

Art, Community, & Education



Find Out What's Happening

Check out the second section

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

Sandbags Available

The City of Pleasanton reminds local residents and businesses that free sandbags are available to those concerned about flooding.

Residents can pick up free sandbags at the City of Pleasanton Service Center, located at 3333 Busch Road in Pleasanton at anytime. They are located in the parking lot under a tarp. The sandbags are for Pleasanton residents only and are not available to contractors seeking sandbags for work sites. Sandbags are available on the honor system. Residents and businesses are encouraged to limit their take to 10 sandbags each.

City crews prepare in advance of the rainy season to clear culverts and drains, and residents are encouraged to clear leaves from neighborhood drains as a part of this effort. Operations Services crews spend six weeks implementing an annual leaf pick-up program in advance of the rainy season.

Those who see flooded areas should call the Operations Services Department between 7:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at (925) 931-5500. Flooding should be reported to the Police Department at (925) 931-5100 on weekends, holidays and during the regular work week, Monday through Friday, between 3:30 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.

DUBLIN SANDBAGS
Dublin also has sandbags available for Dublin residents. Sandbags can be picked at the City's Corporation Yard located at 5777 Scarlett Court. There is a limit of up to 12 sandbags per resident.

Pleasanton Holding Climate Action Plan Workshop

The City of Pleasanton will host a free community workshop concerning the city's Climate Action Plan (CAP) on Tuesday, January 11, 2011 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Building, located at 301 Main Street.

Participants will explore the challenges facing Pleasanton in accommodating growth while reducing future greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The workshop will also feature a progress update on the CAP process, solicit feedback on proposed measures, and seek additional ideas, suggestions and input.

A CAP is an energy efficiency and conservation strategy designed to reduce heat-trapping GHGs that contribute to climate change. Pleasanton joins many other U.S. cities in this effort, which begins with the creation of a formal CAP. Pleasanton's CAP will serve as a roadmap to reduce the carbon footprint of the collective community that includes both residents and employees who work in Pleasanton. It will identify GHG emission sources, quantify baseline and future emission projections, and establish reduction targets that align with State regulations. The CAP will also demonstrate how the city can meet those targets while becoming more sustainable and

(See WORKSHOP, page 9)

County Airport Panel Concerned About Charter School Proposal

By Ron McNicoll

The Alameda County Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC) voted unanimously to ask the Livermore Valley Charter School to find another site for its new campus.

Approval from ALUC is the last remaining step for the charter school to go through before going to the Livermore Planning Com-

mission for approval of acquiring a 30-acre site north of Interstate 580 near Airway Boulevard and North Canyons Parkway.

However, approval is not required by either the ALUC and Livermore Planning Commission for the charter school to move forward.

The future campus eventually would house about 1000 K-8

students in the 16 small buildings now on part of the land, and another 1000 high school students in a two-story building already constructed. The office park was built 18 months ago.

A parcel between the current buildings is bare. It would be used as playing fields, and also house a gym and a theater. The theater would be 48 feet high and

seat up to 600.

The site is within the two-mile safety zone around the Livermore airport, so the item went to the ALUC. The panel has no power to reject the school. All that it can do by law is make "strong recommendations" concerning the proposal to the city of Livermore, which would grant the final approval.

The 7-0 vote at ALUC came after the panel heard at its meeting Dec. 15 some information from charter school CEO Bill Batchelor.

The motion was made by Livermore Vice Mayor John Marchand and seconded by Woody Pereira, a former Pleasanton planning commissioner

(See CHARTER, page 4)



This sign greeted drivers traveling along Arroyo Road in Livermore.

Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Politicians, And Public Challenged To Improve Schools

By David Lowell

Delaine Eastin, who was California Superintendent of Schools from 1995 to 2003, issued a clarion call for drastic reform of public schools. Her plea was made during a talk presented Dec. 15 at a meeting of the Livermore Rotary.

Eastin said, "One of the real beacons in attracting people to California was its educational system, which helped California become rich. Today, California is turning its back on education. We need to start acting like Americans, not Democrats or Republicans, and meet the education challenge."

According to Eastin, in this information age, the failure of California schools is even more glaring at a time when the needs are greater. It is predicted that there will be a 40% increase in the number of science and engineering jobs in the United States in the next decade. Most school systems are not geared to accept that challenge. The global economy has fundamentally changed the importance of education. The vast majority of new jobs being created are steeped in technology.

She described California schools failings, observing, "Our petty, small politicians go for

(See SCHOOLS, page 12)

Livermore School Board Approves Retirement Enhancement Package

By Patricia Koning

In an attempt to make the best out of a bad situation, the trustees of the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District approved a Retirement Enhancement Package (REP) at the Dec. 14 meeting of the Livermore Board of Education.

"We've been looking for creative ways to reduce our ongoing expenses without a devastating impact on our students," explained Livermore School Superintendent Kelly Bowers.

Chief Business Officer Susan Kinder projected that even if the District uses all of its available

reserve money, it would still be necessary to cut about \$1.75 million in ongoing spending from the budget by the 2012/13 school year. "This is based on current information," she said. "If there are mid-year budget cuts this school year, it will be much worse."

Because employees account

for over 75% of the District's general fund budget and about 90% of unrestricted funds, a reduction on that scale must include personnel. "We need to decrease our ongoing costs. The reality is the majority of those costs are employees," said Chris

(See PACKAGE, page 4)

County Close to Drafting Ordinance for Livermore Valley Wine Country Changes

After a series of six meetings spanning almost a year, the Alameda County planning staff has come up with conclusions that will go into modifications of the South Livermore Valley Area Plan.

There may still be one more public meeting concerning the plan. The planning staff was not decided about it at the meeting it held Dec. 14. However, based on previous public input, the big picture has emerged. The meetings have discussed traffic, park-

ing, event centers, the definition of a winery, and development standards.

The input received will serve the planning staff as a guide in drafting an ordinance.

The goal was to take the South Livermore Valley wine country to the next level. It has been a success in its expansion of wineries, tasting rooms and event centers. Some people also feel that visitors will want to use at least one

(See WINE, page 9)

Bowser, Laursen Take Pleasanton Board Seats

Election victors Jeff Bowser and Joan Laursen were sworn in by State Sen. Ellen Corbett as the new Pleasanton school trustees replacing Pat Kernan and Jim Ott.

Kernan had served 14 years, and Ott a full-four year term after being appointed less than one year earlier.

The board at its meeting Dec. 14 elected Valerie Arkin as its president, replacing Chris Grant, who remains on the board. Jamie Hintzke was also chosen unanimously to serve as the board's clerk.

Corbett congratulated Bowser

(See PLEASANTON, page 4)



Livermore Mayor Marshall Kamena presents the key to the city to Frank Inami.

Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Livermore Hero Honored

Livermore Mayor Marshall Kamena has established the Livermore Hero Award to pay tribute to those individuals who have shown exceptional cour-

age, have overcome significant obstacles, or through exceptional acts of kindness, have made a difference in the lives of others in the community.

The first award was presented at the Dec. 13 city council meeting to Frank Inami.

Kamena declared, "The first

(See HERO, page 4)

Inside

Art & Entertainment.....	Section II	Roundup.....	3
Bulletin Board.....	Section II	Short Notes.....	5
Classifieds.....	10	Sports.....	6
Editorial.....	4	Obituaries.....	9
Mailbox.....	4		



PET OF THE WEEK

Thumbelina is an eight month old dilute calico with the sweetest personality! She will take you into a fairy tale world full of magic and adventure. Just as Thumbelina fell in love with her prince in the story, you will fall in love with this kitten. If you are interested in fulfilling your fairy tale dreams, there is also Doc, a kitten from the "Seven Dwarves," and Boq & Elphaba from the musical "Wicked." For more information, call 925-426-8656 or visit the website www.valleyhumane.org, to learn more. Valley Humane Society is located at 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton. Hours are Tues.- Sat. from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Christmas Reflections

By Laura Ness

The holidays often bring moments of quiet reflection, as we pause to remember both those who are dear to us in our every day lives, as well as those far removed (although less far, thanks to Facebook), who still hold special meaning. Then there are those really special people who are no longer among the living, but still live on in our hearts, their memories burning as brightly as did that star that guided the Magi centuries ago. No matter where I am at Christmas, I always think about my grandparents, that special joy at seeing everyone together, looking festive and singing carols around my Mom's piano from an ancient gilt-edged book with magnificent illustrations that are as clear as the look on my grandmother's face when she discovered my grandfather sneaking another snifter of Wild Turkey. This libation did little to staunch his bellowing rendition of *Joy to the World* which made the windows in the old homestead rattle the ice right off their panes. My Dad always brought out a special bottle of wine: he was (and still is) partial to Hearty Burgundy from Gallo, which, let's face it, beat Blue Nun and Boone's Farm any day of the year. We are so blessed living here to have the variety of wines, so many of them excellent, and getting better all the time. Thanks to all the local winemakers who made the Livermore wine tasting experience a memorable and pleasant one this year.

Many milestones are worth reflecting on as 2010 becomes a distant object in the rearview mirror of life.

Two new wineries celebrated their first anniversaries in the business: Nottingham Cellars and Occasio, both of which are doing some exciting things with Petite Sirah. Both are also engaged in some interesting Chardonnay barrel trials as of 2010: something to look forward to shortly. Something to enjoy now is John Kinney's first release of both stainless and oaked Sauv Blancs, and the Sotte Voce blend, his first, and hopefully not his last. Nottingham's first release of Ralph's Red was such a hit, people could barely wait for the current one. A great gift along with a copy of "The Christmas Story," with or without the BB gun.

Retzlaff released a commemorative wine in honor of their recently departed spiritual leader and muse, Gloria, whose presence inspires daily. "Gloria's Pride" is a youthful and vibrant blend of Merlot and Cabernet that will cellar as beautifully as the image of her riding a Vespa scooter at daredevil speed across the country. Retzlaff is going strong with Noah and Bob committed to making great estate wines.

In the "Well-deserved and Kudos Galore" category, Jim Concannon, third-generation



Gloria Retzlaff Taylor

vintner and ambassador for Concannon Vineyard and Livermore Valley winemaking, was named 2010's "Man of the Year" for 2010 by Tasting Panel Magazine, one of the beverage industry's leading publications. Concannon also concluded its 127th consecutive harvest and released its Conservancy Series, under the expert guidance of 4th generation vintner, John Concannon. Raise a glass of that mighty nice Conservancy Chardonnay or Petite Sirah.

Darcie Kent released her new line of wines, and oversaw the décor and amenities of the wonderfully nouveau historic Underdog Wine Bar, where you can literally take flight around the world with the Wine Group's immense collection of wine brands. So farflung and worldwide is their reach, one can't help but think of the British Empire of yore. The wine selection and permutations are almost endless and the food is PDG as well.

McGrail hired Mark Clarin as winemaker, and released its first Chardonnay. The 2007 McGrail Estate Cabernet received much acclaim, including a gold at the recent Chicago Wine Competition. There's a Petite Sirah in barrel also.

Picazo released its first Cabernet, a 2007 vintage, which you can sample at aforementioned Underdog Wine Bar. Darcie Kent just released a Merlot from the Picazo vineyard, which you can taste side by side with Mark's version.

Page Mill opened its new tasting room and began ramping up its custom crush operation.

Wente Vineyards received

certification for its sustainability with respect to vineyard, winery and company practices with the Certified California Sustainable Winegrowing designation. Wente was also named "Winery of the Year" by the California Travel Association.

Bent Creek became one of two Livermore wine brands to score two medals in the first TVC wine competition for their Cabernet and their Petite Sirah. This competition really showed the region's significant strengths in Petite Sirah, and what good, careful winemaking will do for you.

Hail to the blends! Fenestra's True Red Lot 24, was named Best Red Generic wine at the State Fair for 2010. Pop one of those on Christmas Eve in honor of 24 years of blending genius.

Steven Mirassou released his first La Rochelle sparkling, a 2007 Blanc de Noirs (\$30), made from the Martini clone off the McIntyre estate vineyard in the Santa Lucia Highlands. Truly one of the prettiest sparklings you can find, as pale as the first pink light of dawn. Perfect for toasting those special occasions, like Christmas weekend brunch, where it would nicely complement a holiday-festive scramble of fresh eggs, radicchio and apples?

Another seasonally appropriate wine with which to toast one's blessings might be Mitch Katz's Falling Star Merlot: so filled with dark fruit and bright promise. Malbec makes a very special statement for holiday meals as well: top picks would be Bodegas Aguirre and Cuda Ridge for the smooth, satisfying



Dale Vaughn

Vaughn (stroke, age 73), who was her partner in the wine business, and Gloria Retzlaff Taylor (stroke, 73), the brilliant, edgy feminist who literally pioneered the modern Livermore wine country experience, planting the first organic vineyard in the AVA in 1972.

The end of the year is a good time to pause and raise a toast to them, and to all the others you personally have lost from your living circle, especially those departed in the last year. There are many. But so are the lessons they taught us through their dignity and grace. So, too, are the memories they left with us to gladden our hearts and make us smile.

This photo is one of my favorites of Dale: it captures her invigorating sense of humor. The one of Gloria radiates her boundless energy and enthusiasm, her zest for life. May your life be abundantly blessed with these qualities and with people who generously share them. And remember: Be Naughty and save Santa the trip. He's probably stuck at the Underdog Wine Bar anyway.



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www.casbahexotic.com

Program to Look at Peace in the Middle East

Evasion of Peace: Israel, the Palestinians and the US, is the topic of a program to be held Wed., Dec. 29, 7:30 p.m.

Professor Jack Cohen will present this discussion on current affairs in Israel and the Middle East at a program to be held at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400

Nevada Court, Pleasanton.

Jack Cohen was born in London, UK, received his Doctorate at Cambridge University, and lived in suburban Washington DC for 30 years while working at the National Institutes of Health and Georgetown University. He moved to Israel in 1996 where

he was a visiting professor at Hebrew University until his recent retirement. He now writes and paints.

Admission is free. Refreshments will be served. For additional information, call 925-931-1055.

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JANUARY 9 | DUBLIN CAMPUS, K-12, 1-4 P.M.
PLEASANTON CAMPUS, K, 3-5 P.M.



- Full Day Kindergarten
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EDITORIALS

Disruptive Study

The Dublin City Council has set in motion a study whose aim is to bring urbanization to the Doolan Canyon area.

The open space/agriculture character of the area is currently protected by the voter-approved Alameda County Measure D and Livermore urban limit line. In keeping with those measures, the East Bay Regional Park District has begun acquiring Doolan lands to create a large, permanent green buffer between Livermore and Dublin. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) that essentially reaffirms the permanency of Doolan as a rural area was approved by the Dublin and Livermore City Councils in 2000.

Now, along comes a developer, the Pacific Union Land Company, who wants to undo all of that, and has found an accommodating city council to do his bidding. In response to a request by the Land Company, the Dublin council has agreed to turn its back on the MOU and study a proposed development of up to 1990 housing units in Doolan Canyon.

The proposal faces heavy opposition and threatens to disrupt the neighborhood relationship between Livermore and Dublin — “pit one community against the other in what could be an unfortunate and ugly confrontation,” in the words of Bob Baltzer, Friends of Livermore chair.

The attitude of the developer and the Dublin council seems to be: Why the fuss? It's just a study. No action on any project is to be taken.

This kind of study is no small matter. The study wouldn't be needed if Dublin wanted to keep Doolan as is. This is the first step in the urbanization process. It needs to be stopped.

Visitors From The Mountains

Livermore Area Recreation and Park District rangers recently spotted two male tule elk resting in Sycamore Grove Park.

Tule elk were facing extinction until a restoration program was undertaken statewide. They now number an estimated 3000 throughout California.

One herd was established in the Mount Hamilton area. Over the years they've been drifting down out of the mountains into the Livermore and Sunol Valleys.

It's unlikely we'll discover them visiting the parks in town someday, but it's nice to see that they feel comfortable in our Valley. They enrich in a rather magical way the diversity of our area.

PACKAGE

(continued from page one)

Van Schaack, Executive Director of Student Services and Special Education.

He explained that this can be accomplished in several different ways: a layoff to reduce the number of employees or a wholesale reduction in employee costs through cuts in benefits, furlough days, or a step and column freeze, all of which would have to be negotiated with employee bargaining units.

“We believe a targeted reduction is a better way to go,” said Van Schaack. “Layoffs result in a loss of service. They automatically eliminate employees from the bottom of the salary scale, which necessitates an even larger number of employees having to be let go.”

The REP will provide eligible employees a lump sum consisting of 15% of the employee's 2010-11 base salary and \$500 for each full year of actual service beyond 10 years. To be eligible, the effective date of retirement must be between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2011. The employee must be at or above a specific place on the salary scale. The REP is being offered to all employee bargaining units.

As example, Van Schaack said a 58-year-old teacher with 33 years of service in Livermore earning an \$82,000 salary would receive a lump sum of nearly \$24,000. A 58-year-old classified employee with 20 years of service earning \$50,000 would receive a lump sum of \$12,500.

The REP will be funded from the \$2.1 million in stimulus money the District received from the Education Jobs Fund. Kinder explained that the funding is designated for anything that can save jobs, excluding those of District office staff.

To implement the REP, a total of 40 certificated and 20 classified staff members must participate. A total of 320 certificated and 243 classified staff members are eligible. Van Schaack estimated that

110 certificated and 92 classified staff are likely to take the package. On average, 20 certificated and 10 classified staff members retire each year.

“The beauty of this scenario is that we are using one-time, restricted money to save ongoing, unrestricted money,” he said. “This will lessen layoffs next year and stay true to the intended use of the stimulus money, which is to save jobs.”

If there were 40 participants, the REP would cost about \$1 million to implement and generate nearly \$2 million in savings over three years. If 80 participate, the cost is \$1.8 million and the savings is \$3.5 million over three years. With 120 participants, the cost would be \$2.4 million and the savings would be \$4.74 million.

“This is one more economic tool to get through a tough cycle,” said trustee Stewart Gary. “Either way, head counts will change. This is the least painful way to accomplish spending reductions and the best use of one-time money.”

While the trustees unanimously approved the package, trustee Kate Runyon expressed displeasure at encouraging senior staff to retire. “I'm not an automatic fan of a retirement enhancement package,” she said. “This is heart wrenching. I don't want to lose our most senior employees. But there has never been a better hiring environment.”

Trustee Anne White commented that 16 years ago when class size reduction was implemented, the District began recruiting almost immediately and was able to hire outstanding candidates. “We need to move quickly to get the best out there,” she said.

Last year the District offered an REP that would have provided a one-time payment of \$6,000 to eligible retirees between ages 50 and 59 and \$7,000 to those at least 60 years old. However,

CHARTER

(continued from page one)

and school board member.

The ALUC resolution says that if the charter school can't find an alternative site outside the airport zone, then it would meet certain conditions. Among them are concrete walls, an upgraded roof strength, and enhanced fire sprinkler system, single story height and/or an increased number of emergency exits.

Buildings should be clustered so that more open space is available for emergency landings of aircraft.

The commission also directed the charter school to work with the city and the ALUC staff to evaluate design and location of the proposed rooftop photovoltaics and wind turbines for potential surface reflections that might distract pilots.

The charter school should return to the ALUC only after it can show that it can meet all of the requirements, including “demonstration that alternative

sites could not be found.”

Pereira told The Independent that he appreciates what the school is doing in looking for land for a campus that is “suitable and affordable.”

He said that the office park populated by office tenants in it would be all right, because of relatively low occupancy per building.

But with 30 or so children in each of the 16 small buildings, and 1000 in the high school, “there's a question mark, a potential impact that you can't turn your back on.”

Pereira questioned why the charter school has to put everything on one site. “Public agencies don't. They separate elementary and secondary and middle schools. You shouldn't have them together. There is an inconsistency between ages.”

**BATCHELOR SAYS
SINGLE CAMPUS BEST**

Batchelor told The Independent that the 30 acre site is good because it draws together the two school levels as one unit. It is also the most affordable way to pool financial resources to accomplish the entire K-12. There are 80 freshmen in the high school now. They will move up to sophomores, so that three years from now it will be a four-year school.

Batchelor will have the school's realty agent search the multiple listings again to see if there are any suitable properties on the market. He said that in talks with the city staff, which he said likes the current site, he learned that there are no other locations of the size that would fit the schools' needs.

Livermore planning manager Fred Osborne said that the staff did review certain alternatives with Batchelor. However, no one on the staff rejected the sites or endorsed them. The staff told

him about constraints on the various sites. It is up to Batchelor to determine whether they are infeasible or not for his needs, said Osborne.

Osborne said that obtaining a recommendation from the ALUC is the last step for the charter school before its request for a conditional use permit would go to the planning commission.

The school's proposed site conforms to Livermore's scenic corridor requirement, said Osborne. It was approved by the city council recently as a consent calendar item, he said.

Batchelor reiterated that the school does not have to go through the Livermore planning process, but wants to do so to be transparent about the process. State law would permit the charter school to go simply through the state department of education, he said.

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.)

BART Initiative

**Robert S. Allen
Treasurer, Keep BART Along
the Freeway
Livermore**

Wither BART to Livermore? Vested interests and the city council want a \$3.83 billion subway/railroad in-town route (alternative 2B). BART concurs. 2B would have only two stations, both along the railroad and about

one mile from the freeway, both out of direction and difficult for many Livermore residents to access, and both likely environmental and economic disasters.

Hence our ballot initiative to keep BART along the freeway with a first-phase station at Isabel (\$1.12 billion), Alternative 4. It would have BART plan further extension at grade in a widened I-580 median to a station beyond the Vasco interchange.

Future BART extension over the Altamont along the former SP rail line would avoid steep I-580 grades, heavy earthwork and costly structures. It could include an ACE intermodal station at the UP/ACE over the SP and another along I-580 at Grant Line Road. These stations, giving Central Valley commuters a BART alternative to solo driving, would greatly ease I-580 congestion.

We are now raising funds for competent counsel to assure that our initiative withstands rigorous legal challenge and are targeting

the November 8 municipal election. Reach us at PO Box 244, Livermore, CA 94551-2044.

Regional Theater

**Len Alexander
LVPAC Executive Director**

In response to John Stein's letter concerning the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center's Regional Theater project:

- June 2009, LVPAC begins bank discussions concerning financing the Regional Theater.

- Fall 2009, severe economic downturn hits world-wide. Banks stop lending.

- June 2010, downturn declared over. Banks begin to lend but not to non-profit organizations like LVPAC.

