

Pleasanton Middle School Leads Operation Hope

This holiday season Pleasanton Middle School is leading Operation Hope, a District-wide effort to provide toys, blankets, clothing, and hot meals to the needy. Participating in the program are Harvest Park Middle School, Hart Middle School, Hearst Elementary, Village High School, and leadership students from Amador Valley and Foothill High Schools.

All told, over 5,000 students are expected to participate. The goal for each of the three middle schools is to raise \$3,375 per school, collect 200 new toys and 100 articles of clothing, provide 20 items for the Pleasanton Police Department's giving tree, and feed 300 people at a pasta dinner. The goal of

\$3,375 per school is based on each student donating 25 cents per day.

Pleasanton Middle School has run Operation Hope as a school-wide effort for several years. This is the first year the program has been expanded to include other Pleasanton schools.

"The kids wanted to do something that would include the whole community," says Ken Rocha, Pleasanton Middle School leadership teacher. "This project really provides a sense of how we are all connected and can help each other, even students from rival schools."

The program will run from Dec. 2 through Dec. 15. Students at the middle schools will collect money and items after school. Donations will also be ac-

cepted at the Pleasanton Hometown Holiday parade on Dec. 2 at 5:30 p.m. and the Pleasanton Farmer's Market on Dec. 9 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Donations must be new items only.

Hearst Elementary School students will be conducting a blanket drive over the 10-day period.

On Dec. 5, pasta dinners will be held at each of the three middle school sites from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Food is being donated by local shops and restaurants, including Strizzi's of Pleasanton, Mountain Mike's Pizza on Sunol Blvd., Vic's All Star Catering, De La Torre's Trattoria, and Safeway.

Middle school student volunteers, along with high school leadership stu-

dents, will prepare and serve the meals. At the Harvest Park dinner, students from Village High School's Food Academy Program will lend a hand. Entertainment will be provided by the middle school bands and cheer squads.

The suggested donation for dinner is \$5. Guests are invited to bring toys, clothing, blankets, or cash to donate. Tickets can be purchased in advance through the middle schools.

The pasta dinners are also open, free of charge, to anyone who is in need of a hot meal. Last year Pleasanton Middle School's dinner served about 20 needy community members. This year Rocha is hoping to add another dimension to his school's dinner by inviting seniors

from the senior center across the street.

At the end of the program, students representing all participating schools will go on a shopping spree to purchase new toys and clothing with the funds raised. All items will be donated through the Pleasanton Police Department, Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department Local 1974 Toys for Tots program, Foster a Dream, Glide Memorial, and Tri-Valley Haven.

"Because this is a community-wide effort, we want to keep the donations in the local community," says Rocha.

For more information or to purchase tickets for the Dec. 5 pasta dinners, visit the websites of Hart, Harvest Park, or Pleasanton Middle Schools. See <http://www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/>.

Livermore to Retain On-Call Trash Clean-ups

Livermore will retain its current system of on-call trash clean-ups.

Under the current contract with Waste Management, Inc., residents can arrange for three cleanups each year.

On Monday, the Livermore City Council considered returning to the previous system that provided four pre-scheduled cleanups during the year, one each quarter. The council felt that the on-call method provided more flexibility and convenience for residents.

Staff also studied a third option, two pre-scheduled and one on-call trash pickup.

The cost of returning to the

pre-scheduled cleanups would result in a rate increase. Staff estimated that rates would be increased by anywhere from 25 cents to \$2.96 per month to pay for the change.

Residents are allowed to have 3 cubic yards of material picked up from the curb three times a year at times of their choosing. There is also the potential to consolidate the pickup into one large 9 cubic yard event per household.

Councilmember Lorraine Dietrich asked, "Why change something that is working well." She observed that with the pre-scheduled dates, people would

(See TRASH, page 3)

Bay Area Air District Offering Seed Money For Greenhouse Gas Solutions

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) plans to pioneer looking for creative solutions to combat greenhouse gases.

The agency will put up \$3 million as seed money, in hopes of generating more matching money that can be invested in new projects dreamed up and sponsored by non-profits, businesses and public agencies. The agency deals with stationary and mobile sources of air pollution in the nine-county Bay Area.

The more that BAAQMD can clean up the components of air pollution that erode the Earth's

ozone layer, the more it will contribute to solving the problem of greenhouse gases, said air quality program manager Karen Schkolnick. "The idea is to think globally, act locally," Schkolnick said.

With Silicon Valley and many high-tech start-ups in the Bay Area, the board is hopeful some very creative solutions come forward, she said.

The BAAQMD is believed to be the first air district anywhere to take such an initiative. The board started working on the idea in the summer of 2005, long be-

(See GREENHOUSE, page 3)

County to Consider Plan for North Livermore Cemetery

The Alameda County Planning Commission will consider plans for a cemetery in North Livermore at its meeting on Mon., Dec. 4.

The meeting begins at 6 p.m. in the public hearing room at 224 W. Winton Ave., Hayward.

The cemetery is proposed for 110 acres on North Livermore Avenue. The cemetery and an array of buildings would occupy 40 acres of the site.

Included in the proposal are a mausoleum, mortuary, including a crematory, a caretaker's resi-

dence, and two other homes. There could be 210,000 graves, providing an estimated 50-year demand. The mausoleum would contain 948 crypts and 3754 niches for ashes. The developers would plant a 100-foot wide strip of vineyards along North Livermore Ave. Trees along the road would be removed. New trees would be planted further back.

The commissioners had delayed a decision to allow time for the City of Livermore to review the most recent reports on

(See CEMETERY, page 4)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Rancho students head for the track before school to get in a few laps.

Fitness Program a Big Hit at Rancho Las Positas School

The further they run, the more feet they have. At least that's true when it comes to students at Rancho Las Positas Elementary School in Livermore.

The Rancho Raccoon Runners is a component of the school's Project Fit America Program. In the program, the kids earn pendants for running miles on a track at the school. The pendants are shaped like feet.

Volunteer parents oversee the program. Dave Hinds, along with Bret Dupuis and John Atkinson helped to set up the program. The three are tri-athletes, who train together.

Hinds has volunteered as a P.E. teacher. He thought that running would provide a little bigger program than one class at a time. He got out his GPS and a lawn mower, and along with a couple of volunteers set

up the track. He mows it every week.

Atkinson says, "Pretty soon, lots of kids started using the track for fun. Dave got the idea for the running club with incentives to encourage kids to run more."

Pendants were ordered. Each time a student runs a mile, they receive a foot to add to a necklace they are given when they run their first mile. "These necklaces, adorned with feet in a rainbow of colors, are the most popular accessory worn by kids at the school," said Atkinson.

The response has amazed Hinds. "It's not unusual to have 120 kids running around the track before school," he declared. "It was one of those things, where we thought it would be great to get a few kids out there running. It's grown so fast, so quick."

Parent volunteers oversee the

(See FITNESS, page 3)

Livermore Cinemas Set to Open Dec. 15

The Livermore Cinemas will open Dec. 15. The 10-screen complex includes state-of-the-art projection equipment and the newest of the holiday season movies.

Dave Corkill, owner of Cinema West, which is based in Santa Rosa, confirmed late last week that he has arranged a deal with developer Mike Madden for the second and third floors of an adjoining building. That will enable Corkill to expand the cinemas from ten to a possible thirteen screens.

The additional screens would likely open next spring.

The additional rooms would each have approximately 100 seats. Access to those rooms will be provided by an elevator and a mezzanine.

Capacity in the larger rooms will range from 150 to 300 seats.

Corkill said there is no decision yet about what kind of movies will be shown in the smaller rooms. Asked about foreign and independent films, Corkill said that they are possibilities that might be tried on an experimental basis.

The new cinemas will have the biggest array of digital projection equipment in the Bay Area, said Corkill. While only three or four cinemas have one digital projector in their multi-screen complexes, Livermore Cinemas will have them in eight of the 10 rooms in the main theater.

Each screen represents an investment of \$120,000 in the

(See CINEMAS, page 3)

Rotarians Working To Get Medical Van To Aid Low-income Patients

The Rotarian Foundation of Livermore is working hard to raise funds for a custom-made medical van that will help many Livermore and Valley residents to better health.

The Rotarians ordered the \$350,000 van from a Midwestern firm, and put down \$100,000 toward the purchase in August, according to John Linn, president of the foundation. They have been promised delivery by February.

The van will be the first project that the foundation is doing on its own, instead of merely donating to someone else's

project, said Linn. Rotarians will be putting their efforts into securing corporate sponsorship for the van. Some recognition of donors is planned, with logos to be painted on the van, explained Linn.

Individual Rotarians also have been donating to the special fund.

The Rotarian Foundation of Livermore was formed in 1987 by the city's two Rotary clubs. It has accumulated \$1.1 million since then in the fund's corpus or principal. The foundation has poured some of the annual inter-

(See VAN, page 4)

Meetings in Pleasanton Lead To Alternate Plan For Oak Grove

Fewer homes and hundreds of acres of permanent open space are part of a proposal that has derailed opposition to controversial development on Kottlinger Ranch.

Meetings that Pleasanton City Manager Nelson Fialho facilitated over several months have led to an alternative plan for the proposed Oak Grove subdivision

in Kottlinger Ranch. The land is at the end of Hearst Drive, near Vintage Hills. The original plan asked for 98 homes on the 562 acres. The alternative plan cuts the number to 51 units, and reserves 497 acres for open space.

Fialho told the Independent that representatives of the Kottlinger Ranch Homeowners Asso-

(See OAK GROVE, page 4)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

The Football High School team continues to roll. The Falcons remained undefeated with a 31 to 21 victory over Pittsburg last Saturday in the North Coast Section 4-A semifinals. The Falcons will play for the title at the Oakland-Alameda County Network Associates Coliseum at 7:15 PM on Saturday, December 9. They will take on perennial powerhouse De La Salle High. Fullback Rob Andrews (44) follows his blockers on a sweep.

Governor Appoints Livermore Native Rod Cortez to Bench in San Bernardino

By Patricia Koning

Earlier this month, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger announced the appointment of Rodney A. Cortez to a judgeship in the San Bernardino County Superior Court. Cortez, a graduate of Granada High School, was born and raised in Livermore.

Since 1996, he has served as a deputy district attorney for the San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office. He intends to take the bench in December, as soon as he concludes his last case.

"This is very exciting, especially since he's so young," says Rich Cortez, Rod's father. "This has been his goal since he first became interested in law. We are very proud."

At 41, Cortez is young to be appointed as a superior court judge, especially considering that he has practiced law less than 15 years. He is the youngest of the other four new superior court

judges appointed at the same time: Gonzalo Curiel, age 53 (San Diego Superior Court), Mark Mandio, 44 (Riverside Superior Court); Timothy W. Salter, 59 (Stanislaus Superior Court); and Thomas D. Zeff, 55 (Stanislaus).

Cortez comes from a family of longtime Tri-Valley residents. His grandparents emigrated from Mexico and settled in Pleasanton in the 1940's, where they ran Pleasanton Cab Company for over 30 years.

His parents graduated from Amador Valley High School and still reside in Livermore. Rich, his father, has run Rich Cortez Appliance Repair on Abalone Place in Livermore for over 25 years. Many of Cortez' eight siblings live in the Bay Area, along with his father's three brothers.

Cortez attended Joe Michell Elementary School, Mendenhall Middle School, and graduated from Granada in 1984. He was

quarterback of the Granada football team. He also played volleyball with a United States Volleyball Association Team, and attended college on a volleyball scholarship. His brother, Rich, is the women's volleyball coach at Amador Valley High School. His sister-in-law, Katie Cortez, teaches at Joe Michell.

After a two-year mission to Tennessee for his church, Cortez attended BYU for both undergraduate and law school. He received his B.A. in communications with an emphasis in public relations, and earned his J.D. in 1992.

Cortez' Livermore heritage was rounded out by two summers interning at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in the public relations department. Cortez worked at LLNL from 1991 to 1992, during his first two years of law school.

(See JUDGE, page 3)

Do You Remember?



By Anne Homan

Mountain House

Today, the name Mountain House conveys to most Tri-Valley dwellers the large housing development going up near Tracy just north of I-580. The development planners have taken that name from an old combination tavern/hotel that was north of the town of Altamont near the Alameda/Contra Costa/San Joaquin County intersection.

At first this place was known as "Blue Tent," for the establishment that housed a "house of entertainment" here. Early settlers during gold rush days used blue denim cloth to create easily portable, quickly constructed housing. This tent was erected by Thomas Goodall in 1849 on the old stagecoach road, later Highway 50, which led from the Bay Area to Stockton.

For about ten years it was a special stopover for stockmen, rancheros, and miners; stages changed horses here. Goodall later constructed an adobe building at the same site.

Prussian immigrant Simon Zimmerman married Mary Ann Leigh, native of Waterford, Ireland, in Stockton in April 1852. They bought Goodall's place about 1853 and operated a popular tavern and hotel there called "Mountain House."

John Boessenecker in his book *Lawman*, told of a "party of Yankee brigands, armed with pistols and Bowie knives," who looted the place and roughed up the occupants on January 15, 1864. Two of the robbers were caught and sentenced to 10 and 15 years at San Quentin. Even though they "used the lady rather roughly," according to Halley's Alameda County history, Mary Zimmerman refused to confess where she had most of their money hidden.

About 1880 Zimmerman pulled down the old structures on the site and built a one-story wood frame building made of board and batten with a shake shingle roof. It had a redwood façade with a bracketed cornice.

Before the coming of the railroad in 1869, all the grain raised in the eastern part of the Livermore Valley was hauled to Mohr's Landing on the San Joaquin River for shipment by boat, so the teamsters often stopped over in Mountain House. Besides running the Mountain House, Zimmerman farmed and ran sheep. The 1880 agricultural census listed him with 1,000 sheep, 300 lambs, and 5,600 pounds of wool.

According to William Bartlett, early owner and editor of the *Livermore Herald*, Simon Zimmerman was a small, light-complexioned man who weighed only slightly more than 100 pounds. A natural raconteur who had "a fund of stories," he spoke "broken English with a delightfully comical accent." His nickname was "Old Man of the Mountain."

Bartlett said that "to stop at Zimmerman's overnight was the aim of every man who journeyed to California. He was sure of a stock of anecdotes that would make him welcome in every camp for a month at least."

Zimmerman ran the hostelry in the windy hills for 27 years until his death at age 62 in 1883; he was buried in Livermore at the old Oak Knoll Cemetery near today's Granada High School. Mary died six years later. Their son Frederick took over the responsibility for running the hotel.

Mary and Simon had nine children, but only one, Josephine, married. Her parents did not approve, so she eloped at age 18 with Joseph Blondin to Midway, where he was leasing property. At the time of the 1920 census, the surviving four Zimmerman children—Fred, Charles, Mary and Hanna—were still living in the Mountain House area.

In February 1920 they sold 240 acres to a Tracy man who planned a garage/gas station at the site of the old Mountain House; with the advent of Prohibition, probably the hotel/saloon was not profitable. In 1925 after the explosion of a coal oil stove, the original hotel burned to the ground.

Today, the Mountain House Café stands at the same intersection, the corner of Mountain House Road and Grant Line. After the 1925 fire, J.B. Bunte built a "cozy soft drink resort" here, and Nick Spadorcio bought the place in 1946. Until the four-lane highway bypass was completed in 1954, all the traffic on Highway 50 came by.

Nick's son, Ed, remembered, "It was bumper-to-bumper traffic on weekends. We had a gas station and restaurant. We sold gas, oil, tires, batteries and everything out there. We did repairs, Greyhound buses stopped there. It was so busy on some weekends, we ran out of gas."

