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Concern about Public Access to Open Space

Trail advocate Dolores Bengston is concerned about public access to open space in the Oak Grove project. The de-veloper is proposing to dedicate 497 acres of open space as part of the development proposal.

Bengston, a former Director of Pleasanton Parks and Community Services, points out that the Pleasanton Community Trails Master Plan approved in 1993 includes a network of internal trails on the property. It also includes a segment of the regional trail and several staging areas. She points out that when the Oak Grove project was first proposed it included 98-units, network

of parking, a restroom, and water. Now, all that remains is the regional trail segment. There is no staging area indicated in the plans, says Bengston.

of trails, and a well developed staging

area that included the basic amenities

She said the consensus on the plan was reached without public participation. She described the internal trials as a way to spread out use.

"These changes are very alarming to a number of us," said Bengston. History shows that adding the trails and staging areas after homes are built is very difficult. She notes that should the city accept the land but not have convenient access, the land "would simply be a private preserve for Kottinger Ranch maintained by the City.'

According to a website established by the developer, "A portion of a re-gional trail linking Callippe Golf Pre-serve with Shadow Cliffs passes through the 497 acres of Oak Grove open space. Approval of Oak Grove would preserve both the open space and the regional trail link. There is no staging area proposed on site at this time.

Bing Hadley, president of the Kottinger Ranch Homeowners Association, said in an interview that any plans for Oak Grove are speculation at this point. "There are a lot of ongoing negotiations (in regard to Oak Grove)," according to

Early in 2006, members of the City Council launched an initiative to find ways to minimize the amount of new housing constructed in southeast Pleasanton and maximize the amount of open space preserved within the eastern part of the city. About the same time, the city manager convened a set of meetings between the Oak Grove landowners (the Lin family) and Kottinger Ranch Homeowners Association representatives to discuss a compromise development plan. The result was the 51lot plan now under consideration.

The Homeowners Association and

the developer have endorsed the 51-lot plan. Hadley commented, "Some people wanted zero homes. The developer wanted 98. The final number is a compromise on both sides. However, the developer wouldn't be agreeing, if the project weren't still doable at the smaller

Hadley pointed out that the Oak Grove project has dramatic impact on Kottinger Ranch. "We have been in discussion for a number of years. There is a lot of positive agreement in principle. Not everything has been iced. All of the details will come out when they are finalized.'

Hadley said that a meeting is planned with trail advocates to discuss their concerns. "There is a continuing open dialog about aspects of the project that we are all embracing," Hadley added.

The property was first settled by John

Kottinger, who was appointed the first Justice of the Peace for Murray Township in 1853. Kottinger, along with Joshua Neal, set the precedent for development improvements that formed the City of Pleasanton. The Ranch was acquired by the Lin family in 1977. All but 562 acres of the Ranch were transformed by the Lins into a neighborhood of homes that retains its historic name, Kottinger Ranch.

In 1991, the remaining 562 acres were annexed into the City. In 1992, the Pleasanton City Council approved a de-velopment plan called "Kottinger Hills" that included 86 homes and an 18-hole golf course. In 1993, the voters turned down the Kottinger Hills proposal in a referendum. Seven years later, the landowners submitted a Development Plan for Oak Grove for 98 lots and 495 acres

(See OAK GROVE, page 4)

Relatives Hope For Timely Gift To **Save Livermore** Native's Life

By Ron McNicoll

Relatives and friends of Charlie Stockley are hoping for a Christmas miracle.

Stockley, 38, is in the intensive care unit at Stanford Medical Center, awaiting a lung transplant. He is at the top of the list to receive a pair of lungs. However, it's more complicated than it sounds. Stockley must be compatible with the donor's blood and tissue type. So far, a match has not been found.

The ravages of cystic fibrosis, his lifelong disease, have shut down Stockley's lungs. A transplant is the only thing left for him. He is breathing with the help of a ventilator. However, if he is on it much longer, other complications could set in, problems that would nullify his ability to have the operation. A timely donation is crucial.

Stockley grew up in Livermore. He is still the drummer in a band with two of his best Livermore buddies, Dan Flores and Herb Toor. When they play Valley clubs, they are called Mad Dog Toor and the Milk Bones.

It's one of the things Stockley has done to keep active, refusing to have his disease put any limits on him, said his sister, Kelly

Spruiell, who lives in Livermore. Spruiell and other relatives have been sleeping on and off in the waiting room at Stanford for the past few days, hanging in there and pulling for Stockley. She said they realize that a newspaper story might not bring in the right match for him. However,

A report issued last week by a

Defense Science Board Task

Force concludes there is agree-

ment that the "overriding prior-

ity for the US nuclear weapons

enterprise is to provide and sus-

tain a reliable, safe, secure and

credible set of nuclear weapons

needed to maintain the nuclear

deterrent." However, the report

adds, there is no national con-

sensus on the nature of that need.

the Lawrence Livermore Na-

tional Laboratory, co-chaired the

committee along with General

(ret) Larry Welch.

John Foster, former Director of

(See GIFT, page 3)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Fred Erickson and Betty Boling have each seen 101 Christmas celebrations.

Two People and 202 Years Of **Christmas Celebrations**

By Ron McNicoll

Just two residents of Rosewood Gardens, an assisted living facility in Livermore have enough birthdays between them to bring their combined total of Christmas observances to 202 years next

Both Fred Erickson and Betty Boling are 101 years old. They fool many people with their appearance. They both look about 20 years younger than they really

Boling has been hampered by arthritis for the past couple of

The report points out that

there are sharp differences found

on the role and complexion of

the use of nuclear weapons as a deterrent. On one hand, there is

an entrenched view held by an

influential segment of the popu-

lation that transforming the

stockpile is the wrong way to shape the security environment

and counter nuclear proliferation

pressures. On the other hand,

there are views that the task force

says need to be more widely un-

derstood in order to transform the

nuclear enterprise to one effec-

tive in meeting the security

Report Says Consensus Missing on Nuclear Weapons

get around. Otherwise she could is hard of hearing, and must raise probably still be driving a car, his voice to he can hear what he her faculties are so sharn said Sherri Douty, marketing director for Rosewood Gardens.

Like other residents of the facility, Erickson and Boling live in their own neatly maintained one-bedroom apartments. They attend the in-house special activities, usually performances by young singers and instrumentalists who donate their time to entertain them.

Erickson, who turned 101 in

The result of this lack of con-

sensus is an entrenchment of

long-standing and strongly held

views, with little genuine debate

aimed at forging a new consen-

sus. A new consensus would en-

able sensible and supportable

choices on future nuclear capa-

bilities and doctrine needed to

move forward in providing the

The report presents five competing views. The first is that

lower numbers of U.S. nuclear

weapons are preferable regardless

of the starting point, with zero as

right nuclear weapons.'

threats of today.

years, so she needs a walker to July, speaks briefly, because he is saving However he is able to convey humor, and comes across as a great kidder. He was teasing Boling and another woman on staff in a friendly way, letting an interviewer know that there was still plenty of spark left in him.

Erickson's arthritis prevents him from dancing now, but in his younger days, he and his late wife, Wilda, loved to dance in Oakland's ballrooms in the (See 202, page 7)

the ultimate goal. The alternative

view to this view is that the de-

sirability of a nuclear free world

is irrelevant. A fundamental re-

quirement for credibility is the

belief by the potential adversary

that the U.S. would execute its

nuclear development and sus-

tainment activity causes other

states to seek their own nuclear

weapons, spurring proliferation.

The alternative view is that na-

tions pursue weapons of mass

destruction because they have

(See NUCLEAR, page 4)

The second view is that U.S.

deterrent threat.

Pulido Trading School Board Seat For Bench

Steve Pulido is moving up to the Alameda County Superior Court bench. He will be leaving his seat on the Pleasanton school board behind

Pulido told his fellow school trustees at their meeting Dec. 12 that he was appointed a few days earlier to the bench by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. Pulido is an attorney with his own practice in Hayward. He specializes in family law. Pulido will leave his seat on the district board of trustees Feb. 2, the day that he

will be sworn in as a judge.

The board voted 4-0 to re-

place him with an appointment, instead of calling a special election. Trustees Jim Ott and Kris Weaver said that normally an election might be a good thing. However, Ott was appointed in May to succeed Gloria Fredette, who resigned ever time conflicts. who resigned over time conflicts in her life. When the election rolled around in November, no one filed to run against the appointed incumbent, or the other incumbent, 10-year board veteran

Ott and Weaver interpreted this as an indicator that the com-(See PULIDO, page 4)

Local Electeds in Place to Push for BART to Tracy

"BART to Tracy" is the new cry raised by elected officials in planning the future of Interstate 580's traffic congestion relief.

Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty was the first to say it at a groundbreaking ceremony Dec. 15 at Dublin city hall. The earth-turning ritual next to I-580 kicked off the first of a series of projects for the next six years that will include widening both directions of I-580 to install HOV lanes and preservation of a transit median in the middle of the freeway.

The first phase of the project, due for completion next year, will be to install cameras, message boards, and other technology that will enable CalTrans to monitor traffic flow on the freeway, and make adjustments to speed things up. Installing the vigilance hardware and software first will help monitor safety for the freeway-widening crews.

Assemblyman Guy Houston also said in his remarks that Tracy should be in BART's long-range

Rep.-elect Jerry McNerney stated, "BART to Livermore, and possibly Tracy, are things I'm interested in.

He praised the attending politicians and staff people, who included CalTrans and the Congestion Management Authority

(See BART, page 4)

Film Festival Moves to April

The California Independent tremely high quality films," he Film Festival (CIFF) is moving stated. from October to April.

Festival founder Derek Zemrak explained that with the October date, CIFF was the last big film festival of the year. The film festival season kičks off at Sundance in January. Many film makers pulled their films from the CIFF festival in anticipation of submitting them to Sundance. All of the films shown at Sundance are required to be pre-

Zemrak said the change in dates for the festival are already showing up in the numbers and types of submissions. Over 100 have been sent in. Of that total, 20 are feature films, a big increase for CIFF. "All are ex-

The April 19-22 dates will also make it easier to bring stars in for special appearances. November is sweeps weeks. A lot of actors are working on television pilots at that time.

In addition, there are really no big major events in Livermore in April, added Zemrak. And, wineries aren't having to deal with the harvest.

He says he isn't too concerned about people being used to October and not ready for the films in April. There are plans to hold a lot of events over the next couple of months to let people know about the change.

There will be changes in the (See FILM, page 4)

Condo Conversion Ordinance Sent Back for Additional Input

A proposed ordinance to regulate condo conversions in Pleasanton was sent back for more input from the public.
The Pleasanton City Coun-

cil wanted to hear from such groups as real estate agents, affordable housing advocates, and the Chamber of Commerce before voting on the ordinance. The city's Housing Commission will host the workshop.

Councilmember Sullivan pointed out that there needs to be a determination on what the council thinks the ordinance is trying to accomplish. "One thing missing is why we are doing this. Is it to maintain low and very low rental housing or do we want to create low and moderate for sale housing. These are two different objectives. I'm concerned about the fact that we're losing lower income rental housing. We need to have a conversation about our

objectives.'

A previous council discussion had looked at placing restrictions on converting rental units to condominiums in an effort to retain affordable housing in the city. However, at last week's coun-

cil meeting, members of the public suggested that allowing conversions provides an opportunity to create affordable "for sale" housing that might not otherwise be available in Pleasanton. They, along with Councilmember Jerry Thorne, called the proposed ordinance "too restrictive" in that it would discourage the conver-

commented, "Anyway you look at it, we're losing opportunities for housing.

The proposed ordinance would require a development to conform to existing building code condominium standards. It would require notices to assure tenants are informed of conversion plans (See CONDO, page 3)

Mayor Jennifer Hosterman



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

The final performance of the Valley Dance Theatre's Nutcracker ballet will be presented Dec. 22 at 7 p.m. at the Livermore High School Performing Arts Theater, 600 Maple St., Livermore. Tickets are \$18 adults, \$15 students and seniors for ground floor reserved seats; \$15 adults, \$13 students and seniors for open balcony seating. For information or tickets call (925) 243-

All Building In Livermore To Be Green

Green building will become mandatory for all new private property construction in Livermore starting on January 1, 2008

The new ordinance, approved by the city council last week, will be phased in over the next year.

The idea behind green building is to promote resource conservation, consider environmental impacts and waste minimization, create a healthy and comfortable indoor environment, and reduce operation and maintenance costs. Green building can include, among other things, the use of certified sustainable wood products, use of high recycled content products,

(See GREEN, page 3)

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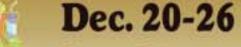
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VALLEY ROUNDUP

Turner Board President

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) Board of Directors unanimously elected Director Dale Turner to serve as President of the Board for the calendar year 2007. Turner, a real estate broker, joined the LARPD board in November of 2000.

Scott Kamena is the outgoing president. On another 5-0 vote, the Board appointed

Director Steve Goodman to the position of Board Vice-President for 2007. Goodman joined the LARPD board in 2004.

In other action at the last meeting of the year, the Board accepted the 2007 meeting schedule. It will continue to hold meetings on the second and last Wednesday of each month, except in November and December 2007, when meetings will be held only on the second Wednesday of the month.

County Fire Chief

Livermore resident Sheldon D. Gilbert was appointed by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors as Fire Chief of the Alameda County Fire Department. The appointment is effective Dec. 31, 2006. Gilbert has served as Deputy Fire Chief for 8 years.

Gilbert, who replaces William McCammon, who is retiring after 13 years at the held, stated, "I am honored by this opportunity to serve the residents of Alameda County.

Gilbert began his fire career in 1986 with the Eden Consolidated Fire District and was promoted to Assistant Fire Chief in the Alameda County Fire Department in 1995. In 1998, he was promoted to Deputy Fire Chief in charge of the Support Services Division.

Gilbert is currently president-elect of the California Fire Chiefs Association.

He resides in Livermore with his wife, Suzanne, and their two children.

Housing Scholarship Program

The Tri-Valley Housing Scholarship Program is currently recruiting eligible participants who live, work or attend school in Livermore or Pleas-

The program provides rental assistance in the form of a scholarship to eligible low-income individuals and heads of households who are attending school or are in a vocational or on-thejob training program.

information more nvillanueva@tricityhomeless.org or call 373-

Pleasanton Sobriety Checkpoint

Sixteen vehicles were impounded when drivers were found to be in violation of either driving under the influence or for license violations. And, two drivers were arrested for DUI during the Dec. 15 DUI/Driver's License checkpoint conducted by the Pleasanton Police Department.

'The checkpoint was successful not only because of the vehicle impounds and arrests, but also due to drivers being educated about the hazards of driving under the influence," stated Traffic Unit Supervisor Sgt. Michael Collins.

The checkpoint was conducted between 7 p.m. and 1 a.m. on northbound Santa Rita Road just south of Pimlico Drive. Police screened 913 vehicles. Ten drivers were given field sobriety tests for intoxication and thirty-four drivers were further investigated for various driver's license

Mother's Against Drunk Driving (MADD) provided educational materials to drivers of the vehicles screened during the checkpoint.

Pedestrians Struck by Vehicle

Two young adults in Pleasanton were struck a vehicle while crossing Francisco Street. The accident occurred Dec. 12. The driver of the vehicle was an 85-year old resident of Pleasanton.

Both pedestrians sustained injuries and were transported to Eden Hospital where they are listed in stable condition. The driver was not injured. Alcohol was not a factor.

The collision is still under investigation. Anyone with information is asked to call Officer Jim Blanchard or Officer Tom Hansen at 931-5100.

Bridge Toll Increasing

On January 1, 2007 a \$1 toll increase will go into effect on the Bay Area's seven state owned toll bridges. The toll will rise from \$3 to \$4. However, drivers of cars and other two-axle ve-

hicles who pay tolls electronically with a FasTrak toll tag will receive a \$1 discount off the new toll throughout the month of January 2007. The month-long promotional discount is being offered as a way to encourage motorists to enroll in the FasTrak program.

Motorists can sign up for FasTrak at a temporary customer service center that is being opened at the Bay Bridge toll plaza administration building. The center will be open through Friday, Dec. 22 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Customers can also enroll on-line at 511.org or by calling 511 and asking for FasTrak.

CSUEB Selects Provost

Michael Mahoney, the dean of the College of Engineering at Cal State Long Beach, has been named university provost and vice president of academic affairs at California State University, East Bay.

Mahoney first joined the CSU system as a lecturer in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at Long Beach in 1980. He was appointed assistant professor in the same department in 1982 and moved through the faculty ranks to full professor. He has served as college dean since 2000.

Mahoney will take over as provost on March 1. He replaces interim Provost Fred Dorer.

Mahoney earned bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in mathematics from UC Santa Barbara and taught as a lecturer there before joining Cal State Long Beach. In addition to his teaching positions, before becoming engineering dean, he held various administrative posts including associate dean of the College of Engineering, associate vice president for Academic Information Technology and special consultant on Information Technology to the CSU.

Mahoney is married to Louise Mahoney and

has two children attending public universities in California. The couple will look for a home

Top Ten Golf Course

Pleasanton's Callippe Preserve Golf Course is listed on the Golf Digest's list of Best New Golf Courses for 2006. It was named among the

top ten public golf courses in the country.

Rounds played on the 145-acre, 18-hole course have been above the 55,000 projected. The actual number is 73,000 rounds. The course is surrounded by 280 acres of open space with hiking and equestrian trails.

Nuclear Materials Removed from Lab

The Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) has begun reducing the inventory of special nuclear material at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

Special nuclear material, including plutonium and highly enriched uranium, is fissile material used in nuclear weapons and for research and development purposes at the laboratory.

The first shipment of material out of Livermore was recently completed. The material was sent to a secure site at Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico. NNSA plans to remove nearly all nuclear material from Livermore by 2014. A small inventory of nuclear materials will remain at the laboratory for research with overall security requirements greatly reduced.

