Hampshire won the meet with 80 team points. The Heat had 101 points to finish second, just getting by South Orange County Wildcats of Southern California who had 105 pts. In cross country the places of the first five runners are added up to determine a team score, with low score winning.

The Heat girls were led by Natalie Dimits who covered the 4000m course in 15:37. She was followed closely by Kyla Aiuto (16:00), Kai Wilson (16:05), Nicolette Sorenson (16:21) and Julia Vasquez (16:41). The girls combined to score 91 points. San Diego Road Runners won the race with 43 points.

In the 10 and under division (Bantam Division), Pleasanton Heat's Tim Falls earned All American honors by finishing in the top 25. He raced to an 11:37 over the 3000m course to finish 18th. Close behind was teammate Alex Sokol in 11:53 followed by Duncan McCarthy in 14:03. Annaka Green led the Pleasanton Heat girls in the Bantam Division, followed by Emma Petersen. Green just missed All American honors, finishing 28th in 12:35. In the 11-12 yr old Division, Sophie Hartley finished 13th overall in 11:14 to earn All American status. Also competing in the 11-12 yr old division were Katie Moro (13:01) and Arielle Hartley (13:43), both running season bests. In the 11-12 yr old Boys Division the Pleasanton Heat finished 12th. They were led by Ryan Colaco who ran 11:01 for 3000m and Kahale Warring in 11:13. Close behind were teammates Daniel Tang (11:25), Eugene Chen (11:49) and Peter Schlachte (12:05).

The Pleasanton Heat has 56 runners from the East Bay and is coached by Kevin McCarthy. "I am really proud of this team," McCarthy said. "They set very high goals for themselves and worked hard for many months to achieve them. Almost all of them ran their best race ever at the National Championships."

### Pleasanton Seahawks

The Pleasanton Seahawks sent a team to the Oregon Senior Champs in Corvallis, OR this past weekend. The team came home with the 1st place trophy.

Event winners included Katrina Anderson in the 200 back, 200 IM and 1650 free, and Marissa Brown in the 400 IM.

While half the Senior group was in Oregon the other half of the Senior group was at the Senior Plus meet in Walnut Creek. There were some fast times turned in: Alison Brown 200 free 1:52.50 and 500 free 4:53.09, Natalie Wong 500 free with a 4:06.50, Catherine Fong 200 fly 2:18.90 and 58.2 50 free; Jeff Fong 2:06.00 200 fly and 56.7 100 back.

### PLEASANTON MEET

The Seahawks hosted a meet this past weekend with 1000 kids who entered the meet.

Over 290 toys were donated to Toys for Tots at this meet.

The 13-14 Seahawk boys dominated the 200 free with top finishes by the following swimmers: Nick Silverthorne, Chris Dpurov, Jason Chen and Kevin McLaughlin. Rachel Knowles 11-12 year old girls had great swims in her 50 free. Eva Chung had 2 new far Western cuts and Maggie Kaulfeld earned her JO cut in the 500 free. Nja Zunga, Tanaya Gondhalekar, Oliver Rooney and Taylor Sowers all received new A cuts.

### Youth Soccer

The Pleasanton BUSC D4, U12 Rays wrapped up an excellent 16-1-2 season with a fine showing in San Ramon's Sunset tournament. Following a 4th place finish in Dublin's Cross Road's tournament where the Rays took their first loss, the team rebounded well at Sunset, going 3-0-1 and bringing home 3rd place hardware.

Defense was key again as the Rays only gave up 2 goals in the 4 games. The 3rd place victory came with a 2-1 victory over a very good Danville Mustang team. The Mustangs went up 1-0 in the first half on a rocket that goal keeper Hector Vega got a hand on, but couldn't stop. Late in the second half, still trailing 0-1, Dylan Frades was fouled inside the goal box. Davin Bokaie drove the penalty shot past the Mustang keeper to tie it up 1-1. Then, with less than a minute left in the match, Andrew Bridges slipped a shot in the lower right hand corner and the Rays pulled off a thrilling come from behind 2 to 1 win.

The defense held firm the second half, led by goal keeper, Ethan Lipsker and defensemen, Connor Locher, Tyler Wineger and Timmy Wu. Pictured Rays players: Andrew Bailey, Davin Bokaie, Andrew Bridges, Augustin Chen, Dylan Frades, Ethan Lipsker, Kevin Lin, Connor Locher, Keegan Locher, Will Pickett, Jove Rogers, Jordan Singh, Hector Vega, Tyler Wineger, Timmy Wu.

### CYO Basketball

St. Michael's/St. Charles SM/SC 7th grade American team Fury vs. St. Joan was a close game until the fourth quarter when a beautiful 3 pt. shot by Madeline Glaviano got all the SM/SC girls going, with a final score of 31 to 17 in CYO basketball action. SM/SC top scorers were McKayla Saavedra with 10, Ashleigh Pettit with 6 and Hailey Lasit with 4, one being a sweet left hand layup with two St. Joan players right on her heels. St. Joan scorers were Merra with 6, and Paris and Janelle with 4 each. SM/SC had some great free throw shots made by Madeline Glaviano, Rebecca Johnson and Skyler Kriz along with

Merra and Janelle for St. Joan. SM/SC top defensive players were Niki Lutz and Claire Hyde who always give 100% for their team, along with Shannon Melrose who gets those rebounds both defensively and offensively.

In 7th grade girls CYO basketball SM/SC team #7003 defeated Catholic Community of Pleasanton (CCOP) team #7009 by a score of 23 to 21. Rebecca Bernstein hit a 3 pointer as time expired to put SM/SC up 7 at half-time, but CCOP came roaring back to within 2 for much of the last quarter. Sarah McCallister had a key offensive rebound and basket late in the quarter to keep SM/SC ahead. Bernstein was high scorer for SM/SC with 8, followed by Taylor Smith with 7 and Kelly Borden with 5. Christie Swinton also scored for SM/SC, and Natalie Land and Shelby Stunkel had outstanding all-around games.

CCOP #71 beat SM/SC #76 54 to 29. It was a true team effort with all 9 players scoring. CCOP came out shooting and stayed ahead the entire game. Leading CCOP in rebounds was 7 was Drew Bland. Josh Stevens hit 4 baskets - a season high.

The CCOP 7th grade girls basketball team defeated SM/SC 36-16. The CCOP team was on fire throughout the game with the entire team contributing to the score. Leading scorers were Haley Brodnick with 12 points, Rachael Miller with 6 points, and Jessica Medina and Jacque Price with 4 points each. The remaining 5 players each added a basket in a well played team game.

SM/SC 6th grade girls (#6005) took on St. Isidore (#6011), losing 19-5. Playing against a very physically imposing St. Isidore team, SM/SC was dominated on the boards by an excellent rebounding force. Rebounding for SM/SC was led by Samantha Schwartz, Alyssa Gonzalez, Elisha Sands & Jaime Maita. Good open court defense for SM/SC was led by Cameo Schubert and Carly Grossano.

SM/SC 5th grade boys (514) played a tough game against CCOP (509). Final score was 36 to 6. Scoring points for SM/SC were Connor Jones, Ryan Eckles and Scott Williams. There was good rebounding from Parker Turk and Spencer Herrera. Players who stood out on CCOP were Gregory and Jordan.

SM/SC 4th grade girls (#4004) played their best game of the year beating St. Isidore (#4005) 24-0. Taylor Peterson led the team with 8 points and Samantha Dukes followed with 6 points. Alex Lonsinger and Holly Julson added 4 points each. Jennifer Gibson finished off the scoring with 2 points. The defense that shutdown St. Isidore was led by Madison Jackson, Mila Steinberg and Maggie Speed. SM/SC started the game playing zone defense and finished off the game with man-to-man to win their 5th straight game.

