



Find Out What's Happening

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

County Rejects Portola Academy Bid

The Alameda County Board of Education has voted down the Tri-Valley Learning Corporation's request to start Portola Academy.

The corporation already operates two schools, the Livermore Valley Charter School and the Livermore Valley Charter Preparatory.

The county board's vote was a unanimous 7-0 rejection of the application. The charter school corporation is on its second cycle of trying to get approval for the school.

The first cycle of rejec-

tions occurred last year, when the petition was turned down by the Livermore school board, the county and the state.

The petition was resubmitted this year. The Livermore district rejected the application in Oct. That decision was appealed to the county. With the most recent vote by the county, the next step would be to appeal to the state for approval to open the school.

Chris Van Schaack, Livermore Valley public district assistant superintendent, said that the county

board rejected the school for most of the same reasons that the Livermore board did not support the start of the academy. The district's staff report noted that the petition lacked a clear description of its educational program; did not have a clear plan to attract a racially and ethnically balanced student population; would not be able to successfully implement its programs; and questioned its financial plan.

Primarily, the county board on Dec. 11 found that there was no demand for the school, said Van Schaack.

Unlike the time parents asked the county board to approve the current K-8 charter school eight years ago, there were no parents filling the audience with a demand for the school. The county board took note of that, said Van Schaack.

Tri-Valley Learning Corporation CEO Bill Batchelor said there were some parents in the county board's audience. Hundreds were present a year ago, but parents have felt worn down through the process of being rejected by the Livermore and county boards.

The corporation is deliberating whether to appeal to the state board, which rejected the application the first time on a 6-3 vote. The vote was much closer than the final tally appeared, said Batchelor. Based on comments from the board, it wasn't clear how the final vote would go. The state board did say to reinstate the process locally, he said.

Van Schaack said that the charter school corporation has not demonstrated an ability to educate the special students they say (See PORTOLA, page 4)



Thomas Petty

Livermore Man Honored for Local Blood Drive Work

Thomas Petty of Livermore has been honored by the American Red Cross for his past 10 years' work heading a Livermore blood donation drive.

Red Cross officials were at Asbury Methodist Church in Livermore on Dec. 11 to present the award. The date marked the 10th anniversary of the start of the Livermore blood drive, which Petty, and his wife, Joanne, founded.

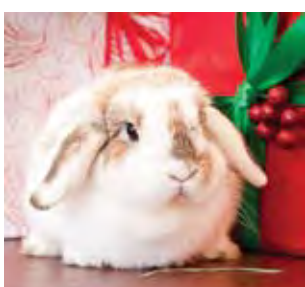
The couple had been donating blood at Chevron in San Ramon, where they worked, since the 1980s. After Joanne retired from Chevron, she found there was no place in Livermore where residents could donate blood. The Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory holds regular blood drives, but open only to employees, explained Petty. So as a member of Asbury Methodist, Petty interested the church board and pastor in sponsoring a regular blood drive there.

The donations are scheduled every other month, between 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Fridays. On average, about 75 or 80 people show up. However, not everyone can donate, or some donations are eliminated because of problems.

Typically, a donation day at Asbury will yield about 55 units of blood. A unit is not a pint, but 500 milliliters, which is close to a pint.

Donations have grown over the years at Asbury.

(See HONORED, page 9)



RABBIT ADOPTION
My name is Danielle. I'm a tiny Mini-Lop girl. I'm easy to handle. I'm new to rescue and still a little uncertain but I'm ready to blossom in a loving home. To meet Danielle, stop by this Saturday from 12-3 pm at the Adoption Event at the Dublin Petco, 11976 Dublin Blvd. For more info, call 925-519-1723, or email ebrabbit@comcast.net. Visit www.eastbayrabbit.petfinder.com to see more pet profiles.



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Dasher was busy checking out the presents under the tree at the Valley Humane Society in Pleasanton.

Parcels for Pets, Home 4 the Holidays Programs Offered at Valley Humane Society

By Carol Graham

"So, how did you meet?"

"Online."

"What attracted you?"

"Stanford is dignified and well-behaved with a mellow

personality. He's content to sit back and take it all in. He also loves to be petted, appreciates a little loving, badly wants attention and has a bit of an independent streak, as most cats do."

Taking part in Iams' national "Home 4 the Holidays" pet adoption program, Valley Humane Society (VHS) is hoping to match as many of its pets as possible to their forever homes

by Christmas Eve using online descriptions, Facebook updates, and offering discounts through December 23rd: 50% off cats and dogs 9 months and older; \$50 off (See PETS, page 8)

Split Vote OKs New Job Title in Pleasanton

Pleasanton school trustees voted 3-2 to authorize an elevation of a top administrative position.

Trustees at their meeting Dec. 11 approved a change in job titles from assistant superintendent of business services to CFO/deputy assistant superintendent, which makes it the second highest position on staff, after superintendent.

New board president Jeff Bowser, outgoing president Joan Laursen and trustee Chris Grant supported the change proposed by Superintendent Parvin Ahmadi.

The voting majority agreed with two district union officials and Ahmadi

that the current assistant superintendent, Luz Cázares, should be given more responsibility and the financial incentive of a contribution of \$4000 annually in the form of an IRA. They said she has been too valuable to the district as a highly respected school finance authority to risk having some other district hire her away.

New board vice president Valerie Arkin and trustee Jamie Hintzke voted against the change. They said that in these times of no teacher cost-of-living increases and reduced programs, elevating the title and paying more would send the public the (See JOB TITLE, page 5)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Sally Matthews, Rich Cimino, Barbara Anderson, and Adam Cimino were counting birds along the Arroyo del Valley Trail in Pleasanton.

Some Raptor Species Increase in Annual Bird Count

The annual bird count in the Amador Valley yielded an increase in raptor sightings. However, the total bird count was down, probably

because of the weather.

Rich Cimino, Ohlone Audubon conservation chair who organized the count on Dec. 11, said that he had not

tallied the total count yet. However, from his own personal observation, it looked like birds wanted to stay put, because of the overcast sky.

"When there is a low ceiling like that, birds tend to stay down. They don't want to expend energy. Less activity lowers their body tempera-

ture, so they don't burn off calories."

"I do believe we had very good numbers for birds (See BIRD COUNT, page 8)

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PETS OF THE WEEK

Meet Jack and Pumpkin. Siblings, only about 4 months old, who love to give cuddles and play with their toys. They were rescued at Halloween time (hence their themed names!) and are still waiting for their forever homes. If you are looking for something to cheer you up and keep you busy, Jack and Pumpkin are for you. For more information, call 426-8656 or go to www.valleyhumane.org or www.facebook.com/ValleyHumaneSociety to see other adoptable dogs and cats. Valley Humane Society is located at 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton. Photo by Trina Cort



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Mon. 12/31 • 1:00 PM

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VALLEY ROUNDUP



Name Change, New Logo

The San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (SJRRRC), which manages Altamont Commuter Express (ACE), introduced a new logo for the passenger rail service soon to reach its 15-year milestone.

In October 2013 the ACE service will turn 15. In recognition of this achievement, the agency has begun a process of refreshing the ACE brand, which includes a change to its name. The Altamont Commuter Express will now become the Altamont Corridor Express. This change will broaden the rail system scope to show its increasing ridership and public benefit, and will allow for greater eligibility for federal funding.

The Altamont Corridor Express (ACE) provides passenger rail services from the Central Valley to the Silicon Valley. The train operates weekdays, with stations in San Joaquin County, Alameda County, and Santa Clara County. The San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission owns and operates the ACE train.

Dublin Offices Closed

Dublin city facilities will be closed at various times over the holiday season. City Hall will be closed December 24 and 25 as well as December 31 and January 1. The Dublin Senior Center will be closed from December 24 through January 1 and the Dublin Library will be closed on December 25 and January 1. The Shannon Community Center will be closed on December 24 and 25 and December 31 and January 1.

Security Award Given to Lab

A new technology developed by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory researchers for detecting nuclear materials has won a first place award in Government Security News magazine's fourth annual Homeland Security Awards competition.

The Livermore technology, the first plastic material capable of efficiently distinguishing neutrons from gamma rays, was honored in the "best nuclear/radiation detection" category.

The award was presented during a Nov. 29 dinner that attracted more than

200 government officials and industry leaders at the Washington D.C. Convention Center.

The breakthrough of using plastic materials to differentiate between neutrons and gamma rays is something that was thought not to be possible for the previous five decades or so until the LLNL team's January 2012 announcement.

With the material's low cost, huge plastic sheets could be formed easily into larger surface areas than other neutron detectors currently use and could aid in the protection of ports, stadiums and other large facilities.

In their paper, the LLNL team wrote: "Efficient pulse shape discrimination (PSD) (between neutrons and gamma rays) combined with easy fabrication and advantages in deployment of plastics over liquids may lead to widespread use of new PSD materials as large-volume and low-cost neutron detectors."

In addition, LLNL researcher Steve Payne, who heads the team with materials scientist Natalia Zaitseva, said, "On balance, the plastic scintillators may turn out to be best for detecting neutrons once the factors of usage in the field, cost, and performance are taken into consideration."

The technology has been commercially licensed to a Texas-based company, Eljen Technology.

2012 Accomplishments

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) has compiled a list of some of its most important accomplishments and improvements over the past year. The NNSA, which oversees management of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and other facilities, reached significant milestones in its nonproliferation and counterterrorism portfolios, made a host of significant achievements through its work with the United States' nuclear weapons stockpile, and maintained a constant focus on continuous improvement.

"We had our share of challenges in 2012, but we have much to be proud of," said NNSA Administrator Thomas D'Agostino. "Our people, both our federal staff and our contractor partners, have done great work executing our mission and improving the way we do business. From our work on the stockpile to our nonproliferation efforts to our contracting strategies, we had a very good year. There is always room to get better, and we are focused on improving everywhere, from security to project management. We see

2013 as full of great things, and we're excited for what's to come."

Local achievements mentioned include:

- Data from SSP experiments will be used in conjunction with NNSA's vast supercomputing capabilities, which achieved world-record status over the summer. In June, NNSA's Sequoia, housed at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), surpassed 16 petaflops, making it the world's fastest.

- At LLNL, the last of Security Category I/II material was successfully removed, resulting in an annual cost savings for taxpayers of approximately \$40 million. The project was completed a month ahead of schedule.

- At NNSA's three laboratories – LLNL, Los Alamos National Laboratory, and Sandia – innovation continued to impress the world's scientific communities. NNSA's labs and production sites received 12 of R&D Magazine's 2012 R&D 100 awards, which are considered the "Oscars of Innovation."

Business Dinner

Howard Dean and Michael Steele will be the keynote dinner speakers at the Contra Costa Council's business event, Contra Costa USA (CCUSA), on Thursday, January 24, at the Hilton Concord. A candidate for the U.S. presidency in 2004, Howard Dean is the former governor of Vermont and former chair of the Democratic National Committee. MSNBC political analyst Michael Steele is a former chair of the Republican National Committee and former lieutenant governor of Maryland.

CCUSA opens at 8 a.m. with registration, exhibits and networking, followed by presentations and lunch. The program adjourns at 2 p.m., reconvening at 5:30 p.m. for a reception and dinner presentation at 7 p.m.

Luncheon keynote speaker will be Ellen Tauscher, former special envoy for strategic stability and missile defense, U.S. Department of State, and former representative of California's 10th congressional district. She currently services on boards of governors at both Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and Los Alamos National Laboratory. Christopher Thornberg, founding partner of Beacon Economics, offers the early-morning presentation on innovation and the regional economy.

A morning panel discussion about the role of research labs in our regional

economy will feature Buck Koonce and Patrick M. Dempsey, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory; Rob White, i-GATE innovation hub and Livermore economic development; Jay D. Keasling, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory; and Dale Kaye, Innovation Tri-Valley, moderator. A second panel, focusing on the role of corporations in innovation in the regional economy, will include Dr. J. Patrick Kennedy, OSIsoft; John Magee, GE Software; Des King, Chevron Technology Ventures; and Gary Craft, Craft Consulting Group, moderator.

Registration for CCUSA will open soon on the Council website at www.contracostacouncil.com. To sign up as a sponsor or exhibitor, contact the Council office at info@contracostacouncil.com.

Eat Tri-Valley

In celebration of the Tri-Valley's eateries, Visit Tri-Valley is conducting Eat Tri-Valley Restaurant Month. The event, formerly Restaurant Week, is a part of the larger California Restaurant Month initiative—featuring 30 destinations statewide—produced by Visit California and designed to drive post-holiday travel to the Golden State.

In addition, it raises awareness and funds for local, food-based charities in the Tri-Valley. At the end of the month, the tourism board will donate up to \$2,500 in matching funds, based upon reported contributions, and deliver all contributions to the respective charities.

Each week in January 2013, a different city will be showcased: 12/31 – 1/6 Danville (Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano counties); 1/7 – 1/13 Dublin (Open Heart Kitchen); 1/14 – 1/20 Livermore (Open Heart Kitchen); 1/21 – 1/27 Pleasanton (Open Heart kitchen); and 1/28 – 2/3 San Ramon (Meals on Wheels/Senior Outreach Services of Contra Costa County).

On the Friday preceding each city's focus, the tourism board will host a Launch Event at a featured restaurant from that city (12/28 for Danville, 1/4 for Dublin, 1/11 for Livermore, 1/18 for Pleasanton, and 1/25 for San Ramon). At the Launch Event, the final participants and menus will be announced, and that city will "go live" on the VisitTriValley and EatTriValley Event Pages.

To learn more about which restaurants are taking part, visit www.eattrivalley.com.



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EDITORIAL

More Than Weapons

The Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory released a list of its top ten accomplishments during 2012.

Better known for its weapons work, the list demonstrates the ability of Lab researchers to take on a broad set of challenges ranging from climate change to bio defense and detection, forensic science and materials science, among others.

A sampling of some of the accomplishments include a better understanding of the causes and effects of climate change.

- In an effort to identify the thousands of John/Jane Doe cold cases in the United States, a researcher and a team of international collaborators found a multidisciplinary approach to identifying the remains of missing persons. Using the method, researchers were able to identify the remains of a missing child 41 years after the discovery of the body.

- For the first time, Laboratory researchers simulated and quantified the early stages of radiation damage that will occur in a given material, including living tissue. This achievement has both security and medical implications.

- A team of researchers developed the first plastic material capable of efficiently distinguishing neutrons from gamma rays, something not thought possible for the past five decades or so.

- A novel nanotube fabric was developed to protect soldiers in the field.

- And, finally the Lab licensed microbial detection array for food safety, law enforcement and medical research.

Many of the findings will translate into businesses and jobs, making funding such research an important key to the future well-being of the economy.

Extra Funds Help Shore up Reserves

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District ended the year with over \$800,000 resulting from increased property tax revenue and stronger operational income.

Last week, the board of directors approved transfer of the funds to various reserve accounts with \$600,000 placed in reserves for capital projects, capital equipment, maintenance and replacement, and Extended Student Services building replacement and retirement costs. The transfer brings the reserves up from 10.67 percent of the budget to 13.85 percent.

Property tax revenue exceeded budget predictions by \$245,918. Of that total, \$106,000 came as the result of the state's action to dissolve the Livermore Redevelopment Agency.

General Manager Tim Barry told the board that there was a need to shore up areas where there are not sufficient reserves. He pointed out these were one-time funds.

Director David Hutchinson stated he was pleased with the proposal. He said he had wanted the district to actively move into replacement process; these funds would make that possible.

The remainder of the money was left in the general fund. The staff will come back midyear to determine how to use the funds.

In other action, the directors approved a revenue-sharing agreement with the City of Livermore for wireless telecommunication facility leases. In 2007, the Board approved a policy for placing cell towers in District parks. The new agreement affects parks owned by the City that are operated by LARP. The District would split the revenue with the City earned from leasing property to cell towers. Parks subject to the agreement are Cayetano Park, Ernie Rodriguez Sports Fields, Independence Park, William Payne Park, Robert Livermore Park and May Nissen Park.

The board chose Maryalice Faltings to serve as president for the upcoming

year. Hutchinson was chosen to be vice president.

Staff provided a presentation on Sycamore Grove Park projects, with details on the restored cattail pond and efforts to seek funding for other projects, such as repaving the trail in the park. Director Faltings suggested that the district raise funds by asking members of the public to adopt segments of the trail.

Director Bob Coomber agreed that the trail project is important. He wondered if there were ADA accessibility grants available that might help pay for the repaving. He explained that he had taken veterans from the VA Hospital to the park. The trail was accessible to a certain point by wheelchair. "I'd like to get more chairs out there."

The District commended two of its employees during the meeting, both of whom are retiring at the end of this month. Ranger/Naturalist Supervisor Mike Nicholson joined LARPD in 1982 as a Curator/Naturalist, subsequently serving as Nature Program Coordinator and advancing to his current position in 1986. ESS Coordinator Judy McPherson began her career with the District in 1997 as an ESS Specialist, advancing to her current position in 2000.

PORTOLA

(continued from page one)

they want to target, namely low-income and minority students, including English Language Learners.

Batchelor said that the corporation has shown through the operation of its current two schools that it is capable of finding quality faculty to address its goals. Although the Livermore district may be skeptical about the corporation being able to attract a diverse student body, the corporation conducted its demographic study. It plans to serve a demographic breakdown of 12 percent Asian/Filipino, 5 percent African American, 33 percent Latino and 50 percent Caucasian.

Apartment Buildings Will Need Carbon Monoxide Detectors by mid-2013

With the new year coming up, another requirement to install carbon monoxide detectors will go into effect.

SB 183, which was passed in 2010, already mandates that new single family dwellings have the detectors installed. Homes already built must have them retrofitted.

Starting July 1, 2013, buildings with more than two residences will be required to add the detectors, which are available at hardware stores, and usually range in price from \$20 to about \$90.

Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department fire marshal Scott Deaver said that he and his staff will be meeting with managers of apartment

buildings in the two cities to talk about the requirements and answer questions. Literature also will be available for managers and owners of apartment complexes.

On single family units, compliance by developers has been good, said Deaver. He expects the same will happen with apartment buildings.

Apartment buildings are inspected annually. Inspections after July 1 next year will be able to show whether or not apartment buildings are conforming to the law. Although there is a fine for non-compliance, Deaver said that the department prefers to allow owners and managers a chance to install them, once they have been told of the requirement during an inspection.