NNSA's strategy is to reduce the number of sites and facilities with Category I and II amounts of special nuclear materials, which require the highest level of security. Consolidating nuclear materials and eliminating duplicate capabilities at facilities will allow NNSA to further reduce the total square footage set aside for weapons work at the eight sites around the country in the nuclear weapons complex.

Consolidating material is one of our main goals to transform the Cold War-era nuclear weapons complex to be even more secure, more efficient and more modern. We are taking concrete steps to reduce the number of locations where we process and store significant quantities of nuclear weapons materials," said NNSA Administrator Linton F. Brooks.

Additional consolidation efforts are currently underway and planned across the complex. Facilities are being constructed to enhance security and consolidate highly enriched uranium at the Y-12 National Security Complex in Tennessee. Special nuclear materials will be removed from Sandia National Laboratories in New Mexico by 2008 and from Los Alamos National Laboratory by 2022. Like Livermore, Sandia and Los Alamos will retain small amounts of special nuclear materials.

(continued from page one)

recycling of waste that occurs during demolition and construction, and orientation and design of a building to reduce the demand for heating and air conditioning.

Residential development will have to earn 50 points based on the county's green checkpoint list. Nonresidential will be required to earn 20 points on the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) national rating system.

Councilmember Marj Leider had suggested that projects over 20,000 square feet be required to meet a 26 point goal. A motion for that provision failed 2-3, with Leider and Tom Reitter in sup-

Councilmembers opposed to the change, felt that the point total could be increased at a future date. Councilmember Lorraine Dietrich was most concerned about the city's ability to attract larger commercial devel-

opment if a higher point total were required.

The ordinance will be reviewed each year to determine whether changes are needed.

Stephen Kiefer, building official for the city, said the one-year transition from voluntary to mandatory provides building industry professionals an opportunity to analyze various items on the checklists to determine which ones work for their clients.

Kiefer told the council that staff believes the point totals are effective, yet achievable. He observed in response to a question about different point goals for different size nonresidential development that it is more difficult for smaller nonresidential projects to meet the higher point totals, because of their greater initial design costs as a percentage of the whole.

Marc Roberts, Director of Development for the City, was concerned about the ability of the city to compete for larger projects, if they had to achieve a higher point total than smaller buildings. "The city is much more likely to go head-to-head with other communities for the larger buildings, which can be built anywhere. The last six points are the hardest to achieve."

David Best, a member of Shea Homes, stated, "Contrary to popular opinion, homebuilders are not opposed to green building." He commended staff for putting together a "pretty good ordinance. Fifty points is something we can actual achieve."

KOHL'S COMING

The council approved plans to build a 95,000 square foot Kohl's Department Store in Livermore. It will be located between Wal-Mart and Kaiser Permanente. MARCHAND VICE MAYOR

Mayor Marshall Kamena appointed John Marchand as the new vice mayor. Marchand replaces Marj Leider in the role.

GIFT

(continued from page one)

if it educates just one more person about the thoughtfulness of organ donations, it all will be worth it. It's in the Christmas

spirit of giving, said Spruiell. One of Stockley's friends put up a web page on Monday, charliestockley.com, which shows how widely he has been active in people's lives. It's loaded with pictures, showing him relating to friends and family, his serious dark-rim glasses offset by a broad smile.

One of the photos shows him with his fiancee, Margie Roper. They have set a wedding date of March 15.

Stockley owns a Victorian house in Šan Francisco, and works as sound designer on electronic games. He has planned to sell the Victorian, and look for a $home\ in\ Pleasanton,\ said\ Spruiell.$

Roper put a note under the lovebirds' web page photo. It says, "This love story began when the moon, stars and planets all aligned in perfect formation for the two of us to meet. Our spirits soared, our eyes connected, and our hearts filled with

It continues, "When you meet the love of your life, you are grateful for each moment, but want the moments forever. This is a connection made once in a lifetime — please help us get the

People who wish to help Stockley and his family in any way they can may send an e-mail to info@charliestockley.com. Visitors to the web page who are interested in organ donation may also click a line near the bottom, which will take them to a national web page for organ donations.



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

City officials and others got a sneak preview of the new Livermore Cinemas that opened last weekend in the downtown. The theater complex includes ten screens and features all the latest technology. It is the first all-digital DLP projection movie in the Bay Area. Livermore Cinemas has stadium seating, wall-to-wall screens, THX presentations and advance ticket kiosks.

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CONDO

(continued from page one)

and schedules. The ordinance would limit rent increases for existing tenants to the CPI with a maximum of 5 percent during the conversion period.

The ordinance also sets in place special leasehold rights for existing tenants, particularly for seniors, the disabled, and low income families. It establishes a right of first refusal for tenant purchases and provides current tenants with purchase and financing discounts. Another provision would be for tenants displaced by conversion to have moving expenses paid within a 25-mile radius, access to professional real estate services, and payment of deposits for utilities.

Condo conversions would also be covered by the city's inclusionary housing ordinance with 25 percent of the units re-quired to be affordable to very low, low and/or moderate income families. Before a condo conversion could occur, a building owner would have to submit an affordable housing plan to the

Several real estate agents addressed the council. Their concern was the lack of starter housing in Pleasanton. They criticized the affordability aspect of the ordinance, observing that if the requirement is too high, it makes it unaffordable for the de-

veloper. One apartment owner, Charles Clark, pointed out that he purchased the rundown Pleasanton Manor. The only way to afford to upgrade it is to convert it to condominiums. "We're dying. This place is losing money. There are plumbing and electrical problems. The place is falling apart." He told the council that the inclusionary requirement takes \$1.1 million off the top. He said he would be willing to make the 14 one-bedroom units affordable if the city required only one park-

ing space for each of those units.
Councilmember Cindy McGovern suggested that the city take another look at its inclusionary ordinance. She said that the city had moved to inclusionary requirements to try to obtain additional affordable housing. McGovern pointed out that new condominiums are only required to be 15 percent affordable, while conversions are required to provide 25 percent. She suggested that there is a fairness

The Housing Commission will be asked by staff to set up

the workshop. Staff estimated that it take about 90 days to bring back the commission's recom- $\begin{array}{c} \text{mendations to the council.} \\ \textbf{VICE MAYOR} \end{array}$

Cindy McGovern was selected to serve as vice mayor by Major Jennifer Hosterman. She replaces Matt Sullivan in the role. The council was unanimous in its support of McGovern as

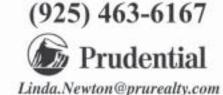
vice mayor. ART PURCHASE

The city council approved the purchase of the artwork, "Bucket of Bolts" by artist Ray McGinnis at a cost of \$2200. The painting had earned an "Award of Excellence" from the city's Civic Arts Commission, making the painting eligible for purchase under the city's fine arts lease/ purchase program.

Mayor Jennifer Hosterman commented that the painting had received "overwhelmingly positive comments from the public."

The painting will be di

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EDITORIALS

Medical Marijuana Issue

The Livermore City Council has voted to reconsider medical marijuana dispensaries.

Livermore currently has a moratorium on them, effective until next September 11. The council must decide whether to ban the dispensaries when the moratorium expires or enact an ordinance allowing but regulating them.

They voted earlier for a ban, but last week decided to rethink it in a 3-2 vote: Tom Reitter, Marj Leider and Lorraine Dietrich aye, Marshall Kamena and John Marchand no. Reitter initiated the discussion, giving an impassioned talk as he pointed out that some cities have learned to successfully oversee these dispensaries.

The pressure for the ban stems from the federal government's War on Drugs. The Federal Drug Administration (FDA) continues to come down on marijuana, even though the voters of California have legalized marijuana for medical use.

"There are a number of people for whom this is the only effective pain relief," observed Councilmember Dietrich. "There are more than we might think. If we fail to do anything to make their life easier, we are fail-

We think that history will show the FDA's crusade against medical marijuana to be one of the American government's low points. We agree with Lorraine Dietrich that the City Council should step up for the many chronically ill people who are able to enjoy some relief from their suffering thanks to this drug. In Livermore and all other California cities the distribution of medical marijuana should be regulated, not banned.

The Vine

The Vine Cinema is celebrating its 50th anniversary this week through Tuesday.

Popcorn and soda are on sale for 50 cents each. Last Saturday the Vine held a special sneak preview of "We Are Marshall," which opens nationwide tomorrow.

The Vine opened its doors on December 26, 1956, showing "You Can't Run Away from It" with Jack Lemmon and June Allyson.

It's hard not to feel a tender spot in the heart for this independent, hometown cinema, the elder among the Valley's moviehouses.

With a multi-screen movie theater opening only a few blocks away, the Vine management plans to be innovative in their scheduling. Among other special events, the Livermore based California Independent Film Festival will present monthly screenings.

Happy anniversary, Vine! We wish you fifty more.

BART.

(continued from page one) (CMA) for their "forward think-

ing" in bringing the whole project about. From his new seat on the House Committee on Transportation, McNerney said that he will "have the opportunity to help solve problems. I will have an open door. I expect to see officials (from the Valley)."

Inclusion of Tracy in BART service was studied in 2003 as part of a major report about a Livermore BART extension. However, neither involved a direct BART line, coming from Livermore along Interstate 580. Instead, the options to Tracy were either a diesel train or Bus Rapid Transit, which would use High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes to speed the buses back and

Haggerty's new advocacy is for the standard BART rail service to both Livermore and Tracy, said his transportation

aide, Dawn Argula.
The 2003 BART study said that a rail extension to Livermore wouldn't be cost effective. because the area would not contribute enough riders. However, the economics of it could change, if Tracy were brought into the picture, said Stephan Garcia, a capital projects manager at the CMA. There is a huge potential market for BART commuters in San Joaquin County, perhaps enough to help financially carry any shortfall that might occur in a Livermore station, he told the Independent.

Argula stated that Tracy BART would require a new study. Officials have been so busy just getting the widening of 1-580 into place that they haven't had time yet to study something like a Tracy BART extension, she added.

Normally BART service goes only to areas that are in BART's nine counties. However, Santa

The Tri-Valley will host the

It is projected work will be-

gin on the high occupancy toll

(HOT) lane in 2008. It would

open in 2010. The HOT lanes are

supposed to ease congestion by

allowing single driver cars into

the car pool lane if the driver

is called "capacity pricing," according to Pleasanton Mayor

Jennifer Hosterman speaking

The fee will be based on what

wants to pay for the privilege.

region's first toll lane along a 14-mile stretch of southbound I-580

from Pleasanton to Milpitas.

Clara County has committed to buying into the BART system and paying for an extension from Fremont without annexing to BART. Tracy could follow the same model, if there is interest.

A rule-of-thumb estimate on BART cost has been approximately \$100 million per mile. Just bringing it to Livermore would cost about \$1 billion, BART officials say. When BART conducted its study in 2003, the consultants said that there would not be enough riders from either Livermore or San Joaquin County. However, that was assuming Livermore would be the terminus. It's possible that the picture could change with rail to

Argula noted that traffic is expected to increase by 90 percent by 2030. "Scott thought the (BART estimate) was inaccurate. It seemed in his mind impossible with the growth projected for San Joaquin County that the projected number of riders was so

low," she said.
The Valley has politicians who are well-placed to work more for a BART extension and other anti-congestion measures. In addition to McNerney, Rep. Ellen Tauscher serves on the House Transportation Commit-

Newly elected State Sen. Ellen Corbett, whose district includes part of the west Valley, told the groundbreaking audience that she has asked the Senate leadership to appoint her to the Committee on Housing and Transpor-

Assemblywoman Mary Hayashi, who replaces Assemblyman Johan Klehs in a district with most of Pleasanton, said that she will lend support from her new position as assistant majority whip.

during the Mayor's Report. The toll would rise and fall with the

amount of congestion on the

freeway; the more congestion the

has social justice implications in

that "those who have get to travel

faster." At the same time, it is pro-

jected that allowing cars to pay

to use the lane there would be a

reduction in congestion on the

planned. One along Highway

Two additional toll lanes are

Hosterman admitted the plan

Tri-Valley to Get First Toll Lane Project

higher the fee.

freeway, she added.

Pleasanton School Cash Flow Deficit May Not Be As Bad As It Sounds

A look ahead to 2013 in the projected Pleasanton Unified School District developer fee cash flow shows a potential deficit of \$23 million for construc-

However, it's not as bad as it sounds, assistant superintendent Sandra Lepley told the school board at its meeting Dec. 12. "It doesn't mean that the district will spend more than it will take in. Various adjustments can be made," Lepley told the board.

Later she told the Independent, "We wouldn't spend ourselves \$23 million in the hole. We'd figure out our highest priorities, depending on the cash available. As long as we know what we're looking at, we won't be caught short. We may be short on money (at times). However, we won't be short in terms of over-

committing," said Lepley. Approximately \$14 million of the projected deficit comes from a revision of the district's expectation of how many homes will be built at ultimate build-out in Pleasanton. The district had been basing its developer fee expectations on 27,500 units for the past four years. However, in a liaison meeting with the city last year, Lepley was told that 27,315 is a more realistic figure, at least for now.

Lepley made that adjustment, saying it's a good idea to be on the same page with the city. However, that really isn't a solid number, until the city council makes a final determination about the city's general plan, said Lepley.

The revision itself is still up in the air, and is one variable in the whole view of the cash flow projections. It would appear to many people that a drop of only 385 homes shouldn't affect the district's income from developer

OAK GROVE -

(continued from page one) of open space. In June 2006, landowners revised the applica-tion to request approval of just 51 lots and 497 acres of open

The Oak Grove subdivision is tentatively scheduled to be heard by the Parks and Recreation Commission on January 11 and the Pleasanton Planning Com-mission on Jan. 24, said associate planner Marion Pavon.

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.

Former Councilmember Becky Dennis addressed the city council on Tuesday. She pointed out that the new plan is acceptable to neighbors. However, the rest of the community is dismayed to find the staging area and trails were removed. There is no explanation for the change. Dennis said she does not see any neighborhood problem develop-ing that would prevent putting them back in the plan. She urged the council to give the same high priority to public access and planning as it has given to the

Bernal land planning.
Both Bengston and Dennis urged residents to attend public

(continued from page one)

festival itself. More special programs are planned. They include showing shorts from Sundance. In addition, short films that have won Academy Awards over the last five years will be featured.

Last year was the most successful year for CIFF. "We actually had to turn people away from wineries. They were too full. We now have a core base in the Tri-Valley that enjoys the films," he said. With the increase in interest, there will likely be additional venues, he added. The plans are to use the Vine Theatre as much as possibly. Possibly some films could be shown at the new movie theater, as well.

101 and the second on Route 85

in Santa Clara County. The idea

is to have a loop of tollroads

way will monitor the level of

congestion. Prices for the I-680

HOT lane will start at \$1 and

could top out at \$9. The tolls will

be automatically deducted using

million, with most of the funds

coming from federal highway

2004 authorizes the lanes, but

only for four years each in Santa

Clara and Alameda counties. Af-

ter the four years are up, trans-

portation planners will either

scrap them or expand them to the

The HOT lane will cost \$41

State legislation passed in

FastTrack transponders.

dollars..

Electronic sensors on the road-

around the Bay Area.

fees so much, but it does.

The fee today in the gift

agreement, which was signed by all but two developers, is \$7.75 per square foot. New homes are so big in Pleasanton, that each home contributes a significant amount of money. Typically, homes are now 5000 or 6000 square feet, said Lepley. Some of them even approach the district's maximum 7000 square feet, the floor area cap on the fee.

If a home does pay the maxi-

mum today, the fee would be \$54,250. A 6000 square foot home would pay \$46,500. Computing a mix of various sizes, and lower fees for affordable housing, Lepley came up with her estimate

of approximately \$13 million to \$14 million less that would be coming in, with the lowering of the prediction from 27,500 to 27,315 units.

The shortfall would occur because of two big-ticket expenses for the district.

One is \$8.5 million, plus interest, that would be spent on construction of Neal elementary school, which is tied up in litigation with the developer that promised to build the school. The estimated cost of the school is \$13.5 million.

The other big price tag is expansion of the district's three high schools. Such things as add-ing more classrooms and expanding the gyms at Amador Valley and Foothill high schools, or tearing down the gyms and building new ones, will be expensive. They are only a part of a long wish list for the two schools and Village High School, the district's continuation school.

"The assumption has been we will spend \$23.9 million on the high school expansion, and also pay for Neal and the interest. However, we don't have any master plan for high school expansion," said Lepley.

The cash flow picture will be much clearer when the board meets Jan. 23, and hears a staff report firming up projected high school expansion costs.

Politicians Factoring Changing Demographics Into Picture For 2016

Major business magazines such as Forbes and Fortune were telling readers 10 years ago that one of the best places in the world to live, work and do business was the Bay Area, which was rated second only to Singapore.

Wanting to make sure that Alameda County can continue to keep the luster polished, su-pervisor Keith Carson of Oakland brought together a convocation of city council members, supervisors, and city and county managers last week to see what new trends government needs to take into account in planning for the next 10 years. The confer-ence was called "Summit 2016." Carson told the Independent,

"It was the first time that there was a comprehensive meeting of people from around the county about what to expect in the fu-ture right here. (One question it raised was) how do I make decisions that are better informed, because decisions have longterm ramifications.

The Bay Area received high marks 10 years ago for its diversity in jobs and ethnic groups, presence of world-class institutions of higher learning, a skilled workforce, and a good transportation infrastructure, said Carson. The balance among urban, suburban and rural lifestyles was also impressive. The county can build on those blocks, and look ahead to making plans to provide services for an aging and more ethnically diverse fu-

ture population, said Carson. The total geographic outlook is important, too. "When we had (a period of) interaction between attendees, one of the things that came out is the need to plan for how things fit into the bigger how things fit into the bigger picture, and not just in Dublin, or Pleasanton, or Fremont, or

Oakland, but all over" he said.
Two big considerations in

planning to 2016 will be the graying of the population, and

the increase of people of color.
It is predicted that Livermore will see a rise in people age 65 and over from 8 percent now to 12 percent in 2016. Pleasanton will go up from 9 percent to 13 percent. The Hispanic population in the county will go from 19 percent of the county now to 27 percent. Asians will grow from 21 to 31 percent. The white population will decline from 41 to 24 percent, which will put it behind Asians and Hispanics. African American population will de-cline from 14 to 11 percent.

