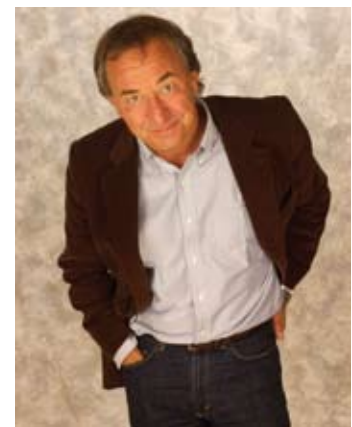




Find Out What's Happening Check out the second section

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



Comedian Will Durst performs at the Bankhead.

Will Durst Presents His Own View of 2009

Kiss this year goodbye as nationally known political satirist Will Durst gives his take on the past year with "Goodbye 2009," an evening of hilarity, combining standup, improv and loosely written sketches lampooning the major news stories of 2009. Joining Will is Johnny Steele, a Bay Area favorite; Jim Short who has appeared on the Craig Ferguson Show; Steven Kravitz who has worked all over the world; Debi Durst and Michael Bossier who have been doing improv for a century; and the incredibly young and talented Arthur Gaus.

Together they will mock and scoff and taunt with taste during the "Big Fat Year End Kiss Off Comedy Show XVII" at the Bankhead Theater on Monday, December 27 at 7:00 p.m.

As the sacred cows routinely (See DURST, page 9)

Las Positas College to Expand Veterans Program

Las Positas College in Livermore recently expanded its "Veterans First" program to include readjustment counseling services provided by the Concord Vet Center. The innovative program will provide individual and group counseling, as well as marital and family counseling, medical referrals, employment counseling, transition counseling, and many other support services. Nathan Johnson of the Concord Vet Center will assist student Veterans at the Las Positas College Health Center.

Veterans and their families in the Tri-Valley no longer have to drive to Concord or San Jose to meet with a readjustment counselor.

This latest expansion of the Veterans First program reflects the College's commitment to expand the support services offered to its 300 student Veterans. With the support of the community and the Las Positas College Foundation, the program has provided student Veterans a book loan (See EXPAND, page 9)

Correction to Retiree Article

A December 17 article should have stated that retirees who were hired (not who retired) prior to 1990 appear to have a viable claim to be reinstated to University of California health programs, according to attorneys for the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory Retiree Group.

Dire Pleasanton School Budget Forecast

By Ron McNicoll

Faced with the prospect of such major program changes as going to 30 students in K-3 classes from today's 25, the Pleasanton school board will have a special workshop on finance on Jan. 5.

The meeting will be at the Amador Valley High School library. It is scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. A board action is planned to apply for new federal stimulus grant funds that are available to districts that have innovative programs. The

school budget topic won't begin until 7 p.m.

The meeting is being called to show the public how much worse the state school funding picture will be in the next two school years, and take suggestions about how to meet the challenge.

Although the district laid off teachers, custodians and others this year, some one-year revenue came to the district, and softened the blow. That one-year money won't be back, so the district will be facing deficits of \$24,000 in 2010-11, and \$5.4 million in

2011-12.

And that's a "best-case scenario," assistant superintendent Luz Cazares told the school board at its meeting Dec. 16.

Cazares gave her budget forecast in the context of a state law that requires a district to maintain a minimum reserve of 3 percent of the budget.

If the reserve dips lower, but stays above a fiscal bottom line of zero, the district must make extra reports to the county school department. If the district's balance goes below zero, the state

would assign a supervisor to oversee its fiscal operations. This has happened to the school districts in Oakland and Richmond in the past.

In 2010-11, the 3 percent reserve will be eaten up entirely, leaving the \$24,000 deficit. During the current fiscal year, ending in June 30, the district is projected to fall about \$100,000 short of the 3 percent reserve, unless more revenue is found, or programs are cut, said Cazares.

The district already cut millions from the budget.

An attempt to pass a \$233 annual parcel tax lasting four years failed by about 4 percentage points earlier this year.

Superintendent John Casey told the board that in preparing the analysis for the meeting Jan. 5, the staff will be seeing a program that is "reduced to the core."

PARENTS WORRY ABOUT DECLINE

Several parents in the audience at the meeting Dec. 16 told the board that they were (See BUDGET, page 4)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Several members of the advanced orchestra from Christensen Middle School in Livermore played Christmas music downtown Livermore last Tuesday in front of First Street Alehouse. The goal was to raise funds for the local food bank. All donations they received were given directly to Open Heart Kitchen. For more ways on how residents are helping others, see Section II. The cello player (front) is Joe Villarreo.

Efforts Underway To 'Fix' California

With California facing an ongoing crisis when it comes to funding, various groups are studying ways to avoid raids on local funding.

The League of California Cities is one such group. It is planning an initiative that would prevent the state from tapping into city, council and special district funds.

The Livermore City Council heard a presentation concerning the initiative at its most recent meeting from Eric Figueroa, regional manager of the League.

He noted that local government is the closest to the people. Surveys show that 84 percent of voters trust local government, compared to a 21 percent approval rating for state legislature.

Over the past year, the state has taken \$2 billion from local governments and \$1.7 billion in redevelopment funds. There are plans to take another big chunk of redevelopment funds next year, despite a court ruling that the previous taking was unconstitutional, said Figueroa. The taking of redevelopment funds has been challenged in a lawsuit.

Figueroa said, "The state taking local funds will continue to get worse, if we don't do something. The League initiative would protect all local government revenues starting in 2009." He noted that it is the only action in the works that would provide immediate impact for local governments in protecting revenue.

The proposed measure would prevent state officials from seizing (See CALIFORNIA, page 10)

Pleasanton Growth Cap Suit Goes to Judge

By Ron McNicoll

Pleasanton defended its housing cap in court, but likely won't get a decision soon from Alameda County Superior Court Judge Frank Roesch.

The complexities of the arguments before the judge on Dec. 18 in Oakland may take some time for consideration, said Pleasanton city attorney Michael

Roush. The only certain thing is that the judge has 90 days from the hearing date to issue an order, he said.

As far as Roush knows, the suit is the first challenge against a housing cap in California. It's difficult to track, though, because sometimes decisions don't receive much publicity, if they are only at the superior court level,

and not published regionally as a precedent from an appellate court, he said.

The plaintiff is Urban Habitat, which wants more affordable housing built in Pleasanton. The basic argument was that the city's voter imposed housing cap, which limits development to 29,000 residential units, conflicts with the state's goals for

the amount of fair-share housing throughout the region by 2014.

The city would need to build at least 3277 more units of affordable housing to meet the goal. Since there are only 2950 units left under the cap, the city won't meet that goal, said Urban Habitat. It wants the cap struck down as a violation of state law.

(See SUIT, page 4)

Sandia National Laboratories Celebrates 60th Anniversary

Sixty years ago, the world was a much different place. Harry Truman was president, the Cold War was ramping up, and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was established. That year, 1949, also marked the opening of Sandia National Laboratories.

In a letter to Leroy Wilson of AT&T, President Truman

asked the corporation to assume management of a small nuclear research and development complex in New Mexico. On Dec. 17, Sandia President Tom Hunter reflected on the wording of that letter in a 60th anniversary celebration at Sandia's Livermore site. Commemorative events were held earlier this year at Sandia's (See SANDIA, page 9)

District Seeks Input on Livermore Superintendent

The Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District will host public forums to take public input regarding the search for a new superintendent.

The current superintendent, Brenda Miller, is retiring. At the forums, Cosca Group, the search firm, will meet with all interested community members at the two forums.

The first forum will be held on Wed., Jan. 6 at 6:30 p.m. for Spanish speaking; and 7:30 p.m. in English at Granada High School in the student union, 400 Wall Street. The second forum will be held Thurs., Jan. 7 at 6 p.m. for Spanish speaking and 7 p.m. in English at Livermore High School in the student union, 600 Maple Street. (See FORUMS, page 3)

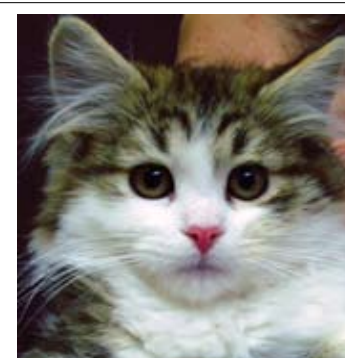


Photo - Randy Wong/Sandia National Laboratories

Livermore Mayor Marshall Kamena (left) presents a proclamation to Rick Stulen (center) and Tom Hunter during Sandia's 60th anniversary celebration.

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PET OF THE WEEK

Jet is a cute little guy who loves to hang out with his litter mates- Steeler, Raiderette, and Bronco! They are the "NFL bunch" named after football teams, and they certainly love to play. All four kittens are searching for their forever homes. To meet them, come to Valley Humane Society's Kitty City at 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton, open Tues-Sat from 11AM to 5PM (closed holidays). Call 925-426-8656 or visit the web site www.valleyhumane.org for more info.

McNerney Bucks Party on Vote to Hike Debt Limit

Rep. Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton) voted against the Democratic Party leadership on a bill that would raise the U.S. debt limit. McNerney revealed the vote during a telephone town hall meeting on Dec. 16, the day of the vote.

The congressman said that he voted "not to add money to the deficit. The money being borrowed is not for small business. The leadership insisted I vote for it," but he disagreed.

The bill passed 218-214. The record shows that McNerney was one of 37 Democrats to vote "no," and was the only California Democrat to do so.

All of the votes for passage came from Democrats. Republicans supplied 175 votes against it, and two abstained. One Democrat abstained.

Passage of the bill would allow the federal government to exceed the current debt limit of \$12.1 trillion. The bill is slated next for the Senate.

McNerney said in a press release Dec. 17, "We should not increase the federal government's ability to borrow money without also taking steps to create a real plan to pay down the debt. The bill I opposed is a short-term band-aid that doesn't address the underlying and pressing issue of how to reduce the debt," said McNerney.

He continued, "I am going to keep working for fiscally responsible solutions to reducing the debt, and ensure that the taxpayers' money is used responsibly."

VOTED FOR JOBS BILL
McNerney also told the telephone town hall meeting that he

voted for a \$154 billion jobs bill "that will help teachers, firefighters and police, and do so in a reasonable way."

McNerney was referring to the "second stimulus bill," which passed 217-212. It will go on to the Senate, but won't be taken up until after Jan. 1.

The bill is touted as being able to provide funding for job training in high-growth or newly emerging industries. It could also provide money for cities to hire police and firefighters. The bill could create other programs to put people back to work.

The amount is smaller than the first stimulus package passed by Congress, which totaled \$780 million.

HEALTH INSURANCE, JOBS ON MINDS
McNerney's town hall meet-

ing drew 2400 people. Some questions concerned the health care bill in Congress. A senior from Pleasanton said that he has Kaiser's medi-gap coverage, and Medi-care "pays for a lot of that coverage." He asked whether seniors will pay more for coverage.

McNerney said, "No. I oppose any reduction in benefits in Medi-care. I want it to be more efficient, and to eliminate the waste."

McNerney said that with the technology available now, it's possible to make good medical decisions. "It rewards organizations like Kaiser that have good outcomes. I will oppose any reduction in Medi-care benefits."

A senior in Stockton said she has had her private insurance for 26 years. "I'm worried about them wanting to do something. I'm ill."

McNerney explained, "The goal of reform is to make sure everyone who contributes to our society has health care. We want to make sure you can keep it. It's one of our fundamentals."

"If you have Medi-care, you will see benefits improve. It will ensure there are no co-payments for preventive medicine, and free testing, with no co-payments involved. I can't stress this enough. The whole purpose is to make health care accessible to all Americans. Health care costs too much now, and costs are rising rapidly. We want to stop that," he said.

Although the bill passed out of the House, McNerney said that he can't predict what the Senate will do. "I won't support something that doesn't allow people to keep what they have and like," he said.

TRYING TO KEEP JOBS
The end of the NUMMI plant in Fremont, and the increased foreign competition for jobs under NAFTA were questioned by two different callers from Tracy.

McNerney said that he will have several thousand unemployed people in his district after NUMMI closes. He has involved Labor Department officials to work with union workers and NUMMI officials, as well as local people affected. "I want to make sure they can start new businesses," he said.

McNerney said he also wants to work with the automaker to ensure that they stay at the location as long as possible, "and not leave workers holding the bag."

"It is a private business. However, we can make sure that workers receive training and health care benefits. I'm working as hard as I can to bring other jobs into the area," he said.

As for NAFTA, McNerney said, "When I hear jobs are going overseas, it makes my blood boil."



Photos - Doug Jorgensen
It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas . . . The top photo was taken at Deacon Dave's home on Hillcrest Avenue in Livermore. The middle photo features the lights at Wente Vineyards on Arroyo Road. The whimsical display in the bottom photo is on Buena Vista in Livermore.

LIVERMORE CINEMAS		2490 FIRST STREET 443-SHOW				
AVATAR IN 3D (PG13) DLP	11:30	12:30	1:30	2:50	3:50	4:50
				6:10	7:10	8:10 9:30
UP IN THE AIR (R) DLP	11:35	2:05	4:35	7:05	9:35	
SHERLOCK HOLMES (PG13) DLP		12:50	3:10	4:00	6:15	
				7:00	9:55	
IT'S COMPLICATED (R) DLP		1:10	4:05	6:50	9:45	
NINE (PG13) DLP		12:35	3:45	6:40	9:20	
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS 2 (PG) DLP		12:00	1:00	2:10	3:15	
		4:30	5:30	6:45	7:40	9:00 9:45
THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG (G) DLP			11:45	2:00	4:15	
				6:30	8:45	
DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS (PG13) DLP				11:40	2:10	
				4:30	7:00 9:35	
THE BLIND SIDE (PG13) DLP		1:05	4:05	7:05	9:50	
A CHRISTMAS CAROL IN 3D (PG) DLP			11:20			
INVICTUS (PG13) DLP			12:10	9:25		

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Golden Globe Nominee for BEST PICTURE & ACTRESS
PRECIOUS Daily: 12:00 4:45 9:20
Nominated for 3 Critics Choice Awards

THE ROAD (R)
Daily: 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:15

THE FANTASTIC MR. FOX
Daily: 11:45AM

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For more information on the ValleyCare Foundation, please call 925-373-4560.

VALLEY ROUNDUP

DSRSD Officers

The Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD) Board of Directors has elected Jeffrey G. Hansen as President of the Board for 2010 and D. L. (Pat) Howard as Vice President. President Hansen has served on the Board since 1985, longer than any other Director in the District's history. He has been Board President four times before, most recently in 2006. Vice President Howard has served on the Board since 2004 and was President in 2007.

In addition, the directors serve as liaisons with the following public agencies:

President Hansen and Director Scannell serve on the Board of Directors for DSRSD-EBMUD Recycled Water Authority (DERWA), a joint powers authority formed to deliver recycled water to large irrigation customers through the San Ramon Valley Recycled Water Program.

Vice President Howard and Director Vonheeder-Leopold serve on the Board of Livermore Amador Valley Water Management Agency (LAVWMA), a joint powers agency comprised of DSRSD and the cities of Livermore and Pleasanton to convey treated wastewater from the member agencies' treatment plants to a deep-water outfall in the San Francisco Bay.

New Address to Pay Utility Bills

The Pleasanton Utility Billing division moves to the administrative offices of the Operation Services Center at 3333 Busch Road in January. Residents can pay utility bills at the new location effective January 11, 2010, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each Monday through Friday. The new move is expected to improve the program's day-to-day coordination and customer service response.

The phone number for the Utility Billing staff will remain the same, (925) 931-5425. Customers can mail utility bill payments to P.O. Box 45805, San Francisco, CA 94145-0805.

Bicycle, dog licenses and business licenses will continue to be issued at 200 Old Bernal Avenue and the payment drop box at that location will remain intact. For more information, please contact the Operation Services Center at (925) 931-5500.

PG&E Property Taxes

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) has made property tax payments totaling more than \$126 million to the 49 counties in which it operates. This amount represents full payment of property taxes due for the period from July 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009.

The company's tax payments to counties for tax year 2009/10 increased by almost \$20 million over the previous property tax year's payments as a result of an increase in assessments due to PG&E's infrastructure investments and an overall increase in tax rates.

Alameda County received just over \$12 million; Contra Costa just over \$9 million

McNerney Donates Pay Raise

Keeping his commitment to donate his automatic pay raise to five charitable organizations, Congressman Jerry McNerney (CA-11) visited the Emergency Food Bank of Stockton/San Joaquin to hand deliver a check on Monday.

The other organizations Rep. McNerney to which donated funds include Catholic Charities of Stockton, which offers children's health, elder abuse prevention, personal care and transportation services, Dignity's Alcove, a Stockton-based non-profit that provides transitional housing and substance abuse counseling for veterans, Livermore's Tri-Valley Haven, which provides shelter and services for victims of domestic violence, and the Village Community Resource Center in Brentwood, which provides after school programs as well as family support and health services.

Correction

In the article "Devon Dunne of Pleasanton to Appear in NBC's Trauma This Spring" in the 12/17/09 issue of The Independent, Devin Dunne's first name was misspelled; the correct spelling is Devin. Her high school was incorrectly identified as Amador Valley High School. Devin attends Foothill High School and was the lead in their production of "The Crucible," which Foothill drama teacher Margie McLaughlin directed.



Photos - Doug Jorgensen

Rich Cimino and Patti Cole, both members of Ohlone Audubon, were among those looking for birds in Sycamore Grove Park last Friday. One of the birds they spotted was a Red Shouldered Hawk (shown below).

First Ever Christmas Bird Count Conducted In Tri-Valley

The first ever Christmas Bird Count got underway last Friday at Sycamore Grove Park in Livermore. Ohlone Audubon Society and the Alameda Creek Alliance are sponsoring the Christmas bird count in eastern Alameda County, within the Alameda Creek watershed. An estimated 50 to 75 volunteer birders of all levels of experience are surveying for wintering birds within a 15 mile radius count circle in the vicinity of Pleasanton, Sunol and Livermore.

The Christmas Bird Count is an annual nationwide volunteer-based bird survey effort coordinated by the Audubon Society to promote bird conservation and assess long-term trends in winter bird populations. In the largest citizen science effort in the world, tens of thousands of volunteer birders and scientists armed with binoculars, bird guides and checklists will take part in Christmas bird counts throughout the Americas from mid-December through early January. Audubon and other organizations use data collected in this longest-running wildlife census to assess the health of bird populations and to help guide conservation actions.

Volunteers walked, mountain biked, drove to count areas, or monitored backyard feeders



during a 24 hour period on December 18, with some additional surveys continuing during the count week of December 15 to 21 to locate, identify, and record rare bird species.

The history of the Christmas Bird Count has its roots in opposition to an early American holiday tradition known as Christmas "side hunts," where

teams would compete to see who could shoot more wildlife and come back with the biggest pile of dead birds. Conservationists and scientists concerned about declining bird populations proposed a new holiday tradition beginning on Christmas Day 1900, a "Christmas Bird Count" that would tally birds rather than hunt them.

Pleasanton Ends Year With Positive Balance

The City of Pleasanton finds itself with \$2.5 million left in its budget.

The money is the result of expenditures of \$3.4 million less than budgeted. Some of the \$3.4 million is earmarked to pay off contracts not yet completed, leaving \$2.5 million to roll over to the next budget.

In addition to the \$2.5 million, the city has \$19.8 million in reserve that it has not had to tap. City Manager Nelson Fialho commented, "We are one of the few cities that has not dipped into reserves."

On the revenue side, there was a 4.5 percent increase in property tax revenues, mainly due to over \$2 million in delinquent payments. According to David Culver, Director of Finance, that is the most ever.

Other revenue sources showed declines. Sales tax was down 17 percent, transit occupancy tax down 19 percent, and building permits were 44.6 percent lower than the last fiscal year.

Pleasanton has a water enterprise fund. It ended with a lower fund balance than was projected. Culver told the council there is a need to discuss rate adjustments. The fund is being drawn down to cover increases in the cost of obtaining water.