The Zimmerman siblings moved down to Livermore and built a bungalow on South K Street. Mary survived the longest—she died in April 1958 at age 92 at the home of her grandnephew, Bernard "Fred" Mourterot.

In 1979 the Spadorcios sold the Mountain House Café to Ron Lima, who rode a motorcycle and knew a lot of bikers. Nowadays, isolated from teeming traffic on I-580, the café is a watering hole for locals and for serious motorcyclists, who visit in good weather under the shade of trees in the back, where they sit on hay bales and perch their beer on old wire reel tables. Or you can have a cold one inside and read the history of the place in old newspaper articles under glass on the top of the bar.

(Readers can reach me at am3homan@yahoo.com.)

Janice Pementel "Thanks Dad"

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VALLEY ROUNDUP

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The Livermore Community Needs Organization is seeking Holiday Angels for its annual Adopt-a-Family gift and food program. All eligible families reside in the City of Livermore. To adopt a family for the holidays, please call the Angel Hotline at (925) 960-4595.

Real 'Rain Man' at College

The Las Positas College (LPC) Department of Psychology and the Psi Beta National Honor Society in Psychology present Kim Peek "The Real Rain Man" on Tuesday, December 5, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Peek will speak in Room 601 of the college. The event is open to the public. A \$5 donation is requested. Kim Peek is the one-of-a-kind megasavant who inspired the film "Rain Man" starring Dustin Hoffman. Since the film's release, Kim has emerged from a world of comparative isolation to become a warm, outgoing, humorous and brilliant emissary for those with special needs. For more information about this special event, please contact Ernie Jones at (925) 424-1217.

Grant Workshops

The cities of Livermore and Pleasanton are co-sponsoring application workshops for the 2007 Community Development Block Grant, Pleasanton City Grant, and Livermore Housing and Human Services Grant applicants. Livermore will host the workshop on Wed., Dec. 6 from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in the city council chambers, 3575 Pacific Ave. In Pleasanton, the workshop will be Tues., Dec. 12 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the city council chambers, 200 Old Bernal Ave. Staff will discuss the application process and new regulations. There will also be a short presentation of funding opportunities from First 5 in Alameda County. Agencies must attend one of these workshops to have their applications considered for funding. It is not necessary to attend both workshops. To RSVP, contact Frances Reisner at 960-4582 or fdreisner@ci.livermore.ca.us.

Projections 2007

ABAG will present a symposium on Thurs., Dec. 14 that will offer projections on what the Bay Area might look like in 2007 and the future. Projections 2007 will be held at the MetroCenter Auditorium, 101 Eighth St., Oakland. Registration begins at 8:30 p.m. with presentations at 9 a.m. The session will conclude at noon. Topics for the morning include policies and trends that shape the region. These include evolving smart growth policies; state, regional and local initiatives; and diverse growth patterns for the future. Following a break, the topic will be connections between the neighborhoods. Subjects will include changes in household demographics, top population growth areas, and who is desperate for more housing. The final session is entitled How Will the Bay

Area Economy Respond? Topics include job growth prospects in the coming years, change in incomes over time, and will innovation continue to create growth. Fee to attend is \$100 for ABAG members and \$125 for nonmembers. Registration deadline is Dec. 11. Register on-line at www.abag.ca.gov/events/p2007. For information, go on-line or call 510-464-7993.

Connerly Guest Speaker

Ward Connerly will be the guest speaker at the Thursday, January 11, 2007 dinner meeting of the Tri-Valley Republican Women Federated beginning at 6:30 p.m. at a location to be determined. New members and visitors are welcome. For reservations and location information, contact Marilyn (925) 485-9869. Connerly, author of the autobiography, *Creating Equal: My Fight Against Race Preferences*, is founder and chairman of the American Civil Rights Institute, a national, not-for-profit organization aimed at educating the public about the need to move beyond racial and gender preferences. He has gained national attention as an outspoken advocate of equal opportunity for all Americans, regardless of race, sex, or ethnic background.

As a member of the University of California Board of Regents, Connerly focused the attention of the nation on the University's race-based system of preferences in its admissions policy. On July 20, 1995, following Connerly's lead, a majority of the Regents voted to end the University's use of race as a means for admissions. He was appointed to a 12-year term as UC Regent in March 1993. Connerly is President and Chief Executive Officer of Connerly & Associates, Inc., a Sacramento-based association management and land development consulting firm founded in 1973 by him and his wife, Ilene.

New Director

John Wolf, a radiological characterization analyst for the Radioactive and Hazardous Waste Management Division of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, was appointed to a two-year term as director of the Academy of Certified Hazardous Materials Managers (ACHMM). Wolf stated, "At the local level, I am planning a new LLNL section of the Northern California Chapter of ACHMM. Section members can expect lunch meetings with expert guest speakers." Wolf, a CHMM, Master Level, has 13 years experience and has been active with ACHMM, serving as the Northern California Chapter vice president in 2003 and as president in 2004 and 2005. He served as co-chair of the National Professional Development Committee in 2005 and became the committee chair in 2006. ACHMM recognized Wolf as the Young CHMM of the Year in 2004. Wolf received his Bachelor's degree in Biology and Environmental Studies from the University of California, Santa Cruz.

GREENHOUSE

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fore Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed AB 32. The new state bill sets anti-greenhouse emission goals. Emitters will have to meet them, starting in 2009.

The California Air Resources Board will be setting regulations for compliance. However, that work has not begun yet.

The summer smog gasses create the greenhouse effect when the Earth's ozone layer is weakened, and the climate gets hotter. As the weather gets hotter, the "cooking" of ozone emissions from human sources becomes worse. That starts a circular process that causes conditions to deteriorate further, according to scientists who have studied the problem.

The BAAQMD has not set any criteria for applicants for the grants. There is a hope among board members that businesses and foundations will also contribute money, in order to leverage the \$3 million even further, said Schkolnick.

TIGHTER STANDARD ON WINTER POLLUTANT

The district is also keeping a keener eye out this year for wintertime pollution, because the federal government established a much tighter standard on particulate matter pollution one month ago. The particulate matter pollution season began Nov. 20 and will end Feb. 15.

During the winter, a nighttime inversion layer keeps the particulate matter contained relatively close to the ground. The

tiny bits of soot, smoke and dirt can make eyes water, and bother asthma sufferers. The burning of wood in stoves and fireplaces is a big contributor to the problem.

The air district will rely on homeowners to take voluntary measures to combat the problem. These include buying a pollution-controlling core for wood stoves, and changing from wood-burning fireplaces to a natural gas log, which is 50 times cleaner than burning wood. It is also cheaper for upkeep, said Schkolnick.

The BAAQMD will monitor the data collected throughout the Bay Area this winter to see whether it will be necessary to institute an enforcement program next year.

There is an air district in the Central Valley that has mandatory enforcement. Inspectors drive around and look for smoking chimneys, and issue citations. BAAQMD would prefer to keep compliance voluntary, and hopes homeowners will help with that this winter, said Schkolnick.

More information on how to cut particulate matter pollution is available on the district's website at www.baaqmd.gov.

The old federal standard on particulate matter pollution was 65 micrograms per cubic meter. The new standard has been tightened to 35 micrograms. Livermore's numbers in the past two winters have come in at around 28 micrograms, meeting the new standards handily.

Schkolnick credited wet winters for that. Dust is one of the contributors to particulate matter.

In three recent years, Livermore would have violated the new standards. There were 38 micrograms recorded in the average of the three highest readings in 2000. It shot up to 57 in 2001, and was at 50 in 2002.

CINEMAS

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equipment. It just made sense to start with digital projection now, because well within 10 years, it will be the industry standard, said Corkill.

Approximately 75 percent of movies now are available to theaters in digital. With digital projection, colors are more vivid. The picture is "rock steady, with no shaking or shimmering. The light quality is the same on all parts of the screen," said Corkill. Further, the picture won't degrade over the years, or pick up dust or scratches, the way film does when it goes through a mechanical projector.

Several of the cinemas also will have certified THX sound systems to add to the life-like impact.

The cinemas are on First Street, across from the McLeod street intersection.

The art-deco style sign proclaiming "Livermore" has been lit at night for several weeks. A date has not been set for a formal opening ceremony.

FITNESS

(continued from page one)

program. They have clipboards with class rosters. For every lap completed, a parent hands a student a popsicle stick. At the end of the session, the student turns in the popsicle sticks and the laps are recorded on the rosters. Each Monday, the tallies are released and feet handed out.

There is no limit on the number of feet a student can collect. They feel come in a variety of colors. "They do a lot of trading. One student traded four or five times to get a specific color."

There are plans in the works to add to the incentives. Larger feet are being ordered. A student can trade ten small ones for one of the larger one. In addition, Hinds said there is a 26.2 marathon medallions that will be presented to students when they reach that milestone. The parents are working on t-shirts to provide a little more recognition.

The running program could also use math and geography components, said Hinds. For example, miles are tallied each week. The class mileage and distances run by each student are also recorded. A map of the United States is being set up so students can see how far the cumulative miles they've run would take them through the

states. "It's really up to the teachers whether they want to include this aspect," said Hinds. "The more interest you can dream up, the better."

Not only kids are involved, but parents and teachers, as well says Hinds. "Kids have a good time. We had one mom who had a couple of overweight kids. She was in tears, because they were out there running without being forced to. Another girl gets out there in her electric wheelchair and does laps. Moms and dads come and run with their kids before school. I have challenged parents and staff to run. We have enough necklaces for everyone," Hinds commented.

To date, Rancho has recorded 1811 miles, about 150 miles per day and 600 miles per week. The fifth grade leads in laps with 1972, followed by first graders with 1868 laps and second graders with 1680. Ben Dupuis, a 2nd grader, has recorded 92 laps; fifth grader Abdul Hasaimi 52 laps, and Chris Hinds, 4th grade, 45 laps.

Hinds said there has been some interest in starting a similar program at other schools in the district. "We're open to helping out. We've got the system down. To have more parents aware of the program and more kids out there running would be great."

JUDGE

(continued from page one)

Cortez always intended to work in a District Attorney's office. He began his career as a clerk for the Santa Clara District Attorney's Office while he awaited his bar results. Once he passed the bar, however, there were no D.A. openings, so he spent several years with a civil firm in San Diego and then Palm Springs.

In 1996, Cortez joined the San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office. He has spent the last five years with a hard core gang prosecution unit. "The work is very rewarding. It takes a lot out of you. However, it is personally satisfying to ensure that justice is being served for victims' families," he says.

Last spring he applied for a judgeship at the encouragement of local judges. He interviewed in September and October and learned of his appointment on Nov. 3. The whole process, he says, happened much faster than he expected. He was prosecuting a double-homicide case at the time of the second interview with the governor's office, and had to fly to and from Sacramento in

one day to stay with the trial. "It's been a whirlwind. I don't think it will sink in until I take the bench," he says.

Becoming a judge, he says, is a natural progression of his career. He's excited to remain in the courtroom and be the person making the decisions. His term

will last for six years, and then someone can run against him for the judgeship.

"I haven't thought beyond that point. I do want a long career on the bench," he says. "At the same time, I'll miss prosecuting. It is absolutely the single best job in the world."

TRASH

(continued from page one)

drive through neighborhoods sorting through trash piles, "trolling for treasures."

An opposite experience was related by Councilmember John Marchand, who said that he saw people bringing trash into neighborhoods to add to the piles.

Members of the public who spoke strongly supported the three on-call trash pickups. They cited convenience as the main reason.

Tom Jefferson declared, "I find virtually no reason to change the present plan. Calling in is amazingly convenient. I can have trash picked up anytime I want it, three times a year."

NEW BANK IN DOWNTOWN

The city council approved plans for a new bank building at the corner of the southwest corner of First Street and M in downtown Livermore. The 3500 sq. ft. structure will house Guaranty Bank.

Staff noted that the bank would be located in the Gateway Boulevard area. The use is compatible with downtown. It will generate activity and serve the needs of residents and businesses.

The city council complimented the architectural design of the building. It is predominantly brick and includes several towers.






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NOTICE OF COMMISSION/COMMITTEE VACANCIES

The City of Pleasanton is now accepting applications to fill vacancies on the following commissions or committees for the terms indicated:

City of Pleasanton Commissions/Committee (Four-Year Terms)

* Housing Commission	* Library Commission, Alternate Member
* Civic Arts Commission	* Planning Commission
* Economic Vitality Committee	
(1) At-large Member	
(1) Residential Builder Representative	
(1) Financial Institution Representative	

Regional Commissions/Boards

- * Alameda County Housing Commission, Pleasanton Representative, Term: September 2006-December 2007
- * Tri-Valley Conservancy, Pleasanton Representative, Four-year term

Youth Master Plan Implementation Committee

The 11 members will be appointed by the City Council and the Pleasanton Unified School District Board. This is a non-paid position.

The purpose of the Committee is to implement the goals and objectives of the Youth Master Plan of Pleasanton such as: Plow411 web page, Youth-related workshops, events and special projects. The Plan focuses on providing services to youth throughout the community. Specifically it addresses issues of programs and activities, health and wellness, childcare, jobs, leadership and communication amongst children, youth and families. The Committee is comprised of representatives from various community organizations, schools and businesses.

The YMPIC is comprised of 30 members. Applications are being accepted for the following representatives:

- o 3 At-Large Parent Representatives - one representative from a pre-school, one representative from an elementary school and one representative from a middle school
- o 1 Health and Crisis Representative
- o 1 Non-Profit Agency Representative
- o 1 Senior Citizen Representative
- o 1 Alternate Representative from Amador High School
- o 1 Youth Representative and 1 Alternate from Village High School
- o 1 Youth Representative from Hart Middle School
- o 1 Youth Representative from Pleasanton Middle School

It is anticipated that the YMPIC will meet at least monthly for the purpose of implementing these projects. Committee members will be appointed for a one-year term initially.

Applications are available at the City Clerk's office, 123 Main Street, Pleasanton or on the City's Website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us. For additional information, call the office of the City Clerk at (925) 931-5027.

Applications must be received no later than 5:00 P.M., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2006. Postmarks are not accepted.

Interviews will be held the week of December 11. Applicants will be notified regarding interviews and the selection process once the filing period is closed.

EDITORIAL

Doolan Open Spaces

How to spend the open space money accumulated in a couple of special funds will be the topic of an upcoming Livermore City Council discussion. Staff will begin preparing a report on the matter after the first of the year.

Livermore has accumulated \$5 million in a fund comprised of developer payments for higher densities and development credit transfers. In addition, the city can draw on an Altamont Landfill settlement fee. There's reportedly about \$4 million in this fund available for North Livermore open space acquisitions. Also, the city could borrow against the future income stream from the Altamont settlement to obtain many more millions, if needed.

Preservation of the open spaces of the Doolan Canyon area is one of the acquisitions the council will consider. We strongly support the money going there.

Preservation of this area would draw the line on the urbanization creeping out of Dublin. It would create a permanent greenbelt separating Livermore and Dublin north of Interstate 580.

Thanks to the special open space funds, Livermore has the means to make some genuinely meaningful acquisitions. However, the funds should not be spent in a piecemeal fashion, in our opinion. If this money is to make a difference, it should be devoted to saving Doolan Canyon.

CEMETERY

(continued from page one)

the project and make a recommendation.

Eric Brown, from Livermore Planning, said the main points raised by Livermore include the interpretation of Measure D and how it is applied to the parcel. The city would like additional studies to see whether there is a demonstrated need for the facility. The city contends there is at least a thirty year supply, said Brown. There should also be a study that proves the cemetery use would have a sustainable water supply and would not impact the water supply of those living around the cemetery.