There will be an additional 100,000 people in the county by 2016. Some 29,000 of them will be in the 5 to 17 age group. A major portion will be 65 years or older. Looking at the demographics, it's obvious that more seniorconnected services will be needed, said Carson.

Retirements will have consequences for the workforce. So will the fact that more seniors are working into their 70s. Cities will have to be flexible in handling planning for that, both on their own staffs, and looking at the consequences for business.

Livermore city manager Linda Barton, who attended the summit, said that the aging Boomer population is definitely a consideration for Livermore staff personnel planning. "We have to look into our organization, and help current employees with their roles (in the city staff) in the future. We're looking at leadership training, and also the expected timing (of the demographic changes in the workforce)," said Barton.

With a larger percentage of

seniors, the city will "have to make sure we have enough housing and senior services," she

The county is looking at the same workforce succession issues, said Carson. As with the other changes, Carson said, "We need to see how to prepare for it. The changes don't happen over-

night," he said. MORE LEADERSHIP **ROLES SEEN FOR WOMEN**

Mary O'Hara-Devereaux, a futurist who addressed the conference, underscored the projected rise of women in the county, especially women of color, who will be heading companies and play-ing other prominent, active roles in business.

Those women will be here in a fundamental way, in terms of every fabric of our infrastructure, Carson told the Independent. "The irony of it is that Abigail Adams, when her husband went off to write the Constitution, said, 'Don't forget women.' Obviously, they did. Here it's several hundred years later. Women will be dominating in every area of our society. Nancy Pelosi will be speaker of the House. There are more women governors in the nation. Our two U.S. senators are women, and so are the mayors of Dublin and Pleasanton," said Carson.

Cities will have to eye demoraphics carefully, said Carson. noted that Oakland councilmember Nancy Nadel said that cities may want to put some acres reserved for housing on hold, to see whether a demand might develop for such things as micro-industrial uses.

The county Mayors Conference and the city managers' organization will be discussing insights from the summit over the next couple of months, said

Barton said that it's likely that there will be a follow-up ašsembly, after the cities have had a chance to chew over the ideas.

(continued from page one) concluded that acquiring them

is in their national interest. A third view is that nonproliferation is more important than nuclear deterrence in a post-Cold War era. The alternative view is that in the hands of others than a completely reliable and trustworthy friend, weapons of mass destruction capable of inflicting intolerable levels of destruction, the assured ability to deter such an act remains the first priority.

The fourth view is that nuclear weapons should deter only nuclear threats. The alternative is that in the modern world of chemical and biological weapons proliferation, U.S. nuclear deterrent capabilities have a broader purpôse.

The final view is that any new nuclear initiatives are unnecessary for deterence and would undermine the higher priority nonproliferation goal. The alternative is that it will not be possible to sustain the current weapons without replacing some current nuclear warheads with new nuclear warheads. It will not be possible to sustain a credible

nuclear deterrent in the 21st century with only Cold War capa-One of the recommendations

in the report is the creation of a National Nuclear Weapons Agency. The administrator would report to the President. The agency would be comprised of the secretaries of defense, energy and homeland security and the director of national intelligence. The core of the new agency's responsibility would be the three national nuclear weapons laboratories and the weapons production complex.

The task force report finds that there are programs in place focused on extending the life of existing weapons. However, the Reliable Replacement Warhead (RRW) program would provide for a path to a sustainable nuclear stockpile, in the opinion of the report's authors.. The current nuclear organization, management and programs do not provide for a nuclear weapons enterprise capable of meeting the nation's minimum needs, according to the report authors.

In concluding a letter signed by Foster and Welch urges "senior leaders of this nation to understand the urgent need to act on the report's findings and recommendations. Other recommendations in-

clude the following: The national security leader-

ship should declare, unequivo-cally and frequently, that a reliable, safe, secure and credible nuclear deterrent is essential to national security and a continuing high priority.
The Secretary of Defense and

the Commander, US Strategic Command, should strongly advocate accelerated development of a full set of "New Triad" capabilities - missile defense, infrastructure and the strike triad, including a credible nuclear leg of the strike triad.

The national security leadership would demand that the weapons complex be capable of producing a predetermined number of RRW class warheads per year by 2012 for timely evolution to sustain a reliable, safe, secure and credible stockpile.

PULIDO

(continued from page one)

munity seems fine with the appointment process and the board's direction. Ott and Weaver also said they were satisfied with the board's interviewing process, which includes a citizens' screening panel and an orientation workshop for would-be appli-

Whoever is appointed will serve until the term expires one month after the November election in 2008.

Pulido won election in 2003. However, the board extended everyone's four-year term by one year, in order to realign the school board election with the national and state elections in November of even-numbered

Anyone interested in applying for the position should pick up an application packet from the superintendent's office, 4665 Bernal Avenue between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on weekdays. Applications may also be downloaded

www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/

Downloads AppBoard.pdf. The applications must be re-

turned to the superintendent's office by 4:30 p.m. on Jan. 12. For more information, call Carol Fernandez, administrative assistant to the superintendent at 426-

Pulido was the board's president this year. He resigned that office at the meeting Dec. 12. He suggested that Kernan replace him. However, Kernan, in a tribute to 27-year veteran board member Juanita Haugen, nominated her instead. She was a unanimous choice.

Haugen was attending the meeting via speakerphone from her home, since she was not feeling well enough to attend. Haugen has had treatments for cancer for the past three years.

Kernan was chosen board clerk and ran the meeting. He said he would be available to run meetings, if Haugen is not able to attend.

Haugen has been active in state and national school board

associations for many years. She urged her fellow trustees later in the meeting to nominate someone from the board to be a delegate to the county chapter of the California School Boards Association (CSBA). Superintendent John Casey

noted that Haugen's CSBA service has been valuable to the district, giving the district much insight into state education issues. Haugen expressed great appreciation when Ott volunteered to be a candidate for the CSBA post.

School boards throughout the county provide the nominations and vote on the candidates.

Casey also surprised Haugen with the announcement that the district will have an annual award named the Juanita Haugen Civic Engagement Award. Haugen's frequent urging for programs that encourage students to become involved in their community, and her own involvement with the school board associations made the award fitting, declared Casey.

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rest of the Bay Area based on how successful they are.

Tips On

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 de-

Livermore Airport Brett Wayne Livermore

With regards to Evelyn Murphy's recent letter regarding the Livermore airport, there is nothing in the proposed regulations and minimum standards that have anything to do with creating a "jetport" or "expanding" the airport. That critics of the airport continue to use this loaded, emotive language every time the airport is discussed underscores that they are not interested in an honest discussion of

The fact is there are already several FBOs and aviation related businesses providing services at the Livermore airport. If the Livermore City Council adopts the proposed rules and standards, all they will be approving are a set of ground rules that would apply to both existing and future aviation related businesses that conduct their business on publicly-owned, citymanaged airport property.

One motivation for adopting the new rules is to enable Livermore to relinquish the cityowned, exclusive fuel franchise. Ask yourself this, how many automotive service stations does the city own and operate? The answer is obvious - zero. Then why is Livermore managing fullservice fueling at the airport? That answer is steeped in decades-old and antiquated decisions regarding how the airport is managed. Allowing an FBO to provide fueling services while collecting flow-based taxes would enable airport staff to focus on maintaining the airport without exposing the City of Livermore to the significant li-

abilities of pumping gas.
Opponents of the airport cling to the absurd notion that somehow city- owned fueling gives them leverage over the behavior of pilots and users of the facility. If Livermore started discriminating on who they sold fuel to, they would soon find themselves crosswise with the FAA and worse, expose the City to a huge legal liability should an accident occur as a result of their refusal to sell fuel on the basis of noise.

With respect to the arrival of very light jets - what critics of the airport fail to note is that those jets can already operate from the existing runways at the Livermore airport. No expansion is required to accommodate them. Fortunately, for residents concerned about noise, there is a huge difference between the noise generated by VLJs that weigh less than 10,000 pounds and the large, 85,000 pound Gulfstream's that occasionally arrive at Livermore. Most of the

FAA certification have noise profiles that are quieter than many of the piston-powered aircraft that currently use the field.

Definition Herbert H Marshall

Pleasanton I usually follow my father's advice and "never get in a squirt-ing contest with a polecat." However; I could not let Janet Linfoot's exhibition of ignorance, published November 30th, go unanswered. She accuses my daughter of using foul language; I suggest she get her mind out of the vulgarities used for the human anatomy and see if she can find a dictionary. They are available at any book store or library. Quoting from my copy of Noah Webster's volume, published in 1834, ASS is defined "a dull, heavy, stupid fellow; a dolt". The current Websters include a similar definition (meaning). For the benefit Miss Linfoot the plural of ASS is ASSES.

Reply to Letter Gail Shearer Livermore

Oh dear! Reading proficiency seems to be declining everywhere, or perhaps there is a deliberate misunderstanding.

In his November 23 Letter to the Editor, Rich Buckley states that in an earlier letter of mine I implied that he represented Cedar Grove Community Church in their purchase of the South Livermore Avenue property and that I was wrong. He is miståken. Nowhere in my letter did I suggest The facts are that Rich Buckley Realty represented the seller (not the buyer) in this transaction. It was his sign that was posted at the site, and it was Mr. Buckley who told me the "buyer was confidential" when I called his office on October 29, 2001, to seek information after "sold" appeared on the sign.

Mr. Buckley correctly states in his letter that "Churches are acceptable uses in any zoning district subject to approval of a Conditional Use Permit." However he does not point out that this permit may be disapproved. Four conditions must be met before approval of a conditional use permit in Alameda County. On October 2, the County Plănning Commission, after lengthy testimony and deliberation, voted 5 to 2 to deny the church application for a conditional use permit because these four conditions could not be met.

Churches are not "permitted" uses in the Agriculture-Cultivated Agriculture zoning that applies to this property. Instead they require a conditional use permit and, if certain findings are made, an Environmental Impact Report. Wineries and olive mills, for example, are permitted uses and do not require a conditional use permit. Since they conform to the South Livermore Valley Area Plan, they do not have to submit a new Environmental Impact Report, one having been done before the SLVAP was

adopted.
The South Livermore Urban Growth Boundary Initiative passed by 82% of the voters in 2000, thể South Livermore Valley Area Plan adopted by the

Alameda County Roard of Supervisors in 1993, and the Agriculture-Cultivated Agriculture zoning for this property are very specific about encouraging and pro-tecting cultivated agriculture, particularly on the land "classified as having the better quality soil for grapes," and limiting other uses. Finding pretty pictures on the internet of churches in Europe surrounded by vineyards will not change the wording of these planning documents, which apply to this property and legally must be followed.

People like Mr. Buckley have not done the Church a service by asserting that they do not think these planning documents mean what is clearly stated in writing. It would have been in the Church's best interest for their planners to have read these documents for themselves and to have thought about what is actually written before purchasing the property. Any prudent buyer of property who wants to add new uses would check out the general plan and zoning for themselves before making a financial commitment.

Mr. Buckley considers restrictions placed on site coverage, which relates to the size of the church, to be "subjective" and "arbitrary." On the contrary they are clearly articulated in the written ordinances cited above. There is nothing in these ordinances that exempts churches from having to follow the same rules and restrictions as everybody else. Mr. Buckley also does not point out that this is not an emply piece of property. It already contains three houses, which are grandfathered in on a 14 acre parcel, now zoned for one house per 20 acres with 90% of

the site set aside for agriculture. Mr. Bucklely uses his own church, Asbury United Methodist, as an example of a church that successfully moved into a rural area. Again the old maxim "Location, location, location!" applies. This church chose a site which, although in the county at the time, was considered "Suburban Residential" in the City of Livermore's General Plan. Because it adjoined other residentially zoned properties on the west, it could be annexed to the city in 1989 and later, when their new sanctuary was built, could be connected to the city sewer system. On the east the Church adjoins the County "Rural Residential" area along Buena Vista Avenue.

This is a quite different location from the piece of property purchased by Cedar Grove Community Church on South Livermore Avenue outside the South Livermore Valley Urban Growth Boundary. It is surrounded on all sides by cultivated agriculture under permanent easement, to which it is adjacent on two and a half sides. Thus it is prevented from being annexed to the City of Livermore or receiving a city sewer connection. The area is classified as "Agriculture/ Viticulture" in the Livermore General Plan.

Mr. Buckley is correct in writing that the City of Livermore finds churches "suitable" with a conditional use permit. During the past few years local realtors and the City Planning Staff have enabled numerous churches to

construct large new facilities within the City limits. Contrary to what some of its supporters feel, Cedar Grove Community Church would have encountered the same helpful attitude if it had looked for and found a new larger site within the City limits of Livermore. Generally Environmental Impact Reports have not been required for these new Church facilities, parking has been shared. City services, such as sewerage, are available. We urge the officers of Cedar Grove Community Church to consider seriously some of the alternative sites which have been suggested to their planners.

BART Costs Robert S. Allen Former BART Director Livermore

BART trackway costs about \$12 million/mile at grade in a freeway median or along the former railroad grade. That includes ballasted double track, traction power, train control, ductwork, and fencing/barriers. This figure is based on 2001 figures escalated to 2006.

People who should know better are throwing out the figure of \$100 million/mile, citing the cost of BART to SFO. That line was put in subway (over my strong objection) instead of at rade along SP's abandoned San Bruno branch. As a result, it cost close to \$500 million more than it should have. Subways are fabulously costly, and normally warranted only in a patronage-rich

With a freeway median, little environmental, structural, or earth work is required. The major capital costs in addition to trackway are for land, cars, stations, special trackwork (e.g. crossovers), "implementation," and yards/shops (if really

Having a freeway median or old railroad grade available is the key to getting a low cost BART line. That is why I so strongly oppose ACCMA's eastbound I-580 HOV project. The HOVs should be part of a freeway widening that accommodates both them and a future BART line. The ACCMA project would greatly increase the cost of getting BART to Livermore.

The project would make sense if it were revised to widen I-580 from Hacienda to the future Isabel interchange in Livermore and not block BART in the me-

dian to Greenville Road. What we need now is a better freeway oriented bus link to

Stoneridge Extension George Withers Fire Chief (Retired) Pleasanton

Prior to Christmas I delivered a gift to Huff Drive and then was off to see my mother in Livermore. Huff Drive is located near the Eastern most extension of Stonridge Drive. After delivering my gift, I return to Stoneridge Drive and looked to the East and saw a Bright Star (OK, so it was only the lights of Livermore a short distance away to the East). But I could not drive toward it,

because the road had not yet been completed. I thought, if only we had 3, or more, Wise Men (or Women) on the City Council who could also see this vision in the East, and realize the urgent need to complete the extension of Stoneridge Drive, and save the rest of our City.

Instead of going east. I turned west on a vacant Stoneridge Drive and proceeded on to a heavily congested Santa Rita Road. I turned south and drove to Valley Ave, which was gridlockeď all the way to Stanley Blvd. I continued south on Santa Rita Rd., past Alisal School, and Amador High School, and then turned left onto Stanley Blvd. and continued to the intersection of Stanley & First St. where I again turned left and finally headed toward Livermore. As I approached the intersection of Valley/Bernal and Stanley Blvd. I once again encountered gridlock traffic, where I joined up with the nightly caravan heading toward that Star in the East. We did proceed at a Camel's Pace!

Holiday Spirit Angelica Norman-Beltran Livermore

My name is Angelica. I have lived here in Livermore my whole life. I am writing to you because I thought you should know of a very thoughtful little boy who lives here in our town. I'm not sure of his name but, he has shown me that the Holiday Spirit is not fleeting.
These last few Christmas sea-

sons it seems as though more and more people are fighting about religious beliefs, being offended when their place of work at puts up Christmas tree or anything that is indifferent to their spiritual beliefs during this holiday time of year. It seems as though we are all forgetting what the holiday spirit is all about. Last night around 6:30 pm, my grandfather answered the door to see a young boy of maybe 9 or 10 at our door. He said that he wanted to sing us a Christmas song, we stood there and listened to him sing "Jingle Bells."

After he was done singing I asked if there was any specific reason he was going around and caroling that night to houses. He said that he "just felt like it." He wasn't looking for donations, food or anything, he just wanted to go to people's houses and sing to them, putting smiles on their faces.

I thought to myself, that with all that is going on in our lives as Americans and all that's happening around the world this little boy, with just a song and his holiday joy, made me and my family's night by just singing to us. I had to stop and think. We all, no matter our spiritual beliefs, used to come together during this time of year and just be happy, hospitable and in the holiday spirit. Now it seems as though we are slowly losing sight of what the holiday season is about. It's the idea of putting a smile on someone's face just because you want to, being kind to others, and this little boy restored my faith in the holiday spirit.

With Skunks Alameda County Vector Con-

trol has been receiving a lot of calls from the Springtown area about skunks.

How to Deal

Daniel Wilson, community outreach coordinator, offers the following advice

Skunks are opportunistic foragers, and will eat almost anything. In neighborhoods, pet food is a significant component in their diet, and are not often deterred from a meal by dogs, other animals, or people. Skunks also dig for grubs in yards; lawns, meridian strips of grass, golf courses, and parks. A well-watered grassy area will be sites where larval insects develop that attract insectivores such as skunks. They use their nose to sniff out the larva and they dig them up and eat them. Reduction in watering, or turf treatment can reduce this food supply.