Both councilmembers Jerry Thorne and Matt Sullivan suggested the city look at trends and plan for the future.

Thorne proposed looking at a three year average of revenues and expenses. That would show whether expenditures were growing faster than revenues in various departments. "I would like to look at trends. We will reach a point where expenditures are not sustainable."

Sullivan wanted to see a long range fiscal forecast. "If the economy doesn't come back to what it was, the city needs to take a look at what might happen."

Fialho noted that there are currently 35 positions open in the city. "We are trying to strike a balance between saving money

from unfilled jobs and impacting service levels. If the economy doesn't turn around, we may have to look at service cuts. In addition, we do have the ability to dip into our reserves."

Councilmember Cindy McGovern wondered if the open jobs would disappear.

Fialho said that for the short term there are no plans to fill them. There has been some reorganization, with people taking on more responsibility.

McGovern wondered about the drop in sales tax revenue. She noted that in 2006-07, the city received \$22 million. To date, this year, the amount is \$17.5 million.

Culver predicted that the sales tax income would continue to go down.

McGovern then urged people to shop locally. "That keeps the taxes at home and helps local businesses."

FORUMS

(continued from page one)

The Board of Education would like to hear from the public regarding the strengths of the District, its needs and critical issues, and the type of leadership desired from a superintendent. All members of the community, including parents, interested citizens, students, elected officials, public employees, etc. are invited to speak on the qualities and characteristics of the next superintendent.

For those unable to attend this meeting, emails may be sent to the search consultant, Steve Goldstone, at gostevego@earthlink.net. Please send comments no later than January 7,

2010 and identify the name of the District. All comments will be compiled to form a matrix defining those characteristics valued by the community. Input from the forums will help guide Board of Education members as they recruit and select the next superintendent. In addition, survey forms will be available in each of the schools and at the District Office.

Questions regarding the process, timeline, or forums may be directed to Margaret Gehlert in the Superintendent's Office at mgehlert@livermore.k12.ca.us or 925-606-3281.



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Miss Melissa Haaverson will be installed as Honored Queen of Bethel No. 1, Dublin of the International Order of Job's Daughters at 7:30pm, Saturday, January 9, 2010 at the Pleasanton Masonic Lodge, 3370 Hopyard Road.

Job's Daughters International is an organization for young women from ages 10 to 20. Members learn important skills that benefit them now, as well as in the future. Skills such as: leadership, organization, teamwork and self reliance. The lessons of Job's Daughters are taught around the principle framework of respect for parents and home, loyalty to flag and country, and respect for the community. For over 85 years, Job's Daughters has been actively promoting friendship and service.



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2008 Mercury Mariner V6 Vin#J37718....\$12,595	2008 Mazda 5 Sport Vin#318906.....\$12,995
2008 Ford Fusion SEL Vin#247086.....\$12,995	2008 Toyota Corolla LE Vin#041889.....\$12,995
2009 Toyota Corolla LE Vin#042318.....\$13,995	2008 Mazda CX7 Vin#200184.....\$13,995
2008 Honda Accord Vin#062446.....\$14,995	2009 Toyota Corolla S Vin#042318.....\$13,995
2009 Toyota Camry LE Vin#800168.....\$14,995	2008 Honda Accord Vin#062446.....\$14,995
2008 Toyota Sienna LE Vin#186286.....\$14,995	2009 Toyota Camry LE Vin#800168.....\$14,995
2008 Toyota Prius Vin#728188.....\$16,995	2008 Toyota Sienna LE Vin#186286.....\$14,995
2008 Toyota Rav4 LTD Vin#090920.....\$17,595	2008 Toyota Prius Vin#728188.....\$16,995

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EDITORIALS

Night Life Ordinance Needed

The Pleasanton Downtown Association (PDA) has begun working towards a city ordinance to regulate an anticipated surge in downtown's night life.

PDA says the ordinance is needed to deal with the sound levels, parking, outdoor smoking areas, trash/litter removal and other potential issues associated with entertainment districts.

The association has thrown itself full-bore into the cause, and has been in touch with experts in the field such as the Responsible Hospitality Institute.

"Our night life is just starting," observes the PDA executive director, Christina Saldivar. "This is a good opportunity to mold it so it's a great experience."

The Pleasanton downtown is already an attractive downtown. Night life will add to its appeal in a big way, but regulation is needed to ensure that others can comfortably live with it.

We applaud PDA. They're performing a community service in pushing this greatly needed ordinance.

Opening The Budget Process

City of Livermore's next budget process will be more transparent and show a higher level of public involvement than usual.

The city is opening up the process through a citizens survey and a series of evening public workshops scheduled January 28 and February 1-2. That will be followed by the City Council's preliminary budget deliberations, followed by additional workshops April 19, 21 and 22.

Livermore (and most cities) faces deep cutbacks. They will hurt. The community will have to make choices.

The city is doing what it can to encourage the public participation needed to make those choices. We hope the citizenry will take full advantage of it.

BUDGET

(continued from page one)

worried about how the district might decline in the face of the budget challenges. One said that when her family was moving from Massachusetts, they chose Pleasanton "because it fit the bill" when it came to schools. The district was up there with San Ramon and Palo Alto.

"I'm not sure we'd make the same decision today. We may have chosen Dublin or San Ramon, or maybe the more crowded Peninsula, to make sure that we were in a community that did what it took, and sacrificed," she said.

The parent talked about her third-grader's class being more crowded this year, with 25 instead of 20 students, and said that "the teacher is more pressed for time."

Her student at Pleasanton Middle School sees the student leadership picking up trash, because there are not enough janitors now.

"Things are OK now. The API scores are good. We're still there, but in a few years, if we can't get creative and do something else" it won't be as good, she said. The audience applauded her remarks loudly.

Another parent suggested closing a school site. She said that parents would be willing to drive a little farther to keep classes at 25:1 student-teacher ratio. "With classes of 30, you are no longer competing with Palo Alto, or even San Ramon," she said. Her remarks also drew loud applause.

REPUTATION IS IMPORTANT

Trustee Jim Ott told the first speaker that "you broke my heart when you said that you might not have moved here. It

would be one less person with employment talent to work here and to spend time in Pleasanton." Quality schools are the key to attracting good employment talent, said Ott.

Trustee Jamie Hintzke emphasized that it's important for staff or community groups backing more funding to come up with materials that will clearly explain about how the money will be spent. She said that staff could outline a basic core program, and build in the costs from there, so that people can see clearly where parcel tax or other local revenue would go.

Trustee Valerie Arkin suggested formation of an education boosters club, similar to the athletic boosters.

The club could go aggressively at the schools' most direct constituents, the parents, just as the San Ramon Valley school district has done with its fund-raising club, she said.

Trustee Pat Kernan said that the "best economic minds" predict five more years of a poor economy. "We will survive as a great district. We need to address the problems head-on. The time is now," he said to applause.

Board president Chris Grant said it would be good to talk to backers of Measure G, the ill-fated parcel tax earlier this year that would have raised \$233 per parcel each year for four years to save programs. It fell approximately four percentage points short of the 66.7 percent needed for passage.

"We need to get everyone working on part of the solution," said Grant. Several avenues of fund-raising will have to be explored to try to head off as many cuts as possible, trustees

SUIT

(continued from page one)

The city's rejoinder is that building is proceeding so slowly that it's unlikely that the cap will be used up before 2014, according to the city's legal team.

Urban Habitat was represented by the law firm Public Advocates and its chief counsel, Richard Marcantonio. The city's team were private attorneys, led by Thomas Brown.

Special assistant attorney general Clifford Rechtschaffen also argued on the plaintiff's side. The state joined the lawsuit, because it said that by not providing affordable housing, employees must drive to jobs in Pleasanton. That adds to air pollution.

The suit also alleges that Pleasanton does not have enough land zoned to meet the densities that would result in affordable

housing. The council voted to remedy that by rezoning three parcels in Hacienda Park. The council also established a task force that will create a specific plan for the three properties.

However, Urban Habitat's lawyers said that the resulting zoning is PUD with mixed use. That in and of itself doesn't allow a developer to pick up a permit, and start building. They said that the city didn't set standards for each lot to enable the building.

The city's attorneys countered that the council did what was required by state law. They also said that there is no state law that requires the city to build the housing. The law only requires that the zoning exists for it.

The cap was approved by voters in an initiative in 1996.

Pleasanton Concerned about BART on Eastside

The Pleasanton City Councilmembers expressed concern about the potential impacts on its eastside from a BART extension to Livermore.

Following a presentation on the various route options, the council had many questions with regard to the routes, particularly those that would leave the freeway at El Charro and go through the Chain of Lakes to Livermore.

Mayor Jennifer Hosterman noted, "All of the alternatives, in some way or another, go through Pleasanton." She said she had requested the presentation to allow for the council to weigh in on the issues.

In addition to the presentation to the council, BART will hold a public hearing in Pleasanton on the draft programmatic environmental impact report (DEIR). The hearing is scheduled for Jan. 6 in the city council chamber starting at 6:30 p.m.

The DEIR studies nine alternative routes. The extension to Livermore would go east from the Dublin-Pleasanton BART station. The eventual outcome will be the selection of a preferred alignment to bring BART to Livermore. The various options studied in the draft report can be mixed and matched. Five of the alternatives would run on El Charro Road near the eastern side of Staples Ranch and along the eastern edge of the Eastside Specific Plan Area identified in Pleasanton's general plan. The El Charro service would be on an elevated track structure.

Hosterman commented, "We have always been supportive of BART to Livermore. However, we have concerns about some of the alignments." She wondered, given the economy and funding needed to build the extension, why BART was in such a hurry to select an alignment.

Malcolm Quint, BART project manager, explained that selecting an alignment would allow BART

to preserve the right-of-way needed to build it. BART works with Caltrans on changes to I-580. If the alignment were to extend to Greenville down 580, right-of-way would be needed to be retained to Greenville. However, if the extension left the freeway at an earlier location, only the right-of-way on the freeway to that point would be needed to be preserved.

Councilmembers also had questions for Quint.

Cheryl Cook-Kallio wondered if there would be enough parking in downtown Livermore to accommodate potential BART riders.

Quint explained that Livermore had asked BART to cap parking at 2500 spaces at the downtown station. In addition, a second station paired with the downtown, would provide 7500 parking spaces.

Cook-Kallio suggested that a downtown station may not be the best way to get cars off the freeway.

Cindy McGovern asked what the proposed aerial structure through the chain of lakes are would look like and what impact the structure might have on plans for development of the Staples Ranch. "The chain of lakes is an environmentally sensitive area. It will also be used to recharge the groundwater."

Quint described the aerial structure as 40 feet high at El Charro. The height is designed so that BART would not interfere with quarry operations in the area. In addition, at the request of developers, BART is now looking at a below grade option at El Charro. The option was not studied in the DEIR.

Matt Sullivan suggested that a "pretty big chunk" of the Staples Ranch would be needed. He suggested that rather than turn south on the Pleasanton side of El Charro, the turn be made on the Livermore side.

Jerry Thorne asked if BART would require any part of Staples Ranch for the extension. He was also concerned about the impact on potential recreation, housing and industry in the chain of lakes area. Pleasanton is planning to undertake an eastside study to establish a development plan for the area, he noted.

Quint said that the design going down El Charro takes a little corner of Staples Ranch. He added, "These are very preliminary designs. They are subject to change. We would look to purchase an easement if the route down El Charro were chosen."

McGovern also wondered about the impacts on homes in Pleasanton.

Quint said that there could be an impact on housing along 580. In the DEIR, it states that single family homes located south of I-580 between Santa Rita Road and El Charro Road would be affected.

Sullivan said he could see the economic benefits of a downtown Livermore station. He wondered what the benefits would be for the larger regional area by going down 580.

Quint said the regional benefits would be addressed in future studies. There is economic benefit from the potential transit oriented development around stations. Asked about the timeline for the extension, Quint said the EIR process is about two years. Construction would take 5 to 6 years. When it begins depends on the availability of funding.

Only one member of the public spoke. Kurt Kummer stated, "I am baffled as to why we are talking about anything other than a freeway extension. I am particularly concerned about what an extension could do to Staples Ranch. There are a lot of outdoor activities planned on the site that do not lend themselves well to a 40 foot high BART track 100 feet away. The noise would drown

out everything." He told BART, "Stay on the freeway. Once, the extension is past Pleasanton, I don't care where the alignment goes."

BART Director John McPartland told the council, "A downtown station is a political decision that Livermore will make. The city doesn't want to impact the ambiance in the downtown. An underground station is doable." He said of the proposed Isabel/580 station, that ridership goals would not be achieved at a level to sustain the extension. "There is no ridership from ACE. We have to have ridership. To get that ridership there needs to be intermodal connections. Isabel would have to be a shortstop."

McPartland said of making the Livermore extension a reality, "All I need is four more votes and someone to write me a really big check."

Three of the proposed alignments end at Greenville Road; two go to Vasco Road near the current ACE station; two terminate in the downtown. Both the Greenville and Vasco routes include one that goes through the downtown. Several going through the downtown leave the freeway at El Charro and travel through the quarry area. One exits the freeway near Las Positas Blvd.; another goes underground along Portola and Junction Avenue into the downtown.

There are also two one-station alignments. One goes down I-580 and ends at Isabel and I-580; the other uses El Charro, extends through the quarry area and stops at Isabel and Stanley Blvd.

In addition to the public hearing, BART is also accepting written comments on the DEIR until 5:00 pm on January 21, 2010.

Mail comments to: BART Planning Department, Attn. Malcolm Quint, 300 Lakeshore Drive, Oakland, CA 94612 or send an email to info@bartlivermore.org

School Board Retains Grant 3-2

By Ron McNicol

Chris Grant was re-elected president of the Pleasanton school board on a 3-2 vote, after a seconded motion to name Valerie Arkin to the post failed to get three votes.

Grant wound up a one-year term as president at the board's meeting Dec. 16. When nominations were opened for a president at the meeting, Jamie Hintzke nominated Valerie Arkin. Both were elected to the board one year ago.

Hintzke said that with the district seeking a new superintendent to replace outgoing John Casey, it is important to have a trustee in the president's office who has a great deal of time to meet with the search firm, and the many community members who will want to give their input. Arkin is the only school board member with no job outside the home.

Arkin is one of the board's two liaisons with the superintendent search firm, which was selected at an earlier meeting, and ratified unanimously by the board at the Dec. 16 meeting.

Arkin, who has an MBA and worked for an insurance firm as a lawsuit negotiator, is "good on school financing, gets back to people on the phone, and meets with them for coffee. With so many people wanting access to

us, I wanted to nominate Valerie," said Hintzke.

Jim Ott said that he intended to ask Grant to stay on, and to nominate Arkin as clerk. The clerk reviews the financial accounts and signs off on them, and also runs the meeting when the president is absent.

Ott said that it was important to have Grant in office during the transition to a new superintendent. He recalled that he served a year and one-half as president (before Grant's term) after being on the board for a year, "I wasn't ready to be president."

Ott suggested that Grant might serve six months, and resign in favor of Arkin after the superintendent is hired. Grant did not commit to resigning, or comment about it.

KERNAN: TAKES 2 YEARS

Pat Kernan, who has been on the board for 13 years, said, "It takes two years to get the lay of the land as a board member. I definitely would support you (Arkin) as clerk, and Chris as president."

Hintzke said that the board's by-laws indicate the president's term can't be split. She said that the fact that both Grant and Ott were chosen president after only one year service shows that Arkin should be considered on an equal footing with them, with the same

opportunity.

(The record shows that Grant was on the board for one year and 10 months, by the time he was chosen president.)

Ott said, "It's a question of who can do the best job right now." He asked Grant about his perspective. Grant replied, "This is an important priority of mine. I have had as much committee involvement as any on the board."

Grant said that he has not missed any board meetings since he was appointed three years ago. He was returned to office by voters at the election that followed his appointment. (Ott has been on the board three and one-half years, and was elected after his appointment, too).

"We are working through a difficult year, with the budget situation, and the selection of a new superintendent. I would welcome staying on another year," said Grant.

"I think the world of Valerie. If you are open to it, and wanted to be clerk, it would be fantastic," Grant told Arkin.

Arkin didn't want to be clerk for the next six months, and then become president. She said that the important time period for her availability as a board president would be the next six months, because of the outreach involved in the superintendent search.

Kernan made a motion to name Grant as president, and Arkin as clerk. Arkin said that there was already a motion the floor, but a moment later Ott seconded Kernan's motion.

Casey volunteered that under Robert's "Rules of Order," the board should vote on the first motion first. That vote brought support only from Hintzke and Arkin.

On the second motion, Ott, Kernan and Grant voted "yes," with Hintzke and Arkin voting "no."

ARKIN NOT CONVINCED

Asked after the meeting why she didn't vote to join the majority on the second motion, Arkin told The Independent that she did not find any compelling argument that Grant should stay on for another year. Neither Grant nor his supporters tied the word "experience" to exactly why it is so important in the superintendent search or other issues.

Also, there was "no solid argument" about why trustees should not vote for her. She said that she didn't agree with the majority's argument about "continuity." The board in the past has switched presidents at the end of the year when someone else wanted to take over, she said.

Hintzke told The Independent, "I think everyone on the board has their heart in the right place. It's a stressful time. We are under a lot of pressure right now. However, I think our board could really benefit by putting serious time into board development, no question."

Hintzke said that she learned at a school boards association conference that when there are new board members, the whole board becomes new. The board did have an informal round-table talk shortly after Hintzke and Arkin joined the board. Hintzke has in mind a more formal workshop. "When you have a new board, we need to understand what legacy they want to leave behind," she said.

As to Grant's view of the board, he said, "We are a governance team together. The priorities for our school district are to ensure the greatest level of academic support for our students, during this historic time, in the largest budgetary reduction in state history, for K-12 education, and ensuring we maintain the highest academic resources for our students."

Mayor Breaks with Tradition

Breaking from tradition, Pleasanton Mayor Jennifer Hosterman passed over Matt Sullivan to serve as vice mayor.

In the past, the role of vice mayor rotated among the councilmembers. It was Sullivan's turn this coming year.

Hosterman instead appointed Jerry Thorne. The vote was 4 to 1, with Cindy McGovern dissenting.

McGovern declared, "I honestly believe tradition should continue. It's Matt's turn." This change sets a precedent. The appointment of vice mayor becomes very political."

Sullivan said he would support the decision, because he said he believes Thorne would do a good job. "I asked to be appointed, since it was my turn. I received no reply from the mayor until tonight. People should real-

ize that this is a political appointment and has nothing to do with sharing the workload."

Hosterman said she selected Thorne, because she had been appointed to several committees that would require more of her time. She said the reality is that Thorne is more available to attend meetings during the day. She pointed out that everyone on the council had had a turn serving as vice mayor.

McGovern stated, "I don't agree with your reality." McGovern asked at one point, "What about McGovern?" indicating that she was just as available as Thorne to fill in for the mayor.