The SM/SC 5th grade boys team (#504) lost by a narrow margin on Sunday to St. Isidore (#505). The final score was 14 to 16. SM/SC scoring was led by Ben Parker with free throws scored by Lance Rietveld and Sean Stavert. Top defensive players of the game were Aaron Spiller, David Harmison and Kevin Key.

SM/SC 4th grade boys (#4BA) defeated CCOP (#41), 26 to 15. SM/SC came out strong in the 1st period taking a commanding lead. CCOP played well throughout the game but were unable to overcome SM/SC's strong offense. Top scoring players for SM/SC were Logan Cole with 6 and Zach Patterson with 6. Top defensive players for SM/SC were Nate Redditt with 8 rebounds and Jason Frost with 6 rebounds.

SM/SC 5th grade girls (#5004) lost a close game to St. Isidore (#5007), 10-14. Good defensive moves by Alexa Chavarria, Saba Salari, and Brittany Conley kept St. Isidore's scoring in check. Madeline Duncan (4 pts), Taylor Barry (2 pts) and Julia Karczewski played well for St. Isidore.

The SM/SC Spartans and the SM/SC team 4BN2 met Sunday afternoon for an action packed game. The Spartans won 20 to 11 with the help of Aaron Lee, Emilio "Cruz" Perez and Trevar O'Neil. All of these boys are great team players, they passed, made shots and helped out their team mates to win the game. Bryce Disbrow and C.J. Malski stole the show with their shots and steals. Roman Vasquez and Jackson Wysock played great offense, and Zachary Ostrander and

Cameron Dickson were playing well on defense.

The Hot Shots (SM/SC, 3015) lost a hard fought game 14-10 to SM/SC (3014). Sydney Mendoza, Alyssa Silva, Madison Kahwaty, Maddie Stewart, and Regan Widenfeld each scored 2 points for the Hot Shots. Jenni Kovisto had 5 rebounds for the Hot Shots while Courtney Hayes and Talina Quezada played strong defense for the Hot Shots.

The SM/SC 3rd Grade Cobras (team #320) earned their first win of the season defeating St. Joan's (team #323) 12 to 4. In what seemed more like a baseball score, these two teams played a very tough and physical defensive battle. The Cobras offense was led by Jacob Rasmussen, Tyler Hanson and Joseph Murphy. Riley Van Trease, Trevor Kerby and Grant Blockley played strong defense in the key allowing Cory Hickerson, Connor Sweeney and Jacob Rasmussen to collect a number of blocked shots and steals in the back court. The Cobras did not allow any points in the second half, and went on to win.

SM/SC 4th grade girls A Team (#4004) took on CCOP (#4001), winning 12 to 8 last week. SM/SC was led in scoring by Riley Heffron with 4 points. Claire Abele made a big jumper to put us up by three. Adriana Sblendorio played great defense, and Katelyn Johnson was great on the boards. Melissa Nunes, Kiara Arias, Tiaja Andrews, Makenzie Farro, and Isabella Neads all played hard to help contribute with the win. CCOP fought hard and played an excellent game.

On Sunday, 12/14/08, SM/SC 4th grade girls A Team (#4004) vs St. Joan (#4003) won a hard fought game 6 to 3. Melissa Nunes, Katelyn Johnson and Makenzie Farro each scored 1 basket. Riley Heffron had 2 steals and Tiaja Andrews had a steal. Tough basketball was played by Adriana Sblendorio, Kiara Arias, Isabella Neads, and Claire Abele. St. Joan played an outstanding game and was really tough on defense.

SM/SC 3rd grade boys (#326) The Golden Dragons defeated SM/SC (#328) 12 to 3. Scorers were 6 Andrew Messner 4 points, Trenton Green 4 points, Dakota Marr-Clark 2 points, and Brandon Williams 2 points. The boys put together a great defense and had several steals by Colton Casey, Brandon Williams, Dakota Marr-Clark, Eamon Smith, Seth Street, and Ethan Arrowsmith.

SM/SC 3rd grade girls basketball team, the Thunderbolts, continued their winning streak against CCOP-3011 winning 15-8. The Thunderbolts took an early lead in the first half with baskets by Arianna Salcido and Nicole Bartels. Baskets were scored in the final quarter by Ashley Lamb and Taylor Sullivan. There were some exciting plays by defensive players Katherine Gomez and Emily Robinson who both had steals and breakaway plays.

In the 1st/2nd Grade Girls division, the Wildcats (2GN2) played the Super Shooters in an exciting game. For the Wildcats, Kate Hottinger, Caitlyn Quartaroli, and Jacqueline Arnold led their team with a great scoring effort. The Super Shooters' Emma Hyde and Jessica Keaney did their best to stop the Wildcats from scoring. Shelby Williams and Eliana Emne played great offense, taking several shots each.

SM/SC Wildcats played the SM/SC Lady Warriors in a great game Sunday afternoon. Kamryn Farro and Haley Thompson from the Lady Warriors were unstoppable during the game. The whole team played great. Evan Purl, Colton Vardell and Jason

DeSantis from the Wildcats helped their team out by passing, shooting and being great team players. The game was exciting to watch and everyone had fun.

SM/SC 1st-2nd grade teams Dragons (2BN8) and Dark Knights (2BN9) hustled and played a hard-fought, thrilling game. Dragons offense was led by Joshua Goldstein and Logan Vinson with some great shooting and passing. Dragons defense was led by Jared Dalusong and Zachary Hollingshaus with great rebounding and steals. For the Dark Knights, top scorer Derek Eijansantos and top offensive rebounder Jack Molitoris played great offense. Zachary Parodi with lots of steals, and Gabriel Parrish leading in defensive rebounds displayed great defensive teamwork. Both teams played well for an extremely exciting game.

### Basketball Tournament

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District will host the third annual Holiday Classic Youth Basketball Tournament this month. The tournament will be held Dec. 20 to 22 and Dec. 27 to 29 in the gymnasium at the Robert Livermore Community Center.

The event is open to the CYO and AAU youth sports teams from fourth to eighth grade. The cost is \$189 per team. Each team will play a minimum of three games. Each player and up to two coaches will receive a "Holiday Classic" T-Shirt for participating. Registration for the tournament fills up fast - teams must sign up by Monday, Dec. 15. Admission for spectators is \$3 for adults and free to youth 17 and younger.

Registration packets are available in the gym office at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. For more information, contact Michael Sa at 925-373-5733 or [msa@larpd.dst.ca.us](mailto:msa@larpd.dst.ca.us).

### Baseball Camps

Livermore High Varsity Baseball Coach David Perotti is hosting two different three day winter camps on December 21-23. Each camper will receive individual instruction from coaches and Livermore High players, a snack each day and a camp shirt. The 5-12 year old camp costs \$135 and runs from 9:00-12:00 everyday. Register before December 15th (post marked), pay only \$115. The 13-16 year old camp costs \$100 and is from 12:30-2:30 everyday. This camp is \$85 if postmarked by December 15th. For more info to sign up please contact David Perotti at (925) 586-2811 or [lvbinfo@yahoo.com](mailto:lvbinfo@yahoo.com) or check website [www.eteamz.com/lvb](http://www.eteamz.com/lvb)

### Lacrosse Registration

Livermore Phantom lacrosse Club Registration is now open for Livermore Phantom Lacrosse Spring 2009 season. Accepting both experienced and beginner girls and boys ages 8 through 14 (U15). Whether a returning player or brand new to the game of lacrosse - this is an opportunity to become part of the fastest growing and most unique youth sport in the nation. The season begins in late January and continues through mid-May. For more information on the Phantom Lacrosse experience and detailed instructions on registration requirements, please visit [www.phantomlacrosse.org](http://www.phantomlacrosse.org) or contact Bob Mezeul at 925-425-9901.