The stuff in skunk spray that stinks is a series of odorous compounds called thiols. Skunk spray also contains compounds called thioacetates, which slowly break down into thiols. When a skunk sprays a dog, thioacetates in the spray (and absorbed into the skin of the dog) break down and replace the old thiols, resulting in the skunk odor reappearing on the dog. Water seems to rapidly speed the process of thioacetates breaking down into thiols, but part of the release seems to be time-sensitive. Getting a dog wet repeatedly over several days will not "drain off" all the thioacetates.

To help discourage skunks do the following:

• Less watering of lawns, or turf treatment can reduce grub populations, resulting in less food for skunks and raccoons.

 Don't leave pet food out at night. Skunks set up a nightly foraging route and will repeatedly visit areas where they find food

Vector Control takes many wildlife calls and will render advice to help reduce skunk, and wildlife nuisances, and advise on pest-proofing, as well as environmental modification. Skunks are poor climbers; so securing a fence line will help keep skunks out of the yard. This advice often solves the problem. Trapping is not a favored approach because it does not get at the source of the problem: food.

In times past animal control agencies used to accept wildlife brought in by the public. Do not assume animal control will help if you trap an animal; always call animal control prior to beginning a trapping project. There is a tendency to think that you just need to re-locate the offensive animal. However, California Fish and Game regulations prohibit the relocation of wildlife more than a couple miles away. At that distance they are likely to return. Trapped animals must be euthanized.

There are many wildlife specialty pest control companies that will trap and try to help you resolve your wildlife problem, but they can be expensive \$100.00 and up.

One good reason for calling vector control is that there may be other neighbors calling, and investigation may turn up a core reason for many skunks or raccoons. Over a two-year period, one neighbor feeding skunks, or raccoons can result in very large skunk populations. Wilson's phone number is (510) 567-6826.

Valid only at Lowes/Safeway Center 4227 1st St., Livermore Expires 1/31/07

VLJs that have already achieved

OBITUARIES Shirley L. O'Callaghan

Shirley L. O'Callaghan died December 7, 2006 in Pleasanton. She was 79. The native of DesMoines.

Iowa had lived in Dublin for 5 years. Prior to that she had lived in Castro Valley for 20 years. She was a homemaker. She is survived by her sons David O'Callaghan of San Leandro, Michael O'Callaghan

of Pleasanton and Rourke O'Callaghan of Livermore; a sister, Sandra Fitzsimmons of California, seven grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Private services are planned. Arrangements by Graham-Hitch Mortuary.

Dorothy Virginia Innes

Dorothy Virginia Innes died December 13, 2006 at her home in Pleasanton. She was 84.

She was a native of Manilla, Philippine Islands. Virginia worked as a public health nurse for Alameda and Sacramento counties for 40 years and was school nurse at Marilyn Avenue Elementary School in Livermore. She also volunteered at Valley Memorial Hospital in Livermore. Virginia liked going on senior trips with the Livermore Area

 Can accelerate blood cycle · Shu slowly spiritual pressure

· Remove the toxins in body

· Balanced body function

Recreation and Park District, and loved music, art and reading.

She is survived by her children Joni Hirth and her husband Gregory Hirth of Pleasanton, Laura Fennell of Los Altos and Gerald R. Innes, Jr. and his wife Melodie of Ventura, and seven grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband Gerald Richard Innes in 1985.

Private services will be held. Memorial contributions may be made to Hope Hospice, 6500 Dublin Blvd., Suite 100, Dublin, CA 94568 or Alzheimer's Association, 2065 W. El Camino Real, Suite C, Mountain View, CA 94040.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

Edward Eugene Heise

Edward Eugene Heise died December 14, 2006 in Livermore. He was 89.

He was born in Wakarusa, Kansas and came to California in the early 1940s settling in Los Angeles. He worked in motion picture studios before finding out he was a woodworking artist. He worked as a carpenter for 55 years and was a member of Carpenter's Union Local #1622. When he first came to Livermore, he

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worked with Jensen Construction and Sunset Homes, building homes around Livermore. He loved to travel and visited several foreign countries. He spent ten years in retirement in Palm Springs and ten years in Modesto. He loved to watch football and golf. He always had a ready friendly smile and will be greatly missed.

He is survived by his wife, Irene Heise of Livermore, son and daughter-in-law Tom and Jackie Heise of Livermore, daughter and son-in-law Marie and George Bolis of Virginia Beach, VA, grandsons and spouses, Tom and Jean Heise, Don and Sandra Heise, Ron and Caroline Heise and George Bolis Jr., granddaughters Jackie Bolis and Christina Hart and seven great grandchildren.

Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated December 19 at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Livermore. Burial was at St. Michael's Cemetery in Liver-

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

Richard "Red" Winters

Long time Livermore resi-

dent, Richard "Red" Winters passed away at his home on December 12, 2006. He was 65.

He was born in Grand Rapids, MI. He was a retired employee of Automotive Engineering in Oakland and a 35 year member of the East Bay Automotive Machinist Union. Red enjoyed collecting, photography and Sprint car racing. He was also a NASCAR fan. He loved his pet cats, Jackie, Big Red. Meatball, Bonnie and Beebus. His two grandchildren held a special place in his life. He was a devoted and loving

grandfather. He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Dianne Winters and by his children Richard Winters and wife Michelle of Livermore and Elizabeth Masoodian and husband Bobby of Patterson. Also surviving are his brother Donald Winters and his wife Marilyn of Redlands, nephew Dana Winters and wife Melanie of Colorado, nieces Julie Rakestraw of Reno, Linda Miller of Santa Rosa and nephew Don Phillips of Roseville and his grandchildren, Savannah Winters and Donivan Winters of Livermore.

Funeral services were held December 18 in Livermore. Burial was at St. Michael's Cemetery in Livermore. Donations may be made to

Hope Hospice or to the American Diabetes Association. Arrangements by the Wilson Family Funeral Chapel.

Ka'rin Amerine-Oren

Ka'rin Amerine-Oren died December 14, 2006 in Vallejo. She

She was born in Oakland and grew up in Dublin. For the past 12 years, she lived in Solano County. She was a workers compensation claims examiner. Her main interests were her family, friends and being together. She was known for her love for God.

She is survived by daughters, Linda Churchill of Sacramento, Abby Amerine-Oren of Vacaville, Lucy Bush of Fairfield and Izzy Amerine-Markus of Sacramento, her father, Phillip Martinez Jr. of Dublin and a brother Phillip Martinez, II of Dublin, as well as two grandchildren.

Funeral services were held December 20 in Livermore.

Memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

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SPORTS NOTES

All American Runners

The Pleasanton Heat Running Club had a lot of orange at the recent Junior Olympics. Despite the snow and rain, all of the club's Despite the snow and rain, all of the club's runners finished the race. Two were named All Americans, Theo Carter and Ryan Colaco. Theo finished the midget boys' race with a time of 10:42.32 to finish 15th, 51 seconds behind the winner. Ryan finished the bantam boys' race in a time of 11:21 in 11th place,

34 seconds out of first.

The USATF National Junior Olympic Cross Country Championships were held in Spokane, Washington. More than 2300 athletes age 8 to 18 competed in ten age divisions. The bantams (10 and under) and midgets (11-12) ran over a 3 kilometer course; youth (13-14) 4 kilometers, and intermediates (15-16) 5 kilometers.

The Pleasanton Heat trains in the spring

and summer for track and field and in the fall

for cross country.
Other competitors: midget boys: Nolan
Petersen, Parker Devel, Jacob Schlachte, Conner McCarthy, Julian Chicoine, and Jeffrey Chen; youth girls Cindy Huang, Mollie Richardson, Stephanie Munro, Nicole Patera; youth boys: Nathan Catbajal, Connor Van Meter, Jake Potter, Christopher Pocs, Nicco Baumann, Roman Berenshteyn; ban-Nick Coumou, Eugene Chen, Sahit Meuon; bantam girls: Sophie Hartley, Christiana Mendes, Katie Moro, Juliana Herbech, Ariella Hartley; and intermediate girls: Madison McCarthy.

Roadrunners, Crew Claim NorCal Titles

The Livermore Roadrunners boys U12 soccer team claimed the NorCal Cup Championship Title over the weekend, despite winning both the semi-final and the hampionship games after regulation time

The Roadrunners triumphed over Juventus on Saturday in the NorCal Cup semi-finals, winning in golden goal overtime 2-1. Despite dominating the game, the Roadrunners had a difficult time getting the ball past the Juventus keeper and were behind 1-0 until the last 5 minutes of the game when Anthony Dubberly scored the tying goal after the ball was headed to him by Patrick Taylor. Trevor Long rocketed the ball quickly into the net for the Roadrunners in overtime after receiving a cross from Tanner Turner, ending the game with a score of 2-1.

On Sunday, the Livermore Roadrunners took on Lamorinda in a tough fight for the NorCal Cup championship. The game re-mained scoreless throughout the first half while both teams battled for the goal. Midway into the second half Lamorinda scored leaving the Roadrunners behind 1-0. Tanner Turner brought the Roadrunners back into the game when he dribbled the ball all the way into the goal to tie the score. He was assisted by Juan Carlos Alfaro. The game was still tied 1-1 at the end of regulation time and two golden goal overtime periods. The game then moved through the entire 11 player lineup for both teams in penalty kicks. Damon Tregear, Taylor, Paul Mayes, Turner, Brandon Marantan, Dubberly, Hector Gomez, Ryan Gollott, Goalkeeper JT Addington, and Derek McGovern all scored PK's for the Roadrunners. Goalkeeper Addington secured the victory when he was able to save one of the penalty kicks taken by Lamorinda The game ended with a score of Livermore Roadrunners 11, Lamorinda 10. Alex Shimburg, Sergio Alvarez, and Ryan Flayler also fought hard for the Roadrunners and were instrumental in their victory

The U-11 Girls Livermore Elite Crew '95 won the Norcal Cup Gold division championship, defeating the Burlingame Blitz 3-1 in the final. The Norcal Cup is the US Club Soccer championships for Northern California, and was contested over the past several weeks. The Crew '95 went undefeated in their group and earned a spot in the championship tournament last weekend in

In their semi-final game Saturday against the Sacramento United Extreme, Livermore played an aggressive game, with keeper Sarah Franklin and the strong Livermore defense giving up only one goal, while the midfield and forwards controlled the ball for much of the game, scoring once in the first half before securing the win with 10 minutes left in the

Sacramento United Extreme 1. In the final game on Sunday, Livermore struck first with an early goal against the Burlingame Blitz, which was quickly answered by a Burlingame goal off a penalty kick. Livermore's dynamic offense scored their go-ahead goal late in the first half, and scored again in the second half to seal the win. The strong midfield and rock-solid defense kept the ball on the Burlingame side for most of the game, and Sarah Franklin saved those few balls that made it through. Final: Livermore Crew '95 3, Burlingame Blitz 1. **Dublin United Class I Soccer U12**

Fighters took 2nd place in the Nor Cal Cup in tournament play over the weekend. Winning 3-1 on Saturday over the ASA Perfect Gift to advance to the Championship, where they fell 2-1 to the East Diablo United.

Top Offensive Players: Against the Perfect Gift, Amanda Garcia scored twice off assists by Rebecca Beasley and Annie Jones scored on a PK. In Sundays game Hailey Zummo scored the lone Fighter goal on a PK late in the first half. Megan Zummo and Mikaila Constable both had shots on goal for the Fighters. Mids "V" Bossio, Niki Mohebi, Allison Mitchell and Adrianna Nugen played strong, offensive ball. Top Defensive Players: The defensive line of Christine Laymon, Veronica Highsmith, Annie Jones, and anchored by Heather Seeley, shut down the Perfect Gifts attacks in saturdays game, and came on strong in the second half of sundays game allowing no goals.

TNT Explodes

Pleasanton based TNT Baseball, an 11U travel baseball team, swept thru weekend play with a perfect 5-0 record and first tournamen win in the USSSA Tourney. TNT recorded wins over the Elk Grove Gunners (19-10), San Jose Union Rock Hounds (13-8), Elk Grove Gunners (8-1), SV Bulldogs (9-1), and Castro Valley East Bay Hackers (19-11) in the final. TNT's Mitchell Daniels was named

In the semi-final game Daniels thru a very rare complete game vs. the SV Bulldogs allowing only one unearned run, 2 hits, 0 walks and 7 strikeouts. Daniels also led TNT in hitting with a .571 batting average including 5 extra base hits. Daniels big effort set up the showdown vs. the higher seeded and

powerful Hackers.

In the final game TNT exploded for 12 first inning runs and fended off numerous run scoring attacks by the hard hitting and feisty Hackers. Daniel Slominski and JD Clarke pitched well enough for TNT, setting up the closer AJ Curtis who shut the Hackers down over the final two innings while striking out the last batter in dramatic fashion. Other top hitters for TNT were AJ Curtis (.462), Ben Case (.429), Ryan Milligan (.364), and JD Clarke (.308). TNT got excellent pitching and defensive efforts from Kevin Elliott, DB Vidal, Justin Hooper, Terry Mitchell and

CYO Basketball

Catholic Community of Pleasanton (CCOP) defeated St. Michael's/St. Charles (SM/SC) 46 to 39 in 8th grade CYO basketball action. Carson Ewanich scored 11 of his game high 18 points in the forth quarter to lead CCOP to the win. CCOP maintained a small lead throughout the first 3 quarters. SM/SC continued to keep the score close and eventually tied the game 30-30 early in the 4th quarter. Then Ewanich scored four consecutive baskets taking the ball the length of the court and slashing thru several SM/SC defenders. Ewanich offensive outburst enabled CCOP to open a comfortable 11 point 4th quarter lead and go on to a 7 point victory. Stephen Ferrel played a solid game for CCOP and had 5 points and 8 rebounds. Keaton Housman grabbed 3 rebounds and had six steals and Trevor Guerrieri contributed 6 points for CCOP. Top Offensive Players: Carson Ewanich (18 points, 2 rebounds), Stephen Ferrel (5 points, 8 rebounds), Trevor Guerrieri (6 points); Top Defensive Players: Keaton Housman (3 rebounds, 6 steals), Cameron Seams (4 rebounds, 1 steal), David Elison.

In a closely played game, SM/SC 8th grade boys American (#86) lost to CCOP, 39-46. Top players for SM/SC were Dominic 39-46. 1 op players for SM/SC were Dommic Palino with 10 points, Shane Jackson and Kevin Stein with 8 points each, and Jared McCallister with 5. Top players for CCOP were Carson Evanich with 19 points, S. Ferrell and T. Guggrieri with 6 points each and K. Houseman with 5.

SM/SC 8th grade boys (#8BN1) defeated St. Raymond's 8th grade boys team 43-32 Sunday afternoon at the Stager Community gym in San Ramon. SM/SC led by one point at the half and built up a double digit lead in the 2nd half by playing tough defense before securing an eleven point margin of victory. SM/SC was led by Kyle Phillips who had 12 points, 2 rebounds and a block; Jacob Goodness who had 10 points, 6 rebounds, 4 assists, 3 steals and 2 blocks; Jacob Hohl who had 12 points, 14 rebounds and 2 assists; Ryan Rogers added 5 points, 4 rebounds, 1 block. 1 steal and 1 assist. Justin Brauer and Steven Dubberly also contributed 2 points and 2 assists each. Mike Griffin and Jeffrey Stanford came off the bench and contributed solid defense in the SM/SC win.

The CCOP 7th grade girls (team 7005) for the second week in a row faced an undefeated team in SM/SC (team 7010). After squaring up against SM/SC, CCOP increased their record to 4-1. Excellent defense by both teams kept the score low at the end of the 1st quarter. But it was CCOPs commanding defensive play in the remaining quarters highlighted by Sydney Okumura, Nicole Ponzini, Vivian Hare and Kelly Parsons that limited SM/SC scoring. CCOP kept SM/SC scoreless in the 4th quarter to solidify the win at 26-10. Rebounds by Lyndsay Godwin/Michelle Mann and assists from Jessica Morosoli/Lauren MacDonnell enabled CCOP to control the offensive game. Top offensive players were Godwin (11 points, including one 3 pointer), Ponzini (9 points), Emily Alberts (4 points) and MacDonnell (2 points).

SMSC 7th grade girls (7007) defeated St. Isidore's 31-16. SM/SC was lead by Monica Acton who scored 18 points and had 16 rebounds. Other top offensive players were Lorissa Lasit, Chris Splasso, and Jaime Elliot. Top defensive players were Cassidy Sherman and Allysa Combs.

CCOP #6007 played a tough game against St. Isidore before coming away with 17 to 12 win in 6th grade action.. Kris Dunworth led the team in rebounds with seven. Sarah Loduha had two baskets and two rebounds. Kylie Copenhagen had a terrific steal. After the second quarter 007 led by two points. Top Offensive Players: Alaina Urban, Sydney Hitesman, Aileen Firoozan, Hayley Bradley; Top Defensive Players: Aileen Firoozan, Bailey Downum, Marlo

CCOP7th grade girls #7009 played with very even scoring throughout the game in a 26 to 9 victory over St. Joan of Arc. Six of nine team members scored 4 points each. The team changed their defense from "zone" to man-to-man, which picked up the intensity of the game. The girls played a great passing game that netted them their highest scoring game of the season to date.

For CYO 6th grade American division play CCOP (61) defeated SM/SC (66) 38-24. In this fast-paced game the top scorers for CCOP were Raymond Hudson, Mac Hoffman and Matt Lee. For SM/SC the top scorers were Ryan Kirby, Kevin Kalmar and Mac

In CYO fifth grade action, SM/SC Team 527 defeated SM/SC Team 524 by a score of 20-13. Team 527 jumped to an early 10-0 lead in the first quarter, but Team 524 slowed them down in the second quarter and the score was 12-4 at half time. Both teams played excellent defense in the third quarter and neither scored a basket. The fourth quarter was an exciting free-for-all that saw Team 524 make a spirited comeback, but Team 527 held on for the win. The game's top scorers were Team 527's Hunter Ashby (6 points), David Pinion (4 points), and Matt Santos (4 points); and Team 524's Noah Robbins (4 points).