ATTORNEY LEAVING

At a special meeting on Monday, the council approved a contract with new attorney Jonathan Lowell. He was then sworn into

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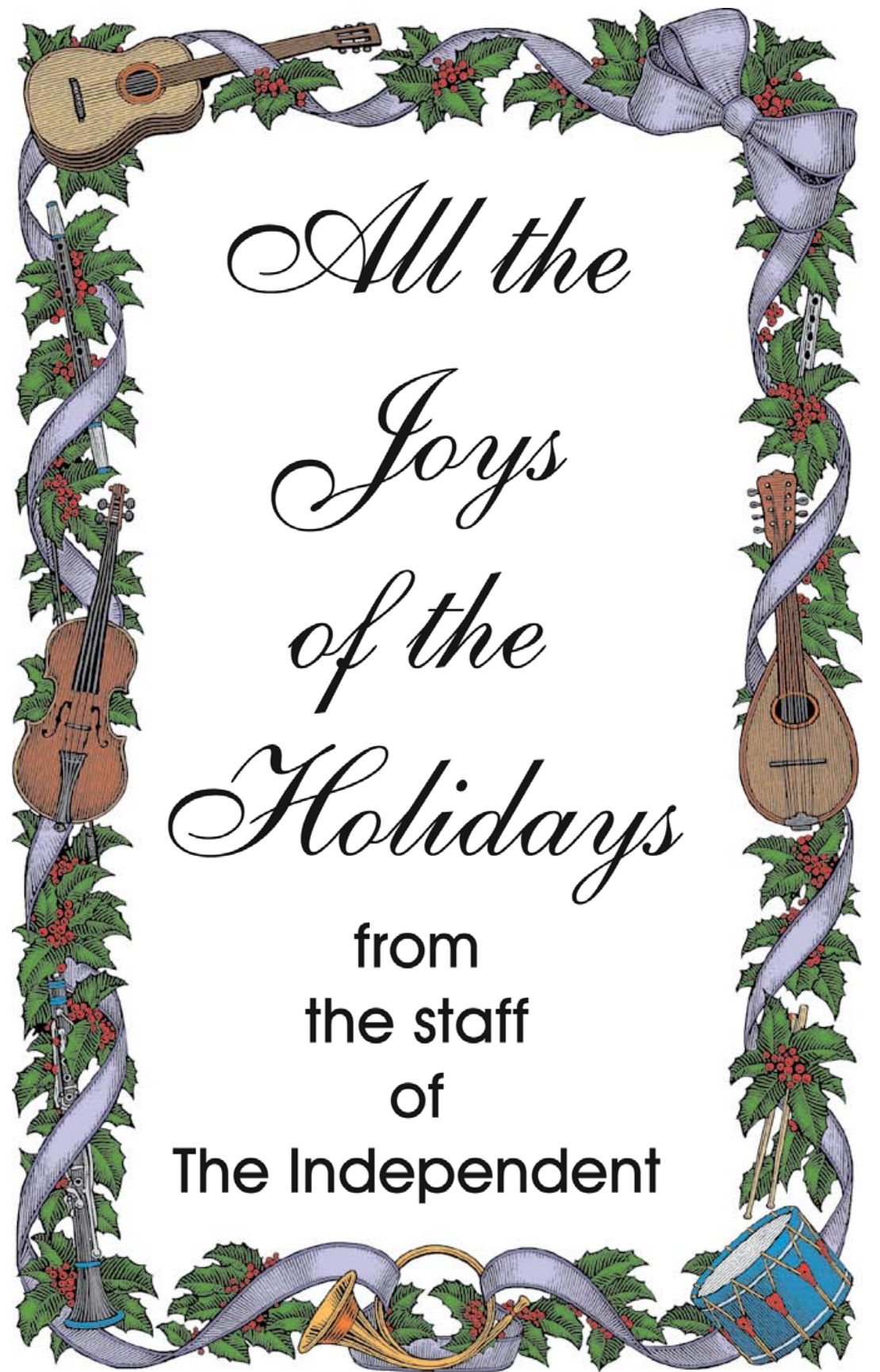
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Starting last Friday and running through Jan. 3, drivers may see red lights (lower photo) as law enforcement agencies will be on the lookout for those who get behind the wheel after having too much to drink. Deputy sheriffs, police officers, and California Highway Patrol officers hit the streets and highways of Alameda County on the hunt for drunk drivers. The effort includes both saturation patrols and checkpoints. The Avoid the 21 campaign is part of a statewide effort to catch drunken drivers and educate motorists about the consequences of driving while impaired. Alameda County launches the largest DUI enforcement effort in the San Francisco Bay Area. The team brought in 212 DUI suspects last year, more than double the amount arrested on New Year's Eve. The last 10 winter campaigns have resulted in more than 7,300 DUI arrests throughout the county, according to Livermore Police Department figures. Livermore is the host agency for three years and hosted a kickoff dinner last Friday (top photo).

Photos - Doug Jorgensen



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SPORTS NOTES



Members of the Amador Judo and Jujitsu team pose for a photo.



Pleasanton Ballistic United Soccer Club (BUSC) U12 Premier team captured the NorCal Gold Division Championship Saturday night with a 2 to 1 victory against a well organized and determined Elk Grove Everton side. BUSC's Cameron Owens (C.O.) controlled a Jackson Still feed and beat two defenders for the first score of the match. Minutes later, C.O. would again outmaneuver his marker sliding the ball to Cameron Ritchie who hammered the ball home for a 2 to 0 lead. Sam Molz, Chudi Atuegbu and Jeffrey Klei all had critical defensive plays to help preserve the victory. The BUSC U12 Premier team are coached by Justin Rothling and include: Chudi Atuegbu, Nathan Esparza, Max Gershman, Jeffrey Klei, Sam Molz, Cameron Owens, Carsen Paynter, Ryan Racer, Cameron Ritchie, Tylor Silva, Jackson Still, Jack Traube, Bryce Veit, Geoffrey Wiederecht, Mitchell Wilson, and Omeed Ziari.



Pictured are the 2nd Place Livermore Cobras U10G Danville Sunset Invitational Tournament Champions: (back, left to right) Coaches Glen Cordisco, Scott Tidwell, and Tod Lawson; (standing) Jamie Freitas, Sydney Duncan, Siena Gibbs, Jenna Tidwell, Abby Fraser, Jordan Kennedy, Kelsi Green, Carly Estevez; (kneeling) Tara Collier, Audrey Cordisco, Katie Hinds, Kristen Heise, and Kaylie Lawson.



Livermore Youth Soccer League U11 Gold D1 Cougars captured 2nd place in the State Cup Championship. Trainer si Dave Shaw, head coach Dan Dremalas and assistant coach Dan Campbell. Team members are (front, left to right) Matthew Petrie, Brandon Salgado, Ryan Marta, Youki Chiba; (standing, left to right) Jason Campbell, Jacob (Cob) Murdoch, Andrew Preece, Wesley Katz, Jacob Dremalas, Kevin Garcia, and Shane Cassels.

Jujitsu Competition

The Amador Judo & Jujitsu Studio in Livermore recently hosted the 2nd Annual Prof. Ray Law Jujitsu Kata Championship. Taking top honors in their respective divisions were the following students at the studio:
 3-4 Yrs. Nov: 1st Kaden Quach, Pleasanton; 2nd Caden Okamoto, Livermore; Maleah Okamoto, Livermore; 3-4 yrs. Int. 1st Alexa Firestone, Livermore; Jack James Fagundes, Livermore; 5-6 yrs. Nov. 1st Sina Zieminski, Livermore; Dominic Peri, Livermore; 2nd Makena Okamoto, Livermore; Taylor Guest, Livermore; 3rd Jack Taggart, Livermore; Will Taggart, Livermore; 5-6 yrs. Int. 1st Dominic Kinsella, Livermore; Nathan Riveria, Livermore; Emma Guest, Livermore; Dakota Hood, Livermore; 2nd Nicky Butcher, Pleasanton; Triston Wood,

Livermore;
 7-8 yrs. Nov. 1st Isabella Andrus, Livermore; Ritwik Aluri, Livermore; 2nd Julia LeDesma, Livermore; Jolene Keller, Pleasanton; 3rd Haiden Rotermund, Livermore; 7-8 yrs. Int. 1st Dan Ikegami, Dublin; James Stonecipher, Dublin; 2nd Aaron Toothman, Pleasanton; Remington Wood, Livermore; 708 yrs. Adv. 1st Rafael Valle, Livermore; Xavier Pelican, Livermore; 9-10 yrs. Adv. 1st Nick Chua, Dublin; Rafael Gamboa, Dublin;
 13-14 yrs. Nov. 1st Sho Ikegami, Dublin; Sajan Patel, Livermore; 13-13 yrs. Adv. 1st Paige Hawkey, Livermore; Charlemagne Pelican, Livermore; 15-16 yrs. Nov. 1st Ricky Gonzales, Livermore; David Munoz, Livermore; Brown Belt Div. 1st Jaime Aichison, Livermore; Sarah Bachleda, Livermore; 2nd Jori Aichison, Livermore; Emily Bachleda, Livermore.

Seahawks Relay Team 5th at Nationals

The Pleasanton Seahawks (PLS) sent eight of their champion swimmers to Winter Nationals in Federal Way, WA Dec. 3 - 5. All PLS swimmers went the distance with the women's team placing 16th overall. After pulling out the university/USA sponsored teams, the PLS women's team was actually 8th in the women's scoring for Club teams. This foursome, (Sasha Alcon, Karen Wang, Allison Brown and Catherine Breed) placed fifth in the 800 free relay behind four University teams.
 Additional results: Allison Brown was 16th in the 500, 23rd in the 400 IM and 23rd in the 1650, Catherine Breed was 8th in the 1650, 24th in the 200 and 21st in the 500 free, Karen Wang was 20th in the 100 fly, 18th in the 100 back and 15th in the 200 back, and Tory Houston was 20th in the 200 breast. Bryan Hughes swam a best time in the 1650 (15:54), and Nick Silverthorn swam best times in the 100/200/500 free, while Celina Li swam best times in the 200 IM and 200 Breast. The women placed in the top sixteen in all five relays.

Youth Soccer

Livermore Cobras U10 Rec Plus Girls captured 2nd in the Danville Sunset Invitational Tournament
 Game 1: Livermore Cobras (2) vs Pleasanton Rage Jammers (1): Tara Collier scored the Cobras first goal, but Pleasanton quickly tied it up 1-1. The two teams battled with solid defensive play by Cobras' Jordan Kennedy and Kelsi Green, which allowed Jenna Tidwell a final drive through two defensive players bending in the winning goal with 30 seconds left on the clock.
 Game 2: Livermore Cobras (4) vs Newark (2): Cobra's Abby Fraser and Jenna Tidwell scored two goals on perfectly placed corner kicks by Siena Gibbs and Sydney Duncan. Katie Hinds and Siena Gibbs dominated the mid-field keeping the ball in Newark territory, allowing Audrey Cordisco and Sydney Duncan to deliver two more goals for a Cobra 4-2 victory.
 Livermore Cobras (0) vs San Ramon Kixie Chicks (0): A defensive battle led by Cobras' Carly Estevez, Kristen Heise (GK), and Siena Gibbs. Goalkeeper Kristen Heise played outstanding with several fantastic saves to keep the game scoreless, allowing the Cobra's to advance to the championships match.

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SPORTS NOTES



Pictured are Pleasanton Seahawks team members who competed at Nationals (from left back) Karen Wang, Bryan Hughes, Catherine Breed, Nick Silverthorn; (front) Tory Houston, Allison Brown, Celina Li, and Sasha Alcon.

Game 4: Mustang Stealth (3) vs Livermore Cobras (2): In the final game of the tournament against Mustang Stealth, two excellent teams battled for the win. Sydney Duncan delivered the first Cobra goal with an awesome outside shot into the net. Jamie Freitas at right wing led the Cobra attack setting up multiple opportunities to score. Kaylie Lawson delivered a late game goal by weaving through the Stealth defensive crowd.

CYO Basketball

The 7th grade girls St. Michael's/St. Charles (SM/SC) "NUTZ" brought home their 3rd straight win against a 1st place St. Isidore team in CYO basketball. The NUTZ were down 7-2 in the first half as St. Isidore set up a tough defensive zone. But the NUTZ decided to pull out all the stops and came out with a vengeance in the 3rd quarter with Natalie Palomo sinking 3 baskets in a row. Couple that with Sarah Partridge's 12 steals and Jessica Elin's 6 rebounds and 3 points, and you got a completely different game in the second half. Maddy McCoy also sank a 12 footer to put the NUTZ ahead in the 4th quarter. They held their lead with a superb defensive effort by Alyssa "Peanut" Gonzalez and Guard Jordan Volponi. The NUTZ continue to fight hard to earn their way up the playoff ladder.

St. Isidore #513 had an impressive win over SM/SC #513 (Terminators) with a score of 31 to 14. For St. Isidore Joe Sullivan was the leading scorer and Danny Carano led in rebounds. Parker Landolf and Joe Spinkle both played well. All of the Terminators played well with Matt Benavidez and Aaron Lee scoring and Zack Scribner coming back after a knee injury to finish strong.

SM/SC #514 (Terminators) defeated St. Isidore 22 to 15 in the Livermore Holiday Classic Tournament. Terminators had good play from Matthew Budrewicz, Matt Benavidez, Cruz Perez and Zack Patterson. Parker Landolf and Eric Wilkman played well for St. Isidore.

SM/SC (Raptors) 26; SM/SC #514 (Terminators) 24: It was a very close and exciting game. Raptors had great playing from Luke M. Reid Heffron, Jacob Rasmussen and Nicolas Ratinho. Joshua Blaha, Jared Hubert, Jose Mariscal and JJ Marty played great games for the Terminators.

SM/SC #514 (Terminators) 24; St. Joan (Bombers) 20. Terminators got great efforts from Zack Scribner, Zack O., Aaron Lee and Matt Benavidez.

Little League Signup

Livermore National Little League will have a final walk in registration on Tuesday, January 5, 2010 from 6:30-8:30pm at Mountain Mike's Pizza on Vasco Rd. Registration is open to players who will turn 5yr - 18 yr by April 30, 2010. Players who reside within the following areas are eligible to play with LNLL: North Livermore, Portola,

Springtown and Altamont Creek. At the time of registration proof of residency and a birth certificate are required. For more information please visit our website @ eteamz.com/LNLL or call 443-5655.

Track and Field Sign Ups

Athletics America is accepting applications for youth athletes between the ages of 7-17.

Athletes 18 and older are also invited to join the club and train during the adult sessions.

Practices are held year round on a voluntary/drop-in basis and are scheduled on Monday through Friday in locations in both Pleasanton and Livermore.

Club participants will have the option of competing in AAU and USATF cross country events, as well as several all-comers track meets.

For practice times and locations, please visit www.athleticsamerica.com or call Coach Rik Richardson at 925-518-9356 or e-mail atheniantrack@hotmail.com

Water Polo

Register now for winter water polo. The LARPD Lazars Water Polo Team is currently registering youth and teens for winter water polo, November 30, 2009 to February 7, 2010. To register, call 925-373-5751, or visit www.larpd.dst.ca.us. For more information about the Lazars, visit lazarswp.clubspaces.com.

Bowling News

Dale Mellberg shot 258 and Ron Sato a 234 game in the Getaway Fours league at the Granada Bowl in Livermore. In the Tuesday Match Point league, Bryan Leder rolled 193 over series average with games of 180-212-224 for a 727 series. Tanya England bowled 161 over series average with games of 267-172-223. Also high scores were turned in by Glen Thompson with a 246, David McGuigan 242, Dan Loder 236 (73 over), Eric Joergensen 219 (72 over), Jeff Steidle (69 over) and Betty Winn a 201 game. In the 4 Season Modified Guys & Dolls league, James Seltmann shot 269, Dennis Mitchell 254 and Mike Adema 237. Dick Braden, in the Donna's Mixers, bowled games of 234 & 235. Skip Martin rolled 134 over series average with games of 173-216-234 in the Practice league. Bret Sunday rolled 74 over average with a 222 game and Bruce Ragusa went 73 over his average with a 246 game.

Tom Crane rolled a 705 with games of 248-232-225 in the Sirs & Sirettes league, while Paul Guerrero bowled a 235 game. Betty Winn knocked down pins for a 213 and Marilyn Jordan a 196 in the Monday Primetimers.

PGSL Registration

2010 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 PGSL softball. Two ways to register: 1)

The Heat Win National Championship.

The Heat Cross Country Team, headquartered in Pleasanton, won the Youth Boys division at the Junior Olympic National Championships held in Reno last Saturday.

The Heat had its first five runners finish in the top 40 and showed great depth by having ten runners in the top 70 finishers. Connor McCarthy, who earned All American honors by placing 10th overall, led the team. Also earning All American status were Caton Avilla (17th place) and Aidan Goltra (21st place). Gabe Arias-Sheridan (27th place) and Nolan Petersen (38th place) rounded out the scoring spots. The Equalizers, an all-star team from Southern California, finished 2nd.

"Our great team depth was the difference," said Heat Coach Eric Petersen. "We had ten runners beat the fifth scoring runner of the Equalizers."

Jacob Schlachte, Brynn Sargent, Tim O'Shea, Adler Faulkner, and Sean Aylward all figured in the scoring. "With so much talent on team we were able

to handle individual performance swings and extreme changes in course conditions," added Petersen. "We raced twice in Reno this season, the first time was sunny and dry with temperatures in the 40s. Last Saturday the course was buried in snow with more falling all the time. The team was strong both times, but the finishing order of the boys was significantly different."

In addition to the National Championship win for the Youth Boys, The Heat also placed 3rd in the under 12 boys division. Peter Schlachte led the way with his 16th place finish, earning All American Honors. Helping put the team on the podium were Michael Dunne, Kahale Warring, Ben Zaeske and Daniel Tang. The Heat had another 7 individuals earn All American status, a new team record and one of the best overall team performances

Players Sought

Tracy Futbol Clubs U-12 Fireballs Hi Comp Soccer team looking for players. Birthdate must be between August 1, 1997 to August 1, 1998. For more information please contact George Edwards at (209) 613-2294 or E-mail gledwards@msn.com.



Livermore Thunderstrikers U12 Livermore Youth Soccer League team won the consolation prize at the Dublin Cross Roads Tournament, defeating the Pleasanton Rays 3 to 2. The Thunderstrikers were 3 and 1 in the preliminary rounds. The team finished first in the Livermore Higuse League and second in the Livermore Tournament. Pictured are team members and coaches.



Photos - Doug Jorgensen

The 8th Annual Tri-Valley Classic sponsored by Las Lomas, Monte Vista and San Ramon Valley High Schools was played Dec. 21 to 23 in Danville. In opening round action on Monday, Amador Valley High School defeated Bullard 2 to 1. The photo, top right, is of Charlee Garcia (18), from Amador, trying to take the ball from an opponent. In the photo at top left, Foothill's Vivian Climent (15) battles for the ball. Foothill High School lost to Carondelet 2 to 0. Granada High School lost to Clayton 2 to 0 and defeated Bullard 3 to 2. Some of the Granada action is shown in the photo at lower right. Livermore High School got past Berean Christian, 3 to 1.



Pleasanton Heat team members.

at the National Championship Meet. Julia Bounds was 2nd in the Bantam (under 10) Girls division. In the Bantam Boys division The Heat had three All Americans: Tim Falls (7th), Alex Sokol (16th) and Sam Reynolds (23rd). Sophie Hartley continued her string of All American finishes by placing 12th in the Youth Girls division. In the Intermediate Girls Division (ages 15-16), Natalie Dimits earned All American honors with her 19th place finish. In the Intermediate Boys division, Parker Deuel led

the way with a 14th place finish. This was his 8th All American award making him one of the most decorated runners in team history.

"We had an amazing season," said Coach Kevin McCarthy. "The entire team worked tremendously hard all season. There were lots of long hilly runs in 100 degree heat in August, and hard intervals on cold, rainy days in November. It is very gratifying to see all that hard work pay off. This team proved they are the best in the country."



Youth basketball teams battled in the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District Holiday Classic. The annual tournament was held at the Robert Livermore Community Center. In the photo, 8th grade teams from St. Michael's/St. Charles (SM/SC) and the Catholic Community of Pleasanton (CCOP) battled it out.

Foothill, Amador Alumni to Square Off in Annual Games

Foothill and Amador Valley High School Alumni will be playing in the 7th Foothill-Amador Alumni Soccer Games on Sunday, December 27th. There will be two games featuring men's and women's soccer players from the 70's, 80's, 90's and 2000's. Each game will be divided into periods for the "older" players and the "younger" players.

The women's match begins at 2 p.m. followed by the men's at 4:30 p.m. They will be played at Foothill High School.

The games have become an annual event that benefit the soccer programs at Foothill and Amador. All gate receipts (\$7 adults and \$4 students) and Snack Bar proceeds go directly to the programs.

The teams will be playing for trophies that will be awarded to the schools of the winners. The winning school will gain possession of the trophies each year. Games during the 1st six years featured victorious teams from both Amador and Foothill.