Single family homes are not inspected. However, a seller must disclose that there is a carbon monoxide detector in the home, one for each sleeping area.

The fine is \$200 per sleeping area if they are not installed. The home buyer who has to pay for the detector, may apply for a \$100 compensation from the state as part of the transaction.

The carbon monoxide detectors should not be confused with smoke detectors. Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas. It is heavier than air, so instructions for their installation point out that it's necessary to mount them fairly close to the floor to detect carbon monoxide, said Deaver.

The detectors can help

save lives. Carbon monoxide poisoning can injure people by impairing brain functions and cause other health effects, said Deaver.

The only residential category left after apartments for the carbon monoxide detectors is the hotel and motel industry, which will have to comply by 2016.

Carbon monoxide is produced by the incomplete burning of various fuels, including coal, wood, charcoal, oil, kerosene, propane, and natural gas., such as may happen with a faulty heater. Products and equipment powered by internal combustion engines such as portable generators, cars, lawn mowers, and power washers also produce CO.

Livermore Extends Economic Incentives

At last week's Livermore City Council meeting, the council voted to extend the city's economic incentive program through December 2014.

Steve Kiefer, Community Development Director for the City of Livermore, told the council the programs are designed to encourage business and job growth. Incentives include deferral of the payment of fees, sales tax reimbursement, reduced fees, expedited approval, and high wage incentives. "As the economy improves, the incentives are beginning to make a difference in whether or not a business expands or a project moves forward," according to Kiefer.

Several developers speaking at the meeting agreed.

John S. Steinbuch from Colliers International discussed the proposed Brisa development planned for

construction on land rezoned from industrial. He pointed out that the 450 to 475 homes would each pay between \$110,000 and \$115,000 in fees to the city. Deferring payment would go a great way towards the homes becoming a reality sooner than later. Without the incentives, the project would likely go on ice, he stated. "The incentives will help to regenerate the economy."

Ponderosa Homes' Jeff Schroeder agreed with Steinbuch. The deferment and reductions in fees are great signs that Livermore is responding to the economy. Certainty is created in proceeding with the extension of the incentives, he added. He pointed out that homes in a project in Livermore priced in the low \$500,000s carry fees over \$100,000, twenty

percent of the budget.

Schroeder said that it takes about two years from application to the start of construction. He would like to see the incentives extended beyond Dec. 2014.

Mark Triska, Colliers International, said the incentives are good. However, one of the biggest steps the city could take is to get the word out that they are available.

Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce and Innovation Tri-Valley executive Dale Kaye suggested posting the incentives in a more prominent place on the city's website. "A vibrant community includes a vibrant business community. There is a need to be business friendly in this economy to help businesses stay and scale up. That results in job."

Kiefer said staff believes that Dec. 2014 provides

plenty of time for a project to proceed through the entitlement process. The incentives are geared toward those projects coming on board in 2013. As 2013 progresses, depending on the economy and the results, the city could consider extending the incentives. He agreed that the incentives could be more effectively marketed.

Councilmember Stewart Gary supported the Dec. 2014 cut-off. He was concerned that projects taking advantage of a deadline beyond 2014 wouldn't be built until 2016. "We need to say in two years, the sale ends."

City Manager Marc Roberts stated that the point of the incentives is to drive actual construction. A final map during a recession could be good for 8 to 10 years.

SCHOOLS

(continued from page one)

to talk to their children about the tragedy, since they would be exposed to news media stories. Parents should emphasize that such occurrences are extremely rare. Let them know that the district's schools have safety procedures in place.

Schools drill monthly for such things as intruder events, earthquakes or fires. The times of the drills vary, according to the different campuses.

Ahmadi said that a counselor or psychologist was assigned to each campus Monday to help any students who may need it.

Ahmadi conducted a robo calling to families on the district's list. The message told them that the most important thing to tell our kids is that we love them. We don't have

to understand the tragedy. It's important for them to know that we are there to take care of them.

In an interview with The Independent, Ahmadi said that the tragedy shows the importance of having people work more on such problems as mental health and also controlling "access to things that people shouldn't have."

Asked whether she was referring to gun control, Ahmadi said she was not commenting on the ongoing debate over gun control, but rather all things that are not good for kids. That would include guns, which is in line with current school policies of no guns on campus, but also drugs and alcohol. The main goal is to ensure a healthy school environment for kids.

"We really need to put our heads together and ask what else we can do. All the work around drugs and alcohol is important. When (students) don't talk, the problems don't go away. We have a lot of resources to do a better job," said Ahmadi.

The Livermore district's web site on Friday talked about the events still unfolding in Connecticut. The posting assured everyone that the Livermore district has a good working relationship with police and "up-to-date emergency and lockdown procedures in place." Drills are held regularly to make sure they work well.

Superintendent Kelly Bowers said that the district will be reviewing procedures again with the police to see whether they can be made

even better.

Further, a crisis support team is available to anyone who is emotionally distressed by the tragedy.

"This is a painful reminder of just how precious and fragile life is, so be sure to reach out to loved ones during this holiday season," Bowers wrote in the web site letter.

In an interview, Bowers said that parents have been sending in e-mails encouraging the teachers and other staff to "be safe," and thanking them for the work they do.

At Arroyo school, a group of 15 parents met. They wanted to make sure that things were all right at the school, said Bowers.

MAILBOX

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

Response to Letter Jon Spalding Livermore

Livermore High School has been at its current location since 1930. The PalaSage condominiums were built between 2004 & 2005. The residents of the PalaSage knew that the stadium was in close proximity when they moved in. If the stadium noise was a problem, then you would have been wise to choose a different location as your residence. Nobody forced you to live there. I am sure Livermore High is abiding by all of Livermore's noise ordinances.

If the stadium was constructed after you moved in, then you would have a beef. Your complaint is no different than a person who moves near an airport or train tracks and then complains about the noise. I believe it is you who is not being the

good neighbor by trying to infringe on what Livermore High has been doing for 75 years prior to the PalaSage's existence.

By the way, I know about the noise from the stadium because I lived about the same distance from the stadium for 2 years and knew what I was getting into when I decided to move there. If you made a mistake by moving to the PalaSage that should not be Livermore High's problem.

Democratic Party Kenneth Nather Livermore

As a taxpayer, I am very concerned about the priorities of the Democratic Party. You seem very concerned about who has control in the House and Senate and not a bit concerned about what is good for the country. We had Democrats and Republicans who were concerned about the country: Harry Truman, Dwight Eisenhower and John Kennedy. Now both parties are concerned about power and the aim is to have larger and larger government.

Your aim is to have government do everything and take all individual freedoms from the people. Your plan is to turn the U.S.A. into a communist country. Cuba has turned into a communist country and now 80% of the workers are employed by the government. I don't know

what the current percentage of U.S. workers is working for the government. In 2000, it was 50%, which is obscene. In the 1930's the percentage was 18%.

Then folks could choose any kind of toilet or light bulb they wanted. Cars did not have to reach a gas mileage rating, crime rates were low because we punished people when they broke the law. We said Merry Christmas to one another and did not worry about being politically correct. When a death sentence was pronounced, it was carried out. After the Lindbergh baby was kidnapped, the man who did the nasty deed was put to death. No one heard of anyone being kidnapped until the 1960s after the liberal attorneys and judges turned our legal system into a revolving door.

I am upset with the number of elected officials we have in office who have never had a real job. My personal choice of an elected official is someone who has successfully run a business for at least 5 years. Someone who has met production schedules, payrolls and interfaced with employees, unions and the public is needed to understand how to administer a budget. It is my belief that business knowledge is required to understand budgets. All government divisions, city, county, state and federal, are having serious budget

problems because of politicians who don't understand what they are doing. I also think each office should have a two term limit, then the public official returns back to his or her business and live with the laws that were passed.

Good Work Pat Kenney Grants Chairman Assistance League of Amador Valley

On Tuesday, December 11, Assistance League of Amador Valley was chosen as one of the grant recipients by the Altamont Car Club of Livermore. The car club provided a lovely award evening with wonderful food and fellowship. This year they were able to give over \$30,000 in grants to 22 organizations.

It was very inspiring to hear representatives from the 22 organizations briefly explain how they will use their grant money to help the people in need in our Tri-Valley area. It was an education in all the good works that are being done here, where people are simply helping other people to improve their lives. Assistance League of Amador valley is so proud and honored to be a part of this. Thank you to the Altamont Cruisers and thank you to all the other organizations for doing what you do. Keep up the good work.

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Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Fall colors create a striking pattern in a Livermore Valley vineyard.

Research Finds Climate Changes Are Related to Human Activities

Climate scientists from 16 organizations, including the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, have found that temperature changes are clearly related to human activities.

To reach their conclusion, researchers compared simulations from 20 different computer models to satellite observations.

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

The team's goal of the study was to determine whether previous findings of a "discernible human influence" on tropospheric and stratospheric temperature were sensitive to current uncertainties in climate models and satellite data.

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

The satellite temperature data sets were produced by three different research groups. Each group made different choices in processing the raw measurements, and in accounting for such complex effects as drifts in satellite orbits and in instrument calibrations.

In both satellite observations and the computer model simulations of historical

climate change, the lower stratosphere cools markedly over the past 33 years. This cooling is primarily a response to the human-caused depletion of stratospheric ozone. The observations and model simulations also show a common pattern of large-scale warming of the lower troposphere, with largest warming over the Arctic, and muted warming (or even cooling) over Antarctica.

As human activities change the chemical composition of the atmosphere, increasing the levels of well-mixed greenhouse gases and depleting stratospheric ozone, the stratosphere cools and the troposphere warms.

This is exactly what would be expected to happen if greenhouse gases were trapping heat near the surface rather than letting it percolate upward.

"It's very unlikely that purely natural causes can explain these distinctive patterns of temperature change," said Laboratory atmospheric scientist Benjamin Santer, who is lead author of the paper that appeared in the Nov. 29 online edition of the journal, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

The team analyzed results from climate model simulations with specified historical changes in human and natural external factors, and from simulations with projected 21st century changes in greenhouse gases and anthropogenic aerosols. They

also looked at simulations with no changes in external influences on climate, which provide information on the year-to-year and decade-to-decade "noise" of internal climate variability, arising from such natural phenomena as the El Niño/Southern Oscillation and the Pacific Decadal Oscillation.

Other contributors include researchers from Remote Sensing Systems of Santa Rosa; the Centre for Australian Weather and Climate Research, Melbourne, Australia; the Canadian Centre for Climate Modeling and Analysis, Victoria, Canada; the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory, Princeton; the University of Colorado, Boulder; the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge; the U.K. Met. Office Hadley Centre, Exeter, U.K.; the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Toulouse, France; North Carolina State University; the National Climatic Data Center, Asheville; Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory; the National Center for Atmospheric Research, Boulder; the University of Adelaide, South Australia; the University of Reading, U.K.; and the Center for Satellite Applications and Research, Camp Springs. The paper is Santer's inaugural article as a member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences.

Amador, Foothill 'We the People' Advance to State Competition

The Amador Valley and Foothill high schools' "We the People" civics teams have advanced past the regional competition to the state finals, which will be held in Bakersfield Feb. 9.

Both Pleasanton schools have competed at the state level in past years. Foothill has not advanced beyond the state competition. However, Amador has won state championships 11 times since the program was begun in 1989.

Amador won with its first coach, the late Skip Mohatt, in 1995. It finished second at nationals four times with three different coaches. Amador finished third three times and fourth twice at the national level.

The current Amador coach, Brian Ladd, who coached the team perviously, yielded the position for three years because of the press of time. This year he shares the duties with fellow social studies department teacher Mairi Wohlgemuth.

A change in the "We the People" civics class authorized Dec. 11 by the school board will enable Amador to teach the class for two semesters, instead of the previous one semester. Other top schools across the nation scheduled a full year in their curriculums.

Amador was also taking a full year for the program, but students were receiving credit only for one semester in an AP class, then using a study hall in the second semester.

The change will convert the class from an advanced placement (AP) class to an honors class, with the emphasis on "We the People." Practically speaking, it will mean that the 30 students on the team won't spend as much time coming in on weekends and other times, but will be able to do work and get credit in the class.

Ladd told The Independent that he had conversations with the University of California and felt assured that the credit and grade

transfer of an AP class will also be applied to the new honors class status.

The civics teams engage in an intense study of the Constitution, the structure of American government, and issues raised pertaining to the Constitution.

Competitions are simulated congressional hearings in which students "testify" before a panel of judges. Students demonstrate their grasp of constitutional principles and evaluate, take and defend positions on relevant historical and modern issues.

Also heading for the state competition is the Irvington High School team from Fremont. Its long-time coach is Pleasanton Councilmember Cheryl Cook-Kallio, who is a consultant to some schools for the "We the People" program.

JOB TITLE

(continued from page one)

wrong message.

Earlier in the board meeting, teachers union president Peggy Carpenter said that a teacher from a nearby district told her that the district wanted to hire Cázares away from Pleasanton.

Ahmadi did not speak to the specifics raised by Carpenter. She noted, "Since people already mentioned it, she was sought out. We know she is respected in the state." Ahmadi emphasized that Cázares has not been seeking a job.

There won't be an increase in her salary. Cázares, who will have her duties and job requirements expanded, will continue to make the current year's contract salary of \$191,375.

However, the district will contribute the additional \$4000 to an IRA. Other benefits, such as car allowance and medical insurance, remain the same.

UNION LEADERS BACK THE CHANGE

In discussing the decision that the board faced, both Carpenter and classified employees union president Alex Sutton praised Cázares' personal and professional qualities. They were not speaking as the result of any formal resolution from their unions.

Sutton conveyed his sense of the people he represents, saying, "The membership trusts Luz Cázares. We don't want anyone else in there."

Carpenter, who was on a screening committee that recommended hiring Cázares, said, "She is an amazing individual. She has brought a great deal to this district. If you want quality, you have to pay for it."

In the board discussion, Grant picked up on those statements. "Both of our association representatives stood up, with their people making great sacrifices, and said 'We are not only OK with it, but strongly support it.' That sends a strong

message to the community," said Grant.

Bowser cited the union leaders' comments about Cázares, and added that from a practical standpoint, the district would have to spend money to conduct a search. "CFO is a coveted position."

PRaise FOR STEWARDSHIP

Grant said it is important to keep the top administrators in the district as a team. "We have one of the best cabinets (top-line administrators in the district) in California. It's one reason we are one of the top-performing districts in the state. Our financial reserves are at a level that 95 percent of the districts in the state would envy."

Grant also said that Cázares has helped the district leverage its money to bring in more revenue for the district.

ARKIN SAYS IT'S 'BAD PRECEDENT'

Arkin called it a "difficult decision," but said that it "sets a bad precedent. We've cut so many programs for kids in the last four years, and put class sizes at 30:1. Teachers have not had a cost of living adjustment (for the past several years)."

Putting an administrator before teachers "is not a good message to the community, said Arkin. She said that the people with whom she talked "want us to restore programs and

services."

Hintzke said that she agreed with Arkin. "I also have been contacted by many community members. I don't support the change. It is bad timing. We've made so many cuts. We are just seeing the light at the end of the tunnel now," said Hintzke.

UNANIMOUS VOTES ON NEW OFFICERS

Bowser was selected by the entire board as president, with the nomination coming from Laursen and the second by Hintzke. Bowser served during the past year as board clerk, a position that was renamed vice president.

Hintzke nominated Arkin to serve as vice president. Bowser seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Assemblywoman Joan Buchanan swore in returning incumbents Arkin, Grant and Hintzke. As they were on the ballot unopposed, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors appointed them to the positions.

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SPORTS NOTES



Elite Taekwondo Academy has new 1st Poom Junior Black Belts. After more than four years of dedication, discipline, and intense training from Master Jeff Avila, they've reached their ultimate goal in becoming a Jr. Black Belt. They now enter a new chapter in their journey, that of becoming a 2nd Degree Jr. Black Belt. The students range in age from 10 to 15 years old. Pictured (from left to right) are Aanya Singhal, Jade Overton, Ryan Juric, Austin Overton, Gavin McKinnon, Zachery Armstrong and James Attree. Not in the photo are 2nd Poom Jr. Black Belts Austin Kim, Jamie Ng and Peter Oh; and 3rd Dan Black Belt: Jon Ng.



Livermore Mystics 7th grade team went 3-0 in the West Coast Basketball tournament held at Las Positas College over the weekend. The Mystics won their first game against the Eastbay Panthers 41-18. Continuing with a strong defense and unstoppable offense, Mystics posted their second win, a 58-8 victory over West Coast Extreme. The Mystics third win to take the championship was against Gametime, Mystics won, 25-15. Pictured are (back row, left to right) Nicole Bartels, Sydney Pournaras, Regan Wiedefeld, Taylor Sullivan; (front row) Emily Trask, Sierra Marshall, Gigi Cole, and Arianna Salcedo.



Pictured are West Coast Olympic Gymnastics Academy Level 6 gymnasts Lydia Muentz, Audrey Ong, Lauren Swenson-Lennox, Allison and Kamryn O'Reilly; not in the photo are Megan Brennan and Amelia Liao.

publication from the Amador Website (www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/amador/) and mail it to Curt Gordon, 205 Heritage Lane, Pleasanton, Ca. 94566 There is a \$20 fee to play. The deadline to pre-register is Thursday, January 3rd.

Players and fans are invited to the "Hop Yard Alehouse" after the games. 15% of proceeds will be donated to the programs. There will be "special entertainment" during each of the halftimes this year.



Pleasanton's Tri-Valley Judo sent 15 members to participate in the City College of San Francisco Judo Tournament on Dec 2. Of the 15 participants all 15 placed within the top three in their respective age, weight and rank division. Pictured are (back row, left to right) Rachael Butler Gold, Camaryn Butler Gold, Kai Ikegami Silver, Tommy Salisbury Gold, Misael Macias Silver, Jackson Butler Gold, Anthony Nechayev Silver, Sho Ikegami Gold; (front row) Zoe Eugenio Silver, Abygail Maciel-Lahann Gold, Dan Ikegami Gold, Leonardo Leyva Silver, Ananth Goyal Bronze, Donovan Lucente Gold, and Marissa Macias Gold.