- Fall 2010, banks decide Regional Theater financing pencils out, but follow an 'abundance of caution' and require Livermore's general fund to be the backstop if all other payments fall short.

- Extensive analysis is done and with low construction costs, historically low interest rates,

and no general fund dollars included in debt service payments, the project gets bank approval.

- However, the banks will charge LVPAC large fees. Why not bypass the banks and pay fees directly to the City of Livermore.

- LVPAC will pay \$11 million to the City instead of to the banks. LVPAC gets the benefits of low construction costs and low fixed rate interest. Livermore gets general fund payments from LVPAC, and increased revenue from associated economic development. All for being the payer-of-last-resort which stress tests demonstrate is unlikely to ever be needed.

- The Regional Theater gets built, serving as a catalyst for other downtown development, including shops, restaurants, housing and hotel.

- Livermore residents get the benefit of both economic and cultural development and the

(More MAILBOX, page 10)

PLEASANTON

(continued from page one)

on his win, and the volunteerism he has completed for the district and community. Noting that he works on the district PTA's legislative committee, Corbett said, “I expect big things from you.” In view of Bowser's experience, “You should be off to a running start,” said Corbett.

Corbett said Laursen also has great experience, citing her presidency of the district PTA council, and the formation of an education foundation for the district. Corbett thanked her for her great work on Measure D, the parcel tax effort last year.

Laursen said that she has looked for ways to be part of the solution. “I start with the presumption of good will. We can't afford innuendo or distractions.”

Bowser said he couldn't sleep on election night, not because he was overwhelmed with the imminence of the task, but because so many people stood by him.

Trustees also heard their regular update on the state budget from assistant superintendent Luz Cázares. She attended Governor-elect Jerry Brown's budget orientation in Sacramento.

Cázares said there were two significant signals to local educators from the seminar. One was the recognition that although education is 40 percent of the state budget, it is bearing 50 percent of the cost cuts.

The other signal is that Brown told the audience that when they read his budget proposal, to be released early in January, they should do it while sitting down.

“While there is recognition that we had a disproportionate level of cuts, it doesn't mean we won't have to live with additional cuts,” said Cázares.

that REP was not implemented because the minimum number of participants was not met.

“Because of the stimulus money, we can afford to make this a more attractive package,” explained Kinder.

Each employee bargaining unit must approve the REP before it can be formally offered to employees. As of Dec. 21, only the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) had done so. The District is still awaiting decisions by the Livermore Education Association, California School Employees Association, and other employee bargaining units.

HERO

(continued from page one)

person really needed to be special.”

Inami, a Japanese-American overcame many obstacles, including internment during World War II that sidetracked his efforts to attain a college degree.

Frank was born in Madera, CA in 1921, the eldest of seven children. By the time he was in middle school, he had demonstrated his academic proficiency. While in the 8th grade, he was called out of class by his teacher, Miss Ebling. His classmates thought Frank was to receive the American Legion Award. Instead, in a private room, the teacher presented him with a fountain pen engraved with, “Frank Inami, Most outstanding student: from the teaching faculty.” He knew then that the American Legion Award for academic achievement was going to another recipient.

Afterwards Miss Christy, a counselor, advised Mr Inami as to his future. She sympathetically told him that instead of engineering he should major in business. Then, she added, he could manage his father's mom and pop store. She said that only GE & Westinghouse were hiring electrical engineers. These companies will not even interview applicants of Asian descent. “We'll see,” replied Frank.

He was the first in his family to attend college, being accepted to the University of California in engineering. While at Cal, Frank was a member of the Japanese

Students Club. Mainstream organizations were not available to him. Affectionately he dubbed the group temporarily, in Greek fashion, Jappa Sappa Chi. “The name didn't stick,” commented Kamena.

Frank was a junior on campus when the war broke out. He was sent to an internment camp. He left the internment camp when he volunteered to join the Army's MIS, the military intelligence service. His comprehensive command of the Japanese language made him rise rapidly to that of instructor at the military language and interpreter school. His rank and pay grade lagged behind the non-Japanese instructors, while his skills and expertise in teaching rose to excellent, commented Kamena.

After WWII, Frank applied to Berkeley to return as a student there, but was denied return admission. He left for Illinois and finished his engineering work there. When the US became involved in the Korean War, Mr. Inami's services were so much in demand that he was called to serve again. “This quiet, mild-mannered young man proudly returned to duty,” stated Kamena.

Fast forward to 1952. Frank applied for work at the Livermore Radiation Laboratory (LRL). The doors appeared to be closed to him again until two classmates recognized him and facilitated his employment at the Lab, where he spent the rest of his career. He rented a motel room in

Livermore the night prior to his first day of work. On his way the next morning, Frank stopped to buy gas. The owner of the station filled the car up. Kamena said, “As luck would have it Mr. Inami had left his wallet in the motel room. He asked the owner to permit him to go back to the motel to get his money. The man asked Frank if he were Japanese. It was not looking good at this point. His response was that ‘yes,’ he was of Japanese descent. The owner, Mr. Williams, said, ‘Fine. You go ahead. I have never been lied to by a Japanese person yet.’”

Not long ago AB 37 launched the California Nisei College Diploma Project. In December, 2009 Mr. Inami was invited to the Berkeley Campus to receive his overdue degree. Approximately 700 students at four UC campuses were interned in 1942 after President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the executive order giving the military the power to send Japanese Americans and Japanese nationals to internment camps.

In the wake of Japan's 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, Order 9066 authorized military commanders to exclude all people of Japanese ancestry from “military areas,” including California and most of Oregon and Washington. At the time they were on campus, most of the UC honorees were from Sacramento, the Bay Area and the Central Valley; some

were from Southern California. They were studying agricultural economics, engineering, plant science, and mathematics, among other specialties.

Professor Dan Simmons, who co-chaired the UC task force that supported the effort to award the degrees, addressed the honorees and guests at a luncheon after the ceremony. “The creation of these honorary degrees has opened the door for many of you to tell your stories to your children and grandchildren,” he said.

Prof. Simmons went on to say, “This is a teaching moment for the University. We want our own graduates and their families to know your stories. We want them to know your stories so that fears born from misunderstanding of differences do not lead to hatred and discrimination. We want them to know your stories to learn that we do best by respecting each other's commonality and each other's differences.”

The degree diploma received by Inami includes the following wording: Inter Silvas Academi Restituere Iustitiam, or “to restore justice among the groves of the academics.”

Inami told the council after being presented with the Livermore Hero Award, “This is a big day for me. Last year on Dec. 13, I received my honorary degree from UC Berkeley. Tonight, I received this award. Those are two December 13s that are really good days for me.”

THE Independent
(INLAND VALLEY PUBLISHING CO.)

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

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

Advertising rates and subscription rates may be obtained by calling (925) 447-8700 during regular business hours or by fax (925) 447-8212. Editorial information may be submitted by editmail@compuserve.com.

Save Mount Diablo Has Been on a Buying Spree

Save Mount Diablo (SMD) has been on a buying spree recently. The organization, whose goal is to preserve the natural land on and around Mount Diablo, has purchased a record number of properties and set several "firsts" in a down economy. In addition to a number of large parcel acquisitions, the group is also purchasing many small parcels, including five-acre "Dry Creek" near Brentwood. Five other parcels are in escrow at present.

In contrast to larger parcels, small opportunity properties normally cost much more per acre. Until the recession, it was harder for them to compete with larger acreage preservation priorities. Recently, five, ten and twenty-acre properties east of Mount Diablo have been valued at 15-40% of previous values or sales. Acquisition of small properties allows Save Mount Diablo to consolidate strategic parcels, avoiding the impacts of additional houses in open space areas, providing future recreational access and blocking development on natural lands. Save Mount Diablo has acquired six small parcels in 2010 and protected five

more since 2005.

According to Save Mount Diablo, every additional house built on previously undeveloped properties in the area impacts already preserved lands and sensitive resources. Five of the parcels Save Mount Diablo purchased this year are located along Marsh Creek, helping to protect the second-longest, and least developed creek in Contra Costa County. With previous purchases, more than eight miles of this wildlife corridor have been protected.

Dry Creek, for example, one of the recent acquisitions, is adjacent to the new Cowell Ranch State Park and includes a section of alkaline creek, for which the property was named. Although just 5.18 acres, it allows Save Mount Diablo to preserve high priority land (valuable both for resources or rare species habitat as well as to developers). The organization was able to purchase the property for 14% of its assessed value and completed the research and acquisition in record time—just twelve days.

Ron Brown, Executive Director of Save Mount Diablo, explains, "We can complete

transactions far more quickly than government agencies. To negotiate the best prices we have to pay cash. We can only do that with the ongoing support of our donors."

"Small properties are often along creeks and roads," Brown elaborated, addressing Save Mount Diablo's new acquisition strategy. "They can be strategic in affecting access and development potential of other properties. Creek properties are wildlife corridors and intrinsically important." However, smaller properties are just as complex to purchase and manage as larger ones, according to Brown. Small parcels are usually acquired by private buyers for single houses or small subdivisions. Building permits for single houses are administrative. We can't affect them much," Brown stated. "These individual house sites near parks have impacts far beyond their size or number. They fragment larger habitats, break wildlife corridors and involve utilities and roads that lead to more development."

Dry Creek's purchase is an example of a non-profit's ability



Photo of Dry Creek area taken by Scott Hein.

to move quickly in times of opportunity, with cash on hand from generous donors.

Save Mount Diablo works with East Bay Regional Park Dis-

trict and the Contra Costa Habitat Conservancy (Conservancy) on a variety of larger acreage projects. Together they have helped protect approximately 7,500 acres in the past three years—almost twelve square miles. Recently, Save Mount Diablo's 320-acre Irish Canyon was transferred to East Bay Regional Park District, using Conservancy funds.

In the past five years, Save Mount Diablo has acquired several large parcels, completing 208-acre Mangini Ranch at Concord's southern edge in 2007, 320-acre Irish Canyon near Clayton in 2008, and 165-acre Viera-North Peak—one of the 3 highest elevation remaining private parcels in the County. Viera-North Peak was purchased in 2009 and a \$1 million Capital Campaign to complete the purchase has just

concluded successfully.

During the same period Save Mount Diablo's funding capacity increased and the economic recession dramatically decreased property values.

"Ultimately, we would like to preserve all 180,000 acres on and around Mount Diablo for future generations to enjoy forever", said Brown. "Save Mount Diablo and park agencies will continue to focus on large parcels and their natural resources. What's new is that we're also tackling protection of a number of small properties. Without them the landscape will remain fragmented. What we're doing is reassembling a wilderness for wildlife and for recreation for the more than seven million people who live within an hour's drive."

REI to Open New Store in Dublin

REI (Recreational Equipment, Inc.), a national retailer providing quality outdoor gear and clothing, has announced plans to open a new store in Dublin, at Amador Plaza in the fall of 2011.

Located at the intersection of I-680 and Amador Plaza Road, the one-story, nearly 24,000 square-foot store will provide the top brands of gear and apparel for camping, climbing, cycling, fitness, hiking, paddling, snow sports and travel products. REI Dublin will offer a bike shop for quick assemblies and repairs, and a seasonal gear rental department for customers to test out new outdoor activities.

"REI has been honored to outfit outdoor enthusiasts in the San Francisco Bay Area since 1975 through our store in Berkeley," said Tim Spangler, REI's

vice president of Retail. "The Dublin store will provide us the opportunity to bring our friendly expertise and quality outdoor products closer to the more than 42,500 active REI members that live within 15 miles of the new location."

To staff the new store, REI will recruit approximately 50 people who share a passion for the outdoors and a commitment to providing quality customer service. Hiring will occur three months prior to the opening. Employment information will be available at www.rei.com/jobs.

Through its locally driven grants program, the company actively supports local non-profit organizations that help people experience and restore the outdoors, providing \$3.7 million of grant support to non-profits last

year. In the San Francisco Bay Area, REI granted \$272,000 to 21 non-profit partners in 2010, including the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council, East Bay Regional Park District and Save Mount Diablo. REI Dublin will also house a community space for the company and its local partners to host outdoor-related classes, presentations and events.

Although it operates as a consumer cooperative, anyone may shop at REI. Members pay a one-time \$20 fee and receive a share

in the company's profits through an annual member refund based on their purchases. More than \$80 million in annual refunds was distributed to more than 3.9 million active members this year based on the co-op's 2009 sales. REI members also receive discounts on gear rentals and REI Adventures trips and REI Outdoor School classes, in addition to free shipping on purchases of \$75 or more through REI.com, REI-OUTLET.com and phone direct sales orders.

SHORT NOTES

Rummage Sale

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District is planning its upcoming two annual Rummage Sales for January and February. Interested sellers may sign up now to reserve a spot at one of these popular community sales.

A 10-by-10-foot space with an 8-foot table can be rented for \$40. Sellers can use this space to showcase their wares. Items for sale must be of the garage sale variety and in working condition. No food, candy, car parts, large furniture, cars, motorcycles or commercial items are allowed.

LARP's Rummage Sale is scheduled from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 29, and a second one will be held Saturday, Feb. 26. Both will be held at The Barn, 3131 Pacific Ave., Livermore. Tables are limited and sell out quickly. Early registration for sellers is recommended.

Sellers can sign up by visiting www.larp.dst.ca.us and printing out and turning in the form along with the space rental fee. Deadline is Feb. 22 for any spaces still available. For more information, call 925-373-5700.

Docent Training

Forest Home Farms will have a docent training session for new volunteers on Thursday, January 20, 2011, from 9:30am-12pm. The meeting will be held in the Boone House Apt. B at Forest Home Farms, 19953 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. This training is open to anyone who is interested in becoming a volunteer at the farm.

There are four different areas for volunteers to choose from: Grandpa: leads tours and activities, Grandma: leads tours and activities, Gardener: explains concepts of organic gardening and aids children in gardening chores, and Canning: presents a canning demonstration and leads activities.

Docents lead hands-on activities that teach the agricultural history of the San Ramon Valley and Forest Home Farms. Public speaking experience is helpful, but not required. Education docents need to attend a three-hour training session twice per year.

Volunteer commitment is 2 times per month minimum, and each tour lasts 3 hours. Volunteers must be available on weekday mornings. They must be fingerprinted through the San Ramon Police Dept. Fieldtrips run Tuesday thru Friday, 9am-12pm during the school year with a short break in winter. Spring fieldtrips for 2011 begin February 2. Volunteers for this program can also participate in a variety of fun and educational networking activities and fieldtrips to areas of local interest throughout the year.

For more information or to RSVP for this meeting please contact Stephanie Herscu at (925) 973-3282 or sherscu@sanramon.ca.gov.

Junior Rangers

Youth can make a connection with the outdoors by participating in the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District's Junior Rangers program.

Kids ages 9 to 13 can join the LARP park rangers for a winter and spring filled with fun, nature exploration and adventure. The program meets two Saturdays a month from January to June in Sycamore Grove and Veterans parks. In addition to regular meetings, there will be two overnight campouts in the park.

The Junior Rangers hike, play games and do nature studies while learning about maps, compasses, plants, animals and more. This year, the group will also do a field trip to Morgan Territory Regional Preserve north of Livermore. Participants often sign up year after year, demonstrating the program's success at instilling a love for the outdoors.

"The goal of Junior Rangers is to help kids develop outdoor skills, become comfortable with nature and have fun," said LARP Ranger Supervisor Mike Nicholson.

The six month program costs \$225 and starts Saturday, Jan. 8. Registration deadline is Thursday, Dec. 30. For more information, call the LARP Ranger Office at 925-960-2400. Registration can be done online at www.larp.dst.ca.us or by calling 925-373-5700.



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

9:00 p.m. and 11 p.m. Traditional candlelight services in the sanctuary.

Thursday, Dec. 31, 2010
New Year's Eve Labyrinth Walk 8 p.m. – midnight
Come join us for our 6th annual New Year's Eve Labyrinth Walk. The labyrinths will be available **between 8:00 p.m. and midnight**. You're invited to walk the courtyard labyrinth by the light of the Christmas Eve luminaries. Our canvas labyrinth will also be available in the sanctuary, illuminated by dozens of candles and surrounded with beautiful music.



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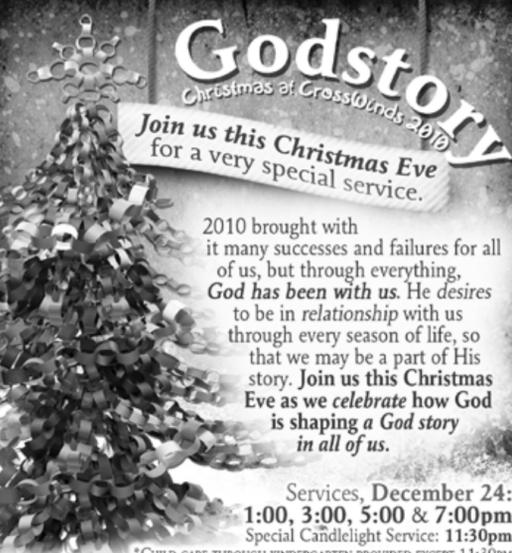
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Festival Communion Service

DEC. 31, 5:30 PM
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SPORTS NOTES



The Pleasanton Ballistic United Soccer Club (BUSC) U11 Select defeated San Ramon Azuri 4-3 in Golden Goal to take the U11 Bronze NorCal State Cup. The team is pictured with its medals and championship trophy. For more information, see Sports Notes.



The Pleasanton U12 Rage White girls took first place in the Silver 1 bracket of the Norcal State Cup. The Rage White defeated the Santa Rosa Fire by a 2-0 score in the championship match. Team members show off their medals and trophy. For more information, see Sports Notes.

Deuel Wins National Title

The Heat, a local Junior Olympic cross country team, qualified 29 individuals for the US National Championships held last weekend in Hoover, Alabama. Nine athletes earned All American honors including Parker Deuel who won the 15-16 year old boys' division. Deuel finished the hilly 5K (3.1 mile) course in 16:10, holding off two close challengers down the home stretch. "With 800m to go I knew it was going to be a close race," said Kevin McCarthy, head coach of The Heat. "However, Parker is incredibly tough in close races. He showed that in

Alabama."

Also earning All American honors in the 15-16 year boys' division was Connor McCarthy, who had to pass two runners down the home stretch to clinch the last All American spot. In the 13-14 boys' division, Blair Hurlock finished 4th place, going stride for stride with Miguel Bautista of the Equalizer's (Southern California), who was the top ranked freshman in California. Other All American's included Kylie Zeitler in the 17-18 girls, Natalie Dimits in the 15-16 girl, Sophie Hartley in the 13-14 girls, Julia Bounds in the 11-12 girls, and Matt Salazar and Michael Dunne

in the 11-12 boys. The Heat 11-12 boys' team finished 4th with Ben Zaeske, Dustin Decker and Leo Skellenger finishing close behind Salazar and Dunne.

Ballistic Champs

Pleasanton Ballistic United Soccer Club (BUSC) U11 Select defeated San Ramon Azuri 4-3 with a Golden Goal in overtime to take the U11 Bronze NorCal State Cup. Bradley Ancora started the scoring off early with a far post shot as the Azuri GK came off his line. At the beginning of the second half Azuri tied the match 1-1. Braeden Maas was next to

contribute to the BUSC scoring machine, blasting a free kick from the 35 yard line the Azuri GK was unable to handle. Azuri countered with two more goals to go ahead 3-2 late in the game. Bradley Ancora then tied the match with a 20 yard chip shot over the Azuri GK's outstretched arms and into the far post net. The match was forced into OT. Early into Golden Goal period, Tanner

Dantzig crossed the ball into the box, while Matthew Schulz made a near post run in front of the Azuri GK, tipping the ball into the net and scoring the game winner. George Briggs, Lefawo Mahlloe, Jack Delin, Eric Shields, Thomas Storey and Ethan Tuell contributed to the multiple attacks placed on San Ramon. Carter Person, Tanner Dantzig, Braeden Maas and Matthew Gumerson held the back

line, playing solid defense. Owen camp was brilliant in goal.

Top Offensive Players: Bradley Ancora, Braeden Maas, Matthew Schulz; Top Defensive Players: Owen Camp, Tanner Dantzig, Matthew Gumerson

Rage U12 Champs

Pleasanton U12 Rage White girls took first place in the Silver 1 bracket of

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SPORTS NOTES



Livermore Fusion Girls U11 Black "Crush" win the NorCal Premier Soccer State Cup Championship, Silver Division 3. The match was played in Woodland, California. Leading into the state cup tournament the Crush offense went on an aggressive scoring assault to win their last nine games. In the NorCal championship game a strong defense and incredible goalie work by Claire Abele and Katelyn Johnson gave the Livermore girls a 1-0 shutout over the Placer Blues. The girls ended their 2010 season with the leading tournament score count in their division. Pictured are (back row, left to right) Trainer Matt Caution, Claire Abele, Kira Karter, Daniela Walker, Meghan Giamona, Coach Paul Giamona. (Front row), Coach Tracy Karter, Alexis Salazar, Tori Borgna, Amanda Zeck, Isabella Barbero, Kylie Moore, Katelyn Johnson, and Sheyllynne Holsen.

the Norcal State Cup. The Rage White defeated the Santa Rosa Fire by a 2-0 score at the Silver 1 championship held in Woodland, CA this past Saturday.

The Rage White controlled most of the first half but were not able to score even though they had a few good opportunities. Emily Mickelson took a good shot from 25 yards out. Olivia Verbeck just missed one, shooting over the goalie's reach from 30 yards out. Shanece Hunsaker was denied by the Santa Rosa goalie after a hard shot from close range. The Rage White came out in the second half determined to score and that's exactly what they did. Five minutes into the second half, forward Lalinda Xu beat the Santa Rosa keeper with a shot that just curled in past the near post. Ten minutes after that, Alyssa Bardakas

passed to Shanece Hunsaker who shot hard at the Santa Rosa goal only to have the Santa Rosa keeper get her hands on the shot. The ball was deflected to Mira Greenlee who drove home the second Rage White goal.

The Rage White continued to press the action with midfielders Madison Soble, Sophie Adams, Ryan Murphy and Mckenna Moura creating opportunities and keeping it on the Santa Rosa end of the field. Rage White forwards Belle Henry and Sami Lai continually pressured the Santa Rosa defense. Rage White defenders Haley Beltran, Jenyce Dutcher and Katey Rademann were tremendous this day against a Santa Rosa team that was determined to score. Time and time again Beltran, Dutcher and Rademann stopped

the Santa Rosa attack to send the ball forward. Goalie Izzy Neads made stop after stop as she recorded another shutout.