### PGSL Registration

2009 Registration is open for all divisions in the Pleasanton Phantom Girls Softball League. All girls living in Pleasanton, Dublin and Sunol are eligible to play PGSL softball. Two ways to register: 1) On-line at [www.pleasantonsoftball.org](http://www.pleasantonsoftball.org); 2) Mail-in:

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PGSL, P.O. Box 911, Pleasanton, CA 94566 (download a registration form from our website). For more information or questions you can email Nancy Costa at [nancy.c@pleasantonsoftball.org](mailto:nancy.c@pleasantonsoftball.org).

### Softball Skills Clinic

Softball Skills Clinic conducted by Julie Marshall's Triple Threat Training, along with special guest, UCLA's All American, Lyndsey Klein, will be held on Dec. 22nd from 9am - 2pm at Amador Valley High School. The program will include hitting, throwing, defense, bunting, and sliding. The clinic is for kids from 8 years old up through 8th grade. The cost for the clinic is \$100. There is an additional fee for those who wish to have a Hitting Video Analysis done

as well. For more information and registration documents, please email Julie Marshall at [Marsh32@yahoo.com](mailto:Marsh32@yahoo.com).

### Baseball Camp

Winter Junior Renegades Youth Baseball Camp, presented by Ohlone College Baseball, Dec. 20-22, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Junior Renegades Youth Baseball Camp provides opportunity for players ages 7-14 to receive instruction from Ohlone coaches and current players. Daily instruction will include aspects of hitting, bunting, base running, throwing & fielding, and strength & conditioning. Fee \$150. Information, call coach Jordan Twohig 510-659-6194. Download a registration form at [www.ohlonebaseball.com](http://www.ohlonebaseball.com)

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WILL DURST

## Political Satirist Says Good-bye to the Old Year

For the sixteenth consecutive year, political satirist Will Durst and friends will leave the San Francisco club scene during the week between Christmas and New Year's Day to tour venues around the Greater San Francisco Bay Area, "bringing comedy to the people" in outlying communities.

The show will combine stand-up comedy, improvisation and "semi-written" sketches. Durst will be joined by comedians, Johnny Steele, Jim Short, Steven Kravitz and Arthur Gaus as well as improvisation artists Debi Durst and Mike Bossier.

The show opens at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore on Dec. 26, 7 p.m.

"As always, we will mock, scoff and taunt with taste," says comedienne Debi Durst. "An election year is especially rich with material for us and we'll do our best to do it justice as irreverently as possible. As always with live comedy, some language may not be suitable for younger audiences."

The Bankhead Theater is located at 2400 First Street, Livermore. Tickets are \$25/\$15. They can be purchased at 925-373-6800 or go to [www.livermoreperformingarts.org](http://www.livermoreperformingarts.org).

## Christmas Posada Set in Pleasanton

The Pleasanton/Tulancingo Sister City Association is hosting a Christmas Posada this year at the Veterans Hall. The festivities are planned for Sunday, Dec. 21 from 7 to 8 p.m.

The Veteran's Hall is located on Main Street in Downtown Pleasanton. The event is open to everyone. It will include singing, pinatas and refreshments. Participants include students from Hart and Pleasanton Middle School, Valley View Elementary, and other community members.

There is no admission charge. Donations will be accepted.

Those interested in helping, may contact Sandi Cornfield at [sandicom@gmail.com](mailto:sandicom@gmail.com).

## Poster Honors Poets Laureate

During 2006 and 2007, Connie Post, Poet Laureate of the City of Livermore, collaborated with photographer Ronna Leon to gather and compile information about the Poets Laureate in communities across the state of California.

Leon is a poet/photographer from Benicia.

One of the results of that effort is a poster made by Ronna Leon that includes photos of Poets Laureate in various California communities. The project has been displayed at several book festivals, conferences, and community events around the state. Ronna Leon obtained a grant from The California Center for the Book ([www.calbook.org](http://www.calbook.org)) for this project.

Connie Post has distributed 100 posters in and around the City of Livermore, including Livermore and Granada High Schools, Las Positas Community College, the Adult Education English Program, and the Livermore Civic Center Library.

For more information and to view a web slide show, go to [www.poetslaureate.com/](http://www.poetslaureate.com/).

In March of 2009, there will be a Poets Laureate Display at the Main branch of Livermore Library

# New Livermore Idol Moves on to Livermore's Got Talent

Livermore's newest "Idol," Bredan Sweeney will go on to compete in the Livermore's Got Talent contest. He is in the eighth grade at Mendenhall Middle School.

Bredan won the fifth annual Livermore Idol with his renditions of "Time of My Life," a song sung by newest American Idol, David Cook, and "Broken Vow" by Josh Groban. He beat out 49 other contestants to win the title. He said of winning, "I was really excited. I felt I had worked hard on my songs. I gave everything I had."

Bredan, age 14, says of American Idol, "It is a great show." He wouldn't mind trying out to appear on the program.

He describes himself as a singer of classical, Broadway

music. "The songs are easier to sing. I'd like to work on transitioning by voice to sing rock or alternative music," he added. His favorite musicians are Josh Groban and Celine Dion. He describes them as, "well grounded."

He has performed in musical theater since the age of 7 and says he enjoys the whole spectrum of performing arts.

Bredan is not the only member of the family who is musically inclined. His sister, Lauren, also performs in musical theater.

His father, Police Chief Steve Sweeney, and his mother, Nicole, Bredan says are both very supportive and appreciative of his and his sister's interest in singing.

The competition is co-pre-

sented by the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District, the Livermore Area Youth Advisory Commission and the City of Livermore.

Winners received prizes, including singing the national anthem at LARPD's annual Fourth of July Celebration, and new this year, automatic entry into the Livermore's Got Talent event.

Bredan says he plans to sing "Broken Vow" as his entry in Livermore's Got Talent.

Top winners in Livermore's Got Talent, in each age category - youth (17 and under) and adults (18 and over) - will each take home \$2,500.

The competition is sponsored by Rotary clubs of Livermore. Proceeds will benefit Rotary's community grant program, which

assists community service organizations.

This competition will feature singers, dancers, bands, pianists, magicians, comedians and other performers. Aspiring performers living in the Bay Area are invited to audition and compete. Information and applications for auditions are available at [LivermoresGotTalent.com](http://LivermoresGotTalent.com). Applications must be received by Jan. 3, 2009.

The finals will be open to the public on Saturday, February 28, 2009, at the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center's Bankhead Theater in front of three Bay Area celebrity judges.

Each contestant is required to submit an audition video or a link to a YouTube video clip. The acts can be 2-3 minutes in

length. All of the submitted videos will be reviewed and the first round winners will be invited to live auditions that are to be held on Feb. 8-9, 2009. The winners of these live auditions will move on to the finals.

The Rotary Clubs of Livermore are producing this competition with support from NBC Bay Area, the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District and Waste Management, Inc. All funds generated by this event will benefit the community grants that are presented by the Rotary clubs throughout the year. Past recipients of these grants include ValleyCare Health System's mobile health van, which supports health needs of our underserved community.

## ART & ENTERTAINMENT

**Ekphrasis Art and Poetry Exhibition**, through Dec. 22. Windermere Welcome Home, 1790 First St., Livermore. Sponsored by Windermere Welcome Home Realty and the City of Livermore. 925 824-4824 or [cherw@windermere.com](mailto:cherw@windermere.com) or Connie Post at [connie@poetrypost.com](mailto:connie@poetrypost.com).