Ryan Gordon was a 2003 graduate of Foothill High School. He was killed in a boating accident shortly after graduating. He played soccer at Foothill for

4 years and was planning on attending Santa Barbara City College where he planned to continue playing soccer. The original Alumni Games were organized to fund a scholarship that benefits a graduating member of the Foothill Women's or Men's soccer team who aspire to play soccer in college. Since the 1st year all proceeds go directly to the men's and women's soccer programs at the two high schools.

Ex-soccer players from Amador or Foothill who would like to play, can find more information and/or register at All-Star Sports, 3037-A Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. Another way to register is to download an application from the Amador Website (www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/amador/) and mail it to Curt Gordon, 205 Heritage Lane, Pleasanton, Ca. 94566 There is a \$20 fee to play. The deadline to register is Thursday, December 24th.

Players and fans are invited to the "Hop Yard Alehouse," 3015-H Hopyard Rd., after the games. 15% of proceeds will be donated to the programs.

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

SHORT NOTES

Speech Contest

The American Legion Post 237 of Pleasanton is taking entries in its high school oratorical scholarship program, the Constitutional Speech Contest.

The first place winner advances to the district contest. The winner of the district event moves on to the California Department contest. The California winner goes to the national contest with a possible grand prize of an \$18,000 scholarship.

The competition in Pleasanton will be held Jan. 23, 1 p.m. at 301 Main Street. The first place winner will receive \$250, second place \$150 and third place \$75.

District finals are Feb. 14 Pacifica, with a top prize of \$500. The California Department finals are Feb. 28 in Modesto. The top prize is \$1200.

The contest is open to high school students in grades 9 to 12. The entry deadline is Jan. 15 at 5 p.m. Contact Post 237 Chairman, Norman Houghton, 846-8725 or norm4064@email.com, providing name, school, age, phone and email.

Holiday Hill Hike

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District ranger staff will lead a Holiday Hill Hike on Sat., Dec. 26.

Meet Ranger Glen Florey at 10 a.m. at the Wetmore Road entrance to Sycamore Grove Park. This will be a hike to the top of the park for a view of the greening of the Valley. The hike will happen rain or shine, so please dress appropriately for the weather and wear comfortable walking shoes.

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

Gas Savings Program

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) launched its annual Winter Gas Savings Program, where all eligible customers who reduce their cumulative gas usage during January and February will receive an automatic bill credit.

Customers who reduce usage up to ten percent will receive an

equal percentage credit on their spring gas bill. For example, a customer who reduces their usage by 2 percent will receive a 2 percent credit. Customers who reduce their gas usage by ten percent or more will automatically receive a 20 percent credit. Last year, more than 2.3 million customers reduced their gas usage and earned bill credits totaling \$59 million.

Customers can take steps to reduce their gas consumption:

- Lower the thermostat to 68 degrees during the daytime (health permitting)
- Set the water heater to 120 degrees or the "normal" setting
- Wash clothes in cold water versus hot
- Open blinds and drapes on sunny days
- Microwave small amounts of food instead of heating them up in the oven

Customers can find tips, tools and resources to help conserve gas by visiting, www.pge.com/wintergassavings. Customers can also calculate their savings and send an "Appliance-Gram" to family and friends to help them discover ways to save natural gas.

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Installation Planned

Job's Daughters Bethel No. 14 in Pleasanton invites the public to the 170th Semi-Annual Installation of Bethel Officers on Saturday, January 2, 2010 at 2 p.m. at the Pleasanton Masonic Lodge.

Devan Bertolino, a ninth grader at Livermore High School, will be installed Honored Queen. Jerrica Johnston, an 11th grader at Valley High, is the retiring Honored Queen. There will be a reception immediately following the installation. Both events are open to the public.

Job's Daughters is an organization for girls between the ages of 10 and 20 years old who have a Masonic relationship. Job's Daughters is an organization that teaches girls love of country, love of family and friends, respect for those in their community, and service to others.

Please call Cory Solda at 683-5401 or contact her at c.solda@sbcglobal.net or visit www.bethel14.com/ for more info. Pleasanton Masonic Center is at 3370 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton.

Walk to Wellness Set for Last Day of 2009

The third annual World Walk to Wellness will be held in Pleasanton on the last day of 2009. Come to the Pleasanton Sports Park any time between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. and take a scenic loop walk around the entire park (up to 10,000 steps) or a part of it (2,000 steps).

This event is open to the public and free of charge. However, voluntary donations in any amount may be made to Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE), Incorporated, to fund wellness programs in local public schools. Local business sponsor ACCUSPLIT, certified accurate pedometer manufacturer, will match donations, up to \$20 per participant. Over the past two years, Pleasanton's World Walk to Wellness has raised more than \$3,600 for PPIE.

Individuals, pairs, and groups can walk on their own, or join a special "Walk With Me" group. W. Ron Sutton, president of ACCUSPLIT and known nationally as "Mr. Pedometer," will lead a

"Walk With Me" group starting at noon. Go to www.WorldWalkToWellness.org for updated listings of Walk With Me leaders and to download a registration form. Bring the completed form to the registration booth on December 31 to pick up your free pedometer and other information.

Another option for more vigorous walkers is a ridge hike led by Debi Mintz, PUSD math teacher, who will be leading an inter-school competition in the new year. Starting point will be the parking area off of Foothill Road. This hilly hike will begin at 11:15 a.m., weather permitting. (In case of rain, the ridge hike will be cancelled. Check the web site for the date of the late January hike).

The school with the highest percentage of participants will be awarded an extra \$100 for their Wellness Plan. Participants will be asked to sign in and list a local school, if appropriate.

The first 200 participants will receive a free pedometer. In ad-

dition, for each dollar donated toward PPIE, participants will receive drawing tickets to be placed in a box by the door prize of their choice. The drawings will take place at 11:45 a.m.

"Most of us list physical fitness as one of our New Year's Resolutions," said Sutton. "Here's your chance to confirm that goal on the last day of the year. Research shows that walking 10,000 steps each day is beneficial to one's health. World Walk to Wellness is a fun way to see how easily that goal can be achieved while you enjoy a beautiful, well landscaped local park."

Another advantage of the midday walk, Sutton noted, is the metabolism boost that builds from four to eight hours after exercise. "If your New Year's Eve plans include partying, walking in the middle of the day will help you burn off those calories from party buffets in the evening," he said.

Also featured at the World Walk to Wellness will be infor-

mation booths sponsored by ACCUSPLIT, PPIE, and others. If you are interested in sponsoring a booth, contact events@accusplit.com for details and to reserve booth space by December 23. Cost of \$25 includes the booth space, canopy, and set-up of same.

Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable shoes and to dress warmly in layers until they start moving. The walk will be held rain or shine. If the weather is warm, walkers may wish to bring their own water bottles. In previous years, more than 200 people have participated.

Pleasanton Sports Park is located on the east side of Hopyard Road, two miles south of Highway 580. Look for signs in the parking area. Pathways are paved and suitable for baby strollers or wheelchairs. Playground and rest room facilities will be available. Dogs are welcome, provided they are kept on leash.

PAR4 Kids to Donate Funds to Special Ed.

Thirty-one Special Education teachers throughout the East Bay will be receiving grant checks of up to \$400 this week from PAR 4 Kids.

PAR 4 Kids' Sake is an eight year old charity that has raised and donated over \$750,000 for autism research at the U.C. Davis M.I.N.D. Institute in Sacramento, helping special needs kids attend camp at the Taylor Family Foundation's Camp Arroyo in Livermore, and teacher grants. This is the third year that PAR has given funds to ENN specifically for the camps and the teacher grants.

Both PAR and ENN are 501c3 foundations that were founded by parents of special education kids. PAR's strength has been to raise and then donate the money to groups that focus on curing autism and helping kids and families with autism. PAR

chose ENN as a recipient of funds because of their dedication to helping families and teachers of special needs kids. With the help of the money provided by PAR, ENN is able to put on overnight camps at Camp Arroyo and also to provide teacher grants.

"Special Education Teachers throughout the East Bay were able to apply for these grants," said Don Bender, president of ENN. "ENN then reviewed the grant applications and decided that 31 out of the 44 applicants were eligible to receive the grants."

"I can't tell you how much this grant means to me and my class" exclaimed Carol Dinelli, Special Education teacher at Pleasanton Middle School in Pleasanton. "The stipend provided to teachers does not cover what we need throughout the year and this grant will really help me in my efforts

to help teach these kids."

Kim Ryor from Mohr Elementary School is using her grant for a social skills learning curriculum. "Social interaction can be very difficult for the kids. The grant money will improve my ability to help these kids interact with their peers. I'm very excited to be able to implement this program!"

Cindy Everson, mother of 2 autistic children and co-founder of PAR 4 Kids' Sake, explained, "These grants would not be possible without the tremendous support we receive from individuals and businesses throughout our community." We are so thankful to everybody who helped make this happen. Our goal is not only to help find a cure but to also help the kids who have special needs and the teachers who work so hard to help them reach their potential."

PAR 4 Kids' Sake is a 501c3 whose charter is to help the M.I.N.D. Institute find a cure and a cure for autism and to help ENN fund the camps and teacher grants. Started by Eric & Cindy Everson, parents of 2 autistic boys, this charity has flourished with the help of a dedicated executive committee. PAR 4 Kids' Sake puts on one large charity golf tournament and dinner/auction every year a few smaller events sponsored by local businesses.

Exceptional Needs Network (ENN) was founded by parents of special needs children. ENN's goal is to find novel ways to help families of special needs children in the Tri-Valley region of the San Francisco Bay Area.

More information about the program can be found at www.par4kidssake.org



SPECIAL PROGRAMS TO CELEBRATE THE SEASON



Join Us as We Celebrate the Birth of the Christ Child!

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

DEC. 25, 10 AM
Festival Communion Service

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



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


Our Savior Lutheran Ministries
1385 S. Livermore Avenue
Livermore, CA 94550
(925) 447-1246 • www.oslm.net

Christmas


CROSSWINDS 2009

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

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



6444 Sierra Court, Dublin, CA 94568
925-560-3800
www.crosswindschurch.org



JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS AT



December 6th • 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.
Children's Choir - Sheppards, Sheep and a Savior

December 13th • 6:00 pm
Adult Choir drama and musical - The Advent Cross

Thursday, Dec. 17th – Sunday, Dec. 20th
Drive Through Nativity Presentation

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

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

557 Olivina Avenue, Livermore
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The BEST Christmas Present EVER!

**For You & Your Family:
Inspirational Christmas Gifts!**

Children's Christmas Musical
"The Best Christmas Present Ever!"
Thursday, December 24th – 5PM

**Christmas Eve
Candlelight Celebration**
2 Services – Thursday Evening
December 24th – 7:30 & 9PM

*For best seating, please arrive early.
Care provided for children under 5
at 7:30PM service.

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

THE NIGHT WON'T BE SILENT FOREVER

PERFECT CHANCE TO CHECK OUT LIVERMORE'S NEWEST CHURCH!

**December 24th
7:00 PM**

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE COMING OF THE KING



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FOR INFO: 925-337-5581

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

**CHRISTMAS EVE,
THURSDAY, DEC. 24TH**
5:00 p.m.
Family Worship Service



Come on a visit to Bethlehem in Fellowship Hall (K Street between 4th and 5th). Join us at the stable near a manger filled with hay, as we celebrate the birth of our Savior. Stay to share cookies, cocoa, and cider!

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

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2009



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

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

EBRPD Adds 166 Acres Near Vasco Caves Regional Preserve

The East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors unanimously agreed to purchase 1,644 acres adjacent to Vasco Caves Regional Preserve in the Byron area of unincorporated Contra Costa County.

The approval took place at the Dec. 15 meeting.

The property, which is just north of Vasco Caves and east of Los Vaqueros Reservoir, is being acquired through a partnership with the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy (Conservancy). This acquisition is the Park District's fourth joint project with the Conservancy, which was created to identify, preserve and restore high priority land areas with significant habitat for protected species.

The Park District is acquiring the property from owner Vaquero Farms Conservation LLC for \$2,924,000, its appraised fair market value. An option-to-buy payment of \$500,000 has already been made, of which the Park District and Conservancy each provided \$250,000. The balance of funding will consist

of another \$250,000 from the District and \$2,174,000 from the Conservancy.

The property includes rolling grasslands with intermittent streams and ponds. It is of particular interest to the Conservancy because of the potential for the creation, enhancement and restoration of wetlands and special status species habitat including the California tiger salamander, California red-legged frog and western burrowing owl.

The property has several conditions which will affect its future uses and management, particularly wind turbines subject to wind leases. Presently, there are more than 190 wind turbines on the property, owned by Tres Vaqueros Wind Farms and North Wind Energy. Many of these are not working, but Tres Vaqueros is in the process of obtaining permits to remove all of its older, smaller turbines and replace them with fewer, larger ones. The turbine facilities are allowed under permits granted by the county in 1984 and 1985.

The Park District will obtain

no mineral rights, wind rights or turbine revenue from the deal. However, Tres Vaqueros has agreed to work with the District to site the new turbines in such a way as to minimize avian deaths resulting from collisions, an issue about which Park District board members have expressed major concerns.

Because of the wind turbine operations and sensitive wildlife habitat, the new property will be kept in land bank status, closed to the public, until made safe for public access.

Polar Bear Slide Set for Jan. 2

The 5th Annual Polar Bear Slide event is set to ring in the new year with some shivers. Brave souls are invited to join the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District's aquatics division on Jan. 2 for some chilly fun.

Adults and kids alike are invited to participate in this extreme winter event that involves taking a cold-but-exhilarating ride down a 22-foot spiral waterslide. Grab your swimsuit and make a splash - rain or shine.

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

The Polar Bear Slide event will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 2, at the Robert Livermore Community Center Pool, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. Parking is on Loyola Way. For more information, call 925-373-5751 or visit www.larpd.dst.ca.us.

Hours to Be Reduced at Livermore Branch Libraries

Effective, Monday, January 4, 2010, hours of operation for the two Livermore Public Library branch libraries will be reduced from 53 hours per week to 23 hours per week.

The Springtown Branch Library, 998 Bluebell Drive, will be open Tuesdays from 12 to 8, Thursdays from 10 to 6 and Saturdays from 10 to 5.

The Rincon Branch Library, 725 Rincon Ave., will be open Mondays from 12 to 8, Wednesdays from 10 to 6 and Fridays

DURST

(continued from page one)

paint targets on their foreheads practically begging for someone to puncture their pomposity, America cries out for a man with the aim, strength, and style to hit them where it hurts the funniest. Will Durst is that man. Sweeping both sides of the aisle with a quiver full of arrows dipped in common sense, Durst transcends party ties, having performed at events honoring former Presidents Bill Clinton and George HW Bush as well as acclaimed appearances at both a Mayors Convention and Governors Conference.

A Midwestern baby boomer with a media-induced identity crisis, Durst, according to the New York Times is "quite possibly the best political satirist working in the country today." This equal opportunity offender is exceptionally adept at swatting both partisan political piñatas upside their heads.

Although a prolific writer, he professes little need for material, having it regularly delivered at 7:00 a.m. every morning in the five papers he reads daily. Busier than a blind squirrel neck deep in an almond sorting warehouse, Durst is a regular commentator for audible.com, Air America, CNN and NPR, writes a nationally syndicated op-ed column, daily website jokes—yet still finds time to perform hundreds of comedy shows every year—at clubs, corporate events, theaters and benefits...not to mention the occasional acting and voice-over role.

Will Durst's performances are made possible by the First Amendment.

"Big Fat Year End Kiss Off Comedy Show XVII" runs about 2 hours with one intermission and is rated PG-13, tickets range from \$15 - \$25. To purchase tickets, call 925-373-6800, or visit www.bankheadtheater.org.

SANDIA

(continued from page one)

main site in Albuquerque, NM, and in Washington, DC.

"That letter has in it a phrase that has captured our attention and our value system from that day: 'This is an opportunity to render exceptional service in the national interest,'" said Hunter. "That is the ethos statement of this institution."

Sandia has gone from a laboratory that was founded with a single focus on nuclear weapons to one heavily involved in broad areas of national security including energy and cyber security. Today nuclear weapons represent just 40% of Sandia's overall work.

Sandia helped Goodyear design tires through computer modeling, invented decontamination foam that has been licensed as Liquid Gold Mold Control, with Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory pioneered supercomputers, and created nanoelectronics that Hunter described as "little things you can't see that do things you can't imagine."

Joining in the celebration were elected officials and their representatives from the federal, state, and local level. "I think it's great that everyone in the region could join us," remarked Hunter. "I wonder who's left to run the government. Everybody of note is here."

Hunter and Rick Stulen, vice president of Sandia's Livermore site, received recognitions from representatives of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, Senator Dianne Feinstein, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, and Congressmen John Garamendi, Jerry McNerney, Dennis Cardoza, and George Miller, along with members of the California Senate and Assembly. Recognitions also came from Vic Reis of the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), Steve Liedle of Lawrence National Laboratory (LLNL), Livermore Mayor Marshall Kamena, California State University East Bay President Mohammad Qayoumi, Las Positas Community College President DeRionne Pollard, and Livermore Chamber of Commerce President Dale Kaye.

Reis called out Sandia's involvement in the Department of Energy's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant as a major accomplishment. "We have actually solved our nuclear waste problem. Sandia was instrumental in designing

that system. The only issue is that Congress says it can only be used for defense waste, not for commercial waste. The isotopes, of course, don't know the difference," he said. "So when you go back, let people know we've solved that problem and now it's just a question of changing the law."

Sandia was honored for its years of service to the nation. A common thread among the speakers included Sandia's connection to Livermore and the connection between Sandia and LLNL. Kamena described his first job working in Sandia's Environmental Safety and Health Department.

Cheri Clasen, from McNerney's office, stated, "Both my parents work across the street [LLNL] and I grew up here on East Avenue, so it's really a pleasure for me to be here. As you all know the Congressman first started at Sandia New Mexico working on those windmills in the 80's."

The wife of Chip Langman, who represented State Assemblymember Cardoza at the event, also works at LLNL. Dawn Argula, representing Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty, is a 24-year resident of Livermore.

In closing, Stulen spoke about the Livermore Valley Open Campus, which will create shared space on the east end of both Sandia and LLNL to promote greater collaboration with partners in industry and academia. "As I look to the future, I think the one hallmark that will be there in spades is partnerships," he said. "Quite frankly, some of the threats are such that we can only attack them through our public-private partnerships. Think of the computer industry and cyber threats."

For more information on Sandia National Laboratories, visit www.sandia.gov.

EXPAND

(continued from page one)

program, scholarships and an orientation program.

Las Positas College is located at 3000 Campus Hill Drive in Livermore. For more information, please contact the Las Positas College "Veterans First" office at (925) 424-1571.

'Saved by the Belt' Award After Crash

The Livermore Police Department received a call Dec. 11 that a head on collision had taken place in the area of Vallecitos Road and Isabel Avenue. When officers arrived on scene they found that John "Tony" Martin (45 year old from Tracy) had been driving his 2006 Ford Ranger Northbound on Isabel Avenue and had turned right onto Eastbound Vallecitos Road. At the same time, Michael O'Connell (45 year old from Newark) was driving his 2003 Infiniti Westbound on Vallecitos Road approaching Isabel Avenue. O'Connell crossed over the double yellow lines and struck Martin nearly head on.

As a result of this collision Tony Martin, and his passenger, Mary Martin (47 years old from Hawaii) received injuries requiring them to be transported to the hospital. Tony and Mary were treated for back, neck, and chest pain and eventually released from the hospital. Both Tony and Mary had been wearing their lap/shoulder belts. The investigating officers believe that had they not been wearing their seatbelts

they would have suffered major injuries or death.

While conducting this collision investigation, LPD officers believed that O'Connell was intoxicated and impaired. Officers placed O'Connell under arrest for suspicion of felony drunk driving. O'Connell was transported to the hospital for medical clearance and then booked into custody at Santa Rita Jail.