This victory concludes the U12 Rage White season as they finish strong in beating the one, two and four seeds in the Silver 1 bracket.

High School Wrestling

Livermore High wrestlers, Terin O'Callaghan and Mac Morgan, placed 4th and 6th, respectively at the Zinkin Classic Tournament. Forty five schools from all over the state participated in the two day tournament in Clovis, CA.

CYO Basketball

St. Michael's/St. Charles (SM/SC)



The Heat, a local Junior Olympic cross country team, qualified 29 individuals for the US National Championships held last weekend in Hoover, Alabama. Pictured are members of the team. For more details on results, see Sports Notes.

5th grade boys (#504) vs (#506) Catholic Community of Pleasanton (CCOP) lost 11 to 44 in CYO Basketball. CCOP took an early lead and held their opponents' scoring down. Top scoring players for SM/SC was Nicholas Tivey with some help from Grant Blockley and Austin Shadbolt. John Burgen, Trent McGill and Andrew Germer were top scorers for CCOP. Top defensive player for SM/SC were Will Hanson and Colton Morlan. Top defensive players for CCOP included Owen Chapman and Kyle Walsh.

The 5th grade boys St. Joan of Arc defeated SM/SC Lightning Bolts. Junior Saulovich was the high scorer with 8 points. Joey Stangl added 4 points and a free-throw. Trevor Kerby and Tyler Doyle collected 5 defensive rebounds each. Devin Dominick, Francis Contarciego and Raymond Borden also made several attempts at scoring. Josh O. and Austin A. of St. Joan of Arc were the high scorers with 12 and 14 points each. The highlight of the game was Junior Saulovich's tricky "Three Stooges" game play that took his opponent and the fans by surprise.

The Swoosh girls from SM/SC's 5th grade division continue to rise above the competition with a 1 point victory over

CCOP. A hard fought game by both teams forced the Swoosh to step up another level and play above their potential. A consistent defense by CCOP didn't faze the hard-hitting 5th graders who continued to play strong until the final buzzer. The Katics (Fournier, Gomez and Marcel) did all the scoring for the Swoosh team even as every member put up attempts in each quarter. With 9 seconds left the Swoosh had to stop CCOP from scoring the last basket. Katie Marcel used her soccer experience to chuck an overhead pass to the opposite end of the court to another soccer star, Emily March. CCOP created the turnover to get the ball back with only 4 seconds on the clock. CCOP did not get off its final shot. Marcel had 5 blocked shots, 5 rebounds, shot 40% from the field and helped seal the win at the buzzer with tremendous hustle and defense. Gomez put for 4 attempts, 2 points and grabbed 2 rebounds. Katie Fournier played 75% of the game and dominated the front court with 4 steals, 6 shots and 2 points.

SM/SC CYO 4th grade boys team, aka Club Penguin, was defeated by St. Raymond 21-14. For St. Raymond, Nicholas Acquistio collected 10 rebounds and six points, while Reed Gaynor scored four and had an impressive defensive game

with 11 rebounds. Nick Kinkaid scored two points and had six rebounds. While St. Raymond had the high score, SM/SC (Club Penguin) rallied the entire game, showing drive, determination, and class till the final buzzer. Logan Finch was an offensive standout with six points, and Drew Braudrick and Jason Wigginton each scored two. Xavier Pelican gave St. Raymond difficulty with a half dozen steals, Brandon Harvey was all over the boards with a half dozen rebounds, and Dylan Jess could be counted on when Club Penguin needed rebounds and a steal.

4th grade boys basketball SM/SC (#46) Wolverines vs CCOP (#41), 10-20. For CCOP (#41), Jaden scored 4 points and blocked 5 shots. Demetri led all scorers with 8 points. For the Wolverines, Derek Eijansantos and Noah Wiesner each scored 4 points. Matthew Reddick played a strong defensive game.

SM/SC 408 Gladiators vs St. Isidore's 402 (4-29): The Gladiators Jonathan Nguyen and Wyatt Moseley were fierce players, with Ryan Heise and Josh Freitas each scoring. St. Isidore's Charlie Schmitt, Anthony Cristiani and Evan Dunphy remained diligent to finish with the win.

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SPORTS NOTES



Eighteen members from Tri -Valley Judo competed at the City College of San Francisco Judo tournament on December 5. Of the 18 competitors, 15 finished within the top three with 5 gold, 6 silver and 4 bronze medals. Pictured (back row, left to right) Rachael Butler, Alyssa Fraino, Camaryn Butler, Misael Macias, Amanda Eugenio, Monique Shah, Sean Fraino, Brenton Hsu; (front row) Kurt Khaustov, Kira Mui, Rishik Manthana, Kyle Mui, Devon Shah, Abby Lahann -Rodrigues, Maciel, Keely Mui, Ananth Goyal, and Katherine Khaustov. Not Pictured: Josh Rodrigues.



3rd grade St. Michael's/St. Charles (SM/SC) Slammers were the Tournament Champions at the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARP) Holiday Classic. Pictured from left to right are (back row) Coach Dave Lord, Ryan Hanley, Jason DeSantis, Patrick Connolly, Coach Kurt Wiedenfeld; (front row) Jacob Lord, Nick Donaldson, Jacob Hutchinson, Brett Oelrich, and Landon Wiedenfeld.

The 4th grade SM/SC Ninja's basketball team put up another win on Sunday, defeating St. Isidore-415. The Ninjas won 11-7. Top scorers for the Ninjas were Cameron Schrader, Joshua Collom and Jordan Collom. On defense, Collin Eads and Joshua Collom led the team in steals. This win brought the Ninja's record to 5-1 for the season.

The SM/SC 1st/2nd grade 2BN4 Warriors played the 2BN2 Warriors. It was an exciting game with many steals and fast breaks from both teams. For the 2BN4 Warriors, Jacob Bryant had a super offensive game. Billy Spence sparked the team with his defensive effort. For the 2BN2 Warriors, Danny Geissbuhler and Andy Hankins played all around great games.

SM/SC 1st and 2nd grade Shooting Sharks played a fantastic game against The Tigers. Top players for Shooting Sharks: Wallis Bregman (Defense), Hannah Whitecol (Offense) and Wyatt Nostrand (All Around). Top players for The Tigers: Mathieu Rochelleau (Defense), Dylan MacDonald (Offense) and Farbon Ranganian (All Around).

Pleasanton Seahawks

The Pleasanton Seahawks competed at the Tiger hosted swim meet in Stockton on Dec. 11 and 12. Team members turned strong efforts producing many new cuts and times.

Results were as follows:
First: Carly and Dana Chabrier competed in their first swim meet. Both girls swam excellent 25 backs - Dana - 28.67 and Carly - 25.66 (B time).

New "B" Times: Mattias Bengtsson - 50 free, Katie Abhyankar, Sophie Beuche, Izzy Chin, Kyle Kenny, Andrew Chen, Shilpa Krish, Jae Williams, Grace Kim - 25 breast, Sruthi Mukkamalanew - 100 IM, Emily Tsai - 25 back, David Azuma - 50 back

New "A" Times: Samantha Snow; Alex Ren; Calvin Chui; Michael Azuma; Manas Abhyankar; Chris Azuma; Natalie Cook; Abby Maguire; Jennifer Lee - 100 IM; Kaela Lee 25 free, 50 breast, 100 IM; Kaela Lee 25 free, 25 back, 100 IM; Lindsay Dillon - 50 breast, 100IM (taking 10 seconds off previous time)

Best Times: Emma Valentine - 5, Nja Zuniga - 3, Jasmine Lin - 3, Emi Tsutsumi - 2, Aaron Li - 4

100% Best Times: Yash Chitgopekar, Alex Kuang, Andrew Chen, Shipa Krish, Chris Azuma, Grace Kim, Sruthi Mukkamalanew, Kevin Gao, Julia Wang, Michelle Wang, Niklas Bengtsson

New Junior Olympic Cuts: Laurel Heckman - 50 back, Jennifer Lee - 50 breast

New Pacific Reportable Times: Miranda Heckman 1st PRT - 100 back

Youth Basketball League

Registration is now open for Lay-Ups - a youth basketball program offering leagues for children in kindergarten through 2nd grade. The 8-week season begins Jan. 22, 2011. There are several locations available. Lay-Ups is an introductory and non-competitive basketball program. All the components of the program are geared toward making each

participant feel successful. The players use smaller, age-appropriate sized basketballs. The hoops are lowered to 8'. The games are played 4-on-4 so each player has more opportunity to touch the ball. The registration fee is \$95, which includes the 8-week season, a Lay-Ups t-shirt, and a Lay-Ups basketball. Register on-line at www.Lay-Ups.com, or call (503) 799-9293 for further information.

Bocce Kits for Rent

Following the debut of two new bocce courts at the freshly renovated Bothwell Park, the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District is now making bocce ball kits available for rent to the public.

Bocce ball kits can be checked out for a week at a time from the Robert Livermore Community Center. The kits are available at the front counter from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Rental for one week is \$20, plus a \$40 refundable deposit by credit card or cash - a total of \$60. The \$40 deposit is refundable if equipment is returned in good condition. Kits are rented on a first-come, first-served basis; reservations are not available in advance. Rental of a bocce ball kit does not guarantee a bocce ball court will be available.

The Robert Livermore Community Center is located at 4444 East Ave., Livermore. Bothwell Park is located at 2466 Eighth St., Livermore. For more information, call 925-373-5700.

Lacrosse Coach

Granada High School is looking for a head varsity boys lacrosse coach. Please contact Clark Conover AD conover@lvjhsd.k12.ca.us or call 925-606-4800.

NorCal Grizzlies Baseball

NorCal Grizzlies Baseball is currently evaluating players ages 9U thru 14U for 2011 spring tournament baseball season. Season runs through July and includes 13 local tournaments, 1 tournament in SoCal, 2x weekly practices at indoor training facility and outdoor fields, and complete uniform package. Please contact Tom Graham, Head Coach, at 925-922-5050 or tomg@norcalgrizzlies.org. Schedule an evaluation at www.norcalgrizzlies.org/2011springballreg.html.

Amgen Route

Amgen, presenter of the Amgen Tour of California, is partnering with Pacific Sports, a leading sports and event management company, to produce the L'Etape du California, a race that will give amateur cyclists the opportunity to test their mettle

& 6th grades. Attending a player evaluation session is mandatory for all players. Following those evaluations, we will have tryouts for our "Black" Divisions. The goal for these sessions is two-fold: 1) to make sure all players are assigned to the correct level of play for their skill level and experience and 2) to balance the teams in each age group to the best of our ability to balance competition and maximize everyone's enjoyment. For 7th & 8th grade players, there will be no Player Evaluation Sessions this year. Black Division Tryouts will be held for those wishing to be considered for that division. All Player Evaluation Sessions and Black Division Tryouts (all age groups) will be held in January 2011. Additional information and a detailed schedule for all of these sessions will be posted on the league web site in mid-December (www.pleasantonsofball.org).

Bowling News

In the Practice Kings & Queens League, Danny Nothwang bowled 198, 185 and 180 for a 563 series that was 146 pins over average at the Granada Bowl in Livermore. Shawn Donohue, Generation Gap League, bowled his "first" 300 game as a youth bowler.

Aaron Fick, Getaway Fours League, rolled a 249 game, Mark Shiraki a 247, Dave Moore 240, Ron Sato 228, Dave Mellberg 227, Bill Deuell 226, John Easley

225 and Bastian Sopora 211. Scott Hynton and Wayne Brewster, Match Point League, both bowled 279 game, Randy Miller a 277, Kevin Johnson 227 and Phillip Escovedo 193. Bill McClain, 4 Seasons Heating & Air, rolled a 257 game. Gene Bruhl, Cheyenne League, bowled a 277 game, Dave Erwin 264, Ray Salas 258, Dave DeBus 257, Tim Piper 254, Mike Stephenson 244 and Andrew Proscia 223. Charlie Butkiewicz, Early Years Fun Time League, rolled 276 game and Keith Wilson 264. Chuck Anderson, Family Affair League, bowled a 214 game, Bob Elson 211 and Mike Collins 201.

Senior Bowler Sam Cancilla, Monday Primetimers League, bowled 218 game and Jerry Van Epps 182. Rich Baguio, Sirs & Sirettes League, rolled a 208 game, Don Tunison 204 and Sam Cancilla 202. John Foscalina, Donna's Mixer's League, recorded a 226 game, Dick Braden 222, Rich Baguio 214 and Steve Riddle 203. In the Friday Primetimers, Priscilla Mendencia bowled a 192 game.

Youth Bowler Jacky Fallings, Generation Gap League, rolled a 244 game and Curtis Agness and Eric Smyth both bowled 225.

In the 46th Annual "LVT" Tournament Don Sutherland turned in a "perfect" 300 game, to go with games of 279 and 244 for an 823 series. Also, Edward Mc-

Donnell Jr. rolled a "perfect" 300 game. This tournament will be going on every weekend til 2-6-11.

Grizzlies Baseball

NorCal Grizzlies Baseball is now holding evaluations for positions on the 2011 spring tournament teams - ages 9U through 14U.

Evaluations take place at the indoor training facility in Livermore.

Teams will compete in 14 tournaments beginning in February and ending in July. Practices are twice a week during the evenings. Sessions will be conducted by both individual team coaches and other instructors covering all aspects of the game.

For additional information, contact Tom Graham at 922-5050 or tomg@norcalgrizzlies.org or visit www.norcal-grizzlies.org.

Track & Field

St. Michael's CYO Track & Field team is holding sign ups for the Spring 2011 season on Tuesday, 1/6 and Thursday, 1/18 from 7 to 8 PM at the St. Michael Parish Hall on the corner of 3rd and Maple Streets. The program is open to boys and girls 3rd to 8th grades. Practice begins 2/1 at 4 PM on the Granada High School track. For more information www.smistrack.org.

Year-Long 'World Walk to Wellness' Has Two events: December 31 and January 8

A group of volunteers is hoping to change the world, one step at a time. They are the planning team members for "World Walk to Wellness," a Pleasanton-based project to encourage people to stay healthy by talking daily walks. For a head start on New Year's Resolutions, those interested are invited to come for a walk in the Pleasanton Sports Park on Hopyard Road at Parkside Drive on World Walk to Wellness Day, Friday, December 31, between 7-10 a.m.

Instead of hosting just one event as in past years, the group is planning monthly walks throughout 2011. These will begin at the World Walk to Wellness Festival hosted by the Pleasanton Public Library on Saturday, January 8. More than a dozen organizations will have informational booths at the free festival inside the library's community room from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Please note extended hours.). From meditation to free medical screening, a wide range of information for wellness will be provided. Every half hour, groups will depart for easy loop walks down Main Street.

Both of these events will offer the suggested-but-not-required opportunity to donate to Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) Foundation, to support wellness grants to local public schools. ACCUSPLIT, corporate sponsor of the events, will match each donation (up to \$20). So far, World Walk to Wellness has donated \$5,000 to PPIE. Special

guest at the January 8 festival will be Superintendent Parvin Ahmadi of the Pleasanton Unified School District. Community members are encouraged to stop by to meet and talk with her.

Walking and talking is a feature at each of these events. "Walk With Me" volunteer leaders include event founder W. Ron Sutton, CEO of ACCUSPLIT who is known nationally as "Mr. Pedometer;" City Councilmember Jerry Thorne; Ward Belding, vocalist known as "Uncle Sam;" health-and-wealth financial planner David Eisenhauer; and dietician Jill Daniels. Participants can ask them questions as they join them for walks.

"Our goal is to encourage more people to commit to an active lifestyle for better health," said event founder Ron Sutton. "We hope that our monthly events will help our neighbors adopt a routine of taking an easy walk every day, which research has proven to make a significant difference in good health. We encourage participants to come with a family member or friend, since the 'buddy system' helps individuals keep their New Year's Resolutions for a whole year." Sutton's company, ACCUSPLIT, will give away pedometers to the first 100 people at each event who choose to donate to PPIE. In addition, at the indoor festival, drawing tickets will be given for each \$1 donated to PPIE. Participants will get to

select for which prizes they wish their tickets to be drawn.

Walks at both events will take place rain or shine, since both will be on level, paved walkways, suitable also for strollers or wheelchairs. Participants are encouraged to dress in layers for the weather and bring along their own bottles of water.

In the planning stages are Saturday morning walks for February 26, March 19 (Arroyo Mocho), and April 9 (Marilyn Kane Trail) - these three to be led by Dolores Bengtson are particularly of interest to those who like to see native bird and plant habitats. May, June, and July walks will be linked to First Wednesday street fairs in the downtown. The August walk will precede a Friday evening Concert in the Park. Future events will be posted on the website, www.WorldWalkToWellness.org.

A partial list of those who will host booths at the World Walk to Wellness Festival includes the following: ACCUSPLIT, Body Balance Fitness and Massage, Body in Balance Community Acupuncture, Dermatology, El Camino Hospital South Asian Heart Center, Healing Touch, Lifestyle RX, Jyoti Meditation, Natural Awakenings, Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) Foundation, Pleasanton Unified School District, Podiatry, Spiritual Coaching, TriValleyWellness.com, Valley Care Library, and World School of Massage.

by riding Stage 7 of the 2011 Amgen Tour of California.

Taking place on Saturday, May 7, 2011, the L'Etape du California is being held in conjunction with the 2011 Amgen Tour of California professional cycling race set for May 15-22, 2011. Specific details of Stage 7 will be announced, along with details of the entire race route, in January.

Riders participating in L'Etape du California will cover the same route as the professionals on Stage 7 of the 2011 Amgen Tour of California.

Pacific Sports will be handling the race operations.

For more information about Pacific Sports, log onto www.pacificsportsllc.com.

PGSL Registration

2011 Registration is now open for all divisions in the Pleasanton Phantom Girls Softball League. All girls living in Pleasanton, Dublin and Sunol are eligible to play. Two ways to register: 1) Online at www.pleasantonsofball.org; 2) Mail-in: PGSL, P.O. Box 911, Pleasanton, CA 94566 (download a registration form from our website). Late fee of \$25 applied after 11/30/10. For more information or questions, email Christine Tanis at christine.t@pleasantonsofball.org.

PGSL Player Evaluations and Tryouts:

Players in the 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, & 8th grades, please read the following information carefully: In an effort to continue to improve our players' experience, PGSL will be holding Player Evaluation Sessions for all players in 3rd, 4th, 5th

LIVERMORE CINEMAS		2490 FIRST STREET 445-SHOW	
	Daily	No Late Shows	24th
TRUE GRIT (PG13) DLP	11:35 2:15 4:45 7:20		9:50
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LITTLE FOCKERS (PG13) DLP	1:00 3:30 6:05		8:30
TRON LEGACY 3D (PG) DLP D-BOX	12:20 4:00 7:00		9:45
TRON LEGACY 3D (PG) DLP THX (Thurs.-Fri. only)		2:00 5:00	8:00
TRON LEGACY (PG) DLP	11:30 3:00 6:10		9:00
HOW DO YOU KNOW (PG13) DLP	12:50 4:25 7:05		9:40
YOGI BEAR 3D (PG) DLP THX	12:00 2:20 4:40 6:50		9:10
THE FIGHTER (R) DLP	12:50 4:05 7:10		9:50
CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: Voyage of the Dawn Treader 3D (PG) DLP	12:40 4:10 6:45		9:30
CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: Voyage... (PG) DLP (Thurs.-Fri. only)	12:05 3:15 6:05		8:45
THE TOURIST (PG13) DLP	12:30 4:05 6:55		9:20
TANGLED (PG) DLP	11:45 2:10 4:40 7:15		9:35
Opens December 25			
THE KINGS SPEECH (R) DLP		12:45 4:10 6:50	9:35
GULLIVER'S TRAVELS 3D (PG) DLP		12:15 2:40 4:50 7:10	9:25

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BURLESQUE
DAILY: *2:00 4:30 7:00

127 HOURS
DAILY: *12:00 9:20



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Vineyards have shed their leaves for the winter.

WINE

(continued from page one)

or two destination resorts.

The resort hotels appeared to be the only issue not totally resolved at the Dec. 14 meeting held at the Martinelli Event Center in Livermore.

The planning staff suggests that resorts be a use allowed on a conditional use permit, within certain development standards.

The staff talked about a possible cap of 500 rooms among two or three total resorts. There needs to be enough rooms on a site to make it economically viable, but staff said it is aware that too much density hurts the rural image.

Resident Dick Ryon said that he was in the Sierra recently checking out destination hotels, and told the planners "I think you got it about right."

However, some in the audience expressed concern about mitigation requirements for such a hotel. Some people wanted a minimum lot size of 100 acres for such a resort, with a 2-acre envelope for the buildings. There would be mitigation of the development right on the site.

Planning staff asked about a minimum site of 50 acres, with another 50 mitigated elsewhere, at maybe a 2:1 ratio. The audi-

ence provided no conclusive answer on that proposal. It appeared to be an open question still hanging.

Bob Baltzer, president of Friends of Livermore, speaking for himself, told The Independent later, "I have some concerns. The whole issue of the resort hotel is up in the air. They kind of wobbled around maybe not doing building on one site. There is some fear and trepidation going on about that. I hope they have another meeting."

Staff members said they will look over responses to determine whether another public meeting would be held before writing a draft report. After the draft is written, it will go to the Alameda County Planning Commission in February or March for two or three meetings of hearings. The planning staff will also show the report to the Tri-Valley agricultural land committee.

At the Dec. 14 meeting, one audience member told the staff, "I've been to all the meetings. You summarized well what we said."

At another point, Community Development director Chris Bazar responded to a question about altering the plan once it is

finally approved by supervisors by saying, "I think this will be set in stone. It's not fair to change it, until we bring the community together again."

"The supervisors would have to change it. We have a wide range of feedback from you folks," said Bazar.

Chris Chandler, executive director of the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association told The Independent that the group appreciates the time and effort the county has been putting into the meetings. "We appreciate the time and energy of getting public input, and asking questions, not just of the winegrowers, but the entire community. From our standpoint, we definitely support some sort of resort, if it meets the criteria."

"I think the mitigation piece (of it) needs to be worked through. There are varying opinions about mitigating off site. We worked through so many issues, as it is. If this is the final piece, kudos to the county, the growers and the community," said Chandler.

Chandler said she didn't know whether one more meeting is needed, or if the next stop for public comment should be the planning commission.

WORKSHOP

(continued from page one)

resilient to climate change.