**Auditions** for the chorus Soli Deo Gloria will be held by appointment prior to the first rehearsal, January 5th. Tenors and basses are especially welcome. The upcoming concert program, "Chamber Secrets," includes works by Bach, Haydn, Monteverdi, and Buxtehude. Rehearsals are held Monday nights in Alameda and directed by Allen Simon. Concerts will be held in Palo Alto and Alameda. Please call 888-SDG-SONG (888-734-7664) or email [auditions@sdlgloria.org](mailto:auditions@sdlgloria.org) for an appointment. For more info, visit: [www.sdlgloria.org](http://www.sdlgloria.org)

**Book Signing**, "The Little Light Shines Bright," Sat., Dec. 20, 2 to 4 p.m. at the Firehouse Bistro and Books, 2369 First Street, Livermore. Meet the Author and television news Anchor, Juliette Goodrich. The Little Light Shines Bright celebrates the world's longest burning lightbulb at a fire station in Livermore. Information, 449-FIRE.

**1st annual Christmas Show** presented by American Legion Post 237. 2 p.m. Sat., Dec. 20 at the Veterans Memorial Hall in downtown Pleasanton. The show includes fun, mystery and excitement. It stars Kolina with, "The Magic of the Islands." Special guest

will be Santa Claus. Admission is \$10; children under age 5 admitted free (children must be accompanied by an adult). The show is a benefit for veterans programs. For tickets and information, call 784-6808.

**San Ramon Community Chorus Holiday Concert** will be performed on Friday, December 19, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The concert is free. It will feature multi-cultural holiday music and dance. The evening will culminate with a special visit from Santa Claus himself. This concert is for all ages. The Community Chorus Holiday Concert will be held at the Fountain Room at (12501 Alcosta Blvd., San Ramon). For more information go to [www.sanramonperformingarts.com](http://www.sanramonperformingarts.com) or call (925) 973-ARTS.

**Winter Beer Pairing Dinner**, Friday, December 19, 6:30 p.m. Features a four course menu prepared by our award-winning chef and paired with specialty and winter release brews exclusively from Snowshoe Brewery, located in the foothills of the Sierra. Culinary and wine educator Executive Chef Ty Turner will discuss the nuances of beer pairing. \$42 per person includes 4 courses with paired beverages. By reservation only. Garre Winery, 7986 Tesla Road, Livermore. 925.371.8200.

**Poetry reading**, December 18 at 6 p.m. Museum on Main, 603 Main St., Pleasanton. For more information contact the museum at 925-462-2766 or visit the website

[www.museumonmain.org](http://www.museumonmain.org). The museums hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, 1-4 p.m.

**San Ramon Symphonic Band** will present its Holiday Concert on Fri., Dec. 19 at 8 p.m. at the Dougherty Valley Performing Art Center. Conductors are Harry Hanover, Teri Musiel, and David Turner. The program includes a variety of favorite holiday melodies. Tickets are \$5 for adults, free for students with a valid ID or Youth under 12. Children are welcome. Tickets on-line at [www.sanramonperformingarts.com](http://www.sanramonperformingarts.com), by phone at (925) 973-ARTS, or the night of the show, 1 hour prior to performance.

**Golden Bough**, Dec. 20, 8 p.m. Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. Civic Arts Presents, tickets can be purchased at 931-3444, [caboffice@ci.pleasanton.ca.us](mailto:caboffice@ci.pleasanton.ca.us).

**Big Fat Year End Kiss Off XVI**, Fri., Dec. 26, 7 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. An evening with Will Durst. \$25/\$15. Tickets can be purchased at 925-373-6800, [www.livermoreperformingarts.org](http://www.livermoreperformingarts.org).

**The Four Freshmen Celebrate New Year's Eve**, Thursday, December 31, 2009 - 7 p.m., gala New Year's Eve party complete with champagne and dessert. Tickets \$95/\$80/\$70/\$60. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. 925-373-6800, [www.livermoreperformingarts.org](http://www.livermoreperformingarts.org)

**Wine and Words**, poetry reading hosted by Livermore Poet Laureate Connie Post, Sun., Jan. 4, 2 to 4 p.m. Guest readers followed by open mic. \$5

admission. [www.poetrypost.com](http://www.poetrypost.com). **Kai Gleusteen and Catherine Ordronneau, violin-piano duo**, Jan. 9, 8 p.m. Del Valle Fine Arts concert, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. 925-373-6800, [www.livermoreperformingarts.org](http://www.livermoreperformingarts.org).

**Willy Clafin, Parents' Choice Gold Award winning storyteller**, Jan. 10, 11 a.m. Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. Civic Arts Presents, tickets 931-3444, [caboffice@ci.pleasanton.ca.us](mailto:caboffice@ci.pleasanton.ca.us).

**Masked Marvels & Wondertales**, Sun., Jan. 11, 2 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. LVPAC Presents Michael Cooper's one-man show. 925-373-6800, [www.livermoreperformingarts.org](http://www.livermoreperformingarts.org).

**Keyboard Conversations@Concerts with Lively Commentary, Jeffrey Siegel, Pianist**, Tuesday, January 13, at 8 p.m. Program: "The Longevity of the Short Piece;" Tickets \$45/\$40/\$35/\$30/\$12 students. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets at 925-373-6800, [www.livermoreperformingarts.org](http://www.livermoreperformingarts.org)

**The Power of Flight**, Thurs., Jan. 15, 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Livermore Speakers Series features Morton Grosser, who helped design and build components for three human powered airplanes. \$30 and \$40. Tickets available at 925-373-6800, [www.livermoreperformingarts.org](http://www.livermoreperformingarts.org).

**Irvin Mayfield and the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra All Stars**, Friday, January 16, at 8 p.m., spirited, swinging, 6-piece band steeped in the tradition of New Orleans jazz, blues,

swing and spirituals. Tickets \$55/\$40/\$35/\$30/\$12 students. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets at 925-373-6800, [www.livermoreperformingarts.org](http://www.livermoreperformingarts.org).

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## Guitars and Saxes Perform Christmas Show

Guitars and Saxes Christmas show will be presented on December, 20 at 8:00 p.m.

One of the most successful Contemporary Jazz tours to hit the road is now putting on that red and white Santa Claus hat, featuring Richard Elliot, Paul Brown and Jessy J. Guitars and Saxes Christmas will feature popular contemporary jazz hits as well as a selection of Christmas classics.

Richard Elliot began his re-

cording career playing songs by Motown legends Smokey Robinson and the Temptations, as well as five formative years with Tower of Power. Richard has become a pioneer in contemporary jazz by consistently scoring hit after hit. Two-time Grammy Award Winner Paul Brown known for his R & B driven sound and nicknamed the "Baby Face of Smooth Jazz." Jessy J, one of the most buzz-worthy saxophonists of 2008, has recorded

and toured with Michael Buble, Jessica Simpson, Michael Bolton and the Temptations.

The Guitars and Saxes Christmas show will be held at the Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center (10550 Albion Rd, San Ramon) on Saturday, December 20th at 8pm. Tickets can be purchased on-line at [www.sanramonperformingarts.com](http://www.sanramonperformingarts.com), by phone at (925) 973-ARTS, or the night of the show, 1 hour prior to performance.

## The Met Theater-casts: Up-Close and Personal

By Susan Steinberg

Opera theater-casts from New York's Metropolitan Opera House continue through the year at Dublin's Regal Hacienda Cinema, and they are magnificent.

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Atomic") and Susan Graham definitely does have the moxie to do just that.

The year's schedule is as follows:

Sat., Dec. 20, 9 a.m., "Thais" by Jules Massenet, starring Renee Fleming and Thomas Hampson. Repeat broadcast: Wed., Jan. 7, 7 p.m.

Sat., Jan. 10, 10 a.m., "La Rondine" by Giacomo Puccini, starring Angela Gheorghiu and her real-life husband Roberto Alagna. Repeat broadcast: Wed., Jan. 21, 7 p.m.

Sat., Jan. 24, 10 a.m., "Orfeo ed Euridice" by Willibald Gluck, starring Stephanie Blythe and Danielle De Niese. Repeat broadcast: Wed., Feb. 4, 7 p.m.