Pleasanton Rage

The U12 Pleasanton Rage Orange closed out the regular season of Norcal with a 1-0 win over the Impact in Brentwood. The victory gave the Rage Orange a winning record in Norcal League play. The Rage Orange finished with 4 wins, 2 losses and 5 ties. The game with the Impact was a back and forth affair. The Impact took an advantage early as they had many close chances. After the early going, the Rage Orange started to control the midfield. The game at that point started to be played in the Impact half of the field. The Rage Orange broke through late in the 1st half when Maggie McPeak drilled home a miscue from the Impact goal. The 2nd half was a tense, physical affair. The Rage Orange controlled most of the play and gave the Impact only a few chances. Rage goalie Haley Roundtree was solid in the nets to give the Rage Orange another shutout to preserve the victory. All Rage players (Holly Judson, Leila Shafi, Kiera Hegarty, Casey Cring, Eknoor Kaur, Delaney Sobie, Sarah Mirr, Addy Mapes, Abby Fried, Maggie McPeak, Haley Roundtree, Natalia Margaris, Yasmine Springer,

Isabella Huyler, Karin McCarty) turned in solid performances which gave the Rage Orange the win. The Rage Orange next turns its attention to Norcal State Cup 2nd round action which will take place in January.

All-Star Game

The Holiday Classic pitting the best seniors from Contra Costa and Alameda counties will play this year's game at Pittsburgh High School on December 22nd. Kickoff is at 1:00pm. Eighty Two players from thirty seven different High Schools are participating in this all-star game. Players who have division one offers to players that are looking for one last opportunity will be showcasing their skills. The Contra Costa all-stars are led by Pittsburg's Victor Galli and staff. Alameda is led by Washington's Ken Wittmer and staff. Also coaching for the Alameda squad is the James Logan staff. Local all-stars include Ondre Rudolph from Dublin, Justin Cruz, Grant Miller, Nate Vickers, Jesse Cerdas and Mitchell Mayo from Amador Valley; Jack Finney from Foothill; and Nick Pletschette from

Granada. The high school is located at 1750 Harbor Street, Pittsburg.

WCOGA Gymnastics

The Level 5 gymnasts from West Coast Olympic Gymnastics Academy, in Pleasanton, competed at the 2012 NorCal State Championships in Rancho Cordova November 10, 2012. Kamryn O'Reilly was 3rd All-Around in the 10 G category. She also placed 3rd on floor with a score of 9.3 and 4th on vault with a score of 9.050.

Lydia Muentz was 6th All-Around in the 10 F category. She also placed 5th on bars with a score of 9.150 and 6th on beam with a score of 8.925.

Megan Brennan placed 4th on bars with a score of 9.075.

Lauren Swenson-Lennox placed 3rd on bars with a score of 9.20.

Livermore Aquacowboys

The Stockton Swim Club hosted the Pacific Swimming Short Course PC-C/B/A+ Meet on December 15-16, 2012. The meet was held at The Cortopassi Aquatic Center at St. Mary's High School in Stockton. The Livermore Aquacowboys had a strong showing in Stockton. The swimmers faced cold temperatures and fog and yet new best times were achieved.

Swimming for the Livermore Aquacowboys: Faith Carroll (7), Annelise Combitis (8), Minhnha Kawamura (8), Jack Davis (7), Ryan Martinez (8), Jessica Akins (9), Melinda Davis (10), Gillian Mena (9), Katie Ottman (10), Kylie Peters (10), John Coltrin (10), Taber DaCosta (9), Daniel Geissbuhler (10), Daiki Nishikawa (10), Tori Carroll (12), Kristina Mena (12), Megan Wilcox (12), Gabriel Akins (12), Alexander Bass (12), Page DaCosta (11), Christopher Gonzalez (11), Matthew Hayes (12), Emily Chong (13), Celine Nguyen (14), Dante DeMayo (13), Alex Gonzalez (14), Brandon Siu (13), Shelby Diehl (15), Jessica Paul (16), Sean Cabanlit (16), Kyle Chong (15), Josh Ledbetter (15) and Bryce McLaggan (16).

The Livermore Aquacowboys train at the Livermore Valley Tennis Club with Coach Alex Silver, Coach Lisa White, Coach Leslie Dabney, Coach Teresa Davis and Coach Kevin.

Winter Baseball Camp

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

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

Girls Softball

LGSA Registration: Livermore Girls Softball Association welcomes all Livermore girls aged 5-18 to register for the Spring 2013 Recreational season. No experience necessary. Register online at www.LivermoreGirlsSoftball.org by December 31st. Email registration@LivermoreGirlsSoftball.org or call 925-556-5259 for more information.

Alumni Soccer Games

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

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

The teams will be playing for trophies that will be awarded to the schools of the winners. The winning school will gain possession of the trophies each year. Ryan Gordon was a 2003 graduate of Foothill High School. He was killed in a boating accident shortly after graduating. He played soccer at Foothill for 4 years and was planning on attending Santa Barbara City College where he planned to continue playing soccer. The original Alumni Games were organized to fund a scholarship that benefits a graduating member of the Foothill women's or men's soccer team who aspire to play soccer in college. Since the 1st year all proceeds now go directly to the men's and women's soccer programs at the two high schools.

Ex-soccer players from Amador or Foothill who would like to play, can obtain more information and/or register at All-Star Sports, 3037-A Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. Another way to register is to download an ap-

East Bay Lakes to Receive Extra Trout This Month

The East Bay Regional Park District and the California Department of Fish and Game (DF&G) are planting more rainbow trout this December than ever before. East Bay Regional Park District lakes - Del Valle, Lake Chabot, Quarry Lakes, Shadow Cliffs and Lake Temescal - are receiving over 17,000 pounds of rainbow trout from the District plus over 6,000 pounds of rainbow trout from the DFG.

According to Park District Fisheries Program Manager Pete Alexander, "These rainbow trout range from 3/4 to over 10 pounds each. Now is a great time to get out and fish the East Bay lakes, enjoy the beautiful scenery and perhaps take home a meal of trout."

The East Bay Regional Park District lakes provide excellent fishing opportunities. Some reservoirs, namely Del Valle, Chabot and Temescal, may become too turbid to fish following a big storm, Alexander advises, while Quarry Lakes and Shadow Cliffs remain relatively clear and highly productive.

"The East Bay Regional Park District lake parks are a wonderful 'close to home' resource for winter anglers and hikers alike," said Alexander. "At several lakes

you and your family might be lucky enough to see an osprey or bald eagle fishing for trout as well!"

DF&G acting Regional Manager Scott Wilson added, "We want to create opportunities for families to spend quality time together through the time-honored tradition of fishing. Fishing, like many other outdoor pursuits, helps keep people connected to their natural environment." DF&G's Fishing in the City program has enhanced fishing near areas where people live and work. This is accomplished through enhanced stocking, habitat improvement and learn-to-fish clinics.

A state fishing license is required of all anglers age 16 or older. District lakes also require a \$5 daily Park District fishing permit. Anglers under the age of 16 may fish for free, while abiding by all fishing regulations. The District utilizes these fishing access funds in order to maintain a vigorous planting program year round. The District generates approximately \$525,000 in revenues from fishing access permits each year - which all goes towards fish plants.

For the schedule of fish plants, and reports on which fish are biting and where, read the District's Anglers Edge newsletter online. <http://www.ebparke.org/activities/fishing/anglersedge>

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SHORT NOTES

Police Academy

The Livermore Police Department is now accepting applications for its 23rd Citizens' Police Academy (CPA). The 17 week academy will begin on February 6, 2013 with a graduation ceremony on May 31, 2013. The class sessions are held every Wednesday evening from 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Livermore Police Department. There are no physical requirements for most activities and no costs charged to the participants.

The CPA provides participants with a unique inside look at the Livermore Police Department and the law enforcement community. By presenting the functions, capabilities, and limitations of the department, this course helps to increase the level of trust, respect, and sense of understanding and awareness between the department and the community we serve.

Applications can be obtained at the front counter in the lobby of the police station, by calling Supervising Public Safety Dispatcher Lesli Prado (925) 371-4936, by email, or by completing and downloading the application at www.cityoflivermore.net/citygov/police/academy.asp.

Dublin Taking Nominations

The City of Dublin is accepting nominations for the 2012 Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year and Organization of the Year.

The purpose of these awards is to recognize outstanding individuals and groups who have contributed to the quality of life in Dublin in 2012. The Young Citizen of the Year recognizes the volunteer service of Dublin's youth in 1st - 12th grade.

Nomination criteria for the awards are based on five established criteria: the Dublin Pride - Integrity in Action Program's 10 Characteristics (i.e. Responsibility, Respectfulness, Caring, Giving, Positive Attitude, Trustworthiness, Cooperation, Doing One's Best, Honesty, and Self-Discipline), originality and uniqueness of the activity/project, overall relevance and importance to the Community, time and effort spent, and challenge(s) in accomplishing the activity/project.

All nominees will be recognized at the Volunteer recognition event to be held at the Shannon Community Center on Wednesday, February 20, 2013, where the winners will be announced. The Organization of the Year will receive a \$500 cash prize, and a \$300 donation will be given to each of the Citizen and Youth Citizen of the Year's favorite non-profit organization.

The nomination form can be completed online at the City's website, www.dublin.ca.gov, or by calling the City Clerk's Office at (925) 833-6650. The nomination deadline is end of day on Thursday, January 24, 2013.

Fellowship Breakfast

Tri-Valley YMCA will host the 13th annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Fellowship Breakfast.

The event is planned for 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. on January 28 at the Hilton Pleasanton at the Club.

The keynote speaker will be Pleasanton Police Chief Dave Spillar.

All proceeds benefit leadership programs for Tri-Valley teens. For more information, or tickets contact Kelly O'Lague Dulka at kdulka@ymcaeastbay.org or 263-4444.

The Hilton is located at 7050 Johnson Drive in Pleasanton.

Teachers Receive Stipends

The Tri-Valley Branch of the California Retired Teachers Association, CALTRA-Division #85, has announced the recipients of \$150 stipends for 2012.

There were 138 applications from teachers with "needs," making it difficult to select only fifteen. Those selected are the following:

Dublin Unified School District: Miao Furong, Fallon Middle School; Candido Gomez, Frederiksen Elementary; Elizabeth Greene, Murray Elementary; Dr. Shaun Martins, Dublin High; and Cindy Seto, Kolb Elementary.

Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District: Pauline Galvan, Emma Smith Elementary; Thomas Jones, Granada High; Lisa Jost, Granada High; Jenni Martin, Michell Elementary; and Sheryl Singh, Marilyn Avenue Elementary.

Pleasanton Unified School District: Dutch Anderson, Village High; Katherine Arcuri, Pleasanton Middle School; Erin Diaz, Walnut Grove Elementary; Janet Dobbs, Valley View Elementary; and Carole Digirolamo, Alisal Elementary.

Yule Log Hunt

The Great Yule Log Hunt will be led by Livermore Area Recreation and Park District ranger Pat Sotelo and his elves on Sat., Dec. 22. Meet at 2 p.m. at the group picnic area in Sycamore Grove Park, 5211 Arroyo Road.

Grab your loved ones and your silliest holiday hats and join the 18th annual hunt for the fabled Yule Log. Prepare for the hunt with games, merriment and tales of ancient Yule celebrations. Then go off on a fun, old-fashioned hunt for that elusive log. After the hunt, gather around the fire, share some holiday cheer and make a Yule log to take home. Unlock the secrets of this ancient holiday tradition. Canceled if raining. Please call 925-960-2400 if directions are needed to the Group Picnic Area.

There is a \$5 per vehicle parking fee at either entrance to Sycamore Grove Park. A \$2 donation is requested to

help support the programs unless other fees are specified. Participants may call 925-960-2400 for more information.

A Quiet Christmas

Not everyone wants to celebrate Christmas with parties and glitter. For some, the season is painful due to loneliness or loss. Rev. Heather Leslie Hammer, lead pastor at Lynnewood United Methodist Church, recognizes the need for many people to observe Christmas in a quiet way.

A special service is planned for tonight, December 20, at 7:30 pm in the sanctuary at 4444 Black Avenue, Pleasanton, across from the aquatic center. With recorder and piano, candles and optional anointing with oil, individuals can appreciate the season by listening to reflective readings and music.

Those who have lost a loved one in recent months or years, or simply need a break from stress, are invited to take part in a quiet time to anticipate the coming of peace and love.

Lynnewood UMC is located at 4444 Black Ave., Pleasanton. People of any or no faith are welcome. For more information, please call or email the church at 925 846-0221, office@lynnewood.org. www.lynnewood.org

Lucky Fan Contest

Tri-Valley Community Television (TVCTV) is offering viewers an opportunity to win free stuff by signing up to be a TV30 "Lucky Fan." On Dec. 24 there will be a drawing for the name of a Lucky Fan winner of a \$100 gift certificate to the award winning Restaurant at Wente Vineyards.

In January, the station is giving away tickets to upcoming productions at the Bankhead Theater including Rhonda Vincent, The

New Queen of Bluegrass on January 3; Tom Wopat, A Crooner's Touch in the Sinatra Tradition on January 12; Gary Mule Deer, One-of-a-Kind Comedy Legend on January 22; International Guitar Night on January 23; and Avner the Eccentric on January 29.

At the Firehouse Theater, tickets will be given away to: "Happy Birthday Elvis!" with Jim Anderson & The Rebels on January 6; Dennis Regan with G. King on January 9; and Audie Blaylock & Redline, Award-Winning Bluegrass Artist on January 18th.

TV30 viewers go to the Tri-Valley TV website at www.trivalleytv.org to register to be a "Lucky Fan." There is no charge and the information will not be shared. TV30 randomly selects a winner at various times from the "Lucky Fan" registrations. The winner will be announced on the TVCTV Facebook page and on TV30. A person can enter

as many times as he or she wants.

For complete rules or to register to be a "Lucky Fan" go to www.trivalleytv.org and click on the "Lucky Fan" icon located on that page.

Lego Camp

Livermore Area Recreation and Park District has openings in its Jedi Engineering LEGO Camp for ages 5 to 12.

Build X-wing, droids and palaces inspired by designs made a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away. Create motorized sand crawlers, drone assembly lines and Battlecruisers. A new offering of imaginative and original designs. Three classes are held Wed., Dec. 26 to Fri., Dec. 28: ages 5 to 6, 9 a.m. to noon; ages 7 to 12, 1 to 4 p.m. The fee is \$140.

Registration is available at www.larpd.dst.ca.us or at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore.

Deputy Fire Chief to Retire

Deputy Chief Jane Moorhead is retiring from the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department after almost 18 years of service with LPPD. In total, Moorhead retires after almost 34 years of public service.

A Bay Area Native, Moorhead grew up in Oakland and attended Oakland High School. She went on to complete a B.S. in Forestry at the University of California at Berkeley. She began her public service career in 1979, as a Park Ranger for the East Bay Regional Park District, and eventually joined their Fire Department and became one of two EMT's at the time. Jane became interested in a Firefighter-Paramedic position thinking that it seemed like, "the best job in the world." She enrolled in Paramedic School at the Foothill/Stanford program. After finishing the program



Jane Moorhead

in 1989, Jane was hired by the City of Benicia Fire Department.

In 1995 she returned to Alameda County, joining the Livermore Fire Department as a Firefighter-Paramedic. She was promoted to Captain in 2001, to Battalion Chief in 2006, and to Deputy Chief in 2010. Throughout her career, Jane has been heavily involved in training with an emphasis on EMS and Wildland Firefighting.

She completed the demanding California State Fire Marshal's Master Instructor program in May, 2000. She has taught at both Los Medanos and Las Positas Colleges EMT, Paramedic and Fire Science programs. Jane is a member of FEMA California Task Force 4 and the East Bay Incident Management Team. She still considers Firefighter/Paramedic the "best job in the world."

Jane is married to Bob Heady. They reside in Dublin with their certified therapy dog, Kylie. Jane and her husband, Bob, enjoy cycling, hiking and kayaking and are avid world travelers.

The last roll call for Deputy Chief Moorhead will be held on Friday, December 21 at 10:30 a.m. outside of the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department Headquarters located at 3560 Nevada Street in Pleasanton.

Lab HOME Campaign Raises Over \$3.5 Million for Local Charities

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory employees, along with Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC (LLNS), have raised more than \$3.5 million to give to charities within their surrounding communities.

Laboratory employees pledged more than \$2.5 million to the HOME Campaign (for Helping Others More Effectively) - an annual charitable drive that benefits community/non-profit agencies in the Tri Valley, San Joaquin Valley and Greater Bay Area. In addition, Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC, which manages the Lab for the U.S. Department of Energy, announced

that go directly to agencies selected by employees.

Again this year, the LLNS Board of Governors announced LLNS, would match the first \$1 million raised in the campaign.

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. The HOME Campaign is a major community support activity for the Laboratory. This year through the campaign, Lab employees pledged donations via payroll deduction or gave onetime donations to benefit more than 600 agencies of their choice.

Since 2007, the Lab's HOME Campaign has raised more than \$2 million annually through donations



Photos - Doug Jorgensen

Melissa Adkins, marketing and development manager at VHS, places presents under the tree in the lower photo. In the upper photo, Kermit is curious about what is happening.



PETS

(continued from page one)

kittens and puppies.

"We envision a world where every animal is loved and every person knows the love of an animal," said VHS Executive Director Melanie Sadek. "There are many benefits to adopting a more mature animal, like knowing their personality before the adoption and avoiding some of the youthful destructive behavior.

"VHS Staff can help potential adopters find a pet that's the perfect match for their family and lifestyles - like a dog who loves to run that would be a good fit for a jogger, or a cat who likes to snuggle that would be a good fit for an older person in need of a loving companion."

VHS's annual Parcels for Pets holiday program is also in full swing. "Each adoptable animal has a Christmas ornament on the tree in our lobby with an item from their wish list written on the back," said Melissa Adkins, VHS Marketing & Development Manager. "In addition, there are a number of ornaments for cash donations that specify an amount that might help (for example, \$15 will microchip an animal).

"People are encouraged to drop by VHS and select an ornament, then return with the gift and place it under the tree. On Christmas day,

several staff members and volunteers sit around the tree and open the gifts for the animals."

While there, visitors are encouraged to take a stroll through Kitty City. Stanford may be there, in all his gentlemanly splendor, along with best friends Click and Clack who would love to have a forever-home together, and Lucy, whose beautiful facial markings give her a slightly worried expression that changes perceptibly around feathered toys.

VHS offers dogs for adoption as well. At least 10 homes have become happier over the past week with the addition of one of the "reindeer puppies" - Labrador mixes named after Santa's eight reindeer plus Rudolph and Nick.