The plan will build on the city's existing foundation of resource conservation and pollution reduction programs, policies, and actions by establishing greenhouse gas reduction strategies to

keep Pleasanton green. Through a series of workshops and special events, the CAP will engage the community in an interactive process focused on energy efficiency, renewable energy, land use, transportation alternatives,

green building, water conservation, and waste reduction.

To learn more, please visit www.pleasantongreenscene.org or send an email info@pleasantongreenscene.org.



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

The clouds disappeared long enough to give Valley residents a clear glimpse of the lunar eclipse that occurred late Monday evening into early Tuesday morning. The last total lunar eclipse, when the sun, earth and moon were almost exactly in line, was in February 2008. This December's eclipse was the first on the Winter Solstice for nearly 400 years.

Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast Scheduled

The 11th annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Fellowship Breakfast will be held Mon., Jan. 24.

The event will be at the Marriott Pleasanton Hotel from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. The Tri-Valley YMCA will co-host with Dublin Mayor Tim Sbranti and Guy Houston.

The keynote speaker will be Monte Poole, longtime sportswriter and columnist for the Bay Area Newspaper Group.

The breakfast will also include fellowship, entertainment, awards, and prayer in celebration of the life and legacy of Dr. King. This celebration will take place one week after Dr. King's birthday holiday.

Proceeds from the event benefit the Tri-Valley YMCA programs such as summer day camp, youth and government, and Model UN.

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact the Tri-Valley YMCA at 475-6107 or tstier@ymcaeastbay.org.

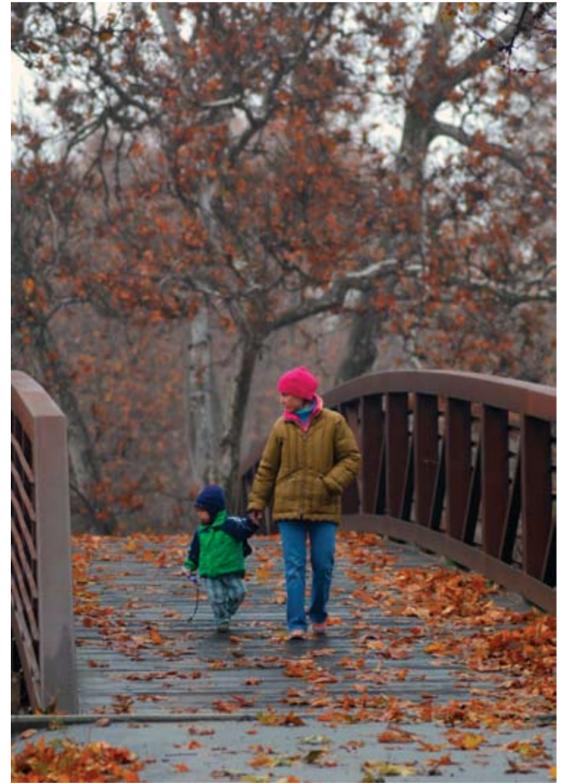


Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Despite the damp weather, Jessica and Henry, age 2, Marien enjoyed a stroll through Sycamore Grove Park.

OBITUARIES

Linda Lou Nelson

Linda Lou Nelson was released gently from pain into the loving arms of Jesus early Friday morning, Dec. 10, 2010.

She was a resident of Livermore.

Linda is survived by her devoted husband of 47 years, Chris Nelson, with whom she

shared many exotic travels, such as cruises and especially vacations at Club Med in Sonora Bay and Cancun, Mexico and Tahiti. Side by side, they enjoyed scuba diving, square dancing, photography and more.

She will be sorely missed by her 3 children: Eric Nelson (Coleen) of Spokane, Washington, Mark Nelson (Myhanh) of Ukiah, California and Kirk Nelson (Laura) of Brentwood, California, and 3 granddaughters: Reagan Nelson, Sierra and Sabrina Nelson. Linda is also survived by her sister Donna Menche (Howard) of Menlo Park, California and her brother Bob Lininger (Helga) of Concord, California. She was preceded in death by her parents Louis Albert Lininger and Pearl Ruth Van Horn of Oakland, California.

Linda was born in Oakland,

California July 7, 1945, graduated from Oakland Tech High School, and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing from Saint Mary's College in Moraga, California.

Linda lived a vibrant life as a dedicated and talented wife, mother and homemaker, developing varied skills such as seamstress, knitter, tile layer and soccer referee.

A Registered Nurse for nearly 30 years, Linda was employed at ValleyCare Hospital in Livermore, at Intel as an Occupational Health Nurse, and developed her own business, "Ergonomics at Work," specializing in biofeedback. Linda also took great joy in sharing her care giving skills as a commissioned Parish Nurse and a Stephen Ministries Instructor at Our Savior Lutheran Ministries in Livermore.

As a member of Our Savior Lutheran Ministries for over 40 years, Linda served in many capacities over the years: leading Sunday school music, contemporary service guitarist, a member of the Altar Guild and Lutheran Women's Missionary League. She was also involved in vocal and bell choirs and more. Linda was a true testimony of her faith in her Lord and died confident that she would see her many friends and family with all believers in Heaven.

Friends and family shared in a celebration of Linda's life at a Memorial Service on December

20, 2010 at Our Savior Lutheran Ministries in Livermore.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to Our Savior Lutheran Ministries.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

Marjorie Ann Stromberg

Marjorie Ann Stromberg, 85, passed away Thursday, December 16, 2010, at Valley-Care Medical Center in Pleasanton, California. Marjorie was born September 23, 1925, in Spokane,

Washington, the fourth of five children born to Earle and Lillian Muzzy.

Marjorie was raised in the Spokane area until her family moved to Oakland in 1938. She spent the remainder of her life in the Bay Area. She married Ted Stromberg on February 17, 1946, in Oakland, California. She moved with her young family to Livermore in 1952, where

she lived for the remainder of her life.

She was a homemaker as well as a hospital volunteer at Valley Memorial Hospital for 25 years, and was president of the hospital auxiliary in 1989.

Marjorie loved all of her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren very much. She also enjoyed reading, dancing, playing bridge, and doing counted cross-stitch.

Marjorie was preceded in death by her husband of 42 years, Ted Stromberg; by her brothers, Norman Muzzy and Robert Muzzy; and by her sisters, Emaline Tierney and Jayne Savio. She is survived by her four children, Susan Levi, Kirk (Robin) Stromberg, Kent (Susanne) Stromberg, and Mark Stromberg; ten grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held December 21, 2010 in Livermore. Interment was private. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that any remembrances be made to ValleyCare Charitable Foundation, 1111 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore, CA 94550.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

Dorothy M. Bettencourt

Dorothy went home to be with the Lord on Dec. 16, 2010, at the age of 76. She was surrounded by her family. She was a resident of Brentwood.

She was born Feb. 10, 1934. She spent 20 years as a teacher's aide at Brentwood Elementary, before her retirement.

Dorothy is survived by her husband, Norman W. Bettencourt; children, Julie (Tim) Jacobs, Jeff (Heather) Bettencourt; and four grandchildren, Haley, Nicole, Cole and Danielle.

Rosary was held on Mon, Dec 20.

Mass of the Christian Burial was celebrated on Dec 21 at St. Michael Catholic Church in Livermore, with burial following at St. Michael Catholic Cemetery, Livermore.

In lieu of flowers the family respectfully requests memorial donations in Dorothy's name be made to a local charity of your choice.

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Visitation, Mon., Dec. 27, 5-7PM, Rosary at 7PM at Callaghan's Chapel

Mass, Tues., Dec. 28th, 11AM at St. Michael Church
Interment at Sacramento Valley National Cemetery on Wed., Dec. 29th, 1PM

Laurence Parkman Jr.

Memorial Service, Tues., Dec. 28th, 11AM at Callaghan's Chapel

Toni Rodgers

Memorial Service, Wed., Dec. 29th, 11AM at Callaghan's Chapel

SERVICES WERE HELD FOR:
Dorothy Bettencourt
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May this holiday season and the coming new year bring you peace, happiness and prosperity.

Debbie & Family

For all of your funeral pre-need questions and answers, please call Teri @ (925) 447-2942 for your personal appointment.
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MAILBOX

(continued from page 4)

city council goes down in history as having shrewd foresight and extraordinary vision.

Disturbing Trends David Furst Livermore

Recent discussions at the Livermore City Council have shown some disturbing trends. In July of this year and again at a recent City Council meeting the Council discussed taking over the Independent Livermore Area Recreation and Park District. With this goal in mind they

budgeted and spent \$25,000, and they recently voted to spend an additional \$50,000-\$100,000 to continue to look into this take over.

First of all, never once has the City Council formally asked to discuss their proposed take over with the park district itself. What are the ethics of one independent agency deciding to take over another independent agency? Common courtesy would demand that the City formally contact the park district to hold formal discussions.

Second, at the same time the City voted to drastically cut back the hours at the branch libraries and then voted to close one of the libraries (keeping it open one day a week only after citizen protests) the City Council has committed the city to a minimum of \$75,000 and more likely \$125,000 with a Phase Three yet to come.

Citizens who are disturbed at this decisions and lack of communication with sister agencies need to let the City Council know their feelings.

Food for Children Lex Manwill Livermore

President Obama signed the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act -- first major bipartisan bill enacted since the election by a deeply polarized congress. The act will replace junk food in school lunches and vending machines with more healthful options.

Several jurisdictions have taken similar action. The Hawaii, California, New York, and Florida legislatures passed

resolutions recommending vegan school options. Last year, the Baltimore City public school system became the first in the nation to offer its 80,000 students a weekly meat-free lunch. According to the School Nutrition Association, 65% of U.S. schools now offer vegetarian lunch options.

In the past, USDA has used the National School Lunch Program as a dumping ground for surplus meat and dairy commodities. Not surprisingly, 90% of American children consume excessive amounts of fat, and only 15%

eat the recommended servings of fruits and vegetables. These early dietary flaws become lifelong addictions, raising the risk of diabetes, heart disease, and stroke.

Those who care about our children's health should demand healthful plant-based school meals, snacks, and vending machine items. Additional information is available at healthschool-lunches.org, choiceusa.net, and schoolnutrition.org.

Illinois' Country Life Highlighted in New Book

Barry Schrader has been able to complete something he intended to do in Livermore when writing a history column for this newspaper, publish a book of his columns written over the past four years about life in "corn country" as he calls it.

Schrader said he had wanted to assemble his favorite columns after three years of writing for the Independent, but then retirement and a quick move back to where he was born and raised in downstate Illinois meant it would not be feasible.

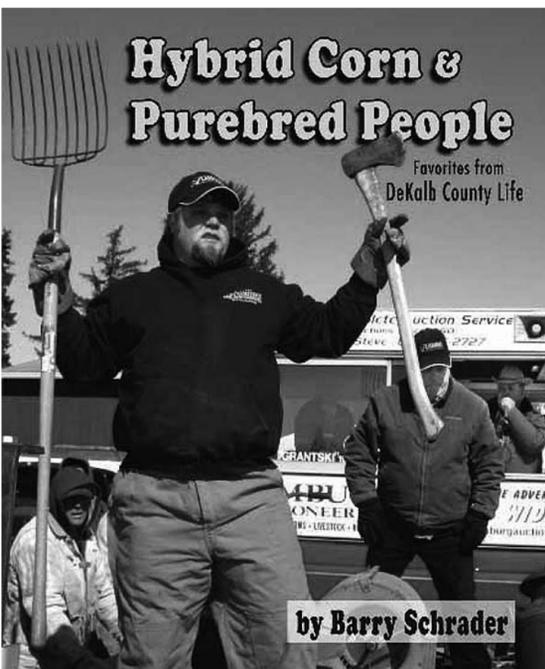
After three years of writing about people, places and events in DeKalb County he has compiled 100 of his favorite stories into a book, naming it "Hybrid Corn and Purebred People," including some 150 photos, 60 of them never published with his column before.

The book will be available online at www.dekalbcountyilife.com and at Sycamore Antiques, 320 West State St. in Sycamore.

"I was amazed how much had changed in this rural area but yet many parts of the county still look the same since my childhood. So it was exciting to explore my past and re-acquaint myself with classmates from grade school through college at Northern Illinois University, all the time collecting stories for my columns," Schrader said. His column appears each Tuesday on page 2 of the *Daily Chronicle* and often is accompanied by photos he has taken of his subjects.

Schrader, who will be 70 in December, was born on a dairy farm south of Waterman, Illinois attending school there and then moving north a few miles where he graduated from high school in Genoa.

After earning a Journalism degree from NIU, Schrader was hired as editor of three rural weeklies in Ogle County, then saved enough money to put a down payment on his hometown weekly *The Genoa Republican* in 1964, soon after adding the Kirkland weekly, *DeKalb County Journal*, and starting a new paper, the *Sycamore Sun*, in the nearby county seat town. He formed a corporation, DeKalb County Press, with major investors who



The front cover of the book features a local farm auction conducted by the Almburg Auctioneering family. Three generations are shown in the photo.

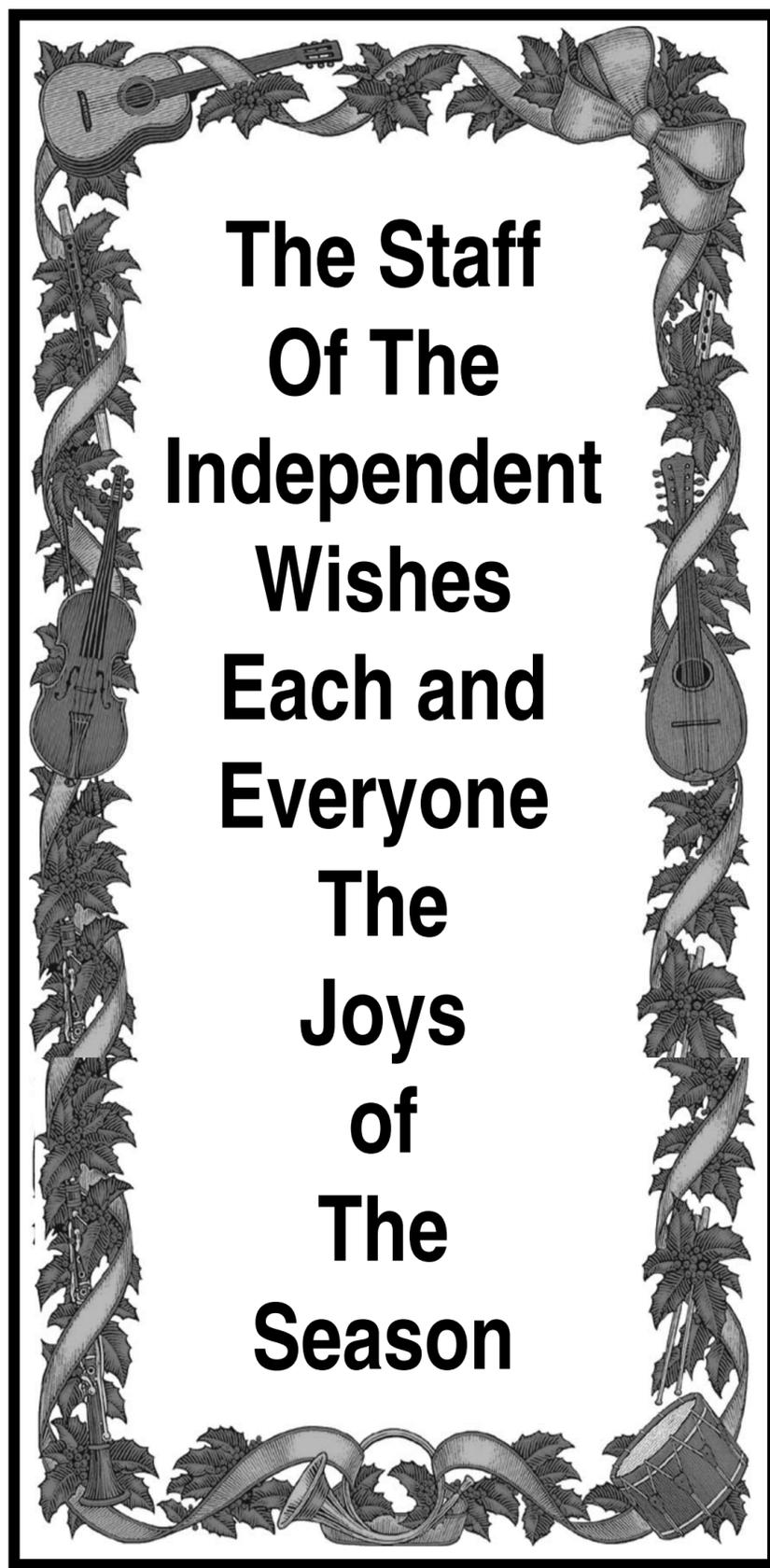
bought him out in 1967, so found himself looking for work and decided to try California. The second day of job hunting landed him a copy editor position on the metropolitan paper *San Bernardino Sun* in southern California. From there he moved up north to become editor of *Tri-Valley Herald*.

His wife became homesick for family back in Illinois so he agreed to return to DeKalb County where he became editor of the *DeKalb Daily Chronicle* under its new ownership Scripps-Hagadone. Four years later he was offered the editorship of a new daily in the Tri-Valley, *The Valley Times*, then owned by Dean Leshner and jumped at the chance to return to California. He eventually returned to the editorship of the *Herald* and then in 1980 changed careers and became Public Information Officer for Sandia National Laboratories' branch in Livermore. After 21 years with Sandia he decided at age 60 to make one more career move and became a supervisor of community relations at Lawrence

Livermore National Laboratory. After a bout with cancer and major surgery for diverticulosis he ended his career the last two years as oral historian for LLNL. So when moving back to Illinois in 2006 his first move was to volunteer to tape oral histories for the DeKalb County Historian.

Schrader and his wife Kay live in a duplex home at the Oak Crest—DeKalb Area Retirement Center where they both volunteer in various capacities. Schrader continues his longtime interests in antique letterpress printing and photography and even took a first place in the Still Life photo category at the county fair last year. Each year he and his wife Kay return for a few weeks to the Tri-Valley where he volunteers to print on the antique letterpress at the Alameda County Fair.

In his book's preface, Schrader describes his weekly column as "the exclamation point at the end of my life" and intends to keep on writing "for a few more of my golden years."



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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 445237

The following person(s) doing business as: Lizard Patch Designs, 5338 Bianca Way, Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jenny Mostek, 5338 Bianca Way, Livermore Ca 94550. This business is conducted by: an Individual

Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed. Signature of Registrant: /s:/Jenny Mostek This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 23, 2010. Expires November 23, 2015. The Independent Legal No. 2898. Publish December 2, 9, 16, 23, 2010.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 445288-455289
The following person(s) doing business as: 1) Play The Game Products, 2) Torture Me Again, 301 Earhart Way, Livermore Ca 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s):

CFL International, Inc., 301 Earhart Way, Livermore Ca 94551
This business is conducted by: a Corporation
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.
Signature of Registrant: /s:/Guillermo Iglesias
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 24, 2010. Expires November 24, 2015. The Independent Legal No. 2899. Publish December 2, 9, 16, 23, 2010.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 444977-444978
The following person(s) doing business as: 1) Jess Catering, 2) William Jess Caterer, 1568 Cheryl Drive, Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): William K. Jess, 1568 Cheryl Drive, Livermore Ca 94550
This business is conducted by: an Individual
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.
Signature of Registrant: /s:/William K. Jess
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 16, 2010. Expires November 16, 2015. The Independent Legal No.

2902. Publish December 9, 16, 23, 30, 2010.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 445229

The following person(s) doing business as: SusanPrep 1856 Third St., Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Susan Larik, 2377 College Ave., 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 August 2, 2010
Signature of Registrant: /s:/Susan Larik

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 23, 2010. Expires November 23, 2015. The Independent Legal No. 2903. Publish December 9, 16, 23, 30, 2010.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME FILE NO. 403660

The following person(s) has (have) Abandoned The Use Of The Fictitious Business Name:
Wild Smiles, 4200 East Avenue Suite 100, Livermore Ca 94550
The Fictitious Business

Name Statement was filed on November 19, 2007 in the County of Alameda. The Name of the Registrants are:
Klifford Todd Kapus DDS, 1476 Maplewood Drive, Livermore Ca 94551
Renee Kapus, 1476 Maplewood Drive, Livermore Ca 94551
Signature of Registrant: /s:/Klifford Kapus and Renee Kapus
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 3, 2010. The Independent Legal No. 2904. Publish December 9, 16, 23, 30, 2010.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 445533

The following person(s) doing business as: Wild Smiles, 4200 East Ave #100, Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Tri Valley Orthodontics LLC., 7605 Mines Road, Livermore Ca 94550
This business is conducted by: a Limited liability company
The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name (s) listed above on December 3, 2010
Signature of Registrant: /s:/Cynthia Gomez

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 3, 2010. Expires December 3, 2015. The Independent Legal No. 2905. Publish December 9, 16, 23, 30, 2010.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 445426

The following person(s) doing business as: Visiting Angels East Bay, 179 Contractors Avenue, Livermore Ca 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Care Solutions Associates, LLC., 179 Contractors Avenue, 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 May 2005
Signature of Registrant: /s:/Keith Beck
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 30, 2010. Expires November 30, 2015. The Independent Legal No. 2906. Publish December 16, 23, 30, 2010, January 6, 2011.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 445781

The following person(s) doing business as: Dogtopia of

Pleasanton, 7132 Johnson Drive, Pleasanton Ca 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Barnett Enterprise, 7132 Johnson Drive, Pleasanton Ca 94588
This business is conducted by: a Limited liability company
The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name (s) listed above on December 10, 2010
Signature of Registrant: /s:/Debrah A Barnett
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 10, 2010. Expires December 10, 2015. The Independent Legal No. 2907. Publish December 23, 30, 2010, January 6, 13, 2011.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:

VERNA MARIE PAYNE Case No. VP10539371
1. To all Heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: **VERNA MARIE PAYNE**
2. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by: **STEPHEN ANDREW PAYNE** in the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda

County
3. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE of Will and for Letters Testamentary
4. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that: **STEPHEN ANDREW PAYNE** be appointed as EXECUTOR.
5. THE PETITION requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.
6. THE PETITION requests limited authority be granted to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The Independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
7. A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows:
Date: January 4, 2011
TIME: 9:30am DEPT: 201

at:
Superior Court of California, County of Alameda, 2120 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way, Berkeley, Ca 94704
8. IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
9. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above.
10. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (Form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250.
A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

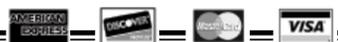
11. Attorney for Petitioner: Ralph Kokka (SBN 143519), Patton Martin & Sullivan, LLP, 6600 Koll Center Parkway, Suite 250, Pleasanton, CA 94566, 925 600-1800

The Independent Legal No. 2901. Publish December 9, 16, 23, 2010.