SM/SC 5th grade boys (#506) battled SM/SC (#504) in a great game featuring two very good teams. SM/SC (#504) team won, 33 to 20. Jack Meredith made some great shots that resulted in many baskets. Sumit Kumar and Justin McKee played great offense too for team #504. Frankie Kerstetter played strong defense.

SM/SC 4th grade boys defeated. St.



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Cyclocross competition consists of many laps of a short course featuring pavement, wooded trails, grass, steep hills and obstacles requiring the rider to quickly dismount, carry the bike while navigating the obstruction and remount. The rider is going over one of the obstacles in the East Bay Cyclocross held at Robertson Park in Livermore.

Joan's 34 to 8. SM/SC got off to a hot start with fastbreak layups by Ryan Holmes (6 pts., 7 rebs., 3 steals) and Michael Pierce (10 pts. 3 rebs. 4 steals). The SM/SC squad kept up the scoring with great shooting by Michael Bohl (6 pts. 7 rebs. 4 steals) and Jason Bohl (10 pts. 4 rebs 1 steal). The defense was firing on all cylinders with Patrick Miron, Dustin Allen (2 pts 1 reb 3 steals) and Omar Naisan.

In their best team effort of the season by far, SM/SC 4th grade girls American League team (#4005) beat a spirited St. Raymond's squad 24-5. While the excellent passing and team play overshadowed the individual efforts, Rachel Hernandez broke out with an excellent game passing and scoring, and Amanda Montano and Delaney Gill-Sommerhauser each played very solid defense and worked a balanced attack on offense. Passing and ball movement on offense created some excellent looks at the basket, and great team rebounding allowed them to capitalize on a number of second chances. The focus on team play made for a great outing for the entire group.

SM/SC 4th grade girls defeated St. Isidore's, 22-17 in a close game that came down to the last few minutes of the 4th quarter. SM/SC did extremely well on rebounds especially strong were Molly Farro, Meghan Lawrence, and Katie Johnston. Amazing dribbling was shown by Dani Sun and Molly Farro was the team high scorer this

SM/SC 3rd grade Super Stars (#3008) defeated St. Isidore (#3002) by a score of 22 to 0. Although the Super Stars had only one sub, the girls came out to play! "Little T" Tabarez had an all-around great game. Jesse Jaureguito scored 3 times and showed solid defensive skills. Amy Moussa rebounded like Rodman. Mirabella Barbalinardo, Kelcie Norton, and Sydney Zambonin formed an impenetrable defensive wall.

SM/SC 3rd grade boys(#319) defeated SM/SC (#321) 24-16. Benjamin Parker and Sean Stavert led their team with 12 and 10 points respectively. Kyree Rossel and Reed Spears led the way defensivly.

The SM/SC 1st and 2nd grade Shooting Stars and the Livermore Lakers faced off in an exciting game on Sunday. The Shooting Stars' Mila Steinberg (#88) started the scoring for the Stars with an inside bucket in the first half. Other Shooting Star players quickly followed with more baskets. Arianna Salcido (#1)scored and also led the team with her ball-handling skills. Angeline Mouser (#74)scored and also made valuable rebounds and fast breaks for the Stars. The Lakers played a great game with terrific steals, fast breaks and lots of baskets. Brandon Orrett (#36) was one of the Lakers' top offensive scorers, while John Heise (#43) and Will Mohler made great defensive moves for the

Frosh Keep Winning

The Amador Valley High School Lady Dons Freshman basketball team continued its winning ways this week picking up two more victories. Coming off a big weekend of tournament play, Amador looked a little fatigued in game one from the start of the first quarter, but managed to play right with the Newark Memorial Junior Varsity team that was big and physical. The Lady Dons beat the

Cougars by the score of 42 to 35 improving their record to 6-0. Brittania Bloom lead the offensive charge with 23 points. Haley Douglas added 8 points followed by Chelsea Luther with 7 and Courtney Wagner with 4. Defensively, Douglas and Emily Pease hit the boards hard and Pauline Rosa, Jessica Infald and Neha Seelam played well for

Amador Valley's second victory can be summed up in one word, teamwork. The Lady Dons improved their record to 7-0 beating the Tracy Bulldogs 61-20. Every player scored for the Amador Frosh team. Emily Pease was high scorer with 16, fol-lowed by Britannia Bloom's 9 and Chelsea Luther's 8 points. Haley Douglas, Neha Seelam, Pauline Rosa, and Courtney Wagner all had 6 points to contribute to the offensive attack. Jessica Infald and Paula Krzesinska attack. Jessica infaid and Paula Krzesinska each added a bucket for Amador. The Lady Dons held Tracy to 20 points and caused many turnovers with their swarming defense. Haley Douglas and Emily Pease controlled the boards allowing the Lady Dons multiple second and third shots.

Tumbling and Trampoline

Springtime Tumbling and Trampoline Team of Livermore traveled to Rocklin California to compete in the Winter Warm up on Saturday December 16, 2006. The Team competed on Trampoline (TR), Double Mini Trampoline(DM) and Tumbling(Tu). Eight of the fourteen team members were new to the sport and were competing for their first time. First time Competitors included; Josh Browne 9 of Livermore TR 1st 22.2 in Level Browne 9 of Livermore 1R 1st 22.2 in Level 8, DM 2nd 58.25 in Level 7, TU 1st 54.0 Level 4. Jill Grey 12 of Tracy TR 3rd 22.2 in Level 7, DM 2nd 57.3 in Level 7, TU 2nd 50.4 in Level 6, Kennedy McKercher 10 of Livermore TR 8th 20.4, DM 9th 54.7 in Level 6. Devony Allen 12 of Livermore TR 3rd 22.05 in Level 6, DM 3rd 56.35 in Level 6. Simon in Level 6, DM 3" 56.35 in Level 6. Simon Browne 14 of Livermore TR 1st 21.9 in Level 7, DM 2nd 57.2 in Level 7. Hailey Schnorr 14 of Livermore TR 1st 23.55 in Level 8, DM 1st in Level 8, TU 1st in Level 7. Maya Hauk 14 of Livermore TU 2nd 52.7 in Level 5, DM 3rd 57.9 in Level 7, TR 4th 22.35 in Level 8. Sarah Maslakow 15 of Tracy TR 1st 21.45 in Level 8, DM 1st 50.5 in Level 8.

8, DM 1st 59.5 in Level 8.

Veteran athletes included; Chloe Veteran athletes included; Chloe McGlynn 8 of Livermore TR 1* 23.4 in Level 6, DM 1* 57.3 in Level 6, The 1* 55.6 in Level 6, DM 4* 56.25 in Level 6. Katie McAninch 12 of Modesto TR 1* 55.7 in Level 9, DM 1* 59.5 in Level 9, TU 1* in Level 9. Bryce Wilson 13 of Manteca TU 1* 53.4 in Level 9. TR 2*d 25.9 in Level 9, DM 2** in Level 9. Kendal Curtis 13 of Livermore DM 1* 58.4 in Level 7, TU 1** in Level 5, TR 1** in Level 8. Jackie Neuman 14 of Livermore TU 1* 55.5 in Level 4, DM 3** in Level 8, TR 6** 20.25 in Level 8.

Blue Dolphins

The Livermore Blue Dolphins took thirteen swimmers to Pleasanton for a USS swim meet recently. Many new personal bests were

achieved.

Hannanoel Mueller (8) and Makinna
Hardy (9) braved the rains to make their
swimming debut, Rebecca Blasco (8) perfected her dives to drop over four seconds in the 25 free, Hannah Folmar (9) received two new BB times for the 200 Free and the 100

party on December 16th and will celebrate the 2005 swim year. In the past year, the team has earned six Junior Olympic times, one Far Western time, coached more than 125 swimmers, peaked at 86 concurrent swimmers competed in Mexico City, conducted a stroke clinic in San Salvador, and offered two free stroke clinics to swimmers in the local community. For information on the Dolphins, please calla 925-447-SWIM.

Self Defense Promotions

On 12-09-06, some of the martial artists from the United Studios of Self Defense in Livermore received promotions to their next rank during a test procedure that lasted anywhere from one to four hours depending on the level being tested.

Students were tested on their knowledge of forms, sparring, defensive maneuvers, basic punches and kicks, and their overall ability and knowledge of their material. Especially at the higher ranks, students are judged on dozens, if not hundreds of differen factors within the five categories.

Some of the students who tested have waited over a year to be promoted to their next rank, showing an amazing amount of dedication and effort to attain their next level. Bel tests are held eight-ten times per year depend-ing on necessity. Yellow Belt Promotions: Alan Pham,

Brandon Perez, Faiz Mohammed, Alex Hardy, Mattea Maroney; Orange Belt Promotions Gary Wilkes, Deanna Wilkes, Michae Butterfield; Purple Belt Promotions: Vincent Vega; Blue Belt Promotions: Nichole Crawley, Louis Napolitano, David Wiesner, Jeremiah Rose, Kyle Marden; Green Belt Promtions: Terry Macedo, Mimi Cerro.

10K Run

The 6th Hats Off America Red T-Shirt 10K Run/5K Walk will be held beginning at 10 a.m. on Saturday, February 10, 2007 at Sycamore Valley Park, 2101 Holbrook Drive,

Danville, rain or shine.
Entry fee is \$35 per person. All runners and volunteers will receive a red t-shirt and a barbecue lunch after the run. There is no entry fee for volunteers.
Run with Sparky George, the Bear Flag

Runner, to raise awareness and money for the Hats Off America (HOA) nonprofit organiza-tion. HOA raises money for families of soldiers who have died in Afghanistan and Iraq. The run is another way that Hats Off America lets the families know that they and their loved ones will not be forgotten.
For information or to register or volun-

ror information of to register or volun-teer, contact Sparky George at (925) 855-1950 or thebearflagrunner@yahoo.com Visit www.hatsoffamerica.us. The site includes links to other organizations that support our troops. Hats Off America is a nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization.

Hats Off America fundraising events are held each year and include Casino Night in

April 2007; The Muscle Car, Hot Rod & Art Fair in May 2007; and Red T-Shirt 10KRun/ 5K Walks in February, September and November 2007. There is also a blood drive on

Golf Club

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) Golf Association launches its sixth year as an associate golf club with the USGA/Northern California Golf Assotie USGA/Mothern California Gori Asso-ciation. The club is open to those 18 years of age and older, and to youth golfers ages 14 to 17 who are accompanied by an adult member. The LARPD Golf Association is taking registration for the 2007 membership year through December 30.

year through December 30.

Membership fees include NCGA membership, sanction and its amenities, discounts on golf, merchandise and apparel, tournaments at surrounding bay area courses including Poppy Hills and Poppy Ridge, tournament deposits, club affiliated socials and special events, and much more. Registration fees are \$60 through December 30 and \$70 after January 1, 2007 \$70 after January 1, 2007.
Visit www.larpdgolfclub.com to down-

load a copy of the registration form, which should be mailed or delivered to the LARPD Golf Association, 4444 East Avenue, Livermore, CA 94550. For more information, call Frank LaScala at (925) 373-5731.

Softball 2007 Registration

2007 Registration for all Pleasanton 2007 Registration for all Freasanton 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. Registration can be made online or mail-in. istration forms are available on line or you may request one by mailing to PGSL, P.O. Box 911, Pleasanton, CA 94566. Return the registration to the same address. See the PĞSL web site for additional information

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www.pleasantonsoftball.org or contact Dalice Godwin at ponyperf@comcast.net or 462-

Sharks Tickets

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) is selling a limited amount of tickets to two games in the upcoming National Hockey League season of the San

The public can purchase tickets for the January 15, 2007 game against the Colorado Avalanche, which kicks off at 7:00 p.m. at the Shark Tank in San Jose. Also available are tickets for the Sunday, March 11, 2007 game against the Edmonton Oilers, starting at 5:00 p.m. The Oilers were ranked sixth in the NHL

p.m. The Otlers were ranked sixth in the NHL in 2005 and made it to the Stanley Cup finals. Tickets for both games are Upper Reserved seats in sections 217, 218, 226, and 227. Tickets are \$43 each and can be purchased by calling (925) 373-5700. For more information, please contact Moe Kline at (925) 373-5717.

Baseball Camp

A holiday baseball camp is planned for Dec. 26 to 28. Guest instructors include Brad Bergesen, Brandon Crawford and Jeff Lyman.
Proceeds from the camp will be donated
to local charities: Camp Arroyo and the

DARE Program.

The camp will be held at Bill Payne Park in Livermore, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. It is open to groups 8 to 10 and 11 to 14. Instruction will be fundamental pitching, fundamental hitting, and fundamental base-ball. Fee is \$125 per player. Registration is on-line at www.thepitchingcenter.com. Cosponsoring the camp are The Pitching

Center, Livermore-Pleasanton Firefighters, Pleasanton Police Department, Livermore-Pleasanton Pony Baseball, All Star Sports, and Thinksport Consulting Services.

Alumni Soccer Game

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.

Ryan Gordon was a 2003 graduate of Foothill High School. He was killed in a boating accident shortly after graduating. He played soccer at Foothill for four years and was planning on attending Santa Barbara
City College where he planned to continue
playing soccer. The original Alumni Game
was organized to fund a scholarship that benefits a graduating member of the Foothill women's or men's soccer team who aspire to women sormen ssoccer team who aspire to play soccer in college. Since the 1st year all proceeds go directly to the soccer programs at the 2 high schools.

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

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.

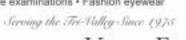






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www.ValleyEyeCareCenter.com

Christmas Eve and Christmas Services

St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. Christmas Eve services, Sin., Dec. 24: 5 p.m. family service with children's pageants and carols; 8 p.m. festival service of Christmas with Lessons & Carols; 11 p.m. Candlelight Holy Eucharist with chamber music; Christmas Day, Dec. 25: 11 a.m. Holy Eucharist. Information, 462-4802.

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic, 1315 Lomitas Ave., Livermore. Christmas Eve: 4 p.m. Mass (children's choir), 4 p.m. Mass)Borromeo hall); 6 p.m. youth mass; 10 p.m. Mass with carols at 9:30 p.m. Christmas Day, 10 a.m. Mass. Information, 447-4549.

Information, 447-4549.

Information, 447-4549.

Discovery Church of Livermore, 5860 Las Positas Rd., Livermore. Christmas Eve Candlelighting service from 4 to 5 p.m. includes carols, special music, and inspirational message. Information, 449-5256.

Our Savior Lutheran Ministries, 1385 So. Livermore Ave., Livermore. Christmas Eve candlelight services at 6 p.m. and 11 p.m.; Christmas Day, 10 a.m. festival communion service. Information, 447-1246.

Trinity Lutheran Church, 1223 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. Christmas Eve services: 4:30 p.m. family worship; 8 and 10 a.m. festival candlelight worship includes communion. Information, 846-6363.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1020 Mocho St., Livermore. Christmas Eve services: 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning worship: 4 p.m. family candlelight services:

services: 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning worship; 4 p.m. family candlelight services; 8 p.m. family candlelight services. Information, 447-8840.

Unitarian Universalist, 1893 N. Vasco Rd., Livermore. Christmas Eve, Dec.

Unitarian Universalist, 1893 N. Vasco Rd., Livermore. Christmas Eve, Dec. 24: 10:30 a.m. service, The Origins of Christmas; 7 p.m. candlelight service, Lights of Peace with Rev. Eric Meter speaking. Information 447-8747.

Candlelight service, Christmas Eve, 7 p.m. Tri-Valley Unity Church, 6680 Regional St. (at the Radisson), Dublin. All are welcome for this very special service. Rev. Mary Anne Harris, minister. (925) 829-2733. www.trivalleyunity.com.

St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Dr., Pleasanton. Mass schedule: Christmas Eve: 4 p.m., 6 p.m. and midnight; Christmas Day: 9 a.m. (no incense) and 11 a.m. 484-5020. Advent Christmas concert, Fri., Dec. 15, 7 p.m. children's choir adult choir, teen choir, instrumentalist.

7 p.m. children's choir, adult choir, teen choir, instrumentalist.

St. Augustine Catholic Church, 3999 Bernal Ave., Pleasanton. Mass schedule: Christmas Eve: 4 p.m., 6 p.m. and midnight. Christmas Day: 8 a.m. (no incense), 10 a.m. and noon. 846-4489.

Pleasanton Presbyterian Church, 4300 Mirador Drive, will present "Meet Me At The Manger," a children's Christmas musical pageant. Two performances are scheduled for Friday, December 22nd at 7 p.m. and Sunday, December 24th at 5 p.m. Through spirited songs, dance and a fun-filled story, the audience will learn how the gifts of the Wise Men are relevant today. There is no charge for either performance. A free will offering to offset production costs will be taken. Two Christmas Eve Services at 9:30 a.m. and 9 p.m. During the morning worship service, those attending will gather around the grand piano and sing Christmas carols, listen to special readings and heartwarming messages and hear the seasonal scriptures of inspiration. The classic 9 p.m. evening candlelight service will feature the choir and orchestra musicians. Pastor Mike Barris will deliver a special Christmas Eve message

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7:00 p.m., Tri-Valley Unity Church, 6680 Regional St (at the Radisson), Dublin. All are welcome for this very special

service. Experience the true meaning of Christmas. Rev. Mary Anne Harris,

minister. (925) 829-2733. www.trivalleyunit

United Christian Church, 1886 College Ave., Livermore. Worship each
Sunday at 10:30 am. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Dec.24 at 6 pm, followed by refreshments. Children are welcome! Call 925-449-6820.

First Presbyterian Church, 2020 Fifth Street, Livermore, has worship services on Sundays at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary, located at 4^{th} and L Streets. Adult Bible study is at 9 a.m. and Sunday school is held at 10:30 a.m. For details, call (925) 447-2078. Christmas Eve 5 p.m. Friendly Beasts services; 9 and 11 p.m. worship, carols and candles.

