



Find Out What's Happening Check out the second section

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

Court Asked to Require Release Of Information

Tri-Valley CAREs (Communities Against a Radioactive Environment) filed litigation in the federal court for the Northern District of California against the U.S. Dept. of Energy (DOE) and its National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) for what it alleges are numerous failures to comply with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). FOIA requires federal agencies to respond to public requests for information within 20 days.

According to the lawsuit, in seven separate instances the DOE and NNSA failed to provide responsive, unclassified documents regarding operations at the agencies' Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) as required by law. The information that is the subject of the litigation is overdue by time periods ranging from six months to more than three years.

The group's lawsuit asks the judge to issue a court order appointing a Special Counsel to investigate the alleged pattern of abuse when DOE and NNSA failed to comply with the law. The Special Counsel would then determine whether disciplinary action is warranted and against whom.

"The DOE and NNSA are egregiously out of compliance with the law," noted Tri-Valley CAREs' Staff Attorney, Scott Yundt. "This frustrates the public's basic right to know. The information is of urgent importance to the community, and involves Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory plutonium transport, biological agent experiments, hazardous materials usage, worker exposures, financial irregularities involving Lab management, start up plans for the Tritium Facility Modernization Project, and a proposal for future research and development."

Attorney Ili Talwar, a member of Tri-Valley CAREs' Board of Directors who helped prepare the litigation, stated "By dragging its feet for up to three years and more, and not providing the requested information, the government has not only violated the law but has potentially degraded the value of the information" (See LAWSUIT, page 4)



THE YEAR OF THE RABBIT
Ring in the New Year with laughter and love by adding Nicholas to your family. Nicholas is an alert, playful rabbit. When people come near, he's up on his hind legs, ready to greet everyone. He's an intelligent bunny who would fit into an active home. Meet him at the East County Animal Shelter, located at 4595 Gleason Dr. in Dublin from 11:30- 5:30 daily, closed New Year's Day. Visit www.eastbayrabbit.petfinder.com to see his profile. Or call 925-449-6368 for more info.

Planned Livermore High End Outlet Mall May Grow by 20%

By Ron McNicoll

The outlet shopping mall slated for Livermore's side of El Charro Road will grow by 20 percent in retail space, if the Livermore City Council approves the change.

The Livermore Planning Commission unanimously approved a recommendation to the council for the expansion of

Paragon Outlet's retail buildings' footprint at its meeting on Dec. 21. The development received a previous approval at the smaller size in 2007.

The increase boosts the size from 452,000 square feet to 540,000. The retail expansion will be brought about by extending buildings that run from east to west and by reducing the park-

ing area.

Parking on site will be reduced from 2384 spaces to 2149. A 2.8-acre parcel owned by the city to the south of the mall's 42-acre property would provide 234 parking spaces, which is down from 245 spaces on the original proposal.

However, places for six high-way coaches will be created in

the lot, which is expected to help the parking situation. Paragon uses coaches to bus in shoppers to its malls.

The buildings range in height from 20 to 24 feet with certain architectural features, such as decorative roofs and towers, ranging from 32 to 50 feet. The project revisions include updated architecture, additional floor

area, and related site plan and landscape changes.

The Livermore mall will offer some prestigious stores, although prices in them are expected to be lower, because it is an outlet mall.

Some of the high-end stores promised are Barney's New York, Brooks Brothers, Ann (See OUTLET MALL, page 4)



Dr. Harris Goodman holds the trophy he received for finishing the four 100 mile races.

Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Pleasanton Man Finishes Grand Slam of Ultrarunning

Pleasanton resident Dr. Harris Goodman, age 45, accomplished something this past summer that very few would even attempt.

He completed the grand slam of ultrarunning. A grand slam award is presented to those who complete four of the oldest 100-mile trail runs in the United

States in the same year. The four are the Western States 100 Mile Endurance Run, the Vermont 100 Mile Endurance Run, the Leadville Trail 100 Mile Run, and the Wasatch Front 100 Mile Endurance Run. Each race has a specific time a runner has to complete it. Most competitors are on

the trail all day and all night.

Of the 28 who began the quest this year, only 13 completed the adventure. A ceremony is held at the end of the final run, with the successful runners receiving a trophy with an eagle on it. Goodman described it as, "pretty cool."

Goodman is Chief of Pathology at St. Francis Hospital in San Francisco as well as Alameda County Medical Center - Highland Hospital in Oakland.

The road to running ultraraces began when Goodman's third child was born. "I was not (See ULTRA-RUNNER, page 2)

Pleasanton Schools' Warmth Seen In Students And Staff

By Ron McNicoll

The Pleasanton Unified School District was filled with a stockpile of compassion that typifies this holiday season.

Trustees devoted the recognition portion of their meeting Dec. 14 to honor 11 staff members and students who were nominated by colleagues or classmates as outstanding examples of the virtue.

Compassion is one of the six values that comprise Pleasanton's community of character theme. A different value receives a focus each month.

Some people refer to them by the handy mnemonic device CHRRIS — Compassion, Responsibility, Respect, Honesty, Integrity and Self-reliance.

Foothill High School vice principal Jon Vranesh introduced the honorees. He read a little about each from the nomination citations. Most were able to attend the meeting, and had his or her picture taken with the board.

Trustee Chris Grant, who was finishing out his term as board president, said after the recognition ceremony, "When you listen to the stories of our kids and staff beyond academics, in life as role models, it's inspiring."

Those honored were a diverse group. Day custodian Larry Iwaszko at Alisal Elementary School was singled out for "all of the kindness he shows to students, especially those with special needs."

Iwaszko has developed a special bond with one student, who struggled physically, academi- (See SCHOOLS, page 2)

First Six Months 2010: Pleasanton Voters Rejected Oak Grove; Livermore Named a Hub of Innovation

The first six months of 2010 saw Pleasanton learn the outcome of several lawsuits. The courts upheld the validity of the Oak Grove referendum. In June, Pleasanton voters rejected the Oak Grove development plans. The decision regarding the Urban Habitat lawsuit challenging the city's ability to provide affordable housing resulted in the elimination of the voter approved 29,000 housing cap.

Livermore was selected as a hub for innovation by the State of California. National laboratories dedicated land to create a Livermore Valley Open Campus.

JANUARY 2010
Former Pleasanton Mayor Ben Tarver died. He was the city's first "slow growth" mayor.

Measures he supported that won public approval were the 29,000 unit housing cap and an urban growth boundary.

The Alameda County Fair received word that it outpaced all of the top 50 fairs in America for 2009. The fair was ranked 41st on the list. It is the highest ranking in the history of the fair.

Public hearings began on proposed routes for a BART extension to Livermore. Pleasanton voiced opposition to any route that went down El Charro Road and through the chain of lakes area. Opinions varied on other options, with some favoring remaining on the freeway to Greenville Road, others spoke in favor of a two station option, one (See 2010, page 3)



The Ohlone Audubon Society and the Alameda Creek Alliance sponsored the 2nd annual East Alameda County Christmas bird count on December 17. Birds were counted in the vicinity of Sunol, Pleasanton 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. Pictured looking for birds in Sycamore Grove Park are (from left) John Mottashed, Patti Cole, Polly Krauter.

Photo - Doug Jorgensen

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PET OF THE WEEK

Is your 2011 resolution to be more active? If so, we have the perfect companion to keep you motivated in the new year! Jack is a Chihuahua/Italian Greyhound mix that is just over a year old. His hobbies include running, hiking, and snuggling in a warm lap. Jack has the body of a small dog, but the vivacity of a big dog! Kids, strangers, and other dogs are a great fit for him as well. Call 925-426-8656 or visit the website www.valleyhumane.org, to learn more. Valley Humane Society is located at 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton. Hours are Tues.- Sat. from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

SCHOOLS

(continued from page one)

cally, behaviorally, and socially. He frequently sits with the boy at lunch, so he is not alone then.

TEACHER SETS MOOD FOR STUDENT COMPASSION

Hearst Middle School second-grade teacher Heather Johnson was recognized for her compassion and leadership in developing that quality in her students.

Johnson's class became involved in a holiday food drive for Tri-Valley Haven, and entered the class in a nationwide campaign in which students volunteered to read 10 books each in their class by Dec. 17. It is part of a drive sponsored by a book company to help acquire books for children in need.

Johnson also launched the "Geome-tree," which shows compassion for the environment, said Hearst principal Mike Kuhfal. Students decorated a live tree in the classroom with three-dimensional objects that they created as part of their math studies. They will plant the tree in the Hearst garden in January.

Johnson's students also took part in Project Linus, in which they made five polar fleece blankets to provide "love, a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need of blankets."

The teacher also found time to have charity begin at home in the form of affirmations between students. She had each student hang a stocking from the white board, in which they put notes of appreciation that they received from students around them.

DONATING TO VICTIMS OF SRI LANKA WAR

Pranita Ramanan, a junior at Foothill High School, was honored for her fund-raising on behalf of Sri Lankans displaced by war there. Pranita led a fashion show in the summer of 2009, and raised more than \$11,000 for the relief camp in Jaffna, Sri Lanka.

For her 16th birthday Pranita raised more money, which she donated to an orphanage in Jaffna.

Pranita, her brother and her parents went to Sri Lanka over Thanksgiving break to see how the donated money is being used and to meet the children. She is continuing her work by seeking donations of school books and stationery for Sri Lankans.

Among the adults honored was Vintage Hills behavior technician Lynn Ryan, who was cited for her "extremely compassionate" behavior toward students and staff members at the school, said teacher Kaisa Weathers.

"She is the staff member I consult with before responding to issues that need a little extra tenderness. She supports other staff when they are learning new skills or having difficult personal trials," said Weathers.

Another adult honoree was head custodian Mike Bettencourt, for his 12 years' service at Harvest Park middle school, before moving recently to the same position at Amador Valley.

Harvest Park principal Ken Rocha said that Bettencourt, "Helped develop Harvest Park into a true school of character. Although he is known for an

impeccable work ethic, his real strength is his connection with others."

STUDENTS SHINE FORTH THEIR HELP

One of the students honored, Alex Swenson Lennox, is in the fourth grade at Donlon Elementary School. His teacher, Lydia Rice, said in nominating him, "Alex is very compassionate and understanding of his peers." He has been patient in helping other students with their work. His overall behavior has served as a role model for others.

Heber Perez, a fifth-grade student at Fairlands Elementary School, was cited as someone who continually encourages his peers. He checks with staff members to see how he can help. He always conducts himself in a mature, compassionate polite manner, said teacher Kim Michels.

Paige Fortunati was praised by her fifth-grade teacher, Linda Boveda, as "the kind of student who is concerned for all of her classmates. She is one of the kindest, most empathetic students I have ever taught."

Paige does such things as enthusiastically choose a partner who has not been chosen for an activity. "She truly cares about people. Five minutes in her presence, and you know she is someone special. The amazing thing is that she just is compassionate. She doesn't work at it; she just is."

Michelle Diaz, a fifth grader at Valley View, was nominated by her teacher, Diana Leyva. She is described as kind to her classmates and staff, and goes out

of her way to help them. Teachers remark on her extremely polite and respectful behavior. She enjoys giving to others, and never expects anything in return.

Anna Marie Dawson, a senior at Village High School, was nominated by principal Greg Giglio. "If you knew her, you will understand completely why she is the perfect candidate for compassion recognition. From her warm smile to the community service she performs as a Village

leadership student, Anna Marie shows everyone that she is kind-hearted and caring."

INFLUENCE LIKE 'PEBBLE DROPPED IN A POND'

Jake Isabel, an Amador Valley High School (AVHS) student and a teaching assistant for Marla Silversmith's third period special needs class, was among the honorees.

"Within the classroom Jake is quick to find ways to interact with each student. On some days you

can find him playing a game, or helping a student input their calendar on their iPad, all the while showing the students how to be a teenager."

"Jake reminds me of a pebble dropped in a pond. His interactions with my students have made such an impact on the AVHS community at large that many of his friends talk to my students, and make them each feel important to the AVHS community," said Silversmith.



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

The First Presbyterian Church in Livermore will host the annual New Year's Eve Labyrinth Walk on Dec. 31. People are invited to walk the courtyard labyrinth by the light of the Christmas Eve luminaries. The walk has become a family tradition and is an opportunity to say good-bye to the old year and welcome the New Year with peace and intention. The First Presbyterian Church is located at 4th & L Streets, Livermore. The labyrinth is open 8 p.m. to midnight. The photo was taken during the 2009 walk.

ULTRA-RUNNER

(continued from page one)

athletic as a younger person. I was a bookworm," he recalled. When his third child was born, he began running. He purchased a jogger-stroller and took his children out with him. "The younger kids loved it."

Ten years ago he ran a half marathon, 13.1 miles. He worked his way up to the marathon distance, running his first one in Sacramento. "I was exhausted. I could barely walk for a week after. But, I enjoyed it," Goodman stated. He eventually qualified for and ran in the Boston Marathon.

"My knees began hurting from running on pavement. It was my financial adviser who suggested that I run in trail events. I finished the Susanville Marathon, a trail event, in 3:07. I didn't feel beat up afterwards. I started looking for other trail marathons. Then I discovered there were longer runs that almost no one has heard about."

Goodman said that the Bay Area has some of the best 50K trail runs. He ran many of them. "I enjoy the beauty of the routes, being out in the forest. I've met a lot of ultra-runners. They are some of the nicest people. They are not competing against each other. They are just trying to finish."

His next step was to take on 50 mile runs, then 100 K runs (62 miles). He recalled one 100 K event that went from Marin County to Point Reyes. "It was a gorgeous, very tough course. I loved it. The only thing left was to try 100 miles," he declared.

He then turned his attention to the Western States 100 Mile Endurance Run. Only 300 people are allowed to run in it each year. Competitors are selected by a lottery. It took four years for his name to come up for this year's event. "I decided that if I were ever going to complete the grand slam, this would be the year," he said.

The runs are held over an 11-week period. Goodman said, "Generally it takes about two months to recover from one 100 mile race. You start a race in the best shape ever. The next day you're in the worst shape."

There is a concern with the tight schedule, that the body can't recover. Goodman said of the four event, the only point in time when he felt that he might not finish was the second race in Vermont, because of the heat and humidity.

The first race he completed was the Western States, which was held June 26-27. The run, from Squaw Valley to Auburn, took him 29 hours, 1 minute and 51 seconds to finish. "There was quite a bit of snow. That made the going tough. I made it to the

68-70 mile make and ended up having to walk the last part of the race," he recalled. One part of the race he enjoyed was when his daughters joined him for the final miles.

"After the race, I was very concerned. I couldn't use my right leg," he commented. He was afraid that he might not be ready to run the next race, the Vermont event on July 17-18. "Vermont is a very beautiful course. It is very hot and humid. Many competitors did not finish," he said. He completed the race in 28 hours, 7 minutes and 34 seconds.

Five weeks later, he was scheduled to run the Leadville Trail, August 21-22. The race starts at 10,000 feet and goes up. A few days before the race, Goodman hiked to the top of a nearby mountain to accustom his body to the elevation. "It turned out to be my best race. At mile 87, I knew I could finish, so I walked the last thirteen miles. I knew I had another race coming up." He completed Leadville in a time of 28 hours, 7 minutes and 44 seconds.

The Wasatch Front run, Sept. 10-11, he described as the most brutal race. There is a 28,000 foot climb and 27,000 foot descent. Competitors have 36 hours to complete the course. "When I got to the starting line, I was still tired and sore from Leadville." He was accompanied by a pacer. Goodman said he ran ahead of his pacer and had to wait for him at the final checkpoint. "I finished strong," he recalled. Goodman's time was 35 hours, 27 minutes and 48 seconds.

Goodman said he trains about 5 days a week, 9 to 10 miles a day. On the weekends he finishes a 20 to 25 mile hilly run.

He said that his medical background does help him to understand what is happening to his body during one of the events. "The biggest concern is destroying the kidneys," he explained.

The ultra-events are dangerous, he continued. However, if you follow the rules you can avoid problems. There are med checks every 20 to 25 miles in the 100 mile runs. "The check is mandatory. If a competitor shows less than 3 percent loss of body weight, he or she can continue. At more than 7 percent loss, the competitor is disqualified." He said he knows of only one death that has occurred and that was because the runner failed to adhere to medical advice to stop.

Goodman said of the race, a pacer is allowed to accompany a runner after 50 miles. The pacer's job is safety. The reason is that by the 50 mile mark, it is getting into evening. You run all day and now you will be running all night. The pacer makes sure a runner stays on the trail. Goodman said he wears a headlamp and also carries a flashlight.

Asked what advice he would offer those interested in the sport, Goodman replied, "Build up slowly. Never increase the training mileage more than one percent a week. I know ultras who started by walking. The key to remaining injury free is to build slowly. Try not to run on asphalt or concrete."

As to what is next, Goodman said he has placed his name in the lottery for the Hard Rock run for next year. It is the most extreme 100 mile race. It is held in Colorado. The course goes up and over 14,000 feet seven times. The competitors have 48 hours to complete it. There is a different selection method for this event.

Names are selected from lottery entrants. However, a committee then decides if a runner can compete.

The main cost of the sport is travel. Entry fees can be steeper than for most other runs. For example, Western States has a \$300 entry fee.

Asked about what his family thinks, Goodman laughed, "They

think I'm crazy. However, they are very supportive. Two of my daughters have written essays for English class on the subject."

Goodman and his wife, Cathy Dugan, have four school aged children. He and his family have lived in Pleasanton for almost ten years.

During the Western State run, which is held around the time of

the Goodman's wedding anniversary, Goodman carried a gift certificate for a massage. Along the way, he picked a wildflower. At mile 62, there are grandstands where family and friends can wait. "I checked in, told them I had something to say. I then wished my wife a happy anniversary and presented her with the gift card and flower."



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VALLEY ROUNDUP

Federal Grant

The United States Secretary of Interior, Ken Salazar, announced last week that the East Bay Regional Park District will receive a one million dollar award for habitat restoration at Breuner Marsh at Point Pinole Regional Shoreline Park in Richmond.

The Breuner Marsh Restoration Project was one of only 24 national coastal conservation projects receiving an award.

The proposed restoration project includes restoring and enhancing 66 acres of tidal and seasonal wetlands, mudflats, coastal scrub and grasslands. The goal of the project is to provide long-term, self-sustaining tidal wetlands, seasonal wetlands, and coastal prairie to create valuable

habitat for protected species. The project would provide habitat for several Federally-endangered species, including Salt marsh harvest mouse and California clapper rail. The project would also provide public access for compatible, passive recreation and public education.

The California Coastal Conservancy was the only other California agency to receive awards. Four projects were chosen throughout California. "Our Nation's coastal wetlands encompass large areas of vital habitat for countless species of wildlife while providing important economic resources and recreational opportunities for the American people," Secretary Ken Salazar said. "These grants will offer additional protection, restorations, and enhancement of these precious habitats."



Jim DeMersman, who had been director of the Museum on Main in Pleasanton for only a few months in January 2010, envisioned bringing the place into the 21st century. The Museum is operated by the Amador-Livermore Valley Historical Society.

2010 IN REVIEW

(continued from page one)

in the downtown, the other at the Vasco Road ACE station.

The Pleasanton City Council was asked to remove the "poison pill" provision from the Oak Grove development agreement. Jennifer and Frederic Lin, owners of the property on which Oak Grove would have been built, sent a letter to the city making the request. The poison pill would invalidate the agreement, if the planned unit development (PUD) were successfully overturned via the referendum. The letter suggested it would be in the city's best interest to avoid an unnecessary legal challenge in the future. The council declined to remove the poison pill.