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/NORTH COUNTY BIDDERS CONFERENCE RFQ #900836 for MATTRESSES, Wednesday, January 5, 2011, 10:00 a.m. – General Services Agency, 1401 Lakeside Drive, Room 1105, 11th Floor, Oakland, CA
NETWORKING/SOUTH COUNTY BIDDERS CONFERENCE RFQ #900836 for MATTRESSES, Thursday, January 6, 2011, 2:00 p.m. – Dublin Public Library, 200 Civic Plaza, The Program Room, Dublin, CA
Responses Due by 2:00 pm on February 16, 2011
Contact: Evelyn Benzton (510) 208-9622 or via email: evelyn.benzton@acgov.org
Attendance at Networking

LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

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Conference is Non-mandatory. Specifications regarding the above may be obtained at the Alameda County Current Contracting Opportunities Internet website at www.acgov.org. 12/23/10 CNS-2009603# The Independent Legal No. 2909. Publish December 23, 2010.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Date of Filing Application: December 14, 2010 To Whom It May Concern: The Name(s) of the Applicant(s) is/are: **BAHRAM BENJAMIN JAFARI, HOWELL KENNETH JOHNSON** The Applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at: **1770 1ST ST LIVERMORE, CA 94550-4305** 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. 2908. Publish December 23, 30, 2010, January 6, 2011

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. Saturdays from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm, dogs and cats are available at the Pleasanton Farmers Market at W. Angela and First Streets. Two locations will showcase cats only: Petsmart in Dublin from 10 to 4, and the Pet Food Express in Livermore from 10 to 4. Sundays, cats are at Petsmart in Dublin 11 to 4, and PetCo in San Ramon 11 to 3. TVAR at (925) 803-7043 or visit our website at www.tvvar.org.

4) FOUND

FOUND AN ANIMAL? FREE SECTION. Call Barbara 925 243-8000 to let 33,000 households know!

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6) LOST

LOST A FAMILY PET? FREE SECTION. Call Barbara 925 243-8000 to let 33,000 households know!

AUTOMOTIVE

10) AUTOS WANTED

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

SELL YOUR USED CAR HERE. Call Barbara at 925-243-8000 OR www.independentnews.com Pay by Credit Card for any Classified or Display ads.

EMPLOYMENT

56) ADULT CARE

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

60) BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

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71) HELP WANTED

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125) HOUSEHOLD GOODS

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127) LOST/FOUND

LOST or FOUND AN ITEM FREE SECTION
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140) WANTED TO BUY

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tal \$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."

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REAL ESTATE NEWS AND NOTICES

What Would Be the Impact of Changes to the Mortgage Interest Deduction?

By Cher Wollard

The mortgage interest deduction is one of the most popular tax write-offs available. It has been around as long as the federal government has levied income taxes, surviving even the tax overhaul of 1986 which eliminated most other forms of interest deductions.

Many people believe the deduction is crucial to promoting homeownership in this country.

"The mortgage interest deduction is one of the pillars of our national housing policy," said Michael D. Berman, chairman of the Mortgage Bankers Association. "Limiting its use will have negative repercussions for consumers and home values up and down the housing chain."

The deduction is a significant benefit for homeowners, especially in the first few years they carry a mortgage on that home. For example, if you obtained an \$187,000 30-year fixed mortgage at 5 percent interest, your monthly principal and interest payment will be about \$1,000. That means that of the \$12,000 you spent the first year, \$9,297 will be interest payments, which you can deduct for a tax savings of about \$2,324.

There are limits and restrictions, of course. The mortgage must be on your primary or secondary home. The total of all mortgages cannot exceed \$1 million for couples (\$500,000 for single people). Second mortgages must be used to purchase or improve the property and deductions are limited to interest on the first \$100,000.

Anytime the prospect of eliminating or modifying the deduction is raised, as it was recently by the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, the bi-partisan commission appointed by President Obama to look for ways to reduce the national deficit.

The proposal, backed by some economists, elicited protests from both sides of the aisle.

There are at least two proposals making the rounds:

- First, reduce the maximum amount of mortgage debt on which interest is deductible from the current \$1 million to \$500,000 by 2018.

- The second alternative would replace the deduction with a 12 percent tax credit. Interest on second homes and home equity loans would be excluded. (In 2005, the President's Advisory Panel on Federal Tax Reform proposed a variant of that approach.)

The first proposal would cost American homeowners about \$40 billion over 10 years. The second proposal would actually benefit some homeowners, but would raise taxes for many others. The overall tax increase is estimated at \$13 billion in the first year.

So what does the deduction actually mean? Would changes drastically affect homeowners and the housing industry?

PROS AND CONS

1. Many people wrongly believe the deduction was initially written into the tax code to encourage homeownership (it wasn't; it was designed to benefit landlords). They and others fear that without the tax advantage, fewer people would want to buy homes.

In fact, people purchase homes for a variety of reasons: freedom - You can pretty much do what you want with your property, as long as you don't violate any federal, state or local codes; stability - No one can force you to uproot your family because he/she wants to do something else with the property; potential for equity growth - The past few years notwithstanding, real property over time is an historically good investment.

Several studies, such as a recent survey for the Urban Institute and Tax Policy Center, have indicated that the mortgage interest deduction does not in itself encourage homeownership.

Yet 77 percent of Americans view homeownership as an important part of the American Dream, according to a Harris Polls survey conducted for Trulia.com last spring.

As Franklin Delano Roosevelt once said: "A nation of homeowners, of people who own a real share in their own land, is unconquerable."

2. The deduction encourages people to purchase more expensive homes.

The deduction certainly allows people to purchase more house than they otherwise would be able to afford. For example, the person with the \$1,000 monthly payment, could elect to purchase a larger or nicer home with a \$220,000 mortgage (instead of an \$187,000 mortgage), using the tax savings to effectively keep the monthly payments the same - at least initially.

Each year you hold the mortgage, you pay more principal and less interest, thus slowly reducing the tax advantage.

When families purchase more expensive homes, it both increases their personal wealth and encourages builders to erect larger homes, which can affect the character of communities.

3. Advocates of maintaining the deduction fear that without it the housing industry would sink further.

According to a study by the Tax Policy Center, over a 50-year period, before the subprime boom, U.S. homeownership rates remained steady even as the value of the deduction fluctuated widely.

Opponents note that few other industrialized nations offer such incentives, and yet people continue to want to own their own homes. Canada, for example, allows interest deductions on rentals, not on the taxpayer's residence. Homeownership rates in Canada are similar to those in the United States.

Regardless, many fear that it would be unwise to do anything to jeopardize the housing industry now, just as we are starting to see signs of real recovery.

4. Some opponents of the deduction contend it benefits higher-income homeowners more than others.

Certainly relatively few low-income families are able to purchase their own homes. But millions of middle-income families do - or want to - and the interest deduction helps makes homes affordable for them.

Some economists believe that modifications to the tax code - a tax credit in place of the interest deduction, for example - might be more equitable, providing proportionately more benefit to middle-income households.

Despite studies, debates and surveys, the fact remains that the mortgage interest deduction is popular with the American public, and political leaders who seek to change or eliminate it may be in for a huge outcry.

Every April 15, about 40 million Americans claim the mortgage interest tax deduction. The Urban Institute and Tax Policy Center study estimates that eliminating the mortgage interest deduction would cost the average household \$559 per year in increased taxes.

In the Bay Area, those numbers are far greater; thus the stakes are higher.

Cher Wollard is Realtor with Prudential California Realty, Livermore.



Photo - Tia Gemmill

Comcast's Johnnie Giles and California First Lady Maria Shriver present The California Hall of Fame's Dreamers Challenge winners Sarah Williams and Thomas Keller with their \$5,000 scholarship awards at during a ceremony held at the California Museum in Sacramento.

Foster Kids Warm to Amador High School Girl's Project

By Ron McNicol

Sarah Nicole Williams is off to a good start if she majors in public policy in college.

The Amador Valley High school senior already has been to Congress, and met Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger in Sacramento.

Sarah won a gold medal awarded by Congress to students who work hard at projects. She received bronze and silver medals for those cumulative honors at the district office of Rep. Jerry McNerney.

For the gold award, she went back to Washington, where she was part of a ceremony involving 200 students from around the United States being recognized for their contributions to America.

Sarah also won a state contest in which she was given the award by Gov. Schwarzenegger for winning the Dreamers Challenge scholarship, awarded by the California Museum in Sacramento.

The Dreamers Challenge Scholarship asked students to think creatively by submitting paintings, poems, video productions, music, essays or whatever format that allowed them to best answer the challenge in their own distinct voice. In response, The California Museum received 203 entries from all over the state and a diverse group of students.

The awards Sarah received

were the result of her being moved by something that she read in a book called "Hope's Boy." It was written by an attorney, Andrew Bridge, who advocates for foster children.

Bridge was at a correctional institute advocating for a boy there. He asked the warden for a blanket. The warden slammed the door in his face.

"I was really outraged when the warden said that the boy couldn't have a blanket. That really moved me," said Sarah.

"The incident came at the beginning of the book. I was underneath five blankets of my own. I was young. I didn't understand there were kids without a blanket," she said.

Sarah now understands a great deal about kids who don't have even a blanket of their own. Her project now collects more than 2000 blankets a year, most of them stored in the family garage in Pleasanton, for later distribution.

The blankets are not castoffs from people. They are freshly made by the donors themselves. That's the genius of Sarah's idea, which began three years ago as a Gold Award project in Girl Scouts.

Sarah provides people with kits to make the blankets. The construction is such that they don't have to do any sewing, but

some labor is involved. A piece of fleece is part of the kit.

After a person assembles the blanket, he or she buys another piece of fleece and passes the kit on to someone else. That's how Sarah's social action has spread.

Sarah addressed a Soroptimist convention in Hawaii last year. Now there are Soroptimist organizations in Seattle and Tampa and Portland, spreading the activity there.

When Sarah first started, it was her girl friends who were putting together most of the blankets. Participation increased. Senior women at Ridge View Commons in Pleasanton became involved. She said she wanted to help put some purpose into the lives of the seniors.

A former Valley Christian School student, she involved students. In Girl Scouts, the Interact Clubs linked to Rotary, the National Charity League and several churches also took up the project.

One of the biggest markets for the blankets is an annual holiday festival in Benicia for foster children. Sarah has expanded the giveaway to include shoes now. She had 200 pairs of shoes on a big lawn in Benicia, with children grateful about picking them up.

"One boy who had cardboard in his shoes because they didn't fit him well. When he picked out a he said, "Oh boy! I can do anything now!," said Sarah.

Sarah's mother, Cindy, said that one family came to a distribution at the Veterans Hall in Pleasanton. "We had had one family who came up to me, and wanted to come in. They were so embarrassed because they didn't have shoes on."

Poverty is one reason children don't own blankets. Another is that some foster kids are suddenly abandoned by parents with just the clothes on their backs.

By giving blankets, and now shoes, too, and a stuffed animal for a little companionship, Sarah feels that it is making the children's burden a little lighter.

Seed money of \$3000 that kicked off the project was donated by the Lions and Rotary. That enabled Sarah to buy 2000 yards of fleece. She even got the Valley Christian football team involved: the big strong boys lugged the bolts of cloth to an impromptu sewing room at the school.

Sarah said in her essay in the state contest, "Involving others became one of the most rewarding parts of the project, and soon volunteers appeared unasked."

SCHOOLS

(continued from page one)

the quick fix. They need to work harder until they find the right solutions and meet the challenges. Their lack of vision, courage and heart is the greatest source of educational mediocrity in California. An example of this is our governor calling for a \$4 billion cut in educational budget when we need to increase funds. The Institute of Research on Educational Policy at Stanford says we need to increase our educational budget \$17 billion per year in California.

"Only a third of our students graduate from high school and are able to do college work. This does not mean all of them should attend four-year colleges, but they should be able to go to community colleges or into the military. Our students must acquire higher skills or they will become a permanent underclass in the global economy and here in America."

According to Eastin, Ira Mullis, co-director of the International Study Center at Boston College, said that 44% of eighth graders in Singapore score at the most advanced level in math, as did 38% in Taiwan, compared to only 7% in the United States. In 25 years, Singapore climbed from the bottom in educational rankings to the top. Eastin said that has to be our goal, too.

Eastin added that we have to focus on the same science standards that we did when Sputnik went up. At that time, American policymakers fretted about education. They passed the National Defense Education Act, which included the college student loan fund, to assist more students in pursuing careers in science, math and teaching. "We need that same commitment today."

Eastin made strong recommendations to remedy the situation, including recommendations of systems that have worked in countries in Europe and Asia, where educational achievements are much higher. They include the following:

- **Smaller Class Size:** the highest performing countries have the smallest class sizes. Eastin sponsored the proposal for 20 students per class in the first three grades. She recommends 25 in grades 4th through 6th, 28 in grades 7th and 8th, and reduction in class sizes in English classes in high school.

- **Universal Pre-School Education:** the best performing countries offer this. Research shows the steepest curve of development is ages 0-5. Children who attended pre-school showed 13 points higher on the IQ tests later in school than those who didn't. Countries with big pre-school education programs have the lowest dropout rates. "Universal Pre-School is the next big idea," she said. "It should be as obvious for our posterity as saving Yosemite, digging the Panama Canal, or building the Golden Gate Bridge. We are at a crossroads in America when people talk about tax cuts instead of pre-school education. This should be accompanied with full day, compulsory kindergarten.

- **Emphasize Writing:** this is an area essential for everyone. Eastin declares that it is in writing that we learn to think. We need to move away from multiple-choice tests which are used because they're cheaper to grade. Life is not a multiple-choice exam. Writing training is the best predictor of how our children will do in college.

- **Strengthen Science Curriculum:** in California, some districts only teach science in the 5th and 8th grades, the years the schools are tested. Also, the State Board of Education made a serious effort to limit students'



DELAINE EASTIN

hands on experimentation to 25% or less of the science class time. They wanted to establish a policy of teaching primarily by lecturing and telling students what to expect with an experiment. Leading CEO's and ten campus chancellors had to work to prevent that from happening. When Eastin was Superintendent of California Schools, she called on the Governor and legislature to raise high school graduation requirements so that students would be required to take two laboratory sciences, rather than just two sciences. The governors of both parties and the legislature rejected this idea, saying it would be too expensive.

- **Strengthen the Arts Curriculum:** in a country where 20% of new jobs being created are arts-related, arts must be treated as part and parcel of the core curriculum, as they are in other high performing countries.

- **Pay More Attention to Student Health:** a UCLA/Rand study found that childhood obesity is equivalent to 20 years of aging and creates 30-50% more chronic medical problems later in life than smoking or alcohol. Kids need to be kept physically active, as well.

- **Value Teachers:** in highest performing states and countries, teachers feel valued. They are provided with adequate resources and support to be effective. In those systems, there is a low turnover of teachers. America is losing a third of its teachers every five years. The most common reason teachers give for leaving the profession is lack of administrative support. Teachers need principals who are instructional leaders who feel empowered to create a vision and develop strategies for achieving high standards. Principals need to build organizational systems in which everyone at the school site takes ownership. Eastin added, "As State Superintendent of Public Instruction, I visited over 500 schools in every county of the State of California and a number outside my state. I never went to a great school that did not have a great principal. I never went to a great district that did not have

a great superintendent."

- **Lengthen the School Year:** in the United States, the school years run from 165 to 180 days, depending on the state. In Europe, students attend school 200 days a year, and in Asia, 220-260 days. "This is our competition. Eastin stated, "It should go without saying that we should provide safety nets for any child who falls behind. California should fully fund academic programs on Saturdays, summers and after school."

Eastin recognized that confronting the challenges today is extremely difficult. However, she showed how some of America's greatest leaders valued education and furthered it, even at times of great national stress. In 1862, during the darkest days of the Civil war, when little extra funding was available, Abraham Lincoln signed the Morrill Act, creating Land Grant Colleges, so that college education was available to everyone. Today there are 181 Land Grant Colleges in America where millions of students have been educated.

In 1944, also during the darkest days of war, Franklin Roosevelt signed the GI Bill, which doubled college attendance and 250,000 teachers were educated. In 1958, when America was in the Cold War and the Soviets launched Sputnik, President Dwight Eisenhower encouraged Congress to increase investment in education and he signed the National Defense Education Act, greatly increasing emphasis on science education.

All of these measures were passed at times of great national stress far greater than today. Eastin called for leaders and citizens to face up to the challenges of providing a top education. She also took the public to task. She said it is ridiculous that it takes a two thirds majority vote to pass increased funding for schools, but only a simple majority to approve transit bonds for high speed rail.

Eastin declared, "Education is our gift to the future." She quoted Neil Postman, "Children are the message we send to a time we will never see."

Tri-Valley Conservancy Applauds Renewal of Conservation Tax Incentive

Congress just renewed a tax incentive for private landowners—especially working family farmers and ranchers—who protect their land with a voluntary conservation agreement. The incentive, which had expired at the end of 2009, helped many landowners to conserve acres of productive agricultural lands and natural areas between 2006 and 2009.

Conservation-minded landowners now have until December 31, 2011 to take advantage of a significant tax deduction for donating a voluntary conservation agreement to permanently protect important natural or historic resources on their land. When landowners donate a conservation easement to Tri-Valley Conservancy, they maintain ownership and management of their land and can sell or pass the land on to their heirs, while foregoing future development rights.

The enhanced incentive applies to a landowner's federal income tax. It accomplishes the following:

- Raises the deduction a donor can take for donating a voluntary conservation agreement from 30% of their income in any year to 50%;
 - Allows farmers and ranchers to deduct up to 100% of their income; and
 - Increases the number of years over which a donor can take deductions from 6 to 16 years.
- "Our whole community wins

when thoughtful landowners conserve their land this way, protecting wildlife habitat, clean drinking water, scenic landscapes, recreational spaces, and productive agricultural lands," said Tri-Valley Conservancy's Executive Director Sharon Burnham. "Conservation agreements have become an important tool nationally for protecting our watersheds, farms and forests, increasing the pace of private land conservation by a third – to over a million acres a year. Tri-Valley Conservancy joins America's 1,700 land trusts and their two million supporters in thanking Congress for making this important conservation tool available," she said.

Representative John Garamendi and Senator Diane Feinstein co-sponsored the legislation to make this incentive permanent.

According to the Land Trust Alliance, the national organization that provides a voice for land trusts in Washington, DC, there is strong support for bills to make this incentive permanent. Co-sponsors come from all 50 states, 274 House and 41 Senate, including majorities of Democrats and Republicans in the House. This legislation is supported by more than 60 national agricultural, sportsmen's, and conservation organizations.

To learn more about the enhanced incentive visit www.lta.org/easementincentive.



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Art, Community, & Education

Amador Valley Quilters Blanket the Community with Love



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Working on quilts are (left to right) Julie Casamajor, Jean Urban, and Jeanne Brophy.

By Patricia Koning

If members of the Amador Valley Quilters (AVQ) are feeling tired, they have good reason to. The organization's approximately 350 members created 900 Community Quilts in 2010—that's a pace of more than three completed quilts a day and about three per member, on average.

The quilts are distributed throughout the community, to

foster children, homeless families, battered women, at-risk teens, seniors, veterans, and premature infants. The idea, explains Dianne Saugier, one of the Community Quilts organizers, is to give recipients something special of their very own. "No child should have to be in a crisis center," she says. "Many of these kids have nothing of their own. The quilt is some-

thing handmade that belongs solely to the child."

AVQ began the program in 1986, making 16 quilts for the Tri-Valley Haven. Each quilt is typically worked on by at least three different members. "A quilt entails many steps: the designing, piecing, and finally, the quilting of the top, middle batting, and backing layers," says AVQ publicity chair

Ileana Soto. "A quiltmaker might piece the top but need someone else to stitch the quilting, so the level of coordination to produce so many quilts is enormous."

At the AVQ annual holiday brunch on Dec. 11, the quilts were distributed to eleven recipient organizations: Agape Villages, Buenas Vidas Youth Ranch, Emergency Shelter Programme, Fam-

ily Emergency Shelter Coalition, Hosanna Homes, Lucille Packard Child Hospital, Seneca Center, Senior Support, Shepherd's Gate, Tri-Valley Haven, and ValleyCare Medical Center Maternal Child Services.

A representative from each organization shared stories of the impact of the quilts. "These kids come from nothing," says Marcus

(continued on page 7)

Ed Kinney Lecture Series Moves to Firehouse Arts Center

Topics Range from Einstein to the Women's Suffragist Movement

The Museum on Main has announced the 2011 Ed Kinney Lecture Series. It will be moving to the new Firehouse Arts Center in Downtown Pleasanton. The 2011 series includes speakers and historic character portrayals. Among them are Einstein, the California women's suffragist movement on the 100th anniversary of the right to vote, and the California Gold Rush.

With the exception of the January 12 lecture at 7pm, all lectures are held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. No reservations are required.

Tickets are available at the door on a first come first served basis. The Firehouse Arts Center is located at 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. Tickets are \$10 general admission, \$5 members and seniors, \$3 students/teachers with ID.

On Wednesday, January 12 at 7pm, Broadway and film veteran Duffy Hudson, kicks off the 2011 Lecture Series in *The Relativity of Albert Einstein*. Hudson brings

Einstein to life in this unique one-man show, highlighting the renowned physicist's life, humor, and scientific discoveries. This show will excite students and adults alike to look at the workings of the universe with new eyes.

2011 Ed Kinney Lecture Series is as follows:

- Wednesday, January 12, 7pm, *The Relativity of Albert Einstein*. Meet the great scientific thinker who revolutionized physics. Einstein is portrayed by dynamic Broadway and film actor Duffy Hudson.

- Wednesday, February 16, 7pm, *Meet President and Mrs. Lincoln*. President Abraham Lincoln and Mrs. Mary Todd Lincoln, portrayed by Roger and Colleen Vincent, stop by on their way to the theatre.

- Wednesday, March 16, 7pm, *An Evening with Julia Morgan*. Enjoy an evening with renowned American architect Julia Morgan, portrayed by Betty Marvin. Morgan is best known for her work designing Hearst Castle.

- Wednesday, April 20, 7pm, *Strike it Rich: The California Gold Rush*. Enrichment lecturer, Ronald Kaufman presents the migrant rush, miner life, mining techniques, and environmental impact of the California Gold Rush.