The Livermore Police Department awarded Tony and Mary Martin (brother and sister) with the "Saved By The Belt" award for properly wearing their seatbelts and avoiding serious injury or death. Statistics show that by wearing seatbelts, properly restrained drivers, passengers and children have a 50 percent better chance of surviving a crash than unbelted occupants.

The Martins received their award during the Avoid the 21 "Strike Night" dinner being hosted by the Livermore Police Department on Friday, December 18, at the Robert Livermore Community Center.

OBITUARIES

Margaret Amelia Hartkopf

Mrs. Margaret Amelia Hartkopf (Plimmer), retired longtime manager of St. Vincent de Paul store in Livermore, passed away peacefully at her home early Saturday morning, December 12, 2009 with her beloved daughter, Julia Hartkopf, at her side.

Born on August 22, 1927 in Shrewsbury, England, Margaret came to America as a WWII bride.

She will be greatly missed also by her other children Frank Hartkopf Jr., Theresa Whitcomb (James), Matthew Hartkopf (Donna), and Evan Hartkopf. She is survived by grandchildren; Nathan Hartkopf, Heather Whitcomb, Eric Hartkopf, Sarah Amerino (Stephen), Jordan Plimmer, Jacob Hartkopf, Devon Hartkopf, and several step-grandchildren. Margaret was predeceased by her husband, Frank Hartkopf Sr., and by grandson, Jason D. Hartkopf.

A memorial mass was held at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Livermore on December 23.

Iris Irene Bona

Iris Irene Bona died December 11, 2009 at Tiffany Gardens in Livermore. She was 93.

She was born April 28, 1916 in College City, CA. She was married to Elwood Bona for 70 years.

Iris was a member of Neighborhood Church in Castro Valley, formerly of Oakland, where she was a Sunday school teacher for many years. She was also a member of Las Damas of Livermore. Her hobbies including gardening. Many years ago, she received the Livermore Beautification Award for her Livermore garden.

She is survived by her children Nancy Shepson of Danville, James Bona of Livermore and John Bona of Ringgold, Georgia, and grandchildren Janet Didone of Calaveras, CA and Christy James of Pleasanton. She was preceded in death by her parents, her brother Archie Cain and sister Dorothy Kelly.

Private viewing and family graveside services will be held at Mt. View Cemetery in Oakland.

Arrangements by Graham Hitch Mortuary.

Helen Marie Burton

Livermore resident Helen Marie Burton passed away after complications due to pneumonia on December 13, 2009 at the age of 83.

Helen was born in Newberg, OR on May 17, 1926.

Helen loved bowling, reading and visiting extended family in Oregon.

Helen is survived by her husband of 60 years Marsh, daughters Marsha (Curly) Hoaglan, Teresa Griffith and daughter-in-law Melissa Burton.

Helen is also survived by her grandchildren Nicholas and Marshall Hoaglan, Sara, Matthew and Dyana Burton, Garrett Mercado and Trevor Griffith and by her great grandson Russell Thompson.

Helen was preceded in death

by her son Russell Burton

Burial was held at San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery on Tuesday, December 22, 2009.

In lieu of flowers the family respectfully requests memorial donations may be made to the Lindsay Wildlife Museum, 1931- 1st Ave, Walnut Creek, CA 94597

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

Bennie Lee Block

Bennie Lee Block died December 10, 2009. He was born on August 4, 1926 to Zulla Walls and E.B Block in Palaluma, Arkansas. He was sibling to sisters Zettie Roland Ara Lee Knox (deceased).

Bennie, at the age of 17, was drafted in the army, World War II, where he served 5 years and ranked Private First Class. After being honorably discharged, he worked as a longshoreman, retir-

ing years later. He had a joke for everybody. His sense of humor kept everyone going. He was well loved and known by many and will be missed by many.

Bennie later met and married Eugenia Lee Scott (deceased). They have one son Jessie Block and daughter-in-law Edith Block. In 1947 they moved to Richmond, California then to Sobrante Park in Oakland, California in 1950 where they raised 6 granddaughters Lynnette Love, Lynoma Block, Treslyn Block, Victoria Block, Venice Block and Denin Block and grandsons Darrin Block and Jessie Block Jr., and 64 greats and great great grandchildren. Welcoming him home are his wife Eugenia Block, grandson; Darrin Block, great great granddaughter Anieyla Love and great great grandsons Tra'vell Clark and Mar'vell Clark. He leaves to mourn a host of relatives and friends.

He was a resident of Patterson.

Bennie was buried at San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery, 32058 W. McCabe Rd. Gustine, CA

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

Gerald Robert Davis

Gerald Robert Davis died September 21, 2009. He was born Dec. 21, 1926. He lived in Bethel Island.

Gerald Davis a native Californian, is survived by his wife Louise DeRevere Davis, his four children Lynn, Don, Bruce and Jeanne, 5 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren and 1 great great grandchild. Gerald is also survived by Louise's children David, Jared and Laurie; 8 grandchildren, 8 great grandchildren and by Schatzae the dog.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

Helen M Davies

Helen M Davies, a long time resident of Livermore died Dec. 18, 2009. She was born in Dexter NM in 1921 and married Lee Davies in 1942.

She was the mother of 4 sons who were raised in Livermore and is survived by her sons, eleven grandchildren and six great grandchildren. Her loving husband Lee predeceased her in 2007.

Helen loved going to church, playing bridge, gardening, cooking, traveling, sewing and socializing. She spent many years volunteering for the Children's Hospital in Oakland, was an elder of the church, and president of Salvation Army.

Memorial service is in Stockton where she has lived for the last 28 years. Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made to Salvation Army at 128 Garfield in Manteca, 95336.

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Zone 7 Will Comment to BART on Tracks Near Lakes

By Ron McNicoll

Zone 7 Water Agency directors plan to tell BART their concerns about any options that would run the future Livermore BART extension near the agency's future chain of lakes.

The lake chain consists of a series of lakes that will be abandoned gravel quarries turned over to Zone 7. The district already owns two of the former quarries. The lakes will be used for flood control storage.

The chain of lakes encompasses an area east of Pleasanton, from the Ironwood subdivision in Pleasanton, then eastward past El Charro Road and over to Isabel Avenue at the western edge of Livermore. The entire area west of Isabel Avenue is in Pleasanton's planning sphere of influence with Alameda County.

BART director John McPartland and project manager Malcolm Quint presented the board information at its meeting Dec. 16. They covered the same information that BART has been dispersing in public workshops and a visit last week to the Pleasanton City Council.

The board took no formal vote Dec. 16, but will consider doing so at its next meeting Jan. 20. Deadline to submit comments to BART on the EIR is Jan. 21. The board's administrative committee will meet at a date to be deter-

mined to discuss the proposal, and pass a recommendation along to the board.

At the meeting Dec. 16, it was clear that directors don't like five of the nine BART route alternatives. All five go past the chain of lakes, while the remaining four do not.

Directors expressed concern that the BART tracks would create problems for Zone 7's work with the lake. Director Sandy Figueras mentioned cuts into the slopes to the lakes that could cause problems. He asked Quint whether BART had considered going right across one of the lakes with a bridge. Quint said that clearly that would not be proposed.

Zone 7 has a staff resource to consult in its deliberations concerning the BART extension. Carol Mahoney, an engineer who is Zone 7's manager of the master plan for flood control, has been serving on a technical committee about the BART extension.

Mahoney told the board she has visited the area with BART engineers. She knows what problems they would have if the tracks go near the chain of lakes.

BOARD HEARS SYCAMORE GROVE REPORT

Three consultants working on the second phase of a project designed to help the health of the sycamore trees at Sycamore

Grove Park south of Livermore told Zone 7 Water Agency directors their findings.

A first phase of the study was completed in 2004-05 by Sycamore Associates, which was not rehired to do the second study. The first study documented the history of the forest, the goal of the second was to focus science on what solutions might help the trees' health.

The first phase cost about \$200,000, the second phase costs \$105,000. Zone 7 and Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD), which owns the park, split the fees evenly. The consultants presented the second-phase material to the LARPD board in September 2008.

The two agencies are cooperating on the study, because the Arroyo Del Valle runs through the park. Zone 7 uses it to replenish the underground basin. The underground water levels have an impact on the trees' health.

The stand of sycamores in the park is significant. It is one of the largest in the state. One tree dates back to 1750, which makes it 260 years old. Many others range from 110 to 170 years in age. Many sycamores died during or after a drought from 1987 to 1993, which prompted the study.

The first phase of the study found that one danger to the trees

was an excessive supply of water, which the report said drowned the tree roots. That was believed to have occurred after Zone 7 started putting water into the arroyo to recharge the underground from Lake Del Valle, which was opened as a water reservoir and flood control dam in 1969.

However, the consultants who prepared the second phase had a different view. They said that flooding didn't kill the trees. The cause was the shock of a long drought, from 1987 to 1993, one of the consultants told the Zone 7 board.

Managing the level of the underground water in the Valley's basin is important to the solution, said the consultants. To the best extent possible, if Zone 7 can maintain underground water recharge levels in a certain range, it works out best for the trees.

Short droughts of two years or so are not a problem for the trees. Long droughts of five years or more are a big problem.

Zone 7's response at the meeting was that the agency generally is able and willing to do that. The district has been managing the flows cooperatively with LARPD's goals in mind.

However, in times of prolonged drought, when Zone 7 is not receiving its usual supplies of water from the state project, it may be difficult or impossible

to help out the sycamores.

Board president Dick Quigley told the consultants, "I was glad to hear you say the trees are doing better, and Zone 7 has helped manage the flow."

LARPD assistant general manager John Lawrence told the Independent that now that the study is completed, the two agencies will be able to get together and agree on a document about "how to maintain the best environment, including the water level, and who pays for that."

The agencies will also take a close look at whether water would be available during a drought to the extent it would be needed for the trees, said Lawrence.

ZONE 7 TO DRAW ON 'CREDIT CARD'

On another item, the board voted to tap the Installment Sale Agreement (ISA) that it has with Wells Fargo Bank. The line of credit is a maximum of \$60 million. The interest to be charged, by signed agreement, is 0.5 percent.

The agreement works like a credit card. Zone 7 can borrow only the amount it needs for a project. In this instance, the cost of the Altamont Water Treatment Plant pipeline will be paid. Up to \$30 million will be borrowed for that. Staff says that the amount can be paid back to the bank by January 2014 from connection fees.

CALIFORNIA

(continued from page one)

ing local redevelopment money, gasoline taxes, highway funds and other revenue. The goal is to have the initiative on the ballot in Nov. 2010. It would be retroactive to October 2009.

A million signatures would be needed to qualify the initiative for the ballot. It is currently being reviewed by the state attorney general. "Once that process is completed, proponents will make a go-no-go decision," said Figueroa.

City Councilmember John Marchand said of the state budget, "Five people decided it behind closed doors. What happened on the floor was just theater."

The League of California Cities initiative came out of an effort by cities, special districts and counties working together, Marchand added.

City Manager Linda Barton pointed out, "It is the broadest coalition anywhere. It is precedent setting. I think it shows how important protecting local funding is to the residents of California."

City staff will bring back a resolution to the council in January expressing support for the initiative.

OTHER ACTIONS

One initiative already in circulation seeks to change the requirement that takes a two-thirds vote of the Legislature to approve a budget. If approved, a simple majority would be needed. The initiative leaves in place the two-thirds vote needed to approve new taxes.

Other initiatives would call for a Citizens' Constitutional Convention. The convention seeks to deal with what is described as a dysfunctional state government. "Repair California," has filed two ballot measures to call for the limited convention.

"Repair California" was formed in 2009. It is comprised of everyday citizens, and groups with diverse political views, the League of Women Voters, and school districts.

Locally, there have been two Constitutional Convention Town Hall meetings, hosted by Alam-

eda County Supervisors Scott Haggerty and Nate Miley in partnership with the Bay Area Council, Repair California, and the Alameda County Citizens for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities.

According to a press release, the result of the meetings, as well as web blogs and conversations with people, have led to the conclusion, "California residents have expressed an overwhelming desire to affect changes in four areas:

Governance: including the structure of the legislative and executive branches of government.

Elections: including the initiative and referendum processes, campaign finance and term limits.

The Budget: including the budget process and related requirements such as the two-thirds vote required to pass a budget, the term and balancing of a budget, and mandated spending.

Revenue distribution: including revenue relationship between local and state government.

For information on how Repair California actions go to www.repaircalifornia.org.

LOCAL OFFICIALS RESPOND

John Ledahl, Dublin School Board Trustee; Tim Sbranti, Dublin Mayor; and Scott Haggerty, First District Alameda County Supervisor, provided information on how local government is working to change how California government works.

They point out that for those serving as elected officials and trying to make government more responsive to people's needs, "the situation couldn't be clearer: our system of government in California is broken."

The three asks, "How do you want your children to live? What is your vision of our state going forward? How can we pool our money to finance vital services, like education and transportation? These are vital questions that need answers soon, or we will sink into bankruptcy or worse. We believe a realignment of state and local government

is necessary. A return to more local control of both taxation and spending is essential."

They continue, "Along with a good part of the world, California is facing high unemployment, shrinking revenues, lack of investment in the future, and a profound despair that things will not change. Too often, proposed solutions are simply short-term fixes, while long-term implications are often ignored. In California this is more than economics; it is also a State government structure that can't function in difficult times."

Last summer, a bipartisan summit of more than 500 local government officials from cities, counties and school boards throughout the state met to begin taking action. They reviewed survey results from nationally recognized pollsters revealing that people prefer more local control and trust local government to respond to their needs more effectively.

The three officials point out, "No one political party has all the answers, yet in California, minority rule drives most state budget decisions. This is because California is one of three states requiring a 2/3 vote to put a budget on the Governor's desk (which the Governor can 'blue pencil' - cutting almost whatever the Governor wants to cut).

"Since about 75% of local money is provided by state government, when the state gets into political and financial paralysis, it inevitably looks to local government for funds. Regardless of how well a city council or school board manages its budget, the state can and does take money away to balance state budgets. As a result, local investment on infrastructure, transportation, economic development, and education is severely hampered.

"A stark example of this is the state Constitution's requirement that K-12 public education has first priority on public funds. Despite this, the state has cut and deferred local education funds repeatedly over the last 20 years, regardless of who is the governor or in the Legislature.

"At the same time, Sacramento mandates that local governments carry out a wide array of programs. This severely aggravates local fiscal challenges. The inherent strength of community level government is then dissipated not just in education, but also in health care, help for small businesses, housing, and senior, child, and family care. Local and State budget sessions often degenerate into debates about taking funds from one of these groups to sustain others."

One group at the summit called for a statewide constitutional convention to address the systemic weaknesses in the state constitution as it relates to financial management and budgeting. The three note, "It would take years to fully implement but may provide badly needed long-term fixes to the way in which the state manages its finances." Others recommended individual constitutional amendments or ballot initiatives to address the need for a simple majority for approving the state budget and raise local taxes, changes in term limits for legislators, and changes on how we create state budgets. Regardless of how, we believe that what is necessary is to design a fiscal system now that provides increased performance, transparency and accountability.

The three stated, "Let's begin an honest non-rhetorical discussion among the people of California about a vision of what kind of state we want to live in, and how we can pool our finite resources for the benefit of all. We see that happening with local government moving to the forefront.

"This is one of those defining moments where grass root interest must grow into enthusiasm and commitment to change. Local town hall meetings on the return to local control are starting to happen in Alameda and Contra Costa counties, and throughout the state. We expect there to be a number of town halls in the Tri-Valley over the next few months. Look for them and join in."

MAILBOX

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

Police Thanked

Tonya Clenney

Livermore

I was just reading the Dec. 10th Independent and saw the article regarding the Livermore Police Officer's Association taking a 3.25% pay reduction in order to ensure that the City of Livermore can maintain the current level of police services to the community. As a resident of Livermore, I would like to say, "Thank you!" to the police officers working in Livermore for making such a compromise, not easy in these economic times. Thank you for everything that you do!

Direct Democracy

Matt Sullivan

Pleasanton

Barack Obama was elected president by a populace hungry for change and still believing in the possibility of government of, by, and for the people. While it is true in his campaign Obama said that he would shift emphasis from Iraq to Afghanistan in the "global war on terror", his continued focus on a military solution rather than a more humanitarian approach to the roots of terrorism promises a continuation of death, misery, and squandered resources. Most disappointing to those hoping for change was his Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech which resembled a thinking-person's version of the Bush Doctrine of preemptive war. Obama is an intelligent man - he must get it that war to end terrorism only creates more of both. Clearly, there are other motivations for war without end.

There is an alternative to con-

tinued disappointment over the failure of our elected leaders to keep their promises. Pleasantonians 4 Peace, a group of Tri-Valley residents, holds a candlelight vigil on the second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. in front of the Museum on Main Street in Pleasanton, where we reflect on the human and monetary costs of war, honor our veterans who have sacrificed, and visualize a more peaceful world.

In the immortal words of Pete Townsend, we have met the new boss and he's the same as the old boss. We've tried electoral democracy to end these wars. It's time to try direct democracy. We hope you will join us.

BART to Livermore

Linda Jeffery Sailors

Livermore

Don't be fooled by the rhetoric for putting a BART station in downtown Livermore. That would require the loss of some homes and businesses, not to mention extreme noise and visual disturbances. If tunneling is the answer, Livermore will have to find the extra \$2-3 billion to pay for it. This is what happened to Berkeley. Another reason to shun the downtown station is the parking issue. We all know that without adequate parking, people will stay in their cars.

BART on the I-580 freeway to Greenville will be 1/3 of the cost of any of the downtown alternatives, will have a lot more riders, and has the space for parking and some transit oriented development. Most important of all, it will be the route that is most likely to get funded. Let's not ruin our chance to have BART in our lifetime. The last four studies on BART to Livermore have recommended the freeway route because it is the alternative that serves the most people and costs the least.

Make your voice heard to the BART Board. Let's keep BART on I-580 They can be reached at boardofdirectors@BART.gov. It will only take a minute to do something good for Livermore.

LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

www.independentnews.com

LEGAL NOTICES

FOR INFORMATION PLACING LEGAL NOTICES
CONTACT BARBARA @ 925 243-8000

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 431282

The following person(s) doing business as: Green Earth Carpet Cleaning, 490 No. "K" Street, Livermore CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Armando Valdez Barrera, 490 No. "K" Street, Livermore CA 94550
This business is conducted by: an individual
The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name (s) listed above on October 29, 2009
Signature of Registrant: /s/ Armando Valdez Barrera
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 5, 2009. Expires November 5, 2014.
The Independent Legal No. 2635 Publish December 3, 10, 17, 24, 2009.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 432186

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 431699

The following person(s) doing business as: Art 4 Spacing, 3430 Andrews Drive #110,

Pleasanton Ca 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Engela W. Wilson, 3430 Andrews Drive #110, Pleasanton CA 94588
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/ Engela W. Wilson
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 18, 2009. Expires November 18, 2014.
The Independent Legal No. 2643. Publish. December 10, 17, 24, 31, 2009.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 431965

The following person(s) doing business as: Overland Safaris, 336 Christina Ct., Pleasanton Ca 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Eric L. Stone, 751 Polaris Way, Livermore CA 94550
This business is conducted by: an individual
The registrant began to transact business under the ficti-

tious business name (s) listed above on 1994

Signature of Registrant: /s/ Eric L. Stone
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 10, 2009. Expires December 10, 2014.
The Independent Legal No. 2645 Publish December 17, 24, 31, 2009, January 7, 2010.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 432240-432241

The following person(s) doing business as: 1) Care2Care Home Care, 2) Care2Care Referral Services, 36717 Spruce Street, Newark CA 94560 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Care2Care LLC., 36717 Spruce St., Newark CA 94560
This business is conducted by: a limited liability company
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.
Signature of Registrant: /s/ Mehrad Moshiri

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 432420

The following person(s) doing business as: Affordable Rain Gutters, 751 Polaris Way, Livermore CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Eric L. Stone, 751 Polaris Way, Livermore CA 94550
This business is conducted by: an individual
The registrant began to transact business under the ficti-

tious business name (s) listed above on 1994

Signature of Registrant: /s/ Eric L. Stone
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 10, 2009. Expires December 10, 2014.
The Independent Legal No. 2645 Publish December 17, 24, 31, 2009, January 7, 2010.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 432339

The following person(s) doing business as: Casino 580, 1620 Railroad Ave., Livermore CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Dale Chesley Common, 969 Cayuga Dr., Livermore CA 94551
This business is conducted by: an individual
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.
Signature of Registrant: /s/ Dale Common
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 8, 2009. Expires December 8, 2014.
The Independent Legal No. 2647. Publish. Decem-

ber 24, 31, 2009, January 7, 14, 2010

Signature of Registrant: /s/ Eric L. Stone
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 7, 2009. Expires December 7, 2014.
The Independent Legal No. 2646. Publish. December 17, 24, 31, 2009, January 7, 2010

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The Independent Legal No. 2647. Publish. Decem-

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The Independent Legal No. 2648. Publish December 24, 2009

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PetCo in San Ramon from 11 to 3. Information, call TVAR at (925) 803-7043 or visit our website at www.tvar.org.