"We rescued the puppies right after Thanksgiving from a crowded shelter that called for our assistance," said Adkins. "The puppies were without their mother.

The shelter staff knew their best chance was to get them right out of that environment. They went to foster homes until they were old enough to be fixed and adopted."

For more than 20 years, VHS has been working to improve the lives of Tri-Valley companion animals while advocating responsible pet ownership and seeking to provide educational outreach and collaborative programs that help eliminate unnecessary euthanasia.

2013 calendars are available at VHS or online for last-minute gifts or stocking stuffers. Full of furry, sweet faces, each calendar is a \$15 donation (add \$2 if mailed) that helps animals all year long by funding rescue and rehabilitation programs.

For more information visit www.valleyhumane.org, 3670 Nevada Street, Pleasanton, or follow on Facebook.

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BIRD COUNT

(continued from page one)

because of the overall health of the open spaces we have. The open spaces are managed properly by agencies and city governments," said Cimino.

The preliminary numbers showed an increase in raptor population above last year. However, golden eagles were down from 49 last year to 24 this year. The 49 last year was a spike up from 21 golden eagles in 2010, said Cimino.

Peregrine falcons dropped slightly from six last year to five this year.

Other raptor sightings showed 174 red-tailed hawks

last year and 210 this year, and prairie falcons were up from one last year to seven this year.

An Alameda County task force has studied how to lower raptor deaths from wind power turbines in the Altamont. Asked whether the raptor count reflects anything about the health of raptor populations in the Altamont, Cimino said that the data for the Altamont studies are separate from the annual bird count.

"One interesting number was for a non-raptor, the lesser scaup, a duck species.

Last year there were 254, and this year 1100," said Cimino.

Birds that eat berries and seeds, such as robins and pine siskins, showed bigger populations this year. Cimino attributed the influx to less availability of food in the North. "They feed well here with the ornamental trees that people have in their yards," he said.

Some 90 people turned out as volunteers for the count, the same number as last year. Cimino said that the count itself, and the many good open space en-

vironments for birds in the Valley are an indication that citizen science is prospering in the Valley.

The count this year was named in honor of the late Bob Seval, who was an editor of The Independent. Cimino named it in his honor for Seval's deep concern for environmental preservation in the Valley.

There was no formal program to start the count, but Cimino passed out a paragraph that he wrote about Seval. "When I announced it, they all knew who he was," he said.

LIVERMORE CINEMAS 2490 FIRST STREET 443-SHOW

THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY (PG13) DLP	11:00 12:15 2:30 4:00
	6:10 7:45 9:45*
THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY (PG13) DLP D-D-BOX	1:00 4:45 8:30*
THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY 3D (PG13) DLP FXH	1:45 5:30 9:15*
CIRQUE DU SOLEIL 3D (PG) DLP	12:00 7:00
LIFE OF PI 3D (PG) DLP	3:00 9:15*
JACK REACHER (PG13) DLP	12:00 3:10 6:20 9:30*
THIS IS 40 (R) DLP	12:20 3:30 6:40 9:50*
MONSTERS INC 3D (G) DLP	11:30 2:00 4:25 6:45 9:00*
GUILT TRIP (PG13) DLP	12:05 2:30 4:50 7:10 9:30*
LINCOLN (PG13) DLP	12:30 4:05 5:00 7:25 8:25*
RISE OF THE GUARDIANS (PG) DLP	12:05 2:20
PLAYING FOR KEEPS (PG13) DLP	5:20 7:30 9:40*
WRECK IT RALPH (PG) DLP	12:20 2:50
SKYFALL (PG13) DLP	12:00 3:10 6:20 9:30*

*NO LATE SHOWINGS ON DECEMBER 24TH

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THE Independent

HONORED

This year, not counting the units donated Dec. 11, there have been 3082 units. In 2009, donations were at the 2000-unit level, said Petty.

The growth has been the result of word-of-mouth advertising, and announcements printed regularly in The Independent, said Petty.

Livermore residents who had gone to the Red Cross Blood Donation Center, 5566 Springdale Ave., near Stoneridge Mall in Pleasanton, said they were glad to hear they could conveniently go to Asbury instead, said Petty.

Petty, who works in Livermore now in internet

consulting and education, said he and Joanne started donating at Chevron because the firm had regular blood drives. About his own motivation, Petty said that he wanted to give something back to people who need it. There is no substitute for blood. "There is no artificial blood," said Petty.

Patients need blood transfusions for such procedures as surgery and chemotherapy. Bay Area hospitals require 400 units of blood daily. There is not enough to fill the need. Some blood has to be brought in from Red Cross stations in other areas, even from out of state,

said Petty.

Those areas sometimes encounter problems that cut into their ability to supply the Bay Area. Hurricane Sandy closed down blood donor stations, and also increased the need for transfusions on the East Coast.

There are plenty of

would-be donors who could close that gap. Petty said that only about 3 percent of eligible people have given blood.

Call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or go to redcrossblood.org (Sponsor Code: ASBURY925) to schedule an appointment.

OBITUARIES

Arlene "Queen of Everything" Lopez

April 28, 1942 - Dec. 10, 2012
Resident of Manteca

Arlene, aka Queen of Everything, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family, friends and neighbors.



Arlene was born in Oakland, she met her husband Frank when she worked at the Oakland Toggery and he was a barber. She was a 41 year resident of Livermore active in community outreach and her church family at St. Charles. She spent her last 6 years at Woodbridge in Manteca with new and old friends. While there she enjoyed playing and then coaching softball, acting in plays and many other activities. She also enjoyed music, arts and crafts and traveling with family and friends around California and abroad, most recently Yosemite in August of this year.

Arlene is survived by her husband Frank Lopez, brother Lee and wife Lil Souza of Pennsylvania, son Alan (Big Al) and wife Lorri and son Larry and wife Cricket, grandchildren Matthew, Madalyn, Jacob, Isaiah and Jonathan, and nieces and nephews.

On December 14, 2012 there was held a Celebration of her Life at St. Charles Borromeo followed by a short service at St. Michael Cemetery in Livermore.

Memorial donations can be made in Arlene's honor to Hanna Boys Center of Sonoma www.hanna-center.org/.

Richard L. Behiel

June 6, 1932 - Dec. 5, 2012
Resident of Dublin

Richard Behiel passed away peacefully December 5, 2012 at ValleyCare Medical Center in Pleasanton. He was surrounded by his family. He was 80. Richard suffered complications due to breaking several ribs after a fall in October while doing yard work at home in Dublin.

Richard, the second of eight children, was born June 6, 1932 in Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta, Canada. He left the family farm in 1959 and moved to Oakland with his sister Lorraine and her husband Lee Dansereau. Richard and Lee, and several others of the Behiel family, would eventually retire as union carpenters. He was especially proud of his work on the Oakland Coliseum, BART Tube, SJSU Business Tower, and building his first house in the Oakland hills. Richard married Yvonne Lapointe in 1961 and moved to Pleasanton in 1970 to raise their four children. Richard moved to Dublin in 1982 during a divorce.

Richard enjoyed Canada-USA family reunions, annual Father's Day picnics, and spending time with family and the great neighbors of Hillsdale Drive throughout the 1970's. He spent his

retirement working in his home workshop, helping others, having coffee with friends after a workout at the gym, and watching as many of his grandchildren's sporting events as possible.

He is survived by his daughter, Nanette, of Scotts Valley, his sons: Scott (Karen), of Angels Camp, Art (Sara) and David (Ursula) of Pleasanton, and ten grandchildren: Fallon, Richard, Marc, Joe, Nicole, Alyssa, Melina, Mason, Nicolas and Brady.

A Vigil service will be held at the Catholic Funeral Chapel in Pleasanton, 7:00 p.m. on Dec. 21, (4457 Willow Road, Suite 100). The Funeral Mass will be held at St. Augustine Catholic Church, Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton, at 1:00 p.m. on Dec. 22.

In lieu of flowers, Richard would like donations sent to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. www.jdrf.org Burial will be private.

Arrangements by Holy Angels Funeral & Cremation Center.

Bob Johnson

Eugene, OR

Bob Johnson was born in 1942. He died Dec. 11, 2012. He was a 1962 graduate of Livermore High School.

Bob had worked as a journeyman printer since 1967.

He is survived by his loving wife Freda, son Steven, and brother Elmer Johnson.

Patricia Jeanette Richmond

Patricia Jeanette Richmond, a Livermore resident for over 50 years, passed away peacefully at home after a short illness on Wednesday, December 12, 2012.

Patricia was born January 3, 1933 to Mary Ethel Simon and Howard Mason in Sacramento.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 28 years, William Donald Richmond, daughter Patricia Kwiatkowski and granddaughters Savanna and Kai Jonas. She leaves behind her sister Laverne Onstad and three children Sandra Jonas (Tony), Susanville; Cary Kreutzer (Gary), Encino; Davis Richmond (Marina Gunst), Lincoln; 12 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren. Patricia was a loving mother, grandmother and great grandmother who enjoyed spending time at St. Michael's Church and with her friends. She was an active volunteer for many years with ValleyCare Auxiliary.

A Rosary was held at Callaghan Mortuary, December 17. Mass was celebrated at St. Michael's Catholic Church December 18, 2012.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

Sheila Kamp

Sheila Kamp passed away at Kaiser Hospital in Walnut Creek on November 20, 2012, as the result of a stroke. She was born in Avonmore, Ontario, Canada on Sept. 5, 1932. She was an excellent and very profes-

sional registered nurse for many years.

Sheila was preceded in death by her husband, Harold Kamp. Hal and Sheila lived in Livermore for many years, before retiring to Rossmoor in Walnut Creek.

No services will be held per Sheila's request.

Sheila was a very warm, caring and compassionate person. She will be greatly missed by her many friends, her family, and all who knew her.

Gerald Stephen Bell

Resident of Livermore

Gerald was born on December 11, 1944 in Oakland, Ca. and passed away on Saturday December 15, 2012 at the age of 68 years old.

Gerald grew up in Castro Valley, Ca. He served in the US Navy on the USS Coral Sea. After serving a year in Vietnam, he went to work for San Francisco Bay Naval Shipyard. In 1973 he began working for Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory where he retired after 32 years of service.

Jerry loved the SF Giants, bowling, traveling, annual family camping trips to the Russian River, coin collecting and spending time with friends and family.

Jerry is preceded in death by his parents, John and Vivian Bell and his brother Darryl. He is survived by his loving wife, of 48 years, Linda; his daughters, Jeri Hamera (Jim), Tamara Dayton (Ed), Karen Moore (Jim); his sister Vivian Griswold, five grandchildren, Benjamin, Matthew, Jacquelyn, Katie and Kevin, and many nieces and nephews. Gerald touched many lives and will be missed by all who knew him.

A Funeral Service will be held on Thurs., Dec. 20, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at Callaghan Mortuary, 3833 East Ave., Livermore, CA. Burial will follow at Memory Gardens Cemetery in Livermore, CA.

Memorial donations can be made to the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation or the American Cancer Society.

Olga Brocchini

Resident of Livermore

Olga Brocchini passed away on December 8, 2012 at 100 years young. She said line dancing with her friends is what kept her going.

She is survived by her daughters, Barbara Dreyer and Gail Vandanega and their husbands, Don and Larry, three grandchildren, Danielle Wagner, Kimberly Kent and Scott Dryer, and two great granddaughters, Holly and Katie Wagner who loved time spent with their Nonnie.

A Mass celebrating her life will be held at 11 a.m. on Fri., January 4 at St. Au-

gustine Church, 3999 Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton.

Arrangements are by Callaghan Mortuary.

Oleeta "Lee" Rindone

Aug. 15, 1923 - Dec. 11, 2012

Oleeta Rindone passed away peacefully in her sleep after a long illness. Lee was born in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, to Hous-



ton Robert and Mary Elizabeth Marsh Roberts. Lee also had a younger sister, Catherine, and brother, Billy Joe. Mary Elizabeth died when Lee was 9 years old. Houston later married Quinnie McLendon of Rison, Arkansas. The family alternated locations between Pine Bluff and El Paso, Texas.

After graduating high school in 1942, Lee moved to San Antonio, Texas, to work as a telephone operator. There she met dashing air force pilot Carmelo "Mickey" Rindone, and they married in 1946. They moved around for a time, to Florida, Connecticut, and finally El Paso, chasing jobs in a post-war world. Since housing was scarce, they lived in a variety of rented rooms, making life-long friends along the way, before purchasing a tiny trailer in El Paso and giving birth to daughter, Carolyn. Mickey worked for GE in El Paso, and then moved the family to Huntsville, Alabama, to work with the beginnings of the rocket program. In 1951, he got a job with Sandia in Albuquerque, New Mexico, moving the family yet again. When Sandia started the facility in Livermore, they sent the Rindone family out to visit before deciding to move. Lee loved Livermore and said "that's where I want to be." So the final relocation was to Livermore in 1956.

Lee was the quintessential homemaker and mother. In keeping with Southern hospitality, there was always a place at the dinner table for one or two (or four) more.

Her knitting and crocheting were well-known. Lucky was the baby who received a Lee Rindone christening gown or baby blanket. Granddaughter, Melissa, and children of close friends received a new hand-knit sweater every year. Also an excellent seamstress, she sewed all of Carolyn's clothes, formals, and dance costumes. She "adopted" anyone who didn't have family around, and hosted two exchange students: Margarita Siches Logan from Barcelona, Spain, and Cathrin Quack from Hamburg, Germany.

Lee is predeceased by her father, Houston, mother, Mary Elizabeth, stepmother, Quinnie, and brother, Billy Joe.

Lee is survived by her husband of 66 years, Carmelo "Mickey" Rindone, daughter Carolyn Rindone of Palm Desert, granddaugh-

ter Melissa Walker of Los Angeles, sister Catherine Huchet, niece Linda Glass, and nephew Steven Huchet all of Newnan, Georgia, and nephew Clyde Huchet of Dallas, Texas. Others who are just like family are Pat Stewart and Dan Stewart of Collinsville, Oklahoma, Margarita Logan of San Diego, California, and Cathrin Quack of Pinneberg, Germany. The family wishes to thank the doctors and nurses at Kaiser Hospital, Hope Hospice, and Home Care Assistance for their excellent care, compassion, and professionalism.

Donations in Lee's memory may be made to Hope Hospice or the charity of your choice. Friends may visit the Rindone family at home on Saturday, December 22, between 2:00 to 6:00 P.M., or call to visit at another time.

Arrangements are by Callaghan Mortuary.

Donald G. Nissley

Resident of Livermore

Donald G. Nissley passed away on December 15, 2012 at the age of 84.

He loved life and lived it with optimism. He traveled the world through his 22 years in the Air Force. He was one to participate instead of watching sports. He was active in his church as an usher. He found joy in his work with the Gideons. He loved his daughter, 3 grandsons and his great granddaughter. Just a mention of their names brought a smile to his face. In spite of his health issues, when speaking of them he would say, "I am blessed."

A visitation will be held on Jan. 3, 5-7 p.m. at Callaghan Mortuary, 3833 East Ave., Livermore. Friends and family are invited to pay their last respects on Friday, Jan. 4, 10:00 a.m., at Cedar Grove Community Church, 2021 College Ave. Livermore Ca.

Floyd Dewey Hawkins, Jr.

Resident of Pleasanton since 1967

Dec. 12, 1932-Nov. 26, 2012

Floyd passed away peacefully at his home on Monday, 11/26. He was surrounded by his loving family. Floyd succumbed to lung cancer. He had very much wished to make it to 12-12-12, which would have been his 80th birthday. Floyd was a compassionate man who touched the lives of many people in the community.

Floyd was born in Kernes, Texas. He graduated from Corsicana High School in 1950, where along with his



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

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

Please send an email to editmail@compuserve.com

studies, he was a linebacker on the school football team. Corsicana High was the State Champion in 1950. Floyd also played football while attending Navarro Junior College. He joined the U.S. Navy in 1952. While serving, he also played football and held the record for the longest kick at the Hula Bowl, Honolulu, HI. In addition, Floyd was the editor of a Pearl Harbor Base Newspaper.

Floyd graduated from San Francisco State University with a bachelor of science degree. He enjoyed a 30-year career as an Alameda County Probation Officer, retiring as a unit supervisor in 1991.

Floyd is survived by his loving wife of 56 and a half years, Marianne, and his devoted children Lisa Kappeler (Hawkins) and Vincent Hawkins, his grandchildren Justin Kappeler, Emily Hawkins and Benjamin Hawkins. There are many loved nieces, nephews and cousins who will miss him greatly. Floyd was preceded in death by his parents, Idel (Denson) Hawkins and Floyd Hawkins, Sr., and by his three sisters, Marie, Betty and Shirley.

The family wishes to thank the caring staff of Kaiser Hospice, especially Jolene and Susan.

Those who wish may make a small donation to one of the following charities or a charity of choice: Macular Degeneration Research, 22512 Gateway Center Dr., Clarksburg, MD 20871; The California Retired Teachers Association #85 c/o Olive Green, 2581 Chateau Road, Livermore, CA 94550; or The Kaiser Martinez Hospice, 299 Muir Road, Martinez, CA 94553.

Obituary/ Memoriam Policies

Obituaries are published in The Independent at no charge.

There is a small charge for photographs in the obituaries.

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

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9pm Traditional Service - Sanctuary
A traditional service of lessons and carols, telling the Christmas story with scripture, and uplifting seasonal anthems and carols from our Sanctuary Choir, Celebration Chimes and a brass quintet. Service will conclude with candlelight service in the courtyard.

11pm Contemplative Service - Sanctuary
A meditative service observing the Christmas story in scripture, with the quieter music of solo instruments and a vocal ensemble. Service will conclude with candlelight service in the courtyard.