Carois and candles.

Our Savior Lutheran Ministries, 1385

So. Livermore Avenue, Livermore.

Tri-Valley Bible Church, 2346 Walnut

St., Livermore, holds Sunday worship at 10
a.m. with Sunday school for all ages at 9 a.m.

Children's classes during adult worship service. AWANA children's program Wednes. vice. AWANA children's program Wednes-days at 6 p.m. 449-4403 or www.Tri-ValleyBibleChurch.com. Asbury United Methodist Church,

4743 East Avenue, Livermore. 9 a..m Sunday worship. Christmas Eve services at 7 and 11 p.m. Information 447-1950.

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

vada Court, Pleasanton. Information 931-1055.

Faith Chapel Assembly of God, 6656
Alisal St., Pleasanton. Sunday school 9:30
a.m., worship with Pastor Glenn Mallock at
10:30 a.m. (nursery for both Sunday school
and worship); children's church (age 3-12) at
11:15 a.m.; women's Bible study. Wed. at 10
am. Wada evening programs; choir 7:15 a.m., Wed. evening programs; choir 7:15 p.m (boys and girls mission club K-6).; seniors 55 Plus meet Thursdays 7 p.m. Information 846-8650.

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

EastBaySecularJews.org.
First Church of Christ, Scientist, Liv**ermore**, has services at 10 a.m. every Sunday and at 7:30 p.m. on the second Sunday of each month. Sunday School for students (ages 3-20) is held at 10 a.m. every Sunday. The church and reading room are located at third and N Streets. The Reading Room, which is open to the public, features books, CDs and magazines for sale. For information, call (925) 447-2946.

(925) 447-2946.

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

Third Friday Night Labyrinth Walks,
7 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Open to the public, the
walk takes place on the 11-circuit Chartresstyle labyrinth in the courtyard. accessible

style labyrinth in the courtyard, accessible from the 4th St. entrance. The walks are enhanced by candlelight and include medita-tive music. If you would like more information about these walks or about labyrinths in general, please contact Judy Hughes, labyrinth facilitator, 925-485-2524, or the church office, 925-447-2078.

WINGS is a weekly gathering of Christian women that encourages spiritual growth

tian women that encourages spiritual growth through inspiring speakers, small group discussions, prayer, Scripture study, catechesis, life sharing and community. Meet-ings on Thursdays, at the Catholic Community of St. Charles Borromeo, 1315 Lomitas Avenue, Livermore, from 9:15 AM to 11:15

Avenue, Livermore, from 9:15 AM to 11:15 AM. Theme is Spirituality. Childcare provided for a nominal fee. Registration fee to join \$25/year; includes materials. Contact Mary Fair at 925-447-4549 or bob.mary.venter@comcast.net.

Faith Chapel Assembly of God, Pleasanton, 6656 Alisal St. Sunday school for all ages 9:30 a.m., worship service 10:30 a.m. (nursery for both Sunday school and worship), children's church program, age 3-12, 11:15 a.m. Singles and young married home Bible study Monday 7:30 p.m. (call for address). Women's Bible study Wednesday 10 a.m. Information, call the church office, 846-8650.

202 (continued from page one)

1930s and '40s. Benny Goodman and Tommy Dorsey

were among their favorites. Erickson worked as a machinist for Caterpillar in San Leandro during World War II and afterward. In the big war effort, women replaced men at Caterpillar, as they went off to war. Erickson's task was to instruct the new workers about how to do their jobs. Erickson and his wife lived in North Oakland, and raised two children, Martin, a Livermore resident, and Diane, who

lives near Modesto. He is looking forward to celebrating Christmas with his visiting family. Asked the secret of his longevity, Erickson replied, "Heredity. If you inherit good genes, you might live a long time," he said.

Boling said that she didn't know why she has made it to 101, the age that she attained Dec. 20. "I haven't done anything special. I have a physical every year. I ate normal things, like fruit, vegetables, meat and potatoes. I didn't smoke or drink. I never thought I'd live to 101. I can't believe it yet. You never know," she said.

Boling was born in a part of Saskatchewan that is near Âlaska. Her parents were immigrants from Austro-Hungary, the 19th century version of the two separate nations today. The farm family traveled around in a buggy in the summer and a sled in the winter. She was 14 when the family purchased its first car in 1919.

Christmas in her youth was much different than it is now, said Boling. In those days, they didn't have much money. They'd have a tree, and people would make presents for each other.

"When I got married (in the early 1930s, when she was 28) my husband earned \$75 a month. We had to live on that," she said. "Prices weren't so bad. Bread was 10 cents per loaf.'

Boling's family moved to Oregon when she was 15 to find a warmer climate. She went to business college in Salem, and met her husband there. He worked his whole career for the Oregon state hospital in Salem. The couple was married 62 years, until his death.

Asked the secret to a long marriage, Boling said, "I don't like to argue. Too many people fight with each other, like on the Dr. Phil program.'

Boling said that she is looking forward to Christmas with her grandchildren, and her son, Ralph, who lives in Livermore. He is a retired engineer from LLNL. Their birthdays are only 10 days apart, so they were scheduled to have a joint birthday celebration earlier this week.

Churches Planning Services and Events of the Season

Join us as we celebrate the birth of the Christ child!



December 24, 6 p.m. and 11 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Eve services

December 25, 10 a.m. A festival communion service

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



St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Community

1315 Lomitas Avenue, Livermore (near Concannon and Homes) (925) 447-4549 www.stcharlesborromeo.com

All are Welcome



Christmas Eve 4:00 PM Mass (Children's Choir) 4:00 PM Mass (Borromeo Hall) 6:00 PM Youth Mass 10:00 PM Mass -Carols at 9:30 PM (Adult Choir and Ensemble)

> Christmas Day 10:00 AM Mass



at First Presbyterian Church 4th and L St., Livermore www.fpc-livermore.org 925/447-2078

Morning Service on December 24th

9:00 a.m. in the chapel 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary

Evening Services on December 24th

"Friendly Beasts" Service (with ASL signing)

5 p.m., Fellowship Hall, enter on K St.

Hear the story of the animals in the stable. Let the children meet & greet real animals enjoy hot cider and chocolate!

Candlelight Services

9:00 and 11 p.m. in the sanctuary with special handbell and sanctuary choirs

New Year's Eve Labyrinth Walk

Sunday, December 31, 8 p.m. - midnight Labyrinth available for walking.



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9:30 AM - Sunday Morning Worship 4 PM Family Candlelight Services 8 PM Family Candlelight Services

New Years Eve – December 31 9:30 AM - Sunday Morning Worship

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The best Christmas gift didn't come from a store. It came from God. Join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

Advent & Christmas At St. Clare's

Sunday Services During Advent:

- December 3. Advent 1: Holy Eucharist at 8 a.m. & 10 a.m.
- December 10, Advent 2: Holy Eucharist at 8 a.m. & 10 a.m.
- December 17, Advent 3: Holy Eucharist at 8 a.m. & 10 a.m.
- December 24, Advent 4: Holy Eucharist at 10 a.m. only

Christmas Eve Services on Sunday, December 24:

- 5 p.m. Family Service with Children's Pageant & Carols
- 8 p.m. Festival Service of Christmas with Lessons & Carols
- 11 p.m. Candlelight Holy Eucharist with Chamber Music

Christmas Day Services on Monday, December 25: • 11 a.m. Holy Eucharist

All are welcome at St. Clare's, regardless of faith.

St. Clare's Episcopal Church

St. Clare's Episcopal Church is located at 3350 Hopyard Rd. in Pleasanton. For more information about St. Clare's, contact the church office or the Rev. Ronald Culmer at (925) 462-4802 or stclare@att.net.



Christopher Shepard stands in front of one of the trees. The plaque is in front.

Eagle Scout Project Honors Junction Teachers Judy Hazen & Maynard Moreland

By Patricia Koning
Over the past 12 months, Boy Scout Christopher Shepard has been working on his Eagle Project, a permanent memorial to two of Junction Avenue Middle School's legacies: former teachers Judy Hazen and Maynard Moreland. Shepard graduated from Junction last year and now attends Livermore High School.

Hazen and Moreland spent nearly six decades combined at Junction, and were much loved by their colleagues, students, and families. Judy Hazen, who taught science at Junction for 20 years, died from cancer in January 1996. Moreland, who taught social studies and language arts for 34 years at Junction, also died from cancer about 5 years ago.

For his project, Shepard placed plaques commemorating Hazen and Moreland in concrete aggregate in front of trees that had been planted in memory of each teacher. Hazen's plaque is located in front of the library and Moreland's plaque is in front of room 26, his classroom of 30 years.

According to Junction Principal Susan Sambuceti, the plaques were gathering dust in the school office before Shepard's project.

"I'm grateful to Christopher and the Boy Scouts for having eagle projects," she said. "I'm glad we now have a permanent legacy to these two fine teachers. It's quite clear that the memories do not die."

Shepard held a dedication ceremony last week that was attended by the Hazen and Moreland families, their colleagues and former students, and Boy Scouts from Troop 939. Many of Shepard's fellow scouts helped on the project.
At the ceremony, Moreland's son Weldon spoke of his father's

legacy and his experience growing up in Livermore.

"I spent most of my childhood here, at this school," he said. "I really appreciate the work that was put into this project, speaking on health of my antique formula." behalf of my entire family.

Weldon was one of six Moreland children. He talked of how his father, in addition to being a teacher, owned the old Dairy Queen on Second Street and was a reserve police officer.

Hazen's husband Chuck, who also taught at Junction, and her son Glenn shared their memories with the group. Glenn's wife Katie and their two children were at the ceremony.

"This school was like a second family to my mom," said Glenn. "I didn't totally understand that until her funeral, which was delayed

because so many people wanted to sign her memory book.

Junction science teacher Denia Segrest shared her experience as Hazen's student teacher. She intended to work with Hazen, but wound up replacing her after her death.

She told me that teaching middle school is like being behind a pack of wild ponies. You have to let them run but you had better let them know who is holding the reins," Segrest said.

Retired Junction teacher Sharon Schmidt recalled teaching in the classroom next to Moreland's. Another retired Junction teacher, Betty Hovendin shared her memories of Hazen. She concluded her remarks by saying, "I truly miss her."
For Shepard, completion of this project means he is on his way to

becoming an Eagle Scout.

"I think it came out looking really nice. The approval I've gotten from the families and teachers feels nice," he said. "I was too young to have either Judy Hazen or Maynard Moreland as teachers, but they sure seem special."



The Harvest Park Middle Competition School Cheerleading Squad placed 2nd at the USA Regional Competition held in Tracy, at Merrill West High School on December 9th. Their performance qualified them to attend the USA Nationals to be held in Anaheim in March of 2007. In addition, both **Harvest Park Stunt Teams** performed well, placing 2nd and 4th overall. Team members are Ana Marquez, Ashley Nair, Baqiyyah Bent, Candela Martinez, Caroline Fiegel, Chloe Avelenda, Danielle Pope, Erin Mezzetta, Hannah Milano, Jenae Poffenbarger, Julia Park, Julie Sharify, Katarina Marjanovic,

Kerry Carmichael, Laney

Turay, Madyson Benz, Margo Little, Monica Kim, Natalie Klein, Nicole Thompson, Nicolette Allen, Paige Carlstrom, Rachel Cilk, Rachel Hardy, Rachel Latsis, and Tracey Rustick. Head coach is Linda Montoya; assistant coach Natasha Bojkovic.

Livermore Valley Charter School Opens New Middle School Laboratory

By Patricia Koning
The Livermore Valley Charter School (LVCS) officially opened its new middle school science laboratory with an open house and ribbon-cutting ceremony. Students have been using the new lab for several weeks.

The lab has seven full stations, each equipped with its own gas and water supplies. Based on LVCS' middle school class sizes of 27:1, students will never share a lab station with more than three other students. There are also 78 outlets in the room—enough to accommodate the students' laptop computers.
"We have the room and equip-

ment to conduct any experiment open to the imagination," said LVCS middle school science teacher Sue Johnston.

At the open house, several middle school students shared their results from a recent project. They studied the function of a cell in class. They then examined samples of local creek water to identify organisms such as algae, bacteria, and paramecium. Using microscopes hooked up to their laptops, the students captured digital pictures for use in presentations and further study.

"I'm saving my album to use for notes and studying for tests," said seventh grader Michaela Glover. "Plus the pictures are really interesting to look at."

Anne White, a Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District trustee, stopped by to check out the new lab and became caught up in looking at microscopic images with a student. White, who has a masters in Biology and taught lab instruction for teachers, walked seventh grader Brandon Clutter through scraping the

Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Students are looking at pond water seen under a microscope. The information is shown on the computer.

inside of his cheek and preparing a slide to view under the mi-

Also on hand for the opening was Richard Farnsworth, Science & Technology Education Program manager for Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

Planning for the 1440 square foot building began nearly a year ago, last February, with hopes of opening the lab at the start of school. Delays happened along the way. Cconstruction didn't begin until July. The building was delivered in October.

Because of the delay, the elementary school Spanish teacher was without a classroom for three months. Senora Stonich adapted by becoming a traveling classroom, with a cart of her supplies that she brought from class to

For a little old charter school this is not bad," said Lon Goldstein, executive director of LVCS. "It's a nice complement when Sue Johnston says this will put most other science labs to shame."

Johnston has taught math and science for 18 years, including 12 years at Granada High School and four years at East Avenue Middle School.

LVCS Principal Tina Morris was equally pleased with the new lab, describing it as a fabulous

The lab is intended primarily for middle school students. However, fifth graders may also work in the lab occasionally if plans to open a new charter school serving grades 8 and 9 come to frui-

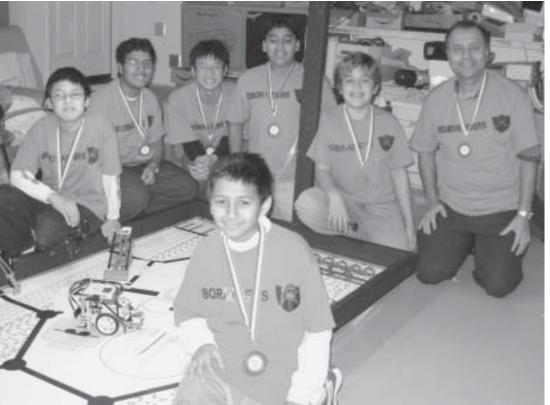
Lab Employees **Host Seniors at Holiday Party**

Clients at the Friendship Center in Livermore, the Tri-Valley's only adult day-care program, will share in the holiday spirit at a holiday party scheduled for Thursday, December 21 at 1:00 p.m. Employees from the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory will provide wrapped gifts for the clients at the center, which is located at the Sonoma Learning Center, Room FC21, 543 Sonoma Avenue in Liver-

"The Lab employees have been very generous to the Friendship Center and we appreciate their efforts, which help to make a fuller and better experience for our clients," according to Sandra Kaya, Activity Director at the Friendship Center.

Now in its 14th year, the Friendship Center serves adults over 50 years of age who cannot care for themselves during the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The facility is licensed to serve 30 adults per day with a systemic approach to their mental, emotional and physical care, blended with social and recreational activities that are supervised by a caring staff. Hot meals are provided daily by Spectrum Community Services.

The average age of clients is 80, and most have some form of dementia, such as Alzheimer's, the most common form of dementia. An estimated 4.5 million Americans have Alzheimer's disease, more than double the number since 1980, and a number that is expected to grow to as much as 16 million by the year 2050. The impact of Alzheimer's on individuals, families and the health care system makes the disease one of the greatest challenges facing the nation.



The team members of RoboRaiders are: Abhiraj (Pitu) Chowdhury (Foothill), Andrew Eng, Peter Huang, Justin Hernandez, Amruth Darapaneni and Rohan Punamia (all PMS).

Robot Team Heads to State Competition

Pleasanton Roboraiders, a club that specializes in robotics using Legos, has qualified to go to the State Championships to be held in San Jose on Jan. 20, 2007.

The team was formed last year by six team students from Pleasanton Middle School and coach Rishi Chowdhury.

There are regional competitions held every year under First Lego League.

This year at West Contra Costa Regional on December 9, Roboraiders qualified to go to State. One of the parents, Rishi Chowdhury volunteered to be the Coach with Tommy Eng as Assistant Coach. The team practice sessions are on every Wed, and Sundays from Sep 1 till now. In the past month team members have met on Friday and Saturday as well.

In the West Contra Costa Regional, Roboraiders were ranked overall 3rd among 19 teams from all over the Bay Area and 2nd in Robot Programming. They also qualified for finals in Robot De-

The team used the latest Lego robotics called Mindstorm NXT set to create their robot with built-

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in light and touch sensors. This year's challenge was in

Nanotechnology.

There are four parts to the challenges: Robot Performance, Robot Design, Programming and Research Project. Roboraider's research project was on "Nanotechnology in Cancer Research."

To prepare to build the robot, team members interviewed Dr. Robert Langer, Professor at MIT-

Harvard Cancer Center of Nanotechnology and Dr. Eric Jakobsson of University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Director of Nanoconduction Institute. They also researched articles and created an experiment to show targeted delivery of cancer drugs using their robot.

The Robot Performance round has 9 tasks, which needs to be completed by the robot in 150 seconds (2.5 minutes).



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Todd kamena (left) is shown presenting a proclamation (about the twinning of the Livermore and Birnam Games) to Chieftain Robert Steuart Forthringham of Birnam. He is holding a custom wine bottle from Murrieta's Well that Kamena had commissioned.

Livermore Games Twin with Birnam in Scotland

Planning is underway for the Livermore Scottish Games

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District gave the go-ahead for this year's games last week. The dates are May 19

However, there has been one special activity in the mean-

A delegation from Livermore went to Scotland to see the origins of Highland Games. While there, they took part in a twinning ceremony, creating a tie between the Livermore games and the Birnam Highland Games, similar to a sister city tie. Birnam was celebrating its 144th annual games.