Both Livermore and Pleasanton school districts found themselves facing large budget cuts in the face of the state's continued

financial woes.

Bridgelux, Inc., a company that makes light emitting diode lightbulbs, announced plans to move to Livermore and expand its operations.

An application was made to build a boarding kennel for 450 pets on Dublin Canyon Road near the Cronin Ranch, about two miles east of Palo Verde Road. Opponents of the plan pointed out that the use violated the provisions of Alameda County's Measure D, which requires uses in the area to link to open space preservation or agriculture.

A task force was created by the Pleasanton City Council to consider what a mixed use development adjacent to the Pleasanton BART station should look like. The task force would also address design guidelines that

would be needed to implement the proposed vision.

The City of Livermore was singled out for doing well when it comes to providing fair housing choices compared to other jurisdictions in Alameda County in a report prepared for the Alameda County HOME Consortium Jurisdictions. The report looked at basic demographics, employment and housing data, fair housing impediments, and current fair housing programs and activities. The report said Livermore should continue its current policies.

Providing access to BART for commuters and for Livermore residents was selected as the top objective for an extension to Livermore. There was also support for transit oriented development. The findings were announced at the end of a workshop where participants were asked to rate the top objectives. One of the statements coming out of the session was that there was "a pretty clear message in support of a downtown station." Greenville and Vasco, as the second station, received equal support.

Steve Kalthoff announced that he would not seek re-election to the Zone 7 Water Board.

FEBRUARY 2010

Members of the UCLivermore Lab Retiree Group prepared to take legal action to try to restore membership to the University of California health programs. The retirees were part of the UC group health coverage until 2008 when a new contractor took over



A group of scientists and engineers worked on the restoration of a 1920 Seagrave fire engine, which once served Livermore. Under the auspices of the Livermore Heritage Guild, the group gathers on Saturday mornings at the Duarte Garage. They have installed and reconditioned various mechanical components. Eventual plans are to have it rolling along downtown Livermore parade routes, starting in 2011.

management of the Lab.

The Livermore School Board began discussions on how to deal with a nearly \$8.8 million deficit.

Pressure was put on the Pleasanton school district's two unions and one management group to grant concessions as part of a strategy to balance the district's budget. There was a projected \$8 million deficit.

Redcoats British Pub and Restaurant was given the greenlight to add two more nights of music and dancing. The Pleasanton City Council agreed to allow the added entertainment on Wednesdays and Thursdays 9 p.m. to midnight. Nearby residents had objected to the added hours.

Scientists at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory took a major step forward in efforts to create an unlimited energy source through experiments on the National Ignition Facility (NIF). Scientists successfully fired the 192 laser beams at a target creating a tiny explosion. The result marked the most important advance in efforts to achieve ignition, a self-sustaining nuclear fusion reaction.

Increased recycling of water was shown to save Livermore and Pleasanton some money. The big saver was Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD). The three entities are partners in the LAVWMA pipeline, which exports treated wastewater to the Bay. Each entity pays a proportional share of the cost of electricity and chemicals. DSRSD recycles much of its wastewater to use to water landscaping and for irrigation, sending less to the Bay.

The Livermore Board of Education voted unanimously to close Portola Elementary School. The elementary students were combined with the Junction Avenue Middle School as a K-8 school. A 26-person committee representing teachers, principals, parents, employee bargaining units, and district office staff worked on the plan to combine Portola with Junction Avenue. According to interim superintendent Mike Martinez, the reasons behind the decision were a "perfect storm" - a budget in crisis, declining enrollment, and program improvement status at both Junction and Portola.

Open Heart Kitchen moved from the Asbury United Methodist Church location on Livermore's east side to Holy Cross Lutheran Church on Mocho Street. The move was necessitated by renovation of the Asbury kitchen and fellowship hall.

Pleasanton teachers and par-

ents heard options on closing a \$8 million deficit projected for the school district. Audience members spoke of the value of retaining counselors and the specialists in physical education, and reading.

Honesty, good ethics, trustworthiness, creativity, leadership, communication skills, and many other virtues were what the Pleasanton school district's should look for in a new superintendent, according to Consultant Carolyn McKennan. In looking at challenges facing the next superintendent, McKennan mentioned the need for "a charismatic leader, who can inspire in tough times." That leader should also be able to "take criticism, reflect on it, and move on."

In addition to being named the "fastest growing Fair in America," the 2009 Alameda County Fair took home 52 Western Fair Association (WFA) awards at the 87th Annual Achievement Awards Convention in Reno, NV. For the 5th year, the Alameda County Fair received more industry awards than any other fair in the United States and Canada.

The Livermore community blood drive, organized by local resident and businessman Thomas Petty, in partnership with the American Red Cross, reached a major milestone, collecting its 2,000 units of blood at its last drive on December 18, 2009. Each unit of blood has the potential to save the lives of up to three people.

The Pleasanton City Council rejected a demand from the attorney representing the Oak Grove landowners, Jennifer and Frederic Lin, to remove the "poison pill" provision from the ordinances. The "poison pill" provision would invalidate both measures related to the Oak Grove development if one were overturned. The vote, taken in closed session, was 4 to 1. Cheryl Cook-Kallio dissented. She explained during the regular council session that her vote was consistent with her views when the poison pill was approved as part of the Oak Grove decisions.

California's Business, Trans-

portation and Housing Agency announced that Livermore's i-GATE (Innovation for Green Advanced Transportation Excellence) was one of six applicants to be recognized as inaugural members of the California iHub demonstration program. i-GATE was submitted to the state by the city of Livermore (iHub coordinator) in partnership with Sandia National Laboratories/California (Program Lead), Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and several others, including two University of California campuses. Its mission is to maximize the economic impact of green transportation and clean energy technologies through expedited technology transfer, entrepreneurial assistance, collaboration opportunities, academic alliances and a technology incubator for the development of high-growth green businesses.

The Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center (LVPAC) announced that David Dial had resigned from his post as Executive Director. Len Alexander, LVPAC's original Executive Director, agreed to return to the organization's senior leadership position.

The California Fish and Game Commission approved new statewide sport fishing regulations for 2010-2012 that included a year-round closure of all fishing in Alameda Creek and its tributaries downstream of San Antonio, Calaveras, and Del Valle reservoirs. The goal was to protect listed steelhead trout

(continued on page 5)



Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre presented the musical Cinderella early in 2010. The magical evening of theater drew an enthusiastic response from the audience.



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EDITORIAL

Reassembling A Wilderness

Save Mount Diablo has set off in a new direction in its land acquisition program, buying small parcels in addition to the large swaths of land that have been its traditional focus.

These are parcels of 5, 10 and 20-acre size, often owned by a speculator who wants to sell to a developer. They straddle a creek and/or road and have the potential of fragmenting the wildlife corridors Save Mount Diablo and others are attempting to build.

Six such parcels were purchased this year, including one prize named Dry Creek located next to the new Cowell Ranch State Park. Save Mount Diablo managed to buy the 5.18-acre parcel for 14% of its assessed value.

Cash-on-hand type purchase is often necessary to enable the organization to negotiate the best price for these small parcels. Save Mount Diablo's donors make this possible, says the group's executive director, Ron Brown.

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

Ever flexible in responding to needs and opportunities as they arise, Save Mount Diablo has been tremendously effective as it strives to meet that formidable goal.

Zone 7 Plan Shows Future Projects Will Continue Adequate Supply

Zone 7 Water Agency is one of the early birds in the state when it comes to looking at the future water supply for its customers.

By being early in line for a deadline next July, Zone 7 is assured of continued eligibility for access to government grants for its projects, said Zone 7 associate engineer Ampora Flores.

The water management plan also takes into account sufficient water supply to meet any demands presented by a single year drought and a five-year drought, said Flores.

Originally, water wholesalers such as Zone 7 were to meet a deadline Dec. 31. However, with new criteria still being developed, the state Department of Water Resources (DWR) has extended the deadline to July 1, 2011.

Zone 7 board members voted unanimously Dec. 15 to approve the required document, which is called the urban water management plan. DWR requires a plan update in every year ending in a 5 or a 10.

Estimates filed in the report

show that Zone 7's water supply in normal demand years will be sufficient to 2030, when demand catches up with supply at 82,700 acre feet annually (AFA).

That assumes about 7200 AFA saved through such conservation efforts as installation of high water efficiency appliances, more efficient irrigation systems, and recycling of treated wastewater.

It does not assume any mandatory water rationing. The Zone 7 board in the 1990s set a policy of 100 percent water reliability, which means that there will be

enough to meet the needs without mandatory rationing. However, voluntary rationing will be encouraged.

Zone 7 will also receive 10,500 AFA of new water from such projects as the fixing of the Delta and the purchase of water from other sources. Zone 7 currently purchases from several water districts outside the Valley.

Zone 7 is working on a water supply plan that will name the potential sources, said Flores.

Airport Panel Recommends Corporate Jet Hangars

The Livermore Airport Commission has cleared the way for an area on the south side of the airport runways for the ultimate construction of six hangars.

The south hangars will be large enough to serve corporate jets, said airport manager Leander Hauri. The commission's unanimous vote on Dec. 13 is advisory to the city council.

City policy says that it is up to the commission to make findings that a need exists for such facilities, said Hauri. With a waiting list of 13 for only two large hangars, the panel found that a need does exist.

Only two hangars will be built in the initial phase, said Hauri.

D.W. Morgan, a transportation supply company with headquarters in Pleasanton, and Livermore Aviation Services would build the two hangars.

Morgan owns two jets and has one on order. They are stage 3 and 4 aircraft, and would not be a noise nuisance, said Hauri.

Looking ahead past those two tenants to ultimate build-out of the south hangars, Hauri said it is highly unlikely that the noisier, older stage 2 jets would be housed there. If they were, Hauri said that he would protest. However, he admitted that there is nothing he could do currently about it in a protest to the FAA.

The FAA is still waiting for an

official Congressional approval of an edict that would authorize the phase out of the older, noisier jets, said Hauri. It may be that by the time the hangar area expands

further, the phase-out rules would be in place, he said.

As to the first two hangars, they might be up and in operation by 2013, said Hauri.

LAWSUIT

(continued from page one)

sought, which is often time-sensitive. In some cases, public comment time frames have elapsed and projects have gone forward while the group's information requests went unanswered."

Tri-Valley CAREs brought similar FOIA litigation in 1998, 2000, 2006 and 2008. "We should not have to file lawsuits in order

to obtain public information," said Talwar. "Congress enacted the FOIA specifically so that organizations like Tri-Valley CAREs would have free access to unclassified, non-exempt records that disclose the operation of the government." Requested documents were provided in response to settlements in each of the previous FOIA lawsuits.

MAILBOX

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

Property Lien Rich Buckley Livermore

The new era of soft tyranny has found its way into our community right here in Livermore in not so subtle of ways. You were never given fair notice of course.

The new Livermore Sanitation, Inc. bumbles along invoking its new powers granted to it (or so it claims) by the City of Livermore. The council people I talk to seem as surprised as me. The wording of the ordinance is frankly, unclear. So government officials are using it to their power-grabbing advantage, which of course was "always intended."

Livermore has started a high stakes political power grab uncommon to other utilities: the power to lien your property, the power to interfere with the right of contract leading to our loss of just one more freedom to choose not to do business or how to do business. Under their new powers you're responsible for your Tenant's unpaid bills. Howdy!

Yes, you read that right. If your tenant does not pay his garbage bill and you are under the illusion that you don't plan to do so either, were you aware the City of Livermore has granted a monopoly power to Livermore Sanitation, Inc. to lien your real property where the garbage service was provided?

But wait you say, I didn't even call the garbage company. I signed a contract with my tenant for them to contact arrange service and pay their own utilities. I got that in writing right here, you say? But my tenant left town and left behind bills owed to all of us.

Too bad, you should have read the fine print in the ordinance a few weeks ago. Buried in layers of paper work somewhere near the edge of the pile was the confusing language of the infamous ordinance that put it all into place. We don't grant PG&E lien rights. We don't grant Cal

Water lien rights. We don't grant Comcast lien rights. We don't grant AT&T lien rights. We didn't grant the former garbage service company lien rights: The right to shift the independent contact for services between Tenant and Garbage Company over to the property owner and then lien your property for payment if you feel that is somehow unfair, or immoral, or even evil and refuse to pay. According to the city, they're nosing in for lien rights and claim them under the fine print of their new ordinance. You never heard about that?

In case you're not aware, a property lien can affect your credit standing and among other things is a factor in your ability to refinance your real property. Thank you Livermore. Just hope your tenant does not leave thousands of dollars of garbage bills and a few toxic items. Oh, but not to worry, after the bill is several hundred dollars (or even thousands) in arrears, Livermore Sanitation will send you a "courtesy notice," right before they start lien rights on your real estate for your tenant's unpaid bills. And did I mention, if it goes to collections to Livermore Sanitation, Inc.'s (possibly) co-owned - affiliate collection service (wink-wink) they mark up the bill a comfortable amount like IRS to cover collection costs and teach you the lesson you must be taught. Gosh, they only have your interests in mind. Just another "service" they plan to provide.

I manage several lower income rentals in the City of Livermore and you know how tough things are in the economy. It's especially tough in the price range of tenants I happen to enjoy working with. People are not paying their rents, tenants are barely hanging on, properties are being foreclosed with no let up yet. For the past 40 years I've done a fairly good job of working out tenant-owner issues. But this issue needs to be killed by the City Council before this horse gets much further out of the starting gates. From my limited research the councilmembers did not understand this interpretation of the municipal code. Because if it works here and really starts being enforced, this form of soft tyranny will start creeping into every aspect of services to your home. Thanks Livermore.

So what's the City have to officially say about all this? Just

include the garbage bill as automatic services to your tenant provided by you in your rent that you receive. Gosh why didn't I think of that! The City sees anything that feeds their taxing empire as "community." I see many things as "community" but this isn't one of them. Hey, I have a better idea, kill this sinister ordinance now. It was poorly written with confusing language that leads to multiple meanings, with too much ambiguity. I don't like the way it's now being interpreted. It has less to do with 'community' and more to do with run amok expansion of hidden uncontrolled taxing powers and the evolution of the soft tyranny. That's just the residential story, wait until you hear the commercial property story.

Open Campus Beverly King Livermore

The Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) is proposing opening up part of the Lab's area for unclassified projects. The Livermore Science and Technology Center suggests that 1. clean technology, 2. innovation, and 3. quality of life are areas to consider for this area.

The suggestion to set aside several acres for private enterprise, to use unclassified information and sell commodities to improve the environment provide a valuable asset to Livermore, the economy and the general welfare. Even researchers from around the world could participate in creating a greener world.

Livermore Valley Open Campus can be of use to break down walls between the Lab and the community. Clean technology research has possibilities for reducing global warming. Nuclear research itself creates pollution. Reducing that pollution could be a cause for research and development that would be both profitable and green. These are just a couple of possible "green" uses for the Lab that would be beneficial to the environment and humanity.

The Lab is internationally known for its research, mostly weapons related, representing 85 percent of its budget. Tweaking the direction of research can enlarge the Lab, provide more employment, and help Livermore's economy. It is a worthwhile idea. By thinking in a new and more peaceful direction, we can solve some economic problems and create a better world.

Crossing Guard Mary McMahan Livermore

It is woeful that budget cuts have eliminated the conscientious crossing guard's job at the corners of Maple and Fourth Streets. The foot traffic in the morning is rather heavy with the

morning Masses at St. Michael, the pupils from St. Michael School and the Livermore High students and teachers.

Take the Risk Susan Mayall Livermore

Len Alexander, in his letter to the Independent on December 23, cogently states the 'pros' in the argument for the Regional Theater. Those arguing against going ahead with it at this time also have valid points. They should be, and it seems to me they have been, considered over the long history of this project. All ambitious enterprises involve risks. Alexander's points weighing the risks of embarking now on this long planned project against the long term benefits to the city are well made and the product of experience.

We should be careful that our decisions are based on observation and information rather than nostalgia for a Livermore most of us never knew and that can never exist again. When I first saw it in 1972 it was a suburban sprawl surrounding a depressing, decayed downtown. Every year more stores closed. Headlines in the paper announcing a new restaurant opening usually referred to a Burger King or McDonalds. On the morning of Christmas Eve 1972 I counted only five cars parked on First Street.

In 1980, the year I started Goodenough Books, I attended one of the first citywide workshops on the future of downtown Livermore. Many of the ideas we came up with then were impossible to implement due to Highway 84's routing along First Street. Even in the late 90s Publishers' Reps. coming to my bookstore marveled that we could survive at all in this city. When I brought in prospective managers they declined my offers once they saw downtown. A realtor friend of mine told me she had the same experience.

But gradually people with vision and energy persevered, and many of those early dreams have been achieved. It's notable that among these persistent people were some who really did know Livermore as a genuine country town, whose families had lived here for generations.

Livermore is a great place to be in now. It's becoming a real town again, different from the country town it once was, but adapted to today's needs and tastes. Let's look at the record, take the risk and build the long planned regional theater.

BART Initiative Bob Baltzer Livermore

This is a response to a letter from Robert Allen proposing an initiative to undo Livermore's recommendation to have BART stations downtown and at Vasco

Road (alternative 2b) and substitute alternative 4 (a single station at I-580 and Isabel).

Mr. Allen ignores the exhaustive analysis by both the city and BART staffs, which ranks 2b ahead of or tied with 4, except for cost, in all of the Program Objectives. Contrary to his statements, 2b ranked high in environmental protection and economic benefits.

Isabel would be the end of the line with the parking problems that we are familiar with at Dublin/Pleasanton. There would be no rail yard (a BART priority), no transit oriented development (an MTC requirement) and there would be no intermodal connection with ACE (a federal requirement). Therefore the route would not be fundable.

If BART adopted alternative 4, Isabel could be considered as fulfilling any obligation to bring BART to Livermore and any further extension would be another unfundable pipedream.

If the initiative passes, BART is under no obligation to adopt it, wasting the time and city expense of an election.

It seeks to replace a very positive, fundable selection, which contributes to the economic revitalization of downtown and the technology center around the national laboratories' Open Campus with a dead end station, which would serve central valley commuters rather than Livermore.

OUTLET MALL

(continued from page one)

Taylor, Hugo Boss, and Nieman Marcus. Other stores include Banana Republic, Gap Outlet, and Adidas.

The project includes roadway and pedestrian improvements, including widening El Charro Road, extending Jack London Boulevard, relocating Friesman Road; the extension of utilities, including sewer, water, and storm drains; and installation of on and off-site flood control facilities, and related improvements

CITY, ZONE 7 AGREE ON MALL IMPROVEMENTS

Helping Livermore move ahead on the mall project, the Zone 7 Water Agency board voted unanimously Dec. 15 to sign an agreement with the city concerning flood control. The pact will transfer \$10 million from Zone 7 to the city in exchange for the city's construction of flood control improvements and an agreement to transfer to Zone 7 two parcels and easements on two other parcels that are owned by the city.

The city owns the land because it is near the airport. FAA funds were used in buying the land.

The city council approved the

Food Supply Lucas Nelson Livermore

This has not been a good year for the meat, dairy, and egg industries.

In January, ABC News provided extensive coverage of cow abuse by the dairy industry. The BP oil spill in April called attention to an even larger Gulf "dead zone" caused by the massive amounts of animal waste dumped every day by the Mississippi river. A month later, a U.N. report urged a global shift towards a vegan diet to reduce world hunger and climate change.

In June, FDA asked factory farms to stop routine use of antibiotics that lead to drug-resistant bacterial infections in humans. August witnessed the largest ever recall of more than half billion eggs harboring Salmonella.