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LEGAL NOTICES

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**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 472065**

The following person(s) doing business as: E S Motor Cars LLC, 3597 First St, Suite 4, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): E S Motor Cars LLC, 3597 First St, Suite 4, Livermore, CA 94551

This business is conducted by a Limited liability company The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrants :s/ Eddie Joe, Owner / Officer

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

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 471447**

The following person(s) doing business as: White House / Black Market #3488, 2752 Paragon Outlets Drive, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): White House / Black Market Inc, 11215 Metro Pkwy, Fort Myers, FL 33966

This business is conducted by a Corporation The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrants :s/ Kevin R. Schockling, Vice President - Tax This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 31, 2012. Expires October 31, 2017. The Independent Legal No. 3351. Published November 29, December 6, 13, 20, 2012.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 471448**

The following person(s) doing business as: Chico's #1127, 2782 Paragon Outlets Drive, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Chico's FAS, Inc, 11215 Metro Pkwy, Fort Myers, FL 33966

This business is conducted by a Corporation The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrants :s/ Kevin R. Schockling, Vice President - Tax

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 31, 2012. Expires October 31, 2017. The Independent Legal No. 3352. Published November 29, December 6, 13, 20, 2012.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 472081**

The following person(s) doing business as: Golwine, 4465 Guilford Pl, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): (1)Eric Payne (2)Marisa Payne, 4465 Guilford Pl, Livermore, CA 94550

This business is conducted by Husband and wife The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrants :s/ Eric Payne, Marisa Payne

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 471140**

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 20, 2012. Expires November 20, 2017. The Independent Legal No. 3353. Published December 6, 13, 20, 27, 2012.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 472306**

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

This business is conducted by an Individual The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrants :s/ Martin Hernandez Jr

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 471723**

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

This business is conducted by an Individual The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrants :s/ Eric Payne, Marisa Payne

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 472306**

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 7, 2012. Expires November 7, 2017. The Independent Legal No. 3355. Published December 6, 13, 20, 27, 2012.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 472516**

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

This business is conducted by an Individual The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 11/6/2008. Signature of Registrants :s/ Elaine Sternquist

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 29, 2012. Expires November 29, 2017. The Independent Legal No. 3357. Published December 6, 13, 20, 27, 2012.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 471957**

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

This business is conducted by an Individual The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrants :s/ Jennifer Curtice

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 472306**

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 15, 2012. Expires November 15, 2017. The Independent Legal No. 3358. Published December 6, 13, 20, 27, 2012.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 472516**

The following person(s) doing business as: W I T Home Improvement & Repair, 370 Jensen St, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered

by the following owner(s): Kenneth L. Kline, 370 Jensen St, Livermore, CA 94550

This business is conducted by an Individual The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrants :s/ Kenneth L. Kline

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 472813**

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 5, 2012. Expires December 5, 2017. The Independent Legal No. 3359. Published December 13, 20, 27, 2012, January 3, 2013.

NOTICE OF INVITING BIDS Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be accepted in the office of the Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services, 1900 Embarcadero Cove, Suite 205, Oakland, CA NON-MANDATORY NETWORKING/BIDDERS CONFERENCES for RFP BHCS #13-04 - Substance Use Disorder Treatment of Bay Area Service Network (BASN) and AB 109 Participants South County: Tuesday, January 8, 2013 at 10:00 AM, Behavioral Health Care Services, 1900 Embarcadero Cove, Suite 205, Wildcat Canyon Room, Oakland and North County: Thursday, January 10, 2013 at 9:30 AM, Livermore Public Library, Board Room, 1188 South Livermore Avenue, Livermore Responses Due by 2:00 pm on January 29, 2013 County Contact: Nermina Terovic (510) 383-2766 or via email: nterovic@

acbcs.org Attendance at Networking/Bidders Conference is not required. The RFP is available via the GSA website— www.acgov.org under Current Contracting Opportunities 12/20/12 CNS-2419629# THE INDEPENDENT Legal No. 3360

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 472813**

The following person(s) doing business as: RADIENCE, 7667 Amador Valley Blvd, Suite B, Dublin, CA 94568, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kemprud & Co., LLC, 7667 Amador Valley Blvd, Suite B, Dublin, CA 94568

This business is conducted by a Limited Liability company The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrants :s/ Edmund Kemprud - Member

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 472813**

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 13, 2012. Expires December 13, 2017. The Independent Legal No. 3361. Published December 20, 27, 2012, January 3, 10, 2013

NOTICE OF INVITING BIDS

Notice is hereby given that sealed competitive bids will be accepted in the office of the GSA-Technical Services Department, County of Alameda, 1401 Lakeside Drive, 9th Floor, Suite 900, Oakland, CA

94612 PROPOSERS/NETWORKING CONFERENCES RFO #410181 (Re-Bid) Pre-Qualification for Open-Ended Architectural Services Mandatory: Monday, January 14, 2013 at 10AM and Non-Mandatory: Tuesday, January 15, 2013 at 10AM- Both at General Services Agency, 1401 Lakeside Drive, Conference Room 1107, Oakland, CA Attendance at the first Proposers Conference is required. Responses Due by 2:00 pm on February 6, 2013 County Contact : Fawaz Khanachet at (510) 208-9824 or via email: fawaz.khanachet@acgov.org Information regarding the above may be obtained at the Alameda County Current Contracting Opportunities Internet website at www.acgov.org. 12/20/12 CNS-2422472# THE INDEPENDENT Legal No. 3362

NOTICE OF INVITING BIDS

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

NETWORKING/ BIDDERS CONFERENCES RFO #901081 for Motorcycle Body Repair and Maintenance: South County-Monday, January 7, 2013, 2:00 p.m. - Castro Valley Library, Canyon Room, 3600 Norbridge Avenue, Castro Valley, CA North County-Tuesday, January 8, 2013, 10:00 a.m. - Gen-

LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

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eral Services Agency, 1401 Lakeside Drive, Room 1107, 11th Floor, Oakland, CA Response Due by 2:00 p.m. on February 14, 2013. County Contact : Evelyn Benzon (510) 208-9622 or via email: evelyn.benzon@acgov.org Attendance at Networking Conference is Non-mandatory. Information regarding the above may be obtained at the Alameda County Current Contracting Opportunities Internet website at www.acgov.org. 12/20/12 CNS-2422684# THE INDEPENDENT Legal No. 3363

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Date of Filing Application: December 10, 2012

To Whom It May Concern: The Names(s) of the Applicant(s) is/are: LINDA DEE MCMILIN SCHIOPU, MARIO CHRISTOPHER SCHIOPU

The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at: 2181 FIRST ST LIVERMORE, CA 94551-4543

Type of license(s) Applied for: 41 - On-Sale Beer And Wine - Eating Place

Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control 1515 Clay St. Ste 2208 Oakland, CA 94612 (510) 622-4970 The Independent Legal No. 3364. Published December 20, 27, 2012, January 3, 2013

NOTICE OF INVITING BIDS

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

NETWORKING BIDDERS CONFERENCES FOR RFQ #901031 Highland Hospital Acute Tower Replacement (ATR) Project (Phase 1): Furniture (Seating and Tables) North County - Thursday, December 27, 2012, 2:00 p.m. at General Services Agency, Conference Room 1107, 11th Floor, 1401 Lakeside Drive, Oakland, CA and **South County - Friday, December 28, 2012, 10:00 a.m.** at Alameda County Public Works Agency, Conference Room 230 A & B, 951 Turner Court, Hayward, CA Responses Due by 2:00 pm on January 25, 2013

County Contact: Kai Moore (510) 208-4882 or via email: kai.moore@acgov.org Attendance at Networking Conference is Non-mandatory. Specifications regarding the above may be obtained at the Alameda County GSA Current Contracting Opportunities Internet website at www.acgov.org. 12/20/12 CNS-2421124# THE INDEPENDENT Legal No. 3364

ANIMALS

2) CATS/DOGS

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

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

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

EMPLOYMENT

56) ADULT CARE

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127) LOST/ FOUND

LOST DOG

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

NOTICES/ANNOUNCEMENTS

155) NOTICES

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

REAL ESTATE

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

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Inventory of Existing Homes for Sale Drops

The number of existing homes for sale in southern and eastern Alameda County has dropped by more than 60 percent in the last 12 months according to analysis by the Bay East Association of REALTORS® available at: <http://www.bayeast.org/node/4028>

"Historically real estate sales activity drops in the fall, but the current limited inventory is unprecedented," said Doreen Roberts 2012 President of the Bay East Association of REALTORS®.

Data from the Paragon Multiple Listing Service shows that on average there are 60% fewer homes listed for sale in November 2012 compared to the same period in 2011.

"While sales activity is strong and prices are starting to increase in several communities it seems home owners are still waiting to sell," said Roberts. "Plus, today's investors aren't just buying and flipping homes - they're fixing them up and then renting them out."

Investors recognize the lack of rental housing in many communities and are cashing in by renting homes purchased as an investment rather than putting them back on the market. Roberts said, "Today's investors are able to compete successfully against potential owner-occupants because they often are able to pay cash and don't have to navigate the home mortgage maze."

The shrinking supply means that virtually every home placed on the market sells - quickly. "If a home is priced appropriately a seller can expect multiple offers to flood in as soon as the home hits the market," Roberts said.

However, Roberts warned that the lack of supply and brisk sales don't mean sellers can ask for, and get, the price they want. "Buyers are still dealing with purchase finance and appraisal issues," she said. "Sellers need to be realistic about what buyers can afford even in this restricted-supply market."

Inventory and Sales Activity for Single Family Homes: November 2011 vs. November 2012: Livermore: units listed for sale Nov. 2011 175, Nov. 2012 42, -76%, units sold Nov. 2011 76, Nov. 2012 80, 5%; Dublin units listed for sale Nov. 2011 39, Nov. 2012 16, -59%, units sold Nov. 2011 33, Nov. 2012 35, 6%; Pleasanton units listed for sale Nov. 2011 99, Nov. 2012 45, -55%, units sold Nov. 2011 40, 45, 13%

The Bay East market statistics are based on homes purchased and sold using information from the Paragon Multiple Listing Service.

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

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<p>GENE WILLIAMS Mortgage Consultant, REALTOR® (510) 390-0325</p> <p>CINDY WILLIAMS CRS, GRI - REALTOR® (925) 243-0900 www.williamsteam.net Over Three Decades of Experience!!!</p>	<p>Sande Utterback (888) 823-8315 WWW.SANDEUJ.COM Specializing in Livermore's Finest Homes™</p>
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To Place Your Ad, Call Your Account Representative At (925) 243-8001

BUSINESS NEWS

The Chinese Medicine Health Center opened recently in Livermore at 1718 Holmes St. Treatments available: Chinese Massage, Acupuncture, Medical Qigong (Chi gun) Therapy. Contact information is (925) 766-6101 or email at: mrma-gicvd66@aol.com. Vadim Derevyanko, L.Ac., MSOM, is certified in Medical Qigong Practitioner/Therapist

The main focus is on preventive medicine via teaching public specific exercises and meditation (Qigong, Tai Ji Quan), Chinese Food therapy (using right foods to improve one's health condition linked to individual needs of the person) and if needed as passive health care: acupuncture, massage, herbs and Medical Qigong therapy. Go to <http://chinesemedicinebodyworks.com/> for information.

Don Faught from Alain Pinel, has been awarded the 2012 REALTOR®-of-the-Year Award. He was selected based on his high principles, ethical standards, professional conduct, along with his loyalty and involvement to the Bay East Association, REALTORS® and the community. Don is also the President of the California Association of REALTORS for 2013.

Don will be presented his award at Bay East's Annual Gala and Installation of the 2013 Board of Directors and Officers on Saturday, January 12 at Casa Real in Pleasanton.

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BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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Trip to Russia Focuses on Livermorium

By Carol Graham

When Livermore Mayor John Marchand received an unusual invitation in the mail last August, it took only a moment for him to realize, "This isn't a once in a lifetime opportunity; it's a once in history opportunity."

The letter came from the Central Scientists Club in Moscow requesting the mayor's presence at the International Colloquium for the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry to represent the city of Livermore for which the recently-discovered element livermorium had been named.

"Having been a scientist, I was proud beyond words to be there to commemorate the collaboration between our two countries," he said. "For years, we worked apart, now we work together. We're changing history."

Livermorium is the synthetic superheavy element with the symbol Lv and atomic number 116. First detected in 2000, its name was adopted by the IUPAC on May 31, 2012.

The periodic table, invented by Russian chemist Dmitri Mendeleev in 1869, initially recognized 65 elements. With over 100 elements today, only a handful contain the name of the city in which they were discovered: berkelium (California), ytterbium (Sweden), strontium (Scotland), Darmstadt (Germany), dubnium (Russia) and livermorium.

For Mayor Marchand, the week-long trip beginning October 21st was the high point in a career that paired his passion for chemistry with civic service.

"At six years old I got a chemistry set for Christmas," he said. "There were color changes and chemical reactions. I remember mixing things and suddenly having them fizz and blow out of the tube."

"Later, I became interested in oceanography watching Jacques Cousteau specials," he added. He spent his youth investigating tide

pools around San Gregorio Beach and body surfing at Ocean Beach. "In college, I conducted research on elephant seals at Ano Nuevo. The bulls grow to be 15 feet long and weighed three tons. We'd have to keep track of them so we'd write their names on them with Clairol hair bleach and a sponge applicator. We'd hope against hope they wouldn't wake up and come after us."

His respect for the importance of water led him to a career as a Water Quality Chemist with the Alameda County Water District, a profession from which he recently retired.

During his career, he frequently spoke at conferences about water quality, and troubleshooting issues such as taste, odor and color. Antique bottles line his office shelves. "Whenever I would go to conferences, I'd cruise through antique shops," said Marchand, holding up a cobalt bottle coincidentally imprinted with the name Marchand. "Marchand's Golden Hair-wash - hydrogen peroxide," he said with a smile, though he didn't admit to its use on elephant seals. He points

to other bottles: "This was a bottle of mercury; this one was astringent; this was lead and silver used for injections - it's a wonder anyone's still alive."

Marchand traveled with wife Susan, a Junction Avenue K-8 School teacher, and were joined at the colloquium by Mark and Nancy Stoyer, members of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory team that discovered livermorium. Bill Goldstein, Assistant Director of the LLNL, also traveled to Russia. Although the mayor's travel expenses were covered by the city for the historic trip, the Marchands paid for Susan's trip.

"I went to acknowledge and recognize the incredible work that our Livermore scientists have achieved," Marchand said. "I appreciate the enormity of their achievement and the boundaries they've broken."

Marchand's preparation for the trip included bridging the two cultures by bringing gifts from home while showing respect for the host country.

"Of course, they drink a lot of vodka over there," he

said. "I brought Livermore wine country shot glasses from Main Street Designs that I handed out. Taking shots out of those was the icing on the cake."

"I had my business cards printed in Cyrillic," he added, noting the Russian alphabet. "I learned a few

phrases to get me through." In dignified, flowing Russian, Marchand repeated the phrase he'd said at the colloquium that celebrated the

achievements of the world's top scientists, "It is my great honor on this historic occasion to represent the city of Livermore."

Janice Pementel
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Continuing Life Communities Pleasanton LLC, dba Stoneridge Creek Pleasanton, has received authorization to accept deposits from the California Department of Social Services.

THE INDEPENDENT • SECTION A

Altamont Cruisers' Grants Presented to Local Organizations: Funds Raised at Annual Nostalgia Car Show



John and Kevin Hinkley's 1926 Nash Ajax won "Best in Show" at the Altamont Cruisers 23rd Annual Nostalgia Day Car Show in September.

By Carol Graham

"When I was 12 years old, my dad bought a 1969 Chevrolet Camaro that needed a great deal of work," said Livermore High School football coach Michael McCafferty. "It was rusty with a dilapidated paint job. I recall working outside during the peak summer months - sanding, scrubbing and rebuilding.

"People who understand classic cars understand hard work," he added, while thanking the Altamont Cruisers for a grant that will help outfit players,

notably two young men with former gang affiliations who hope to one day become law enforcement officers.

"Car enthusiasts are people who have vision; they're able to look at a pile of junk and scraps, and see the possible beauty."

On December 11th, 22 Tri-Valley organizations geared to helping area youth received grants raised at the Altamont Cruisers' 23rd Annual Nostalgia Day Car Show held in September. The Cruisers are noted for their love of

a good laugh, a good story and a good cause.

"When we first joined the Altamont Cruisers, we didn't know that they raised money for charity with an annual car show," said Ed King. "We only knew that they were a group of gear heads and their families with some really cool cars. We soon became involved in the club's charitable activities.

"At our December meeting, each recipient tells us about his or her organization and what the money will be used for.

This is what gives all of the hard work and long hours meaning."

With the tagline "Cruisers Against Drugs," the club's focus is supporting programs that aim to keep kids off drugs and alcohol. Recipients of this year's grants include Livermore and Granada High School's Safe and Sober Grad Night, Dublin Crime Prevention Unit, Assistance League of Amador Valley, Pleasanton DARE Program, Axis Community Health, Open Heart Kitchen, and Good News Bears.

"I teach the 9th through 12th grade Special Day class at Livermore High School with about 40 different academic levels in one classroom," said Education Specialist Debra Day. "Your gift is going to help us buy iPads. My students will be able to speak and the iPad will write out their words. It will give them a voice. For students who have a hard time understanding the written word, your device will show images. You've given these students a window to the world."

Showcasing more than 700 cars in downtown Livermore, Nostalgia Day earned a record \$30,700 acquired through registration fees, raffles, donations and sponsorship from local businesses such as Caratti Jewelers, CTR Motors, and Livermore Auto Group.

This year's Best in Show award went to a 1926 Nash Ajax with a colorful background befitting a club whose values reflect potential, restoration and care. "The story goes that it was ordered by a local

(continued on page 2)

CRUISERS

(continued from front page)

bootlegger,” said Kim Luty. “In typical roaring 20s fashion the car had flashy looks with many custom appointments, but it’s most likely that the bootlegger’s reason for picking the car is that it would do 80 miles per hour.

“Upon the death of the bootlegger the car was repossessed, taken back to the Nash dealership and then kept in the same family until my dad and grandpa bought it in 2003. It had been sitting for about 40 years and had fallen into disrepair. It was in very rough shape, but they recognized the unique qualities the car possessed and the potential it had. Though the car required a lot of mechanical, electrical and cosmetic work, now she runs beautifully and looks the part, too.”

Cruiser Gary Gomes’ 1966 GTO is relatively young in comparison, but his pride is evident as he talks about his muscle car’s “3-deuces and a 4-speed and a 389 ci motor just like the song G.T.O. by Ronny & The Daytonas.

“We’re a club made up of individuals and families who have a mutual interest in cars. Our objective is to have fun by going to weekend car shows, cruising as

a group to various points of interest, and sharing car stories,” said Gomes. “At this meeting, listening to each grantee explain what the money will be used for made us feel that all the hard work is worthwhile. Plus, it’s a big motivator for us to get going for next year’s car show.”