One of those on the trip was Todd Kamena, a member of the Board of Directors of the Tri-Valley Scotian League. The Scotian League works with the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District to stage the Livermore games each year.

Kamena said he has been involved with Scottish Games since he was a member of the Boy Scouts. The troop used to provide security for the Caledonian Club games when they were held in Santa Rosa.

In addition, there is a family link. His grandmother always said the family was a member of Clan McClaren.

Kamena spent a month in Scotland in 2005, during which the idea for the twinning was proposed. "I brought the idea back. The other members of the Scotian League felt it would

The ceremony took place during this year's Birnam Games. Kamena attended the 2006 games. He said he found the games in Scotland to be completely different in how they were staged. The competitions are the same, such as the caber toss, he said. However, all of the activity takes place within a circular grass field with seating around it. Everything goes on at the same time, much like a three ring circus, he explained.

The games held in Pleasanton and Livermore incorporate a lot of cultural events, such as living history. Local games also sell arts and crafts. The culture and crafts are part of every day life. While there is bagpipe music at the Scotland games, the local games perform a wide range of music ranging from rock to traditional sounds.

Kamena found himself taking part in one of the competitions - the haggis eating. He described the haggis as "Everything you don't want to eat. It is ground up. Oatmeal and pepper are added. The mixture is placed in a sheep's stomach and steamed. The contestants are given a pound of the food. The first to finish is the winner," he stated.

Unfortunately, someone forgot to take the haggis out of the steamer, Kamena said. "It was too hot. We used beer to cool it down and eat it. Last year the winning time was one minute. Because the food was so hot this year, it took two and a half minutes for the winner to consume it. While I did not win, I was given an honorable mention."

Back in Livermore, Kamena has recently opened his own dental practice. He studied architecture at UČ Berkeley, graduating with a degree in environmental design. "While going through the program, I saw the difficulty in architecture as a long term career. It involves creating things that don't exist for people who don't know what they want. It wasn't much fun for me," he recalled.

Friends told him that he might like dentistry. "It has worked out well for me. You know what teeth are supposed to look like. You just need to determine how to get there," Kamena

His office is designed to look like a family room. There is a fireplace, big screen TV and child's play room. To create the look he wanted, Kamena first demolished the interior of the office. "I restored the fireplace that had originally been there, then designed the office," he stated.

He said he found he had a link to the office. Kamena was born and raised in Livermore. The office he ended up purchasing had been occupied by Dr. Irving Bloom, the obstetrician who delivered Todd at Valley Memorial Hospital.

The practice of dentistry has come a long way in recent years. Kamena described his practice as "a high tech office." There is a DVD player and television for each room, which patients can watch during the procedures. All records are digital and can be seen on the TV screens. That makes it possible for Kamena to show patients exactly what is wrong with their teeth and how it can be corrected.

He is the only dentist in the office, a circumstance that bucks the current trend of companies buying up dental practices, creating corporate dentistry. "They are taking away the family dentist. I enjoy the social and community aspect involved in dentistry. I like to hear what is going on in the lives of my patients. It isn't the number of patients you see that matters. It's doing a good job. My goal is to make everyone as comfortable as possible. That's the reason for the family room

setting."
Asked about any political plans, Kamena said he has no political aspirations at this time. "It's not for me."

He says he just wants to stay in Livermore, where he hopes to be able to raise a family. He points out that his family has a long history in the valley. His grandparents arrived here in 1933. Kamena's grandfather, Robert Albertini, was a mining specialist called in to help dig out Shadow Cliffs. "We used to call it grandpa's lake," he laughed.

Winners in Reflections Arts Recognition Announced

The Pleasanton PTA Council held its fourth annual Reflections Arts Recognition Program on Tuesday, December 5, at Harvest

Park Middle School. The National PTA believes all children deserve a quality arts education and encourages students to pursue artistic expression through participation in its annual arts Reflections Program. Local students, from kindergarten through 12th grade, have entered their work in six categories: musical composition, literature, photography and visual arts, film/video production and dance choreography. The theme of this year's program is "My Favorite Place."

A total of 337 young artists from 7 Pleasanton schools submitted entries for this year's program to their local PTA or PTSA sponsored program. The participating schools were Alisal Elementary PTA with 26 entries, Fairlands Elementary PTA with 27 entries, Hearst Elementary PTA with 52 entries, Mohr Elementary PTA with 90 entries, Vintage Hills Elementary PTA with 65, Harvest Park Middle School PTA with 5 entries and Amador Valley High School PTSA with 72 entries.

Reflections Committees at each of these schools identified students in each category and age level to represent their

Comedy and Chinese Food Benefit Charity

John DeKoven, President of Bay. This is the time of year when Laugh-A-Lot Productions, announced the company's first annual "It's a Meshugenah Christmas - An Evening of Comedy, Chinese Food and Charity". This event will take place at the Golden Peacock Banquet and Bistro in Fremont, on December 24th and 25th.

"The original concept of the show was that it would be marketed to the Jewish community as something to do over the Christmas holiday while raising money for a good cause" said DeKoven who is Jewish himself. "In reality the show can be enjoyed by people of all faiths who won't be having a traditional Christmas celebration or just want to come out for a great night of comedy. Most importantly, a portion of the proceeds will go to a worthy cause, Jewish Family & Children's Services of the East

everyone needs to help those in

It's a Meshugenah Christmas will feature four Jewish comedians, including Brian Malow, who recently appeared on the Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson; Jeff AppleBuam, who was recently cast to play Joey Bishop in "The Tribute to Frank, Sammy, Joey, & Dean - The Rat Pack" in San Francisco, Chicago, and Las Vegas; Ross Turner, who has opened for Dana Carvey, Dat Phan, Bobby Slayton, Todd Barry, John Heffron, and Robert Schimmel; and DeKoven himself who actually entered the world of comedy as a result of a long tortuous divorce that took longer then the marriage itself.

In addition to the comedy show, there will be an all-youcan eat Chinese food buffet.

school at the Council level. A total of 55 entries were submitted to Pleasanton PTA Council for recognition and were presented with certificates at the

Of these, the works of 16 students were chosen to represent Pleasanton PTA Council at the next level, Peralta District PTA, which encompasses all of Alameda County:

Literature: Miyuko Carballo, Fairlands Elementary, Primary Division; Kailey Sanchez, Vintage Hills Elementary, Intermediate Division; Marie McCoy-Thompson, Harvest Park Middle School, Middle/Jr. Division; Jeysree Ramachandran, Amador Valley High School, Senior Di-

Photography: Jenilee Chen, Vintage Hills Elementary, Primary Division; Daniela Williams, Fairlands, Elementary, Intermediate Division; Chase Partridge, Amador Valley High School, Senior Division.

Visual Arts: Brain Park, Mohr Elementary, Primary Division; Anuja Joshi, Mohr Elementary, Intermediate Division; Amanda Wu, Harvest Park Middle School, Miiddle/Jr. Division; Kendra Knudsen, Amador Valley High School, Senior Division.

Musical Composition: Jenilee Chen, Vintage Hills Elementary, Primary Division; Christine Xu, Mohr Elementary, Intermediate Division; Max Loh, Amador Valley High School, Senior Division.

Film/Video Production: Vincent Tantra, Mohr Elementary, Primary Division; Piyush Patil, Mohr Elementary, Intermediate Division.

Livermore Artist Honored

Livermore resident and artist, Thomasin Dewhurst, recently won acclaim in the prestigious 2006 Artist's Magazine Competition. The December 2006 issue of the Artist's Magazine listed her oil painting "South African Woman" as finalist in the Portraits/Figures category.

Dewhurst paints mainly figurative work in a representative and impressionistic style. She was educated at Rhodes University in South Africa, receiving a B.A.F.A. with distinction in painting, and went on to complete an M.A.F.A. with distinction in both painting and theory at the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa.

Dewhurst is represented by the Winsor Gallery in Vancouver,



South African Woman, painting by Thomasin Dewhurst.

Canada. Her work can be viewed her www.thomasindewhurst.artspan.com

& ENTERTAINME

Auditions, Valley Concert Chorale, by appointment for experienced singers interested in singing with the chorus on Monday, January 15 and Monday, January 29, 2007 in Livermore. The Chorale is looking for singers who enjoy performing a wide range of music from classical to con-temporary, from folk to jazz. If you have sight reading skills and enjoy singing exciting and challenging music, call 925-462-4205 to schedule an appointment. For more infor-

www.valleyconcertchorale.org.

A Christmas Carol, the holiday classic based on the story by Charles Dickens, California State University, East Bay stage on Friday, Dec. 15 at 8 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 16 at 2 and 8 p.m. University Theatre on Cal State East 's Hayward campus, 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd. Tickets are \$7 for general admission, \$6 for youth and seniors, \$5 for CSUEB students, \$3 for children and \$16 for a family of four. Tickets are available by telephone at (510) 885-3261 or at the door each day of the show. Additional Information is available online http://class.csueastbay.edu/

iraevents/FallTheatreDetails.pdf
Political satirist Will Durst and friends in The Big Fat Year End Kiss Off Comedy Show XIV on Friday, De-cember 29, 8 p.m.. Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. This show is appropriate for adult audiences. City of Pleasanton Civic Arts Presents will host. Appearing with Will Durst will be Jim Short, a regular guest of the Craig Ferguson Show, improvisationists Debi Durst and Michael Bossier, and well-known comedians Steven Kravitz and Arthur Gaus. The show will feature stand-up comedy, improvisation, and semi-written sketches all of which cover national and local events of this past year. Advance tickets are \$15, \$20 and \$25. Tickets may be purchased online at www.civicartstickets.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 discounts are available.

Oils by Yiling Zhen, In November,
Lian Zhen's water colors graced the
walls of the Wente Vineyards Estate
Tasting Room. In December, daughter Yiling's evocative oils take their place. Exhibit will be on display through December 31, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Estate Winery Tasting Room, open daily, 5565 Tesla Road. For information call 925-456-2305

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.

Contra Costa Children's Chorus holds
placement interviews at the Dougherty Station Community Center in San Ramon on January 15 and 22, 2007. The chorus begins its 2nd satellite chorus through the Department of Parks and Community Services, with rehearsals to take place at the Dougherty Station Community Center. The Chorus has performed at such venerable institutions as Canterbury Cathedral, the Vatican and Carnegie Hall. The Chorus is currently preparing for a Summer 2007 tour to China. Director Iris Lamanna will lead children ages 5-14 (grades 1-4 and grades 5-8) in two separate levels at the San Ramon site. Participants in the San Ramon program will also have the opportunity to perform and eventually tour with the more advanced group in Walnut Creek. Placement interviews will be held on Monday 1/15/07 from 4-5:15, with additional interviews the 1/22/07 and 1/29/07. Please call 925 973-3368 to sign up for an audition time slot.

Please come prepared to sing a short song. For more information check out the Contra Costa Children's Cho-rus Web site at

www.childrenschorus.com. Worthington Gallery West, Cuna Indian Benefit, December 5-30, Benefit for the San Blas Medical Mission through the sale of colorful Mola textiles. 739-J Main St., Pleas-(925)485-1183 www.worthingtongallerywest.com. Tues. - Sat. 10:30- 5:30.

Pleasanton Art League Public (PAL) Art Circuit has made its Fall rotation. New pieces by local artists can be seen and purchased at the following locations: In Pleasanton, on Main Street: Bank of America, Keller Williams and Towne Center Books. Other Pleasanton locations are the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce on Peters Street and R.E. Realty Experts on Hopyard. The circuit also includes Bank of the West on Dublin Blvd. in Dublin and Vogue Hair Studio on Sunol Blvd. in Pleasanton. The Vogue exhibit currently features abstracts by Mahesh Baishya. Public Art Circuit loans art work for public access. A portion of subsequent sales supports PAL's community art education programs. To participate as a site partner or as an artist, contact Lisa Davis at 925-518-

Concerto Competition, Prometheus Symphony Orchestra for Bay Area string, wind and percussion players age 18 or younger. Competition is Tues., Jan. 30, 2007 at Zion Lutheran Church, Piedmont. The winner will perform with the orchestra on Sun., March 25, 2007 and will receive a \$150 award. Application deadline is Jan. 20, 2007. Applications are available by calling 447-3659 or on-line

at www.prometheussymphony.org.

Jazz at the Ridge, Poppy Ridge Golf
Course, 4280 Greenville Road, Livermore. Every Thursday 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Smooth jazz from Two Guys. Information, 456-8215 or

Information, 456-8215 or info@poppyridgegolf.com.

Poetry Open Mike Night, 3rd Thursdays, All poets, young and old, raw, simmering or stewed are welcomed every third Thursday of the month, every third Inursday of the month, 7pm-9pm at The Bookstore, 2911 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, off Val-ley. Bring up to ten minutes of poetry to share. The evenings are free, light refreshments will be served. Call Cynthia Bryant at 925-398-8846 or email her at PoetsLane@comcast.net for more information.

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

p.m. For information call 449-9927. **Tommy T's (comedy) Pleasanton**, 5104 Hopyard Rd. 227-1800 or www.tommyts.com.

Lounge entertainment: Pleasanton

Thurs., Dec. 21, Fred McCarty sings folk rock, 6 to 8:30 p.m.; Fri., Dec. 11, Ian and Leopold, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.; Sat., Dec. 23, Major Link, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.; Thurs., Dec. 28, Fred McCarty sings folk rock, 6 to 8:30 p.m.; Fri. Dec. 29, Cruisetones, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.; Sat., Dec. 30, Major Link, 9

Close Up, Livermore Art Association exhibit at the Livermore Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave. Focus is on life in a macro view. The object of the show will be to view things encountered at close range. Exhibit Dec. 1-30. Available for viewing during regular library hours.

regular library hours.

Art Collecting 101, Saturday January 20, 2007, 3-4pm. Free to the Public. Refreshments Served. Worthington Gallery West, 739 J. Main St., Pleasanton. Led by Claudia Hess who has spent the last 30 years studying art in the US, Europe and Japan.

Ravenswood Poetry Series, Jan. 7, 2 to 4 p.m. presented by Livermore Poet Laureate Connie Post, Ravenswood Historic Site, 2647 Arroyo

Rd., Livermore. Featured readers Armand Brint, Theresa Whithall. Open Mic will take place after a short break around 3 p.m. Light Refresh-ments will be served. \$5.00 admis-

Literary event at Library, Persis Karim will present her anthology, "Let Me Tell you where I've Been: New Writing by Women of the Iranian Diaspora," at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., Pleasanton on Sun., Jan. 28 at 2 p.m. She will be joined by authors Tara Fatemi, Esther Kamkar, and Sanaz Nikaein All library programs are free and open to all. Contact Penny Johnson at 925/931-3405 for more informa-

The Odd Couple, a Comedy by Neil Simon, Feb. 2-18, Thursday, Friday & Saturday at 8:00 pm & Sundays at 2:00 pm. The Douglas Morrisson Theatre, 22311 North Third Street, Hayward. Tickets (510) 881-6777; information dmtonline.org.

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 Skye 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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Tickets & showtimes online www.cinemawest.com

LIVERMORE CINEMAS 2490 First Street 443-SHOW

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.

New Year's Eve Dance, Parents without Partners is sponsoring a dance on New Year's Eve. The event is open to the public. It is set for Dec 31, 2006 from 8:30 p.m. - 12:30 a.m. at Rhythm Street Dance Studio, 6635 Dublin Blvd., Suite D, Dublin, CA. Cost \$35. Call Clyde for more information (925) 443-7168.

Tri-Valley Republican Women, 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 the Sheraton Pleasanton Hotel (formerly the Wyndham Carden Hetal) 5:000 Stongridge Mell Rd Garden Hotel) 5990 Stoneridge Mall Rd., Pleasanton. New members and visitors are welcome. Reservation deadline is January 8. Contact Marilyn (925) 485-9869.

Granada Dance Clinic for Elementary & Middle School Girls, Granada High School Dance Team will be holding 2 jazz/hip-hop dance clinics on Jan. 27, 2007 from 9am - 12pm. The elementary clinic will be for 3rd -5th grade girls. The middle school clinic will be for 6-8th grade girls. Each clinic will teach a separate routine and will perform at a Granada Basketball game. The cost is \$40 and includes dance instruction, a t-shirt, snacks, and a cd with music to take home. Registration forms can be found online at http://www.granadadance.com. The deadline to register is Jan. 15, 2007.

ValleyCare Auxiliary, Volunteers needed. Nine different areas of volunteer service available in both Pleasanton and Livermore. Floor service, information desks, office, the library, gift and thrift shops. For more information, please call 734-3368.

Valley Spokesmen Bicycle Touring Club, Sat., Dec. 23, 45 miles Pleasanton to Sunol, meet 9 a.m. behind Tully's Coffee Shop, Kim Autrey, 417-0260. Mon., Dec.

25, 40 miles Benicia and beyond, meet 10 a.m. at Matthew Turner Park, Edith Norby, 707-748-1508 or Barbara Wood, 707-745-6353. Wed., Dec. 27, 37 miles Castro Valley to Moraga Commons and back, meet 10 a.m. at Castro Valley Park 'n Ride, Kaman Tong, 415-722-6797. Anyone planning to go on a ride is asked to call the leader for details on where to meet and what to bring.

Jack London Foundation Auction,

books and collectibles, Jan. 13 at the Sonoma Community Center, 276 East Napa Street. Preview noon to 1 p.m. Auction starts at 1 p.m. Admission is free. For more information call 707-996-2888 or email the Foundation at ilondon@vom.com.