Sat., Feb. 7, 10 a.m., "Lucia di Lammermoor" by Gaetano Donizetti, starring Anna Netrebko and Rolando Villazon. Repeat broadcast: Wed., Feb. 18, 7 p.m.

Sat., March 7, 10 a.m., "Madama Butterfly" by Giacomo Puccini, starring Christina

Gallardo-Domas and Marcello Giordani. Repeat broadcast: Wed., March 18, 7 p.m.

Sat., March 21, 10 a.m., "La Sonnambula" by Vincenzo Bellini, starring Natalie Dessay and Juan Diego Florez. Repeat broadcast: Wed., April 1, 7 p.m.

Sat., May 9, 10 a.m., "La Cenerentola (Cinderella)", starring Elina Garanca and Lawrence Brownlee. Repeat broadcast: Wed., May 20, 7 p.m.

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	2:20	3:00	4:30	5:15	6:40
YES MAN (PG13) DLP		10:30*	11:55	1:10	2:25
		4:40	6:20	7:10	8:45**
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG13) DLP			10:55*	12:20	
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			6:55	9:50**	
FOUR CHRISTMASSES (PG13) DLP		10:30*	12:45	2:55	5:10
			7:30	9:55**	
TWILIGHT (PG13) DLP		10:35*	1:30	4:15	7:00
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# OBITUARIES

## Harry Palmer Butler

Harry Palmer Butler of Pleasanton, was surrounded by family when he died at the age of 72 in his home on Wednesday morning, December 10, 2008.

Harry was born June 3, 1937 and spent most of his childhood in San Francisco. He married Judy Beam in 1966, and, although they divorced after 17 years, they remained close friends until the end of his life. This loving man raised his children and lived in Pleasanton for 36 years while enjoying a successful career in the semiconductor industry in technical sales. Harry greatly enjoyed his Scottish heritage and played bagpipes with the Los Gatos-Monte Sereno Police Pipes and Drums Band and danced as a member of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. He also participated in the LDS church in Pleasanton. Harry is survived by his two children and their spouses, Heather Kreisler of Folsom, and Scott Butler of Mountain House, three grandsons and his sister, Priscilla. He will be greatly missed.

A memorial service will be held at Valley Bible Church, 7106 Johnson Drive in Pleasanton on Thursday, December 18 at 7 p.m. Donations may be made in lieu of flowers to Hope Hospice, 6500 Dublin Blvd., Suite 100, Dublin, CA 94568. Arrangements by Graham-Hitch Mortuary.

## Kerry Blake Caprista

Kerry Blake Caprista passed away at home on December 7, 2008. Her loving family was by her side. Kerry had bravely battled liver cancer for four years. She is survived by her devoted husband William; her loving children Kyle, Cory, Cassidy and Keenan; her parents Thomas and Charlese Blake; and her brother Chris (Debbie) Blake.

She was born March 23, 1961. Kerry was born and raised in Santa Clara, Kerry moved to Pleasanton with her family in 1990. Kerry touched many lives with her giving and positive spirit. She encouraged all the stu-

dents she came in contact with during her time at Lydiksen, Alisal, and Harvest Park schools.

Kerry enjoyed traveling, especially if it involved supporting one of her children's activities. She made numerous friends through Club Soccer and Volleyball, as well as the Foothill H.S. music and sports programs. Her favorite destination each summer was her family reunion in Capitola.

Friends and family are invited to a memorial service on Saturday, December 20, at 10 a.m. at St. Augustine Church at 3999 Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton, followed by a reception celebrating Kerry's life.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the American Cancer Society or Hope Hospice in Dublin.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

## Oreste "Rusty" Charles Canaparo

Rusty Canaparo passed away peacefully on December 10, 2008. He was born in San Francisco Oct. 28, 1914 and raised in Oakland.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Teresa, who he married on June 7, 1942. He served in the Navy from 1942 to 1945 and resumed his career as a butcher upon being discharged. He was devoted to his children, grandchildren and the Figure Club and enjoyed auto racing, big band music and football.

Rusty is survived by his two sons and daughter in laws, three grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Family and friends invited funeral services at Saint Joan of Arc Church in San Ramon. Interment was at Queen of Heaven in Lafayette.

Family prefers contributions to the Parkinson's Foundation.

Arrangements by Graham-Hitch Mortuary.

## Lawrence A. Ferry

Lawrence A. Ferry died December 10, 2008 at his home in Pleasanton. He was 90.

Lawrence was born June 16, 1918 in Oakland to Mary and Candido Ferry. He graduated from Castlemont High School and Merritt Business College in Oakland. He held many titles and affiliations during his life. Among them were the president of the Western Horseman's Association, San Leandro Branch; president of the Hayward National Little League; manager of the Biggs and Haaga, East Bay Lumber and Supply Company; and several All Star League teams of Hayward. He was also the manager of East Bay Lumber and Supply Company's Babe Ruth Baseball teams for 7 years. He was a partner in Standard Freight Lines Trucking Company in San Leandro from 1940-48, owner and president of East Bay Lumber and Supply Company in San Leandro from 1948-98, and the owner of Pepperwood Apartments in Livermore from 1968-2007. He was a San Francisco 49ers season ticket holder from 1946-2007, and an avid fan.

Lawrence was an extremely generous man with his time, money, knowledge and affection. He was always available to those who knew him. His family was the most important thing in his life, but he made everyone feel as though they were a part of his family. Never has there been a more charismatic, positive, loyal, honest, hardworking, generous and supportive person with the strong work ethic and devotion to his friends and family as Lawrence Ferry.

He is survived by his wife, Bettie

Ann Ferry, brother Albert Ferry of Castro Valley, sons Ronald and Richard Ferry of Pleasanton, daughters-in-law Barbara Ferry and Starlett Ann Ferry, grandchildren Janien Ferry Jameson, Rhonda Ebojo and David Ferry; great grandchildren Rhonni Lynn Ebojo, Rikki Lee Ebojo, and Ricky Alan Jameson. His final resting place is Chapel of the Chimes in Hayward with his mother Mary Gregoris, stepfather Louis Gregoris and wife, Dorothy Ferry.

Services will be held at 2 p.m. on Sun., Dec. 21 at Graham-Hitch Mortuary, 4167 First St., Pleasanton.

Donations are requested to the Children's Hospital of Oakland.

## Bonnie Kay Davidson Heatherly

Bonnie Heatherly, a resident of Manteca and Lawrence Livermore National Lab retiree, died peacefully, December 9, 2008, at her home after a lengthy illness. She was surrounded by her loving family, after a lengthy illness.

She was born in 1954. Bonnie graduated from Livermore High

School, class of 1972. She spent most of her life in Livermore but recently she lived in Manteca and Turlock.

Bonnie was a generous, kind hearted, humorous person who loved and cherished her family and friends. She was happy cooking, gardening, and spending time with her grandchildren. She loved volunteering in her community and soon became a fast friend to everyone she met. Bonnie will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

She is survived by her daughter Nonnie Ridgwell (son-in-law Jim); her parents Helen and Wilmer Davidson; siblings Margaret Giannini, Paula Muller and Tony Davidson; and grandchildren Brandon, Jacob, and Nicholas Ridgwell.

A memorial service will be held in her honor on Friday December 19, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. at the Parkview Cemetery & Funeral Home, 3661 E. French Camp Road Manteca, (209) 982-1611.

## Alvin Lloyd Groce

Alvin Lloyd Groce passed away

peacefully on December 11, 2008 at the age of 86 years. He was a resident of San Antonio Valley.

Alvin was born in Los Angeles in September 1922 and grew up in Menlo Park. Alvin graduated from Sequoia Union High School in 1940 and then went on to join the armed forces from 1942 to 1946 where he held the rank of U.S. Army Staff Sergeant. He enjoyed living on his ranch in the San Antonio Valley for the last 22 years. Alvin was involved in raising and breaking horses and often rode bareback in the rodeo.