The area is zoned for agriculture. A cemetery itself is a conditional use allowed under the zoning. However, the other buildings and uses are subject to zoning requirements specified in the initiative, Measure D, and adopted by the County.

The public has pointed out inconsistencies with Measure D during hearings. These include the mortuary and mausoleum that cannot fit inside the required 2-acre building envelope. Also, a third dwelling is prohibited.

In addition, the public raised concerns that the site would be managed by the Catholic church, potentially making it a religious cemetery, rather than a public cemetery.

OAK GROVE

(continued from page one)

ciation and the developer, James Tang, attended the meetings at the city staff level.

The property is owned by the Lin family, which has considerable land holdings in the Valley, and lives outside the United States. Tang is their representative on this project, said Fialho.

The Oak Grove subdivision is tentatively scheduled for a Pleasanton planning commission hearing Jan. 24, said associate planner Marion Pavan.

The alternative plan's density reduction speaks to the traffic problems that drew opposition from neighbors in the original plan. There were also concerns about run-off, since the development is on several hills.

Responding to a question

VAN

(continued from page one)

est back into the principal achieve its current level.

The remaining interest annually has been given to various community projects. Among them are the Open Heart Kitchen and CAPE, the Valley's non-profit for pre-school education.

The Rotarians are working closely with ValleyCare Health System, which will arrange for staff and maintenance for the van.

Linn complimented Ken Mercer, ValleyCare vice president, who has been working with him on coordinating the van project. "Ken is terrific. He has helped us a lot on this," he said.

Much larger than a standard passenger van, the diesel-powered vehicle will be equipped with two exam rooms and a small laboratory. It will travel into neighborhoods and to schools where the population is less

Rev. Mark Wiesner, spokesman for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Oakland, confirmed there is some interest in a suggestion to have the diocese operating the mortuary and crematorium, if the cemetery application were to clear all hurdles for approval. He said the Diocese was approached by the applicant, Jack Smith. Talks are very preliminary, he added.

The diocese has its own cemetery management division. All of the work is conducted in-house. No outside contractors, such as mortuary chains, are involved. It's possible that a part of the cemetery could be set aside as a Catholic cemetery, said Wiesner. The rest of it would remain a non-sectarian cemetery.

Bob Baltzer said a recent television program pointed out that funerals are a multi-billion dollar a year industry. According to the program aired on KGO-TV, the Catholic Church wants a piece of the business, specifically the Oakland diocese. Baltzer said the Livermore cemetery would provide money for projects the church is planning such as a new cathedral in Oakland.

Baltzer says he understands that Smith is a chair of the fundraising committee for the Oakland Cathedral.

about the EIR for the project, Fialho said that whenever density is reduced, so is environmental impact. Fialho said that the reduction of density by 50 percent was significant. He emphasized it's an alternative plan. The proposal for 98 units is still on the table. However, no one in the neighborhood supports it, said Fialho.

All that staff did was to bring the two sides together, and craft an alternative, said Fialho. Both plans still need to be heard by the planning commission and city council. "The public will have a lot of opportunity to review both plans. The public process will be alive and well," he added.

likely to have regular medical care and health insurance. That will include low-income children and adults.

Among them will be the many migrant workers who are making Livermore their home, because they work in local vineyards, or drive to the Central Valley for work, said Linn. Stops at senior centers are also foreseen.

The screeners will refer patients to the proper medical personnel, who will be donating their time for treatment, said Linn. Dental and eye care screening will be part of the process, in addition to standard medical exams.

Ensuring that kids receive all of their childhood shots will be among the goals.

The van would also be available to Livermore and the Valley during community emergencies, such as severe earthquakes.

Council Okays Tot Lot Move

The Livermore City Council okayed a change in the development agreement for Arroyo Crossings that changes the location of a tot lot.

The new agreement also includes construction of a respite area at the former tot lot site and a paved trail to the new playground area.

The respite area is to include natural looking climbing boulders, a see-saw and benches.

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) board had requested the change. The tot lot is to be built in Robertson Park on land belonging to the park district. The location near the entrance to the park next to the creek was considered less safe by the board. In addition, there would be a negative impact on the rural nature of the area, and there was the potential for damage to the tot lot from flooding.

The council vote was 3 to 2, with Marj Leider and Lorraine Dietrich opposed.

Leider said the idea was to have an amenity close to the development. "This is supposedly a park for the residents of Arroyo Crossings. The new location is some three-quarters of a mile from the far end of the development. The park district is proposing to put the tot lot on a dirty, dusty parking lot with no trees or shade. It is a less pleasant place than the original site," Leider stated.

Dietrich felt that a process had been followed to reach the original development agreement. "Once an amenity has been approved, that should be the end of it. This is a backward approach." Dietrich suggested that there should be some system in place that would prevent a similar situation in the future when there is a project that involves both the park district and the city council.

Mayor Marshall Kamena agreed that the process could have been smoother.

LARPD Board President Scott

Kamena told the council that LARPD had offered to let the developer use LARPD property for the tot lot. It was thought that it could be placed anywhere in the park. During public hearings held by the park district, the public was unanimous not in support of the current location.

Scott Kamena said that the new location provides for a much larger, more elegant tot lot that is close to other amenities such as picnic tables and soccer fields.

The park district could refuse to allow the tot lot to be built at the first site. However, Scott Kamena said that the potential had not been discussed by the LARPD board. If the council were to deny the request, LARPD would have to take the issue back to the board for discussion.

Maryalice Faltings, vice president of the LARPD board, told the council, "I do not think the original location is appropriate. It is too remote and too close to the trail for safety. While the preferred site is further away from

Arroyo Crossings, it is closer than my home is to my neighborhood park. LARPD has the expertise in parks and recreation and our advice should be heeded."

Three members of the public spoke in support of the move. Bob Baltzer was opposed. He felt that the project had "morphed" from what had first been presented five years ago. The multi-family housing was eliminated. Most of the affordable housing has been transferred off site. Now the tot lot is being moved.

Councilmember John Marchand agreed with Baltzer that the project had been changed. However, he added, "I defer to LARPD that knows more about recreational needs. It is compelling that all of the testimony they heard spoke in favor of moving the tot lot."

Councilmember Tom Reitter pointed out that the developer was not making the request for the change. He noted that new amenities have been added with the respite area and paved trail.

Sandia Developing Method to Detect Deadly Toxins

Sandia National Laboratories researchers Todd Lane and Victoria VanderNoot have been awarded a research grant to develop a technology that can successfully detect deadly toxins from harmful algal blooms (HABs).

The Sandia research will focus on enhancing the early-warning capability of detection and is expected to lay the groundwork for the development of a reliable, cost-effective prototype to simultaneously analyze multiple HAB toxins in phytoplankton and/or shellfish in the field.

"Today's standard detection methods, frankly, are too slow and labor-intensive," said Lane. "By the time the process is complete, it's too late: the shellfish beds are already toxic." The ability to quickly sample organisms low on the food chain, Lane said, can provide an early warning system to help protect communities from exposure to toxins.

Lane and VanderNoot, a mo-

lecular biologist and an analytical chemist, respectively, work in the Biosystems Research department at Sandia's Livermore site. They will use laser-induced fluorescence and other separation methods inherent in Sandia's "Micro" ChemLab technology in their efforts. Along with a small team of Sandia colleagues and external collaborators, they have begun the research, which could lead to longer-term funding after the initial "proof of principle" work has been completed.

The long-term goal, should the initial phase of the Sandia research go as planned, is to develop small, lightweight devices that could be fielded by oceanographers and marine biologists as part of their regular monitoring systems.

The technologies developed will be equally well suited to detecting algal toxins in freshwater sources and complements other ongoing research at Sandia. Sandia's Water Initiative, for ex-

ample, strives to increase the safety, security and sustainability of water infrastructure through the development of advanced technologies that create new water supplies, decrease demand through water-use efficiency, and provide decision-informing tools to the institutions responsible for balancing supply and demand.

Harmful algal blooms are widely acknowledged to be a severe coastal resource management issue, adversely impacting virtually every coastal region. Current methods for detecting the poisonous toxins characteristic of the blooms are cumbersome, require either expensive reagents or animal testing, or are unable to quantify toxins - critical information for managing shellfish beds. The technologies under development at Sandia would eliminate these problems.

Most species of algae are not harmful and actually serve as the energy producers at the depths

of the food web. The dense patches or "blooms" that sometimes accumulate near the surface of the water, however, can produce potent neurotoxins that are then transferred through the food chain, accumulating in zooplankton and shellfish, eventually harming or even killing marine mammals and humans that consume tainted shellfish.

In addition to Sandia's Lane and VanderNoot, collaborators include Donald M. Anderson, a senior scientist and director of the Coastal Ocean Institute, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute; and Gregg Langlois, marine biologist at the California Department of Health Services.

The funding is provided by the Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology (CICEET), a partnership of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the University of New Hampshire.

MAILBOX

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

BART Costs

Robert S. Allen
Former BART Director

Tim Hunt's column in Sunday's Herald falsely claimed that BART construction costs over \$100 million per mile. BART trackway at grade in a freeway median in 2006 dollars should cost about \$12 million/mile, including ballasted double track, traction power, train control, ductwork, and barriers/fencing.

BART to SFO cost much more, because it was mostly in a costly subway (over my strong objections at the time). Had it been built at grade along the abandoned SP branch instead of in tunnel, it would have cost about \$500 million less.

BART trackway about 5-1/2 miles to West Livermore should cost about \$65 million - less than the cost of ACCMA's planned limo lane using Alameda County money mainly to speed Central valley carpools home. Even with the cost of land (much of it already in public ownership), freeway changes, transit vehicles, one station, special trackwork (e.g., crossovers) and "implementation" (e.g., engineering, environmental analysis/mitigation), BART to Livermore is quite reasonable.

Extending BART trackway about 6 miles more (when I-580 is widened) to east Livermore (near the truck scales) and an ACE intermodal on the abandoned SP roadbed east of Greenville should cost about \$75 million more. There it would be poised for future extension to Mountain House, Tracy, and a possible California High Speed Rail-line connection.

Until BART rail comes, let's get a freeway-oriented express bus to BART meeting every train, at least during commute hours. It's dirt cheap and should pay for itself from the fare box.

Nuclear Weapons Beverly M. King Livermore

Complex 2030 is a guise for the Department of Energy to build new nuclear weapons. Us-

ing the term Renewable Replacement Warheads, which implies maintenance of existing weapons, new nuclear weapons designs are planned to be developed every five years.

Just one of the National Nuclear Security Administration (NASA) objectives reads: "Design, develop, certify, and complete first production units of refurbished or replacement warheads in a frequency that both sustains the stockpile and exercises the supporting infrastructure and critical skill."

This objective defeats the Nonproliferation Treaty, increases the dangers of radioactive materials wherever they are, threatens the environment and all life. The Livermore Lab is one of the proposed sites.

To learn more please attend the public hearings on December 12 in Livermore at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4441 East Ave., from 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and at 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. in Tracy at the Tracy Community Center, 950 East St. Your presence influences the government's decisions.

Jet Port Letter Dennis H. Vied Livermore

Evelyn Murphy's "Jet Port: letter about the impact of Air Taxis on the traffic at Livermore Airport, and the effect of making it a "commercial" airport is balderdash. I've been in the Air Taxis business, and the frequency of operation is less than we currently experience with business jets. Furthermore, these jets (VLJs) are smaller and quieter, having benefited from later design technology favoring quieter engines.

It's impossible to predict the traffic level accurately, because these operations are "on call," as opposed to scheduled airline operations. Consequently, there is no comparison to a "commercial" airline type operation.

The sky is not falling, Henny Penny.

The Election Janet Linfoot Pleasanton

This letter is a knee-jerk response to two that appeared in your Mailbox section on Nov. 23.

Diane McIntyre penned a scalding indictment of you and your paper and launched a verbal attack on the mayor you supported for re-election as well as on the voters who re-elected her.

In the same vein, Herbert Marshall agreed with his "erudite young daughter" that "the masses are asses."

Question: Is Ms. McIntyre as incensed at the "foul language" employed by the Marshall girl as she is by the mayor's use of the identical word in an email response to a Mr. Dan Carl? (Details below).

Perhaps that gentleman will display the same dogged determination in finding Mr. Brozosky's missing email as he did in digging through that of the mayor. Mr. Carl eventually emerged from that herculean task with the triumphant announcement about the "A-word" email. However, we are still waiting for Mr. Carl to publish the message he sent to her which triggered the "A-word" response. These are of course matters of earth-shaking importance.

Question: Is Mr. Carl's "triggering" email to the mayor in some unknown area along with Mr. Brozosky's missing email? When pressed, Mr. Brozosky offered many different explanations and theories, ranging from vague to incredible; as confusing as some of Ms. McIntyre's assertions.

Question: If her charges are valid, how on earth could a foul-mouthed, anti-global warming advocate who supports green causes and energy conservation for her own financial gain; who gets her jollies from flinging quail to her captive "falcon" and solicits money (even, "cold hard cash" of all things) for her campaign fund have the audacity to even run for office, much less get elected and re-elected?? The shame of it all.

Even worse, she managed this last campaign with a measly \$25,000 or so in funds, while her opponent solicited over \$75,000, including big time bucks from out-of-towners for the would-be mayor, who based his race on the theme, "All about Pleasanton." How nice of those non-Pleasanton big companies to support a citizen dedicated solely to his community. And how strange that Mr. Brozosky's soliciting campaign resulted in over \$75,000 in funding; this for a candidate who steadfastly proclaimed his opposition to this current type of funding. It must be disheartening to lose to an opponent such as the one Ms. McIntyre describes under these circumstances.

Question: Ms. McIntyre, how could Jennifer profit from the gas exploration and petroleum

stocks you say she owns by supporting green causes, crusading against global warming and encouraging alternatives to the use of gas and oil? Is there something I don't know about the rule of supply and demand? Please enlighten me. My fax no./phone no. is 925-846-4708.

Question: Ms. McIntyre, has Steve accepted any "cold hard cash" for his campaign fund?

Question: When did a red tailed hawk become a falcon? I'm really fascinated by this little gem.

Question: Is it possible that our "asinine masses" based their votes on issues and performance records?

Pombo's Highway William Wills Livermore

This is regarding your Editorial on Richard Pombo's Highway proposal in the November 23, 2006 edition.

I am probably one of many to blame for this new freeway proposal. Over the last several years I have written numerous letters to the various newspapers in the area and to many of our local, state and federal representatives urging them to build another east-west freeway from the Central Valley to San Jose. Only after sending my proposal to the Modesto Bee was some action taken. Many of the commuters in the Central Valley could use another E-W freeway to help alleviate the mess we now have on I-580 and I-680. Richard Pombo championed this idea and should be congratulated for truly representing his constituents.

Your Editorial was also in error in stating that the new freeway would be built in the Hwy 152 corridor. Pombo's proposal would start the freeway near the rest stop where I-5 and I-580 meet. Then it would proceed over the hills into San Jose. It should be noted that CalTrans has already surveyed this route.

Some other reasons for another freeway are very logical; what happens if there were a major natural disaster or a terrorist incident in the Bay Area? How are you going to evacuate thousands of people? I-580 was shut down for a few hours subsequent to the Jan. 1980 earthquake on the Greenville Fault.

I am willing to bet that even most residents in the Tri-Valley would support a new freeway to help alleviate the congestion on I-580.

SPORTS NOTES

Youth Soccer

The Livermore Roadrunners U12 boys soccer team won 3 and lost 1 to secure second place in the Livermore Thanksgiving Classic Tournament.