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REAL ESTATE NEWS AND NOTICES

Real Estate in the '00s: A Decade Of Bargain Interest Rates

By Cher Wollard

In 1960, the Beatles debuted in Hamburg, Germany. Cassius Clay (then Muhammad Ali) won his first professional fight. The cost of the average new home in the United States was \$12,700.

The interest rate on a conventional 30-year fixed-rate mortgage for an owner-occupied dwelling was 5.25 percent – a low it would not hit again until this decade.

Fifty years later, the average rate is less than 5 percent.

If you took out a mortgage or a line of credit anytime in the past 10 years, you benefited from the lowest interest rates since Eisenhower was in the White House. If it's a fixed-rate loan that you still have, you may be reaping rewards for years to come.

In the past 10 years – an era many are calling the '00s – this country has experienced dramatic highs and lows in real estate values.

A number of developments contributed to that wild ride:

- Changes in lending practices
- Loosening and then tightening of credit and appraisal guidelines
- Spread of housing information through technology
- Demographic shifts
- And historically low interest rates.

In January 2000, the typical 30-year-fixed conventional mortgage cost 8.3 percent. While that may seem high to today's borrowers, it is actually slightly below average for the modern era.

Calculating from 1971, when Freddie Mac first started keeping track of national trends in mortgage lending, the median interest rate on conventional loans has been 8.5 percent.

That includes one long, dreary period in the '80s when mortgage interest rates skyrocketed to 15-18 percent.

By early 2002, rates were about 7.3 percent. Six months later they had dropped below 7 percent and have not risen above that threshold since.

What did this mean for consumers?

- More home for the money
- Easier qualifications with lenders
- Lower mortgage payments
- More return on housing investments.

For example, in January 2000, a \$400,000 mortgage at 8.3 percent interest amortized over 30 years would have cost a borrower \$3,019 per month in principle and interest.

The same mortgage at 6.5 percent – a pretty typical rate for most of the decade – would have been just \$2,528. A savings of \$500 per month.

At today's rate of 4.87 percent, a consumer with a \$400,000 loan would save even more. Payments would be a mere \$2,116. That's less than the payment on a \$300,000 mortgage at 8.3 percent.

Conventional Mortgages a Modern Invention

Another factor contributing to the housing demand was the popularity of so-called creative financing – adjustable rate mortgages, hybrid 3-year and 5-year ARMs, and option ARM loans that allowed borrowers to repay debt more slowly.

Unfortunately, many people who signed on for these mortgages lacked the capacity to repay them, leading to difficulties, short sales and even foreclosures. Those for whom the loans were a good fit benefited from flexibility and low initial pricing.

These loans may have seemed a drastic departure from tried and true lending practices. In many ways they were, but these types of mortgages were also a sort of return to yesteryear.

One hundred years ago, few people took out mortgages to purchase property. If you wanted to buy a home, you did it the same way you bought tomatoes or a bicycle: with cash. Naturally this limited the number of people who could own their own home.

Only in dire circumstances would anyone take out a loan against property they owned. When they did, those loans were very short term (one or two years typically, never more than five), interest-only with a balloon payment due at the end of the term.

Borrowers and lenders renegotiated terms annually – much like today's adjustable rate mortgages, but with even less security for the borrower. Interest rates varied, but were generally between 6 and 7 percent.

Real estate boomed in the 1920s. With prices in the thousands of dollars for a typical U.S. home, purchase loans became more popular.

Banks added "Due on Demand" clauses to mortgages, meaning they could require payment in full at any time. As long as the economy was strong and banks had plenty of money on hand from depositors, this clause was seldom invoked.

As the economy faltered, banks called in these notes, resulting in widespread foreclosures.

So in 1934, the National Housing Act was passed, establishing the Federal Housing Authority (FHA). Within four years, FHA was offering to ensure 25-year fully amortized mortgages with 10 percent down. The loan rate was initially 6 percent.

Thirty-year mortgages were introduced in 1948.

Fixed-rate mortgages as we know them are primarily an American convention. Today home loans in most of the Western world are some variant of adjustable rate mortgages.

A Decade of Highs and Lows in Home Prices

Interest rates stayed low throughout the '00s, but home prices rose, fell, rose even higher, declined some more, and finally plateaued

At the beginning of 2000, when the Bay Area was riding the crest of a High Tech Boom, the entire Bay Area and beyond into the Central Valley saw strong price increases.

In Livermore, home prices jumped 12 percent between October 1999 and October 2000, lead by tech workers flush with stock option money.

When the bottom fell out of technology stocks in late 2000 and early 2001, home prices fell too – by a modest amount here and more acutely in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties.

The rest of the nation was considerably less affected by events in Silicon Valley, but by late 2001 – after the events of Sept. 11 – home prices had dipped everywhere.

It was to be a temporary lull.

From 2002 to mid-2007, real estate prices increased 53 percent nationally and even more steeply in parts of California. For example, a Livermore home valued at \$530,000 in 2002 would sell for nearly \$780,000 four years later.

Bidding wars ensued. Buyers, desperate to get into the market before being priced out, offered tens of thousands above asking price.

Since 2007, prices have fallen by approximately 30-40 percent in our area – more in the Central Valley.

(For perspective, that same Livermore house would have sold for about \$390,000 in 1999, \$430,000 in 2000, and in the low \$600s today.)

For people who don't want or need to move, these ups and downs are paper numbers with little practical implication.

For others, the reduced valuation has been traumatic. Some homeowners sold short. Many walked away. When that happened, prices on their property and others like it dropped even more.

This, ironically, has led to another round of bidding wars, especially at the entry level, as investors vie with homebuyers for bargains.

The median value of a Livermore home (single-family or condo) at the start of the decade was \$309,100. At the peak, it was \$667,000. Today, it's \$470,000.

Overall, if you bought a house or condo in Livermore 10 years ago, it would be worth significantly more today. Unlike your stock portfolio, it would have provided 10 years of shelter. A home for you and your family.

What will the next decade bring? That's anybody's guess – and fodder for a future article.

Cher Wollard is a Realtor with Windermere Welcoming Home, Livermore.



Scout's Kyle Berg (right) and Vincent Gearhart are shown picking up a tree during last year's Christmas tree recycling program.

Boy Scouts Solve Christmas Tree Disposal Problem

By Patricia Koning

For as long as Christmas trees have been a part of holiday traditions, what to do with them after the festivities are over has been a problem. Fortunately for Livermore residents, local Boy Scouts are more than happy to help send January Christmas trees along their way.

The Boy Scout Christmas Tree Recycling program, now in its 34th year, is a quick, easy, and environmentally friendly way to dispose of Christmas trees. In the weeks before Christmas, the Scouts canvas neighborhoods to sign up households for the recycling program.

"Most people hear about us when we go door-to-door or through word of mouth," says Kraig Gearhart, chairman of the recycling program and a representative of Troop 924. "We have lots of repeat customers. In fact, past customers who have switched from real to artificial Christmas trees will often make donations so they can continue helping the Scouts."

The cost is \$5 for a green tree under 8 feet and \$10 for a flocked or oversized tree. Last year, the program raised almost \$7,000, with \$6,500 going into Scout accounts and general funds of the three participating troops (903, 924, and 939). The Boy Scouts can use money earned from this fund-raiser and popcorn sales to pay for summer camps, Scout outings, and uniforms.

"With the economy, it is even more important for us to help the Scouts raise their own money to pay for camps as many parents may not have the funds to afford it," says Gearhart. "Camping, outdoor activities, and adventures are really the heart and core of Scouting and still one of the strongest reasons caring parents support their sons in Scouts."

Kyle Berg of Boy Scout Troop 924 earned over \$500 last year from the Christmas Tree Recycling Program, which enabled him to attend two summer camps. He went to Camp Cherry Valley on Catalina Island, the most popular Boy Scout Summer Camp in the western United States, where he earned badges in rowing, canoeing, and oceanography. "It was pretty incredible," he says. "You walk out of your tent and you are on the beach."

He also attended leadership training at Camp Royaneh in Sonoma County. "This year, he would not have been able to go to one camp, much less two, unless he earned the money himself," says his mother Melissa.

This year's Christmas Tree Recycling Day is on Satur-

day, Jan. 2. On Friday night, representatives from the three participating troops hold a "mapping party" where they plan how they'll collect all the trees in a single day. This collaboration is a benefit of this particular project, explains Gearhart, because different Scout troops don't work together often.

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

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

Reservations must be made by Dec. 27. If a Scout hasn't knocked on your door, call 925-373-7815 or make an online reservation at www.scoutgreen.org.

ValleyCare Schedules H1N1 Vaccination Clinics

ValleyCare Health System will be offering the H1N1 Vaccination. H1N1 Vaccinations will be given based upon the recommended target groups identified by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

H1N1 Vaccination Clinic schedule:

Occupational Health - ValleyCare Health System (adults only), 5565 W. Las Positas, Blvd., Ste 150, Pleasanton. *There will be a \$17 vaccine administration fee. Dates are Tuesday, December 29 and 30 - 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm, Wednesday, January 13 - 5:00 - 7:30 pm, Saturday, January 16 - 9:00 am - 2:00 pm, Wednesday, January 20 - 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm, Saturday, January 30 - 9:00 am - 2:00 pm*

Mobile Health Unit - Valley Memorial Health Center Parking Lot (family clinic - children ages 6 months and up), 1111 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore. *Dates are: Tuesday, January 5 - 4:30 pm - 7:00 pm, Wednesday, January 6 - 4:30 pm - 7:00 pm, Saturday, January 9 - 9:00 am - 1:00 pm* A \$17 vaccine administration fee may be applicable. Vaccine for Children Program (VFC) or Medi-Cal accepted for children under 18 years of age. If you meet VFC criteria or are income eligible the fee will be waived.

Following are CDC recommended guidelines for H1N1 vaccination:

The groups recommended to receive the 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine include:

- Pregnant women because they are at higher risk of complications and can potentially provide protection to infants who cannot be vaccinated;
- Household contacts and caregivers for children younger than 6 months of age because younger infants are at higher risk of influenza-related complications and cannot be vaccinated. Vaccination of those in close contact with infants younger than 6 months old might help protect infants by "cocooning" them from the virus;
- Healthcare and emergency medical services personnel because infections among healthcare workers have been reported and this can be a potential source of infection for vulnerable patients. Also, increased absenteeism in this population

could reduce healthcare system capacity;

- All people from 6 months through 24 years of age
- Children from 6 months through 18 years of age because cases of 2009 H1N1 influenza have been seen in children who are in close contact with each other in school and day care settings, which increases the likelihood of disease spread, and
- Young adults 19 through 24

years of age because many cases of 2009 H1N1 influenza have been seen in these healthy young adults and they often live, work, and study in close proximity, and they are a frequently mobile population; and,

• Persons aged 25 through 64 years who have health conditions associated with higher risk of medical complications from influenza, and persons age 65 and over.

Cities' Holiday Celebrations To Air on Local TV Channel

Spend the holidays with Tri-Valley Community Television. The 2009 Holiday Parades and Celebrations from the Tri-Valley cities of Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton and San Ramon will air on Channel 30 from Friday, December 18 through Sunday, December 27th.

The 30-minute programs for each city will be shown for a total of 12 times each. For the complete schedule, please visit the Tri-Valley TV30 web site at www.tri-valleytv.org.

"The holidays are a special time of the year," said Melissa Tench-Stevens, Executive Director of Tri-Valley TV. "I hope that our viewers will enjoy watching some of the local events that have taken place to celebrate the season."

The City of Dublin Tree Lighting Ceremony was held on December 3rd with special

guest Mayor Tim Sbranti and live entertainment. Mayor H. Abram Wilson along with Sunset Development President Alex Mehran and his son, pulled the lever to light the 65 foot tall holiday tree at Bishop Ranch's eighth annual Holiday Celebration on December 3rd. The Livermore Holiday Sights & Sounds Parade and Tree Lighting took place on December 5th honoring Retiring Fire Chief Bill Cody who served as the Grand Marshal. Also held on December 5th was the annual Pleasanton Holiday Celebration including a parade with floats and bands and Mayor Jennifer Hosterman lighting the holiday tree.

Copies of the events may be purchased for \$20 plus shipping and handling (each event is sold separately) by going to the Tri-Valley TV30 web site at www.tri-valleytv.org.



Did you know?

Axis Community Health provides free and low cost breast exams and mammograms for low income and uninsured women.

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The Season of Giving . . .

Local Girl Scouts Sponsor Event for Children in Richmond

The Girl Scouts of Crossroads Service Unit (Pleasanton, Dublin, and Sunol) spent December 5th at a Holiday Party. However, they were the volunteers, not the participants. Working with the Girl Scouts of Northern California, they provided crafts, gifts, and much more for some kids that they had never met before.

It all started with a partnership with the Girl Scout Corps, a newly formed program with the Girl Scouts of Northern California. Local Girl Scouts have provided a party for foster children and needy children for the last 8 years. When they heard that Richmond children needed help, they contacted the Girl Scout Corp. Toni Aclaro, the Director, Girl Scout Corps, was happy to hear about the possibility and agreed to the help. Toni obtained a "wish list" for the 43 families involved and made arrangements for the use of the community center in Richmond.

The Girl Scout troops of Crossroads Service Unit took the program on with full gusto. Troops stepped forward and adopted all the children providing each child with two gifts off their wish lists. Troops also adopted a family and provided \$20 grocery gift cards for a holiday meal. All the items were dropped off and accounted for by Fiona Parken, whose front room looked like Santa's workshop as the piles grew during the end of November. The Service Unit also agreed to pay for expenses of the party so that all children attended for free. Socks filled with candy were provided with some of this funding.

Individual volunteers took on different aspects of the party. Two girls from Troop 30986, Olivia Brown and Sophia Thompson, eighth graders at Hart Middle School, organized all the crafts and activities. These included fleece pillows, fleece scarves, photo with Santa, bookmark, candy cane craft, a frame, and refreshments. McKenna Prynn, an eighth grader at



Girl Scouts acted as Santa, handing out gifts. For more stories on giving, see inside.

Pleasanton Middle School, agreed to coordinate the collection of food and preparation of food baskets for every family. She collected over 740 items which were arranged in a colorful basket with the \$20 gift card. These three girls each

quired leadership of over 30 hours, and successfully earned their Silver Award (the highest Award in Cadette Girl Scouting).

Cindy Williams, a parent from Troop 30986 made arrangements for the donation of backpacks and

school supplies for every child. Sarah Williams, a Senior Girl Scout, donated fleece blankets made as part of her ongoing Gold Award (the highest award in Senior Girl Scouting). Seventeen older girls from Troop 30986 (Pleasanton) and Troop 32869 (Dublin) and many adults arrived in Richmond and volunteered at the party.

Toni and two other staff members from the Girl Scouts of Northern California were very pleased

(continued on page 2)



Girl Scouts pose for a picture during the festivities.

GIRL SCOUTS

(continued from front page)

at the results of the party. “The children had a wonderful time and the volunteers were great. It was good to see the families having some holiday fun. We can’t wait until next year.”

For more information about Girl

Scouting in Pleasanton, Dublin, or Sunol, contact Karen Rodriguez 925-846-3723. The Girl Scout Corps is a group of volunteers including current volunteers, and future volunteers from local communities, educational institutions,

and corporations. All training, support program, and supplies are provided. For more information about the Girl Scouts of Northern California, or to volunteer with the Girl Scout Corps, please call 1-800-447-4475.



The Livermore office of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage has been collecting coats and other clothing for families in need as part of the company’s annual Operations: One Warm Coat campaign. The office has collected 50 coats to date.



Barb and Mike Nowaczyk hosted an event for the Prima Neighborhood they called “Celebrate the Children.” The main purpose of the event was to gather gifts for donation to the Livermore Fire Department. An E-vite was sent and a flyer was delivered to every one of the 149 homes in the neighborhood. The Nowaczyks’ offered their home as a drop off site for toys for a week prior to the event for anyone who would like to donate even though they would not be able to attend. Well over 200 brand new toys were collected before and during the event, including a boy’s and girl’s pair of bicycles. Approximately 50 people, including children, attended the celebration, which started off with a cookie sharing exchange and flowing hot chocolate drinks. An hour into the evening the Livermore Fire Department arrived to gather the toys. The evening continued with the children going from door to door singing carols throughout the neighborhood. Barb and Mike plan to make this an annual event.



Marjorie Wong-Gilmore, Clark Payan, Larry Lindsey and two fellow Rotarians prepare to serve the club’s holiday dinner to more than 300 seniors at the Pleasanton Senior Center on Dec. 13. It was the 28th year the event has helped Pleasanton seniors celebrate the Christmas season. Frank Capilla of Pleasanton started the tradition at the Pleasanton Gardens senior housing complex and then turned it over to Rotary after he became a Rotarian.

Annual Christmas Party Held

The annual Children’s Christmas Party was held recently at Livermore High’s student union room. Every year Margaret Miller, the Del Arroyo 4-H club leader, and other Livermore organizations host this event. The children who are less fortunate at Christmas time are invited to come and do crafts. There are many craft tables and 4-Hers as well as other groups man the tables and help the children make their craft. The children are

served cookies. There’s a puppet show and they get to meet Santa and go home with a gift for Christmas.

Everything is donated by members of the various groups, the community businesses donate items as well.

This party for underprivileged families shows that we “get it,” we are all members of the same community.

First Annual Shop With A Cop Program A Success



The first annual Shop With A Cop was held Dec. 12.

The 'Shop With A Cop' program was established to build positive relationships between police officers and the children of the community. On Saturday, December 12, Livermore Police officers arrived at the homes of children that were selected for the program, and drove them with lights flashing and sirens blaring to Wal-Mart where members of the Granada High School Band and Leadership Team greeted them. Donning their new 'Shop With A Cop' t-shirts, designed by a GHS Graphic Design student, each child received a gift card to spend on Christmas gifts. The kids purchased presents for everyone in their family, and were coached by the officers to purchase an item for themselves. After having the fun of using their *own* Wal-Mart gift cards, which were donated by our Livermore Wal-Mart, the kids and their Cop Buddy left for a breakfast at Emil Villa's, and finished up their adventure at the police station to wrap their treasures.

It was a very positive experience not only for the kids that were involved, but also for the officers. One second grade boy continued to ask, 'Who is paying for all this?' He was overwhelmed that members of the community would donate money and that their 'Cop Buddies' would donate their time just so they could get gifts for their family. One little girl jumped out of the police car waving and excited—she felt like a movie star!