Finally, this month, President Obama signed into law the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act to replace fatty animal products and other junk foods in school lunches and vending machines. According to the School Nutrition Association, 65% of U.S. schools now offer vegetarian lunch options.

For a New Year's resolution, we should all consider following suit. I found a great website at www.LiveVegan.org with recipes and tons of other useful info.

pact with Zone 7 at its meeting Dec. 13. City engineer Cheri Sheets told the Zone 7 board that construction of the flood control improvements can go to bid in the spring.

Sheets said that the negotiations with Zone 7 went well. "We forged a partnership that can go forward in the future on other projects," she said.

The agreement is not the actual contract between Zone 7 and the city. That is still to be written. Zone 7 board member Chris Moore said that he definitely supports the agreement. He also favored the outlet mall for what it will bring to Livermore and the Valley.

Moore said he realizes that staffs of both agencies worked well together during the negotiations to come up with a satisfactory agreement. However, he said it's important to make sure that both sides are clear in their understanding of what the other party is thinking in the agreement.

Moore recalled that Pleasanton officials thought they were in agreement with San Francisco concerning the terms of a purchase of three acres across from the library. However, San Francisco had a different idea. The issue ended up in court.

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2010 IN REVIEW

(continued from page 3)

and remnant populations of native rainbow trout. The new regulations provided for year-round closure of all fishing for areas downstream of the major reservoirs in the Alameda Creek watershed, while continuing to allow catch-and-release fly-fishing (with artificial lures and barbless hooks) from the end of April through November 15.

Tri-Valley business organizations won awards and praise for their efforts to promote greenhouse gas-reducing commute alternatives to their employees. Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty recognized the winners of the Great Race for Clean Air Challenge, all from Pleasanton. Winners were Kaiser Permanente, a trophy for the Highest Employee Participation in the large organization category; City of Pleasanton, midsize category, with many of its employees biking and walking to work; and the Hacienda Owners Association staff, two trophies – one for highest (100%) participation with all 4 of its employees using alternative commutes during the competition and for the highest reduction of CO2 emissions per employee of 721 pounds.

The Pleasanton City Council voted to place the Oak Grove development on the June 8 ballot. The decision culminated more than two years of legal wrangling over the development in the southeast hills. In 2007, the council approved 51 custom homes along with 497 acres of open space. The approval was referred. Property owners, Frederic and Jennifer Lin, challenged the legality of the referendum. The legal fight went all the way to the California Supreme Court, which declined to consider the decision. The Court of Appeal decision supporting the referendum sponsors became final. Supporters of the referendum had asked that the council rescind the project. The vote to place the measure on the June ballot was 3 to 2. Matt Sullivan and Cindy McGovern favored rescinding the project.

Pleasanton teachers voted to take a 4.2 percent pay cut over the next two years to help



Photos - Doug Jorgensen
Students at Vintage Hills Elementary School in Pleasanton were busy sorting items to be sent to help people in Haiti. The schools' "Raise Your Hand" program collected summer weight children's clothing and plastic tote bags to donate to Sirona Cares, a Bay Area company accepting clothing donations to take to Haiti.

the Pleasanton Unified School District balance its books. The district faced a projected \$8 million shortfall for 2010-11. The pay cuts authorized by the rank-and-file and presented to them by union negotiators were expected to save the district \$4.5 million over the two years.

Livermore High School (LHS) prepared to add an ambitious new program - the "Engineering Green Solutions" Academy, starting in the fall of 2010. For the approximately 90 students in the academy, there would be smaller class sizes, fewer teachers, hands-on projects, and mentorship and internship op-

portunities with local businesses. The academy was funded with up to \$224,000 in grants from the California Department of Education's California Partnership Academies (CPA) program.

MARCH 2010

The Pleasanton City Council approved an agreement that moved forward the planning for low income senior housing. The agreement is a partnership among the city, the Kottinger Place Task Force and the Pleasanton Gardens Board of Directors. A task force recommended building 128 to 150 units on the current Kottinger Place site on Vineyard



In February, Cedar Grove Community Church members packed over 400 "Family 2 Family" tubs of essential supplies into a shipping container destined for Leon, Nicaragua. Each 18-quart lidded tub included 10 pounds of rice, four pounds of beans, 32 ounces of oil, pasta, sardines, tuna, matches, towels, toothbrushes and toothpaste. The Livermore Soroptomist and church groups in Oregon partnered with Cedar Grove on the Family 2 Family tub project.

Avenue. The future use of the Pleasanton Gardens land was left to be determined. The council directed city staff to hire a nonprofit developer to prepare detailed project designs, plans and provide financial information.

The Livermore Board of Education voted to eliminate 67.35 full-time equivalent (FTE) teaching positions. The decision was part of an effort to close an \$8.8 million budget shortfall for the 2010/11 school year. At the elementary school level, 12 positions were eliminated as class sizes were increased. Two elementary music teachers lost their jobs, along with one elementary science teacher. Another 17 multiple subject teaching positions were eliminated.

An amicable agreement was reached with regard to a proposed Vineyard Villa Mobilehome Park conversion involving a lawsuit filed by the park owner against the City of Pleasanton. The landowner had submitted an application to convert the park from one in which space is rented to mobilehome owners to a single family manufactured home condominium project where residents could own the lots on which their mobilehomes were located. The council previously denied the application. The owner of the 208-unit mobilehome park then filed a \$29-million lawsuit against the City of Pleasanton. Following several months of negotiations involving the city, park residents, and the park owner, an agreement was reached that was described as a win-win for everyone. Among the provisions: lots could not be sold earlier than January 1, 2020; the park would remain a senior park in perpetuity; the city paid the property owner \$750,000 to be used on capital improvements within the park.

The Bankhead Theater hosted a program, Champions for The Arts: A Celebration of Our Regional Arts Heroes, honoring community art heroes and showcasing music, performing and visual arts by students from Livermore, Pleasanton and Fremont as part of the Art IS Education program. The event included "Champions for The Arts" awards presented by Alameda County Board of Supervisors, District

One Supervisor Scott Haggerty to Andy Jorgensen, Civic Arts Manager, City of Pleasanton, Founder of Children's Theater Workshop; Dr. Philip Manwell, Dean of Art and Communications, Las Positas College; Kathryn Sherrod FAME Program Director, Fine Arts Mini Experience; and an Award of Honor to Joan Seppala, President and Founder of the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center.

The Livermore Valley Education Foundation (LVEF), in partnership with the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District, launched a fund-raising campaign: "Straight A's for Livermore Students: Academics, Arts, and Athletics." The goal of the campaign was to raise \$300,000 to be divided evenly among the three areas.

The Pleasanton school board approved \$4.5 million in teacher salary cuts and voted to eliminate 32 teaching positions, at least tentatively. Because some of the positions would be vacant through attrition, the actual number of positions cut was expected to be around 20.

Pleasanton trustee Jim Ott announced that he would not be a candidate for re-election in November.

The San Francisco Bay Chapter of the Sierra Club appealed the East County Board of Zoning Adjustment's approval of a kennel for the Castro Valley canyons west of Pleasanton. The kennel would house 400 dogs and 50 cats. The Livermore City Council voted unanimously to support the appeal. Opponents argued that the kennel would violate Alameda County's Measure D, because it is not an agriculture-related use. There was also concern that it would set a precedent in the area for such

urban uses in the future.

The UC Livermore Lab Retiree Group neared its goal of raising enough money to begin legal action to try to restore membership in University of California health plans. The target was \$150,000.

The Valley Humane Society (VHS) began the process of building a new, 5,000 square foot animal shelter on Nevada Street in Pleasanton. The new building would allow VHS to expand its services to the community and triple the number of animals saved each year.

John Garamendi (D-Walnut Creek, CA) declared that he would run for re-election to represent the 10th Congressional District.

Alameda Superior Court Judge Frank Roesch ruled that the City of Pleasanton's Housing Cap violated state law. The court ordered the city to complete re-zoning, as required by state law, to accommodate its share of the region's housing. All provisions related to limiting housing were to be removed from all of Pleasanton's planning documents including the general plan and any element of the general plan. In his ruling, Roesch declared the city must cease issuing non-residential building permits and all related building permits for any construction or development until the city brings its general plan into compliance with the requirements of state law.

Developing strategies to minimize wine country traffic impacts on South Livermore roads was on the radar of Alameda County planners as they took a new look at the South Livermore Valley Area Plan. At a meeting, concerns were expressed by some audience members who

(continued on page 7)



In March, the annual St. Patrick's Day celebration in Dublin featured the annual parade, lots of entertainment, the Shamrock run, pancake breakfast, and other events.

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LITTLE FOCKERS (PG13) DLP	11:50 1:00 2:25 3:30 4:55 6:05 7:15 8:30 9:45	
TRON LEGACY 3D (PG) DLP D-BOX	12:20 4:00 7:00 9:45	
TRON LEGACY (PG) DLP	3:10	
YOGI BEAR 3D (PG) DLP THX	12:00 2:20 4:40 6:50 9:10	
THE FIGHTER (R) DLP	12:50 4:05 7:10 9:50	
CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: VOYAGE OF THE DAWN TREADER 3D (PG) DLP	12:40 4:10 6:45 9:30	
TANGLED (PG) DLP	11:45 2:10 4:40 7:15 9:35	
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SPORTS NOTES

Women's Soccer

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District's Women's Soccer League is a recreational league designed for fun, experience and exercise.

Adult women of all skill levels and ages are invited to join. Players of different skill levels are distributed among the teams to keep league games competitive and fun.

Winter 2011 games will be played at 7 p.m. Tuesdays in January and February in Robertson Park, 3200 Robertson Park Road, Livermore. Games begin Jan. 4. Registration is open now. The deadline for priority registration is 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 29, which is available to returning fall 2010 players. Regular registration for all players ends at 5 p.m. Monday, Jan. 3. The benefits of priority registration are a reduced fee and priority in choosing a team. Priority registration is \$29; regular registration is \$34 for all new players as well as returning players registering after Dec. 29.

Registration forms can be found on the LARPD website at www.larpd.dst.ca.us and mailed in or dropped off at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. For more information, call 925-373-5700.

PGSL Registration

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

PGSL Player Evaluations and Tryouts:

Players in the 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, & 8th grades, please read the following information carefully: In an effort to continue to improve our players' experience, PGSL will be holding Player Evaluation Sessions for all players in 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th grades. Attending a player evaluation session is mandatory for all players. Following these evaluations, there will be tryouts for the "Black" Divisions. The goal for these sessions is two-fold: 1) to make sure all players are assigned to the correct level of play for their skill level and experience and 2) to balance the teams in each age group to the best of our ability to balance competition and maximize everyone's enjoyment. For 7th & 8th grade players, there will be no Player Evaluation Sessions this year. However, there will be Black Division Tryouts for those wishing to be considered for that division. ***All Player Evaluation Sessions and Black Division Tryouts (all age groups) will be

held in January 8 and 9, 2011. Additional information and a detailed schedule for all of these sessions is posted on our league web site (www.pleasantonsoftball.org).***

Youth Basketball League

Registration is now open for Lay-Ups - a youth basketball program offering leagues for children in kindergarten through 2nd grade. The 8-week season begins Jan. 22, 2011. There are several locations available. Lay-Ups is an introductory and non-competitive basketball program. All the components of the program are geared toward making each participant feel successful. The players use smaller, age-appropriate sized basketballs. The hoops are lowered to 8'. The games are played 4-on-4 so each player has more opportunity to touch the ball. The registration fee is \$95, which includes the 8-week season, a Lay-Ups t-shirt, and a Lay-Ups basketball. Register on-line at www.Lay-Ups.com, or call (503) 799-9293 for further information.

Bocce Kits for Rent

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

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

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

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

Lacrosse Coach

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

NorCal Grizzlies Baseball

NorCal Grizzlies Baseball is currently evaluating players ages 9U thru 14U for 2011 spring tournament baseball season. Season runs through July and includes 13 local tournaments, 1 tournament in SoCal, 2x weekly practices at indoor training facility and outdoor fields, and complete uniform package.

Please contact Tom Graham, Head Coach, at 925-922-5050 or tong@norcalgrizzlies.org. Schedule an evaluation at www.norcalgrizzlies.org/2011springballreg.html.

Amgen Route

AEG, presenter of the Amgen Tour of California, is partnering with Pacific Sports, a leading sports and event management company, to produce the L'Etape du California, a race that will give amateur cyclists the opportunity to test their mettle by riding Stage 7 of the 2011 Amgen Tour of California.

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

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

Pacific Sports will be handling the race operations.

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

Track & Field

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

Bowling News

In the Practice Kings & Queens League, Gene Maloney bowled 198, 249 and 225 for a 672 series 147 pins over average at the Granada Bowl in Livermore. Troy Gomez, a youth bowler in the Generation Gap League, rolled 160, 176 and 199 for a 531 series 135 pins over average.

Bill Deuell, in the Getaway Fours League, bowled a 257 game, Wesley Nerton 237, Al Motley 223, Jim Fushs 213, Mike Galletti 213, Karen Lopez 206, Fred Brandenburg 203, Neil Lund 201 and Bill Lusareta 188. Mike Balhorn, in the Match Point League, rolled a 257 game, Gene Tanaka 242, Joann Sakaladasis 213 and Penny Kovarik 185. James Seltmann, in the 4 Seasons Heating & Air League, bowled a 268 game. Dave Erwin 256, Matt Coleman 255, Mark McCreary 246, Brandon Klinefelter 244, Nick Block 243, Joe DiMaggio 225 and Rick Holland 209. Craig Truscott, in the Practice Kings & Queens League, rolled a 258 game and Mary

Kay Hansen a 206. In the Generation Gap, Phillip Jarrett bowled a 224 game. Senior Bowler Jim McQuaid, in the Monday Primetimers League, rolled a 216 game. Rich Harris 216, Harold Hunt 214,

John Foscalina 213, Richard Alameida 204 and Dale Irving 168. Jim Harvey, in the Sirs & Sirettes League, bowled a 235 game. Alma Taasevigen 213 and Paul Guerrero 204. In Granada Bowl's 46th Annual "LVT"

Tournament James Murphy bowled a "perfect" 300 game, and games of 231 and 269 for an 800 series. Mark Shiraki also rolled a "perfect" 300 game. This tournament will be going on every weekend through 2-6-11



The Livermore Aquacowboys (LAC) sent 6 swimmers to Long Beach to compete in the California/Nevada Speedo Gold Sectionals Meet Dec. 17-21. Qualifying Swimmers from LAC were Natalie Wong, Nina Hayes, Katie Kulp, Shelby Swanson, Andrew Hayes and Evan Carlo. Nina Hayes swam to new Santa Clara International Time Standards in the 200 Back, 50 Free, and 200 IM. In the 200 IM she placed 5th in the Bonus Final and 21st Overall. Evan Carlo placed 1st in the Bonus Final for the 100 Back and 17th Overall with a New Best Time. Andrew Hayes qualified for his first ever Santa Clara International Time Standard in the 50 Free, going 21.68. Natalie Wong made New Best Times in the 100 and 200 Fly. Katie Kulp made a New Sectional Time in the 100 Fly and a New Best Time in the 100 Breast. Shelby Swanson competed in the 100 Fly. The Livermore Aquacowboys placed 54th over all and in the top twenty of the small teams division. For more information about the Livermore Aquacowboys, please contact us at 925-443-7700, at www.lacswimming.org, or find us on Facebook.

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Keith Cariveau *Livermore resident; Retired Principal, Livermore Schools; Livermore-Granada Booster Board; Member Livermore Rotary; COANIQUEM BCF Board; and community volunteer.*

Katherine Cariveau *Livermore resident; Retired Teacher, Livermore Schools; Member Rotary Inner Wheel; COANIQUEM BCF Board; and community volunteer.*

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2010 IN REVIEW

(continued from page 5)



A cattle drive was held in Livermore in late March, offering a glimpse of the old west. Robert Vieira and a dozen of his neighbors herded the cattle for six miles along Patterson Pass Road. Normally Vieira would have transported the cattle in a truck, as do virtually all ranchers. Because of the way Vieira's herd was split this year, there really weren't enough cattle to justify hiring a truck operation, so he resorted to the Old West method. The drive lasted two hours.



Visitors browsed through the works of art during the annual Livermore Art Association spring show held at The Barn in late March.

live near wine tasting rooms that limousines and buses block their driveways on weekends, especially during the Harvest Weekend in September.

The Livermore City Council voted to rescind the 1975 Airport Master Plan, approved an environmental impact report, and rezoned the airport land area. The council also approved a series of resolutions aimed at calming

concerns about future expansion at the airport. The City of Pleasanton sent a letter stating they believed there were fundamental flaws in the environmental analysis and "disagreed with the conclusions." Among the resolutions, the council adopted those that stipulated that future development would only be approved by the council in response to existing demand; staff would

take no action to encourage a major cargo carrier service to come to Livermore; and the city would continue aggressively to foster reduction of airport noise consistent with federal law and in cooperation with other Tri-Valley cities.

The Pleasanton City Council approved the elimination of twelve and a half jobs along with other adjustments in expenditures to close a \$4.1 million budget gap. Finance Director David Culver told the council that revenues are 4.6 percent below estimates and 7.4 percent below the prior year's actual income. The main decrease in revenue was sales tax, down \$1.5 million. There would be no reduction in programs or services. No employees lost their jobs.

Pleasanton continued to push for the widening of State Route 84 all the way from I-580 to I-680. The city council expressed concern that politics were playing a part in a proposal to break the widening into two projects. The Tri-Valley Transportation Council (TVTC) collects fees on development to help pay for regional transportation projects. Member agencies are Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin, Danville, San Ramon and the counties of Alameda and Contra Costa. The TVTC established two lists of projects to be funded. The "A"



Photos - Doug Jorgensen

A tea party was held in Pleasanton on April 15, Tax Day. Speakers included San Ramon Mayor Abram Wilson and Dublin Mayor Tin Sbranti. The event aimed to rally local residents to become involved in an effort to end what organizers call "the tax insanity."

list established in 1998 contained eleven projects to be funded with the fee. In 2004, eleven projects were placed on a "B" list. There was a total estimated unfunded amount of \$1.4 billion on both lists; a \$1.1 billion majority on the "B" list. A committee was established to revise the lists. Pleasanton Traffic Engineer Michael Tassano noted there are several options being considered. One would separate Highway 84 widening into two projects. The second would meld the two lists. The draft "A" list places Highway 84 widening from 580 to 680 third on the priority list. Tassano said if the widening were broken into two sections, the Isabel to Ruby Hill would move to second place. The section from Pigeon Pass to 680 would drop to sixth, putting about \$50 to \$60 million in projects ahead of it. Pleasanton is most interested in the Pigeon Pass to 680 segment, believing that it would remove the most traffic from its streets.

Five candidates announced their decision to run for one of the four seats on the Zone 7 Water Agency board in the election on June 8. Incumbents John Greci, Sarah Palmer and Bill Stevens were joined in the field by A.J. Machaevich and Vic Macias.

APRIL 2010

The Pleasanton city clerk was asked to seek a writ eliminating portions of ballot arguments submitted regarding support for Measure D that would prevent the Oak Grove project from being built. The referendum of the Oak Grove development was on the June 8 ballot. The development included 51 custom home lots and 498 acres of permanent open space. It is located in the southeast hills of Pleasanton. Since it was approved, there had been a series of legal battles over the validity of the referendum, with the Court of Appeal siding with the referendum supporters. The most recent controversy regarding the development plan had to do with statements in the "yes" ballot arguments. The concern was over assertions that housing would not be visible on ridgelines and would not be built on ridges.

The Pleasanton City Council held its third closed session to discuss whether to appeal a recent court decisions that overturned the housing cap.