Recipient Shannon Revel-Whitaker of the Pleasanton Police Crime Prevention Unit spoke highly of her first time working with the Cruisers. “This grant will be used to supplement outreach efforts to the youth in Pleasanton. Specifically, it will be used to purchase items like child ID kits and safety handouts that we can provide to the community. Education is crucial in keeping our youth safe,” she said.

“Listening to all of the recipients, I felt overwhelmingly grateful that organizations such as this still exist. In today’s world, with so many people in need, it’s inspiring too that people still have generosity in their hearts. I would encourage anyone willing to donate their time, energy or money to consider contacting the Altamont Cruisers.”

For further information, visit www.altamontcruisers.org.

Firehouse Arts Center Celebrates Elvis Presley’s Birthday Weekend Tribute Show Starring Jim Anderson and The Rebels Kicks Off New Year

While Graceland in Memphis, Tennessee celebrates Elvis Presley’s 78th Birthday Weekend with receptions, celebrations, and concerts, Pleasanton’s Firehouse Arts Center will be hosting its own special Elvis birthday events with the return engagement of Jim Anderson & The Rebels in their “Early Elvis” Tribute Show on Saturday January 5 at 8 p.m., and Sunday, January 6 at 2 p.m.

Vocalist Jim Anderson has made a big name for himself with his tribute to the early years (1954-1966) and early hits of Elvis Presley. Selling out most venues, including their appearance last year at the Firehouse in record-breaking time, the five-member group has been touted by lifelong Elvis fans as, “The most authentic tribute to early Elvis Presley to date.” Jim is not an ‘Elvis Impersonator’. He is, however, thought by many to be the best interpreter of Elvis’ early music today.

According to Anderson, he began performing in 1986 while in high school



Jim Anderson

after being coerced by his football buddies. After about 6 words of “Love Me Tender,” to his surprise, he received a screaming standing ovation and could barely hear the music. The reaction was so positive that Jim was immediately booked for several small venues. The venues continued to grow larger and he became an opening act for such renowned names as: The Platters, The Coasters, The Isley Brothers, and the “Ragin’ Cajun” himself, Doug Kershaw.

For those who had the opportunity to see and hear Elvis Presley in the first half of his career, this show will bring back great memories. For those who never had the opportunity to see Elvis when his brand of rock ‘n’ roll was considered “dangerous,” this show will take you back in time and introduce the songs that changed the direction of music forever.

From “Heartbreak Hotel” and “Hound Dog,” to “Don’t Be Cruel” and “Jailhouse Rock,” the show will be full of the songs that keep the legend alive. Along with his band The Rebels, each a talented solo musician in his own right, Jim Anderson will recreate the sound, the songs, and the memories of Elvis Presley.

Tickets are \$15, \$20, \$25; child \$12; senior \$22; group discounts available. Tickets can be purchased online at www.firehousearts.org, by calling the 925-931-4848, and in person at the Box Office, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton.

County Taking Applications for Grants for the Arts

The Alameda County Arts Commission has released its 2013 ARTSFUND Grants Program Guidelines and Application for Alameda County-based nonprofit organizations. Information can be found at the Arts Commission website www.acgov.org/arts (click on “Programs”). Standard grants awards are \$1,000 each. The application deadline is March 1, 2013.

The ARTSFUND Grants

Program supports all types of arts programming such as dance, literature, media arts, music, theater, visual arts, and multidisciplinary arts programs presented in Alameda County by Alameda County nonprofit organizations. Last year’s ARTSFUND program awarded grants of \$1,000 to \$2,400 to 35 nonprofit organizations throughout Alameda County. During the 2013 funding cycle, between 35-

45 arts organizations may be awarded grants.

The Arts Commission staff will host two free workshops to assist organizations in preparing their grant applications. Reservations are required. Workshops will be held on Wednesday, January 16 from 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Fremont Main Library in Fremont and Wednesday, January 23 from 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the

Alameda County Lakeside Plaza Building in Oakland. Contact the Arts Commission at artscommission@acgov.org or phone (510) 208-9646 to RSVP to attend a workshop at least seven days prior to the workshop date.

Funding for the ARTSFUND Grants Program is provided by the County of Alameda, individual contributions submitted with

County property tax payments, and donations to the Foundation for the Arts in Alameda County.

Further details are available within the ARTSFUND Grants Program Guidelines and Application available at the Arts Commission website www.acgov.org/arts (click on “Programs”) or contact the Alameda County Arts Commission by email artscommission@acgov.org or phone at (510) 208-9646.

January Concert with “The Queen of Bluegrass” Rhonda Vincent Raises Curtain on 2013 at the Bankhead Theater

Called “The New Queen of Bluegrass” by The Wall Street Journal, Rhonda Vincent will bring her musicianship and crisp pure vocals to Livermore on Thursday, January 3rd in the first show of the new year at the Bankhead Theater.

Over the last decade, Rhonda Vincent and The Rage have become the most award-winning bluegrass band of all time with hard-driving, high-energy shows. Vincent presents a blend of down-home sincerity and big city style, delivering a contemporary take on classic bluegrass that is authentic, accessible and appealing.

Vincent represents the fifth generation of musicians in a family where singing and playing music is a way of life. She made her stage debut at the age of five in the old-time bluegrass band led by her parents called the Sally Mountain Show. By the time Vincent was eight she was performing on the mandolin and then quickly mastered every string instrument from fiddle to guitar, singing along with her crystal clear vocals. Just a few years later, she won the Missouri state fiddle championship and, by her early 20s, had moved to Nashville where she became absorbed into the broader country music scene.

Although she recorded several solo albums in a mainstream country style, it was not until Vincent made the decision to return to her bluegrass roots in the late 1990’s that she achieved broad success. Pulling together her band, The Rage, she took the traditional bluegrass sound of her childhood in new directions, evolving a contemporary style that has



Rhonda Vincent

attracted a wider and more diverse audience. In the last 12 years, Rhonda Vincent and The Rage have released 11 albums including “Taken” which soared to #1 on the Billboard Bluegrass chart upon its release in 2011. Vincent has been named the International Bluegrass Music Association’s Female Vocalist of the Year seven consecutive times and has performed with bluegrass masters and country icons such as Dolly Parton, who contributed vocals on the

2006 single “Heartbreaker’s Alibi,” and classic country balladeer Gene Watson in an album of duets.

Released last July, Rhonda Vincent and the Rage’s most recent album, “Sunday Mornin’ Singin’,” was recorded live in Vincent’s hometown church in Greentop, Missouri. It is an appealing mix of new songs, familiar hymns and fresh arrangements of the gospel tunes with which she grew up. The Vincent family still runs the Sally

Mountain Bluegrass Festival each summer with every generation taking part, including Vincent’s daughters who have formed their own band called “The Next Best Thing.” Bringing her engaging blend of classic and modern bluegrass to everything from heartfelt ballads and songs, to reflective spirituals and rousing gospel tunes, Vincent adds a little bit of her Missouri hometown to every note. Tickets to see Rhonda Vincent and the Rage at the Bankhead Theater on Thursday evening, January 3, 2013, range from \$34 to \$54 for adults and \$14 for students.

Now in its sixth season at the Bankhead Theater, LVPAC Presents showcases acclaimed performers in music, dance and other performing arts across a wide range of styles and genres. Later this season, two-time Grammy Award-winning country singer Kathy Mattea will bring favorite songs and the music of her Appalachian mountain heritage to the Bankhead Theater on April 11, 2013. Then on June 8th, in conjunction with the 95th Annual Livermore Rodeo, cowboy troubadour Don Edwards returns to the Bankhead with an evening of songs. Tickets for these and all other performances in the 2012-2013 LVPAC Presents season are available now through the Bankhead Theater box office.

The Bankhead Theater is located at 2400 First Street in Downtown Livermore. The ticket office is open Tuesday through Saturday from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m. To purchase tickets call 925-373-6800 or visit www.bankheadtheater.org.

BANKHEAD THEATER

SEASON 2012
2013



Moscow Boys Choir Christmas

Christmas Around the World
SAT DEC 22 7:30pm

Big Fat Kiss Off Comedy Show XX

Will Durst and Friends
FRI DEC 28 8pm



New Year's Eve with Flash Cadillac

Retro Rock n Roll
MON DEC 31 8pm



Rhonda Vincent

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

Mardi Gras Dance Extravaganza

Livermore School of Dance Jazz
FRI JAN 11 7pm



Tom Wopat

A Crooner in the Sinatra Tradition
SAT JAN 12 8pm



The Full Monty

Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre
JAN 19,20,25,26,27 2 & 8pm
FEB 1,2,3 2 & 8pm

LLNL's Science on Saturday

Free Lecture Series for Students
JAN 26, FEB 2,16,23 9:30 & 11:15am

CALL
925.373.6800

CLICK
bankheadtheater.org

COME BY
2400 First Street • Downtown Livermore

'Patriotic' Gingerbread Houses - a Gift to the Community

By Carol Graham

In lieu of holiday gifts to referring dentists, Dr. Thomas Marcel found a creative way to instead gift an entire community.

On December 14th, every surface in the orthodontist's Livermore office was covered with frosting, gum drops, and m & m's.

"Marcel Orthodontics challenged a group of dental offices in our community to assemble and decorate patriotic gingerbread houses for a contest," said Treatment Coordinator Christine Townsend. "The objective of the project was to inform others in our community about ongoing efforts in the Tri-Valley to welcome home our returning veterans and assist them in transitioning back into the community."

In his associates' names, Dr. Marcel made a donation to RAVE, Rotary Assisting Veterans Education, a non-profit organization that supports the educational goals of veterans at Las Positas College, whose Veterans First Program is a model throughout the state.

"We thought number one, this is a perfect thing to do for the community," said Marcel. "Number two, this is a great gift for the dentists who refer patients to us, and number three, it supports the Rotarian effort of helping veterans."

Following the contest, the 24 gingerbread houses were delivered to and displayed at senior living

facilities in Livermore and Pleasanton.

Patrick Krouse served in the US Air Force from 1997 to 2005. "It was a goal of mine to get an education, to improve myself," said Krouse, President of Las Positas College's Student Veterans Organization. "I learned that from being in the military to be the best person I can be.

"The thing is, once you get out of the military, what do you do with your benefits? It's hard to find direction. You show up and you don't know much about college life to begin with. At the veteran's guidance center, it was like getting a road map to school. That's where everything made sense to me."

For returning veterans, education can be very important, said Susan Campbell, Las Positas College's Veterans First Community Relations Representative. "Las Positas offers one of the best veteran programs in the state, bar none, because of the backing from the college president on down. You have to have the upper echelons that say, this is important for our school and our community," she said.

"The most important thing is for the community to support RAVE to give veterans that step up in education. Veterans need funds for scholarships, no-interest loans, and academic counseling."

Many of the gingerbread houses displayed at



Marcel Orthodontics used candy to spell out messages to troops: Thank You For Your Service, God Bless Our Troops, There's No Place Like Home, and Welcome Home Troops.

The winning gingerbread house's team gets to treat their entire office

to lunch at their choice of Livermore's Zephyr Grill & Bar or Pleasanton's Girasole Grill.

To determine the winner, "We sought distinguished judges," said Marcel, smiling as contest judge and Livermore Councilmember Stu Gary

Livermore City Councilmember Stewart Gary (left) and Susan Campbell from Las Positas College RAVE look over the gingerbread house entries.

wandered by.

"Yes," Gary acknowledged. "Whoever was bumming around."

Gary, a former Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Chief and current member of Rotary, said, "Several members in our club were key in putting RAVE together and giving structure to the idea. Las Positas has a re-

turning veterans' program, but the older veterans in our Rotary Club said we still need to do more."

For Dr. Marcel, giving back to the community, particularly in engaging and fun ways, is part of the philosophical foundation of his practice. "We've given to different community organizations every year as part of our holiday giving," he said. Previous recipients have included Open Heart Kitchen, Taylor Family Foundation, Tri-Valley Haven and Relay for Life.

"We try to do something different every year, but offices kept asking, are you doing the gingerbread houses again?" Marcel added. "Our rules were very loose. We just asked that participants incorporated the patriotic theme. We provided the gingerbread kit, with thanks to Richards for their help.

"We've even said contestants could come bribe the judges."

A woman walks by and produces a quarter. "That's what I'm here for!"

"Bribery is okay," said Marcel. "All proceeds go to RAVE, however. Schmoozing, whatever it takes. It's all for a good cause."

For more information about RAVE, visit www.laspositascollege.edu/veterans/ or contact Don Tishman at dvt@tishmangroup.com. For more information about Marcel Orthodontics, visit www.marcelorthodontics.com.

Yesterday into Today

Altamont By Sarah Bobson

By the end of the Rolling Stones' concert at the Altamont Speedway on December 6, 1969, a man had been murdered, and along with him the love and peace found at the Monterey, Newport, and Woodstock music festivals.

More than 300,000 people attended the free concert that the Stones gave as a present to those who couldn't afford a ticket, but I was not one of them. Still back East attending college, I read about the disaster in the *New York Times*. I remember thinking: How could it have happened. I was willing to accept the fact that people could unexpectedly be trampled to death at such events due to crowd hysteria. Then, too, death had become an unfortunate staple of the 60s, with the assassinations of JFK, Lee Harvey Oswald, Jack Ruby, Martin Luther King, Jr., Bobby Kennedy, and the deaths of American soldiers and Vietnamese people in the Vietnam War. But murder, at a concert? I tried to wrap my mind around it.

Central to the concert tragedy was the fact that the Hells Angels, brought in to act as security, ended up killing an 18-year-old black man named Meredith Hunter. I've often wondered why the Angels, with their reputation for wonton abandon and alcoholic excess, were asked to act as security guards, in exchange for all the booze they could drink. There are different views. One is that other rock groups, both in America and in England, had previously used them without incident.

In "Gimme Shelter," the filming of the last leg of the

Stones' 1969 North American tour, which included Madison Square Garden and Altamont, filmmakers Charlotte Zwerin and David and Albert Maysles, through interviews and breathtaking footage, provide a look at why the violence broke out.

The day of the concert, cars lined 580 and the two lanes of Grant Line Road and North Midway Road leading to the Speedway, a hilly area just west of the Altamont Pass with its recognizable wind turbines. Young people began arriving in the morning to stake out advantageous spots near the stage. By early afternoon, the Speedway looked like one giant hippie commune, with tie-dyed flags and mandalas mounted on sticks marking territories, scattered campfires, and Volkswagen buses parked at the edges. People painted their faces, blew bubbles into the air, chanted, and played their own instruments. Some took too many drugs, which resulted in bad trips. They were wandering around topless or nude, or passing out altogether.

In the afternoon, a number of scuffles had already occurred during the opening performances of Ike and Tina Turner, and the Jefferson Airplane. At one point, an Angel hit one of the Airplane's lead singers, Marty Balin, over the head. After these acts, the Angels, wearing vests emblazoned with *Hells Angels California*, rode their Harleys single file through the audience, clearing a path for the Stones. Once on stage, Mick Jagger, wearing a black and orange shirt resembling that of an Elizabethan court jester, admonished the sea of

young people to be cool, keep still, and keep it together. He opened with an electrifying performance of "Jumping Jack Flash," followed by Chuck Berry's "Oh Carol." Jagger's enthusiasm and energy, normally knowing no bounds, was restricted by lack of space on the stage. The audience oozed into every crack and crevice. Some people tried to get closer to the stars, despite the Angels acting as a barricade between the performers and the audience. During the next number, "Sympathy for the Devil," a disturbance broke out, with Angels pushing hippies and hippies pushing back.

By that time, the hippies had imbibed too many drugs, the Angels had guzzled too much beer, and the atmosphere was ripe for a serious clash between two groups that looked askance at one another because of their different values and lifestyles. The hippies professed peace and love and expanding consciousness through drugs and music. The Angels postured bravado, drank a lot of beer, and didn't want anyone messing with their bikes. According to Keith Richards, Stones' lead guitarist, in his autobiography *Life*, the Angels had provocatively parked their "choppers" in front of the stage, defying anyone to touch them. When a hippie leaned on one of the bikes, it ignited sparks, literally and metaphorically. After that, the Angels started wielding cut-off pool sticks and pushing their weight around. Richards told a band member that things were "getting a bit hairy." Jagger said he wanted the Angels "out of here."

During the song "Under My Thumb," Jagger, sensing a very serious disturbance, stopped singing and tried to look past the bright stage lights into the audience to see what was going on.

"People, who's fighting, and what for? Why are we fighting? We don't want to fight," he pleaded as though he were talking to two-year-olds.

In the cutting room some time later, the film shows Jagger looking at a replay of the raw footage. In slow motion we see what Jagger saw: A black man wearing a pale lime green suit and hat coming toward the stage. The man points a gun, and a Hells Angel lunges toward him with a knife held high, looking like Norman Bates in the shower scene of "Psycho." The Angels whisk the man away. We next see him lying on a gurney, a blanket drawn over his head.

After the concert, the Stones and their entourage made a run for it, scrambling through a hole in a fence, until they reached a helicopter waiting for them at the top of a hill. They all crowded into the whirlybird and whizzed away into the night.

The next day, as dawn broke and the darkness gave way to shades of grey, hippies draped in blankets and somber looks streamed out of the Speedway, past high power lines resembling square-shouldered giants guarding the hills.

That was the end of Altamont, a tragic, horrifying moment in history, a free concert given as a gift, meant to bring young people together through music. Instead, as Richards says, what was to be a love-in descended to the level of aggressive cavemen mentality, which resulted not only in the end of a life, but in the end of the dream that young people could make the world a better place through peace, love, and music.

Sign Up with Scouts to Recycle Christmas Trees

The youth group representing the Livermore Boy Scouts of America, troop #924 have announced plans for their 37th Annual Christmas Tree Recycling event, scheduled to take place on Saturday, January 5th, 2013.

For about the price of a Starbucks cup of coffee, (\$5 for residential and \$10 for commercial/tall trees, sorry no flocked/sprayed trees), Boy Scouts will pick up your tree at the curbside of your home or business for disposal and recycling. Residents and/or businesses interested in this program can make a reservation and pay online at <http://www.scoutgreen.org/> or by calling 925-373-7821. Reservations for pickup must be made by January 2nd 2013.

Here are some fun facts about Christmas Trees as reported by www.earth911.com website.