He is survived by his wife of 22 years, Barbara, his stepchildren James (Sue) Howard of Martinez and Linda (Peter) Bowe of Livermore, his brother, Robert Groce of Redwood City and by his 7 grandchildren, all of whom he loved dearly.

The family respectfully requests memorial donations in Alvin's name may be made to Hoopprints on the Heart. Checks can be made payable to HOTHARC, 455 Olivina Rd, Livermore, CA 94550.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.



Bonnie Heatherly

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**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 417628**

The following person (s) doing business as: NewBranch Services 1725 Shattuck Ave #302, Berkeley Ca 94709 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Mark Giorgi, 1725 Shattuck Ave #302

This business is conducted by an individual

The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name (s) listed above on November 3, 2008. Signature of Registrant: /s/Mark Giorgi

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 5, 2008. Expires November 5, 2013.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 418056**

The following person (s) doing business as: TruPro Lending Inc., 39 California Ave #201, Pleasanton Ca 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): TruPro Lending Inc., 4103 Stanley Blvd., Pleasanton Ca 94566

This business is conducted by a Corporation

Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.

Signature of Registrant: /s/Gary Stange

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 19, 2008. Expires November 19, 2013.

The Independent Legal No. 2413. Publish November 27, December 4, 11, 18, 2008.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 417674**

The following person (s) doing business as: ihype.com, 4420 Rosewood Dr. #2550, Pleasanton Ca 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): ihype.com, 4420 Rosewood Dr. #2550, Pleasanton Ca 94588

This business is conducted by a Corporation

Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.

Signature of Registrant: /s:Behnam Behrouzi

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 6, 2008. Expires November 6, 2013.

The Independent Legal No. 2415. Publish December 4, 11, 18, 25, 2008.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 417679**

The following person (s) doing business as: Dotneth Inc., 4420 Rosewood Dr. #2550, Pleasanton Ca 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Dotneth Inc., 4420 Rosewood Dr. #2550, Pleasanton Ca 94588

This business is conducted by a Corporation

Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.

Signature of Registrant: /s:Behnam Behrouzi

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 6, 2008. Expires November 6, 2013.

The Independent Legal No. 2417. Publish December 4, 11, 18, 25, 2008.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 418065**

The following person (s) doing business as: Talk The TIC Publishers, 1811 Paseo Laguna Seco, Livermore Ca 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Erik James Van Slooten, 1811 Paseo Laguna Seco, Livermore Ca 94551

This business is conducted by an individual

Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.

Signature of Registrant: /s:Erik J. Van Slooten

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 19, 2008. Expires November 19, 2013.

The Independent Legal No. 2421. Publish December 11, 18, 25, 2008, January 1, 2009.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 418296**

The following person (s) doing business as: OBSYS Group, 2302 Meadowlark Dr., Pleasanton Ca 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Jeffery J. Gurule, 2302 Mead-

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# LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS



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 This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.  
 Signature of Registrant: /s/ Jeff Gurule  
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 25, 2008. Expires November 25, 2013. The Independent Legal No. 2422. Publish December 11, 18, 25, 2008, January 1, 2009.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
**FILE NO. 418556-418558**  
 The following person (s) doing business as: 1) Lucky Buck Casino, 2) Lucky Buck Card Club, 3) Lucky Buck Card Room, 1620 Railroad Ave., Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Dale Chesley Common, 969 Cayuga Dr., 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 October 1, 1997. Signature of Registrant: /s/ Dale C. Common  
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 4, 2008. Expires December 4, 2013. The Independent Legal No. 2423. Publish December 11, 18, 25, 2008, January 1, 2009

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
**FILE NO. 418092**  
 The following person (s) doing business as: Delightful Whimsy, 3955 Vineyard Ave #41, Pleasanton Ca 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Teresa Maria Cruz Carns, 3955 Vineyard Ave #41, Pleasanton Ca 94577  
 This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.  
 Signature of Registrant: /s/ Teresa Maria Cruz Carns  
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 20, 2008. Expires November 20, 2013. The Independent Legal No. 2424. Publish December 18, 25, 2008, January 1, 8, 2009.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
**FILE NO. 418265**  
 The following person (s) doing business as: Eagle Tinting, 1414 Portola Ave., Livermore Ca 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Luz Estrella Neira Doran, 1075 D Street, Hayward CA 94541  
 This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.  
 Signature of Registrant: /s/ Luz Estrella Neira Doran  
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 25, 2008. Expires November 25, 2013. The Independent Legal No. 2425. Publish December 11, 18, 25, 2008, January 1, 2009.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
**FILE NO. 418077**  
 The following person (s) doing business as: Back in the Day Mx, 1728 Knoll Ct., Livermore Ca 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Stephanie A. Mendenhall, 1728 Knoll Ct., 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 October 10, 2008. Signature of Registrant: /s/ Stephanie A. Mendenhall  
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 20, 2008. Expires November 20, 2013. The Independent Legal No. 2426. Publish December 18, 25, 2008, January 1, 8, 2009.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
**FILE NO. 418602**  
 The following person (s) doing business as: The Fine Wood Box, 3575 Bernal Avenue Apt. D, Pleasanton Ca 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Marcy Schmidt, 3575 Bernal Avenue Apt. D, Pleasanton Ca 94566  
 This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.  
 Signature of Registrant: /s/ Marcy Schmidt  
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 5, 2008. Expires December 5, 2013. The Independent Legal No. 2427. Publish December 18, 25, 2008, January 1, 8, 2009.

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: RONALD ANTHONY RAVETTO**  
**Case No. VP08421203**  
 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: **RONALD ANTHONY RAVETTO**  
**A PETITION FOR PROBATE** has been filed by: **LIGIA RAVETTO** in the Superior Court of California, County of ALAMEDA.  
**THE PETITION** for Probate requests that **LIGIA RAVETTO** be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.  
**THE PETITION** requests authority to administer the estate under the independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important

actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.  
**A HEARING** on the petition will be held in this court as follows:

**JANUARY 5, 2009 at 1:30PM** in Dept. 707 at **SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF ALAMEDA, 5672 STONERIDGE DRIVE, PLEASANTON CA 94588**  
**IF YOU OBJECT** to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.  
**IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR** or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above. **YOU MAY EXAMINE** the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any provision or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. **A Request for Special Notice** form is available from the court clerk.  
 Ronald W. Marblestone, Esq., Branson, Brinkop, Griffith & Strong  
 643 Bair Island Rd., Ste 400 Redwood City, CA 94063  
 650 365-7710  
 The Independent #2419  
 Publish December 11, 18, 25, 2008, January 1, 2009

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**  
 Date of Filing Application: **November 18, 2008**  
 To Whom It May Concern: The Name(s) of the Applicant(s) is/are: **NIKIDEMA LLC**  
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 For the following type of license(s): 47 - ON SALE GENERAL EATING PLACE  
 Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control  
 1515 Clay St., Ste. 2208  
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 (510) 622-4970  
 The Independent Legal No. 2420.  
 Publish December 11, 18, 25, 2008.

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## Greening Your Home Puts Green in Your Wallet

**By Cher Wollard**  
 With temperatures dropping near-freezing and Jack Frost nipping at our noses, December may seem an odd time to consider installing a solar energy system in your home.  
 In fact, this is the perfect time to "retrofit" your home to be more energy efficient.  
 A significant 21 percent of U.S. greenhouse emissions originate in our homes.  
 By 2020, all new housing developments in California will have to be "zero net energy." That means that if you plan to sell a house in the future, it will have to be as energy-efficient as possible to compete against the new "green" housing.  
 Even now, energy efficiency is a perceived value for many homebuyers.