The Roadrunners started out strong on Saturday, shutting out the Juventus Wolfpack 2-0. The Roadrunners first scoring opportunity came when Tanner Turner and Paul Mayes combined to get the ball up to Marco Arana-Nolasco who volleyed the ball into the net to score. Ryan Gollott scored again for the Roadrunners after receiving the rebound from a shot taken by Patrick Taylor.

Next the Roadrunners took on the Tracy Gladiators, winning 3-1. Mayes scored first for the Roadrunners with assistance from Juan Carlos Alfaro. The Roadrunner's second goal was secured when Gollott chipped the ball up to Mayes for a header into the net. Their final goal was scored off a corner kick taken by Arana-Nolasco, passed forward by Mayes, and headed in by Gollott. Roadrunner goalkeeper, JT Addington, made several great saves to hold the Gladiators to just 1 goal with assistance from Brandon Marant, Hector Gomez and Cody Martinez on defense.

The Roadrunners had a tough day on Sunday, beating Barcelona in penalty kicks to earn a spot in the championship game. Mayes scored the only Roadrunner goal during regulation time with assistance from Arana-Nolasco, ending the half ahead by 1. Barcelona tied it up in the second half off of a free kick opportunity. The score remained tied at 1-1 for the rest of regular play and 2 overtime periods, sending the game into penalty kicks. Barcelona missed their first and fourth penalty kicks, while Damon Tregear, Taylor, Mayes, and Arana-Nolasco all scored for the Roadrunners to win the game.

The Roadrunners met the Union City Eagles in the championship game only to lose 3-0. It was a tough match played in the rain with good effort being put forth by Tregear, Trevor Long, Sergio Alvarez, and Ryan Flayler.

CYO Basketball

The Catholic Community of Pleasanton (CCOP) 6th grade girls team #6007 played a great offensive and defensive game against the St. Isidore team in the CYO basketball Deer Valley Tournament in a 32 to 18 loss. They showed excellent team work. Marlo Aghazarian had a great game, scoring 20 points. Aubry Wolff played great defense with at least three steals and three rebounds. Top Offensive Players: Alaina Urban, Kristina Dunworth, Kylie Copenhagen; Top Defensive Players: Sydney Hitesman, Arleen Firoozan, Bailey Downum.

In a close game, CCOP lost 9 to 7 to Christ the King Crusaders. Sydney Hitesman had a great steal from the Crusaders' offense, dribbled down the court for the first points of the game. Sydney scored 6 of the seven points. The game was tied 7-7 with thirty seconds left in the game when the Crusaders snuck in their last basket, for the win. Top Offensive Players: Arleen Firoozan, Kristina Dunworth, Aubry Wolff; Top Defensive Players: Sarah Loduha, Bailey Downum, Alaina Urban

JV Soccer

Foothill High School JV girls soccer team competed in the California High School Thanksgiving Tournament. The Falcon's finished the tournament with 2 wins, 1 loss and 1 tie in their first action of the season. Foothill won their first game against College Park 2 to 1 and tied Carondelet 0-0 to finish their first day of the tournament. On the second day the Falcons won their final game of the tournament, topping Las Lomas 3 to 1, after losing their morning match to Cal 2 to 0.

Against College Park, after a scoreless first half, Falcons got on the board first on a goal by Kelsey Udinski. College Park came back quickly with a goal of their own. Late in the second half the game winning goal came from Ashley Estorga. In the night cap against Carondelet, it was a defensive battle ending in a 0-0 tie. Megan Leoni had 3 saves in the second half. The back line of Maddie Saxton, Krista Bornmann, and Mid-Fielders Megan Barrett and Moe Reid played well on defense for the Falcons. Falcons won their final game of the Grizzley Tournament this weekend, topping Las Lomas 3 to 1, after losing their morning match to Cal 2 to 0. In the final game, goals by Toni Gonis, Paige Ofstedahl and Jillian Johnson led the way and ended the tournament on a winning note. The defense was led by Shannon Bierne and Moe Reid.

Bowling News

Granada Bowl's Prime-Timers took the spotlight during league play. Harry Thompson led as the 171 averager came in with a big 255 game for a 624 series; Dwayne Childress, 168 par, used a 243 game for his placement at 606; John Waite, 179, had highs of 211-



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

The Foothill High School girls volleyball put together an undefeated season, 37-0. They played for the NorCal Title on Tuesday night at Foothill. The results were too late for the Independent. A win would place the volleyball team in a state title match on Saturday, December 2, 2006 at 5 p.m. at the SJSU Event Center.

224 for his 602 set; Emile Cigluti, 147, erupted for a 235 game and Dale Irving, 133 norm, posted a seasons high 201.

The Monday Mashers saw Aldea Burgis, 154 par, top the women highs of 213-211 for a 601 set; Craig Snow, 174, led the men with a 265 and 670 series. In the Modified Guys and Dolls, Darin Smith was the best with 236-244-257 - 737 total; Mark McCreary followed with a big 278 game for his 715 set. Lloyd Smith, 4 Seasons Heating and Air Strollers league, rolled a solid 708 series with 233-260-215; Roger McClenathan became an USBC award winner by bowling 100 plus pins over his 175 average with a 279 game and 651 set.

The Wednesday Wonders saw Al Piazza strike his way to a 259 game and 660 set; Daniel Howe, 149 norm, bowled his first 600 series with a 224 game and 608 series. In the Eagles Renovations Match Point league, Ralph Soto came in with 247-222-231 for a 700 series. Claude Wilson, Lab League, said goodbye to his 169 norm, with a 633 series and games of 222-220-191.

Livermore Football

The Livermore Junior Midget Norseman suffered a heartbreaking loss this past Saturday to the Clayton Valley Falcons in the McCann Criffanti Turkey Bowl Championship Game for the Diablo Valley Youth Football Conference.

The game was a defensive battle with neither team scoring until 5 minutes remained in the 4th quarter. Diquan Madison tackled Jahar Staples in his own end zone trying to pick up a Jeremy Mata punt that had barely reached the Clayton Valley end zone. The safety was awarded to Livermore and they would receive the kick off. Livermore would go three and out and punt the ball back to Clayton Valley with 3 minutes remaining in the game. On 3rd down and 8 Jahar Staples took a reverse 60 yards for the score. The PAT was good and the score was 8 to 2 Clayton Valley.

With just over two minutes left in the game Livermore received the Clayton Valley kick off. After a short return by Madison to the Livermore 40 yard line. The Livermore offense took over. With a couple key receptions from Mata to Madison and Walk Gilmore, and a roughing-the-passer penalty, Livermore had the ball 1st and goal on the Clayton Valley 4 yard line. The first play from scrimmage was a hand-off to Madison

who gained 3 yards. With 2nd and goal and long yard, Livermore tried to punch it in for the score off the left side of the offensive line. The ball was fumbled in the backfield. A Clayton Valley defender immediately fell on it on the 3 yard line. Clayton Valley took a knee on 2 consecutive plays to end the game and preserve an 8 to 2 and end the Livermore Norseman's quest for a Turkey Bowl Championship.

Livermore Smoke

The Livermore Smoke 10U Black girls fastpitch team concluded their season on a very high note by taking 2nd place overall in the elite Gold Division of Northern California Fastpitch Championships in Salinas, Nov. 24-26. Competition was at a very high level in every game with only the best teams in Northern California eligible to participate. All teams in the division had to qualify by previously winning a qualifying tournament event.

The Livermore Smoke team played consistent, high caliber ball all weekend throughout the 5 game series. Marina VanVliet and McKayla Saavedra pitched solid games to keep the opponents off balance.

For Smoke, the competition began with an 8-4 win against Gilroy Chaos. Key plays in that game included Tabitha Heinz with a triple that started a five run rally with hits by Breanna Herrera, Bianca Devoto and a perfect bunt by Ashley Weiler. A great defensive play was executed by shortstop Rachel Norman in a first and third steal situation when she cut the ball off and made a perfect throw to home to cut the lead runner off. Another stand out defensive play was made by Alyssa Lanza on a pick off play at third turned into a run down and she ran down to the runner.

In the second game, Smoke defeated Union City 2-1 with individual efforts from Marina VanVliet and Heather Smith who both had major hits to contribute to the two runs. Outstanding pitching by McKayla Saavedra held a good hitting team to only one run.

In the 3rd game San Lorenzo defeated Smoke 11-3. Smoke bounced back when lead off hitter Rachel Norman had a hit up the middle ultimately defeating Rohnert Park 5-4 under international tie-breaker rules to move into the championship game. In that game, Nicole Evans hit two triples, and Breanna Herrera went 3 for 3 including the game winning RBI when she drove in Ashley Weiler from second with a grounder to center field. Marina VanVliet pitched an excellent game against another good hitting team to lead the team to a victory. The championship game was hard fought as San Lorenzo went on to win 3-0. Marina VanVliet pitched another great game and the entire team played a respectable final game. The Smoke team capped a great season that included playing 71 games (51-18-2) since the high competition team was formed in May of 2006.

Water Polo Signup

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) has announced that registration is currently underway for the winter season of Livermore Laser Water Polo.

All practices will be held at the Robert Livermore Community Center (RLCC) Swim Center, located at 4444 East Avenue in Livermore. High school boys will practice on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., high school girls will practice from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and boys and girls in grades five through eight will practice Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

Tournaments for the season will be held on the weekends of December 16-17, January 6-7, January 20-21, and February 3-4.

The fee is \$200 for high school players and \$175 for participants in grades five to eight.

Players can sign up online at www.larpd.dst.ca.us or sign up at the pool. Participants will also be required to register for U.S. Water Polo. Please call RLCC

Aquatics at (925) 373-5751 for more information.

Fastpitch Tryouts

Livermore Smoke will be hosting tryouts for the 12U A-Ball team. This will be a highly competitive travel team for advanced skilled girl players who are 100% committed to fastpitch softball. Pitchers and catchers will have a separate tryout. Saturday, December 9, 2006, check-in 8:30am. Joe Michell Elementary, 1001 Elaine Ave., Livermore. Further information: John Heinz, (925) 454-1406.

Golden Era Baseball

Golden Era Baseball, based in Dublin, California, has limited openings remaining for their 10U, 12U and 13U advanced travel teams and is currently seeking talented players to fill these positions for the upcoming 2007 Season. Any players who would like to be considered for these positions should contact Golden Era Baseball at: (866) 230-1781 right away to schedule a try out. Full details regarding the program can also be found on the web at: GoldenEraBaseball.com

Little League Signup

Livermore National Little League will hold sign-ups at Mountain Mike's off of Vasco in Livermore on December 4th from 6:30 pm to 8 pm. All ages are welcome! If new to the league, please make sure to bring a copy of birth certificate and proof of residence.

Granada Little League

Granada Little League 2007 Season Baseball Registration Sat., Dec. 2 & Sat., Dec. 9 10 am to 2 pm CLL Fields by snack bar (weather permitting) Tues., Dec. 12 6 pm - 8 pm Round Table on Stanley Blvd., Livermore. For more information visit www.eteamz.com/granadall.

Winter Baseball Camp

Livermore High Varsity Baseball Coach David Perotti is hosting a three day winter camp. Each camper will receive individual instruction from coaches and Livermore High

players, a snack each day and a camp shirt. This 5-12 year old camp costs \$125 and runs from 9:00-12:00 everyday. The dates are December 18-20. If you sign up before December 11th (post marked), pay only \$110. For more info to sign up please contact David Perotti at (925) 443-2742 or lvbinfo@yahoo.com or check website www.eteamz.com/lvb.

Alumni Soccer Game

Foothill and Amador Valley High School Alumni will be playing in the 4th Foothill-Amador Alumni Soccer Game on Saturday, December 30th. There will be 2 games featuring Men's and Women's soccer players from the '70's, '80's, '90's and 2000's.

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

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

Players and fans are invited to the "HopYard Alehouse" after the games. Fifteen percent of proceeds will be donated to the programs.

There will be "special entertainment" at each of the half-times this year!

The games will be played at Amador Valley High School, women at 4 p.m. and men at 6:30 p.m.

To register go to All-Star Sports, 3037-A Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton; 846-7928.

For more information, call Curt Gorden, 426-1540 or Janet Mullaney, 426-6756.

Phantom Girls Softball

2007 Registration for all Pleasanton Phantom divisions is now open. Phantom softball is open to girls in grades K-12 living in Pleasanton, Dublin and Sunol. Registration can be made online or mail-in. See the PGSL website for additional information www.pleasantonsoftball.org.

Pleasanton Lacrosse

The Pleasanton Lacrosse Club Spring 2007 season registration is now open. Pro-

grams are available for girls and boys grades 3 thru 8. The season runs from February thru mid May. Full equipment required for all players. Register early as spots are limited and additional fees for late registration will apply after October 31st. To register and/or obtain more information go to www.pleasantonlacrosse.com or call Byron Hay at 925 998-5550.

Livermore Lacrosse

Spring registration has opened for Livermore Phantom Lacrosse. Boys and Girls, grades 3 through 8 are welcome. For information, go to www.phantomlacrosse.com.

LIVERMORE AMERICAN LITTLE LEAGUE

Last Opportunity to Sign-Up in Person!

Registration for the 2006 - 2007 Season will take place from 6:00 - 9:00 pm on Thursday, December 7, 2006 in Room 10 at Asbury Church, located at 4743 East Ave. Avoid late charges and sign-up by Dec. 31.

For more info and/or to register online, please visit our website www.eteamz.com/all or call our hotline 447-5255.

SAN RAMON REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

Medicare 2007 Are You Ready?

Major Changes & 55 Drug Plans

Free Community Seminar

Medicare becomes more and more complicated in 2007. Insurance companies will offer numerous new health plans for Medicare recipients in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties. San Ramon Regional Medical Center, and Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) of Contra Costa County invite you to learn about the 2007 plan updates, new enrollment periods, and drug exceptions and appeals. HICAP also will discuss some of the 12 Medicare Advantage Plans and four Special Needs Plans, including: Medical Savings Accounts Plan (MSA), Private Fee-for-Service Plans (PFFS), Preferred Provider Plans (PPD), Health Maintenance Organizations (HMO), Medigap, and 55 stand-alone drug plans. HICAP does not sell or endorse any insurance or provider of health benefits. You will receive comparison charts for these plans to assist in making your decisions.

Speaker:
Mickey Mergy
HICAP Medicare Counselor

A Free Educational Seminar
Tuesday, December 5, 2006
10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

San Ramon Regional Medical Center
South Building
South Conference Room
7777 Norris Canyon Road
San Ramon

Space limited. Reserve your place by calling **800.284.2878** or online at www.sanramonmedct.com



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

It was up and over as riders competed in a cyclocross last weekend in the Valley. The race consists of many laps of a short course featuring pavement, wooded trails, grass, steep hills and obstacles requiring the rider to dismount, carry the bike whilst navigating the obstruction and remount.

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Author to Present Slide Show/Talk about Lincoln Highway in California

A program focusing on the Lincoln Highway will be presented at the Livermore Library at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 3.

Author Gregory M. Franzwa will present a 45-minute slide show. The event celebrates the publication of Vol. 6 of Franzwa's

state-by-state series, "The Lincoln Highway: California." The program will be followed by a book signing by the author, the founder of today's national Lincoln Highway Association.

The public is invited to attend. The program is free. The library

is located at 1188 S. Livermore Ave. The program is sponsored by the Livermore Heritage Guild.

The Lincoln Highway as conceived in 1913 to extend 3,389 miles from Times Square in Manhattan to Lincoln Park in San Francisco. All routes through the

state centered on the California State Capitol.

The historic highway enters California at two points. The northern route, over Donner Pass, ends at the gravel Dog Valley Road, off I-80 west of Verdi, Nevada.