- Wednesday, May 18, 7pm, *Ohlone Perspectives*. Beverly Ortiz, Naturalist for East Bay Regional Parks District and renowned Ohlone specialist, speaks about the historical and modern practices of the local Native American tribe.

- Wednesday, June 15th, 7pm, *Bear In Mind: The Story of the California Grizzly*. Once arguably the most powerful animal in the California landscape, the grizzly is now a disembodied symbol of the West. Susan Snyder, author of *Bear in Mind: The Story of the California Grizzly*, discusses her research.

- Wednesday, July 20, 7pm, *Uncle Sam: American Icon*. Ward Belding *wants you...* to join him as he steps into the shoes of the American icon Uncle Sam.

- Wednesday, August 17, 7pm,

Valley Winemakers Speakeasy. Enjoy a panel of Amador-Livermore Valley Winemakers as they discuss the past, present, and future of distinguished winemaking in the region.

- Wednesday, September 21, 7pm, *California Woman Suffrage*. Dr. Jessica Weiss, Associate Professor of History at CSU East Bay, provides insights to the history of women's rights in California and the suffragist movement of the early 1900s.

- Wednesday, October 19, 7pm, *Edgar Allan Poe: Man of Mystery*. Edgar Allan Poe rises from the scene of his mysterious death to tell his life story. Poe is portrayed by actor Duffy Hudson.

For more information on the Ed Kinney Lecture Series or speakers taking part in the lecture series, contact Jennifer Amiel, Director of Education at (925) 462-2766 or education@museumonmain.org.

The Firehouse Arts Center is located at 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton.



Jeff Bordes

Jeff Bordes and Panthelio Perform in January

Pleasanton native Jeff Bordes and Panthelio will perform at the Firehouse Arts Center on Saturday, January 8, 2011, at 8:00 p.m.

Panthelio features Jeff Bordes on trumpet, composer Andrew "Endika" Currier on bass and keys, Laxman Drivas on cajons and Chazz Alley on saxophone. A leading player in the new musical genre known as "nu class," the quartet has been entertaining audiences throughout the area with its energetic blend of jazz, classical, tribal, and urban-groove styles. More information is available at www.jeffbordes.com.

"Since graduating from Amador High School in 1992, trumpeter Jeff Bordes has gone on to become an in-demand performer and recording artist," says Firehouse Arts Center Theater Supervisor Rob Vogt. "He and San Jose-based Panthelio will present a special evening of original compositions that is sure to delight music lovers of every age."

The Firehouse Arts Center is located at 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton.

Tickets are adult-\$15, \$20 and \$25; child-\$12 and senior-\$18. They may be purchased online at www.firehousearts.org to three hours prior to the performance, by phone at (925) 931-4848, or in person at the Firehouse Arts Center Box Office. Box Office hours are Wednesday-Friday, 12 noon-6:00 p.m., Saturday 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., and for two hours prior to the performance. Group and series discounts are available.

'The Horse of Course' Exhibit on Display at Alviso Adobe

The City of Pleasanton presents an exhibit entitled "The Horse, of Course! Horses in the History of the Amador-Livermore Valley" at Alviso Adobe Community Park now through January 31, 2011.

The Horse of Course! exhibit was curated by the Museum on Main and includes photographs, objects, and documents to demonstrate the importance of the horse in the Valley's history. Children may also read horse books, dress up as cowboys and cowgirls, and the opportunity to try out tack box tools.

Horses have played an important role in the history of the Amador-Livermore Valley since their arrival with the Spaniards in the late 18th century. This unique exhibit examines the impact of horses through their work in farming, ranching, transport, athletics, and recreation.

The track at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton is



Harness race at Pleasanton Race Track, 1910. Photo courtesy of the Amador-Livermore Valley Historical Society.

home to the oldest one-mile horse racing track in the United States. Built in the mid-1800s by Don Augustin Bernal and his sons, the racetrack became a renowned training ground over the decades and even hosted the legendary Seabiscuit for a brief period.

Alviso Adobe Community Park is open daily from dawn to dusk. The Horse of Course! exhibit is located in the Dairy Barn on the property, where visitors are welcome to take park self-guided tours Wednesday through Sunday from 10am to 4pm. The park buildings (including restrooms) are closed on Mondays, Tuesdays, and City of Pleasanton holidays.

There is no admission fee to visit the Alviso Adobe Community Park, however, there may be fees associated with programs or workshops provided either on or off site. For more information: (925) 931-3483 or email enicholas@ci.pleasanton.ca.us.

Individual Donor Brings Life Back to Intimate Theater

Thanks to a sponsorship gift from a local volunteer, Shakespeare's Associates will resurrect its "Bothwell Series" Spring productions in 2011 with David Mamet's "A Life in the Theatre."

"Intimate theater is the best," says artistic director Lisa Tromovitch. "However, per person, it is expensive to produce."

Due to cost, the company decided not to produce a show in the 60-seat theater last year. Long-time

volunteer, Joan Boer, stepped forward. "She approached me about producing a show at the Bothwell in memory of her late husband, Garret Boer," said Tromovitch. "Ironically, the play that I had been hoping to do there was a show he had acted in himself, and unbeknownst to me at the time, was also being brought back on Broadway."

To remember Garret, his friends contributed to a fund that pro-

vided theatrical lighting for the West End Theatre at the Bothwell. "The Bothwell's West End Theater has housed three excellent Shakespeare's Associates productions in recent years, 'art,' 'Proof' and 'Copenhagen,'" says Joan Boer. "This new production continues the series, as well as the Bothwell's proud record of service to the arts community. In particular I'm thinking of Garret's old theatre group, the Cask and Mask Players,

which in the early days staged intimate theatre evenings in this same space. I'm glad to support this asset to the community."

Originally produced in 1977, the story follows the interactions both on and off stage between a seasoned actor and a younger up-and-comer. "The show is both a tour de force for the actors, and a delight for audience members because the script visits the many genres an actor will have to perform as part of their life in the theater, among them American drama, French revolutionary drama, Chekhov and, of course, Shakespeare. David Mamet, like Shakespeare, is known for his use of language. Fast-paced and realistic, Mamet's unique voice is known to both theater and film audiences." A revival

of A Life in the Theatre starring Sir Patrick Stewart and T.R. Knight is currently running on Broadway.

A Life in the Theatre directed by Eric Fraisher Hayes will open in the West End Theater of the Bothwell Arts Center on Friday, April 1, 2011 and will run March 31 (preview) through April 23. Performances are Thursdays at 7:00pm, Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00pm, and Sundays at 2:00pm. Tickets range from \$25 to \$35, day-dependant, with discounts for seniors and others.

For more information, visit the website located at www.LivermoreShakes.org. Tickets go on sale December 15, 2010 at 1-800-838-3006 or via LivermoreShakes.org.

Livermore Dance Company Performance to Benefit Children with Type-1 Diabetes

Le Tableau Magnifique, ballet company for Livermore School of Dance, will be performing "Variations in Motion" at The Bankhead Theater on Saturday, March 5, at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

The performances will benefit the Diabetic Youth Foundation and their programs and services for children, teens and families affected by diabetes.

The Company will present five different programs starting with a full-length production of the story ballet, *Coppelia* and a montage from the Broadway hit musical *Wicked*. Also contributing to the production is Diablo Ballet Dancer and former Miami City Ballet Company member, David Fonnegra.

Le Tableau Magnifique Ballet Company dancers commit many hours each month outside of their

regular dance classes to the art of ballet and the community. They have performed for local charitable venues, including The Taylor Family Foundation, Rosewood Gardens, Heritage Estates, The Livermore Art Association, and Valleycare Medical Foundation.

This year's annual showcase holds a special place in the dancers' hearts. Two students at Livermore School of Dance have Type I Diabetes.

DYF Board Member Phil Reggiardo and father of Le Tableau Magnifique Ballet Company dancer, Allison Reggiardo, says, "Our family is honored that the Livermore School of Dance students have selected DYF as a way to support my daughter and her diabetes. DYF has improved the lives of thousands of children

affected by diabetes including the life of my daughter and our family. Because of DYF, Allison has learned with diabetes all things are possible, including dancing for the Le Tableau Magnifique Ballet Company."

Since 1938, the Diabetic Youth Foundation has been providing programs and services for children, teens and families affected by diabetes. Their hallmark program is Bearskin Meadow Camp which was the first diabetes camp west of the Mississippi.

For tickets or more information, please contact The Bankhead Theater at (925) 373-6800 or via their website at www.livermoreperformingarts.org. Tickets are \$18, \$20, and \$24 and include a dessert reception.

MoMs Program Begins January 12

The Museum on Main will present the second year of the preschool pre-literacy program, M.o.M.'s Reading Time. Launched in 2010, this popular program introduces preschoolers to books and activities about the unique people, places, and events in the community.

Preschoolers (ages 2-5) and their families are invited to meet at the Museum on Main for this free monthly reading program on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 10am-11am. Book reading begins at 10am with theme crafts immediately following. Admis-

sion is free. Donations are always appreciated. No Reservations are required. Large groups or playgroups please call in advance: 925.462.2766 or email: education@museumonmain.org.

2011 M.o.M.'s reading dates and themes: January 12: Martin Luther King, Jr.; February 9: Chinese New Year; March 9: Hop into Spring; April 13: Eggs-tra Special Springtime; May 11: Sail Away to Adventure; June 8: All Aboard for Fun; July 13: Teddy Bear Hugs; August 10: Place Your Votes; September 14: Officer Buckle and Gloria; October 12: Spooky Sto-

ries; November 9: Giving Thanks; and December 14: Snow Day.

For more information on M.o.M.'s Reading Time contact Jennifer Amiel, Director of Education at (925) 462-2766 or education@museumonmain.org or go to www.museumonmain.org.

The Museum On Main is located at 603 Main Street, Pleasanton. Information is available by calling 925-462-2766 or visiting www.museumonmain.org. Regular hours of operation are Wednesday through Saturday 11:00am to 4:00pm and Sunday 1:00pm to 4:00pm.

BANKHEAD

THEATER

Big Fat Year End Kiss Off Comedy Show XVIII
 Thur Dec 30 7:00pm
 \$17/\$22/\$27
Will Durst, Johnny Steele & Friends take on politics, war and rhetoric!



The Hot Club of San Francisco
 Fri Dec 31 8:00pm
 \$55/\$65/\$75
Let the Bankhead host your New Year's Eve Party with a swinging celebration featuring a wine, champagne and dessert reception following the performance.



Ying Quartet
 Sat Jan 8 8:00pm
 \$21/\$27/\$33/College
 Rush \$10/Students Free
Del Valle Fine Arts



Through the Eyes of Faith
 Sun Jan 9 2:00pm
 \$18/\$29/\$40/\$12 Students
LVPAC & KKIQ Present Faith Alpher's Funny and Moving One Woman Show



TICKETS 925.373.6800 or www.bankheadtheater.org
 2400 First Street, Downtown Livermore

LPYOS Performs Livermore VA Hospital Concert



The Livermore- Pleasanton Youth Outreach Symphony (LPYOS) gave a little back to veterans as symphony members performed A Christmas Festival Concert at the VA Hospital in Livermore. The program was a combination of classical music, jazz, and a taste of Christmas. The performance began with "Pachelbel's Canon" played by the strings, followed by "Procession of the Nobles" performed by the full symphony. Two Clarinet duets were played by Jun Hong and Robert Shi; "Bach Invention #14" by Johann Bach, followed by a laid back "St. Louis Blues." Brandon Zhang performed a saxophone solo of "Do You Hear What I Hear." A "Christmas Festival," featuring the entire symphony, was the highlight. Go to www.lpyos.org for more detailed information about the group and its upcoming performances.

Written by Tristen Thalhuber



Annual Supper Celebrates Robert Burns

Pleasanton-Blairgowrie-Fergus Sister City Organization is celebrating its annual Burns Supper on January 29.

This is a celebration of the birth of Robert Burns. He is known around the world as the Bard of Scotland. In his life, Burns collected and wrote many poems,

lyrics and songs. Burns suppers are held throughout the world.

Burns will be honored in memory, songs and poems during the annual Pleasanton supper. Caliban will be featured.

No host bar will be at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 7 p.m. The festivities will be held at the

Pleasanton Marriott, 11950 Dublin Canyon Rd., Pleasanton.

Advance registrations at \$65 per person are required by January 2, 2011.

For information go to www.PBFSCO.org or contact Kathy Tollworthy at 462-6378 or trikeunt@comcast.net.



Photos - Denis Roland

In the top photo, the Cantabella Children's Chorus performs "Let There Be Peace on Earth" at their winter concert on December 11 at Our Savior Lutheran Ministries in Livermore. In the lower photo, the Children's Training Choir 3 performs "Shepherd's Song."



Children's Chorus Performs Winter Concerts

Cantabella Children's Chorus presented winter concerts at Our Savior Lutheran Ministries on December 11. The stained glass and enormous evergreen trees set the stage for an afternoon of seasonal music performed by the 206 members of the Chorus.

From the youngest members of the training choirs singing *The Penguin Dance* and *In the Bleak Midwinter*, to the more advanced choristers performing *Let There Be Peace on Earth* and a rousing version of *Winter Wonderland*, and the debut by the new Honors Choir singing the gospel spiritual *Go Where I Send Thee*, there was music for every taste. Dancers and accompanists on percussion, flute, cello and piano added to the festivities. Special guest, harpist Anna Lorenz, accompanied several pieces. Miss Lorenz is one of two winners of the Livermore/Amador Symphony's Competition for Young Musicians, and will perform at the Bankhead Theater with the Symphony on February 12, 2011.

Cantabella is an award-winning chorus that has been teaching fine vocal production and music literacy through great choral works to children in grades K-12 since 1992. Cantabella staff are now preparing exciting repertoire for the Spring 2011 season and extend a warm invitation to children who would like to join the Chorus. New singers are invited to email Director Bee Chow, director@cantabella.org or call (925) 292-2663 for information about placement in the training choirs, located in Dublin, Livermore and Pleasanton, or to arrange an audition for the performing choirs. Classes resume the second week of January, 2011. Please visit www.cantabella.org for more information.

Public Invited to View Solo Dance Debut



Brinda Dixit

Kalaikoil, Dance and Arts of India, will present the bharatanatyam arangetram or solo dance debut of Brinda Dixit on Sun., Jan 2 at 4 p.m. the Bankhead Theater in Livermore.

Brinda is a Livermore High School Senior Honor Roll and GATE student. She has studied this dance art tradition for the past 9 years at Kalaikoil under her mother, Swetha Dixit. Over the years, Brinda also trained under dance master, Guru Kameshwaran as well as with Swetha's teacher, Guru Vasanti.

Bharatanatyam is a classical dance that originated from dance once performed in the Hindu temples of South India. Brinda performs regularly at the Livermore Hindu Temple and has provided dance programs at over 200 Bay Area libraries, schools, community and cultural events. She recently won a first place in Bharatanatyam at the Ohlone College High School Theater festival. She travelled to India over the summer to prepare for this milestone in her life.

The Dixit family lives and works in Livermore and invites everyone to attend this cultural event.

For information, go to www.kalaikoil.com.

Free admission. The performance includes live musicians, refreshments and dinner.

The Bankhead Theater is located at 2400 First St., Livermore.

Website Offers Look at Light Displays

The 12th annual Lights of the Valley website features about 350 homes across 93 cities / 22 counties of Northern California.

The site features the best and brightest Christmas light displays from the San Francisco Bay Area, Silicon Valley, San Joaquin and Sacramento Valley areas - from Eureka and Redding down to Fresno.

Lights of the Valley is designed to display holiday decorations in Northern California that are unusual, elaborate or decorated beyond the traditional strings of lights. Hundreds of people submit their homes to the site - only the select few are included.

Information can be found at <http://lightsofthevalley.com>.

Over 850,000 people have used the site finding not only interactive images and descriptions of the houses, but also Google mapping and street views and a printable map of each community. The "star rating system," similar to that on Amazon and YouTube, lets visitors to the site rate the individual houses.

The website started in 1999 with about 25 homes in the Tri-Valley area, expanding each year. Site owner Alex Dourov has been interviewed on various radio stations and the site was featured on the European TV NOVA network.



Jordan Even

Jordan Even Featured in Piano Recital

The public is invited to a recital of piano music presented by Jordan Even at Our Savior Lutheran Ministries, 1385 So. Livermore Avenue (Livermore) on Tuesday evening, December 28, at 7:30 pm.

The recital will be held in the sanctuary. The program will include music by Bach and Haydn, as well as Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition and Charles Tomlinson Griffes' Piano Sonata.

Jordan Even graduated from Valparaiso University, and is currently completing his Master's Degree in piano performance at Western Michigan University.

There is no admission charge for the recital. However, it is a benefit for earthquake and cholera relief in Haiti. Donations will go through Lutheran World Relief, which has a long history of disaster response throughout the world.

Holiday Performance Sold Out; Chanticleer Will Be Back for May 'Out of This World' Performance

The "orchestra of voices" that makes up Grammy Award-winning vocal group Chanticleer returns to Livermore on December 23rd for the first of two concerts this season. "A Chanticleer Christmas" is a joyful and inspiring evening of seasonal music, from pensive Gregorian chants to ringing Gospel rhythms. Both this concert and Chanticleer's second concert in May, titled "Out of This World," will feature world premieres of new vocal works.

Tickets for the single performance on Thursday, December 23, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. are already sold out.

Since the group was founded over 30 years ago, San Francisco-based Chanticleer has built a reputation, and a loyal audience, for the remarkable clarity of their vocal sound. They routinely appear in the most prestigious concert halls worldwide. The 12 male voices of Chanticleer, ranging from countertenor to bass, seamlessly blend

together in rich interpretations and unique arrangements of music from throughout vocal literature.

Their original emphasis on classic medieval and Renaissance choral works has steadily grown to include jazz, gospel, and contemporary music. Over the years, Chanticleer has commissioned and performed over 90 new works that were especially written to showcase their distinctive sound. The group has recorded more than three dozen albums and twice received the Grammy Award for Best Small Ensemble Performance for their albums Colors of Love (2000) and Lamentations and Praise (2003).

Chanticleer will return to the Bankhead Theater with a second concert in May titled "Out of This World," a musical exploration of the mysteries of the sun, moon, stars, planets, and the universe beyond. With works from a wide range of composers and musical styles, the concert includes

the premiere of "Observer in the Magellanic Cloud" by Berkeley-based composer Mason Bates, as well as an innovative choral setting of "Cells Planets" by singer songwriter Erica Lloyd.

Both Chanticleer concerts at the Bankhead Theater are part of the LVPAC Presents series, which features acclaimed artists in music, dance, and other performing arts throughout the year. Tickets can be purchased now for "Out of This World" on May 13, 2011, and range from \$39 to \$62 each, with \$12 student tickets available.

The Bankhead Theater is located at 2400 First Street in Downtown Livermore. The ticket office is open Tuesday through Saturday from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m.

On performance days the ticket office remains open through intermission. To purchase tickets call 925-373-6800 or visit www.bankheadtheater.org



Better Homes and Gardens Mason-McDuffie Real Estate held its 7th annual *Toys for Tots* toy drive this year and collected more than 900 gifts from the community and their own agents, managers and staff. BHG Mason-McDuffie worked directly with the Livermore-Pleasanton Firefighters for the annual toy drive. All 36 offices participated and will continue collecting throughout the holidays. If you would like to participate, you can call any of the Better Homes and Gardens Mason-McDuffie offices for more information. Every office is a drop-off location. Firefighters, Peter Reichert and Matt Thaw, from Station #3 helped organize the toy drive and picked-up all of the toys at BHG Mason-McDuffie corporate campus in their fire truck on Thursday, December 9.



Granada High School Junior Varsity Girls Basketball recently donated to the Elena Macias Foundation. The Elena Macias Foundation helps to enrich the lives of children in the pueblo of Agua Verde, Sinaloa, Mexico. These children are in need of the very basic things; clothes, shelter and education. The girls on the 2010-2011 Granada Junior Varsity Girls Basketball team, headed by Coach Steve Martinez, Coach Dave and Coach Al, provided clothing, toys and books as well as monetary donations to assist the scholarship efforts of this worthy foundation. All donations are delivered directly to the pueblo in time for the celebration of Christmas.



Pleasanton Seahawks' swimmers and official help out with collections for the Toys For Tots program. The collection took place when the Seahawks recently hosted a Junior Olympics swim meet.



Our Savior Lutheran School "KidsCan" - Students of Our Savior Lutheran School in Livermore collected and donated 1,461 cans of food. The *KidsCan* food drive combined the efforts of the school with the work of *Interfaith Sharing* to help families in need. Pictured are students of the sixth grade, who with their teacher, and Associate Principal, Lynn Dirks, were the organizational leaders of this school-wide effort.

Surtec Delivers Christmas Gifts and Food to 340 Families with 980 Children

Since 1991, Surtec Adopt-A-Family, Inc., a 501 C3 non-profit charitable organization, has provided food to more than 4,910 families, and personally selected Christmas gifts to their 14,105 children, through its program.

Over 70 volunteers showed up at the donated warehouse space,

for food packing this past Saturday morning. The efforts were so well organized, and volunteers so hard working, that the task of packing pallets of non-perishable food into 1400 organized boxes, took under three hours.

Distribution will take place the weekend of December 18, rely-

ing on more volunteers, who find it rewarding to bring the Spirit of Christmas Giving to so many families in need. In total this year 340 families with 980 children will receive these boxes of food and gifts for their children, average value over \$200 per family.

The average cost to complete the Adopt-A-Family Program each

year is approximately \$70,000. No administrative costs are taken from the program, all of the help is on a volunteer basis and all funds and goods go directly to the needy families.

Two years ago the program was expanded to also include the Thanksgiving holiday, by provid-

ing a large box of food and a grocers gift certificate, for the meat of their choice, to over 330 families with children, for the Thanksgiving holiday.

For more information, please contact Cheryl Sanders at 209-820-3700.



Photos - Doug Jorgensen

Loading the quilts for distribution are (from left) Audrey Hutchinson, Jean Urban, Jean Peterson, Sharleen Lozano, Julie Casamajor, Sandee Harvey and Francis Griswald. Below is a close-up of a stitcher.

QUILTS

(continued from front page)

Logan, a Seneca Center residential counselor. "The quilts mean so much and I think it's because they show that there is someone out there who is not bad, someone who had made something just for them."