Besides, energy costs are rising. It makes good economic sense – as well as being socially responsible – to implement adjustments that save energy in our homes.  
 While solar energy is the big-ticket item with the biggest potential savings, there are many less expensive changes you might want to consider.  
 Last month, the California Association of Realtors launched "At home with green," a new public website <http://clean.car.org/> filled with useful tips on simple measures to make homes more energy efficient.

"It's important to raise awareness and educate members and consumers about environmentally sound practices," said C.A.R. President William E. Brown. "The new Green Web site fulfills that mission in an easy-to-understand format."  
 In addition, the U.S. Green Building Council also has a checklist for homeowners on its site [www.greenhomeguide.org](http://www.greenhomeguide.org)  
 Among the simple changes you might consider:

- Replace some or all of your incandescent bulbs with fluorescent lights. They are a little more expensive, but changing just the five most frequently used bulbs in your home can save you \$100 per year in electricity, according to the Green Building Council.
  - Plug air leaks. The most common leaks are around doors and windows. Replacing old windows with dual-pane glass will significantly reduce energy costs. However, if you are not prepared to go to that expense, just adding weather stripping and caulk around window and door seals can make a big difference.
  - If you have recessed light fixtures, install a dimmable retrofit kit for under \$50, which seals around the rim and behind the bulb providing insulation. Then use special 4-pin, 20-watt fluorescent bulbs. "Given the average expected life of 10,000 hours, you won't have to buy a replacement anytime soon," according to The Green Home Guide.
  - Install aerators on your faucets. These tiny mesh screens, which are available at local home supply stores for only a few dollars, screw onto your faucets to break up water droplets. This way, you use less water without sacrificing water power.
  - Give your heating and cooling system (HVAC) a tune-up. Clean the filter monthly during peak usage and have the system checked by a professional every two years to make sure it is running efficiently.
  - Insulate your hot-water pipes. Encase the pipes in rubber or polyethylene foam tubes and seal them with duct tape. Costs are minimal, and insulation can double the cool-down time in 1/2-inch pipe and triple it in 3/4-inch pipe, according to Jeanne Huber of "This Old House."
  - When it's time to replace your worn-out hot-water heater, consider installing a tankless system. With a "just-in-time" system you won't waste water or energy waiting for the water to get hot. These systems are more expensive initially, but will more than make up the difference in energy savings.
  - Plant a few trees. Deciduous trees on the south, east and west sides of your house will provide shade within a few years, allowing you run the air conditioning less often.
  - Choose energy-efficient appliances. Not only will they save you money on your energy bills, many such products come with rebates. In some cases, your energy company even offers additional incentives to replace old appliances with more efficient ones.
- And don't dismiss installing solar panels. PG&E still offers rebates on new systems and the federal Emergency Economic Stabilization Act signed into law in October includes an extension of tax rebates on solar energy systems.  
 Solar energy systems, which can heat your pool or supply energy to your home, range in size. Most people finance the installation with second mortgages or lines of credit on their homes. However, many solar energy companies also offer their own financing programs. A few offer lease programs.  
 Green is the color of the season. It could also be your new way of life.

**Mortgage Rates Continue Downward Trend**  
 Interest rates on 30-year fixed conforming mortgages continued to fall this week, to 5.5 percent with no points.  
 "Following the release of the November employment report ... bond yields fell slightly, allowing fixed-rate mortgage rates room to ease back a little further," explained Frank Nothaft, Freddie Mac vice president and chief economist.  
 The best deals at this time may be in paying points, which can buy down the rate significantly.

**Livermore Marketing Association Changes Location**  
 The Livermore Marketing Association is now meeting at The Carvery restaurant, 2491 First Street.  
 LMA meets Thursdays from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., followed by the Livermore brokers' tour.  
 Local real estate agents, brokers, mortgage specialists, appraisers, title company representatives, and those in related businesses are invited to attend. Admission is \$4.  
 Today (12/18) is the last meeting of 2008. Attendees should bring a potluck item to share. Meetings will resume Jan. 8.  
*Cher Wollard is a local Realtor with Windermere Welcome Home Realty.*

**Nop Joins Windermere**  
 Windermere Real Estate welcomes a community activist to its Livermore office, Windermere Welcome Home. Successful real estate associate, Mony Nop, has left his post with Intero Real Estate Services in Livermore to join Windermere's growing Northern California network.  
 A Livermore resident, Nop attributes his success to his passion about real estate and his presence in the local community. A member of the police force for 13 years, a former board member of the Police Athletic League, the Rotarian Foundation, and a former member of the Livermore Rotary Club, Nop has always served his clients with a heartfelt commitment.

**Peixoto Joins J. Rockcliff Realtors**  
 J. Rockcliff Realtors announced that veteran Realtor® Kristy Peixoto and her award-winning team of sales associates including, Nancy Valett and Lisa Ferraris, has joined the company's Pleasanton office. Previously, the Kristy and Company team was a top-producer for Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Castro Valley.  
 "Kristy and Company is an extraordinarily talented team of real estate sales professionals," said Robin Dickson, executive vice president and manager of J. Rockcliff Realtors' Pleasanton and Livermore offices.  
 A ten year veteran of the real estate industry, Kristy Peixoto has earned the CRS (Certified Residential Specialist) and GRI (Graduate Realtor Institute) designations as well as myriad awards for sales productivity. The Kristy and Company team is also committed to community service with each of the team members involving themselves in a multitude of organizations.

# SHORT NOTES



The 2009 Livermore Heritage Guild calendar is now available for purchase at the History Center. The cover features historic race cars. The History Center is located in the Carnegie Building, 2155 Third Street, Livermore. Hours are Wednesday through Saturday 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. For information, call 449-9927.

### Yule Log Hunt

The Great Yule Log Hunt will be held this Sun., Dec. 21.

Meet the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District ranger staff at 2 p.m. in the group picnic area at Veterans Park.

This is the 15th annual hunt for the fabled yule log. Participants will prepare for the hunt by trying their hands at some traditional games and merriment. Then the group will be off on a fun, old-fashioned hunt for the elusive log. After the hunt everyone will gather around a fire and share some holiday cheer, including designing and making logs to take home. (Cancelled if raining.)

There is a \$3 per vehicle parking fee, and a \$2 donation is requested to

help support the programs. Participants may call 925-960-2400 for more information

### Open Heart Kitchen

Terra Mia Restaurant will be donating 10 percent of proceeds from dinners purchased between 5 to 9:30 p.m. on Mon., Dec. 22.

Terra Mia is located at 4040 East Ave., Livermore. For additional information, call 456-3333 or email Roberta Martinelli at terramiafundraiser@gmail.com.

### Polar Bear Slide

The Aquatics division of the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District is holding the Fourth Annual Polar

Bear Slide to help celebrate the new year. Adults and kids alike are invited to participate in this extreme winter event that involves taking a chilly-but-exhilarating ride down a 22-foot spiral waterslide.

This fun, free event will also serve complimentary hot chocolate to warm everyone up after sliding down into the pool. All participants will also receive a certificate of completion. Children must be at least 48 inches tall to use the slide.

The Polar Bear Slide event will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 3, at the Robert Livermore Community Center Pool, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. For more information, call 925-373-5751 or visit [www.larpd.dst.ca.us](http://www.larpd.dst.ca.us).

### Museum Seeks Collections

If you collect objects related to trains, cars, boats, planes or any other form of transportation, Pleasanton's Museum On Main would like to hear from you.

The museum is looking for collectors who would like to lend their items to an upcoming exhibit, "Treasures of the Tri-Valley II: Tri-Valley On The Move."

The exhibit is scheduled to open in late January and run through the month of February.

Please contact Assistant Curator Ken MacLennan at Pleasanton's Museum on Main by January 7, 2009 at 925-462-2766 or go to [curator@museumonmain.org](mailto:curator@museumonmain.org).