Prior to the closed sessions, speakers urged the council to move forward with an appeal. Alameda Superior Court Judge Frank Roesch ordered the city to complete re-zoning, as required by state law, to accommodate planning for its share of the region's housing. The ruling was issued March 12.

A procession of religious leaders broke bread and spoke out on behalf of dishwashers, cooks, and maintenance workers, in a special prayer on the picket line at Pleasanton's Castlewood Country Club. Castlewood management locked out the workers over a disagreement of provisions in a new contract. Unite HERE Local 2850 had been negotiating with Castlewood since September 2009 for a new contract.

"We should use a strict interpretation of Measure D." Alameda County Supervisor Nate Miley stated in making a motion to uphold the appeal and deny a use permit for a kennel facility on Dublin Canyon Road. The

(continued on page 8)



Earth Day was held April 17 in Livermore. It featured a clean-up of sites around the creeks and arroyos in Livermore. Volunteers also planted trees. The clean-up was followed by an Earth Day festival at Robertson Park.

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2010 IN REVIEW

(continued from page 7)



Pleasanton residents awoke April 1 to find eleven new visitors to the downtown. The life-like sculptures were created by Seward Johnson. The exhibit was part of a series of events leading up to the opening of the Firehouse Arts Center. Pictured is "Just a Taste." It was placed in front of the Meadowlark Dairy. It depicts two children, one taking a taste of another's ice cream cone, over the objection of the other.

Board of Supervisors voted 4 to 0 for the motion. Miley questioned county counsel's interpretation that a kennel could be considered a use compatible with recreation and agriculture in a resource management zone. Supervisor Scott Haggerty proposed that the county put a moratorium on future development in the corridor until the county figures out what it wants to have happen in the area. The appeal of the kennel approval was filed by Dick Schneider on behalf of the Sierra Club.

A team of scientists from Russia and the United States, including two Department of Energy national laboratories and two universities, discovered the newest superheavy element, element 117. The team involved scientists from the Joint Institute of Nuclear Research (Dubna, Russia), the Research Institute for Advanced Reactors (Dimitrovgrad), Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Vanderbilt University, and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. The discovery brought the total to six new elements discovered by the Dubna-Livermore team (113, 114, 115, 116, 117, and 118, the heaviest element to date). Element 117 was the only missing element in row seven of the periodic table.

Pleasanton residents awoke April 1 to find eleven new visitors to the downtown. The life-size, lifelike sculptures created by Seward Johnson, were placed in front of various businesses. They depicted everyday activities ranging from just watching people go by to sending a dog to fetch. The exhibit was part of a series of events leading up to the opening of the Firehouse Arts Center.

The Livermore Planning Commission voted unanimously to recommend extending BART to Livermore via a downtown station near the present ACE terminal and a station at Vasco Road just north of Lawrence Livermore Laboratory. Later in the month the Livermore City Council voted unanimously for the same route. If funding could not be obtained for a downtown station, the council's vote included the recommendation to extend BART to Vasco Road. The BART route recommended by the Council and Planning Commission follows I-580 east from the Dublin-Pleasanton station to Livermore's East Airway-Portola interchange, where it dives underground and angles southeast beneath Portola and city streets to the location of the Altamont Commuter Express

station near city center. From there it turns east and rises back to the surface along the Union Pacific Railroad corridor leading to its terminus on the east side of Vasco Road.

The battle to win San Francisco's lucrative garbage disposal contract raised issues involving Livermore and Alameda County. One concern is over environmental impacts to the region. The second issue is the loss of funding for the purchase of open space and other projects. San Francisco city officials tentatively recommended the contract go to Recology (formerly Norcal Waste Systems). Its main competitor is Waste Management. Recology proposed to dispose of San Francisco's nonrecyclable trash at its Ostrom Road landfill in Yuba County, transporting it there by train. The waste is currently being trucked to the Altamont Landfill owned by Waste Management. If the disposal site were changed, Alameda County and the cities of Livermore and Pleasanton stand to lose a substantial amount of money. Waste taken to the Altamont Landfill includes a \$1.55 per ton fee, of which 31 cents goes towards recycling programs, 31 cents goes to Livermore as the host community, and 93 cents is set aside to purchase open space in the east county area. The host fee goes to the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center.

The UC Livermore Lab Retiree Group raised enough money to begin legal efforts to try to regain membership in University of California health plans, group leader Joe Requa announced. Planned actions included the potential of opening a court case aimed at uncovering documents and policy statements that bear on the decision to remove Lawrence Livermore Lab retirees from UC group health coverage.

The Pleasanton City Council approved an increase in water fees for Pleasanton. It was the first rate increase since 2001. The city had been absorbing the increases. The new rate structure was designed to encourage water conservation, maintain the senior and low income discounts, and provide funding for a recycled water program. The change in rates added \$5.20 per month to the average homeowners' water bills.

The Livermore Police Department made a series of arrests in connection with gang activity in Livermore. One suspect was charged with murder. Most of the attacks were reportedly initiated by members of the Norteno street gang who, according to police, appeared to be targeting

suspected rival gang members of the Sureno street gang.

The Livermore Chamber of Commerce hosted its first ever tribute to local innovators, "Dreammakers and Risk Takers." Honored were Marty Beard, president of Sybase 365, for spearheading the Tri-Valley innovation initiative; Trond Unnelard head of Chevron's Technology Ventures (CTV); and Lisa Tromovitch for her efforts in the field of theater arts. Also honored was the Livermore team who obtained an i-GATE (Green Advanced Transportation Excellence) designation. The team included Mayor Marshall Kamena and Livermore Economic Development Director Rob White, Bruce Balfour and Bob Carling from Sandia and Steve Liedle and Camille Bibeau from the Lab.

The Livermore Valley Education Foundation (LVEF) stepped in to save instrumental music at elementary schools in the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District. LVEF president Vicki Schellenberger announced that the foundation was close to its goal of \$100,000 for elementary music. The money was raised through a number of community partners—Wente Vineyards, through the wine bottle auctions at its summer concert series; ABC Music, through its House of Floyd concert in February; and the Gene Morgan Insurance Agency, which donated \$10,000 in November. The middle school and high school bands and orchestras raised nearly \$9,000 at two "Make Time for Music" concerts.

Alameda County projected a \$152.4 million budget gap for the 2010-11 fiscal year. The large budget gap was not unexpected. Decreasing tax revenues were among the factors contributing to the need to reduce spending.

The Pleasanton Community of Character Collaborative announced the recipients of the

2010 Juanita Haugen Community of Character Award. They were Chris Miller, Dr. Pushpa P. Dalal, Bob Athenour, and GASIT (George A. Spiliopoulos Invitational Tournament) Committee of Friends. Winners were honored at the annual Community of Character Luncheon Celebration at the Pleasanton Senior Center.

The Pleasanton City Council continued public hearings on how the city should respond to a recent court ruling that overturned the city's housing cap. The council considered three responses: continued litigation, compliance, or negotiations. The city needed to respond to the court by August 9.

The Zone 7 Water Agency launched a pilot grant program to determine whether public/private partnerships could help in implementing Stream Management Master Plan (SMMP) projects on privately owned stream reaches within Zone 7's jurisdiction. The Zone 7 Board of Directors agreed to requests from a group of private landowners for a \$100,000 grant to facilitate stream improvements consistent with Zone 7's SMMP goals. Their properties are located along a stretch of Arroyo de la Laguna between Pleasanton and Sunol, which suffers from significant streambank erosion and loss of backyard property. The money was to be used to develop preliminary designs for bank stabilization, erosion protection, habitat and other improvements on a mile-long stretch of arroyo from Castlewood Drive downstream to the Verona Bridge.

Livermore was labeled a "boomtown to be" by radio talk show host Mike Consol.

MAY 2010

According to a judge's ruling, the state could take tax increment funds generated within redevelopment districts, including from the City of Livermore. Under the ruling, Livermore stood to lose \$1.5 million this year, and an additional \$323,000 in the next fiscal year.

Parvin Ahmadi, an assistant superintendent in the Fremont school district, was selected as Pleasanton's new Superintendent of Schools. She succeeded John Casey, who retired in June.

Kelly Bowers was named the new superintendent for the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District. Bowers, with the District for 10 years, had served



Photos - Doug Jorgensen

Las Positas College hosted its Second Annual Native American Exposition and Pow Wow at the college in April. The event was organized by students in the college's Native American Culture Club. Among the events were exhibits of Native American artifacts, artwork and literature, a film festival, and a traditional dinner and show. Pictured is one of the dancers who entertained visitors. The Mixcoatl-Anahuac Aztec Dancers provided the entertainment.

as the assistant superintendent of educational services. She replaced Brenda Miller, who retired in February.

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARP) board took no action on a proposal by board member Scott Kamena to hire a consultant to look into the potential benefits of LARP formally joining the city and East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD). Kamena told the board that he had gathered information that seemed to indi-

cate that consolidating LARP into the city and EBRPD would result in a significant net financial boon to local residents.

The Pleasanton City Council voted unanimously in closed session to pursue settlement negotiations with Urban Habitat plaintiffs and the State Attorney General in response to a March 12 court order that invalidated the 29,000 unit housing cap passed by voters in 1996.

Alameda County adopted a

(continued on page 9)



The annual Wine Country Festival in downtown Livermore included something for everyone. The younger set enjoyed the rides. The event was presented in May by Livermore Downtown, Inc.

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labyrinth by the light of the Christmas Eve luminaries. Our canvas labyrinth will also be available in the sanctuary, illuminated by dozens of candles and surrounded with beautiful music.

2010 IN REVIEW

(continued from page 8)

Climate Action Plan for Government Services and Operations. The 10-year plan is designed to reduce municipal greenhouse gas emissions at least 15% by 2020, modernize services, and grow the green economy. Among the specific actions outlined in the plan were these: offering employees and visitors to County buildings more alternatives to driving, such as shuttles from BART and online services, to reduce congestion and air pollution; generating energy from clean, renewable sources to promote local green jobs; purchasing reusable, long-lasting items to help expand the market for green products; planting trees to provide shade and promote water quality.

The cities of Livermore and Pleasanton signed on to a tolling agreement with regard to litigation involving Livermore's recent vote to change the zoning of its airport. The tolling agreement extended the right of Pleasanton to file a lawsuit by 15 days. As part of the hearings on rezoning of the Livermore Airport, Pleasanton sent a letter stating they believed there were fundamental flaws in the environmental analysis and "disagreed with the conclusions."

The Pleasanton Unified School District decided to conduct an online survey to learn how much time students were spending on homework. The purpose was to respond to concerns expressed by parents and a district stra-

tegic plan committee. Parents indicated that they believed that too much homework was putting pressure on young people to the detriment of proper relaxation and good mental health.

The Livermore Valley Open Campus proposal was on its way to becoming a reality after Congressman John Garamendi introduced legislation to authorize the establishment of a technology transfer center at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratories. He was joined as principal sponsor of the legislation by Congressman Jerry McNerney. The Livermore Valley Open Campus goal is to create greater collaboration between the national labs, the private sector, and universities. It would provide a site for business, industry, educational institutions and entrepreneurs to take the technologies developed at the laboratories and transfer them to the private sector where they would create jobs and enhance the economy.

Pleasanton Unified School District's classified employees union agreed to concessions totaling approximately \$425,000 for the current and coming school years. The concessions enabled the preservation of approximately 10 classified jobs that had been slated for cutting in the coming 2010/11 school year. Classified employees include custodians, administrative aides, and other support staff.

The Livermore City Council voted to allow the expansion of the Hindu Community and Cultural Center (HCCC) in North Livermore to move forward. Neighbors had voiced concerns about traffic, noise, litter, dust and temple management. The council vote was 4 to 1 to deny the appeal with Jeff Williams voting "no." Williams stated, "It is inescapable. The temple has outgrown its location." Mayor Marshall Kamena said that Williams's remarks mirrored some of his own feelings. "I think this is the last expansion that makes sense. I think the conditions and enforcements make this a good motion. It is not an easy issue."

Bridgelux Inc. won an international award for solid state lighting innovation and technology and finished occupying its new quarters on Portola Avenue in Livermore. The high tech company included Livermore staff of about 150 in its 120,000 square foot building, formerly owned by Lam Research Corp., near the Las Positas College campus. Operations range from fabrication to R&D to management.

Castlewood Country Club workers, locked out of their jobs for 72 days, engaged in a series of protests at the club this past weekend, including a three-day hunger strike by a group of employees that culminated on Mother's Day.

The Pleasanton City Council approved a joint powers agree-

ment (JPA) authorizing the Alameda County Transportation Commission (ACTC), to consolidate the Congestion Management Agency (CMA) and Alameda County Transportation Improvement Agency (ACTIA). The proposed 22-member ACTC board was comprised of the Board of Supervisors, with six votes; two representatives from Oakland with four votes total, one representative each from Fremont and Hayward with two votes each, and one representative each from the other 11 cities in the county, AC Transit and BART. They will have one vote each. The council vote was 4 to 1 to approve the JPA with Pleasanton Councilmember Matt Sullivan dissenting. While supporting the merger, Sullivan said he objected to the governance structure. The Livermore City Council voted 4 to 0 with Marj Leider absent for the consolidation.

Las Positas College President DeRionne Pollard was selected as the new president of Montgomery College, a community college in Maryland. With her departure, Las Positas College launched a search for its fifth president. Pollard became president of Las Positas College on March 3, 2008.

As revenues continue to decline, the City of Livermore planned for additional service and staff reductions over the next two years to address projected shortfalls through 2012. Neither

property taxes nor sales tax, the two principle sources of money, were expected to increase. The sales tax income was projected to remain constant; property tax revenues would decline mainly due to a drop in property values. For the first time, Livermore tapped into its reserves.

Next year's 4th of July celebration in Livermore was one of the programs on the chopping block as the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) attempted to balance its budget. In addition to reduction in programs and services, personnel lay offs were also recommended. LARPD faced a projected budget deficit of \$463,000 for the 2010-11 fiscal year.

Zone 7 Water Agency directors voted to explore becoming an agency independent of Alameda County government. The board voted 6-0 to extend studies of how separation could be accomplished and what form it would take.

JUNE 2010

Supporters of the Oak Grove development in Pleasanton reported outstanding opponents by a 50 to 1 margin in an effort to pass Measure D, on the June 8 ballot. A "yes" vote would allow the Oak Grove development in the southeast hills of Pleasanton to move forward. Frederic Lin Family for Oak Grove reported spending \$379,308.60 in support of Measure D. In contrast Save

Pleasanton's Hills, opponents of Measure D, spent \$6,915.28.

The Pleasanton school board took another step down the road toward a parcel tax by authorizing a search for consultants to advise them about parcel tax elections and a possible community survey related to it.

The Livermore City Council voted to take part in a regional effort to reduce the cost of pensions. The Alameda County City Managers Association and Contra Costa Public Managers Association had developed a plan to work together to institute regional pension reform. The proposal recommended that cities within the region move toward having employees pay a portion of their pensions. In addition, a two tiered system was suggested. Under the two tiered system, city employees hired after the reforms were negotiated by the respective cities would have a different pension plan.

Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) considered using a grazing management plan in its open space parks to control grasses. According to a report presented to the board, grazing has been shown to improve conditions for native grasses and wildflowers. In addition, keeping grasses in control helps to manage fire fuels. The upper area of Sycamore Grove would have the best potential for grazing. A portion of Holdener (continued on page 10)

OBITUARIES

Teresa (Tracie) Lea Medina

Teresa (Tracie) Lea Medina of Hayward, California died Sunday, December 12, 2010 after a long fight against Lyme disease. She was 41 years old.

Tracie is survived by her husband Alex Medina and daughter Lea Medina of Hayward. Tracie and Alex were married at the base of a waterfall in a remote part of the Kauai rain forest in 2008. She was the daughter of Phoebe Traxler (Jay Traxler) and Richard Baxter (Christy Kato-Baxter) of Livermore. Tracie is also survived by her brothers Andrew Baxter of Austin, Texas, and Geoffrey Baxter of Moraga, and sisters Sabrina Olsen of Livermore, Lynette Traxler of Livermore, Nicole Kato Sullivan of Concord and Angela Tanner of Brentwood. Her grandmother is Priscilla Baxter of Mystic, Connecticut. Tracie is also remembered fondly by many sisters- and brothers-in-law, cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Tracie was born in Castro Valley, California on September 28, 1969. She grew up in Livermore and was a spirited participant in all she did. She particularly loved soccer, playing from six years old until her physical condition would no longer let her continue. Tracie was an excellent culinary student and a talented chef; she received her Associate of Fine Arts from the California Culinary Academy in 1999. Tracie was proud of her accomplishments and spent three months as a student chef in Montpellier, France; the only member of her class to study abroad. Tracie utilized her background in culinary arts and management by serving as a Food Services Director for several companies in the Bay Area.

Tracie was an avid movie enthusiast with near encyclopedic memory of old and obscure films. She was a traveler and enjoyed Northern California's coast lands and wine country with her husband and daughter and would take meditative walks in the hills above Berkeley. She loved the ocean and spent time in New England sailing with her grandparents, and recent trips to Kauai were the joy of her too short life.

Private services were held at the Callaghan Mortuary in Livermore, California.

Memorial contributions may be made in Tracie's memory to the Lea Medina Trust C/O Bank of America (Account: #00141-10733), or to the California Lyme Disease Association.

Toni Rogers

Toni Rogers died Dec. 20, 2010. She was born July 29, 1946.

A resident of Livermore for 28 years, Toni was preceded in death by her husband of 20 years, Terry. She is survived by her devoted children, Jim (Michele) Cordoba of San Ramon and Danica (Heath) Banister of Livermore and grandchildren, Kayla, Troy, Ashley, Haley and Christian. She leaves behind a

sister, Sharon. Toni was a loving mother, grandmother and devoted to her two dogs, Gidget and Tasha.

A memorial service will be held on Wed, Dec 29, 2010 at the Chapel of Callaghan Mortuary 3833 East Ave, Livermore

Carlton Miles Furnberg

Carlton Furnberg passed away on December 23, 2010, peacefully at home in Livermore, California. His loving wife was by his side.

Carlton was born in Fargo, North Dakota on February 9, 1936 to Carl and Corinne Furnberg. He grew up in Portland, Oregon and graduated from Oregon State University in 1957. He was a registered professional engineer and spent all forty years of his career as an electrical engineer at Sandia National Laboratories in Livermore.

Carlton and his wife, Mona, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this year. He will be forever remembered by his devoted wife and their beloved children and treasured grandchildren: Anne Anaya and her husband Bill of Livermore and their children Paige and Tim; Jocelyn Mork and her husband Ken of Livermore and their children Elise, Kirsten and Erik; Grant Furnberg and his wife Meganne of Carlsbad and their children Hannah, William and Benjamin. He is also survived by his sister, Phyllis Lucas and husband Ed of Portland, Oregon, along with nieces, nephews, and grandchildren, all of whom were blessed to know him.

Carlton was an avid reader and bridge player. He was treasurer of the Forest Glade Estates Homeowners Association for 17 years. As a faithful member of Holy Cross Lutheran Church for nearly 50 years, he served in many capacities. Carlton touched the lives of many people with his wisdom, generosity and integrity. He was a true testimony of his faith. We are assured by Scripture that we will see him again; "Jesus said... 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die...'" John 11:25-26

A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, January 8, 2011 at 2:00 pm at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1020 Mocho St., Livermore.

Suggestions for memorial gifts are Mount Hermon Ministries www.mounthermon.org/give and Hope Hospice www.hopehospice.com/donation.html. The family is grateful for the loving care given by the staff at Valley Care Hospital, Valley Oncology Center, Hope Hospice, in-home caregivers and countless friends.