Verne Teyler, founder and executive director of foster care agency Hosanna Homes, describes how all of the children, even teenage boys, treasure their quilts. "There is something about a blanket that is secure and has a special meaning," he says.

At Tri-Valley Haven, the quilts are given to women who graduate from their domestic violence shelter program. "When they are ready to move into a new home, the quilts are a wonderful to start to a new life," says board member Laning Thompson. "The quilts are greatly appreciated."

Each newborn who spends the night in the neonatal intensive care unit at ValleyCare Medical Center in Pleasanton is given a quilt. "Hospitals are not known for being cozy places. There are lots of gloves, scrubs, and sterilizing,"

says Naomi Williams, a nurse in ValleyCare's maternal department. "The quilts provide comfort to the parents, who sometimes can't even pick up their newborn baby. We drape them over the isolettes to shelter the newborns from the harsh lights. When the babies go home, the quilts are a positive thing to associate with the NICU experience."

In the early years of Community Quilts, local Girl Scouts paraded all of the quilts around the room for everyone to see. As the sheer number of quilts has made that task impossible, photographs of the Community Quilts are shown in a continuous slide show during the luncheon. The Girl Scouts still parade a smaller selection of quilts around the room.

Quilts are being given to two new groups—veterans residing in Livermore's Veterans Administration hospital and victims of the San Bruno fire in September. "Next year we are taking a new perspective on community quilts," explains Saugier. "We're going to distribute community quilts



year-round because many of our recipient organizations have year-round needs. Community quilts are not a contest, we just do what we can do."

AVQ also will begin distributing quilts to the neo-natal intensive care units at Eden Medical Center in Castro Valley and Oakland's Highland General Hospital next year. "We are not just in the Tri-Valley anymore," says Saugier. "Almost an entire busload of members comes from Castro Valley each month."

The Amador Valley Quilters meet on the second Saturday of each month at 1:30 pm at Pleasanton Middle School. Visit www.amadorvalleyquilters.org for more information.

800 Children Get to Visit with Santa, Thanks to Del Arroyo 4-H

By Patricia Koning

While many people scramble to stores to take advantage of holiday deals, send out Christmas cards, and hang lights on their house, other families are avoiding the holiday hype altogether. It's not by choice. For many Livermore families, there simply isn't any money left over for presents and other extras.

Those families often go unnoticed, but not to Margaret Miller. As community club leader for Del Arroyo 4-H, for the past 20 years she's organized a holiday party for needy families that provides gifts for children and adults, photos with Santa, and holiday crafts and cheer.

"The community hasn't always recognized this need," she says. "But it's remained steady all these years."

Approximately 800 children attended the party on Saturday, Dec. 11. Families pre-registered at the Tri-Valley Haven's food pantry or were referred by the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District or nonprofit agencies serving the poor. No one is turned away from the party, says Miller.

In past years as many as 1,200 children have attended the party. Miller thinks the number may be lower this year because needy families have moved out of the area.

While Del Arroyo 4-H is the party organizer, they receive help from other 4-H groups, Livermore High School's Future Farmers of America, Boy and Girl Scout troops, church groups, the high school Interact clubs, and other service organizations. Before the party, high school students needing community service hours prepare the craft activities.

The children attending the party had their pick of over a dozen different crafts—candy cane reindeers, glittery pinecones, film canister penguins, and snowflake ornaments, to name a few. "We try to focus on durable crafts, something families can bring home and

save as a keepsake," says Miller.

The children can visit a special, parents-free area where they can pick out a gift for their parents and wrap them for a holiday surprise. The gifts are small items like coffee mugs, figurines, plaques, and candles.

A highlight of the party is the visit with Santa. Each family has a photo taken with Santa. The kids can sit on his lap and share their Christmas wishes. Each child receives an age-appropriate gift.

While this looks like a simple operation, it's quite complex behind the scenes. All year long Miller shops the bargain tables for gifts and collects donations for the party. In the weeks before the party, the gifts are wrapped and sorted by age, gender, and interest. Last Saturday, the back room of the Livermore High School student union, where the party was held, was completely filled with bins of gifts.

As the children approach the Santa area, volunteers relay their age and gender back to more volunteers in the gift area. Volunteers also listen for any special requests to Santa—a translator is even on hand.

Over the years Miller has learned a few things about gifts and children. "We don't give sports stuff unless they ask for it. Same goes for Barbies," she explains. "Games and puzzles we give as an extra to families with kids close in age. A board game to a kid who has no one to play it with is no gift at all."

The party is made possible through donations of gifts, craft items, and cash from numerous organizations throughout the community. Miller is especially in need of adult gifts. Before it closed, Livermore's Country Morning store donated their clearance items to the party.

For more information or to make a donation, contact Miller at mmiller1435@gmail.com or (925) 447-6980. To learn more about Del Arroyo 4-H, visit www.delarroyo4hclub.org.

ART & ENTERTAINMENT

ART/PHOTO EXHIBITS

Livermore Art Association Gallery, located in Carnegie Park, 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.

Paintbrush Diplomacy, December 11, 2010 – January 12, 2011, International Children's Art Exhibit Works from the permanent collection of Paintbrush Diplomacy, an organization that seeks to connect the world one paintbrush at a time. Promoting peace and understanding through the universal language of art, the organization encourages awareness of international issues through art exchanges and exhibits of works by children ages 5-18. Harrington Gallery at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.FirehouseArts.org.

Wild Vine invites the public to celebrate the last days of 2010 at the closing reception of Livermore artist Linda Ryan's December exhibition set for Thursday, December 30, 2010, from 6pm to 7:30.

Believe/Achieve Art Exhibit, Diablo/Alameda Branch of the National League of American Pen Women (NLAPW) at the John O'Lague Galleria and the Hayward City Hall Dec. 3, 2010 to Feb. 9, 2011. Reception will be held Dec. 17, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. There is no admission charge. Hayward City Hall is located at 777 B Street. Pen Women writers will be performing original works at the reception. Music and refreshments will be provided.

Harrington Art Gallery exhibit, Look of Jazz, Saturday, January 29, 2011 – Tuesday, February 22, 2011. Gallery Reception Saturday, January 20, 2011, 3 to 5pm. Bay Area artists such as Chester Elmore, Joan Finton and James Gayles will be featured in an exhibit that celebrates jazz and how it can inspire visual artists. This exhibit will be held in conjunction with the annual Campana Jazz Festival, February 17-20, 2011. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.

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. At the 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.

Art Critique and Coffee, every Friday, 10 a.m. at Border's Cafe, Rose Pavilion, Pleasanton. Information at poetryoncanvas@mac.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.red-featherwinery.com

Chris Bradley's Jazz Band, plays at The Sunol Jazz Cafe (In the Center of Sunol) the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month 7:30-9:30 p.m. The band features real Jazz from the 1920's, 30's, 40's.

Blacksmith Square Saturday Concerts,

Thomas Coyne Winery, John Christopher Cellars, Swirl Tapas Bar and Victorian Olive Oil present live music in the Square, 3 to 6 p.m. Wine tasting (fee waived with purchase), food at menu prices. No outside food or adult beverages. Corner of South Livermore Ave. and Railroad Ave. downtown Livermore.

Chanticleer, "A Chanticleer Christmas," Thurs., Dec. 23, 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.livermoreperformingarts.org or 925-373-6800. (Sold out)

Hot Club of San Francisco, "Best of the Bay," sizzling, swinging New Year's Eve celebration. Fri., Dec. 31, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets or information www.livermoreperformingarts.org or 925-373-6800.

The Kingston Trio, folk music, Fri., Jan. 7, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets or information www.livermoreperformingarts.org or 925-373-6800.

Ying Quartet, 8 p.m., Sat., Jan. 8, Del Valle Fine Arts Concert, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets or information 925-373-6800, www.livermoreperformingarts.org.

Jeff Bordes and Panthelion, Firehouse Arts Center on Saturday, January 8, 2011, at 8:00 p.m. The Firehouse Arts Center is located at 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. Tickets are adult-\$15, \$20 and \$25; child-\$12 and senior-\$18. www.firehousearts.org.

Cypress String Quartet, Sun., Jan. 9, 3 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.

Diavolo, cinematic experience of dance and gymnastics, Fri.-Sat., Jun. 14 and 15, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.livermoreperformingarts.org or 925-373-6800.

Tingstad & Rumbel-American home-style music, Fri., Jan. 14, 8 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. Tickets or information www.firehousearts.org.

Rodgers & Hammerstein with Hart, Sat., Jan. 15, 8 p.m. and Sun., Jan. 16, 2 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.

Al Jarreau, 8 p.m. Jan. 28, Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, 10550 Albion Rd., San Ramon, 973-3343 or SanRamonPerformingArts.com..

ON THE STAGE

Firehouse Kids, TBA, Sat., Jan. 8, 11 a.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.

Faith Alpher One Woman Show, "Through the Eyes of Faith," at the Bankhead Theater, Sunday, January 9, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. From \$18 - \$40, with \$12 student tickets (program contains adult content) at (925) 373-6800 or www.livermoreperformingarts.org. Actress, comedian, singer and local radio personality, Faith Alpher presents a rousing celebration of the joys of diversity in her one woman show "Through the Eyes of Faith." In her portrayal of over 20 characters, including a Jewish mother, Catholic nun and a Black hip-hop dancer, Alpher takes audiences on an uplifting and entertaining autobiographical journey, as she chronicles the life of a very funny and talented Jersey girl. Stories, mixed with song and dance, reflect her struggles with race and love and send Alpher's life-affirming message of perseverance – "never giving

up, never giving in" – and of renewed hope. Bankhead Theater at 2400 First St., Livermore.

Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre musical comedy production. Performances weekends Jan. 21-Feb. 6, 2011, 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Call 462-2121 or go to www.trivalleyrep.com for information.

Cabaret, Pacific Coast Repertory Theatre, Jan. 21-22, 27-29 8 p.m. and Jan. 23 and 30, 2 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org

The Lion in Winter, Jan. 21-Feb. 12, Village Theater, 233 Front St., Danville. Presented by Role Players Ensemble Theatre. www.danvilletheatre.com.

Shakespeare's Associates' production of *A Life in the Theatre* by David Mamet. March 31-April 23, 2011, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays at the Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 Eighth Street, Livermore, CA. Tickets from \$25-\$35 by calling 1-800-838-3006 or www.LivermoreShakes.org. For more information visit www.LivermoreShakes.org or call 925-443-BARD (2273).

COMEDY

Big Fat Year End Kiss Off Comedy Show XVIII, Will Durst & Friends Dec. 30, 7 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore.

DANCE

Friday Night Dance Parties, themed parties each Friday night from Salsa to Swing, includes a group dance lesson at 8:15. \$15 cover charge, 8:15 dance lesson, 9:00-10:30 for dance parties. It's All About Dancing, 171 So. J Street, Livermore. 925-449-9292, or studio@itsallaboutdancing.com.

New Performance Group, combines dance, gymnastics and acrobatics. Four hours of week of training to start. Two dance classes as well as tumbling and flexibility class. Information, contact gymfinty@juli@yahoo.com or shellypop@sbcglobal.net. Dance Studio @ Gymfinty.

Brinda Dixit, Bharatanatyam Aranjeteram or Solo Dance Debut, Sun., Jan. 2, 4 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Free admission. Event includes live music, refreshments and dinner.

AUDITIONS/VOLUNTEERS

Solo Piano Competition for young artists, sponsored by Las Positas College Music Department, open to ages 14 through 24. The winner will perform George Gershwin's, "Rhapsody in Blue" at the May 4, 2011 Orchestra Concert as part of the inaugural season for the new Barbara Fracisco Mertes Center for the Arts. The application deadline is February 10, 2011. The selection will take place in February. To request application forms and information, please contact Music instructor Mary Campbell, mcampbell@laspositascollege.edu, (925) 424-1118.

Livermore's 2011 Regional Talent Competition is now accepting applications. Top winners in each of two categories - youth (17 and under) and adults (18 and over) - will each take home \$2,500. This competition will feature singers, dancers, bands, pianists, magicians, comedians and other types of performances. Aspiring performers from anywhere are invited to audition and compete. Information and applications for auditions are avail-

able at LivermoreTalentCompetition.com. Applications must be received by December 31, 2010.

Concerto competition, Prometheus Symphony Orchestra of Oakland is sponsoring a concerto competition for Bay Area string, wind and percussion players age eighteen years or younger. The competition will be held on Tuesday evening February 1, 2011. The winner will perform with the orchestra on Sunday, May 22, 2011, and will receive a \$200.00 award. Contestants are to perform from memory a complete concerto or work for solo instrument and orchestra. The application deadline is January 25, 2011. Applications are available by calling (925) 447-3659 or online at www.prometheussymphony.org.

Singers invited, Cantabella Children's Chorus has been teaching fine vocal production and music literacy through great choral works to 206 children in grades K-12 since 1992. Children in K-5 are placed in training choirs, singers in grades 4-8 perform in Cantabella Children's Chorus, advanced choristers in grades 7-10 sing in the Chamber Choir and may audition for the Honors Choir. Rehearsals take place in Dublin, Livermore and Pleasanton. New singers are cordially invited to email Director Bee Chow, director@cantabella.org or call (925) 292-2663 for placement in the training choirs or to arrange an audition for the performing choirs. Classes resume the second week of January, 2011. Visit www.cantabella.org for more information.

MOVIES

Classic Film Series, Vine Cinema and Alehouse, 1722 First St., Livermore. Schedule: Jan. 13: Star Wars. All movies begin at 7 p.m. Information at www.VineCinema.com or 447-2545.

Going Places: A Classic Film Series, shown the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Pleasanton Library's meeting room through June 2, 2011. The program is a partnership of Las Positas College and the Pleasanton Public Library. Candy Klaschus, film historian and Coordinator of the Humanities Program at Las Positas College, is the host. There is no admission charge. 400 Old Bernal Ave., Pleasanton. 931-3400. No registration required.

OPERA

Met Opera Theater-casts, 10 a.m. simultaneous viewings and 12 encore rebroadcasts of Metropolitan Opera productions at Dublin's Regal Cinema, 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays - Schedule: Jan. 5: Verdi's "Don Carlo;" Jan. 8, 26: Puccini's "La Fanciulla Del West;" Feb. 12, Mar. 2: Glass's "Nixon in China;" Feb. 26, Mar. 16: Gluck's "Iphigenia in Tauride;" April 9, 27: Rossini's "Le Comte Ory;" April 23, May 11: Richard Strauss's "Capriccio;" April 30, May 18: Verdi's "Il Trovatore;" May 14, June 11: Wagner's "Die Walkure."

The Barber of Seville, Opera San José continues its 27th Season presents Rossini's comic opera, *The Barber of Seville*. Eight performances are scheduled from Feb. 12-27 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. This production of *The Barber of Seville* is made possible, in part, by a Cultural Affairs Grant from the City of San José.

MISCELLANEOUS

Ball at the Mall, Fri., Dec. 31, Stoneridge Shopping Center, Pleasanton. Presented

by Pleasanton North Rotary as a fundraiser for children in the community. Live music, piano bar, premium no-host glass, champagne at midnight, souvenir glass, hors d'oeuvres and more. Information and tickets at www.ballatthemall.org.

Museum on Main, 2011 Ed Kinney Lecture Series. Wednesday, January 12, 7pm, *The Relativity of Albert Einstein*. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. No reservations are required. Tickets are available at the door on a first come first served basis. The Firehouse Arts Center is located at 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. Tickets are \$10 general admission, \$5 members and seniors, \$3 students/teachers with ID. Information, contact Jennifer Amiel, Director of Education at (925) 462-2766 or education@museumonmain.org.

History Lecture, Livermore Heritage Guild, Jan. 19, at the Civic Center Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave. Featured will be Dr. John Shirley, veterinarian and 1960s Livermore Mayor. Doors open 7 p.m., talk starts at 7:30 p.m. Suggested donation \$2.

2011 San Ramon Art & Wind Festival Poster Art Contest, open to San Ramon middle and high school students. The winning piece of artwork will be featured on festival posters, postcards and t-shirts. It will also be framed and hung in one of the Community Centers in San Ramon. The student who created the winning art work will also receive a \$200 savings bond, second place a \$100 savings bond and third place winner a \$50 savings bond. All entries will be displayed in the Lindsay Dirckx Brown Art Gallery located at the San Ramon Community Center during the month of May 2011. The contest entry form and info can be found online at www.artandwind.com. Entries are due by January 7, 2011. For more info, call (925) 973-3366.

Livermore Reads Together, the 2011 book is "1906" by James Dalessandro. Novel centers on the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire. Month long celebration will be kicked off on Sunday, January 23, 2011 at 2 p.m. with a presentation by the author, James Dalessandro. A reception will follow featuring famous San Francisco food treats and turn of the century music by Greg Pane. Variety of events planned during the month of February at the Civic Center Library, 1188 So. Livermore. Information www.livermore.lib.ca.us.

11th annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Fellowship Breakfast, Mon., Jan. 24. Marriot Pleasanton Hotel from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. The Tri-Valley YMCA will co-host with Dublin Mayor Tim Sbranti and Guy Houston. Keynote speaker will be Monte Poole, longtime sportswriter and columnist for the Bay Area Newspaper Group. Proceeds from the event benefit the Tri-Valley YMCA programs such as summer day camp, youth and government, and Model UN. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact the Tri-Valley YMCA at 475-6107 or tstier@ymcaeastbay.org.

Annual Burns Supper, Hosted by Pleasanton-Blaigowrie-Fergus Sister City Organization, Jan. 29, Pleasanton Marriot, 11950 Dublin Canyon Rd., Pleasanton. Supper includes songs and poems; Caliban featured. 5:30 p.m. no host bar/registration, 7 p.m. dinner. Advance reservations at \$65 per person required by Jan. 21, 2011. www.PBFSCO.org or contact Kathy Tollworthy at 462-6378 or trikenut@comcast.net.



Diavolo on stage.

Diavolo Combines Dance, Acrobatics

Combining dance, acrobatic movement and remarkable stage visuals, innovative dance group Diavolo will perform at the Bankhead Theater. The company is known for its unique and daring presentations that are designed to convey through physical expression how individuals interact with their changing environment.

Diavolo will appear at the Bankhead Theater for two performances on Friday and Saturday, January 14 and 15, 2011 at 8:00 p.m.

Diavolo exemplifies the artistic vision of its founder Jacques Heim, who set out to create large-scale interdisciplinary performances that spark an appreciation for movement and evolve the integration of dance and entertainment. The company's ten members have varied backgrounds and training – from dancers and gymnasts, to actors and rock climbers. They collaborate under Heim's guidance to perform on outsize and extraordinary sets which create a surrealistic experience of the everyday world. Doors, chairs, stairways, boxes, wheels and other objects provide a dramatic backdrop for the dancers' acrobatic movements. Set to music that contributes emotional depth, the works reflect the relationships people have with elements of their daily lives and their struggle to be human in an ever changing and threatened world.

Diavolo, whose name finds its roots in the Latin and Greek words for "to fly" and "from point to point," has over a dozen works in its repertoire. The group constantly

changes the visual approach to its performances, varying the representation of the environment and how they interact with it. Since Diavolo was founded in 1992, Heim's work has been consistently credited for bringing his compelling vision to life and inspiring the best from his performers.

In addition to their performance schedule, the group is also extensively involved in arts education and community outreach through their "Learning to Fly" program. With a focus on building trust and teamwork, the program challenges and enhances each individual's physical and mental limits through exercises in movement and creative collaboration.

Performances are at 8:00 p.m. on both Friday January 14 and on Saturday January 15, with tickets ranging from \$39 to \$62 for adults and \$12 for students.

The evenings with Diavolo

are part of the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center's LVPAC Presents series, featuring performers in music, dance and other performing arts throughout the year. Following Diavolo in the series will be a concert by classic rock and roll guitarist Dave Mason on Wednesday, February 9, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. With a career spanning nearly 40 years, Mason has written, performed and produced some of the best known songs in rock history and, in 2004, was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as a founding member of the rock band Traffic.

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



Nancy Rumbel and Eric Tingstad

'American Home Style Music' Coming to the Firehouse

Acoustic musicians Eric Tingstad and Nancy Rumbel will bring the eclectic sounds of their "American home style music" to the Firehouse Arts Center on Friday, January 14, 2011.

The performance begins at 8 p.m.

Tingstad and Rumbel are well-known for their original compositions and innovative treatment of popular standards. Tingstad on guitar and Rumbel on oboe, English horn and ocarina create classically inspired music from America, the British Isles, Asia and Spain. Their mix of original and cover tunes includes Tex-Mex stylings, Caribbean rhythms and Americana fingerpicking and demonstrates their devotion to the American songbook.

The duo has performed together for more than 25 years, recording 19 albums, appearing at Carnegie

Hall and winning a 2003 Grammy Award for Acoustic Garden. Their newest CD, Leap of Faith, is called the perfect blend of fingerstyle guitar, oboe, English horn and ocarina.

The Firehouse Arts Center is located at 4444 Railroad Avenue in downtown Pleasanton.

Tickets are adult- \$15, \$20, \$25; child-\$12; senior-\$20. They may be purchased online at www.firehousearts.org up to three hours prior to the performance, by phone at (925) 931-4848, or in person at the Firehouse Arts Center Box Office.

Box Office hours are Wednesday-Friday, 12 noon-6:00 p.m., Saturday 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., and for two hours prior to the performance. Group discounts are available. Free parking is located in a lot on Spring Street near First Street.

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A Christmas of Compassion: Hospice Helps Blue Star Moms

This holiday season, in an effort to do something meaningful to honor patients who are veterans, volunteers, nurses, managers, social workers and other staff at Hope Hospice developed a partnership with Blue Star Moms, Chapter 101, a support-through-service organization in Danville.

After initial contact with Blue Star Moms, the hospice team began a campaign to collect specific items requested by the troops. Becky Hultgren, coordinator of this year's Holiday Hugs package distribution, shared the reaction of those who receive the boxes overseas. "Even the colors of the boxes made them feel loved in the midst of 'government issue' walls, garments, and equipment." She spoke of a wounded soldier in the hospital who had become separated from his group and could no longer receive personal mail and how much the care packages meant to him.

When Peggy Conklin, president of the local chapter of Blue Star Moms arrived at Hope Hospice to pick up the donated items, she was excited to see the variety of items the Hope Hospice team had thoughtfully chosen for the group's holiday care package project. She described the response of one young man upon receiving a box last year: "I can't believe someone would do this and they don't even know me." She explained further that the women in her group "talk as we work. They have discovered that getting involved, even in sorting and bagging the donations, puts them in a different mind set and is the best therapy for them." She said postcards from children in the US were used by her daughter, a nurse working in a military ICU. The cards were read to patients there, many of whom were on ventilators, and whose heart rates changed as she read the cards perhaps from a sense of receiving love from home.