The Shop With A Cop concept has programs nationwide through the involvement of law enforce-

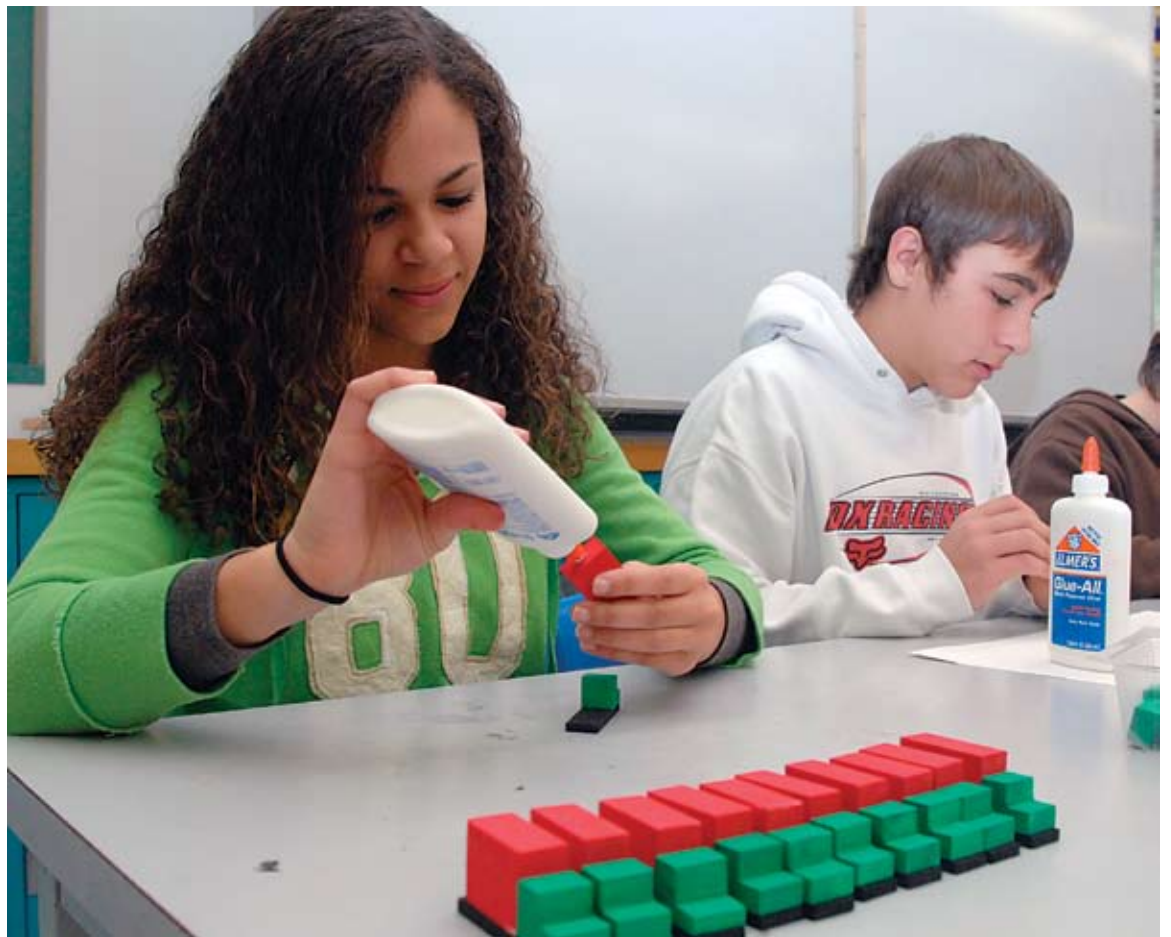
ment agencies. Financial support for the program comes from fundraising with community businesses, retailers and citizens of the community. Livermore AM Rotary, Wal-Mart, Emil Villa's California BBQ, Target, and individual Administrators in the Livermore School District, partnered together this year with the Livermore Police Department.

"Our officers donate their time to be involved with the Shop With A Cop program because it allows them to connect with children in a fun and relaxed environment where they can be seen for who they really are," shared Livermore Police Sergeant John Hurd. "For myself and the officers, it is an honor and a privilege to be able to help community children in need and to provide them with a memorable event."

Granada High School Vice Principal, Pat Avilla, says, "I heard through a family friend about 'Shop with a Cop' and how it worked in Southern California. There, a local Police department and the local school district teamed together to create this program. An administrator at their school site chooses the students and the police officers donate their time to assist with this event. The students are able to see the police in a positive setting and see that they are here to help them. The Officers support the students while they shop with gift cards that have been donated by the community and local businesses. Livermore has always been a supportive and giving community. I was sure that this program would be a success here in Livermore."



Pictured (top photo, left) is one of the children selecting gifts at Wal-Mart; (lower photo, left) the students arrive for their shopping spree. In the photo at upper right, the Granada High School Band provides a welcome for the students. Photos by Granada High School student Carly Zollars; graphic designed by Kayla Mele



Surtec Delivers Food and Gifts

Since 1991, the Surtec Adopt-A-Family has provided food and gifts to needy families with children in the Alameda and San Joaquin counties. This year, Surtec is providing food and gifts for 330 needy families with over 900 children.

The purpose of the program is to provide a happier Christmas to children of needy families in the Bay Area. The program continued to grow providing larger amounts of food and gifts to more families year-after-year throughout Alameda and Contra Costa counties. To date, the program has delivered to 4,220 families with 12,175 children.

Each family receives four extra large food boxes, a personally wrapped gift for each child averaging \$25 to \$30 per child, and a gift certificate for a meat of choice at a local grocery store.

The average cost for the food and gifts for each family is approximately \$200. The average cost to complete the program each year is approximately \$60,000. A large portion of the program funds come from our annual Golf Classic. The Golf Classic is usually held in September or October.

Bill's Favorite Phrase, "A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the

kind of car I drove, but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child." Source: Follow Your Dreams © copyright 1996, Successories of Illinois

Approximately 1,300 boxes are assembled and a family # is marked on each box (four boxes per family). This project is completed in just a few hours. Next, the many volunteers fill the boxes with nonperishable items such as canned goods, cereal, rice, sugar, flour, beans, pasta, etc. Gifts are purchased and personally selected for each child, based on age and gender. The gifts are then placed in a large plastic bag for each family and tagged with a family #. Once this is completed, they are ready to be gift wrapped and tagged.

The gifts are taken out of the plastic bags and wrapped. A personalized name tag is affixed to each gift. Once the gifts are wrapped, they are returned to the plastic bag and sent to "quality control" to ensure that there is a gift for each child for every family. All this is accomplished in one day.

Surtec Adopt-A-Family Program is located at 1880 N. MacArthur Drive, Tracy CA 95376

Students Create Ornaments

The technology classroom at Pleasanton Middle School was turned into a holiday workshop last week. For the 14th year, students were busy making holiday ornaments as part of an outreach program for Children's Hospital in Oakland. Two hundred ornaments were produced in the workshop and then delivered to children who are in the hospital this holiday season. Teacher Warren Jensen (lower right) demonstrates how to assemble the toy ornaments. In the photo, upper left, Ruby Ru concentrates on assembling an ornament, while in the photo, upper right, Alexandra McFarland and Cody Walker glue several pieces together.





Volunteers load up holiday food bags to distribute to patrons of the Open Heart Kitchen at the Vineyard Christian Church in Livermore. More than 9,000 reusable bags were donated by the U.S. Census program through the Tri-Valley Complete Count Committee and Alameda County and distributed to non-profit agencies serving the populations of Dublin, Livermore and Pleasanton. Pictured (left to right) are volunteer Michelle McDonald, Open Heart Kitchen Executive Director Linda McKeever, and volunteer Annie McDonald with Girl Scout Troop 32869. *Photo Credit by Dino Vournas*

New Year's Eve Labyrinth Walk Begins At 8 p.m.

On New Year's Eve, Thursday, December 31st, First Presbyterian Church of Livermore at 4th and L Streets will be hosting its 5th annual labyrinth walk in our courtyard between 8 pm and midnight. This walk is open to the public and is an opportunity to say good-bye to the old year and welcome the New Year with peace and intention.

First Presbyterian's courtyard labyrinth is an 11-circuit, Chartres-style labyrinth and measures 42 feet in diameter. On New Year's Eve it will be decorated with luminaries, music will be playing, and hot cider and coffee will be available. At the same time, an indoor canvas labyrinth will be available in the sanctuary, also with light and music.

For more information contact Judy Hughes, MFT, labyrinth facilitator, 925-485-2524 or the church office, 925-447-2078.



Centerpointe Church will present the musical, "The Best Christmas Present Ever" on Thursday, Dec. 24, Christmas Eve, at 5 p.m. in the worship center at 3410 Cornerstone Court in Pleasanton. The campus is located at the corner of Valley and Busch. Pictured is soloist Ross Brown with other cast members.

Alameda County Community Food Bank Executive Director Suzan Bateson and Assemblymember Mary Hayashi (photo, at right) weigh bags of nonperishable food items collected. Assemblymember Mary Hayashi (D-Hayward) hosted two holiday events, Jingle Tails at the Oakland Zoo and Tinsel Town Hall featuring an advanced screening of Alvin and the Chipmunks – The Squeakquel in Hayward, that raised 520 pounds of food that was donated to the Alameda County Community Food Bank. According to the Alameda County Community Food Bank, the need for food donations has increased 70% compared to two years ago. In California, one in ten households is at risk for hunger or experiences hunger. This represents nearly 2 million children statewide.



SM/SC 5th Grade Girls Gold Rush (#5011) adopted a family this Christmas to give back to the community during the holiday season. The girls adopted a family with three children and had a great time shopping for them. The family was extremely grateful for the team's generosity. The oldest child, an 8 year old girl, was beaming at the site of the girls and the gifts. Pictured are (front, let to right) Jennifer Gibson, Samantha Dukes, Madison Jackson; (middle) Mallory Jones, Alexandra Lonsinger, Taylor Peterson, Mila Steinberg, Jamie Zogoric; (back) Mat Steinberg and Erik Peterson. Not present for the photo was Maggie Sneed.

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Cantabella Children's Chorus performed their winter concerts for the first time at the Bankhead Theater this year. Audience members, who hailed from as far away as San Francisco, Walnut Creek, Discovery Bay and Union City as well as the Tri-Valley, were on hand December 5 to hear the 180 members of the Chorus sing a variety of holiday works. From the young members of the training choirs singing "A Carol of Peace" and "Long Ago in Bethlehem," to the advanced choristers' rendition of "Carol to Beauty," based on a French carol, and Le Roy Anderson's rousing "Sleigh Ride," and audience sing-a-longs as well, there was music to appeal to every taste. Cantabella is an award-winning chorus (first place in the historical category and second place in the folk song category of the 2009 Golden Gate International Children's Choral Festival) that offers instruction in 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 2010 season and invite 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 or to arrange an audition for the performing choirs. Classes resume on 1/5/10 and 1/6/10. Please visit www.cantabella.org for more information. In the photo, members of Cantabella Children's Chorus are "snuggled up together like two birds of a feather" as they perform Le Roy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride." Photo by Denis Roland.

Registration Underway for Workshop for Poets

City of Pleasanton Poet Laureate Deborah Grossman will host a workshop for poets, *Getting Your Poetry Published: Navigating the Path to Publication*, on Sunday, January 17, 2010 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at Towne Centre Books, 555 Main Street in Pleasanton, Calif. The workshop fee is \$10.00 per person.

The workshop will be led by Connie Post, the first poet laureate of Livermore, (2005-2009), who has been published in over 30 national print journals in the past four years. She will discuss how to handle editors, submissions guidelines and rejection while navigating the path to publication. Post will also assist attendees in determining which approach to publishing may be the most effective for them as poets. She will share the tactics that have been successful for her and her colleagues.

Reservations are recommended and may be made via email, info@townecenterbooks.com, or phone,



Connie Post

(925) 846-8826. Additional information about the City of Pleasanton's Poet Laureate program is available at www.civicsartsliterary.org.

Deadline Extended for 2010 Talent Competition

The application deadline for the "Livermore's 2010 Talent Competition" has been extended to Dec. 31. So far applicants include modern vocalists, classical vocalists, dancers, folk musicians, tap dancers, guitarists, martial artists, pianists, violinists, comedians, rock bands, Guzheng musicians, trumpet musicians and more with

ages ranging from under 10 to over 60. Performers are coming from as far as Palm Springs, Glendale, Vallejo, Pescadero, and San Francisco as well as Tracy, Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin, Walnut Creek and all towns in-between. There are also have finalists from last year entering again this year.

The semi-finals will be at the Bankhead on January 9, 2010 where about 15 finalists will be selected by the five judge panel made up of Michael Rice from Shakespeare's Associates, Tiffany Henderson from Tiffany Dance Academy, Allen Larsen from John Robert Powers- Pleasanton Talent Agency, long time voice instructor Sally Dunlop and pianist Ronald Graham from the Graham Piano Studio in Pleasanton. These semi-finals are open to the public.

Information and applications are available at our website: www.LivermoreTalentCompetition.com. Applications must be received by December 31, 2009.

The semi-finals are on Jan. 9 and the finals on Feb. 28. Tickets are on sale now at the Bankhead box office and judging from the number of performances we are getting it is suggested that tickets are bought early. Tickets are also available online at www.livermoreperformingarts.org.

The two Livermore Rotary Clubs sponsor this event.

Reflections Arts Winners Move on in Competition

The Pleasanton PTA Council held its seventh annual Reflections Arts Recognition Program on Wednesday, December 2, 2009, at Harvest Park Middle School. The Reflections Program, sponsored by the National PTA and now celebrating its 40th anniversary, is an arts recognition and achievement program. It provides opportunities for students to express themselves creatively and to receive positive recognition for original works of art inspired by this year's theme, "Beauty is..."

Local students, from kindergarten through 12th grade, entered their work in six categories: musical composition, literature, photography, visual arts, film/video production and dance choreography. More than 350 young artists, seven

Pleasanton schools submitted entries for this year's program to their local PTA or PTSA sponsored program. The participating schools were Fairlands Elementary PTA, Hearst Elementary PTA, Mohr Elementary PTA, Walnut Grove Elementary PTA, Vintage Hills Elementary PTA, Harvest Park Middle School PTA and Amador Valley High School PTSA.

Reflections Committees at each of these schools identified students in each category and age level to represent their school at the Council level. Over 50 entries were submitted to Pleasanton PTA Council for recognition and participants were presented with certificates at the December 2nd Recognition program. Of these, seventeen students were chosen to

represent Pleasanton PTA Council on January 19, 2010 at the next level, Peralta District PTA, which encompasses all of Alameda County:

Literature: Sonya Panwar, Mohr Elementary, Primary Division; Calla Li, Mohr Elementary, Intermediate Division; Christine Xu, Harvest Park Middle School Middle/Jr. Division; Arany Uthayakumar, Amador Valley High School, Senior Division

Photography: Tiffany Rhee, Hearst Elementary, Primary Division; Annie Tor, Walnut Grove Elementary, Intermediate Division; Varsha Ramakrishnan, Harvest Park Middle School, Middle/Jr. Division; Hayden Mitchell, Amador Valley High School, Senior Division

Visual Arts: Sruthi Kalavachera, Mohr Elementary, Primary Division; Amir Farsi, Vintage Hills Elementary, Intermediate Division; Jenny Shin, Harvest Park Middle School, Middle/Jr. Division; Haley Guilfoile, Amador Valley High School, Senior Division

Musical Composition: Mathi Raja, Fairlands Elementary, Primary Division; Brendan Hwang, Hearst Elementary, Intermediate Division; Karthik Suresh, Harvest Park Middle School, Middle/Jr. Division

Film/Video Production: Varun Rao, Hearst Elementary, Intermediate Division

Dance Choreography: Amy Tilton-Lumetta, Amador Valley High School, Senior Division

ART & ENTERTAINMENT

ART EXHIBITS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MEETINGS

Pleasanton Art League and Livermore Art Association, meeting Monday, January 18, 7:30 p.m. at the Cultural Arts Building, 4455 Black Avenue, Pleasanton. Presentation on Promoting and Selling Art by Jenny Floravita. No admission charge. Public is invited.

WINERY EVENTS

Occasio Winery owner John Kinney announced that his Occasio Winery tasting room, located at 2245B South Vasco Road in Livermore, will hold an official ribbon cutting with the Livermore Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday, January 13th at 5:00 p.m. This official event includes a tour of the onsite winery, tasting room, Library room and a complimentary tasting of the gold medal winning 2008 Pinot Gris. There will be a cheese pairing and an opportunity to meet members of the Chamber, all from 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Reservations are not required. For more information on setting up a formal tasting and the cost, please call John Kinney at (925) 371-1987.2245, 2245-B So. Vasco Rd., Livermore. occasiowinery.com.

MUSIC/CONCERTS

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

Chanson du Soir features music of David Isaacs and Chelsea Camille. Jan. 10, 2 p.m. Pleasanton Library. Mixture of styles and musical coloration which span the centuries from Renaissance to the 20th century and traverses four languages. No admission charge. 400 Old Bernal, Pleasanton. 931-3400

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

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

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

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

An Intimate Musical Evening, January 23, Livermore Valley Opera fund-raising. Featuring the music and song, and principal singers from the spring production of Die Fledermaus. More details will be available at www.livermorevalleyopera.com.

ON THE STAGE

Playwrights' Theatre, Jan. 9 at 8 p.m. and Jan. 10 at 2 p.m. Museum of the San Ramon Valley, 205 Railroad Ave., Danville. "A Touch of the

Poet" by Eugene O'Neill presented by the Eugene O'Neill Foundation. \$20, \$10 students with ID. www.eugeneoneill.org.

Side by Side by Sondheim, A fundraiser performed by Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre. January 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17 Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m., Sundays at 2:00 p.m. In the theater at 1048 Serpentine Lane, Suite 309, Pleasanton. Suggested donation: \$50. 925-462-2121 or send email to tickets@trivalleyrep.com to make your reservations. Information: www.PleasantonPlayhouse.com.

Kimberly Akimbo, Role Players Ensemble, Jan. 15-Feb. 6. What might it be like to be a sixteen year old girl saddled with the body of a sixty four year old woman? That is only one paradox of several explored in this play from David Lindsay-Abaire in which he somehow manages to invoke O'Neill, Miller, and Williams into a unique, original, and comedic examination of the greatest dramatic subject of all, the family. Tickets (925) 314-3400. For other show information please call (925) 314-3463. The Village Theatre, 233 Front Street, Danville.

COMEDY

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

DANCE

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

Argentine Tango, Saturday, Jan 30, 2 to 4 p.m. Dublin Library, 200 Civic Plaza. The roots and history of Argentine tango dance and music will be presented with examples of tango music and dance by Jurek Mazur of the Academia de Tango Argentino.

Free. 828-1315.

AUDITIONS/VOLUNTEERS

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

Auditions, Cantabella Children's Chorus, an award winning Tri-Valley organization, has offered instruction fine vocal production and music literacy through great choral works to 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, and advanced choristers in grades 7-10 sing in the Chamber Choir. 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 for an audition for the performing choirs. Classes resume on 1/5/10 and 1/6/10. New singers will be accepted until 1/15/10. Visit www.cantabella.org for more information.

Auditions, Valley Concert Chorale, will hold auditions by appointment on Monday, January 11 and 18, at the First Presbyterian Church of Livermore. The church is located at the corner of 4th and L Streets. The Chorale is seeking experienced singers with sight-reading skills who enjoy singing exciting and challenging music. The Chorale performs a wide variety of music ranging from classical to contemporary, and folk to jazz. To schedule an appointment, call (925) 462-4205. Upcoming performances include Mozart's Requiem in March at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore, and "Folk Songs From Around the World" in May in Pleasanton. More information about the Valley Concert Chorale is available at www.valleyconcertchorale.org or by calling the general information line at (925) 866-4003.

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

MOVIES

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

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

OPERA

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

MISCELLANEOUS

Devcon Holiday Ice Rink in Pleasanton, open through Jan. 10, 2010. Varies depending on day of the week. www.devconholidayicerink.com. 400 Old Bernal Avenue, parking lot of Pleasanton Public Library. (925) 484-4002. \$10-\$16 for 2-hour session, includes skate rental. Skating lessons, school field trips, corporate and private rink rentals are available in addition to regularly scheduled public skating hours.