Leo von Gottfried

Livermore resident Leo von Gottfried died at his home on Dec. 16, 2010.

Born March 31, 1922 in NY, he enlisted at age 20 and served in the Signal Service Co. during WWII in the Pacific Theater. He earned victory medals and was hon. discharged. He scored high on the Regents' War Service Scholarship for Veterans and earned diplomas on the GI bill at Iona College in New Rochelle, NY (1950), Poly-technical Institute in Brooklyn and University of Notre Dame, Indiana. He worked for G.E. in Ohio and then was in T-Division at the LLRL in Livermore for over 10 years. He became Director of the Control Data Center at Cal. State University, Hayward and later Chairman of the Computer Department. He retired in 1985. Leo drove a car till his dying day.

Leo married Sophia Hollis on Nov. 1, 1947. He was married to her 61 years. She died in January, 2009.

Their children are Johanna von Gottfried; Paul von Gottfried, Santa Rosa; Linus Hollis (Hester Green), Oakland; Andrew von Gottfried, now Ananta Rhupa Das (Leila Shakti) Santa Clara; and Margarita Jakovas (Dino Jakovas), Sacramento. They are also survived by two granddaughters Melissa Hollis-Green and Ariel Sophia von Gottfried; and Leo's sister Pat Godfrey of New Jersey.

A funeral Mass was celebrated on Dec. 28 at St. Michael's Church, followed by a luncheon in the Parish Hall. Burial was at the National Cemetery in Dixon, California on Dec. 29th at 1pm.

Memorial gifts can be made to the Hope Hospice, 6377 Clark Ave, Ste 100, Dublin, CA 94568, or the Livermore Homeless Refuge, c/o Bob McKenzie, 2497 Pyramid Street, Livermore, CA 94550.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

Gerlinde Katharina Hermann Straschnitzki

Dublin resident Gerlinde Straschnitzki died December 21, 2010. She was born May 29, 1941, in Nurnberg, Germany to Rosina Katharina Geissler and Otto Hermann.

She was a career Cosmetologist/retail clerk and enjoyed children, traveling, fashion and dining.

She is survived by her daughter Michelle (Tim) Cakebread; grandchildren Tahnee, Cody and Lindsey; beloved sisters, Roswitha (Art) Bueno of Hayward, Ursula (Rudi) Saffra of Germany and brothers, Otto (Lydia) Winkowski and Eduard (Anita) Winkowski of Germany; and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Lothar Bruno Straschnitzki in 1994.

A memorial service was held on Dec. 30 in Livermore. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be sent to: Ygnacio Valley Care Center, 1449 Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek, CA 94598.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

Toni Rogers

Toni Rogers died Dec. 20, 2010. She was born July 29, 1946.

A resident of Livermore for 28 years, Toni was preceded in death by her husband of 20 years, Terry. She is survived by her devoted children, Jim (Michele) Cordoba of San Ramon and Danica (Heath) Banister of Livermore; and grandchildren, Kayla, Troy, Ashley, Haley and Christian. She leaves behind a sister, Sharon. Toni was a loving mother, grandmother and devoted to her two dogs, Gidget and Tasha.

A memorial service was held on Dec. 29, 2010 in Livermore.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

Joan Clare Bokanich

Joan passed away, after a long illness, on Monday, Dec 27, 2010. Her husband George and family were by her side. Joan was born on July 14, 1922 to Martin and Lucille Wondra. Joan was raised in Oakland, where she attended grammar and high school at St. Elizabeth's. Joan and George were married on June 18, 1943. They raised their four daughters in Oakland before moving to Livermore 47 years ago.

Joan loved her family and the celebrations over the years. Her special devotion was being a homemaker, sewing and family genealogy. Joan was a member of the Catholic Daughters of America, and the Los Californios. She volunteered with the Valley Memorial Hospital Auxiliary.


Joan was preceded in death by her daughter, Jean, and by her brother, Edmond Wondra.

She is survived by her devoted and loving husband of 67 years, George. She was a devoted mother and to her daughters, Donna (Gary) Kaemper, Mary (David) Stein, Claire Miramontes and Rose Crabtree. She especially treasured her 13 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren. She is also survived by her sisters, Marie Knetzger, Maxine McLearn and Rose Wright, and by many nieces and nephews.

Mass of the Christian Burial will be celebrated on Dec 30, 2010 at 1 p.m. at St. Michael Catholic Church, 458 Maple St., in Livermore, with burial to follow at St. Michael Catholic Cemetery, 3885 East Ave, Livermore.

In lieu of flowers the family respectfully requests memorial donations in Joan's name be made to VITAS Hospice.

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2010 IN REVIEW

(continued from page 9)



Stage 4, one of the longest stages of the 2010 Amgen Tour of California, took the cyclists from San Jose to Modesto. One part of the race went through downtown Livermore. After passing through the feed zone in Livermore, the cyclists were faced with their second and final climb of the day, Mines Rd. (Cat. 4 - 1,512), where the riders took on nearly 30 miles of a narrow, twisting road, climbing most of the way before a long descent into Patterson.

Park could also be grazed, as could most of the entire Brushy Peak property.

Over 50 Portola retirees along with a few teachers, gathered at Don Gaspar de Portola Elementary School to say farewell to the site. Portola was scheduled to close at the end of the school year. The students and most of the staff would move to Junction Avenue Middle School to create a new K-8 school.

Pleasanton voters rejected a proposed Oak Grove development in the southeast hills of Pleasanton. A "yes" vote would allow the Oak Grove development to be built. Measure D lost by 53.87 percent; 9,544 voted "no," and 8,174 were in favor of the measure. Supporters of Measure D spent over half a million on the campaign to have the 51-home development in the southeast hills of Pleasanton approved. The Lin family, owners of the property, issued a statement indicating they remained committed to developing the property.

Zone 7 Water District incumbents Sarah Palmer, John Greci and Bill Stevens were re-elected. Challenger A.J. Machaevich was the fourth board member selected by voters.

A program that has paid out more than \$118 million in medical compensation to former Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory employees was expanded. Anyone who worked for the Lab from 1950 through 1973, and who has certain cancers or other diseases, was eligible for government compensation and medical benefits without needing to show old health and safety records, the Department of Labor announced.

Tomás Díaz de la Rubia was selected as the Deputy Director for Science & Technology (DDST) to steward the continued long-term health of science, technology and engineering at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Díaz de la Rubia had served as an Associate Director for Chemistry, Materials, & Life Sciences. Since June 2009, he was the acting S&T Principal Associate Director and Laboratory chief R&D officer. The new position was effective immediately.

The Alameda County Planning Commission denied an

application to expand the Ideal Boat and Camper Storage facility on Tesla Road. The commission found that the proposal was in conflict with Alameda County's Measure D. The vote was 6 to 1 for the denial, with one abstention. Chairman Ken Corbone, who voted for the denial, stated that the question was not whether Ideal could expand or whether there were a need for more storage. The debate was over Measure D compliance. "It's pretty clear where that lands," Corbone and the commissioners agreed with county planner Jan Beatty, who stated that under Measure D the storage facility was a nonconforming use and could not expand. The Migliore family, which owns Ideal, had ten days to appeal the decision to the Board of Supervisors. An earlier attempt to expand the use ended in 2005 with a negative vote from the Board of Supervisors.

Hope Hospice marked its 30th anniversary in May. Hope Hospice had its beginnings when a group of citizens in the Pleasanton/Livermore area became concerned about terminally ill people facing the end of life in the hospital. Hope Hospice provides home care for those who have no hope of recovery.

The possibility that Livermore would stop funding crossing guards at schools raised concerns regarding the safety of students going to and from school. The city faced a budget shortfall and looked at ways to reduce spending. One proposal was to stop paying for the crossing guards. Parents sent e-mails to councilmembers and several spoke at a council meeting asking that the funding continue. They were assured that the crossing guards would remain while options to provide the service were being explored.

The Tri-Valley Regional Rail Policy Working Group voted unanimously to support the 2B route as the preferred route to extend BART to Livermore. The option would locate a station in downtown Livermore near the current transit center and another on Vasco Road adjacent to the current ACE station. The working group, comprised of representatives from transit agencies and cities in Alameda and San Joaquin counties, made its decision

following a presentation on the program environmental impact report (PEIR). The study found that 2B had the highest or tied for the highest rankings among the program objectives and the system expansion criteria, except for the cost effectiveness, which tied it for seventh. However, those with a lower costs could not be funded. The document also found that the combination of the proposed downtown and Vasco stations had the strongest potential for economic development and would produce the highest ridership.

The Pleasanton City Council voted to renew the Tri-Valley Tourism Improvement District and increased the fee from \$1 to \$2 per occupied room night. The fee, which applies to hotels and motels with 35 rooms or more, is administered by Pleasanton. The councils of Danville, Dublin, Livermore and San Ramon had already adopted resolutions granting consent to the City of Pleasanton to renew the district. The increase in the fee is anticipated to realize a 17 percent increase in generated leads and a 22 percent increase in trackable potential room nights.

The Livermore Valley Charter School received official notice of its Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accreditation for a six year term.

Alameda County's proposed budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2010-2011 called for eliminating more than 100 County jobs, while reducing some key services, to close a \$152.4 million funding gap. Most County employee labor groups had agreed to forego planned salary increases for the next three years to help contain costs.

Recipients of the 2010 Ed Kinney Community Patriot Awards were honored at a reception at the Museum on Main in Pleasanton. The winners were Brad Hirst, Dave Wright, and Rosiland Wright.

The Pleasanton City Council had a spirited discussion over the scheduling for the approval process of Staples Ranch. The council was to make decisions on the certification of the supplemental environmental impact report (SEIR), the specific plan, (continued on page 12)



Photos - Doug Jorgensen

Grade school students in Pleasanton visited booths at a science fair hosted by high school students in the Amador Valley High School gym in May. Logan Anderson, Walnut Grove student, checked out a human skeleton, just one of the examples of skeletons that were displayed. The two-day science fair turned 600 Amador Valley students into mentors for 1200 of the Pleasanton school district's elementary students.



Riata Ranch Cowboy Girls, trick riders, entertained rodeo fans during the annual Livermore Rodeo in June.

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LEGAL NOTICES
FOR INFORMATION PLACING LEGAL NOTICES
 CONTACT BARBARA @ 925-243-8000
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 444977-444978
 The following person(s) doing business as: 1) Jess Catering, 2) William Jess Caterer, 1568 Cheryl Drive, Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): William K. Jess, 1568 Cheryl Drive, Livermore Ca 94550
 This business is conducted by: an Individual
 Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.
 Signature of Registrant: /s/William K. Jess
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 16, 2010. Expires November 16, 2015. The Independent Legal No. 2902. Publish December 9, 16, 23, 30, 2010.

business as: SusanPrep 1856 Third St., Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Susan Larik, 2377 College Ave., Livermore Ca 94550
 This business is conducted by: an Individual
 The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name (s) listed above on August 2, 2010
 Signature of Registrant: /s/Susan Larik
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 23, 2010. Expires November 23, 2015. The Independent Legal No. 2903. Publish December 9, 16, 23, 30, 2010.
STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
FILE NO. 403660
 The following person(s) (have) Abandoned The Use of The Fictitious Business Name:
 Wild Smiles, 4200 East Avenue Suite 100, Livermore Ca 94550
 The Fictitious Business Name Statement was filed

on November 19, 2007 in the County of Alameda.
 The Name of the Registrants are:
 Klifford Todd Kapus DDS, 1476 Maplewood Drive, Livermore Ca 94551
 Renee Kapus, 1476 Maplewood Drive, Livermore Ca 94551
 Signature of Registrant: /s/Klifford Kapus and Renee Kapus
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 3, 2010. The Independent Legal No. 2904. Publish December 9, 16, 23, 30, 2010.
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 445533
 The following person(s) doing business as: Wild Smiles, 4200 East Ave #100, Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Tri Valley Orthodontics LLC., 7605 Mines Road, Livermore Ca 94550
 This business is conducted by: a Limited liability company
 The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name (s)

listed above on December 3, 2010
 Signature of Registrant: /s/Cynthia Gomez
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 3, 2010. Expires December 3, 2015. The Independent Legal No. 2905. Publish December 9, 16, 23, 30, 2010.
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 445426
 The following person(s) doing business as: Visiting Angels East Bay, 179 Contractors Avenue, Livermore Ca 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Care Solutions Associates, LLC., 179 Contractors Avenue, Livermore Ca 94551
 This business is conducted by: a Limited liability company
 The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name (s) listed above on May 2005
 Signature of Registrant: /s/Keith Beck
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 30, 2010. Expires November 30, 2015. The Independent Legal No.

2906. Publish December 16, 23, 30, 2010, January 6, 2011.
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 445781
 The following person(s) doing business as: Dogtopia of Pleasanton, 7132 Johnson Drive, Pleasanton Ca 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Barnett Enterprise, 7132 Johnson Drive, Pleasanton Ca 94588
 This business is conducted by: a Limited liability company
 The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name (s) listed above on December 10, 2010
 Signature of Registrant: /s/Debrah A Barnett
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 10, 2010. Expires December 10, 2015. The Independent Legal No. 2907. Publish December 23, 30, 2010, January 6, 13, 2011.
STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS

NAME
FILE NO. 438838
 The following person(s) has (have) abandoned the use of the Fictitious Business Name: My Fur and Feather Friends Pet and Home Sitting Services, 474 McLeod St Apt A, Livermore Ca 94550
 The Fictitious business Name Statement for the Partnership was filed on May 21, 2010 in the County of Alameda.
 The full name of Registrant: Christine L'Heureux, 474 McLeod St Apt A, Livermore Ca 94550
 This business was conducted by: Christine L'Heureux
 Signature of Registrant: /s/Christine L'Heureux
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 22, 2010. Expires December 22, 2015. The Independent Legal No. 2910. Publish December 30, 2010, January 6, 13, 2011.
NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
 Date of Filing Application: December 14, 2010
 To Whom It May Concern: The Names(s) of the

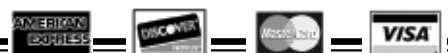
Applicant(s) is/are: **BAHRAM BENJAMIN JAFARI, HOWELL KENNETH JOHNSON**
 The Applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at:
1770 1ST ST LIVERMORE, CA 94550-4305
 Type of license(s) Applied for:
 41 - ON-SALE BEER AND WINE - EATING PLACE
 Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control
 1515 Clay St. Ste 2208 Oakland, Ca 94612 (510) 622-4970
 The Independent Legal No. 2908. Publish December 23, 30, 2010, January 6, 2011
NOTICE OF INVITING BIDS
 Notice is hereby given that sealed competitive bids will be accepted in the office of the GSA-Purchasing Department, County of Alameda, 1401 Lakeside Drive, Suite 907, Oakland, CA 94612 NETWORKING/SOUTH COUNTY BIDDERS CONFERENCE RFO #900814 for Laundry Services - Probation, Wednesday, January 12,

2011, 10:00 a.m. - Juvenile Justice Center, 2500 Fairmont Drive, Room A2044, San Leandro, CA NETWORKING/NORTH COUNTY BIDDERS CONFERENCE RFO #900814 for Laundry Services - Probation, Thursday, January 13, 2011, 10:00 a.m. - Lakeside Plaza Building, 1401 Lakeside Drive, Room 228, 2nd Floor, Oakland, CA Responses Due by 2:00 pm on March 4, 2011 County Contact : Jennifer Chan Ngo (510) 208-9604 or via email: jennifer.ngo@acgov.org Attendance at Networking Conference is Non-mandatory. Specifications regarding the above may be obtained at the Alameda County GSA Current Contracting Opportunities Internet website at www.acgov.org. 12/30/10
 CNS-2014086#
 The Independent Legal No. 2911. Publish December 30, 2010.
ANIMALS
2) CATS/DOGS
ADOPT A DOG OR CAT, for adoption information contact Valley Humane Society at 925 426-8656.
 Wednesday, January 12,

Adopt a new best friend: TVAR, the Tri-Valley Animal Rescue, offers animals for adoption every Saturday and Sunday, excluding most holidays. Saturdays from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm, dogs and cats are available at the Pleasanton Farmers Market at W. Angela and First Streets. Two locations will showcase cats only: Petsmart in Dublin from 10 to 4 and the Pet Food Express in Livermore 1 to 4. Sundays, cats are at Petsmart in Dublin 1 to 4, and PetCo in San Ramon 11 to 3. TVAR at (925) 803-7043 or visit our website at www.tvar.org.
4) FOUND
FOUND AN ANIMAL? FREE SECTION.
 Barbara 925 243-8000 to let 33,000 households know!
FOUND
 Female Toy Dog in the Vicinity of Springtown & Galloway. Please Describe call 925 606 7156
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9) LOST

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

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NOTICES/ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Real Estate's Top Developments of 2010

By Cher Wollard

A year ago, the outlook for the real estate market was uncertain. Prices were down. Sales were sluggish. On the other hand, Congress had just passed a revived and reconfigured tax credit for first-time homebuyers which promised to boost the market.

Looking back, 2010 was a year of highs and lows. Here are one Realtor's views of some of the most significant developments of the year:

1. Federal Income Tax Credit extended for first-time homebuyers. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 renewed and expanded an expiring credit program for first-time homebuyers, increasing the top amount to \$8,000 for purchases made in 2009 before Dec. 1.

In November 2009, Congress passed the new Worker, Homeownership and Business Assistance Act of 2009 which extended the deadline to enter into contract to May 1, 2010, and relaxed income limits for participants. Originally, buyers were required to close on the home before July 1. That was later extended three months, to allow time for lengthy short sale contracts to close.

2. State Income Tax Credit for homebuyers enacted. The state of California set aside \$200 million in tax credits for first-time homebuyers and anyone purchasing a newly constructed home within the state. The credits were issued on a first-come, first-served basis, ending in mid-August.

The federal and state tax credits provided a powerful shot in the arm to the housing industry, with both sales and prices rising steadily through the first half of the year. Once the credits ended, however, sales softened and prices went flat, even dropping slightly in some regions of the state.

3. Mortgage interest rates at historic lows. Interest rates on 30-year fixed mortgages averaged below 5 percent throughout the year - an astonishingly low rate that would have had buyers stampeding to purchase or refinance homes in more stable times.

During the past month, we have started to see interest rates inching up although, at about 5 percent, they remain excellent. As consumer confidence increases, we may see more buyers taking advantage of this historic opportunity in 2011.

4. Changes in funding for first-time homebuyers. FHA programs were modified this year to reduce risk to the program. The impact on borrowers is stricter guidelines regarding credit scores and downpayments, increase in upfront mortgage insurance required, and a decrease in allowable seller concessions. All this means more upfront costs for most FHA borrowers.

The state program Cal-HFA stepped up with new programs to help first-time homebuyers, including low-interest rate first mortgages and a downpayment assistance program.

CHDAP (California Homebuyers' Downpayment Assistance Program) provides funds in the form of a "silent" second mortgage, in which payments are deferred until the home is sold or refinanced. This reduces the required downpayment to 1 percent. Municipal assistance programs, such as those offered by Livermore, Pleasanton and Dublin, may be paired with the Cal-HFA program.

"This allows a very low downpayment for qualified first-time homebuyers," according to Bill McManus, a mortgage consultant with Vintage Mortgage Group in Livermore, who specializes in working with buyers who utilize such assistance programs. "They can use the money they saved for closing costs," he noted.

The plan took effect in the second half of 2010. "More first-time homebuyers are able to take advantage of this excellent housing market," McManus said. "It was a good deal in 2010 and it continues to be a good deal for those looking to buy in 2011."