- There are approximately 30-35 million real Christmas trees sold in North America every year.
- Eighty-five percent of artificial trees are manufactured in China.
- For every real Christmas tree harvested, up to three seedlings are planted in its place the following spring.
- There are about 500,000 acres in production for growing Christmas trees. Each acre provides the daily oxygen requirements of 18 people.
- It can take 15 years to grow a tree of average retail sale height (6 feet), but the average growing time is seven years.
- The top Christmas tree production states are Oregon, North Carolina, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Washington.

Christmas Trees are a renewable resource. Today, approximately 98 percent of real Christmas trees are grown on farms throughout all 50 states and Canada. Real trees are a renewable, recyclable resource, and real trees are planted to be harvested just as corn and pumpkins are cultivated for a harvest. Young trees in their rapid growth years have a high rate of photosynthesis and thus produce more oxygen than older trees. This year, more than 60 million new seedlings were planted by Christmas tree farmers all over North America.

According to the National Christmas Tree Association, "real Christmas trees are biodegradable, which means they can be easily reused or recycled for mulch and other purposes." Recycled Christmas trees today provide wildlife and fish habitat, compost and mulch for planting new trees, and reducing waste in our landfills.

The Boy Scouts of America is one of the nation's largest and most prominent values-based youth development organizations. The BSA provides a program for young people that builds character, trains them in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and develops personal fitness. For over a century, the BSA has helped build the future leaders of this country by combining educational activities and lifelong values with fun. The Boy Scouts of America believes — and, through over a century of experience, knows — that helping youth is a key to building a more conscientious, responsible, and productive society.

To have a tree picked up, please reserve online at <http://www.scoutgreen.org/> or call 925-373-7821, by January 2nd.



Photos - Doug Jorgensen

“Journey to Living Bethlehem” welcomed visitors Dec. 13 to 17 in Livermore. They were invited to step back in time and interactively experience the birth of Jesus in the setting of ancient Bethlehem. More than 100 actors dressed in period-era clothing enacted different scenes. Local churches worked together to present the event, including Mormons, Baptists, Presbyterians, Lutherans, and Catholics.

Do You Remember?

By Anne Homan
Livermore City Historian



Hansen Park—the World's Smallest?

First, S, Second, and Holmes Streets come together. The city created a triangular park at the intersection, 15 feet along each side, to help control traffic. Carlo Ferrario, whom I wrote about recently in the column on his old winery building, began to develop the little area into a miniature park, planting flowers and shrubs. The *Oakland Tribune* published an article about the possible “Lilliputian championship” of the place, saying that it was probably the smallest park on record.

Ferrario was the unofficial commissioner of the park; according to the *Trib*, “he runs it just as he pleases.” At the time, the only other park in Livermore were the old high school grounds at Eighth and H Streets. Ferrario sent for shrubs and trees from Italy.

He personally supervised squeezing them into the limited area. On May 10, 1935, the *Herald* mentioned that the city planned to erect signs marking the spot as “Carlo Ferrario’s Park.” At the end of May, the newspaper said that not just signs, but bronze plaques, were installed at each corner of the park, officially naming it

“Carlo Ferrario Park.”

In 1937 Jackson and Perkins opened a rose-growing business in the Livermore Valley on land belonging to August Hagemann, where the airport is today. Other rose growers followed as well as hybridizers, and the rose business flourished here until 1968. The Livermore Lion’s Club and the East Bay Rose Society developed Carlo Ferrario Park into a rose garden to showcase locally developed roses. Many varieties hybridized by Dr. Walter Lammerts were included, as well as varieties developed by Dr. Dennison Morey and Gene Boerner.

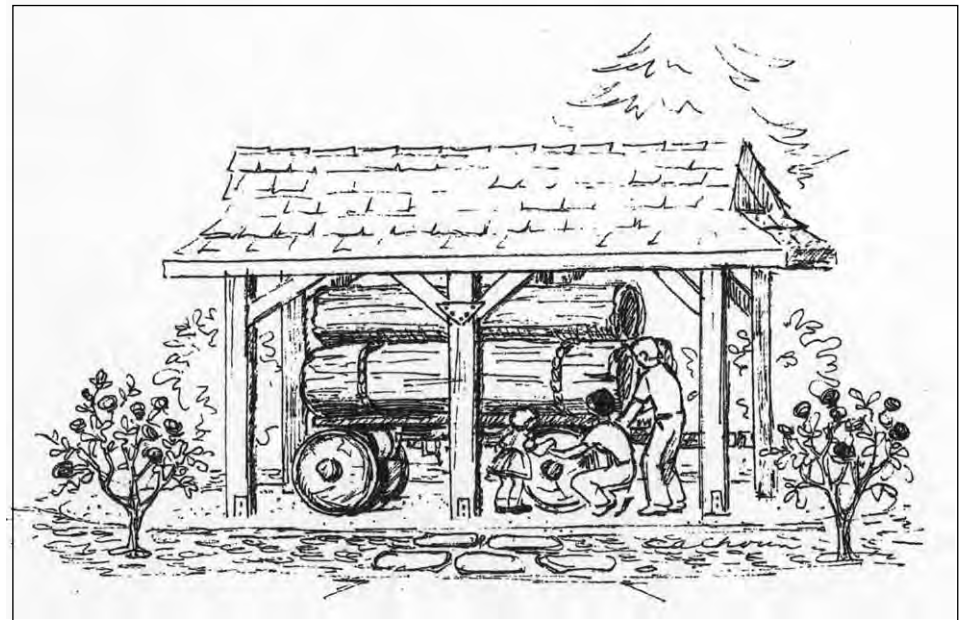
The park was renamed for prominent Livermore citizen Rasmus A. Hansen. On Sunday June 7, 1964, a ceremony celebrated the opening of the little park. Mabel Hansen, Rasmus’s widow, was present and accepted a fragrant bouquet of deep red Chrysler Imperial roses, one of many varieties hybridized by Lammerts. The *Herald and News* writer estimated that the roses on display in the garden were worth about \$7,000. Jackson and Perkins and Amling DeVor Nurseries were two of the seven grow-

ers who contributed rose bushes.

The City of Livermore took over responsibility of caring for the park, with public works department employees Mike Krilitich and Ivan Meyers regularly caring for the roses.

In February 1963 the *Herald and News* published a map of the proposed park design. The original rose beds were all named, Lammerts’ famous All-American rose, Charlotte Armstrong (pink), located in a large bed at the northwest corner, and Morey’s All-American, Kings Ransom (deep yellow), in a similar large planting at the northeast corner. Around the proposed fountain were three beds of white roses.

The rest of the garden beds on opening day in June 1964 flaunted many colors—myriad shades of pink, red, apricot, yellow—and many types, from hybrid tea roses to grandiflora to a miniature China rose to rose shrubs like Dortmund and Spring Morning. Some, like the Personality rose, were chosen for their fragrance. The Soroptimist Club contributed 33 varieties of old-fashioned roses, favorites of the



Drawing by Tilli Calhoun of the 1849 timber wagon.

Hansens.

Dr. Lammerts later remarked, “I’m glad Livermore has such a spot—so peaceful—and beautiful, too.”

The fountain was constructed after the opening. A call went up for contributions. Many local people gave to the fund. Developer Masud Mehran added enough to provide the amount needed. The fountain is still in place.

At the approximate site of the Kings Ransom roses at the northeast corner is a delightful stature of two playing children. In 2005 when my granddaughter and I searched, we could only find one of the originally planted roses, the pink Queen Elizabeth, hybridized by Lammerts. We wandered through the park, enjoying its beauty and checking the little tags attached to the plants: Olympiad, Iceberg, Double Delight, Midas Touch, Secret, Veterans’ Honor, Snow-

fire, Apothecary Rose, Aloha. When I visited yesterday, none of the roses had tags, so I could no longer tell what they are. That is a shame—the names are so creative and evocative.

A large wooden wagon loaded with lumber rests under a shelter among the roses. Martin Luther Marsh built this wagon by hand in 1849 for the M.L. and D. Marsh Lumber Company in Nevada City. The huge wheels—42 inches in diameter—were constructed of pine with their outer edges hand-forged in steel. Marsh’s company hauled lumber from the Sierra to a Nevada City sawmill, until it was abandoned in 1917.

His grandson, Carl, moved to Livermore in 1931 and gave permission to the Livermore Chamber of Commerce to retrieve the wagon and bring it to Livermore. Bernard Mourterot displayed it in front of

his Trevarno Auto Camp at First Street and Portola Avenue (then Highway 50) during the 1930s and ’40s. The Livermore rodeo used it for advertising. For the 1931 rodeo parade, 16 oxen pulled the old wagon. It remained part of the parade until 1936.

The cargo of three logs in Hansen Park was cut near Santa Cruz and donated by Earl E. Johnson, who owned a lumber company in Livermore. Carl Marsh gave the wagon to the city. It was moved to Carlo Ferrario Park in 1955. In 1988 the city restored the wheels and extended the structure over the wagon to protect it from the weather.

Livermore no longer has the funds to maintain the garden properly. The Livermore Amador Valley Garden club is organizing a volunteer effort to help the city maintain and improve the park.

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

ART & ENTERTAINMENT



Summer Productions Announced

The Taming of the Shrew and The Liar will be performed during the summer of 2013 by Livermore Shakespeare Festival.

The shows will be performed the weekends of June 20 through July 21 at Concannon Vineyard in Livermore.

"The Taming of the Shrew," William Shakespeare's timeless battle of the sexes will be directed by Gary Arma-nac.

"The Liar," a rein-vention of the classic French farce by David Ives was adapted from the comedy by Pierre Corneille. It will be directed by Lisa A. Tro-movitch.

Tickets will be avail-able starting in February 2013. Gift certificates are available. To pur-chase, contact katie@LivermoreShakes.org or 925.443.2273(BARD)

Complete informa-tion will be posted at www.livermoreshakes.org

ART/PHOTO EXHIBITS

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

Seasons of the Valley by Bettie

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

Golden Decade Photographers, the Legacy of Ansel Adams and Minor White, Figurehead Gallery exhibition, Dec. 19, 20, 21 and 22. 2222 2nd St., Suite 21, Livermore. 337-1799.

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

Works by artist Maryann Kot, "Celebrating Reality," will feature paintings in oil, watercolor, and colored pencil. The show is open Nov. 20 through Jan. 20, 2013 at the Prudential CA Realty, 1780 First St., Livermore. For office hours contact Cher Wollard 925-824-4824 cherw@cherw.com

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

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

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

MEETINGS/CLASSES

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

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

Livermore. 925-443 3388. Space is limited.

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

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

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

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

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

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

or by phone at (925) 443-8755.

WINERY EVENTS

Wine and live music at the Winemaker's Pour House: Thurs., Dec. 20, 6:30-8:30 p.m. David Addington; 6:30 to 9 p.m., Fri., Dec. 21, Off the Record; 1 to 4 p.m. Sat., Dec. 22, Christmas music with Joey T and Friends; 7 to 10 p.m., Sat., Dec. 22, Lori Kirstein. www.winemakerspourhouse.com, 2241 First Street, Livermore.

Happy Holidays from Ruby Hill Winery, Sparkling Wine Special: Enjoy at special Holiday Price of \$11 through Monday, December 31. Open December 24 and 31 until 3pm. Closed December 25 and January 1. 400 Vineyard Avenue Pleasanton, (925) 931-9463.

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

MUSIC/CONCERTS

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

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

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

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

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

Willie K's Hawaiian Christmas,



The ABC Music Store Holiday Children's Choir performed sounds of the season at the fountain on Flag Pole Plaza on December 1st. On Thursday, December 20th, they will be caroling down First Street starting at 7pm and then performing at Panama Red Coffee at 7:30. Pictured are (from left:) Lauren Allen, Daelyn Cerruti, Sherya Abhijit, Casey Sansoni, Gianna Sansoni, Director Kim Luty, Jade Overton, JD Cerruti, Maddy Goad, and Madison Cormier.



After the parade on Saturday, December 1st in downtown Livermore, students from ABC Music Store in Livermore led the town in singing "Santa Claus is coming to town," and "Christmastime in Livermore." With Mayor John Marchand and Santa himself, the singers are from left: Jade Overton, Garren and Grace Groeniger, teacher Kim Luty, and JD Cerruti.

Dec. 21, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

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

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

Rhonda Vincent, bluegrass, Jan. 3, 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

ART & ENTERTAINMENT

headtheater.org or 373-6800.

Happy Birthday, Elvis! The Firehouse Arts Center celebrates Elvis Presley's Birthday Weekend with The Early Elvis Tribute Show featuring returning hit group Jim Anderson & The Rebels. Saturday, January 5 at 8 p.m., and Sunday, January 6 at 2 p.m. Tickets \$15, \$20, \$25; child \$12; senior \$22; group discounts available. Tickets available at www.firehousearts.org, 925-931-4848, or at the center Box Office, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton.

The Chris Bradley Jazz Band will be playing at The Castle Rock Restaurant, Livermore/at Portola Ave. Tuesday January 8, 2013 -7:30-9:30, small cover, dance floor, live band, traditional jazz music.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ON THE STAGE

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

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

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

Rent, Pacific Coast Repertory Theater, weekends Jan. 25 to Feb. 10, 8 p.m. Fri. & Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Firehouse

Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org or 931-4848.

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

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

COMEDY

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

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

DANCE

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

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

AUDITIONS/COMPETITIONS

2013 Livermore Valley Wine Country Photo Contest, enter for a chance to win a one-year membership to Livermore Valley Wine Country (that means complimentary tastings for two at more than 40

wineries!), 2 tickets to Barrel Tasting Weekend (March 23 & 24, 2013) with a one-night stay at Hawthorn Suites (March 23, 2013). For entry information and entry form, go to the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association website at www.lvwine.org

OPERA

Opera San José Giuseppe Verdi's Il trovatore. Set in 15th-century Spain, Verdi's classic has it all: vengeance, war, jealousy, and passion with an emotional, heart-stopping score including one of the most famous choral melodies ever written, the "Anvil Chorus." Il trovatore will be sung in Italian with English supertitles. Eight performances are scheduled from February 9 through 24 at the California Theatre, 345 South First Street in downtown San José. Tickets are on sale at the Opera San José Box Office, by phone at (408) 437-4450 or online at www.operasj.org. Il trovatore is made possible, in part, by a Cultural Affairs Grant from the City of San José.

Metropolitan Opera Schedule,

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

MISCELLANEOUS

Political Issues Book Club meets the 4th Tuesday of each month, and reads books about issues and trends that are driving current affairs in both the national and international arenas. Topics that have been covered include politics, governance, economics, military af-

fairs, history, sociology, science, the climate, and religion. Contact Rich at 872-7923, for further questions

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

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

An Evening with George Burns,

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

Particulate Matter, by Rachel LePell of Chabot College, has been selected as the top original play of its regional (the Pacific Northwest, along with Northern California) and will be forwarded to Washington DC for the finals in the Mark David Cohen competition for excellence in playwriting across the United States. This award is part of the Kennedy Center's American College Theater Festival.



Student and tutor work together.

Pleasanton Library Looking for Volunteer Tutors

Pleasanton Library's Project Read needs volunteer tutors to help adults with English skills.

Project Read provides the workbooks and study guides and will help develop teaching skills, craft curriculum, and gain experience.

The next training session will be Sat., Jan. 12 from 1 to 4 p.m.

Students come to Pleasanton from all over the world. Most have basic English skills and many have studied English in their home country.

California has approximately 3.4 million adults with below basic literacy skills. Library volunteers across the state help adults with reading and writing so they can reach their potential as workers, parents, and community members. These adults are now voting for the first time, reading newspapers, reading aloud to their children, participating in their community and securing jobs.

Tutors should be at least 18 years old, fluent in American English but not necessarily a native speaker and able to devote a consistent hour or two weekly to a student for a semester.

For more information, email PennyJohnson@Cityof-PleasantonCa.gov, or call Penny Johnson, 925/931-3405.



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Hearing Aid Specialist
www.pleasantonhearingervices.com

BULLETIN BOARD

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

Granada High School's Adopt a Family program in coordination with the California Highway Patrol, donations sought to help 40 families. Granada High School is accepting donations of new and gently used coats, clothing and general necessities, as well as gift cards and monetary donations. Donations can be delivered to Granada High School located at 400 Wall St., Monday thru Friday from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm through December 21. For additional information contact CHP Officer Cynthia Segundo at (510)455-0548.

2013 Tri-Valley calendar to benefit Open Heart Kitchen— Sue Evans Photography has created her 3rd annual unique desktop calendar, which highlights the beauty of the valley. She is donating a portion of the proceeds to Open Heart Kitchen. The calendars are available at Studio 7 in Pleasanton and directly through Sue Evans who can also customize them for business friends and offers quantity discounts. For further information contact Sue Evans at 925-989-4113 or sueevansphotography@comcast.net.

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

Valley Spokesmen Bicycle Touring Club, Sat., Dec. 22, 42 miles up to Mt. Diablo junction to Walnut Creek and Danville, meet 9 a.m. at San Ramon Central Park, Peter Rathmann, 336-0973. Sun., Dec. 23, 70 miles from San Ramon to Livermore, meet 8:30 a.m. Park & Rod lot at I-580/Bollinger Canyon Rd., Brahim Satoutah, 462-7390. Mon., Dec. 24, 35-55 miles, from Heather Farm leisurely ride, meet 9 a.m., Richard Skow, 939-6964. Wed., Dec. 26, 35-55 miles, ride from Heather Farm, meet 9 a.m., Richard Skow, 939-6964. Anyone planning to go on a ride is asked to call the leader for details on where to meet and what to bring.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pleasantonians for Peace, Because the fourth Wednesday is on December 26, Boxing Day for you Anglophiles, the December protest is canceled. Regular War Protest will resume on Wednesday, January 23, between 5 - 6 at the corners of First and Neal Streets. Please join us if you can. Call Cathie Norman at (925) 462-7495; Matt Sullivan at mjs7882@gmail.com; or www.Pleasantonians4Peace.org

Widowed Men and Women of Northern CA., Lunch and optional shopping in Blackhawk, Dec. 27, noon, RSVP by Dec. 23 to Marsha, 830-8483. Lunch in Livermore, Dec. 30, 1 p.m., RSVP by Dec. 27 to Ruby, 462-9636.

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

Love-A-Doll Club meets on the second Thursday morning of each month. Share the love, knowledge and collection of dolls and doll related items. For more detailed information, call 925-447-5149.