Dara Burke, RN case manager at Hope Hospice, said her son is currently serving in the Navy. He was deployed on the USS Nimitz in the gulf last holiday season. He said that his fellow sailors had fun receiving the goodie boxes from all over the country. Dara states, "What may seem like a small thing, a box of crackers or a new pair of socks, can mean so much more when our sons and daughters are so far from home."

The outpouring of support from the Hope Hospice staff for the work of Blue Star Moms and the desire to send a message of compassion and caring to troops overseas resulted in: 55 pairs of socks, 48 packages of instant oatmeal, 2 bottles of Gold Bond foot powder, 12 packages of dried fruit and beef jerky, 25 packages of cookies, 75 packages of granola bars, 20 hot chocolate packets, 15 packages of cheese and crackers, and assorted Sudoku and Crossword puzzle books

After members of Blue Star Moms toured the Hope Hospice facility and learned more about hospice work and the grief support services offered there, they agreed that both groups share a sense of hope and understand the importance of making every day count.

Hope Hospice serves families in Alamo, Blackhawk, Castro Valley, Diablo, Danville, Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton, San Ramon, Sunol and the surrounding communities in the East Bay of San Francisco. www.hopehospice.com

Blue Star Moms is a non-partisan, non-profit organization that became the first official chapter of Blue Star Moms of America in the Bay Area.

Their membership is open to mothers or stepmothers who have sons/daughters currently serving, or who have been medically or honorably discharged from the five service branches of the United States, as well as the National Guard, Reserve, and the Merchant Marine. Bluestarmoms.org

Milestones

Romance

Livermore High Grad Marries in Turkish Ceremony

Ford Garberson and Pelin Kurt were married Saturday in a ceremony in Tarsus, in southeast Turkey.

Garberson is the son of Jeff and Carol Garberson of Livermore. Kurt is the daughter of Hussein and Fadime Kurt of Tarsus.

The bride and groom are physicists working in Geneva, Switzerland, at the particle accelerator, the Large Hadron Collider. Garberson is a 1998 graduate of Livermore High School. The ceremony was attended by his family from California as well as Kurt's extended family from Turkey.

Joining Jeff and Carol were Ford's brother, Tom, and Tom's wife Rebekka, of Davis.

The evening included a henna ceremony, which is more commonly performed the day before the wedding. In Saturday's ceremony, women holding lighted candles danced around the groom and veiled bride, who kept their hands closed until they were tempted open by the offer of gold coins. After that, their hands could be painted with henna, a red pigment.

Garberson's mother and sister-in-law opened and painted the bride's hands, and Pelin's maid of honor opened and painted the groom's.

Turkey is a Moslem country. However, by national law the ceremony was civil and presided over by a city official. In keeping with Turkish tradition, the vows were preceded and followed by nearly nonstop dancing. Dancers and guests wore a wide range of clothing styles, from tuxedos and miniskirts to full-length traditional dresses and headscarves.

Garberson is a graduate of UC Davis with a PhD in physics from UC Santa Barbara. Kurt graduated from Cukurova University in Ad-



Ford Garberson and Pelin Kurt just before cake cutting during wedding ceremony in Tarsus, Turkey.

ana, Turkey, and earned a PhD in physics there as well. In between those degrees, she earned a masters degree in physics from Nigde University, located in the Turkish city of the same name.

The bride and groom met as graduate students working at the U.S. research facility, FermiLab,

near Chicago. Post-doctoral fellowships then took them to the Geneva research facility, where Garberson now works for Yale and Kurt for Vanderbilt.

The couple will live in St. Genis Pouilly, France, near the Swiss border and the headquarters of the physics research center.

Milestones

Community

Education

Junction Avenue K-8 Students Achieve English Proficiency

By Patricia Koning

For 41 students at Junction Avenue K-8 School, reclassification is much more than just an administrative term. It represents a major academic accomplishment. On Dec. 9, these students, their families, and teachers celebrated their achievement in becoming Fully English Proficient.

"These students have gone from being designated as English Language Learners to now having become reclassified as being Fully English Proficient," said Junction principal Jamal Fields. "This is no small accomplishment as these students have displayed their language skills in several different ways. We are very proud of these students' accomplishment and wanted to celebrate with them and their families in recognition of this milestone."

To meet the requirement, students must be deemed English Proficient based on the California English Language Development Test (CELDT) assessment, score proficient or advanced in the English Language Arts section of the California Standards Test, and have passing classroom grades. "This year we had a higher percentage of students meeting this requirement," said Fields. "This means we are being effective."

According to the most recent Academic Performance Index reports, of students taking state standardized tests last year, 168 at Junction and 129 at Portola were designated as ELL. The Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District listed 1,535 students designated as ELL.

In addition to the students, their families, and Junction staff, Superintendent Kelly Bowers and

Livermore School Board president Chuck Rogge attended the celebration. Bowers shared her belief that being bilingual opens doors for students and congratulated them on their accomplishment.

With 41 students, this was the largest reclassification ceremony ever, reflecting the new Junction K-8 School, formed from Junction Avenue Middle School and Portola Elementary School. The celebration is a tradition that Fields brought from Portola to the new school. While Junction in the past recognized students who achieved Fully English Proficient status, the school had never held a formal evening celebration.

The students achieving Fully English Proficient status are:

Third grade: Melany Alas, Genella Alviad, Christian Araiza, Fiona Smith-Calónico, Kristina Douglas, Collins Gichohi, Aaron Martinez, and Abraham Martinez.

Fourth grade: Christopher Lopez-Angeles, Vita Nocilla, Astrid Aurora Perez, and Cassandra Reynolds.

Fifth grade: Juan Fernandez, Alejandra Fuentes, Jazmine Garcia, Sara Lopez, Barbara Mercado, Magali Sandoval, and Elizabeth Bares.

Sixth grade: Samantha Carmona, Angel Estrada, Claudia Garcia, Juanita Garcia, Alejandro Morales, Maria Moreno, Jaqueline Peña, and Roberto Soto.

Seventh grade: Marisol Casillas, Samantha Perez-Mejia, Alejandro Tellez, and Brian Zarate.

Eighth grade: Bryan Beltran, Rosa Ceja, Alexis Hernandez, Harmanpreet Kaur, and Valerie Scott.

Eagle Scout Rank Achieved

Franklin Kerstetter, age 14, has achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. He joined the Boy Scouts as a Tiger, in the Cub Scouts with pack 915, while he was in the first grade. After completing his Arrow of Light rank advancement in the 5th grade, he joined Troop 924.

Frankie is currently a freshman at Livermore High School as a freshman. He earned his Eagle Scout rank through "hard work, community service, dedication and commitment to scouting."

His Eagle Project involved repainting blacktops at the Christensen Middle School to improve playing areas for students at the school. Frankie repainted 7 basketball courts, 5 volleyball courts, the sprint track, and 3 full sets of line up numbers of 60 each. His project also helped to improve safety by repainting emergency numbers for the class rooms of Christensen Middle School.

Frankie was selected for Brownsea Leader Training by his scout master. To attend, one must be nominated. Not all of those who are nominated are accepted into this program.

Earlier this year, Frankie attended both the Northern California 100th anniversary Jamboree and the National 100th anniversary Jamboree in Virginia. He also has a member of the brotherhood in the Order of the Arrow.

Frankie enjoys playing football for Livermore High School. He is a member of the school band. He hopes to encourage and motivate other scouts to stay actively involved in scouting and to benefit the community.



Franklin Kerstetter

Agent Joins Coldwell Banker

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage has announced that Mary Evans has joined the company as a sales associate in its Livermore office. In her new position, Evans will specialize in residential sales in the Tri-Valley area.

Evans has been a Realtor since 1986. She joins Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage from Keller Williams, previously Hometown GMAC,

in Livermore.

Evans is an active supporter of the American Cancer Society, Boy Scouts of America, the Livermore-Amador Symphony, and the Livermore School District. She is a 25-year member of the Ladies Philoptochos Society, a national philanthropic organization for women, and a member of the Livermore Heritage Guild.

She earned her bachelor's degree

in speech pathology and audiology from San Diego State University. She has completed all courses required for the California Real Estate Brokers exam and attends continuing education courses in the field of real estate.

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Livermore is located at 32470 First Street, Ste. 204 and can be reached at 415.371.2100. Evans may be reached directly at 925.371.2095 and via e-mail at Mary.Evans@cbnorcal.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. 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.)

New Year's Eve Party, Dec. 31, Livermore-Pleasanton Elks Lodge 2117, 6:30 p.m. no host cocktails, 7:30 p.m. dinner followed, champagne toasts at both east and west coast midnight times, music by DJ Felipe, bingo games after dinner. \$35 per person. Prepaid reservations required by Mon., Dec. 27, RSVP to 455-8829.

38th Crab Feed, Livermore Knights of Columbus, January 8th at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. All you can eat crab dinner, raffles and prizes. Live music performed by Open Road. Doors open at 5 p.m. with dinner being served at 6 p.m. Tickets can be purchased for \$41 on-line by going to www.kofc4588events.org. Questions can be directed to Mark or Clare Duguid at 925-443-5873.

Ohlone Audubon meets January 4 at 7:30 pm at the Carlton Plaza in Fremont. To reach there take I-880 to Mowry Ave off-ramp, then Mowry east to Fremont Blvd. Turn right on Fremont Blvd., then left on Walnut. The Plaza is on Walnut between Fremont and Paseo Padre Pkwy. Jaan Lepson will present a talk on the birds of the Mariana Islands in Micronesia. No admission charge. Refreshments served. For more information call 510-507-3383 or go to www.ohloneaudubon.org

Valley Spokesmen Bicycle Touring Club, Sun., Dec. 26, 30 miles down Foothill to Sunol, Niles Canyon and Palomares and back, meet 9 a.m. at Shannon Center, Peter Rathmann, 336-0973. Wed., Dec. 28, 22 miles easy paced ride from Shannon Park to end of Bollinger Rd. in Las Trampas Park, meet 10 a.m., Elaine Nadeau, 577-6586. Anyone planning to go on a ride is asked to call the leader for details on where to meet and what to bring.

City of Pleasanton nature programs: Wondrous Universe Series, Lunar Event, Sat., Jan. 8, 2011, 7:30 to 9 p.m.; Winter Skies, Sat., Feb. 5, 2011, 7:30 to 9 p.m. Alviso Adobe Community Park, 3465 Old Foothill Road. How big is our galaxy? How far is the nearest star? How was our solar system made? Explore the universe as we try to answer these questions and more. Games and hands-on activities will aid us as we search for the answers. Then, if the skies are willing, we'll take a peek at the wonders above through a telescope. For all ages. Fee: \$9 for residents/\$12 for non-residents. **2nd Annual California Newt Festival**, Augustin Bernal Park, Sat., Feb. 12, 2011, 9 to 10 a.m. Learn about the natural history of amphibians, particularly the spectacular California Newt and its interesting cycle of life. In the heat of the summer they burrow deep into the earth to stay cool, and come out after the first rain of the season to make the long trek to their ancestral breeding ponds. Participants will help take a count of newts as part of an annual survey on this unique adventure for all ages. Fee: \$9 for residents/\$12 for non-residents. Call (925) 931-5340 for information or to register, or register on-line at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/recreation.html.

Pleasantonians 4 Peace, sponsoring a candlelight Vigil in front of the Museum on Main, 603 Main Street, downtown Pleasanton, Wed., January 12, at 7 p.m. Participants will reflect on the human and monetary costs of the war, honor veterans who have sacrificed, and visualize ways of moving beyond this conflict to a more peaceful world. A Peaceful War Protest will be held on the fourth Wednesday of the month, January 26 between 5 - 6 at the corners of First and Neal Streets. Please join us if you can. Questions?? Call Cathie Norman at (925) 462-7495; Matt Sullivan at mjs7882@gmail.com; or orkdowding@pacbell.net. Please see our New P4P web site www.Pleasantonians4Peace.org

San Ramon Valley Newcomers Club invites new and long-time residents to its monthly luncheon on January 20, 2011. Roberta Gonzales, award winning weather anchor for CBS5 News, will be the speaker. 11:30 to 2 p.m. at Bridges Golf Club Restaurant, 9000 So. Gale Rd., San Ramon. Luncheon is \$25. Call Susan, 925-718-5214, for reservations and information.

Disability Action Network (DAN) meet-

ing, second Thursday of each month at 2:00 pm, Livermore CRIL office, 3311 Pacific Ave., Livermore. The Disability Action Network is a group of people with all kinds of disabilities who are working together to make changes in the community. The group works on health care, housing, access, attendant programs, transportation, and other issues affecting people with disabilities. For more information, please call Jessica Lehman at (510) 881-5743 x5937.

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, support and referrals. CRIL also provides community education at senior centers and affordable housing complexes to residents of Southern Alameda County. The Tri-Valley CRIL office is located at 3311 Pacific Avenue, Livermore and can be reached by phone at (925) 371-1531, by FAX at (925) 373-5034 or by e-mail at abril.tamayo@cril-online.org. Hours are M-F 9-12:30 and 1:30PM to 5 PM. Drop in days are Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30 to 11:30AM and 2-4 PM or by appointment. All services are free.

Sentinels of Freedom Welcome Home Ceremony and Reception, hosted by Dublin on Monday, December 27, 2010, at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Dublin Library located at 200 Civic Plaza in Dublin. The event will honor all current military personnel who are home on holiday leave who reside in Dublin, Danville, San Ramon, Blackhawk or Alamo. All those families who have military serving from these areas are encouraged to submit an Information Request Form. Forms may be submitted online at the City of Dublin website www.dublin.ca.gov, obtained by contacting the City Manager's Office at (925) 833-6650, patricia.parks@dublin.ca.gov (for Dublin residents) or contact your City for more information.

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

Daughters of the American Revolution, Josefa Higuera Livermore Chapter, meets 9:30 a.m. on the first Saturday of the month between Sept. and May at the Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., Livermore. DAR is a women's service organization. The women 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. Information, contact Maris at 443-3087.

Daughters of the American Revolution, Jose Maria Amador Chapter, Pleasanton, volunteer women's service organization descended from a patriot of the American Revolution. Dedicated to patriotism, preservation of American history and securing America's future through better education. For more information, contact anarcisco@comcast.net or phone 510-507-5509.

Livermore Military Families is a support group for families in Livermore, who have a loved one serving in the Military. It is a safe place to come and share the joys, tears and fears they have with others who understand what they are going through. All family members are welcome to attend meetings. Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at the home of Cindy Gavello, 2851 Tahoe Drive, Livermore from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

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

Learn Scottish Country dancing at the Livermore class of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, San Francisco Branch. Lively

reels and jigs, graceful strathspeys. All ages. Adults Mondays 8 to 9:30 p.m. Livermore Veteran's Hall, 522 South L St., Livermore; youth or adult Fridays 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Valley Dance Theatre School, 2247 Second St., Suite B, Livermore. Call Margaret Ward, 449-5932 or Sheena MacQueen, 447-1833.

Good News Bears, nonprofit with a mission to distribute stuffed animals to social services, emergency services, medical facilities and anyone who needs a hug. Based in Livermore, the group reaches around the Bay Area and the world. Volunteers needed to hold collections of gently used teddy bears and other stuffed animals, assist with fund-raising and deliver the animals to organizations supported by the group. Meetings 2nd Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m. at the Livermore Police Station. Log on to www.goodnewsbears.org or call 373-7982 for more information.

RELIGION

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, has services at 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.

Faith Chapel Assembly of God, 6656 Alisal St., Pleasanton, Sunday School for all ages 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m., Children's Church 11:15 a.m. Women's Bible study Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Please call office at 846-8650 for weekly programs.

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

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

Calvary Chapel Livermore, Sunday Services 10:30 am and 6:00 p.m. 545 N. L Street Livermore. (925) 447-4357 - www.calvalrylivermore.org.

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

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

Bible Study, offered Wednesdays, 7:30 to 8:30 PM at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 6100 Paseo Santa Cruz, Pleasanton. Refreshments served at no cost. 925-305-9468.

Trinity, 557 Olivina Ave., Livermore. Services on Sunday at 8:30, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. with Sunday school or Bible study for all ages at 9:45 a.m. Bible study for adults and activities for all ages on Wednesdays at 6:45 p.m. 447-1848.

Granada Baptist Church, 945 Concanon Blvd., Livermore. Services: Sunday school 9:45 a.m., worship 11 a.m., Tuesday Bible study, 10 a.m. to noon. All are welcome. 1-888-805-7151.

Tri-Valley Unity Church, 2260 Camino Ramon, San Ramon. Class for children, ages 1-10, during church service, 10 to 11:15 a.m. Ongoing adult classes and small groups. All are welcome. (925) 829-2733. www.trivalleyunity.com

Meditation Study Group. Practice new meditation methods, based on teachings of Shinzen Young, using audio, video and hand-outs, 7:15-8:30 p.m., on the second and fourth

Tuesdays of every month, at Tri-Valley Unity's Gathering Place, 7567 Amador Valley Blvd., #120, Dublin. Contact Gayle at gstaehle@comcast.net

Spiritual Reiki Group The Japanese system of Reiki is a spiritual practice which uses meditations, chanting, visualizations, and hands-on energy group work so that we can connect to our true nature. No prior Reiki experience is necessary. On the first and third Saturdays of every month, 10-11:45 a.m. at Tri-Valley Unity's Gathering Place, 7567 Amador Valley Blvd., #120, Dublin. Contact Gayle at gstaehle@comcast.net.

Community Bible Study Class, book of Luke will be the topic of study in Pleasanton at Valley Bible Church. CBS is a non-denominational Bible study ministry open to all women, with a special children's program for ages 0-5 years old. The class meets on Thursdays from 9:30-11:30AM beginning 9/9/10 and goes until 5/12/11. More information about the CBS program and registration available by contacting Sharon at 925-399-5072, or email bobsharonmerrill@gmail.com.

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.

Stepping Stones on Grief Journey, Grief Ministry bi-monthly sessions, Catholic Community of Pleasanton. Dec. 23, Jan 13, 27, Feb., 10, 11 and Mar. 10, 24, 7:30 p.m. St. Elizabeth Seton, 4001 Stoneridge Dr., Pleasanton. No pre-registration required. Open to all regardless of religious affiliation. Please call Mary Hagerty, 846-5377, for more information.

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. and on Christmas Eve at 9:00. The church is located on the corner of 4th and L streets.

Human Trafficking: A Modern Day Form of Slavery, will be the L.I.F.E. (Lessons in Faith Experience) topic at St. Charles Borromeo, 1315 Lomitas Ave., in Livermore on Tuesday, January 11 at 7:30 pm in Borromeo Hall. Human trafficking is defined as anything that exploits a person either for labor or sex. Holy Family Sister, Sr. Caritas Foster will share how human trafficking is the fastest growing criminal activity throughout the world and in our own neighborhood and what it means to us and the people who are exploited. All are welcome to this evening. A \$5 donation is appreciated for speaker costs. For further information contact Julie at upatholic@aol.com or 925-447-4549 ext 114.

A Call to Justice: Amos/Micah/Hosea, is the theme of the St. Charles/St. Michael's Bible Study for January 24-March 7. God stood by his people and did the right thing for them - the Bible calls this "justice." All are invited to join the bible study group on Monday evenings from 7:30-9:00 pm at St. Charles Borromeo, 1315 Lomitas Ave., in Livermore. To reserve materials (cost \$10) or have questions call Julie at 925-447-4549 ext 114 or at upatholic@aol.com.

Unitarian Universalist Church, 1893 N. Vasco Rd., Livermore. Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, 5:30 p.m. "The Magic of Christmas," intergenerational service; there will be carols and readings about Christmas. Rennie Tomley and Rev. Lucas Hergert will present the message. 7:30 p.m., "By Another Way," after

the wisemen left the infant Jesus, they had to home "by another way." Rev. Lucas will preach on the times good news can be hard to carry. 447-8747 or www.uucil.net.

St. Augustine Church, 3999 Bernal Ave., Pleasanton. Christmas Eve, 4 p.m. no incense, 7 p.m. and midnight; 11:30 p.m. musical prelude by adult choir. Christmas Day, 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and noon.

St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Dr., Pleasanton. Christmas Eve, 4 p.m. no incense, 7 p.m. and midnight; 11:30 p.m. musical prelude by teen choir. Christmas Day, 9 a.m. no incense, and 11 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church, 4th and L Streets, Livermore. Christmas Eve, 5 p.m. family worship; 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the sanctuary featuring the church choirs accompanied by a professional brass ensemble; 9 p.m. and 11 p.m. traditional candlelight services. 447-2078.

Our Savior Lutheran Ministries, 1385 So. Livermore Ave., Livermore. Christmas Eve 7 and 10 p.m. candlelight Christmas Eve services; Dec. 25, 10 a.m. Festival Communion Service. 447-1246.

Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. Christmas Eve services, 4:30 p.m. family service celebrates the Savior's birth as seen through the eyes of a child; 8 and 10 p.m. festival worship by candlelight with communion. 846-6363.

Cross Winds Church, 6444 Sierra Ct., Dublin. Christmas Eve services at 1, 3, 5 and 7 p.m. with a special candlelight service at 11:30 p.m. 560-3800.

Centerpointe Church, 3410 Cornerstone Ct., Pleasanton. Annual Family Christmas Musical; Christmas Eve 5 p.m. Annual family candlelight services; Thurs., Dec. 23, 7:30 p.m. and Fri., Dec. 24, 7:30 and 9 p.m. 846-4436.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service - Celebrate the true meaning of Christmas, along with the choir and carol-singing, 7 p.m., Tri-Valley Unity, 2260 Camino Ramon, San Ramon. All are welcome. Rev. Harriet Hawkins, minister. (925) 829-2733, www.trivalleyunity.com

Sign Language Interpreter Provided

First Presbyterian Church in Livermore is now providing an ASL Sign Language Interpreter each week for its 10:30 a.m. traditional worship service. Worship services are held each week in the church's sanctuary.

The church will also provide an interpreter on Christmas Eve for its 9:00p.m. candlelight service.

"Our hope in providing this service is that our church can support people with hearing challenges and allow them to have a place where they can worship as they seek to grow in their faith," commented Pastor Steve Wilde. "We strive to be an inclusive community of faith that is mindful of the needs of others."

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