Franzwa states, "The more scenic (and treacherous) route climbed over Nevada's Kings Canyon Road, south of Carson City, to enter the state south of Lake Tahoe. It passed through Placerville and Folsom before joining the northern route at the state capital in Sacramento."

The highway really took off in 1915, when hundreds of thousands of people traveled by automobile to the Panama-Pacific Exhibition. Almost all of the automobile travelers would have chugged through Livermore, according to Franzwa.

The highway crossed ten states before reaching California. From Sacramento, the 1913-1927 road looped south through Stockton, Tracy, and Livermore to Oakland.

"Believe me," said Franzwa, "Those early travelers had some stories to tell by the time they reach the golden shores. And, yet, it had to have been a tremendous adventure. There were no motels or even campgrounds for most of those miles, and hotels only in the larger towns. Folks would just pull over at a flat spot along the road. Dad would put down the ground cloth and pitch the tent. The kids would gather firewood and mom would start supper. Some travelers brought lean-to tents, where one wall would be the car itself, smelly though it might be. But it was an adventure such as most had never known before."

The Livermore program is the

sixth of a 19-city book tour that will end Dec. 15 at the Berkeley Library.

The first part of the book details the history of the pioneer highway in California. It includes 120 photographs and a driving-hiking guide, telling the motorist where to turn the steering wheel to follow all routes of the old highway.

The back half of the book is a portfolio of 122 full page maps showing all routes of the Lincoln Highway superimposed over today's roadways.

For those unable to attend the program at the Livermore Library, the book is available for purchase on-line at books@patricepress.com for \$39.95 plus \$4.95 shipping and handling. To order by phone, call 435-833-9168.

SHORT NOTES

International Crafts

The community is invited to an International Handicrafts Fair, on Saturday, Dec. 2, 8am-1pm, at the United Christian Church, 1886 College Ave. (at M St.), Livermore.

Items from around the world will be available: creches, jewelry, toys, gift items and more! These items are on consignment from A Greater Gift, a nonprofit organization with a long history of working with artisan and farmer groups, offering employment opportunities, promoting the empowerment of women and providing healthy working conditions.

For information call 925-449-6820.

Free the Trees

"Free the Trees!" is the topic of a program at Veterans Park in Livermore this Sat., Dec. 2. Meet Ranger Darren Segur at 10 a.m. in the group picnic area.

Several years ago, some seedlings were planted in the park and cages were installed to protect them. The project is now in need of some attention because the trees have outgrown the cages. Bring some wire cutters or fencing pliers and work gloves if available to be used to free the trees from the wire. After that, the trees that need them will be re-caged with bigger, better cages. Please call (925) 960-2400 to sign up. Activity will be cancelled in the event of rain.

This is an activity of the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District.

Victorian Tea

Beginning Friday, December 1, reservations will be taken for the Victorian Tea held at Ravenswood Historic Site, located at 2647 Arroyo Road in Livermore.

The 2007 Victorian Tea will be held on Sunday, February 25, 2007. There will be two seatings, the first from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m., and the second from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m., with a maximum of 50 guests at each seating.

Ticket price donations of \$35 per person benefit the Ravenswood Furnishing Fund, an ongoing project of the Ravenswood Progress League, the non-profit organization that supports historic programs at the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District's Ravenswood Historic Site.

For reservation information, please call (925) 443-0238.

December at the Library

The Livermore Library has a variety of programs planned for the month of December.

On Sat., Dec. 9, storyteller John Weaver will present stories at the Springtown Branch, 998 Bluebell Drive. The program begins at 11 a.m.

There will be an evening family storytime at the Civic Center Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave., on Mon., Dec. 11. The session, which begins at 7 p.m., is called "Abracadabra." It features funny stories for the whole family about things that go poof.

"My Family/Mi Familia," is the theme for a storytime at the Rincon Branch, 725 Rincon Ave., on Sat., Dec. 16. The program begins at 11 a.m.

All ages are welcome to attend these free programs. Contact youth services at 373-5504 for more information or pick up a fall-winter storytime schedule at any one of the Livermore libraries.

On Dec. 27, Puppet Arts Theater will present a show starting at 10:30 a.m. in the Civic Center Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave.

Chocolate Therapy

Alden Lane Nursery will host a decadent and delicious evening of "Chocolate Therapy," on Thurs., Dec. 7 from 6:30 to 9 p.m.

This chocolate covered adventure includes a chocolate mint hand treatment, chocolate tempering and tasting with chocolatier Sara Dobson, who will be creating gourmet, hand-dipped custom treats; stylish ideas for wrapping and presenting chocolate gifts; scrapbook pages and inspiration for the chocolate lover; a one-of-a-kind cache pot to hold a chocolate mint plant; and a VIP shopping experience. Wear chocolate themed pajamas and slippers. Admission is \$35.

To reserve a spot, call 447-0280. Alden Lane Nursery is located at 981 Alden Lane in Livermore.

Food for Open Heart Kitchen

Fantastic Sams®, located at 869 E. Stanley Blvd. in the Peppertree Plaza will act as a food donation center for Open Heart Kitchen during the entire month of December.

There is a tremendous need for food donations in the area as there are over 6000 people living below the poverty line, a number that is growing with the high cost of living. Fantastic Sams® knows that during the holidays many people are busy and distracted. Thru partnering with Open Heart Kitchen, the restaurant is providing an easy and convenient method for people to make a donation during this busy time of the season.

Fantastics Sams® will be including a donation request in all of its December advertising to help remind guests to bring a donation during their visit. Fantastic Sams® will be collecting food donations during the entire month of December at its Livermore salon located at 869 E. Stanley Blvd, (925.456.2218 - PHONE).

Fantastic Sams® provides guests with all of the amenities expected at a full-service salon, including cuts, perms, texturizing, hair color, highlights, styling and waxing.

Open Heart Kitchen is a nonprofit meal service dedicated to providing nutritious prepared food to those in need in Livermore, Dublin and Pleasanton. Through six programs, we address the hunger issues of children, seniors, families and individuals. Working with a very small staff, Open Heart Kitchen succeeds because of the generous help of hundreds of volunteers every month. Open Heart Kitchen currently serves about 2500 meals every week.

Donations to Schools

Alden Lane Nursery will kickoff the season of giving and its own slate of December activities by donating \$5 to the school of the customer's choice for every fresh wreath purchased during the month of December.

The wreaths will range in price from \$21.99 to \$45.99 and in size from 20 inches to 32 inches in diameter and will be available beginning Dec. 1 at 981 Alden Lane in Livermore.

Children will be the focus of the Dec. 3 Kids Club Activity from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. where children will learn about penguins and have a chance to draw and color the arctic birds. There will be a 10 per cent discount on all ornaments from the Alden Lane Penguin Tree that day.

Train weekend is planned on Dec. 9 and 10. An electric train setup will be displayed all weekend. Alden Lane will offer a reading of The Polar Express during Kid's Story Time at 1 p.m. on Dec. 9. A copy of the book will be raffled.

Fresh baked cookies and hot chocolate will be offered on Winter Wonders Weekend on Dec. 16 and 17. On Dec. 16 kids can make snowman decorations and on Dec. 17 they can create paper snowflakes. Those interested in attending those events should reserve space by calling Alden Lane at 925-447-0280.

Alden Lane will offer a class on Dec. 17 at 11:30 a.m. called Winter Wonders in the Garden.

PPIE Student Grants

Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) Foundation has announced the latest round of PPIE Student Grants. Six Pleasanton Unified School District students have been selected to receive funding for their projects.

The PPIE Student Grant program, now in its seventeenth year, promotes positive learning experiences inside and outside the classroom, and supports co-curricular and extra curricular student activities and projects. General guidelines require each application to be student authored, to have a teacher sponsor and the site principal's approval. To better support student interests, two grant cycles are offered, the first in the fall semester and the second in the spring semester.

PPIE Foundation also offers Education Grants for Pleasanton Unified School District employees to fund projects that are student-focused, that promote creativity and innovative thinking, and that offer expanded learning opportunities to students. Applications are available on the PPIE Foundation website, <http://www.ppie.org/> www.ppie.org. Grant requests are accepted in amounts up to \$2500.00.

PPIE Foundation Student Grant Awards went to the following:

Amador Valley High School Robotics Club, John Crussell, \$500. Support for the construction of a submarine to be entered into various robotics competitions.

DECA Western Regional Leadership Development, Chris Gauthier, Foothill High School, \$250. Support for students to attend the Western Regional Leadership Conference.

Operation L-O-V-E (Letters of Valuable Encouragement), Kyle Javens, Harvest Park Middle School, \$82.41. Funding to provide postage for letters of encouragement and care packages to soldiers in Iraq and injured soldiers at Livermore Veteran's Hospital.

Foothill High School Robotics Club, Kevin Kim, \$500. Funding to support the start up of a Vex robotics team.

Black History Assembly, Ashlee Stephens, Amador Valley High School, \$400. Support for the Black Student Union's annual Black History Month assembly.

Donlon Total Talent Show, Amanda Tran, Donlon Elementary School, \$400. Materials and supplies to support total talent show including all performing and visual arts.

Holiday Home Tour

Fremont's Historic Niles District will offer a variety of holiday events.

The Niles District Main Street Association will host a Holiday Home Tour on Dec. 9.

The tour begins at the Niles Essanay Film Museum located at 37395 Niles Boulevard. (This is also the location for the reception and holiday entertainment between 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.). Tickets purchased the day of the tour are 20.00 and will be available at the museum. The advance ticket price is 15.00 and may be purchased online at www.niles.org or call Keith for more details at 510-676-7523. The hours of the tour are 12:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Also, on December 9th, there will be the Niles Art Walk from 12:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. This art walk is casual with many studio/shops showing local

art and craft.

The Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum celebrates the Essanay Film Studio that flourished in Niles making silent films and colorful stories for the residents. People are welcome to view technology that was state of the art in the early 1900s and learn how movies were made. Hours are: Saturday 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Sunday 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Movies are shown on Saturday night beginning at 7:30 p.m. and donations for viewing are 5.00. More information is available at www.nilesfilmuseum.org.

Niles is the place for specialty stores catering to shoppers who need those rare items and like the convenience this district offers. There is abundant, free parking, and the variety of establishments has grown this year to include new art galleries, a yarn shop, and additional collectibles. Often refreshments are part of the experience to say nothing of old fashioned friendly service. More substantial appetites will benefit from our new restaurants. Also, noteworthy are the traditional window displays offering scenes and decorations guaranteed to generate smiles from everyone. This year to add further convenience for visitors, many stores have extended their hours to include evenings on Thursdays and Fridays until 8:00 p.m. and some of them are offering discounts or drawings during those evening times.

The season begins on November 24th with the "Festival of Lights Parade" sponsored by The Niles Merchant's Association. The parade begins at 6:00 p.m. and includes the first visit from Santa. Questions about the parade can be directed to 510-792-8023.

Along with the parade The Niles Canyon Railway has scheduled a "Train of Lights" to make an appearance. Even though tickets for the season have already sold out, it is a delight to watch. To find out more about the historic train visit www.ncry.org.

Yellow Ribbon Tree

The yellow ribbon tree in downtown Livermore is in need of new ribbons. People can make a donation at Richard's, 4502 Las Positas Rd. (by Target) or to Operation: S.A.M. at P.O. Box 2992, Livermore. After the new year new ribbons will be put on the yellow ribbon tree. A ribbon costs \$5.00.

Immunization Clinic

Axis Community Health offers drop-in immunization clinics for low-income and uninsured families. A clinic will be held from 9:00-11:30 a.m. on Saturday, December 2. All immunization clinics are held at Axis' Pleasanton location only, 4361 Railroad Avenue. The clinics are open to all Tri-Valley families who are low income or uninsured. Families enrolled in Medi-Cal and Medi-Cal Managed Care programs are also eligible. Parents are required to bring their children's immunization records and any information they may have about family income and medical insurance, including Medi-Cal. There is a charge for some immunizations.

Immunizations for children are also provided during regular weekday clinic hours at the Pleasanton and Livermore locations by appointment at (925) 462-1755.

Bilingual Storytime

The Pleasanton Library will host a special series of bilingual storytimes during the new school year. The Spanish-English series will be offered the first Wednesday evening of each month. Special celebration for Las Posadas on Dec. 6th.

Storytimes resume in 2007 beginning Feb. 7th, continuing Mar. 7th and concluding April 4th.

The programs are free, lasting approximately 30 minutes and will be held in the library meeting room. Reg-

istration is not required. Families with children of all ages are welcome to attend and enjoy stories and song.

For information on other family programs at the library, check the library's website www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/library/programs-events-child.html or call the Children's Desk at (925) 931-3400 x 8.

Medical Seminar

San Ramon Regional Medical Center, and Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) will present a free educational seminar, "Medicare 2007: Get Ready for Major Changes and 55 Drug Plans," Tuesday, Dec. 5, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.

Mickey Mergy, HICAP Medicare counselor, will speak at the community seminar in the South Conference Room in San Ramon Regional's South Building, located at 7777 Norris Canyon Road.

Medicare will become more and more complicated in 2007. Insurance companies will offer numerous new health plans for Medicare recipients in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties. The speaker will explain the 2007 plan updates, new enrollment periods, and drug exceptions and appeals. She also will discuss some of the 12 Medicare Advantage Plans and four Special Needs Plans, including: Medical Savings Accounts Plan (MSA), Private Fee-for-Service Plans (PFFS), Preferred Provider Plans (PPO), Health Maintenance Organizations (HMO), Medigap, and 55 stand-alone drug plans.

HICAP does not sell or endorse any insurance or provide of health benefits. Participants will receive comparison charts for these plans to assist in making decisions.

Space is limited. Reservations are required. For reservations, call 800.284.2878 or on-line at www.sanramonmedctr.com.

Mitchell Katz Release

Mitchell Katz Winery will release two new wines on Sat., Dec. 9. The wines are a 2004 Zinfandel - Ruby Hill Vineyard; and a 2005 Chardonnay Reserve, Shadow Hills.

The release event is noon to 5 p.m. Pouring stops at 4:30.

Admission is \$10, which includes appetizers, 20 oz. keepsake glass, and various varietal tasting. No reservations are required.

Mitchell Katz is located at 1188 Vineyard Ave., Pleasanton. For information, call 931-0744.

Irish Dancers

Local dancers did well at the Western Oriechtas (Western Region Dance Championships) held November 17th-19th in Portland, Oregon.

Devin Byrne and Sarah Ryan, both from the McBride School of Irish Dance, made it to the finals; with Devin Byrne going on to qualify for the Nationals in Ottawa, Canada in June, 2007. Annie Geasa and Janelle Dorcy, from the Moore School of Irish Dance qualified for Nationals as well, and will be competing in Canada this summer.

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Advent and Christmas Events

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 www.fpc-livermore.org
 925/447-2078

St. Nicholas is coming! Sunday, December 3

St. Nicholas will be joining us to talk to the children at both worship services (9 a.m. in the chapel and 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary). Have your child's photo taken with St. Nicholas after the 10:30 a.m. service.

Advent Family Festival, 5-7 p.m. Sunday, December 3

Come for a delicious soup supper in our Fellowship Hall. Afterwards Rev. Jeff will read one of his stories for the adults, Live Nativity. There will be fun Christmas/Advent crafts for kids, including cookie decorating!!!!

Advent Study: "Mary Had a Baby"

An Exploration of Advent through African-American Spirituals
 Sundays from 9 - 10 a.m.
 December 3, 10 and 17
 in Room 2D1

ART & ENTERTAINMENT



Jim Gamble's Puppets in Pleasanton.