### Walk to Wellness

Area residents are invited to get a head start on New Year's Resolutions midday on New Year's Eve. From 11 am - 1 pm, Wednesday, December 31, at the Pleasanton Sports Park

ACCUSPLIT will be hosting the Live Well Festival featuring the 2nd Annual World Walk To Wellness. During this time participants will be encouraged to walk with a buddy. At noon, Mr. Pedometer, Ron Sutton will lead participants on a 2,000 step walk. "Getting more physically fit is at the

top of most people's New Year's Resolutions lists," said Sutton, CEO of ACCUSPLIT, a world-wide pedometer company whose motto is "Eat Right, Walk More, Live Well." "Our event offers a fun and easy way to get a step ahead, by coming out on the day before New Year's with family and friends for a walk in one of our beautiful local parks. Walking is affordable and easy to fit into one's lifestyle. For wellness, the goal is 10,000 steps per day. Come see how easy that is to achieve."

"This is a no-fee event. However, we are asking for voluntary donations that will be matched by ACCUSPLIT. All donations will go to Pleasanton

Partnerships in Education (PPIE) for grants to school student wellness committees," said Sutton. "ACCUSPLIT will match up to \$20 for each donation made. Last year, we had 254 participants and were able to donate \$2,600 to PPIE. We hope to double that participation this year." Plans are in the works to expand the Walk to Wellness to every time zone around the world by 2009.

The first 500 walkers ages 6 & up to arrive each will receive a free pedometer to measure their step activities. In addition, ClubSport is providing bags that will include the pedometer plus a nutritious smoothie provided by

LightFull Foods. Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) will have a booth explaining how their grants promote student wellness at every one of our schools.

Advanced registration is encouraged, to avoid waiting in long lines at the event. Registration forms can be mailed to ACCUSPLIT, Inc., 6120 Stoneridge Mall Road, Suite 210, Pleasanton. They can also be brought to the December 31 event.

Pleasanton Sports Park is located on the east side of Hopyard Road, five blocks south of Highway 580. Ample parking is available. Look for signs at the east end of the park.



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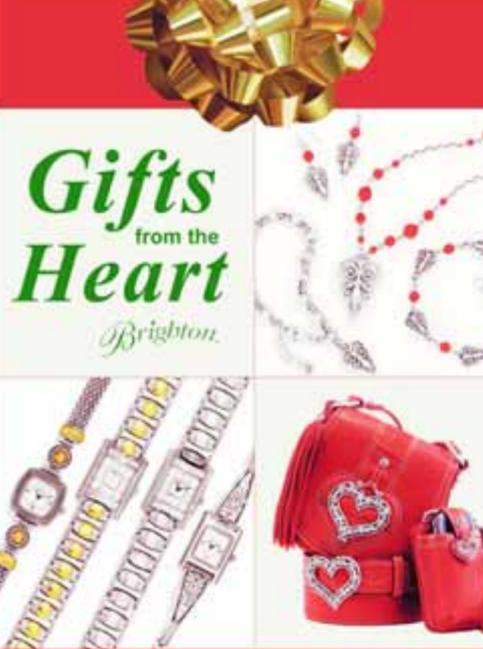
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# Still shopping for Christmas? Try a local bookstore

By Patricia Koning

There are six shopping days left until Christmas, but there is no need to panic. Head to a local independent bookstore instead: Towne Center Books in Pleasanton and the Firehouse Bistro and Books in Livermore. To get you started, here are some suggestions from both stores.

One of the top sellers for teens and adults at Firehouse is Stephanie Meyer's best-selling *Twilight Saga*, which chronicles teenage Bella's relationship with Edward, a secret vampire. The *Twilight Saga* includes four books: *Twilight*, *New Moon*, *Eclipse*, and *Breaking Dawn*. A theatrical version of *Twilight* was released in November. For more, visit [www.stepheniemeyer.com/twilight.html](http://www.stepheniemeyer.com/twilight.html).

Barefoot Books are a top seller for kids. Barefoot Books is an independent publisher of imaginative, lushly illustrated stories drawn from different cultures around the world. There are Barefoot Books aimed at boys, such as *Adventures of Odysseus* and *The Barefoot Book of Giants, Ghosts, and Goblins*; girls, such as *Emily's Tiger* and *Seven Wise Princesses*; and for babies and toddlers, such as *How Loud is a Lion?*, and *I Took the Moon for a Walk*. For more information, visit [www.barefoot-books.com](http://www.barefoot-books.com).

For tweens, there's *The Clique Series* by Lisi Harrison, who wrote the first two books of the series while working as senior director of production development at MTV. The series follows the lives of five seventh grade girls who make up "The Pretty Committee" at Octavian Day School. They seem perfect on the outside, but their personal lives are anything but. For more, see [www.jointheclique.com](http://www.jointheclique.com).

Lexi Larkin, a server at Firehouse, recommends Nancy Moran's *Loving Frank*, a work of historical fiction that explores the love story between Frank Lloyd Wright and Mamah Cheney. Some of Lexi's other favorites are *In the Woods* by Tana French, a thriller set in Ireland; *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen, a novel set in a circus; and *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace... One School at a Time* by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin, which details Mortenson's quest to build schools in rural Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Firehouse Chef Leopold Crouse recommends *The French Laundry Cookbook* by Thomas Keller, which includes 150 recipes and over 200 photographs, plus Keller's evolution as a chef and his philosophy of cooking. Another of Crouse's favorites is *My Life in France*, a memoir by Julia Child and her grandnephew Alex Prud'Homme.

At Towne Center Books, owner Judy Wheeler says J.K. Rowling's *Tales of Beedle the Bard* is one of this season's must-reads. This wizarding classic, first referenced in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, contains five fairy tales with illustrations by Professor Albus Percival Wulfric Brian Dumbledore.

Wheeler's favorite children's book is *Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes*, written by Mem Fox and illustrated by Helen Oxenbury. The book illustrates a wonderful poem that celebrates babies around the world and teaches counting of fingers, toes, and babies.

For young adults, Wheeler recommends *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins. This novel is set in a future in which America has become a TV-dominated dictatorship called Panem. The *Hunger Games* are a reality show in which contestants fight to the death for a life of ease. In a review published in *Entertainment Weekly*, Stephen King describes the book as "a violent, jarring speed-rap of a novel that generates nearly constant suspense and may also generate a fair amount of controversy." While the book is marketed as a young adult novel, the storyline is brutal with PG-13 level violence.

Wheeler recommends a pair of historical fiction novels set in WWII: *City of Thieves* by David Benioff and *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Bowers. *City of Thieves* is a gripping novel based on the stories of Benioff's grandfather about surviving WWII in Russia. *Guernsey* tells the story of the Nazi occupation of the island of Guernsey during World War II through letters between writer

Julie Ashton and members of the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society. The book is based on Shaffer's research into the history of Guernsey, an island in the English Channel off the coast of Normandy. For more, visit [www.guernseyliterary.com](http://www.guernseyliterary.com).

For a more reflective choice, Wheeler suggests *Galen Rowell: A Retrospective*. This book celebrates Rowell's lifetime achievements in natural photography with over 175 of his most powerful images of sunrises, sunsets, rainbows, northern lights, and more. For more information, see [www.mountainlight.com](http://www.mountainlight.com). For more recommendations, visit Towne Center Books' website and look under "Staff Picks."

Firehouse Bistro and Books, 2369 First Street, Livermore, 925-449-3473; Open daily from 11 am to 9:30 pm.

Towne Center Books, 555 Main Street, Pleasanton, 925-846-8826; Open Monday through Thursday from 10 am to 9 pm, Friday from 10 am to 10 pm, and Sunday from 11 am to 6 pm.



Photo - Sue Evans

Marines were at the Pleasanton Post Office over the weekend collecting for Toys for Tots. Pictured are (from left) LCPL Dao Johnson, SGT Francoise Reyes, and SSGT Scot Birkley.

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