5. New housing starts increased. After three years of decline, causing disastrous ripple effects throughout the economy, the new housing market is seeing signs of rebounding. Housing starts edged upward statewide throughout the year. In only two months - April and October - starts fell behind the same month in 2009. Multifamily home starts increased more dramatically than construction of single-family homes.

6. Robo-signing scandal exposed. It's one of the open secrets in the industry that banks have been dragging their feet for the past few years to foreclose on homeowners who are in default. Some delinquent homeowners have not made a payment in two years without being foreclosed on. So it came as a surprise when mid-year the big banks started moving faster, they did it so clumsily that the entire foreclosure process collapsed and we added a new word - "robo-signing" - to the lexicon.

Some of the biggest banks - JPMorgan/Chase, GMAC and others - hired notaries to sign off on hundreds of foreclosures at a time (known as robo-signing), often without ensuring the paperwork was in order. In a few extreme cases, they signed off on foreclosures of homes which were not in default or which the bank didn't even hold mortgages on.

The short-term solution was for the banks to call a temporary halt to foreclosures once again. A few, notably Bank of America, have since restarted foreclosure proceedings.

The attorneys general of all 50 states have launched a coordinated investigation of the scandal.

7. Loan modification programs improved and expanded. After a slow start, the Obama administration early this year went back to the drawing board, revamping the Making Home Affordable programs and increasing pressure on lenders to follow through with modifications of mortgages. The program is designed to slow the pace of foreclosures and short sales, allowing more distressed homeowners to keep their homes. The hope is that this will stabilize lending institutions and halt the decline of neighborhoods, while assisting those who are struggling to pay their mortgages.

About 550,000 homeowners thus far have received permanent loan modifications - that's far less than the 4 million the program was designed to aid, but the pace has picked up with 30,000 modifications in November alone and does not account for modifications made through other programs.

Further, many banks have changed the way they handle short sales, making them quicker and easier than in the past.

Will 2011 be more of the same? Or will we head in a whole new direction?

Next week: What's Ahead for 2011?

Cher Wollard is a Realtor with Prudential California Realty, Livermore.

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Art, Community, & Education

Artists, Poets From East and West at Library



The 5th Annual “East Meets West” art exhibit is expanding this year to include the written word.

The exhibit, held throughout the month of January 2011 at the Livermore Library Gallery, 1188 S. Livermore Ave, will feature paintings, photographs and sculptures by nine different artists, plus works by a half-dozen local poets.

The art represents both Eastern and Western traditions, as well as contemporary work.

A reception is set for Saturday, Jan. 8, from 12:30-4 p.m. Cellist Ewen Tsai and a flute quartet from the Livermore Symphony Orchestra will provide music for the event. The featured poets will read their work from 1-2 p.m.

The exhibit and the reception are open to the public.

Artists featured in the show are:

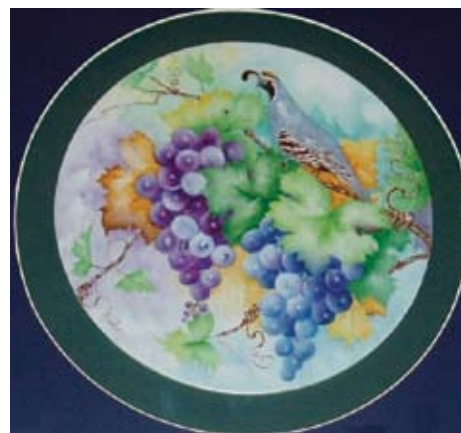
- Lily Xu — Xu was a classically trained in traditional Chinese painting, which she combines with a contemporary Western flair. She is very active in the arts community as a member of both the Livermore Art Association and

the Pleasanton Art League. Her paintings have appeared in numerous shows. Her work graces many private and corporate collections throughout the United States, and in Canada, Europe, Singapore, Japan and South Korea.

- Eugenia W. Zobel — Zobel is an award-winning artist, best known for her oil paintings on porcelain, which she has been doing for about 15 years. A resident of the Livermore Valley, she especially enjoys painting grapes. Other subjects include berries, plums, and other fruits and flowers. She studied art at Las Positas College and in numerous seminars and workshops with well-known national and international porcelain artists.

- Courtney Jacobs — Jacobs graduated from the Academy of Art University with an MFA in Fine Art: Painting in 2008. She has shown her work in several locations, including the Cornell Fine Arts Museum in Winter Park, FL; 79 New Montgomery Gallery in San Francisco; Artspace! (continued on page 6)

Among the works to be exhibited are (above) a painting by Lily Xu; (right) porcelain painting by Eugenia Zobel; and (far right) a painting by Courtney Jacobs.



Ying Quartet Performs 'Noteworthy' Program

Del Valle Fine Arts presents the Grammy award winning Ying Quartet on Saturday January 8, at 8:00 pm in the Bankhead Theater.

The Ying Quartet, quartet in residence at the Eastman School of Music, has just received another Grammy nomination for Autumn: In Moving Pictures, a chamber jazz album from the Billy Childs Ensemble on which the Quartet is featured. They received a 2006 Grammy Award for Best Classical Crossover Album along with the Turtle Island String Quartet on the album 4 + Four and were nominated for Best Chamber Music performance in 2007 for its album Tchaikovsky: Three String Quartets.

The Ying Quartet's program includes two particularly noteworthy pieces of music. The second movement of the Samuel Barber quartet is the original incarnation of his much-loved Adagio for Strings. The Adagio, in Barber's version for string orchestra, is unquestionably his greatest hit. Its stately melody, communicating an intense sense of grief and loss, has moved millions. It has become traditional at state funerals and other occasions of national mourning, and has been featured on many film soundtracks, most notably Platoon.

The program concludes with Beethoven's Grosse Fuge, the final movement of his Op 130



Ying Quartet

String Quartet. The piece is not often performed, in part because it presents extreme technical difficulties to the players, and in part because it is an intellectually challenging listening experience for the audience. It is a complex contrapuntal masterwork, a million miles away from the Beethoven

of the Moonlight Sonata and Pastoral Symphony. (Beethoven provided an alternative, more conventional, final movement for the quartet.) The Grosse Fuge is a piece which sounds as advanced today as it did when first played in 1826; as Stravinsky said, "[it is] an absolutely contemporary piece of

music that will be contemporary forever."

The great pianist Glenn Gould, by and large no Beethoven fan, said "... for me, the Grosse Fuge is not only the greatest work Beethoven ever wrote but just about the most astonishing piece

in musical literature."

Writing of the Op. 130 quartet with the Grosse Fuge as the final movement, the New Yorker music critic, Alex Ross, described it thus: "This astounding work runs the gamut of musical knowledge, from sonata-form cogitation to bel-canto aria, from peasant dance to counterpoint. . . . In his last years, he [Beethoven] went from the "Ode to Joy" to existential despair, and then back to childlike innocence. In Opus 130, he does it all in under an hour." To hear this towering masterpiece performed by a top-rank quartet like the Ying Quartet is a rare, don't-miss opportunity.

The Ying Quartet appears in concerts and festivals such as Aspen, Tanglewood, San Miguel De Allende and many others. The ensemble is also known for its view of chamber music as a meaningful part of everyday life, which has fueled its diverse array of collaborative projects and audience outreach.

Tickets are \$33, \$27, and \$21, with students through high school admitted free although tickets are required. College may purchase \$10 tickets on the day of performance. The box office is located at 2400 First Street (925-373-6800) or go online at www.livermoreperformingarts.org to purchase tickets.

Cypress String Quartet Presents Firehouse Concert Master Class Offered

The Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton will present the renowned Cypress String Quartet in a concert on January 9, 2011 at 3 p.m.

The group is comprised of Cecily Ward, violin; Tom Stone, violin; Ethan Filner, viola; and Jennifer Kloetzel, cello.

The concert will include Mozart's String Quartet in C Major, K. 465, Schulhoff's Five Pieces for String Quartet, and Debussy's String Quartet in G Minor, Op. 10.

Hailed by Chamber Music Magazine as "a Generation X ensemble to watch," the Cypress String Quartet is known for its both elegant and impassioned performances, with a sound that has been called "beautifully proportioned and powerful" by The Washington Post. Founded in 1996 in San Francisco, the Cypress perform over 90 concerts a year nationally and internationally. Having established



Cypress String Quartet pictured on stage.

a clear and transparent signature sound from the start, they excel equally in repertoire by the old masters and by living composers.

Mozart's String Quartet in C Major, K. 465, is nicknamed the "Dissonance" because of its slow, uncommonly dissonant introduction. It is the last of Mozart's "Haydn" quartets, which were dedicated to Haydn. Mozart spent several years toiling over and perfecting these works. This is unusual given his reputation for being able to complete pieces quickly and easily.

Schulhoff's rarely-performed Five Pieces, written by the Czech composer in 1923, borrow their structure from the Baroque dance suite but are influenced by concepts as diverse as Argentine tango and Dadaism. Debussy's sole string quartet, from 1893, completes the Quartet's program. Written in 1893, it is known for its

(continued on page 4)



The Kingston Trio will perform at the Bankhead Theater.

Legendary Folk Music Group, the Kingston Trio, to Perform to Capacity Crowd at the Bankhead

Best known for their hit song “Tom Dooley,” legendary folk band the Kingston Trio will appear at the Bankhead Theater for a single performance on January 7, 2011.

Their string of hits – from the storytelling “Tom Dooley” and “Sinking of the Reuben James,” to “Tijuana Jail” – propelled traditional acoustic folk music into mainstream popularity. Over the past 50 years, the group has continued to perform extensively, entertaining capacity crowds worldwide with their timeless and beloved music. Tickets to see the Kingston Trio on Friday evening, January 7 at 8:00 p.m. are already nearly sold out.

The Kingston Trio was formed in 1957 and quickly earned a loyal following as they performed on the circuit of small concert venues throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. Their music touched audiences young and old with their modern twist on the familiar sounds of traditional American folk songs. By the end of the following year, the Kingston Trio’s vocal harmonies had swept the nation with their take on the iconic

folk tune, “Tom Dooley,” which skyrocketed to the top of the radio charts in the space of a few months. Although many called them the leaders of that era’s folk music revival, the Kingston Trio were determined to move beyond just that classification, creating new arrangements of traditional songs, as well as playing music with country, calypso and Broadway influences. Over the years, the personnel of the group evolved and now includes George Grove, Bill Zorn and Rick Dougherty, each of whom brings a long history with the group and its original players, as well as their own musical experiences.

The January 7th evening with the Kingston Trio is part of the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center’s LVPAC Presents series, featuring acclaimed performers in music, dance and other performing

arts throughout the year. Next in the series is the visual experience of dance group, Diavolo. Known for their daring combination of dance and acrobatic movements performed on outsize sets, the innovative group uses physical expression to evoke a sense of the human experience in our ever changing world. Two performances by Diavolo will be presented at the Bankhead Theater on Friday and Saturday, January 14 and 15, 2010 at 8:00 p.m.

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

Evening to Feature Livermore Students

The Livermore Valley Education Foundation’s brand new event *Reach for the Stars! An Evening of the Arts for the Arts* is a special evening fund-raiser featuring arts showcase performances by elementary, middle and high school students enrolled in Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District’s music, drama, dance and visual arts programs. It will be held on Thurs., March 31 at 7 p.m. at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore.

As Master of Ceremonies, DJ Wayne Coy from KKIQ 101.7 will entertain students and audience alike.

Designed not only to raise funds, but also to highlight the significant need to support arts education in Livermore’s schools, *Reach for the Stars!* will be an evening full of fun and fund-raising for students, teachers and the community at large. The brainchild of Livermore High School parent volunteer Danielle Corbitt, this performance will fill the Bank-



head’s stage with an eclectic mix of student music ensembles, dance performances and drama productions from high schools and middle schools in Livermore. Elementary school students from a variety of schools throughout town will present choral numbers. Works created by visual arts students of all ages will be on display in the Bankhead lobby.

Corbitt is past artistic director of several Christensen Middle School Musical Productions, including *You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown* (2008) and *Honk!* (2009). She approached the LVEF last summer with the idea to create a collective, community-supported event that included not only high school students, but also middle and elementary school children

as well. Corbitt “envisioned an evening performance that raised important funds solely benefitting arts education in the schools in Livermore. It is my hope to have each and every school represented at the event, giving local students a chance to perform live at the Bankhead Theater. To date, we have had a wonderful response from many of our schools, with more than fifteen dynamic acts already signed up to participate from schools of all grades across the district. It is shaping up to become a fabulous evening of student talent showcasing many areas of our district arts programs.”

LVEF invites businesses, organizations and local members of the community to sponsor this volunteer-led event by making a donation at any level. Wells Fargo Bank, “Cosmos” Presenting Sponsor, provided \$15,000 in financial support will significantly benefit arts students and teachers in the

(continued on page 10)

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Ying Quartet

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Rockin' Approach to Music Lessons Is a "Hit" in Pleasanton

By Mary McArdle

Childhood memories of jamming to favorite songs on the radio are common among many adults. "I was always grabbing my hairbrush and belting out songs in my bedroom," chuckles Beth Underwood, Garage Band Academy fan and mother of two. "I can still remember almost all the words of the hits from the 70's and 80's when they come on the radio today."

Local musician and entrepreneur Joe O'Loughlin also remembers jam sessions that were often much more fun than the weekly music lessons he took at the local music store. "I pretty quickly lost interest in music lessons as a kid," recalls Joe. "My older brother felt the same way so we grabbed some kids from the neighborhood who also played instruments and started playing in the garage."

Joe, now with three children of his own ages 11, 14 and 16, was inspired by this memory and by observing the interests of his kids. Joe noticed one of the reasons his children really loved playing team sports was because it included playing with friends and "game day" gave them the opportunity to perform what they learned at practice. "I wanted to apply this to music, says Joe. "I knew that many kids would prefer learning and practicing an instrument if it also involved hanging out with friends and performing. Nobody likes to just sit in a room and practice alone, it's much more fun to perform and put your skills in action."

A little over a year ago, Joe converted part of the garage of



Pictured are the band, "Spitball," Joe O'Loughlin, left to right Cal O'Loughlin, Mark Iverson, Imani Wilson and Aaron Wong



Spitball performing at Wente Winery Aug. '10. Spitball has an additional member shown in this photo, bass player to far right: Michelle Range

his Pleasanton home into a music studio and opened "Garage Band Academy." Kids have the opportunity to learn to play an instrument and practice and perform with other kids. The majority of the students perform together on stage at "real life" performances at street fairs, county fairs, fundraisers, and music festivals. "Some students are even hired out to play at private parties," says Joe.

By contracting with local instructors, the academy provides lessons in voice, guitar, bass, keyboards and drums, as well as band classes, songwriting workshops, and recording projects.

The kids choose the music to learn and whether they would like to perform. They are combined with other kids of similar age and ability to form a band. The first band formed at the Academy has four kids ages 10 through 12 called Spitball. The band's name came from its drummer, Cal O'Loughlin, age 11. "It just popped into my head," he smiles. With some input from the instructors, the kids collectively choose the songs to learn and perform. "Some of the kids are picking up these songs with little or no help from us, and are ready to perform in no time," says Joe. "It blows me away."

Garage Band Academy appears to "strike a chord" with parents, students and instructors.

Linda Wong, mother of Spitball's guitarist, Aaron, age 12 says, "The Academy has been really self-esteem building for Aaron. Preteen is such a self-conscious age. When the band plays together, the self-consciousness seems to fade away. Aaron lights up when

playing with the group. I really see him transforming. It is so rewarding as a parent to see your child enjoying something so much and blossoming."

Vocal instructor Hilary Pryde states, "Garage Band Academy goes straight to the heart of what kids want to do in music: have fun, play their own style of music and express themselves. As long as they're tapped into the enjoyment of what they're doing, they are more confident; self-expression happens automatically and results in amazing performances."

Nick Lopez, age 16, credits the Academy for helping him have a CD produced and increased the number of performances for his band. "The best thing for me about the academy is exposure and connections," says Nick. "I only had one show before coming to Garage Band Academy. Joe connected me with a producer for the CD and I've met many other kids and musicians for projects," Nick says.

Garage Band Academy experienced an influx of new students and performers this summer. Joe now finds himself preparing a new facility to accommodate the growth. "This summer, it really took off," Joe says. "We just about doubled the number of students and performers in 3 months." Now with over 50 participants, Joe is expecting to be in the new facility by the beginning of next year.

For information, visit www.garagebandacademy.com Facebook: Garage Band Academy or email at the following joe@garagebandacademy.com or call 925-216-3048.

CYPRESS STRING QUARTET

(continued from page 2)

cyclic structures. After abandoning the opera Rodrigue et Chime'ne the previous year, Debussy planned to compose two string quartets, however only one of them ever materialized.

The Firehouse Arts Center is located at 4444 Railroad Avenue Pleasanton. Free parking is available off Spring St.

Tickets can be ordered 24/7 at www.firehousearts.org, or by phone at (925) 931-4848. They can be purchased in person at the Firehouse Box Office: W-F, 12noon-6pm, Sat, 10am-4pm and 2 hours prior to showtime. Tickets to the Cypress String Quartet concert are adult \$20, \$25, \$30; senior \$25, and child \$12

MASTER CLASS

On Saturday January 8, 2011, from 2 to 5pm, on the day preceding the concert, the Cypress String Quartet will conduct a master class as an outreach activity for the local community of string students and chamber music aficionados, in the large upstairs class room at the Firehouse Arts Center. They will

begin with a lecture-demonstration on the Art of Chamber Music, then will coach student or amateur ensembles of any type, but without piano.

Participants and auditors in the master class need to register in advance, before Wednesday January 5.

Application forms can be downloaded from the schwanviolins.com website, and should be sent or brought in person with the payment to Schwan Violins at 205 D Main Street, Pleasanton CA 94566. Additional information can be requested from dominiquepiana@comcast.net.

Santa Pays a Visit to a Livermore Family, Courtesy of Livermore High School DECA

By Patricia Koning

Livermore High School (LHS) DECA teacher Diana Merlin found the perfect way to teach her students that it really can be better to give than to receive. Community service is part of the foundational skills of DECA. Her students have adopted a family every year at the holidays. This year however, she says, was truly magical.

"My students got really excited about the family we adopted this year, spending their own money and working together to create an amazing Christmas," she says. "This was the most personally rewarding activity, both for me and the kids, in the ten years I've been at Livermore High."

DECA is an international association of high school and college marketing students. Merlin teaches marketing and entrepreneurship in the two-year program for juniors and seniors. DECA is a co-curricular program, so most students have jobs for which they earn high school credit.

The DECA students adopted a family with two girls, ages three and five, two boys, ages 10 and 15, and a mother and father. The parents provided wish lists for the children, but asked only for a microwave and iron for themselves.

The students organized the gift purchasing, many using money they had earned at their jobs. They also raised funds for the program by selling power bands at school.

"It was literally presents galore," says Merlin. "They bought clothes, toys, a PlayStation—everything from the kids' wish lists. They even got the family an artificial Christmas tree and lights to decorate the house. It's important to remember that the students did this almost entirely on their own with very little adult help."

The students decided to give a few gifts to the parents, even though they hadn't asked for much. They bought \$50 gift certificates to a grocery store, Macy's, and Ross. Safeway donated a turkey for the family.

On Dec. 15, the last day of school, the 40 DECA students spent the morning wrapping all of the gifts. Because it was pouring rain, they loaded the presents into 10 garbage bags to transport them to the family.

LHS junior Diego Brambila gave the family something they hadn't asked for and probably didn't expect—Santa Claus. "I asked my boyfriend if he had a Santa hat and it turns out he has a Santa suit," Merlin explains. "We knew the family was Hispanic with



Photos - Doug Jorgensen
DECA teacher Diana Merlin helps Santa (Diego Brambila) put on his beard and glasses (bottom photo). In the top photo, students hold some of the many presents they wrapped.

limited English skills, so Diego, who speaks Spanish, offered to dress up in the Santa suit."