Puppets to Perform 'The Nutcracker' in Pleasanton

Jim Gamble's Puppets will perform the holiday favorite, *The Nutcracker*, on Friday, December 8 in Pleasanton. This marionette program that traces the original classic ballet story and is accompanied by the familiar music of Tchaikovsky. The 7:30 p.m. performance will take place at The Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road on the Amador Valley High School campus in Pleasanton. City of Pleasanton Civic Arts Presents this program. Each of Jim Gamble's shows is comprised of unique puppet characters and many include a variety of puppetry styles - marionettes, rod puppets, life-size Bunraku-style puppets, hand puppets or shadow puppets. Innovative performance techniques and control mechanisms allow refined movements and expressions. Gamble has been constructing puppets and performing since his college days and began performing full time after careers as a United States Air Force and commercial airline pilot. He is a highly regarded designer of marionettes and staging who, in 1988, was one of only two Americans to be invited to perform at the World Puppetry Festival in Japan. Advance tickets to *The Nutcracker* performance are \$10, \$14, and \$18 for adults, and \$6, \$10 and \$14 for children. Tickets may be purchased online at www.civictickets.org until 1:00 a.m. the day of the performance, by phone at (925) 931-3444, or in person at the Amador Theater Box Office Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and for two hours prior to the performance. Group sales discounts are available.

Symphony Opens Season

The first Livermore-Amador Symphony concert of the 2006-07 season will be presented on Saturday, December 2, starting at 8 pm at the First Presbyterian Church, 4th & L Streets, Livermore. Sally Dalke will not be playing with the Symphony in the December 2 concert due to conflicts. Taking her place as concertmaster and soloist supporting Mr. Tinsley in the Brandenburg Concerto No. 2 will be Kristina Anderson. Anderson is currently the concertmaster of the Santa Cruz County Symphony, the West Bay Opera Company, the Diablo Symphony, and acting associate concertmaster of the Oakland East Bay Symphony. She has also performed as concertmaster of the DVC Masterworks chorale and the Vallejo Symphony Orchestra. She lives in Ben Lomond with her husband Steve. [Additional information available on request] Conductor is Arthur Barnes. Featured soloists include guest trumpeter James Tinsley joined by concertmaster Kristina Anderson and the Symphony's own principal flutist Jeff Pelletier and principal oboist Eva Langfeldt. Janet Holmes is the First Presbyterian Church of Livermore's own resident organist. The Symphony's year-long tribute to Mozart concludes with his best-known symphony, the dark minor-key 40th, centerpiece among his three last and greatest symphonies, all composed in the summer of 1788. The program includes: Shostakovich, Festive Overture; Ippolitov-Ivanov, Caucasian Sketches Suite No. 1; Bach, Brandenburg Concerto No. 2, featuring James Tinsley, trumpet; Sowerby, Concert Piece for Organ and Orchestra, featuring Janet Holmes, organ; and Mozart, Symphony No. 40. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$13 for seniors. New this year: students high school age and younger are admitted free of charge. Tickets are available in Livermore at Book Oasis, 2369 First Street (925-606-7876), in Pleasanton at Towne Center Books, 555 Main Street (925-846-8826), at the door, by mail from Livermore-Amador Symphony, PO Box 1049, Livermore CA 94551 (after 11/25/06, tickets will be held at the door). Season tickets are also available (adults, \$48; seniors, \$42), for admission to concerts on 12/2/06, 2/3/07, 3/24/07, and 5/12/07.

3D Animation Program For Teens

3D Animation is the theme of a program to be presented by the Livermore Library on Sat., Dec. 9 from 3 to 5 p.m. During this interactive seminar and demonstration, teens will learn basic 3D terminology, how 3D models are built, how animations are made, and information about related career opportunities. The program will be presented by Steve Klitzing, founder of a 3D Computer Animation Program for the California Community College System. He is also a successful game engine designer and developer. For more information, visit the library's website at www.livermore.lib.ca.us or contact Mary Sue Nocar at 373-5500 ext. 5583. The library is located at 1188 So. Livermore Avenue.

Artwork Offers Macroview Of The World

Thirty five pieces of "themed" art will be shown at the new Livermore Library Gallery at 1181 S. Livermore Ave, Livermore. The show is entitled "Up Close." It features a look at everyday things using a macro view. Examples of this could be an animal's eye, the heart of a flower, or the bark of a tree. The exhibit, which runs from December 1-December 30, includes watercolors, oils, acrylics and photography. Many of the pieces of art will be for sale. Admission is free. The Gallery is open during normal library hours. For more information, call Linda Jeffery Sailors at 449-7274.

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Livermore Art Association Gallery, holiday reception on Sat., Dec. 2, 1 to 3 p.m. Theme is "Winter Wonderland." Carnegie Bldg., 3rd and K Streets, Livermore.

Auditions Sunol Repertory Theatre for the performance of the melodrama, *Taming the Wild, Wild West* in a Dress or Let's Give the Villain the Slip by Billy St. John. Auditions will be held on Thursday evening December 7 at 7 p.m. in the Sunol Glen School auditorium. Kids as well as grown-ups who think it's fun to act like kids are invited.

Polar Express at Wente Vineyards, Saturday, December 16, matinee begins at 1:30 p.m. screening of *Polar Express*, the animated family movie. The story: On Christmas Eve, a doubting boy boards a magical train headed to the North Pole and Santa Claus's home. And just like the kids in the movie, kids in the audience are encouraged to come in their pajamas to watch the movie. Wente Vineyards will serve a delicious prix fixe lunch (optional) to accompany. Hot chocolate and coffee will be served. Two-course prix fixe lunch and ticket for the show: \$29 Adults (plus tax and gratuity), \$16 Kids (plus tax and gratuity) Movie only ticket: \$9 Adults, \$5 Kids. Buy tickets now by calling 925.456.2400 or Ticketmaster.com. Proceeds benefit the California Independent Film Festival. Barrel Room at Wente Vineyards, 5050 Arroyo Road, Livermore.

Heroes and Villains: A Classic Film Series. Las Positas College and Pleasanton Public Library present this classic film series with Candy Klaschus, film historian and Coordinator of the Humanities Program at Las Positas College. A film will be shown every first Thursday of the month. Dec. 7 film is "Strangers on a Train." Shown at 7 p.m. in the library meeting room, 400 Old Bernal Ave., Pleasanton.

Cantabella Children's Chorus, Sat., Dec. 8, 2 p.m. Valley Community Church, 4455 Del Valle Parkway, Pleasanton. "What Sweeter Music," the annual Christmas concert featuring over 200 children's voices and instrumentalists. Information, www.cantabella.org; ticket information 292-2663.

Auditions - City of Angels, Las Positas College musical production; Tues., Dec. 5 and Wed., Dec. 6, 7 to 10 a.m. Cast includes eight principal singing/acting roles, an eight member jazz chorus and various smaller speaking roles. Bring a prepared song and sheet music. Las Positas College, 3033 Collier Canyon Rd., Livermore. For more information, call 424-1166 or email kross@laspositascollege.edu. Performances are March 22-April 8.

Auditions, Ragtime, Chabot College Drama Department, on December 4, 5, 6 and 7 from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Little Theater on campus. "Ragtime" transforms E.L. Doctorow's best-selling novel into a collage of song, dance and drama. Actors and singers of all ages and ethnicities are invited to audition. They should be prepared to sing. The auditions are in a drop-in format and no appointments are necessary. "Ragtime" will be performed in April 2007. For more information about the upcoming audition, please contact Rachel LePell at (510) 723-6830.

Celebration Chimes, handbell choir performs at the Livermore Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave., Dec. 10, 3 p.m. No admission charge. Part of authors and arts program series underwritten by Friends of the Livermore Library. Information at 373-5505.

Concert featuring the Amador Valley High School Wind Ensemble and the Chabot Wind Symphony will be performed at the Chabot College Performing Arts Center beginning at 7:00 p.m. on Dec. 6. Tickets will be available at the door. For directions, www.chabotcollege.edu/PAC.

Wine, chocolate and appetizers. Aloha Island Trading Company, Gourmet Works and Studio 7 provide complimentary appetizers, Livermore wines and chocolates every Friday through December 22nd

from 6-9 PM. This is for the enjoyment of adult shoppers. Music is also offered on most Fridays. Aloha Island Trading Company, Gourmet Works and Studio 7 are located at 400, 410 and 420 Main Street in downtown Pleasanton (corner of West Angela and Main). Check www.AlohaIslandTradingCompany.com for the Livermore wineries to be featured each week.

Gift of Words - Poems for the Iraqi People, Sunday, December 3, 1 to 3 p.m. Century House, 2401 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. City of Pleasanton Civic Arts presents program hosted by Poet Laureate Cynthia Bryant. Cost \$5. Information www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/community/arts/civic-arts-presents.html or (925) 931-5350

Worthington Gallery West, Cuna Indian Benefit, December 5-30. Benefit for the San Blas Medical Mission through the sale of colorful Mola textiles. Proceeds of the sale go directly to the Mission. December 1, 7 to 9 p.m., Photographer Sue Evans Pleasanton Photographer Sue Evans will be in the gallery. Friday night events free to the public; seasonal refreshments. 739-J Main St., Pleasanton. (925) 485-1183 www.worthingtongallerywest.com. Tues. - Sat. 10:30- 5:30.

The Gifts of the Magi, based on the short stories of O. Henry. Nov. 24-Dec. 10, Thurs., Fri. and Sat. 8 p.m. and Sun. 2 p.m. Douglas Morrisson Theatre, 22311 North Third St., Hayward. For tickets call (510) 881-6777 (Tuesday through Friday from 12:30 to 5:30 p.m.). For information go to www.dmtonline.org.

The Edlos Holiday Music, A Cappella, City of Pleasanton Civic Arts Presents will host holiday music a cappella by The Edlos at the Amador Theater, Friday, December 1, at 8:00 p.m. 1155 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. World-class quartet, The Edlos, is known for powerful voices and a broad comic approach to performing. The Edlos Holiday Show combines traditional and not-so-traditional songs. Advance tickets are \$10, \$14, and \$18 for adults, and \$6, \$10 and \$14 for children. Tickets may be purchased on-line at www.civictickets.org until 1:00 a.m. the day of the performance, by phone at (925) 931-3444.

All-Star Musical Variety Program, "Happy Holidays and All That Jazz," includes silent auction. Benefiting the Young Actors' Theatre Camp Scholarship Fund. Hosted by cabaret star Samantha Samuels. Sat., Dec. 2. Silent auction 7 p.m., show 8 p.m. Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. General admission \$25; seniors and youth \$23; children 12 and under and groups of 10 or more, \$20 per person. Tickets and information at (925) 943-SHOW. The Young Actors' Theatre Camp (www.youngactorstheatrecamp.com), held at Camp Arroyo in Livermore, is a 6 day, 5 night intensive theatre training congress specially designed for young actors between the ages of 10-18 years old.

Winter Wonderland - A Dance Concert, produced by Nina Haft and Eric Kupers with the CSUEB dance faculty, Friday-Saturday, Dec. 1, 2 at 8 p.m. in the Dance Studio (PE 140), \$5 general, \$3, CSUEB students, \$15 for a family. California State University, East Bay (CSUEB), 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., Hayward. Theatre and Dance Department 510-885-3118 <http://class.csueastbay.edu/theatre/Nutcracker>, with Diablo Ballet in collaboration with Civic Arts Education, December 1-3, at the Del Valle Theater, 1963 Tice Blvd., Walnut Creek under the direction of Rebecca Crowell. Students of Diablo Ballet Apprentice Program and Diablo Ballet Professional Intermediate Program (PIP) will perform the classic holiday favorite with professional dancers from Diablo Ballet. 7:30 p.m. Dec. 1 and 2; 2 p.m. Dec. 2 and 3. Tickets, \$26 adults/seniors, \$23 age 12 and under, may be purchased at the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts Box Office and are also available on line or by calling: 925/943-SHOW.

Whiskers, Galatean Players Ensemble Theatre is celebrating the 10th Year Anniversary of the popular children's musical Whiskers! (an adaptation of

Margery Williams' classic *The Velveteen Rabbit*) by Caroline Altman. Performances will be at the Regional Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek, Dec. 6 to 10. The Musical features characters from the book including the Rabbit, the Skin Horse and a life-sized Jack-in-the-Box. Tickets, at \$8-\$15 and are available by calling (925) 943-7469 (SHOW). Senior, group and school discounts are available.

Lounge entertainment: Pleasanton Hotel, 855 Main St., Pleasanton: Fri., Dec. 1, In-Phase Band, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.; Sat., Dec. 2, Major Link, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.; Tues., Dec. 5, Jambalaya Swing Band, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.; Thurs., Dec. 7, Nina Vieira sings holiday songs, 7:30 to 9 p.m.; **Build a Gingerbread House**: Adults and children alike can let their imaginations and appetites run wild when they pair up to build and decorate their own holiday gingerbread houses with Wente Vineyards Restaurant Pastry Chef Lisa Shaver. You'll take

your dream house and a Wente Vineyards apron home. Saturday, December 2, and Sun., Dec. 10; 10 a.m. to noon. \$79.00 per pair. The Event Center at Wente Vineyards, 5050 Arroyo Road. For reservations call 925-456-2400 or online at www.ticketmaster.com. **New Year's Party**, Tesla Vintners New Years Eve Party on Dec. 31st from 8pm-1am. Patty's Passion, will be released. This is a musical blend of Grenache, Syrah, Mourvedre, and Petite Sirah. The festivities will take place in the new Tented Facility. There will be live music by the Singing Winemaker and Driving Force. Light hors d'oeuvres will be served. Two complimentary glasses of wine and sparkling wine for a New Year's Toast will be served. Additional wines from Fenestra, Red Sky and The Singing Winemaker will be available for purchase throughout the evening. Cost is \$70 per person. Call 925-606-WINE (9463) for reservations.

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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.

BOUQUETS/CRAFT EVENTS

Fine Arts and Crafts Boutique, Thurs., Nov. 30, 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 9th St., Livermore. Children's activity table, jewelry, candles, miniatures, handpainted ornaments and wine glasses, fused glass, mosaic, collage, fine art paintings, photography, scarves and more. All items are handmade.

Holiday Boutique, Sat., December 2, Springtown Community Center, 931 Larkspur Dr. (corner Bluebell & Larkspur), Livermore. Over 20 crafters, 9:30am - 5:00 pm.

Lots of holiday gifts. Refreshments will be available. All are welcome. 606-8299 or 447-5986 for information.

Holiday Christmas Home Tour, 23rd annual event hosted by Soroptimist International of Livermore. Sat., Dec. 2. Five decorated homes open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Start at Alden Lane Nursery to pick up maps. \$25 donation with proceeds to benefit women and children through local projects and charities. Tickets available at Proctor's, Valley Properties, and from Soroptimist members. Tickets also available at the door. Information, 449-4079 or 443-5897.

Christmas boutique, Joe Michell Elementary will host 3rd Annual Christmas Boutique, 1001 Elaine Avenue, Livermore, December 2, 2006, 9am-2pm. Food and Beverage available for purchase. Additional information contact (925) 454-1406.