The Power of Thinking Differently, Workshop with Javy W. Galindo, Sunday, Jan. 3, 2 p.m. Pleasanton Library meeting room. Topics include: ways to attain new ideas and creative insights, overcoming creative blocks & thinking habits, and the creative process. 400 Old Bernal, Pleasanton. 931-3400

Orchids Under the Oaks, Jan 9 and 10 from 10-4pm. "Tradewinds of the Tropics" theme. Greenhouse full of orchids on display from around the world, orchid marketplace, and seminars. Alden Lane Nursery, 981 Alden Lane, Livermore. "Living Art" gallery featuring orchid arrangements. Information, contact

Sue Fordyce (925) 447-0280.

Hobbies: How We Got Started and What We Learned. January 15, Ed Kinney Lecture Series sponsored by the Museum on Main. 7:00 p.m. at the Lynnewood Methodist Church, 4444 Black Avenue, Pleasanton. Museum members: \$5, others: \$10. Information: 925-462-2766 or www.museumonmain.org.

Livermore Reads, 2010 selection is *Travels with Charley* by John Steinbeck. His son, Thomas, will speak at the kick off event on Sun., Jan. 24, 2 p.m. at the Civic Center Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave. www.livermore.lib.ca.us.

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

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

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

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

State Street Ballet Dances 'Jungle Book'



Photos by Roge Eichenbaum

State Street Ballet will perform *Jungle Book*, on January 8, 2010, at 7:30 p.m. with a special SaturdayYAY! performance on January

9, 2010, at 11:00 a.m. The City of Pleasanton Civic Arts Presents will host the performances, which will take place

at the Amador Theater, located at 1155 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton.

The audience is encouraged to bring food donations to the theater to benefit The Haven Food Pantry. Collection barrels are located in the lobby.

Jungle Book is based on Rudyard Kipling's classic collection of stories, inspired by his childhood in India and reflecting "nearly everything he knew or heard or dreamed about the Indian jungle." The best-known of the stories revolves around the adventures of an abandoned "man cub", Mowgli, who is raised by wolves in the Indian jungle. Other well-known characters include a heroic mongoose, Rikki-Tikki-Tavi and a young elephant handler, Toomai of the Elephants. State Street Ballet's *Jungle Book* melds these familiar storylines with exciting dance movement and special effects to give the tale a modern and unique twist.

State Street Ballet is an innovative professional dance company based in Santa Barbara. It is known

for combining the rigors and timeless beauty of classical technique with updated looks, special effects and digital technology to produce original works for contemporary audiences. Founded in 1994 as a nonprofit organization, the group promotes original dance through public performances and educational outreach programs, touring both domestically and internationally.

About State Street Ballet, *Pointe Magazine* wrote, "Blending classical ballet with highly original choreography and contemporary themes is the company's artistic hallmark."

Tickets to *Jungle Book* range from \$18-\$35 for adults and \$10-\$25 for children and seniors. All tickets may be purchased online at www.civicartstickets.org up to three hours prior to the performance, by phone at (925) 931-3444, or in person at the Amador Theater Box Office.

Box office hours are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and for two hours prior to the performance. Group discounts are available.

Art Commission Taking Proposals

The Alameda County Art Commission is releasing two Request for Qualifications/Calls for Artists for two new Artist Registries. Many of Alameda County's capital improvement projects include a Percent-for-Art Program in which professional artists are commissioned to make artwork for each site. Due to the upcoming schedule of construction projects, many of the artists commissioned for these public art projects will be selected from two Registries of pre-qualified artists (Artist Registries).

Artists who are accepted into the Registries will be considered for public art projects related to the Highland Hospital Acute Care Tower Replacement Project; Cas-

tro Valley Boulevard Streetscape Project; and the San Lorenzo Library Renovation Project. Additional projects may be added to this list and may be related to youth services, health care, social services, public protection, and general government programs.

There are opportunities for Alameda County artists who are making small to mid-sized, wall-mounted, two-dimensional or low-relief artwork as well as artists throughout the state of California who have experience making permanent, site-specific public artwork. Opportunities will be available for exterior and interior projects for artists working in a variety of materials and styles, and

with a range of project budgets.

There will be two information meetings for artists interested in applying for the Registries: Thurs., Jan. 14, 6-7:30pm at the Lakeside Plaza Building, 1401 Lakeside Drive, Suite 1107, Oakland (a short walk from the Lake Merritt BART station) and Tues., Feb. 2, 2010, 6-7:30pm at the Location: Castro Valley Library, 3600 Norbridge Avenue, Castro Valley (a short walk from the Castro Valley BART station). View the complete Call for Artists at: www.acgov.org/arts and click on "Opportunities" or call (510) 208-9646 to receive a copy by mail or for additional information.

BANKHEAD THEATER

BIG FAT YEAR END KISS OFF COMEDY SHOW XVII

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

ROCKIN' IN THE NEW YEAR

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

LIVERMORE'S GOT TALENT SEMI-FINALS

Rotary Clubs of Livermore
January 9 • 9am-5pm
Tickets: \$15

TOM RUSH

Legendary Folk Guitarist with Distinctive Style
January 10 • 7pm
Tickets: \$26-\$46/Students \$12

Tickets: 925-373-6800 • 2400 First St., Livermore
www.bankheadtheater.org

Milestones

Community

Goldstein Named a Fellow

William Goldstein of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory has been awarded the distinction of American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Fellow. Election as a fellow is an honor bestowed upon AAAS members by their peers.

This year 531 members have been awarded this honor for their scientifically or socially distinguished efforts to advance science or its applications. New fellows will be presented with an official certificate and a gold and blue (representing science and engineering, respectively) pin on Saturday, Feb. 20, at the AAAS Fellows Forum during the 2010 AAAS Annual Meeting in San Diego.

As part of the physics section, Goldstein was elected for distinguished contributions to plasma modeling and diagnostics and for leadership in support of the Department of Energy national security programs.

"This is a great honor that I owe largely to the Lab for the opportunity to contribute scientifically while addressing important national problems," Goldstein said. "I hope the fellowship will help me advocate for the critical role of science in international security."

Early in his career, Goldstein co-authored and was among the first to apply a set of atomic modeling codes that have been used to significantly advance understanding of high-energy density plasma properties through spectral modeling. The codes, developed at Hebrew University and Lawrence Livermore, qualitatively improved modeling of atomic processes in plasmas, and have had impact in high-energy density applications including X-ray lasers, high-energy astrophysics and fusion



William Goldstein

energy research.

Goldstein went on to help develop the first spectroscopic diagnostics for astrophysical photoionized plasmas, designed some of the earliest laboratory astrophysics experiments using high-power lasers, and pioneered the use of detailed atomic models for predicting energy balance in Tokamaks.

More recently, Goldstein has been a leader in the establishment and management of the Department of Energy's Stockpile Stewardship Program. Based on his experience using lasers in weapons physics research, he laid out the first systematic program of high-energy density science for the National Ignition Facility.

In his current position as the associate director for Physical and Life Sciences at LLNL, Goldstein leads an organization of approximately 600 scientists engaged in condensed matter and materials science, chemical science, atmospheric and earth systems science, high-energy density physics, plasma physics, nuclear science, high-energy physics, radiation detection, optical science, biological science and fusion research.



Ben Gomes

Ben Gomes Earns Eagle Rank

Ben Gomes was honored by Livermore Boy Scout Troop 903 for attaining the rank of Eagle Scout during a ceremony held on Dec. 12. Five other scouts honored with Ben were Ian McConachie, Matt Mayeda, Jacob Wanat, Darryl Kuhn and Armando Lopez.

Ben joined Troop 903 because the troop was small and personal, and the outings focused on outdoor activities such as rafting, climbing and camping. Led by Scoutmaster Javier Lopez, Troop 903 provided the hands on experience that Ben wanted. He held many leadership positions, including Senior Patrol Leader and Junior Assistant Scout Master in Troop 903. Ben was fortunate to attend the 21st World Scout Jamboree in 2007 in Essex,

England, as an Assistant Patrol Leader in SFBAC Troop 409; it was the experience of a lifetime.

To receive the rank of Eagle, a scout must complete all advancement requirements, complete an approved Eagle project and pass a Board of Review, all before his 18th birthday. Ben chose to build three bulletin boards at Granada High School as his Eagle project. The boards are installed at the entrance of the football stadium. Many donors, including Home Depot in Livermore and Richert Lumber in Pleasanton, provided cash and building materials needed for the project. Nearly 20 people helped with various stages of the project, including assembly and installation.

Ben now attends UC Davis.

McGrail Selects Winemaker

McGrail Vineyards and Winery www.mcgrailvineyards.com announced the appointment of Mark Clarin as winemaker. Clarin brings 30 years of Livermore Valley winemaking experience to the role. He is charged with taking the McGrail Cabernet and Chardonnay to a whole new level.

Clarin will now divide his time between McGrail and his current position as winemaker and partner of Picazo Vineyards. Picazo Vineyards is an ultra-premium Livermore brand focused on crafting extraordinary Bordeaux varieties that express the best of their terroir.

Previously a winemaker at Wente Vineyards, Tamas Estates, and Bonny Doon, Clarin brings many years of experience in California winemaking to his new position. At McGrail, Clarin will spearhead the development of future releases from the winery's estate vineyard. While the McGrail family will still be a part of the winemaking team and the winemaking style will not drastically change, Clarin will lead the team to continue to produce high quality premium wine. Clarin has served as an advisor to the McGrail family since the winery opened in 2008, but it wasn't until the 2009 Harvest that McGrail officially hired Clarin as head of the winemaking team.

"McGrail Vineyards and Winery is thrilled to have a winemaker of Mark's experience and accomplishments," said Heather McGrail, McGrail's president. "We look forward to many years of working with him on the growth of McGrail's premium reputation. Mark will develop special and small lots of single-vineyard wines from our ranch and local premium ranches. This is the first year that we will be experimenting with a local Petite Sirah, as well."

McGrail Vineyards and Winery, located in the Livermore Valley, is owned by the McGrail family. The tasting room and winery opened less than 2 years ago, and the brand is already building a sound reputation for high quality, consistency and great customer service. For more information, please visit www.mcgrailvineyards.com.

Milestones

Physicist Is Lawrence Award Winner

Physicist Omar Hurricane has been named a winner of the Department of Energy's prestigious Ernest Orlando Lawrence Award, Energy Secretary Steven Chu announced.

Hurricane is being honored for his work in national security and nonproliferation at the National Nuclear Security Administration's Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

The award honors mid-career scientists and engineers for exceptional contributions in research and development supporting the Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration and its mission to advance the national, economic and energy security of the United States.

Hurricane is a program element leader dealing in thermonuclear secondary design in the Weapons and Complex Integration (WCI) directorate. Although much of his work is classified, he has led a multi-disciplinary team that worked on a difficult technical issue involving two vastly different areas of physics. "We were able to sort out the issues and form a solution," he said.

Lab director George Miller nominated Hurricane for the award, having dealt with the same effort years earlier.

"I personally worked on aspects of this problem as a weapons designer nearly 30 years ago and initiated technical efforts to resolve this anomaly when I was the thermonuclear design leader," Miller said. "For years, the search for a physics-based model has failed due to the complexity of the physics. As a weapons designer and the project leader for several U.S. stockpile systems in the 1980s, I



Omar Hurricane

am very aware of the tremendous technical challenge and difficulty associated with this anomaly."

Further praise came from WCI Principal Associate Director Bruce Goodwin, who added, "Dr. Hurricane's efforts resulted in the development of a consistent, science-based understanding and implemented a physics-based predictive model to simulate warhead performance across a wide-range of stockpile regimes."

Hurricane stated, "I'm honored to be receiving this award from Steven Chu, not only because he is the Secretary of Energy, but also because he is a Nobel laureate." Hurricane is quick to point out that many people contributed to the project over the past decade. The team not only needed to identify and understand the key physical processes involved, but then had to build computational tools to make predictions about the physics, and finally conduct experiments to validate their theories.

He compared the process to understanding gravity.

Realizing that gravity is what holds planets in their orbits is a step forward that directs your thinking, he explained. The second step is to build the mathematical models that predict how planets orbit the sun. Checking the mathematical models against observation is the final step. All three steps are important and are required to say that you've understood and solved the problem.

Hurricane, 41, came to LLNL 11 years ago from the University of California at Los Angeles.

His previous honors include an individual Defense Program Award of Excellence in 2004 from the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA). As a member of the larger team for a specific program element, he shared an NNSA 2002 Defense Program Award of Excellence.

This latest award — named for the same physicist who co-founded Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory — comes with a citation signed by the Secretary of Energy, a gold medal bearing the likeness of Ernest Orlando Lawrence, and \$50,000.

Education

DePaul University student Shayna Goldstein of Livermore has been named to the Dean's List for the 2009-10 Fall quarter. To receive Dean's List commendation, full-time students must earn a cumulative grade point average of 3.50 or above on a four-point scale.

Pleasanton resident Nikki Rebecca Liu graduated from Azusa Pacific University with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology on Sat., Dec. 19, and was joined by more than 600 graduates at the winter commencement ceremonies.

Community



Mary Anita Laughlin-Silveria celebrated her 90th birthday, on Saturday, December 12, 2009. Her parents were Margaret and Harry Laughlin, members of a long time ranching family of Livermore. She is the youngest of eight children. Mary has been an avid A's fan since the 1970s. She still watches her favorite soap, "Days of Our Lives." Mary worked as a hairdresser for 54 years. She lived in the Hayward, Castro Valley area from 1941 to 2007, when she moved to Lodi to live with her daughter. Among those celebrating her birthday were her daughter, Connie Muellerleile, son-in law, Michael Muellerleile, grandson, Chris Muellerleile, granddaughter, Renelle Gianunzio, great granddaughter, and husband, Tabbitha and Joshua Walker. All are Lodi or Galt residents. Four generations posed for the photo. Pictured are (left, back) daughter, Connie Muellerleile; (right, back) grandson, Chris Muellerleile; (front, center) Mary Anita Laughlin-Silveria; (bottom, left) granddaughter, Renelle Gianunzio; and (right, front) great granddaughter, Tabbitha Walker.

Military

Air Force Airman Isaac J. St. Tours graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. He is the son of Damien McNamara of Pleasanton. St. Tours is a 2007 graduate of Amador Valley High School, Pleasanton.



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.)

Ohlone Audubon meets 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday January 5 at Castro Valley Adult School Multi-purpose Room, 4430 Alma Ave. (94546). From Castro Valley Blvd. turn north onto Redwood Rd., turn right on Alma Ave. School is on the left. Parking is in back. Jack Barclay will present a slideshow all about Burrowing Owls in California from history to breeding and distribution. Jack has been a raptor biologist for 31 years and focused on these owls since 1989. Refreshments. Information @ 510-507-3383.

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

Valley Spokesmen Bicycle Touring Club, Sat., Dec. 26, 49 miles Livermore to Byron, meet 10 a.m. at shopping center on Pacific Ave., Marcus van Raalte, 875-1017. Sun., Dec. 27, 35 miles, meet 10 a.m. at Livermore Airport, Gail Blanco, 872-1001. Wed., Dec. 30, 38 miles, Lafayette loop to Pinole, meet 9:30 a.m. at staging area on Olympic, Gail Blanco, 872-1001. Fri., Jan. 1, 20-35 miles from Heather Farms, meet 7:40 a.m., Dan Granahan, 323-9798. Fri., Jan. 1, 25 miles, annual New Year's Day summit ride Mt. Diablo, meet 9 a.m. at Danville Railroad Museum, Peter Rathmann, 336-0973. Anyone planning to go on a ride is asked to call the leader for details on where to meet and what to bring.

Crab Feed, Livermore-Pleasanton Elks Lodge \$2117. Sat., Jan. 30, 6 p.m. at the Lodge, 940 Larkspur Dr., Livermore. Dancing to The Singing DJ. \$35 per person, advance sale only (before Jan. 25). Tickets available at the Lodge, or call 455-8829.

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

Annual Crab Feed, Livermore Knights of Columbus 37th annual Crab Feed on Saturday, January 9, 2010 at the Robert Livermore Community Center on East Avenue in Livermore. A social hour begins at 5 p.m. and the dinner will be served at 7 p.m. Dancing to the music of the OpenRoad band will begin at 8 p.m. and run until 11 p.m. There will be several raffles and a Silent Auction during the event. All money raised will go to assist the Livermore Knights and their many charitable endeavors. Tickets are \$40 each and can be purchased by contacting Mark and Claire Duguid at 925-443-5873

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

Fishing - Trout Basics, class, 8-10 am, Saturday, January 9 #22925, Del Valle Regional Park, 7000 Del Valle Road, Livermore; and 8-10 am, Saturday, February 13 #22926, Lake Chabot Regional Park, 17600 Lake Chabot Road, Castro Valley. Learn the basics of trout fishing including rigging, casting, ecology and conservation, fish behavior. This course is geared towards those who have experience fishing but want to gain additional knowledge specifically about trout fishing. Get an up-close look at trout and other fish through the Mobile Fish Exhibit! Gear provided. 5+ yrs (PPR 5-15 yrs). Valid CA fishing license required for ages

16+. Registration Required: 1-888-327-2757, option 2, 3. Fee: \$19 (non-res. \$21), www.ebparks.org

7th annual Madres Hispanas, open house, Jan. 7 at 7 p.m. Peet's Coffee, downtown Livermore. Madres Hispanas invites Spanish speaking families interested in sharing their traditions and culture of Mexico with their children. Meetings are once a month for two hours. Information, contact Alicia Calonic, acalonic@yahoo.com or 960-0654. Follow the group on Twitter twitter.com/madreshispanas.

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

Livermore Moms (formerly Livermore Moms Club). Monthly meetings are held the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. and are a great way to meet other members as well as learn more about our community and our roles as mothers. The purpose of the Livermore Moms (formerly Livermore Moms Club) is to share ideas and talents so that we may grow as parents, learn better ways to understand our children to help them become confident and capable individuals. We frequently invite speakers to make presentations. Meetings are free for members, as well as for first time visitors. Contact moms@livermoremoms.com for more information

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

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

Information, call 925-998-6513.

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

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

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

RELIGION

Seventh-day Adventist Church, 243 Scott Street, Livermore. 925-447-5462. Pastor: John L. Bechtel. Saturday: Bible Study: 9:30 am / Worship Service: 10:50 am; Wednesday: Bible Study: 7:00 pm; Pot Luck 4th and 5th Sabbaths. www.livermoresda.org/

Grief Support, Meetings are Jan. 14 and 28, Feb. 11 and 25, March 11 and 25 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Dr., Pleasanton. Meetings are open to all, regardless of religious orientation. Please call Mary at 846-5377 with questions.

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

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

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

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

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

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

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

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

St. Augustine Church, 3999 Bernal Ave., Pleasanton. Christmas Eve services at 4 p.m. (no incense), 6 p.m. and midnight. Christmas Day

services at 8 and 10 a.m. and noon. 846-4489.

St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Dr., Pleasanton. Christmas Eve services at 4 p.m. (no incense), 6 p.m. and midnight. Christmas Day services at 9 and 11 a.m. 484-5020.

Trinity Baptist Church, 557 Olivina Ave., Livermore. Dec. 24 Christmas Eve services at 5 and 7 p.m. 447-1848.

Faith Chapel Assembly of God, 6656 Alisal St., Pleasanton. Christmas Eve Candlelight service, Dec. 24, 5:30 p.m. Sunday services: Sunday school for all ages at 9:30 a.m., worship at 10:30 a.m., children's church (age 3-12) begins at 11:15 a.m. 846-8650.

Unitarian Universalist Church, 1893 North Vasco Road, Livermore, Thursday, Christmas Eve, December 24, 7:00 pm Why Not A Star? Rev. Luas Hergert, preaching, The UUCiL Choir, Dee Wood, director, Wendy Mason, accompanist. Those attending are invited to bring Christmas treats to share with the congregation. (925)

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