Assistance League® of Amador Valley invites all visitors to join this group of volunteers, reaching out to those in need in the Tri-Valley and having fun doing it. Regular meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Parkview, 100 Valley Ave., Pleasanton. For more information, see our website, www.amadorvalley.assistanceleague.org, e-mail assistanceleagueamadorvalley@yahoo.com, or call (925) 461-6401.

Lawyers in the Library, obtain free legal information and referral. The program

is co-sponsored by the Alameda County Bar Association. The third Tuesday of each month at the Pleasanton Library This program is free and open to all. Each person will have a 15 to 20 minute free consultation with a member of the Alameda County Bar Association. Appointments are by lottery. Register from 5:30 to 5:45 pm. Names will be selected at 5:50 pm. You must be present when names are drawn. Appointments begin at 6:00 pm and end at 8:00 pm. For more information, call Merry Luskin, 931-3400, extension 7.

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

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

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

Constitutional Speech Contest. The joint committee of American Legion Posts from Livermore and Pleasanton (47 and 237 respectively) invite high school students, grades 9 through 12, to compete in a Constitutional Speech Contest. The local contest will be held Tues., Jan. 8, 2013 at the Pleasanton Veterans Hall, 301 Main St., Pleasanton at 7:30 p.m. There are five levels of competition: post, district, area, state and national. Cash awards at each level. Contest is two parts: one a minimum 8 to 10 minute prepared oration on some aspects of the U.S. Constitution; part 2 is an assigned topic drawn from a list of four possible topics. Contestants must be citizens of, or legal, lawful permanent residents of the United States. For more information, contact either Norman Houghton, norm4064@yahoo.com, 846-8725, or William Bergmann, bergmannAB@gmail.com, 443-2330. Deadline is Dec. 30, 2012. www.legion.org/oratorical.

DBE Daughters of the British Empire, John McLaren's Roses of Britain Chapter in the Tri-Valley meets at 11:00 a.m. on the 3rd Thursday of every month at Castlewood Country Club. DBE was founded in 1909 and is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization made up of women of British or British Commonwealth heritage and ancestry with a focus on charity and fellowship. Those interested in helping with "the cause," enjoying social activities, and forming long-lasting friendships, please contact Edith Caponigro at 925-998-3500 or Jenny Whitehouse at 925-484-1273 for additional information.

Pleasanton Newcomers Club, open to new and established residents of the Tri-Valley. Activities include a coffee the first Wednesday of the month, a luncheon on the second Wednesday of the month, Bunco, Mah Jongg, walking/hiking groups, family activities, and monthly adult socials. Information, call 925-215-8405 or visit www.PleasantonNewcomers.com

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), meets at Hillcrest Community Gardens Building, 550 Hillcrest Ave., Livermore. Mondays, 6:15 to 6:45 p.m. private weigh-in, 6:45 to 7:30 p.m. meeting. All are welcome. Nonprofit, self-help organization founded in 1950. TOPS members are guided by a nutritionist and a medical doctor at the national headquarters. Members are encouraged to use the diabetic exchange program and are free to use whatever food they plan. Information, contact Sue at 462-6281.

Tri-Valley Triathlon Club (TVTC), Information on 2012 programs and memberships, training philosophies and schedules, and all things TVTC, an all inclusive triathlon/marathon/endorance training program. www.trivalleytriathlon.com.

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

Pleasanton Military Families is a Pleasanton based support group for those who have a loved one serving in the Military. The group gathers at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of each month to share concerns, fears, and to celebrate the joys that are experienced. There is no better support than being surrounded by others who know what you are going through. Three times per year, the group collect supplies and sends care packages to the troops. Please contact PMFSG.ca@gmail.com for the location of the next meeting.

Livermore Military Families, a support group for families in Livermore who have a loved one serving in the Military, is intended to be a safe place for family members to come and share their experiences and concerns with others who understand what they are going through. All family members are welcome to attend meetings. Meetings on the 3rd Thursday of each month at the Livermore Veterans Memorial Building, 522 South L Street from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. For more information please call Tami Jenkins, 925-784-5014 or email livermore-militaryfamilies@yahoo.com

Community Resources for Independent Living (CRIL) offers services to help people with disabilities and supports them to live independently and participate in their community for as long as they are willing and able to do so. CRIL maintains offices in Hayward, Fremont and Livermore to provide information and referrals and provide community education at senior centers and affordable housing complexes to residents of Southern Alameda County. The Tri-Valley office is located at 3311 Pacific Avenue, Livermore 94550 and can be reached by phone at (925) 371-1531, by FAX at (925)

373-5034 or by e-mail at abril.tamayo@crlil-online.org. All services are free.

RELIGION

Trinity Presbyterian Church, 2020 Fifth Street, Livermore. 9:00 a.m. Contemplative Service in the Chapel, 10:30 Traditional Service in the Sanctuary and children's program. For more information www.fcpl.us or 925-447-2078.

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

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

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

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

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

Sunset Community Church, 2200 Arroyo Rd., Livermore. Sunday worship service at 10:30 a.m. Nursery and children's church provided. A "Night of Worship" first Sunday of each month at 6 p.m. Wednesday night program for all ages at 7 p.m. Information, call 447-6282.

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

Our Savior Lutheran Ministries, 1385 S. Livermore Avenue, Livermore. 8:30 a.m. worship (semiformal); 9:45 a.m. adult Bible study/Sunday school; 11 a.m. worship (informal). For information, call 925-447-1246.

Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Avenue, Livermore. 9 a.m. Sunday worship. Information 447-1950.

Calvary Chapel Livermore, Sunday Services 10:30 a.m. 545 No. L Street Livermore. (925) 447-4357 - www.calvarylivermore.org.

St. Matthew's Baptist Church, 1239 North Livermore Ave., Livermore. Services on Sunday at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Adult Sunday school 9:30 a.m., Children's Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. Prayer each Wednesday at 7 p.m. followed by Bible study at 7:30 p.m. 449-3824.

United Christian Church, celebrating 50 years in the Tri-Valley. 1886 College Ave. at M St., Livermore; worships on Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. Children's program on Sunday morning and first Fridays. The community is welcome. United CC is an Open and Affirming ministry. Call 449-6820 for more information.

Granada Baptist Church, 945 Concanon Boulevard, Livermore. Services: Sunday school - 9:45 a.m.; worship service - 11 a.m. All are welcome. 1-888-805-7151.

Seventh-day Adventist Church, 243 Scott Street, Livermore. 925-447-5462, services on Saturday: Sabbath school 9:30 a.m., worship 11 a.m. www.livermoresda.org/ All are welcome.

The deaf community is invited to worship at First Presbyterian Church in Livermore, where ASL translation will be

provided every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. The church is located on the corner of 4th and L streets.

Trinity, 557 Olivina Ave., Livermore. Sunday worship at 8:30 and 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday school or Bible study for all ages at 9:45 a.m. Awana is Sunday at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday nights there is adult Bible study at 6:45 and NRG and Re.Gen for youth, and children's choir for kids. Child care during all events. 447-1848, www.trinitylivermore.org.

St. Charles Borromeo, 1315 Lomitas Ave., Livermore. Meditation groups following the John Main tradition, every Monday 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. For details, contact Claire La Scala at 447-9800.

Centerpointe Church, 3410 Cornerstone Court, Pleasanton. Services: 9 a.m. blended with choir and band. Childcare offered for infants through age 6 and children start in the worship service. 10:40 a.m. (new time) contemporary worship led by a band. Sunday school for children and middle-schoolers. www.centerpointechurch.org 925-846-4436

St. Innocent Orthodox Church, 1040 Florence Rd., Livermore. Sunday service at 10 a.m. For details please see our website at www.stinnocent.net or call Fr. Leo Arrowsmith at 456-0845.

St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton. Services on Sunday, 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. Children's Sunday School & Chapel at 10:15 a.m. All are most welcome to come and worship with us and to enjoy our hospitality. For more information call the church office 925-462-4802.

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, 678 Enos Way, Livermore. Sunday services with Rev. Joyce Parry Moore - Rector. 8:00 am Contemplative Eucharist with Taize music, 9:15 am Godly Play and Adult Bible Study, 10:30 am Sung Eucharist with choir; child-care available. Youth Group every Sunday from 4:00pm to 5:30 pm in the Parish Hall and youth room; youth oriented programs "Rite 13" and "Journey to Adulthood." www.saintbartslivermore.com/ for more information.

St. Francis of Assisi Anglican Church (1928 Book of Common Prayer), 193 Contractors Avenue, Livermore. Sunday services: 8:45 a.m. (Low Mass) and 10 a.m. (High Mass with Sunday School). Other Holy Days as announced. For information, call msg. center at 925/906-9561.

Tri-Valley Church of Christ at 4481 East Avenue, Livermore, worship service 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. Sundays, all are welcome. 925-447-4333 (a.m. to 12:00 p.m.)

Unity of Tri-Valley Church, 9875 Dublin Canyon Rd., Castro Valley. More room for all the new classes, small groups, new children's and teen programs, and Sunday services (at 10 a.m.). All are welcome. Rev. Harriet Hawkins, minister. (925) 829-2733. www.trivalleyunity.com Check out Unity of Tri Valley on Facebook.

Little Brown Church, United Church of Christ 141 Kilkare Road, Sunol. 10:30 a.m. worship. All are welcome here. www.littlebrownchurchofsunol.org 925-862-2580

Pathway Community Church, 6533 Sierra Lane, Dublin. Contemporary Worship Service, Sunday 10:30 a.m. Children, youth, adult programs. Biblically based practical messages, nondenominational. All are welcomed. www.pathwaycommunitychurch.org (925) 829-4793.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 486 S. J Street, Livermore. 9:00 a.m. worship service. Bible Study/Sunday School 10:20.

BULLETIN BOARD

Bible Basics Class, which explores the main teachings of the Bible, meets at 7:00 Sunday night. Call 371-6200 or email pmjmueller@gmail.com for more info.

Tri-Valley Church of Christ, 4481 East Avenue, Livermore; 447-433.3 www.trivalleychurch.org. Update on classes for The Story 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.. Worship Service 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.

Lynnewood United Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave., Pleasanton. Quiet Christmas Dec. 20, 7:30pm; Christmas Sunday with orchestra Dec. 23, 9:00 and 10:30am; Christmas Eve Dec. 24, 5:00pm (families), 7:30pm & 9:00pm (traditional). All welcome. www.lynnwood.org. 925 846-0221.

Philosophers' Café/Culture Chat, an informal gathering to discuss ideas. Café Rumi, 4799 Heyer Ave., Castro Valley. The

topic is "Who bears the responsibility of moral education in our society?" Philosophers' Café/Culture Chat is an activity of the Tri-Valley Cultural Jews, a Secular Humanistic Jewish community, but is open to the entire community. (Non-members are asked to donate \$5 per session.) Further sessions are scheduled for January 6, February 3, March 3, April 14, May 5, and June 2 with topics to be announced. For information, please contact (925) 240-5612.

Grief workshops, bi-monthly sessions. St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Dr., Pleasanton. 2nd and 4th Thursday Evenings at 7:30 PM. Jan. 10 & 24, 2013 Feb. 14 & 28, 2013 and March 24, 2013. No preregistration is necessary. These sessions are open to all, regardless of religious affiliation. Please call Mary Hagerly at 925-

846-5377 for more information.

Unity of Tri-Valley Church - holiday services. Special speaker Rev. Karen Epps will talk on Sunday, Dec. 23, on "Birth 2012: An Awakened Humanity," and at the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7:00 pm on "Sacred Light, Sacred Life." On Sunday, Dec. 30 Rev. Karen's month-long theme on "Turning Resolutions into Realities" will feature a burning bowl/letting go ceremony. Sunday services are at 10:00 a.m., 9875 Dublin Canyon Rd., Castro Valley. All are welcome. Children's church available. (925) 829-2733. www.trivalleyunity.com

Resurrection Lutheran Church, 7557 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin. Sunday services 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Bible studies & Christian Education for all ages, Sunday

School is after Children's Time during the 10:30 worship service. 828-1580, www.resluthdublin.org. Sundays in Advent, 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. through Dec. 23. Christmas Eve celebration, Family Candlelight Service, 5 p.m.; at 9:30 p.m. A Christmas Carol Prelude by Festival Choir and Resurrection Ringers; candlelight service at 10 p.m.

St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton. Celebrate Advent at St. Clare's. Holy Eucharist at 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. Music at 8 a.m. on December 23. All are welcome. For more information call the church office 925-462-4802.

St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton. Christmas Eve, 3 p.m. Nativity service and Holy Eucharist for young children. 5 p.m. Holy Eucharist with

Christmas Pageant. 8:30 p.m. Prelude with String Quartet, Organ and Flute. 9 p.m. Festive Choral Eucharist with the Amador Valley High School String Quartet. All are welcome. For more information call the church office 925-462-4802. Christmas Day, Dec. 25, 11 a.m. 11 a.m. Festive Choral Eucharist.

Unity of Tri-Valley Church - holiday services. Rev. Karen Epps will speak on Sunday, Dec. 23, on "Birth 2012: An Awakened Humanity," and at the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7:00 pm on "Sacred Light, Sacred Life," includes performances by the choir. On Sunday, Dec. 30 Rev. Karen's month-long theme on "Turning Resolutions into Realities" will feature a burning bowl/letting go ceremony. Sunday services are at 10:00 a.m., 9875 Dublin Canyon Rd.,

Castro Valley. All are welcome. Children's church available. (925) 829-2733, www.trivalleyunity.com

Christmas Eve by Candlelight, Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore, December 24, 2012, 5:30 PM (all ages), 7:30 PM (traditional). 1893 North Vasco Road, Livermore. www.uucil.net or 925-447-8747.

Faith Chapel Assembly of God Candlelight Service, Monday, December 24, 5:30pm., 6656 Alisal St., Pleasanton, Sunday school for all ages 9:15 a.m.. Worship Service 10:30 a.m., No Children's Church December 23 and 30, No Wednesday Women's Bible study until January 9, 2012, Interspersory Prayer (1st & 3rd Wed.) Please call office at 846-8650 for information.

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



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Milestones

Community



The Harvest Park Middle School cheer team was awarded 3rd place during competition held Saturday, Dec. 8th in Tracy. They competed in a USA Regional Competition at Merrill West High School. The team's score qualified them for Jr Nationals in March, for a 2nd time - they had also qualified at their previous competition last month. Their next competition is January 20th at University of the Pacific, in Stockton. Pictured are (back row) coach Jessica Becker, Sophia Herzfeldt, Sierra Picone, Taisa Hrynewycz, Dina Parks, Emily Mercer, Haley Hunter, Julia Oltman, Audrey Morse; (2nd row) Claire Fuller, Hannah Macsata, Mckenzie Fields, Allison Mercer, Kate Cole, Kaitlyn Letourneau; Emma Clopton, Jessica Lawer, Nicole Witters, and Mckenna Shaffer. (Bottom row) Allyson Murphy, Savannah Fried, Kayla Fulmer and Loren Curry. Missing were Sarah Baxter and Sarah Shackelford.

Sandia Selects Two Teachers to Receive Excellence in Teaching Recognition

Sandia National Laboratories presented two local teachers with Excellence in Teaching Awards at the regular meeting of the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District's Board of Education. Leslie Stevens, a math teacher at Mendenhall Middle School, and Jan Bennett, a science teacher at Junction Avenue K-8, each received a \$500 award.

"The purpose of the Excellence in Teaching Award is to recognize teachers who foster a love of math, science, and technology in their students," says Stephanie Beasley, community relations officer for Sandia/California. "The STEM subjects—science, technology, engineering and math—are vital to Sandia's mission and our nation as a whole."

In her nomination form, Stevens is described as an outstanding math teacher. "Leslie's real gifts lie in her ability to teach math and to make it accessible to her stu-

dents," says Principal Susan Sambuceti. "She seamlessly integrates the use of Smart Board technology into her teaching, quickly moving from videos on the web to demonstrate slope to graphs of slope functions, helping students to make connections between abstract mathematical concepts and their uses in the world. Even though Leslie works part-time, she provides a homework club four days a week after school for her own and other students."

Last June, Bennett arranged a NASA International Space Station (ISS) in-flight downlink for Junction, one of six awarded nationwide that year. She has also served on the District's Livermore Science Odyssey committee since its inception and has been the Science Master for the Junction Academic Olympiad competition.

In her nomination form, Bennett is described as "an

amazing science teacher who makes content accessible for all students by differentiating instruction. [She] brings to teaching a wealth of knowledge, a special rapport with students, and indefatigable energy that allows her to excel at more than most would ever attempt."

In 2007 Sandia established an endowment with the Livermore Valley Education Foundation (LVEF) to fund the Excellence in Teaching Award, given to two outstanding teachers in December of each year. Principals and staff members can nominate teachers for the award, and parents and students are encouraged to submit suggestions to site principals. Selection is then made by a committee that includes representatives from LVEF, the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District, and Sandia.

Previous recipients are Mike Waltz, Susan Johnston, and Nelson Fong, Livermore High School; Elizabeth Lopez, Granada High School; Regina Brinker, Christensen Middle School; Stefanie Erlwein and Ravi Prabhala, East Avenue Middle School; Jennifer Profumo, Joe Michell K-8; Mary Martha Swanson, Rancho Las Positas Elementary School; and the team of Wendy Otvos, Sharon Abri, Erika Johnston, and Kerry Barger, Marilyn Avenue Elementary School.

Student Artists Among Winners of Contest

Student artists Enikoe Bihari from Granada High School and Jodi Bryant from Junction Avenue K-8 were 2 of the 5 winners from over 300 participants from all over California in a recent art contest sponsored by Dannis Wolliver Kelley (DWK) Law Firm.

Each of the winning students will receive a \$75 award. DWK will donate \$200 in art supplies to the classroom of each student. DWK has designed a canvas bag with the winning images to distribute to school district board and staff members at education confer-

ences and other events later this school year.

DWK's website states "We don't get to see the results of kids' creative work often enough. We were honored and humbled by what arrived to our mailboxes and e-mail from K-12 students sharing their artistic takes

on California's Schools for our art contest. We announced our contest winners recently, but of course we all win when the hands of the future share their creative visions.

"These are the inspirational moments that make us very proud of our commit-

ment to supporting California's public schools."

To view all the artwork in a video slideshow, visit www.dwkesq.com/, click on Media, then News Flashes, and finally "Check This Out! Student Artists CREATE for California's Schools!"