Holiday Boutique, hosted by Livermore Valley Charter School, 343 Sonoma

Ave., Livermore on Dec. 2 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the children's craft center. Free admission. Featuring a host of merchandise created by talented local artisans including Bree Trostrud, Trice Cunningham, Bee Thoughtful Gift Baskets, Bill's Daily Grind, Children's Books, Christmas Floral, Crafts by Mercy, Home Décor/Staging Consultant, Inspired Designs Jewelry, La tida Baby, Mezarama Aromatherapy, Monica's Jewelry, Paper Artichoke, Piano Tinker, Sugar Magnolia Cakes and Baked Goods, Twin Stitches Embroidery, Artisan Marshmallows, Princess Dresses, Roxiebaby Children's Accessories, Rozalia Handcrafts, Up Town Girls Fashion, Woodworking by Anita Martin, and more. Direct Sales companies such as Arbonne Int'l, Beauti Control, Close To My Heart, Cookie Lee, Creative Memories, Homemade Gourmet, Longaberger Baskets, Pampered Chef, PartyLite, Mary Kay, Southern Living, Tastefully Simple, and The Body

Shop at Home will also be there. For more information contact Julie Snyder at 925-371-6515 or rjsnyder@comcast.net.

Book Sale by Friends of the Livermore Library on Sunday, December 3, 12:00 noon to 4 p.m. in front of the former Library at 1000 South Livermore Avenue. Fiction and non-fiction books, magazines and audio-visu- als are sold at deep discounted prices and there will be a table of free books. From 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. shopping bag sale for \$ 2.00 a bag of books.

International Handicrafts, The United Christian Church, 1886 College Ave., Livermore invites the community to an International Handicrafts Fair, Saturday, Dec. 2, 8am-1pm. Items from around the world available; reches, jewelry, toys, gift items and more.

MEETINGS/INFORMATION
E-waste recycling, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, December 2, at the Elks Lodge, 940

Larkspur Dr. Livermore. Computer monitors, TVs, Cell Phones and Ink Jet cartridges will be accepted free, other items may be discarded for a small fee. The proceeds will go to support the Livermore Pleasanton Elks Lodge charitable works. The discarded material will be recycled in accordance with state law. Checks should be made out to "ELKS". (Check with your tax adviser) for donation qualification. Recycling is required by the State of California, and recycling helps the environment. This is a one day, rain or shine event. For full information, contact Charles Landmesser at 510.590.7510, Terry Cottelear at 630.272.1776 or the Lodge at 925.455.8829.

Valley Spokesmen Bicycle Touring Club, Sun., Dec. 3, 38 miles San Ramon to Livermore and then Pleasanton, meet 9 a.m. at Central Park, Peter Rathmann, 828-1973. Wed., Dec. 6, 32 miles canal trail into Martinez and back, meet 10 a.m. at Heather Farms, Edith Norby, 707-748-1508. Wed., Dec. 6, club meeting 7:30 p.m. Round Table Pizza, 450 Market place, San Ramon; election of officers. Anyone planning to go on a ride is asked to call the leader for details on where to meet and what to bring.

Del Arroyo 4-H Club will hold its next community club meeting on Dec. 6 at 6:30 p.m., Emma C. Smith School, 391 Ontario Dr., Livermore. For more information, contact Adel Barney at 245-0599 or Margaret Miller at 447-6980.

Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club meets Tues., Dec. 5 at Alisal School multipurpose room, 1454 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. A potluck will be held at 6:30 followed by a business meeting and program. Speaker will be Angela Johal, a local artist. She will speak about using materials from the garden to beautify the home for the holidays. Crafts will be available for purchase. Guests are welcome. For information, call Bev at 485-7812.

Ohlone Audubon Chapter meets Dec. 5, 7:30 p.m. at Pleasanton Middle School, 500 Case Ave., Pleasanton. This will be a member slide show/Christmas cookie exchange - 1/2 hr. program to be determined.

Give Your Estate Planning a Face Lift at a workshop that covers the latest about Wills, Trusts, related financial planning, and other great tips. Topics include: What are the best criteria for choosing your executors and beneficiaries? What is most important for you to protect? What are the pitfalls that could make you or your estate vulnerable? Is it a good idea to get your trust done through a nonprofit or other option? Can trusts be affordable? Are Wills protective enough? Find out what questions you should be asking yourself. Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., Tuesday, December 5, from 10:30 to 12 noon. Call 925 931-5369 for information. \$1.25 residents/ \$1.75 non-residents.

Public Employees Association, Tri-

Valley Chapter 075, Christmas Party will be held Thurs., Dec. 7, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Emil Villa's Hickory Pit, 3054 Pacific Ave., Livermore. Brunch charge is \$5 per person. Please bring a wrapped Christmas ornament to be raffled off during the party. Door prizes. For information and reservations, contact Bob at 845-6563 or Jan at 447-9549.

San Ramon Newcomers, luncheon Dec. 14 at Barones Restaurant in Pleasanton. 11:30 a.m. social, noon lunch. For information, call 735-3508 or go to http://newcomers.home.comcast.net.

RELIGION

Unitarian Universalist, 1893 N. Vasco Rd., Livermore. The Dec. 3 will include the choir from the Mission Peak UU Congregation in Fremont. Rev. Eric Meter will speak. Information 447-8747.

Catholic Community of St. Charles, An Advent Bible Study: "Joy to the World" - Matthew 1-2 & Luke 1-2, November 27th - December 11th, 7:30 - 9:15 pm at St. Charles Borromeo, 1315 Lomitas Ave., Livermore in Pope John XXIII room. A \$10 donation for material would be appreciated. For more information contact Julie at 925-447-4549 or e-mail at upcatholic@aol.com.

Advent Evening of Reflection and Concert on Friday, December 1st at 7:30 - 9:30 pm at St. Charles Borromeo, 1315 Lomitas Ave., Livermore. The Community of St. Charles invites all families of all ages to come and quiet their pre-Christmas, frenzied, life with music and reflection. Performing will be Sr. Rebecca Shinas. A candle light procession by the children and liturgical dancers will open the evening. Sr. Rebecca Shinas, O.P. is the Adult Spiritual Formation coordinator at St. Simon's Parish in Los Altos. She is a spiritual director and published musician. Refreshments to follow in the Borromeo Hall. This is the part of a year long adult education series presented by L.I.F.E. (Lessons in Faith Experience) A \$5 free-will donation will be accepted. For more information contact Julie at 925-447-4549 or e-mail at upcatholic@aol.com.

United Christian Church, 1886 College Ave. Livermore worships each Sunday at 10:30am. On Dec. 3, the service will include decorating the church for the Advent and Christmas holidays. Children are especially welcome to participate! Contact Rev. Mary Williams for more information about holiday programs and events at 925-449-6820.

Christmas Carol Sing-Along! Sunday, Dec. 3, 6 p.m., at Tri-Valley Unity Church (at the Radisson Hotel in Dublin), 6680 Regional St. Souvenir song books, candy canes, apple cider, coffee and tea provided, as well as baked treats for sale during intermission. (925) 829-2733; www.trivalleyunity.com.

OBITUARIES

Karen A. Ghidossi

Karen A. Ghidossi passed away November 22, 2006 in Pleasanton after a brief illness. She was 71.

She was born in Berkeley, CA. During her 25 plus years of service, Tri-Valley Orthopedics was her second family. She will be remembered for her dedication and unwavering commitment.

Known as "GiGi," she is survived by her brother Chris, children Paula, Jeff, Marcia, Jim and David, grandchildren, Holly, Kayla, Chelsie, Anthony, Austin, Mason, Isabella, Justin, Jacob, Tyler, Genna and William, and a great grandchild, Caleb. She is also survived by her sister-in-law Norma and nephews Kelly and Patrick and their families.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Fri., Dec. 1 at Graham Hitch Mortuary, 4167 First St., Pleasanton.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Karen's name can be made to a charity of choice.

Danny Lee Trees

Danny Lee Trees of Livermore died peacefully in his sleep on November 22, 2006. He was 52.

The native of Chehalis, Washington was the son of Robert William and Margaret Christensen Trees. He graduated from W.F. West High School in Chehalis. He graduated from college with an AA degree then enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and trained as a flight line fire fighter. He married Cindy Adams and was later divorced. He was a sheet metal journeyman and was working as a mechanic at Wentve Vineyards at the time of his death. Danny met Kim Ladato, the love of his life. They spent many happy times together. He was a loving father, brother, uncle and friend. He had been active in Big Brothers and loved to help others.

He is survived by Kim Ladato, his children Amy Danae (Brian) Palkiki of Wisconsin and Jared Daniel Trees of Chehalis, WA, his sisters Cheryl (Bob) Rumberger of Byron, Trixie (Tom) Evans of

Byron, and Dixie (Tim) Vargas of Jerome, Idaho, and a brother, Mark Trees of Spokane, WA. He is also survived by several nieces and nephews, as well as four great nieces and four great nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents.

A memorial service will be held at 5 p.m. in the event center at Wentve Vineyards Restaurant and Golf Course, 5050 Arroyo Rd., Livermore. Plans will be announced in the future for Headstone Placement Ceremony in Chehalis, WA at Claquato Cemetery.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

Cameron Mitchell-Goulette

Cameron Mitchell-Goulette, 17, died in a car accident on November 26, 2006.

He was born in Framingham, MA, lived in Ottawa, Canada and Hudson, MA for six years and then his family settled in Pleasanton for the past 11 years. He received his education through the Pleasanton Unified School District. Cameron enjoyed riding

controlled cars, music, snowboarding, movies, reading, animals, camping and fishing. He worked as a construction laborer alongside his father, who is a general contractor.

He is survived by his family, Joseph Goulette and Morgan Mitchell of Pleasanton, brother Ross Mitchell-Goulette, 14, of Pleasanton, grandparents, Ann and Joel Sugdinis of Cape Cod, MA, Floyd and Judy Mitchell of Homosassa, FL, and Margaret Goulette of Guilford, ME. He also leaves behind many aunts, uncles and cousins in New England.

Family and friends are welcome to a memorial gathering at 11 a.m. on Sat., Dec. 2 at Barone's Restaurant, 475 St. John St., Pleasanton, to celebrate Cam's life.

The family has requested no flowers. A memorial fund has been established through First Republic Bank (formerly Bank of Walnut Creek) on Main St. in Pleasanton.

Arrangements by Graham-Hitch Mortuary.

GOOD NEIGHBOR CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICE

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 387609

The following person (s) doing business as JAES Construction, 1347 Marigold Rd., Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Jason Edeal, 1347 Marigold Rd., Livermore, CA 94551 This business is conducted by an individual Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed. Signature of Registrant: /s:/Gina Marie Baronian This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on October 27, 2006. Expires October 27, 2011. The Independent Legal No. 2076. Publish November 9, 16, 23, 30, 2006.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 387246

The following person (s) doing business as Hairtini, 202B South "L" Street, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): This Pilar, 624 Shelley Street, 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:/This Pilar This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on October 27, 2007.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 387245

The following person (s) doing business as Sunshine Accessories, 2965 Moreno Ave., Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Gina Marie Baronian, 2965

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 387610

The following person (s) doing business as BeeBash, 943 Hazel Street, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Marriaha Eden McDonald, 943 Hazel Street, 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:/Marriaha McDonald This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on October 23, 2006. Expires October 23, 2011. The Independent Legal No. 2076. Publish November 9, 16, 23, 30, 2006.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 387841

The following person (s) doing business as 1) The Crush 2)Wooden Turtle Productions 3)Beyond Technology 4)Hidden Creek Wine, 1249 Quarry Lane Ste 140, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Waldorf Conceptions LLC, 1249 Quarry Lane Ste 140, Pleasanton, CA 94566 This business is conducted by limited liability company The registrant commenced to

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 387963

The following person (s) doing business as Steel Creek Consulting, 1756 Valley of The Moon Rd., Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 387823

The following person (s) doing business as Jensen Solutions, 2243 Hampton Rd., Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Jensen & Associates, Inc., 2243 Hampton Rd., Livermore, CA 94550 This business is conducted by a corporation Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed. Signature of Registrant: /s:/Martha Jensen This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on November 9, 2006. Expires November 9, 2011. The Independent Legal No. 2082. Publish November 30, December 7, 14, 21, 2006.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 387824

The following person (s) doing business as Instituto Para El Desarrollo Integral De La Mujer, 2243 Hampton Road, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Jensen & Associates, Inc., 2243 Hampton Rd., Livermore, CA 94550 This business is conducted by a corporation Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed. Signature of Registrant: /s:/Martha Jensen This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on November 9, 2006. Expires November 9, 2011. The Independent Legal No. 2082. Publish November 30, December 7, 14, 21, 2006.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 387823

The following person (s) doing business as Martha Jensen Solutions, 2243 Hampton Rd., Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Jensen & Associates, Inc., 2243 Hampton Rd., Livermore, CA 94550 This business is conducted by a corporation Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed. Signature of Registrant: /s:/Martha Jensen This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on November 9, 2006. Expires November 9, 2011. The Independent Legal No. 2082. Publish November 30, December 7, 14, 21, 2006.

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

Adopt a new best friend: TVAR, the Tri-Valley Animal Rescue, offers animals for adoption every Saturday and Sunday, excluding most holidays. On Saturdays from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm, both 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 12:00 to 4:00 and the Pet Food Express in Livermore from 1:00 to 4:00. On Sundays, cats are available at Petsmart in Dublin from 1:00 to 4:00, and Petco in San Ramon from 11:00 to 3:00. For more information, call TVAR at (925) 803-7043 or visit our website at www.tvar.org

3) FREE/GIVEAWAY

FREE Cardboard Boxes. All Sizes Call 925 447-8215
This section is a no charge classified section. Call 925 243-8000 ask for Barbara

4) LOST/FOUND

FOUND in Livermore Man's Ring. Call to describe for identification 925 960-0995
Lost a family pet? Found an animal? Free Section. Call Barbara 925 243-8000 to let 46,000 households know!

5) AUTOS/MOTORCYCLES/RV/ SUNS/TRUCKS

7) AUTOS WANTED
DONATE YOUR CAR to the Original 1-800-Charity Cars! Full retail value deduction if we provide your car to a struggling family. Call 1-800-CHAR-ITY (1-800-242-7489) www.800CharityCars.org (CAL/SCAN)

7) AUTOS WANTED

DONATE VEHICLE, running or not ACCEPTED! Free Towing, Tax Deductible. Noahs Arc - Support No Kill Shelters, Animal Rights, Research to Advance Veterinary Treatment/ Cures. 1-866-912-GIVE. (CAL/SCAN)

9) USED AUTOS

2002 Honda Civic Ex Coupe \$10,499. 1 owner - CLEAN! 925 216-3000

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

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56) ADULT CARE

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

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GUIDE TO OPEN HOMES

1. Petitioner: Christine Nicole Tatro filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present Name: Christine Nicole Tatro
Proposed Name: Harmony Nichol

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Place your ad online at www.independentnews.com



60) BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

ALL CASH CANDY Route. Do you earn \$800 in a day? Your own local candy route. Includes 30 machines and candy. All for \$9,995. MultiVend, LLC 880 Grand Blvd. Deer Park, NY 11729. 1-888-625-2405. (CAL*SCAN)

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BEWARE! out of area companies. Check with the local Better Business Bureau before you send any money or fees. Read and understand any contracts before you sign. Shop around for rates.