The family's two young daughters were mesmerized by Santa Diego. "I think the 5-year-old held his hand the entire time we were at the house," Merlin recalls.

The students set up the Christmas tree for the family, arranged the presents underneath it, and hung up the lights on the house.

Merlin says she was surprised that the entire family was home for the gift delivery, especially the teenager. "Often families are not entirely comfortable with receiving charity. Sometimes only one person is home and it can be a little awkward," she explains. "This family was so appreciative and excited, it was really gratifying for the kids."

Her students were hugging and high-fiving each other after they left the house. Each year Merlin shows the DECA students a slideshow of the previous year's community service activities. She expects that this year's Christmas project will garner a lot of enthusiasm.

"Someday these kids will be business owners in the Tri-Valley," she says. "To know I've instilled in them the spirit of giving back is just really great."

Greet the New Year at the 'Ball at the Mall'

New York City is a long way to go to see a ball drop! The cost of a black tie night out at a San Francisco Hotel can set you back well into the New Year.

Enter the "Ball at the Mall!" The first annual Tri Valley New Year's Eve celebration joins an east coast tradition with affordability. Pleasanton's Stoneridge Shopping Center will be transformed into a massive "after hours" party, featuring live music, complimentary champagne at midnight, food stations, passed hors d'oeuvres and nine no-host bars sprinkled about the million square foot facility.

Proceeds from the party of the year benefit four local children's charities. Ticket prices are \$75 per person for general admission and \$100 per person for access to the VIP lounge, which includes cocktail service and premium seating. Special packages are available for groups of 8 or more.

CBS5 weather anchor and Pleasanton resident Roberta Gonzales, along with her off-air best friend, reporter/anchor and Dublin resident Juliette Goodrich, will be

celebrating with party-goers, and will countdown the midnight dropping of a giant 10-foot ball. KTVU Sports Director Mark Ibanez will also attend.

"Ball at the Mall" is a way to play inside a mall after the stores close, with food and drink in one hand, all the while knowing the kids in our community will benefit," says co-chair Mitch Sigman, President Elect of Pleasanton North Rotary, the underwriter of the event. "This is a great option for people who are looking for something they've never done before. The evening promises to be better than the same old house party!"

Disco cover-band "The Afrodisiacs" will perform during the 9pm to 1am gala. Guests can also cozy up to a traditional piano bar.

Tickets can be purchased at www.theballatthemall.org or at Stoneridge Guest Services, located in Stoneridge's Grand Court. Visa, Mastercard, American Express, PayPal. Checks can be made payable to Pleasanton North Rotary, a 501c3 non-profit organization.

Guests who want the full New Year's experience are being offered special deals from a host of Tri Valley businesses. Pleasanton's Black Tie Transportation is offering transportation deals for \$199. Local hotel packages, including complimentary shuttle service begin at \$129. The Men's Wearhouse, located in the Stoneridge Shopping Center and a sponsor of the event, is offering \$20 off tuxedo rental packages, with select rentals beginning at \$49.99. Babysitter services are also available. Information for all specials can be found at www.theballatthemall.org.

Charities benefitting from the event include:

- Pleasanton Partnerships in Education Foundation – *Pleasanton Partnerships in Education Foundation* is a community-based organization which exists to enhance learning experiences for students of the Pleasanton Unified School District.

- Dublin Partners in Education – *Dublin Partners in Education* maximizes resources and enriches the learning experiences for all



Disco cover-band "The Afrodisiacs" will perform during the 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. festivities.

students of the Dublin Unified School district.

- School of Imagination and Happy Talkers – *The School of Imagination* offers families educational, developmental and enrichment services to ensure that their young children's individual needs and true potential are discovered.

- Axis Community Health – *Axis Community Health* provides medical care, mental health counseling, substance abuse recovery and nu-

trition services for all members of the Tri-Valley community.

Sponsors for the "Ball at the Mall" include Pleasanton North Rotary, Diablo Magazine, Black Tie Transportation Worldwide, Stoneridge Shopping Center, 101.7 KKIQ, Men's Wearhouse, Cater-Bid, Attention! Business Communications, The Studio, Tri-Valley California, Complete Business Systems, Royal Restrooms and Club Sport.

EAST MEETS WEST

Gallery in Livermore; and Poetry on Canvas Gallery in Pleasanton. Her works have been purchased by many independent collectors, and she has been published in both "The Source", and "Discover Livermore." She has won several awards, including 3rd place Abstract for the 2008 Academy of Art Spring Show. She lives in Pleasanton and teaches piano.

- Linda Sargent Beach — As an art educator, Beach has explored a wide variety of media and currently her focus is pastel landscapes. She teaches drawing and painting to children and adults in Livermore, where she lives. Her work has been exhibited at group and juried shows in Northern California and at Wilson College, PA. She received a BA from Wilson College, PA and MS in Art Education at Central Connecticut State University. She is an active board member of the Livermore and Pleasanton Art Leagues, and an associate member of the Pastel Society of the West Coast.

- Walter E. Davies — Davies is a well-known photographer whose work has appeared in numerous shows in California and New Mexico. He has taken classes and workshops with such well-regarded photographers as John Sexton, Jay Dussard, Bruce Barnbaum, and Ray McSavaney. His photographs are held in public and private collections throughout the West.

- Zhiping Zhang — Zhiping is an accomplished international photographer with more than 30 years of photography experience. He grew up in Tianjin, China. He is a retired railway engineer and lives in Beijing, China, part of the year and in Livermore, California, part of the year. Zhiping's photos have won more than 100 international and Chinese awards and published in many magazines and books. He is a member of the Chinese Photography Society, Beijing Photography Society, San Francisco Chinese Photography Association, Livermore Art Association and Pleasanton Art League.

- Carolyn Peoples is a Livermore artist and writer, who specializes in creating exotic sculptures out of wine corks. The pieces, ranging from depictions of houses and furniture to practical wine holders, reflect the importance of the Livermore Valley as a wine-producing district.

- Jason Robert Griego — Jason Robert Griego is a sculptor currently working in the Bay Area. He uses techniques and materials he's developed over the last decade to create sculptures of bone, resin and natural pigments. Griego's iconic work resists easy categorization — symbolist, surrealist, expressionist, etc. — and his use of materials and dynamic approach creates sculptures that have a raw and organic beauty echoing the Japanese

philosophy of Wabi Sabi — the art of finding beauty in imperfection and the profundity in the natural order of things.

Displayed with the art will be poems by local writers, including:

- Charan Sue Wollard — Wollard is the current poet laureate for the City of Livermore. Wollard's poetry and short stories have appeared in numerous anthologies and literary magazines, including the *Carquinez Review*, *The Gathering* and, upcoming, *Crow Talk*. Her first book, *In My Other Life*, a collection of poems and paintings, was published in 2010 by Richer Resources. She is a member of the Poet's Society and the Ina Coolbrith Circle, and studies at Ellen Bass's workshops.

- Connie Post — Post was Livermore's first poet laureate, serving two terms from June 2005-June 2009. Her work has appeared in *Calyx*, *Kalliope*, *Crab Creek Review*, *Cold Mountain Review*, *Comstock Review*, *DMQ Review*, *Karamu*, *Pedestal Magazine* and *The Toronto Quarterly*. She was the winner of the Cover Prize for the spring 2009 issue of *The Dirty Napkin* and of the 2009 Caesura Poetry Award from Poetry Center of San Jose. She hosts the Valona Deli Second Sunday Poetry Series in Crockett. Her latest book, *Trip Wires*, was released in 2010 by Finishing Line Press.

- Deborah Grossman — The current poet laureate of Pleasanton and an award-winning poet, Grossman is a Bay Area wine and food journalist, essayist and editor. She writes for publications such as: *Decanter*, *Wine Enthusiast*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Flavor & the Menu*, *Wines and Vines*, *Food Arts*, *Napa Sonoma*, *National Culinary Review*, *Diablo Magazine*, and *Walnut Creek*. Her book, *Goldie and Me*, explores the many facets of freedom, friendship and food through the lens of poetry. She also edited *Break through the Noise* by Elisa Southard.

- Ronnie Holland — Holland served as the first Poet Laureate for Dublin from May 2008-May 2010. As Poet Laureate, she wrote "poetry of place" for civic dedications, hosted poetry readings, and participated in literary group and educational events. Her degree in English from California State University Hayward/East Bay included studies with Mark Strand (U.S. Poet Laureate 1990-1991) and Timothy Steele. Her work has appeared in *Best Poets of the 20th Century on Man & Environment* (1975), *Peopled Parables* (1975), and in the 2009 California Poets Laureate Anthology *Sometimes in the Open* (2009).

- Jim Curcuro — Curcuro is an example of "it's never too late to start." A longtime resident of Livermore, Jim began reading his

poetry during the last few years at open mic events in the area. He was awarded "Best in Show" in the 2010 Alameda County Fair for his poem "Drivin' with the Top Down." Most recently he was awarded a "Judges Choice" award at the Third Biennial Ekphrasis exhibition for the City of Livermore for his poem titled "Scars."

- David Wright — Wright is a native Californian, college teacher and student of Asian culture. He served as president of the Yuki Teikei Haiku Society of the United States and Canada for 10 years, and co-sponsored and managed the first and second Haiku North America Conferences at Las Positas College. Under his presidency, the Haiku Society sponsored 10 haiku conferences at Asilomar. His haiku and articles on haiku have been published in *Ko*, *the Mainichi*, the *Yukuharu Journals* (in translation), and in the *Yuki Teikei Haiku Journal*, *Young Leaves: An Old Way of Seeing New*, *Frogpond*, *Mirrors*, *Woodnotes*, and the *San Francisco Haiku Anthology* (in English.) *From Kyoto Northward* is his collection of English haiku written while he was in Japan. He served as chair of the Humanities and Arts at Las Positas College, and is chair of the annual Pleasanton Poetry, Prose and Arts Festival.

For information on the show or the reception, contact Lily Xu at lily.xu@comcast.net.

Livermore Native Helps Decorate the White House

By Patricia Koning

Dorothea Hackenberg first heard about becoming a White House Christmas decorating volunteer on the Oprah Winfrey show late last year. “I thought it looked interesting. Then I forgot about it until I saw Christmas decorations going up in a shopping center in October,” she recalls.

She contacted the office of the White House Social Secretary, who told her it was too late to apply for this year. “I wasn’t surprised,” Dorothea says. “I just wanted to find out how to do it.”

Then, a few weeks later, she received an email from the office of the White House Social Secretary, asking her to fill out some background clearance forms—with no promise that she would actually be able to volunteer. “On October 29, I received another email saying that I was now a White House volunteer,” she says. “I think it was just really fortunate timing.”

Dorothea was born and raised in Livermore, attending Sonoma Elementary School, Mendenhall Middle School, and Granada High School. She currently lives in southern California where she works in sales and marketing for the music industry. She comes back to Livermore often to visit family.

She flew out to Washington, DC on Thanksgiving Day. The following day, the 97 volunteers from 32 states (Dorothea was one of seven from California) met in a secret location. “We spent two days in a warehouse assembling wreaths, pinecones, ornaments, bows—every kind of holiday decoration you can imagine,” she recalls.

Then the volunteers spent three days inside the White House decorating all of the rooms open to the public on tours. “This was without a doubt the most unique experience of my life,” says Dorothea. “We were allowed to wander through those rooms, so I really got to see everything up close—all of the amazing paintings, the furniture, and the décor.”

Another perk was the meals prepared each day by the White House chefs. The food, she says, was amazing. Once the decorating work was finished, the volunteers attended a Holiday Party hosted by First Lady Michelle Obama.

Dorothea says she learned a lot about decorating from the experience. “Everyone I know is calling me for advice,” she says. “I can tie a perfect bow now.”

She also learned just how fortunate she was to land her spot on the decorating team. Thousands of people apply each year by sending letters to the President, the First Lady, the White House Social Secretary, the White House florist, and their congressional representative. Experience is not required, although many of the volunteers are professional florists and interior decorators.

Dorothea wants to share her experience to encourage more young people to volunteer for the program. The volunteers ranged in age from 20 to 88, with the majority in the older category.

“I’m not sure I’ll apply again because I want other people to have this opportunity,” says Dorothea. “Maybe in about ten years. It would be interesting to see what it is like under a different administration. Then again, I don’t know how I’d ever be able to top this experience.”

Over 100,000 visitors are expected to tour the White House in December. The theme of this year’s display is Simple Gifts, with many of the decorations made from reusable materials. The Green Room featured wreaths made from recycled magazines and newspapers and the Blue Room showcased a Christmas tree adorned with prize ribbons made of recycled materials that honor county and state fairs.

See a behind-the-scenes video of the White House as it was decorated by volunteers at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2010/12/01/behind-scenes-video-white-house-christmas-2010-simple-gifts>.



Dorothea Hackenberg is pictured decorating one of the trees at the White House.

ART & ENTERTAINMENT

ART/PHOTO EXHIBITS

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

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

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

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

MEETINGS/CLASSES

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

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

MUSIC/CONCERTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ON THE STAGE

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

Faith Alpher One Woman Show, "Through the Eyes of Faith," at the Bankhead Theater, Sunday, January 9, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. From \$18 - \$40, with \$12 student tickets (program contains adult content) at (925) 373-6800 or www.livermoreperformingarts.org. Actress, comedian, singer

and local radio personality, Faith Alpher presents a rousing celebration of the joys of diversity in her one woman show "Through the Eyes of Faith." In her portrayal of over 20 characters, including a Jewish mother, Catholic nun and a Black hip-hop dancer, Alpher takes audiences on an uplifting and entertaining autobiographical journey, as she chronicles the life of a very funny and talented Jersey girl. Stories, mixed with song and dance, reflect her struggles with race and love and send Alpher's life-affirming message of perseverance - "never giving up, never giving in" - and of renewed hope. Bankhead Theater at 2400 First St., Livermore.

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

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

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

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

COMEDY

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

DANCE

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

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

AUDITIONS/VOLUNTEERS

City of Pleasanton Youth Music Festival Auditions, Jan. 11 and 13, 6 to 9 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. Youth and teen performers ages 6-18 are invited to show of their talent with

musical acts that are meaningful to them. Vocal and instrumental soloists and ensembles are encouraged to audition. If chosen, youth may be asked to perform in preexisting musical acts directed by festival producers. Performance date is Saturday, February 19, 2011, at 2:00 p.m. at the Firehouse Art Center. Placement in the show is not guaranteed. Rock bands are not included in the festival. Performers are encouraged to audition via Youtube.com this year. Youtube.com submissions/links can be sent via email to Mark Duncanson at mduncanson@ci.pleasanton.ca.us before Friday January 14, 2011. Any submissions sent after January 14 will not be considered. Those interested in auditioning in person must contact Mark Duncanson at (925) 931-3433 or mduncanson@ci.pleasanton.ca.us to schedule an appointment. A mandatory festival meeting will take place Wednesday, January 26, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. and a rehearsal is scheduled for Thursday, February 17, 2011 from 5:30-9:00 p.m.

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

Livermore's 2011 Regional Talent Competition is now accepting applications. Top winners in each of two categories - youth (17 and under) and adults (18 and over) - will each take home \$2,500. This competition will feature singers, dancers, bands, pianists, magicians, comedians and other types of performances. Aspiring performers from anywhere are invited to audition and compete. Information and applications for auditions are available at LivermoreTalentCompetition.com. Applications must be received by December 31, 2010.

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

Singers invited, Cantabella Children's Chorus has been teaching fine vocal production and music literacy through great choral works to 206

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

Auditions, The Sound of Music, Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre. Saturday February 19 at 11:00am or Monday, February 21 at 7:30pm. Call-backs by invitation only Feb. 22 and 24 at 7:30pm. 1048 Serpentine Lane #303, Pleasanton. Please prepare a brief song (16-32 bars). Bring sheet music; accompanist provided. Please bring a picture and resume, stapled together. No tapes; no a capella. Be prepared to dance. www.trivalleyrep.com for more information. Director: Daren A.C. Carollo, Vocal Direction: Sean Aloise, Choreographer: Todd Aragon, Producer: Kathleen Breedveld, Musical Director: Jo Ann Fosselman. Performance dates: July 22, 2011 through August 7, 2011, Bankhead Theater, Livermore.

MOVIES

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

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

OPERA

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

The Barber of Seville, Opera San José continues its 27th Season presents Rossini's comic opera. The Barber of Seville. Eight performances are scheduled from February 12 through 27 at the California Theatre, 345

ART & ENTERTAINMENT

South First Street in downtown San José. Tickets are on sale at the Opera San José Box Office, by phone at (408) 437-4450 or online at www.operasj.org. This production of *The Barber of Seville* is made possible, in part, by a Cultural Affairs Grant from the City of San José.

MISCELLANEOUS

Ball at the Mall, Fri., Dec. 31, Stoneridge Shopping Center, Pleasanton. Presented by Pleasanton North Rotary as a fund-raiser for children in the community. Live music, piano bar, premium no-host bar, champagne at midnight, souvenir glass, hors d'oeuvres and more. Information and tickets at www.ballatthemall.org.

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

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

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

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

11th annual Dr. Martin Luther King,

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

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

Student Art Poster Contest Announced

Livermore Valley Opera is sponsoring a middle and high school art contest for its 20th Anniversary Season opening opera, Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette* (based on Shakespeare's classic play, *Romeo and Juliet*).

The art competition will result in public display of the top entries in an exhibit and opening night show. The winning entry will receive two tickets to the opera and receive acknowledgment in print program, as well as other award prizes. The winning artwork will be featured in opera marketing and promotion.

The poster must utilize color; incorporate the name of the opera, dates of the opera, and the composer's last name (as in "Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette*"). It should be imaginative and capture the essence of the story.

The poster should be 18" wide X 26" high. Media must be two dimensional and may be created in paint, colored pencil, pastel, watercolor, or mixed media. More details of the contest requirements will be announced shortly, and entries will be accepted beginning March, 2011. For questions, email Livermore Valley Opera Executive Director Sara Nealy at saran@livermorevalleyopera.com. Gounod's opera about star-crossed lovers will be presented in French with English supertitles at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore on September 24, 25 and October 1, 2 in 2011.

Wente Vineyards to Host Showing of Two Films

An afternoon charity wine and movies event will be held Sat., Jan. 8 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Wente Vineyards Estate Winery. Films to be shown are "Tapestries of Hope" and "The Profile."

The screening will be in the barrel room at 5565 Tesla Rd., Livermore.

Tapestries of Hope producer Ray Arthur Wang will begin the screening with his film noir short *The Profile*.

Winemaker Karl Wente, who has been friends with Ray Arthur Wang since elementary school, generously sponsoring the Livermore screening, after having helped Ray on both projects.

After sold-out screenings in several key markets during its nationwide theatrical release in September 2010, women/children's rights feature documentary, "Tapestries of Hope," is back for a special encore screening, this time with award-winning 35mm short "The Profile" as an opener.

Tapestries of Hope unearths the Zimbabwean myth that if a man rapes a virgin he will be cured of HIV/AIDS. The consequences of this myth are tragic; sexual abuse is rampant, girls as young as one day old have been raped, and victims are being infected with HIV/AIDS. In 2007, filmmaker and human



rights activist Michealene Cristini Risley traveled to Zimbabwe to document this affliction, focusing on the work that CNN Hero and Zimbabwe native Betty Makoni has done to help the thousands of victims of rape and sexual abuse. As a result of her filming, Michealene was jailed, interrogated, and deported from Zimbabwe. This film of tragedy and empowerment has won many awards on the festival circuit.