68) HAIR SERVICES

Stylists & Salon Management. Great wage, bonuses, benefits. Lowe's Livermore Great Clips. Call Carleigh (877) 631-4995

71) HELP WANTED

FIREFIGHTER & EMT. Paid OJ Training. Physically fit and under age 34. Min H.S. Grads. Relocate. Benefits. Call 1-800-345-6289. (CAL*SCAN)

INSTALL TECHNICIANS. Top 15 DISH Network Retailer needs In-house/independent techs immediately. Top pay, benefits, close to home guaranteed. All Counties. Experience required. 1-800-919-9961. (CAL*SCAN)

72) HELP WANTED/DRIVERS

DRIVER - EXPERIENCED & Trainees Needed. Earn up to \$40k+next year. No experience required. \$0 down. CDL Training Available. Central Refrigerated 1-800-521-9277 x4779. (CAL*SCAN)

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WE HAVE DRIVERS Projected to Earn \$61,000 this year! How much will you earn? How much will you earn? Home weekly! Heartland Express 1-800-441-4953. www.HeartlandExpress.com (CAL*SCAN)

ATTN: FLATBED DRIVERS \$850-\$1050 per week! Dedicated runs Available. Free Benefits. Home Weekends & Some Weeknights. CDL-A Required. 1-866-394-1944. (CAL*SCAN)

80) HELP WANTED SALES

A National Sport and Fashion firm has immediate openings for sharp energetic people. Make great money and see the USA. Must be 18. Call 1-877-646-5050. (CAL*SCAN)



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85) RETAIL

Super Franks Family Entertainment Restaurant hiring all positions **Super Franks Fun Adventure** is a new 34,000 ft family entertainment restaurant located in Pleasanton. The center includes pizza restaurant, game arcade, Starbucks coffee bar, Glow-in-the-Dark Mini golf course, party rooms and, much more. Looking for motivated, positive individuals for a fun and rewarding employment opportunity. Positions available: Kitchen Lead and Cooks; "Quick Service" Food Servers; Bus boys; Shift Managers and Supervisors, Party and Activities Coordinators, Mini Gym & Craft room Managers, Hostess, Starbucks Coffee bar associates, Game Room workers and Game techs. For applications please call 510-731-8008 or you can download one at www.superfranks.com/employment.html and bring it to one of our hiring fairs held at our location (5341 Owens Ct. Pleasanton 94588). Hiring fair dates: Thursday, November 30 from 3:00pm to 6:00pm and Saturday, December 2 from 12:00pm to 3:00pm. Super Franks is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

MERCHANDISE

120) EQUIPMENT FOR SALE
SAWMILLS FROM ONLY \$2,990.00. Convert your logs to Valuable Lumber with our own Nonwood portable band sawmill. Log skidders also available. www.nonwoodindustries.com Free Information: 1-800-578-1363 x300-N (CAL*SCAN)

123) GARAGE/RUMMAGE/YARD SALES

Your garage sale ad can go here. Rain or Shine! Call Barbara 925-243-8000 or go to www.independentnews.com before 8am Tuesdays to get your ad in for the next edition.

125) HOUSEHOLD/YARD ITEMS

Spa Cover / Brand New Wholesale Cost \$266.44 Box Never Opened Brown - Standard Skirt 6'3" (74 inches round) Sparkle Pool Call (925) 577-1111

HOT TUB 2006 DELUXE MODEL Many Jets, Therapy Seat. Warranty Never Used. Can Deliver. Worth \$5700 sell \$1750. Call 925 944-1285

128) MEDICAL SUPPLIES/EQUIPMENT

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130) MISC. FOR SALE

DRIVER: Don't Just Start Your Career. Start It Right! Company Sponsored CDL training in 3 weeks. Must be 21. Have CDL? Tuition Reimbursement! wgreen@crst.com 1-800-781-2778. (CAL*SCAN)

134) STEEL BUILDINGS

STEEL BUILDINGS End of Year Factory Specials. 40x60' to 200x300. Must clear out inventory. Rigid 1-800-658-2885. (CAL*SCAN)

SPECIAL BUILDING SALE... "Don't Miss It!" Final Clearance. Deposit will hold till .25' x 4.0' x 12' = \$480.00. 40' x 60' x 16' = \$12,800. Front end optional. Other sizes available. Pioneer 1-800-668-5422. (CAL*SCAN)

NOTICES/ANNOUNCEMENTS

150) ADOPTIONS

PREGNANT? CONSIDERING ADOPTIONS? Talk with caring people specializing in matching birthmothers with families nationwide. Expenses Paid. Toll Free 24/7 Abby's One True Gift Adoptions 1-866-413-6292

151) ANNOUNCEMENTS

Weight Loss Program Visit lahealthnutrition.com or for more information, e-mail: lahealthnutrition@gmail.com

152) MISCELLANEOUS

Axis Health Center 4361 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. Serves Valley residents with emphasis on those with low income. The center has general medical services, family planning, well baby, prenatal and maternity programs, social services, blood pressure checks, WIC food supplement programs, premarital blood test, sports/camp physicals, TB screening, free transportation available. 925 462-1755

\$22,000 - LOVE PREGNANCY? Become a Surrogate! Make dreams come true. Carry someone else's baby who can't without help. Professional agency to support your journey. www.SurrogateWeb.com 1-800-877-4438. (CAL*SCAN)

156) NOTICES

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

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156) APT/ DUPLEX/HOUSE/ RENTAL

GOT A HOUSE FOR RENT? Let the 47,000+ households that read the Independent find out about it. To place an ad go to www.independentnews.com or call Barbara at 925 243-8000

163) HOMES/MOBILES FOR SALE

"FOR SALE WITH OWNER" HOMES

Help-U-Sell Tri-Valley See our website for our complete list of Open Homes, with addresses, prices, owners' phone numbers etc. www.helpuselltrivalley.com 925-484-1000

166) LAND/LOTS/ACREAGE

A DREAM FIND - 20 Acres - Reduced \$89,900. Near Tehachapi. Fresh mountain air and picture perfect views. Streams and oaks. Ideal for horses, country getaway, or to buy and hold. Financing. Call owner 1-888-821-5253. (CAL*SCAN)

COLORADO FALL RANCH Sale Starting At Only \$29,900! Spectacular views! Rolling fields. Elec/Tele included. Excellent financing. Call Now. 1-866-696-5262. (CAL*SCAN)

174) OUT OF STATE

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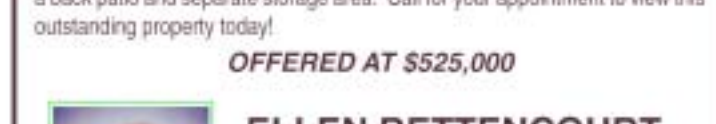
OPEN SUN 1-4



This charming downtown duplex is on market for the first time in fifty years! Each one bedroom, one bath unit has been well maintained with separate living rooms, kitchens and inside laundry areas. There is a separate detached garage of approximately five hundred square feet on a generous sized lot with a back patio and separate storage area. Call for your appointment to view this outstanding property today!

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Broker-Owner
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This charming downtown duplex is on market for the first time in fifty years! Each one bedroom, one bath unit has been well maintained with separate living rooms, kitchens and inside laundry areas. There is a separate detached garage of approximately five hundred square feet on a generous sized lot with a back patio and separate storage area. Call for your appointment to view this outstanding property today!

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Offer. Adjacent to Lake Summer. 10 acres - \$15,900. Rare riverfront property in New Mexico. Incredible setting, including frequently running Pecos River, views and diverse topography. 5 minutes to Recreational Lake. Limited number of small ranches. Excellent financing. Call NML&R, Inc. 1-888-204-9760 or visit www.RiverRanches.net (CAL*SCAN)

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Abandoned Farming/Mining Settlement less than 2hrs Albuquerque. 20 acres - \$17,900. Old Farming & Mining community. Incredible setting, including frequently running river, spring, views and diverse topography. Excellent financing. Few lots remain! Call NML&R, Inc. 1-888-370-5263 or visit www.SantaRitaRanches.net (CAL*SCAN)

169) MISC. REAL ESTATE

SAVE THOUSANDS!! SAVE THOUSANDS on these East Bay/Tri-Valley homes **GUARANTEED!** Call 24 hrs 800-978-6483 x9051 for FREE LIST. Most areas, types & price ranges. Agt Robin Bird

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MANUFACTURED/MOBILE/ MODULAR/Park Homes. Factory Direct from \$17,900. Save \$1,000's. Factory Tours Daily. Floor Plans and More online at www.ModularExpo.com or call 1-800-889-8548. (CAL*SCAN)

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2 Championship Golf Courses, 7 Lakes, Full service Marina, 2 hours NW Memphis, Tennessee. Lots starting at \$395. Mike: 1-800-850-4576 www.CherokeeVillageLandSale.com (CAL*SCAN)

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182) FINANCIAL SERVICES

REFINANCE YOUR HOME! Pay Off Credit Cards! Lower Payments and Get Cash. Credit Issues OK! Free Credit Review! Call Today Toll Free: 1-800-953-5850. (CAL*SCAN)

ATTENTION HOMEOWNERS.

Refinancing Eliminates Debt and Lowers Payments. No Mortgage payment for 3 months available. All credit grades handled. Mark Field Clarion Mortgage. 1-800-695-3050 Dre#01245811. (CAL*SCAN)

190) SCHOOLS/INSTRUCTION

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3 Bedrooms • 2 Full Baths • Approx. 1486 sq.ft.
True pride of ownership is apparent in this well-kept home. Terrific corner lot, with private backyard. Rarely available one-story model, built by Kaufman & Broad in 1997. Excellent value, priced at \$619,000

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PET OF THE WEEK
Sawyer is your all-around good guy, always in search of adventure. He is a loving and outgoing four-year old orange longhair. He likes being around his people, either in their lap or close by. He has always lived indoors, and would prefer to keep it that way. For more information on Sawyer (ID# 6368), call Valley Humane Society at (925) 426-8656. Valley Humane Society holds mobile pet adoptions for dogs and cats at Pet Extreme in Livermore every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



250,000 Lights Will Be Turned On This Friday

The biggest holiday display in Livermore is set to open on Friday, December 1 at 6:30 pm. Deacon Dave Rezendes is known for his elaborate tributes to Christmas. The front yard of his home at 352 Hillcrest Ave in Livermore is visited by tens of thousands of guests each year. The theme each year changes, and is always kept a secret until opening night ceremonies. On December 1st, the home and yard will be dark as a candlelight procession makes its way down the blocked off street. Members of

the community are welcome to join the procession that features the Livermore Granada Choir leading Deacon Dave to his home. After a blessing of the lights, the theme is announced. The lights are turned on. At that time, guests are invited to walk through the yard. Last year, the "North Pole Bakeries and Sweet Shops" theme was accented by over 250,000 lights. Guests walked down the driveway filled with sweets of all sorts - although none of them edible! Elves were busy getting the

goodies ready for Santa to deliver on Christmas Eve. They even used an elevator to get supplies on the way. This year's theme will again feature over a quarter of a million lights. The crew members love to share the spirit of the holidays, and are often on hand to answer any questions. Just ask anyone wearing a red "Casa del Pomba" ball cap. Deacon Dave opens his yard from December 1st until January 1st. The hours are 6 pm to

9:30 pm Sunday through Thursday, and from 6 pm until 10:30 pm Friday and Saturday. There is no admission charge. Donations are collected for Santa's Secret Service, a program providing a visiting Santa, carolers, and gifts to area nursing homes, shelters, and hospitals. Visit www.casadelpomba.com for more information on the display, Santa's Secret Service, and Deacon Dave's family history. Take East Avenue to Hillcrest, and then follow the glow!

 Livermore \$1,395,000 Beautiful 4bd/4.5ba home built in 2004 has 4451 +/- sq ft on a 16,547 +/- sq ft lot with incredible views. Formal LR/DR, gourmet kitchen, loft/veranda, mud room, FR. Ginger McGrail 925.525.6875	 Livermore \$1,185,000 Extraordinary 3,837 +/- sq ft 5bd/5ba executive home poised on 11,690 +/- sq ft premium lot in the heart of Prima. 3 car garage plus many upgrades. Jennifer Malakoff 925-525-3456	 Livermore \$990,000 1/3 +/- acre, 5 bedroom/3.5 bath, formal living room and dining room, large kitchen and many upgrades. Two way fireplace. Private backyard with outdoor kitchen. Jennifer Malakoff 925-525-3456	 Tina Ashton 925.989.3515	 Kevin Collins 925.895.6199	 Tom Gentry 925.200.1326	 Margaret Howard 925.784.0099	 Mark James 925.216.0454
 Livermore \$925,000 Truly a "Masterpiece" 4 bedroom, 2 bath. Stunning custom kitchen and backyard with pool www.11280DaneCircle.com Brad Slabaugh 925-447-BRAD	 Livermore \$649,000 Sunset East Model with Palo Alto kitchen, redone pool and dual pane windows. Spacious living room with fireplace and cathedral ceilings. Price Reduced! Jennifer Malakoff 925-525-3456	 Livermore \$599,000 Remarkable exp. kitchen, 4bd/2 ba, FR, LR with vaulted ceilings. Side yard access on quiet street. This is a rare find! www.294NadineStreet.com Brad Slabaugh 925-447-BRAD	 Mark Lafferty 925.216.6203	 Jennifer Lewis 925.339-0653	 Jo Ann Luisi 925.292.0437	 Jennifer Malakoff 925.525.3456	 Kathryn Mason 925.787.0889
 Livermore \$580,000 Clean, clean, cute. Rebuilt in 2000 from subfloor-up. 3bd/2.5ba, large kitchen, indoor laundry, Central A/C. www.1049MirandaWay.com Brad Slabaugh 925-447-BRAD	 Pleasanton \$365,000 Cute 2bd/2ba Townhouse near downtown, new carpet, paint and tile in kitchen/bath, 1 plus car garage with storage. HUGE PRICE REDUCTION! Kim Ott 925-583-1121		 Ginger McGrail 925.525.6875	 Kim Ott 925.583.1121	 Rose Perry 925.250.2887	 Stasia Polesz 925.339.3077	 Jeff Repine 925.583.1134
			 Matthew Schellenberg 925.784.7522	 Brad Slabaugh 925.997.4905	 Christine Stark 925.583.1119	 Cheri Stephens 925.292.2700	

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MSRP	\$15,310
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Sale Price	\$13,495
Factory Rebate	-\$ 2,500

NET COST TO YOU
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1 at this Price #198630

NEW 06 MERCURY MILAN I-4

MSRP	\$18,995
Livermore Discount	-\$ 1,200
Sale Price	\$17,795
Factory Rebate	-\$ 1,000

NET COST TO YOU
\$16,795

1 at this Price #611332

NEW 06 FORD RANGER 4x2 AUTOMATIC-V6

MSRP	\$19,050
Livermore Discount	-\$ 1,550
Sale Price	\$17,500
Factory Rebate	-\$ 3,000

NET COST TO YOU
\$14,500

1 at this Price #A60839

NEW 06 MERCURY MONTEREY

MSRP	\$29,800
Livermore Discount	-\$ 2,305
Sale Price	\$27,495
Factory Rebate	-\$ 5,000
FMCC Cash*	-\$ 500

NET COST TO YOU
\$21,995

2 at this Price #J00736, J01563 *Must finance thru FMCC.

NEW 06 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY LX

MSRP	\$27,575
Livermore Discount	-\$ 2,580
Sale Price	\$24,995
Factory Rebate	-\$5,000

NET COST TO YOU
\$19,995

1 at this Price #693106

NEW 06 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LAREDO

MSRP	\$28,415
Livermore Discount	-\$ 2,920
Sale Price	\$25,495
Factory Rebate	-\$ 3,500

NET COST TO YOU
\$21,995

1 at this Price #327049

NEW 07 JEEP LIBERTY SPORT

MSRP	\$23,075
Livermore Discount	-\$ 580
Sale Price	\$22,495
Factory Rebate	-\$ 2,500

NET COST TO YOU
\$19,995

1 at this Price #507690

NEW 07 JEEP COMPASS 4x4

MSRP	\$19,435
Livermore Discount	-\$ 680
Sale Price	\$18,745
*CFC Rebate	-\$ 750

NET COST TO YOU
\$17,995

1 at this Price #122669

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BANKRUPTCY OK!

1ST TIME BUYER OK!
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