The San Francisco Chronicle praised Wang's debut directorial 35mm film "The Profile," (2010) for evoking memories of the infa-

mous Wen Ho Lee case on its 10th Anniversary.

Cast and crew, including producer and director will be available following a Q&A.

Tickets are available at shop.rawpp.com or call 650.799.4894

Those attending should dress warmly, e.g. bring a jacket as the barrel room is kept cool.

A second Bay Area screening, without wine tasting, is planned for Tues., Jan. 11, 8 to 10 p.m. at Bluelight Cinemas in the Cupertino Oaks Shopping Center, 21275 Stevens Creek Blvd., Cupertino. Tickets available at www.bluelightcinemas.com and find Tapestries of Hope event listed in the events section or go to box office directly for tickets or call 408.255.2552 (alternate: 408.255.5002).

Tickets online are \$9.75 each; price goes up to \$14.75 (\$14.75 at the door).

Ray Arthur Wang was raised in Livermore. A self-taught filmmaker, Wang founded Raw Power Productions (RAW) in 2004 with one main mission: social change.

Information about the screening is available at www.shop.rawpp.com/index.php?main_page=product_music_info&products_id=1

Willows to Again Offer Shows

After a year of reorganizing the company including new leadership, the Willows Mainstage in the Willows Shopping Center will reopen in 2011.

This past November the Board of Directors appointed Eric Inman as the new Artistic Director and David Faustina as new Managing Director. In 2009, the Company felt it necessary to scale down operations to produce solely out of the Campbell Theatre. However, it became apparent that many of our patrons still wanted to experience the large scale musicals and plays

the Willows has traditionally been noted for.

The second season show, "Once On This Island," will open on March 21 for previews in the renovated Mainstage. The first season production, "Rags" will remain at the Campbell Theatre while the Concord facility is being prepared.

Beginning in March, all Mainstage shows will move to the Concord Theatre. Patrons will have the opportunity to still see new shows and musicals at the Campbell Theatre.

For information go to [/www.willowstheatre.com/Shows/season/cabaret_class.html](http://www.willowstheatre.com/Shows/season/cabaret_class.html)

2011 season includes the following, *Rags*, the Musical (Campbell Theater) Jan. 31-Feb. 27; *Once on This Island*, March 21-April 17; *King O' The Moon*, June 20-July 17; *Showboat* (John Muir Amphitheater) August 4-7; *Chess*, the Musical, Oct. 3-30. *Nunset Boulevard* (pending) Nov. 28-Jan. 14; *Winter Wonderettes* (Campbell) Nov. 28-Dec. 30.

Please check back in for more information at www.willowstheatre.org

Ragin' Cajun Event to Raise Funds For Foundation

The Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation will hold its third annual fund-raiser, "Ragin' Cajun"—A dinner, dance and auction on Fri., Feb. 11 from 6:30 to 11 p.m.

Valley Medical Oncology Consultants will be the Kings Court Sponsor.

The event will be held at the Palm Event Center in Pleasanton. Proceeds will go towards providing funds to cancer patients so that they can experience the immediate benefit of complementary therapies to help alleviate the side effects caused by radiation and chemotherapy.

Sponsors and volunteers are sought. For more information about becoming a sponsor, please ask for Ken Perine at 925-292-5936. For more information about the organization or to attend the event, call the Foundation at 866-862-7270 or go online to www.HealingTherapiesFoundation.org.

The 2011 event will feature a Cajun buffet of blackened pork loin carved table side, Emeril's jumpin' jambalaya, artichoke hearts Bienville, roasted and grilled Creole vegetables, bayou baby greens, corn bread, white chocolate bread pudding and more. Music will be provided by local favorite DJ, Brad Kinney and local news personality, Jessica Aguirre, will act as mistress of ceremonies. Tickets are \$75 per person.

For more information or to order tickets, go to www.healingtherapiesfoundation.org (and click on the Ragin' Cajun icon) or call 1-866-862-7270.

Valley Medical Oncology Consultants (VMOC) have centers located in Castro Valley, Mountain View, Fremont, Pleasanton, Hayward, Redwood City, Los Gatos, San Ramon, Livermore, and San Leandro. Their office hours are

Monday thru Friday from 8:30am to 5:00pm.

Their Hematology/Medical Oncology Doctors include: Peter



P. Wong, M.D., Ricardo da Roza, M.D., Joseph Szumowski, M.D., FACP, Byron Wilson, M.D., Vandana B. Sharma, M.D., Ph.D., Rishi Sawhney, M.D., Shane P. Dormady, M.D., Ph.D., Elwyn C. Cabebe, M.D., Kavitha P. Raj, M.D., and Nitin Joshi, M.D. Their Radiation Oncology Doctors include: Robert N. Sinha, M.D., Steve Kurtzman, M.D., and Rakesh Patel, M.D..

For more information about Valley Medical Oncology Consultants visit their website, <http://vmoc.com>, call (925) 734-8130 or stop by one of their various locations throughout Northern California.

The Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation is a grass roots organization, started in 2009. The "Ragin' Cajun" is the Foundation's largest fund-raiser of the year. Proceeds allow the Foundation to provide financial aid to cancer patients for complementary healing therapies, such as acupuncture or therapeutic massage, which are not covered by insurance. These therapies — which complement traditional cancer treatment by alleviating side effects such as fatigue, pain, and nausea — can make a big difference in the quality of life and recovery of cancer patients. The Foundation grew out of local resident Sandra Wing's own experiences battling cancer and has helped over 35 cancer patients in Pleasanton, Livermore, San Ramon, Dublin and Danville.

To apply for a grant or learn more about the Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation, go to www.healingtherapiesfoundation.org.



The Livermore Knights of Columbus presented a check for \$2110.72 to the Livermore Valley Joint School District. Tom Silvey, Paul Hendrickson and Brian Wilson delivered the check to Gayle Murphy (Education specialist, teacher) and Kuljinder Sekhon (Principal) of Sunset Elementary School. The money was raised in Livermore with the specific purpose to be used for teachers and students in the Special Education Program. Since 1980 the Knights of Columbus at all levels have provided more than \$375 million to help those with physical and mental disabilities. This benefit represents the Knights of Columbus commitment to supporting the local community. Each year the Knights of Columbus organize a three day fund-raiser with the help of local merchants. A special thanks to BP who donated \$500 and to Lucky's, Safeway and Grocery Outlet who allowed The Knights of Columbus to raise funds in front of their establishments.

REACH FOR THE STARS

(continued from page 3)

2011-12 school year. LVEF's *Reach for the Stars!* sponsorship levels range from \$199 to over \$15,000.

Donors will be acknowledged in a variety of ways during the event and in all LVEF communications leading up to the evening's showcase. Individuals or companies who are interested in sponsorship opportunities should email livermorevalleyedfound@gmail.com for a complete listing of donor benefits at each level of giving. For more donor information or to sponsor *Reach for the Stars!* online, see www.firstgiving.com/lvef. Donations made by check should indicate *Reach for the Stars!* in the memo line and be mailed to: LVEF, PMB #143, 849 East Stanley Boulevard, Livermore, CA 94550.

Tickets go on sale in early 2011 at the Livermore Performing Arts

Box Office at the Bankhead Theater. Tickets are \$25 for reserved seats; students tickets are \$12.50 with the purchase of a reserved seat in any section.

Founded in 1991, the Livermore Valley Education Foundation is dedicated to restoring and enhancing academic and extracurricular programs within the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District. LVEF is an all-volunteer, 501(c)3 non-profit organization run by a dedicated local board of directors. In the last five years, LVEF has provided over \$1.4 million in financial support to the LVJUSD. Now in its second year, the LVEF *Straight A's for Livermore Students Campaign* aims to raise \$300,000 each year to support programs in Academics, Arts and Athletics offered by the LVJUSD. In 2009-10 alone, the

LVEF provided over \$240,000 to district programs and scholarships that directly enhance the lives of Livermore students, of which \$90,636 was designated to retain a full time teacher in the Elementary School Music Program.

For more information about the *LVEF Straight A's Campaign* or to make a donation by mail or automatic account debit, visit LVEF on the web at www.lvef.org. To sign up for LVEF's free monthly e-newsletters, email livermorevalleyedfound@gmail.com. To make an online donation, or to create an affiliated LVEF fund-raising website to benefit Livermore students, see www.firstgiving.com/lvef.

For additional information, contact: Victoria Schellenberger, LVEF President, vschellenberger@sbcglobal.net

Milestones

Education

Teachers Learn from Super Computing Sessions

Three local teachers currently enrolled in one of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's Science Education Program Teacher Research Academies were absent from their classrooms for a few days in November while attending the Super Computing 10 (SC10) conference in New Orleans.

Science teachers Christy Tyler and Rodger Johnson, who both teach in San Ramon, and Tiffany Burkle, who now teaches in Livermore, participated in the Department of Energy's Academies Creating Teacher Scientists (DOE ACTS) at the Lab — a three-year program that helps teachers progress as leaders in science, technol-

ogy, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education.

Burkle found information about the annual high performance computing conference's education program. The three teachers then submitted an application to attend. They were not only invited, but also to learned that their expenses would be paid by the SC10 Education Outreach Grant Program.

The conference's education program is designed to introduce high performance computing (HPC) and computational tools, resources and method to educators. The program also assists integrating HPC and computational techniques into their classrooms.

The three teachers were par-



Science teachers (from left) Christy Tyler, Rodger Johnson, and Tiffany Burkle received funding from the SC10 Education Outreach Grant Program to attend the annual supercomputing conference held in New Orleans.

Community

Winemaker to Take a Sabbatical to Pursue a Dream

Jaime Dowell, the current winemaker at Crooked Vine and Stony Ridge wineries will be taking a sabbatical to pursue her dreams of making wine around the world. Since graduating from UC Davis, Dowell has aspired to travel and be part of winemaking teams abroad; her trip will include: Fiji, New Zealand, Australia, Thailand, India, Italy, France and finally Spain. She will be leaving in early February 2011 and intends to return to California in November 2011. Dowell will keep track of her adventures via BLOG, so anyone interested can follow her experiences along the journey.

Having worked as the winemaker for Crooked Vine and Stony Ridge for the last two and a half years, Dowell said that the decision is a bitter-sweet. She feels the wineries on Tesla and the vineyards (Del Arroyo Vineyards) on Greenville are her second

home...."I have forged my way as a winemaker here at Crooked Vine and Stony Ridge. With great support from the owners, all my co-workers and winemaking mentors, I refined my skills and my own personal winemaking style. I feel very confident walking into any winery, in any part of the world, knowing I have value to add to the team. However, I think of everyone here as my family. It is a hard decision to leave what I consider my 'dream job.'"

Dowell, along with the management at Crooked Vine and Stony Ridge are currently searching for a replacement winemaker during Dowell's absence. Rick Corbett, one of the winery owners responded to the news, "Jaime has done a phenomenal job crafting our wines for both brands. Though we will miss her greatly, we are thrilled to see her follow her dreams."

ticularly interested in bringing the concept of computational thinking — a logical thinking process and a new way of solving problems — to their classrooms. This means using similar operations as those found in computer science, such as designing systems, using abstraction and algorithms, and understanding logical relations to solve problems.

In explaining computational thinking, Johnson notes that students who struggle with math can increase their understanding using this concept because of its language base. "It translates the math into words."

Tyler added that computational thinking brings "the abstract to the concrete."

Johnson said he and his colleagues interacted with teachers from Iowa, Maryland and from across the country at the SC10 conference.

"This is information we can use," Burkle said of the conference. "We are preparing our students for the future."

After the conference, the teachers returned to their schools ready to share what they had learned. "Because of my understanding and desire to introduce computational thinking to classes, I am often asked to teach additional classes," Tyler said. "My knowledge and confidence has inspired me to make it happen."

Richard Farnsworth, Livermore's science education manager, said he was very happy that the trio were given the chance to experience the conference and learn more from fellow educators and scientists. Farnsworth is currently working to create a new Teacher Research Academy area — one that focuses on putting a computational model in science education.

Education

The names of students who have made the Scholastic Honor Roll Fall term have been announced by Oregon State University. A total of 669 students earned straight-A (4.0). Another 3,064 earned a B-plus (3.5) or better to make the listing. To be on the Honor Roll, students must carry at least 12 graded hours of course work. Students on the Honor Roll included: Livermore, 3.5 or better: Brian D. Engdahl, freshman, Food Science and Technology. Pleasanton, 3.5 or better: Jade Montgomery, sophomore, Pre-Bioengineering.

Tara Toyama of Livermore, was named to the Dean's List for the fall 2010 semester at LeTourneau University. The Dean's List recognizes students who have achieved a grade point average between 3.50 and 3.99 for the semester. LeTourneau University is a nationally recognized interdenominational Christian university based in Longview, Texas.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

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

Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club will meet Thursday, January 13, at 7pm at the Alisal Elementary School, 1454 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. Kathy Echols, horticulture instructor at Diablo Valley College teaching classes on plant propagation, will speak on "Plant Genetics Made Simple." Visitors welcome. For more information visit: www.lavgc.org.

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

Valley Spokesmen Bicycle Touring Club, Sat., Jan. 1, 25 miles to summit of Mt. Diablo, meet 9 a.m. in the Danville Railroad Museum, Peter Rathmann, 336-0973. Sun., Jan. 2, 35 miles to Sunol Regional Park and back, meet 9 a.m. at Shannon Center in Dublin, Mark Dedon, 828-9183. Wed., Jan. 5, 25 miles, Paradise loop starting in Mill Valley, meet 10 a.m. at Blithedale Plaza, Bob Hislop, 890-6300. Anyone planning to go on a ride is asked to contact the leader for details on where to meet and what to bring.

Widowed Men and Women of Northern CA., general meeting Wed., Jan. 5, noon, Dublin Library. Lunch in San Ramon, Jan. 6, 1 p.m. RSVP by Jan. 3 to David, 833-7647. Pirate gift exchange lunch in Castro Valley, Jan. 9, 1 p.m. RSVP by Jan. 5 to Margaret, 510-782-1819. Lunch in Dublin, Jan. 13, 11:30 a.m., RSVP by Jan. 11 to Pat, 447-7680. Friendly Bridge in Dublin, Jan. 15, 1 p.m., RSVP by Jan. 11 to Marge, 828-5124. Happy hour in Pleasanton, Jan. 20, 5 p.m., RSVP by Jan. 18 to Marge, 828-5124. Birthday champagne brunch in San Ramon, Jan. 23, 11:45 a.m. RSVP by Jan. 20 to Marsha, 830-8483. Lunch in Fremont, Jan. 26, 1 p.m., RSVP by Jan. 24 to Vickie, 510-656-1166. Crab feed dinner in Livermore, Jan. 29, 5 p.m. RSVP by Jan. 23 to Hilda, 398-8808.

Free Diabetes Class. 7 week series will teach you how to manage Type 2 diabetes or Pre Diabetes, eat the foods you love, how and why to check blood sugar, medications, exercise and more. New series begins Saturday January 8 - March 5, 9:30-11:30 am, in Dublin. Please call the Alameda County Public Health Diabetes Program at 510-383-5185 for more information and to register.

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

City of Pleasanton nature programs: Wondrous Universe Series. Lunar Event, Sat., Jan. 8, 2011, 7:30 to 9 p.m.; Winter Skies, Sat., Feb. 5, 2011, 7:30 to 9 p.m. Alviso Adobe Community Park, 3465 Old Foothill Road. How big is our galaxy? How far is the nearest star? How was our solar system made? Explore the universe as we try to answer these questions and more. Games and hands-on activities will aid us as we search for the answers. Then, if the skies are willing, we'll take a peek at the wonders above through a telescope. For all ages. Fee: \$9 for residents/\$12 for non-residents. **2nd Annual California Newt Festival**, Augustin Bernal Park, Sat., Feb. 12, 2011, 9 to 10 a.m. Learn about the natural history of amphibians, particularly the spectacular California Newt

and its interesting cycle of life. In the heat of the summer they burrow deep into the earth to stay cool, and come out after the first rain of the season to make the long trek to their ancestral breeding ponds. Participants will help take a count of newts as part of an annual survey on this unique adventure for all ages. Fee: \$9 for residents/\$12 for non-residents. Call (925) 931-5340 for information or to register, or register online at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/recreation.html.

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

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

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

Community Resources for Independent Living (CRIL) offers services to help people with disabilities and supports them to live independently and participate in their community for as long as they are willing and able to do so. CRIL maintains offices in Hayward, Fremont and Livermore to provide information, support and referrals. CRIL also provides community education at senior centers and affordable housing complexes to residents of Southern Alameda County. The Tri-Valley CRIL office is located at 3311 Pacific Avenue, Livermore and can be reached by phone at (925) 371-1531, by FAX at (925) 373-5034 or by e-mail at abril.tamayo@cril-online.org. Hours are M-F 9-12:30 and 1:30PM to 5 PM. Drop in days are Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30 to 11:30AM and 2-4 PM or by appointment. All services are free.

Daughters of the American Revolution, Josefa Higuera Livermore Chapter, meets 9:30 a.m. on the first Saturday of the month between Sept. and May at the Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., Livermore. DAR is a women's service organization. The women are descended from a patriot of the American Revolution and are dedicated to patriotism, preservation of American history and securing America's future through education. Information, contact Maris at 443-3087.

Daughters of the American Revolution,

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

ClutterLess Self Help Support Group, (CL) is a nonprofit, peer-based, self-help support group for people with difficulty discarding unwanted possessions. Meetings in Room 7 at 7 p.m. every Monday 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the St. Mary & St. John Coptic Orthodox Church, Room 7, 4300 Mirador Drive, Pleasanton. Just come or call our one of the volunteers: 925-200-1943, or go to www.ClutterLess.org.

Disability Action Network is a group of people with all kinds of disabilities who are working together to make change in the community. The group works on health care, housing, access, attendant programs, transportation, and other issues affecting people with disabilities. The group is a project of CRIL, Community Resources for Independent Living. CRIL serves people with all disabilities and seniors with disabling conditions, providing assistance with housing, personal assistant services, benefits, assistive technology, advocacy, and peer counseling. CRIL's mission is to advocate and provide resources for people with disabilities to improve the quality of life and make communities fully accessible. For more information, please call Jessica Lehman at (510) 881-5743 x5937.

Toastmasters, Amador Valley group meets at Mimi's Cafe, 4775 Hacienda Dr., Dublin, 7 a.m. Thursday mornings. Learn to communicate more effectively, improve presentation skills and leadership potential. Contact Hal Brown, 462-2412, for information.

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

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

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

The Bingo Ranch, 3070 Pacific Ave. in Livermore and is open Mondays, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturdays. Buenas Vidas Youth Ranch has been running Bingo for 16 years and is now working with Christensen,

Arroyo Seco and East Ave Schools, and Exceptional Needs Network and All American Sports Academy Teams. Come play Bingo and support the kids in Livermore. Call 925-606-7777 for more information.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Our Savior Lutheran Ministries, 1385 S. Livermore Avenue, Livermore. Sunday worship at 9 a.m.; Sunday School and Adult Bible Study at 10:30 a.m.; contemporary service 11 a.m. (Connected). For information, call 925-447-1246.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Engaging Spirituality, series sessions Monday evenings, offers daily practices for living deeply. Informational session Mon., Jan. 17, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Twenty-one week program starts Mon., Jan. 24, 7 to 9 p.m. St. Michael's Church, 458 Maple St., Livermore. Sponsored by St. Michael Parish Social Concerns Ministry. For more information and directions to the meeting location, call Carolyn Owens, 447-8987.

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