Book Sale, by Friends of the Livermore Library on Sunday, January 7, 12:00 noon to 4 p.m. in front of the former Library at 1000 South Livermore Avenue. Fiction and nonfiction books, magazines and audiovisuals 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

Pet adoptions, Tri-Valley Animal Rescue (TVAR) hosts dog and cat adoptions at the Pleasanton Farmers Market every Saturday from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM, Cat adoptions at Dublin PetsMart on Saturdays from 12:00 to 4:00 PM and on Sundays from 1:00 to 4:00 PM, Cat adoptions at Dublin Pet Food Express on Saturdays from 12:00 to 4:00 PM (excluding 4th Sat) and on Sundays from 12:00 to 4:00 PM. For more information please call TVAR at (925) 803-7043 or view animals at www.tvar.org.

Service news: Air Force Airman Ryan A.

Merrill has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. He is the son of Paul Merrill Pleasanton, Calif., and Anne Merrill of Sanford, Fla. Air Force Airman Jace C. Yin has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. He is the son of James Yin of Lakehurst Road, Livermore, Simons of Honolulu, Hawaii. Yin is a 2005

aduate of McKinley High School, Hono lulu. Air Force Airman 1st Class Sean M McLaughlin has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. He is the son of John and Pamela McLaughlin of Pleasanton. McLaughlin is a 2002 graduate of Amador Valley High School.

34th annual Crab Feed and Dance, hosted by the Livermore Knights of Columbus Council #4588 on Sat., Jan. 6 at St. Michael's Hall, 3rd and Maple Streets, Livermore. Menu includes crab, pasta, salad and cake. Social hour 5 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m., music and dancing 8 to 11:30 p.m. Live music by Open Road. Tickets \$40 per person. For more ticket information, contact Michael and Cecilia Valent, 455-9420; Manny and Chris Figueiredo, 455-0543; or Jake and Angel Raposa, 449-1278.

San Ramon Newcomers Club, lunch at Forbes Mill in Danville on Jan. 25; 11:30 a.m. social, lunch at noon. Open to residents of San Ramon, Dublin, Pleasanton and

Adopt a new best friend: TVAR, the Tri-Valley Animal

Rescue, offers animals for

adoption every Saturday and

Sunday, excluding most holi-

days. On Saturdays from 9:30

am to 1:00 pm, both dogs and

cats are available at the Pleas-

anton 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 Petsmar

in Dublin from 1:00 to 4:00

and Petco in San Ramon from

11:00 to 3:00. For more in-

formation, call TVAR at (925)

803-7043 or visit our website

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at www.tvar.org

Livermore. For information, call 735-3508 or go to http://newcomers.home.comcast.net

Pleasanton VIP Senior Club, meets every second and fourth Monday each month 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., Pleasanton. Second Mondays are business meetings; fourth Mondays are social sessions with entertainment. Regular Snappy Cafe lunch served at noon for \$3.25 donation; meetings follow. Reservations for lunch must be made by the Thursday before each meeting by calling 931-

Play Groups: If you provide care for a child, Child Care Links and The California Child Care Initiative Project (CCIP) in you you to Play Groups. Children of all ages are invited to a morning of laughing, playing and learning. Snacks and activities will be provided for all children. Adults must remain and supervise the child (ren) in their care. For play group schedule and location or to register to attend, please call Donnamarie Fuller at (925) 249-3923.



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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS

NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 388303

The following person (s) do-

ing business as Better Plumb-

ing "dba" Economy Seismic,

239 Main Street Suite E. Pleas-

anton, CA 94566, is hereby

registered by the following

Cameron Shawn Guglielmelli,

628 Berryessa Street, Milpitas,

This business is conducted

Registrant has not yet begun

to transact business under the

fictitious business name or

CA 95034

by:an individual

LEGAL NOTICE

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 387823 The following person (s) do-

ing 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 The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on November 1, 2006.

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. 2081. 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 Muier, 2243 Hampton Road Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the folowing owner (s): Jensen & Associates, Inc.,

2243 Hampton Rd., Livermore. Ca 94550 This business is conducted

by:a corporation Registrant has not vet 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

Financial Analyst – Fuel and Energy

DUTIES: Create, direct and own new weekly/quarterly/annual

forecasting and planning process that provides key detailed

understanding and measurements of the anticipated results of Fuel and

Energy marketing strategies. Drive an analytical process of identifying

deviations of actual trends and forecasted/planned results and creation

of actionable steps to remedy for presentation to senior management.

Evaluate complex financial analysis of potential initiatives to measure

impact to P&L (e.g. - calculation of impact of various alternative actions

on sales/gross profit, ROI, NPV and IRR). Support the design and

conceptualization of the key financial systems, processes and metrics

to support all sales gross profit reporting. Analyze and identify key

opportunities and risks associated with forecasted/planned sales

and gross profit and support the development of key initiatives. May

REQUIRES: Master's degree or foreign degree equivalent in Business

Administration, Finance, Accounting, Economics or related plus two (2)

years of experience in job offered, financial management, Business/

Marketing Analysis, Planning and Forecasting or related in the grocery

retail industry. Experience must include: Financial planning relating

to operating forecasts and plans; SQL, QMF or other query tools;

Syndicated data sources and Finance/IT data systems: Teradata,

DB2, Crystal Enterprise/Crystal Reports or Oracle/Peoplesoft ERP and

Contact: Melissa Ryan

5918 Stoneridge Mall Road, Pleasanton, CA 94588

Microsoft SQL Server Database; and NPV and IRR analysis.

assume some supervisory responsibilities in the future.

December 7, 14, 21, 2006.

21, 28, 2006. NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 388454-388455

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 387819

The following person (s) doing business as Gelateria Caramella, 2300 1st Street 1st Floor, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Caramella LLC., 2300 1st

Street, Livermore, CA 94550 This business is conducted by:a limited partnership Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or

names listed. Signature of Registrant: /s/:Uzma Kamal This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on November 9, 2006. Expires November 9, 2011.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS

The Independent Legal No.

2083. Publish December 7, 14,

NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 388588 The following person (s) doing business as Weston Prop-

erties, 2068 First St., Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following Matthew Ford, 8500 Crane

Ridge Rd., Livermore, CA 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/:Matthew Ford This statement was filed with

the County Clerk of Alameda County on December 1, 2006. Expires December 1, 2011. The Independent Legal No. 2085. Publish December 7, 14, 21, 28, 2006.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 388007

The following person (s) doing business as A Better Bookkeeping Solution, 4424 Payne Road, Pleasanton, CA 94588. is hereby registered by the following owner (s):

Monica Fey, 4424 Payne Road, Pleasanton, CA 94588 Nicole Weight, 2658 Starling Court, Pleasanton, CA 94566 This business is conducted by:a general partnership trant has not vet begu to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed Signature of Registrant:

/s/:Monica Fev This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on November 14.

The following person (s) do-2006. Expires November 14, ing business as 1)Women's Intergral Development Insti-The Independent Legal No. tute 2) Women's Develop-2086. Publish December 14, ment Institute, 2243 Hampton 21, 28, 2006, January 4, 2007.

hereby registered by the following owner (s): Jensen & Associates, Inc. 2243 Hampton Road, Livermore, CA 94550 This business is conducted

Rd., Livermore, CA 94550 is

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 29, 2006. Expires November 29. The Independent Legal No.

names listed Signature of Registrant: 2084. Publish December 7, 14, s/:Cameron Guglielmelli 21, 28, 2006. This statement was filed with FICTITIOUS BUSINESS

the County Clerk of Alameda County on November 22 2006. Éxpires November 22, 2011.

The Independent Legal No. 2087. Publish December 14, 21, 28, 2006, January 4, 2007.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 388676-388677 The following person (s) doing business as 1)Kindred Spirits Healing 2)Paws on Healing, 1085 Carrara Way, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner (s):

Gina K. Jacobs, 1085 Carrara Way, Livermore, CA 94550 This business is conducted by:an individual The registrant commenced to

transact business under the fictitious business name of names listed above on October 25, 2006. Signature of Registrant:

/s/:Gina Jacobs This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on December 4, 2006. Expires December 4, 2011 The Independent Legal No. 2089. Publish December 21, 28, 2006, January 4, 11, 2007

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 389151

The following person (s) doing business as CNG Garden Supplies, 22 Rickenbacker Cir., Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the fol lowing owner (s): Blair Ğach, 2268 N. Livermore,

Livermore, CA 94551 Jose L. Carrasco Jr. 2021 Del Monte St. Livermore, CA 94550 This business is conducted by:a general partnership Registrant has not yet begun

to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed Signature of Registrant:

/s/:Jose L Carrasco and Blair Gach This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on December 18, 2006. Éxpires December 18,

2011. The Independent Legal No. 2090. Publish December 21, 28, 2006, January 4, 11, 2007.

NOTICE OF PETITIONTO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: JEROME MARTIN **AUERBACH**

CASE NO. VP06299187 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: JEROME
M. AUERBACH, JEROME AUERBACH, AND JEROME

MARTIN AUERBACH A PETITION FOR PROBATE nas been filed by:PAULA J. AUERBACH in the Superior Court of California, County of

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that PAULA J. AUERBACH be appointed as

personal representative to administer the estate of the de-THE PETITION requests the decedent's will and codicils, if

www.800CharityCars.org (CAL*SCAN) DONATE VEHICLE, running any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are or not ACCEPTED! Free Towing. Tax Deductible. Noahs available for examination in the file kept by the court. Arc - Support No Kill Shelters, THE PETİTIÓN requests au-Animal Rights. Research to Advance Veterinary Treatthority to administer the estate under the Independent Adminment/Cures.1-866-912-GIVE istration of Estates Act. (This au-(CAL*SCAN) thority will allow the personal 9) USED AUTOS representative to take many SELLYOUR USED CAR **HERE.** Call Barbara at

actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important action, how-925-243-8000 or go to ever, the personal represenwww.independentnews.com tative will be required to give Pay by Credit Card for any Classified or Display ads. notice to interested persons unless they have waived no-**EMPLOYMENT** tice or consented to the proposed action.) The indepen-56) ADULT CARE dent administration authority will be granted unless an in-CAREGIVERS NEEDED for elterested person files an objecder care. Light housekeeping tion to the petition and shows errands transportation meal good cause why the court prep personal care. Please should not grant the authority. fax resume 925 371-8118

pear at the hearing and state your objections or file written

objections with the court be-

fore the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by

your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a

contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your

claim with the court and mail a

copy to the personal repre-

sentative appointed by the

court within four months from

the date of first issuance of let-

ters as provided in Probate

Code section 9100. The time

for filing claims will not expire

before four months from the

hearing date noticed above

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept

by the court. If you are a per-

son interested in the estate.

you may file with the court a

Request for Special Notice

(form DE-154) of the filing of

an inventory and appraisal of

estate assets or of any petition

or account as provided in Pro-

bate Code section 1250. A

Request for Special Notice

form is available from the court

Attorney for Petitioner: RICHARD L. FULFER

SBN#95418 821 13th Street, Suite E Modesto, CA 95354

1) CATS/DOGS

A HEARING on the petition will be held on FEBRUARY 26, 60) BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY ALL CASH CANDY Route. Do at SUPERIOR COURT OF you earn \$800 in a day? Your CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF own local candy route. Includes 30 machines and STONERIDGE DRIVE, PLEAS-ANTON, CA 94588. candy. All for \$9,995 MultiVend, LLC 880 Grand FYOU OBJECT to the granting Blvd. Deer Park, NY 11729.1-888-625-2405. (CAL*SCAN) of the petition, you should ap-

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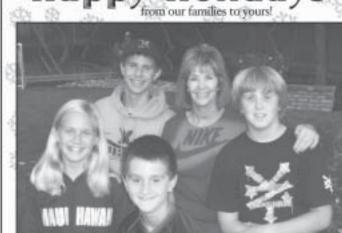
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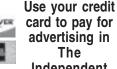
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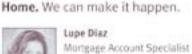
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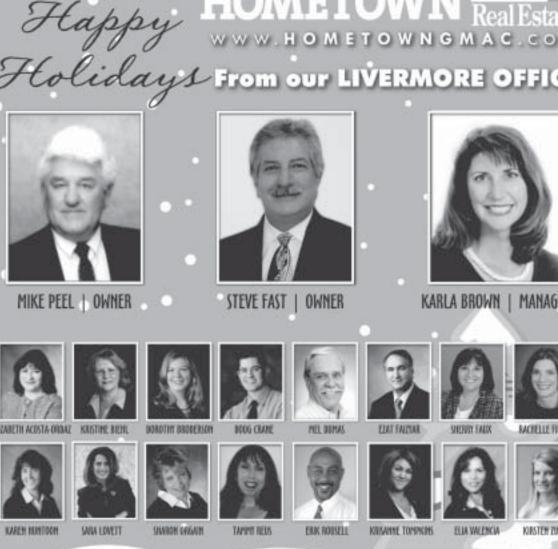
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By Anne Homan

FORGOTTEN ARCHITECT

Many significant early structures, from single-family homes to two-story commercial buildings, in Livermore, Sunol, and Pleasanton were designed and built by architect and contractor Julius Lars Weilbye. His parents, Lars and Ida Weilbye, were natives of Copenhagen. Lars was a seaman who came to San Francisco in 1847. Soon he sent for his wife. They settled on a farm in Alvarado. Lars died when Julius was only three years old; Ida left the farm and moved with her three children into Hayward. Eventually, Julius learned the carpenter and joiner trade.

From 1874 until 1877, Julius lived in Livermore. In 1874, when he was only 20, he designed and built Livermore's IOOF Hall on First Street. In Dec. 1875 he was working on the Hart house on L Street. He married Maude "Molly" Overacher Fuller, a widow with one son, on Christmas Day in 1876. Also in that year, he was the architect and contractor for the sum of \$8,000 for the Livermore Public School, a two-story wooden structure with a cupola.

When a "taxpayer" wrote a letter to the editor complaining about the plans for the proposed school, Weilbye wrote back a lengthy defensive letter to the anonymous author, who he proposed must be "an architect out of employment for the lack of brains sufficient to design a one-story log cabin."

The Livermore Enterprise announced in October 1876 that Weilbye had been hired by William M. Mendenhall, the founder of Livermore, to design and build a family mansion for him to the east of the Livermore Collegiate Institute on College Avenue. The cost of the mansion was \$9,000. Later, the building became a part of the

In 1877 Weilbye moved to Oakland and then to Nevada, where he worked at lumber planing mills for eight years while making architecture "a special study."

When he returned to the Tri-Valley, he lived in Sunol from 1885 until 1895. During that time he designed and built a 17-room Victorian sandstone house on Kilkare Road in Sunol for Henry and Elizabeth Ellis. The stones were cut from the nearby Mehrmann quarry in Niles Canyon.

The Pleasanton Times in 1890 wrote of the project, "The building will be a grand piece of architecture, deserving of great credit, and will speak volumes for the ability of the architect and builder J.L. Weilbye, of Sunol, who has designed it and under whose supervision it will be constructed." Today this is the home of Elliston

During this time Weilbye also built "many of the private residences" in Sunol as well as a hotel and the Sunol public school building—to say nothing of the Tassajara schoolhouse, the Catholic parsonage at Mission San Jose, and in Pleasanton a pharmacy for Dr. Cutler and a brick building for the Druids.

In mid-1895 Weilbye started a lumberyard across the street from the Pleasanton city hall. In 1897 he drew plans for several structures on Main Street, including one for Henry and Emma Reimers that cost \$4,000, perhaps today's Pleasanton Hotel.

In an article describing a "housewarming" for Livermore's Sweeney Opera House, in April 1904, the *Herald* declared the structure a decided credit to the architect and building supervisor, J.L.

Later that same year he designed a two-story cottage for Carl Holm, Tilli Calhoun's grandfather, on the Livermore-Pleasanton Road, now Stanley Boulevard. The *Echo* listed Weilbye in 1905 as the owner of one of the six cars in Pleasanton, a 10-horsepower Imperial. In 1907 the Weilbye family moved to a California bungalow in Livermore on S Street that Julius designed and had built. A year later Weilby completed plans for Dr. James K. Warner's combination home and office.

In 1909, he designed the three-story Colonial Revival style Masonic Building on the flagpole corner at First and Lizzie (now North Livermore Avenue) Streets; after viewing his plans, the Herald noted, "It will undoubtedly be the show building of the town." Weilby in that same year designed a "large modern cottage" at North Livermore Avenue and Walnut Street for Frank Gomes. He also drew plans for a six-room cottage for John Flynn up in the Altamont hills.

After Julius's death in 1911, Molly Weilbye left Livermore and lived with her son in Palo Alto until her death in 1916. The S Street bungalow was torn down in 1978.

Even though Weilbye designed and built so many varied early structures in the Tri-Valley and Sunol, he is largely unknown perhaps because his stepson lived in Palo Alto, too far away to celebrate his life and keep his memory alive. No known clues to his personality exist except for his artistry and that crotchety letter to

The main sources for this article are early Livermore newspapers: the *Enterprise*, the *Herald*, and the *Echo*. Only a few copies of the Pleasanton newspapers have survived. If you know of anyone with copies of the *Pleasanton Times* squirreled away in an attic or garage, let me know. I think I asked that question before. However, I can't emphasize how important those newspapers are—just one copy can reveal many interesting facts.

(Readers can reach me via e-mail at am3homan@yahoo.com.)

Young Carolers Collect Donations for the Needy

By Patricia Koning

The staff at Dr. Thomas

Marcel's office in Livermore

tries to do something for the community each year. They

volunteered for Habitat

Humanity during the past year,

helping to build homes. For

the holidays, they took money

they would have spent on

cards and gifts for other

offices and donated it to

Habitat Humanity in the

names of those offices. In

addition, they sent out

Gingerbread House kits to

each doctor's office. The doctors and their staffs put the

30 kits together in a variety of

creative ways. The houses will

be donated to Shepherd's

Gate, Tri-Valley Haven, and

Rosewood Gardens. Pictured

sorting the houses are (left)

Janet Nierneyer and Erin

Last Sunday a group of ten families braved the cold for their annual "Caroling for a Cause" night. The group collected toy and food donations from the homes they visited along Mt. Day Drive and Mt. Diablo Way. They finished the evening with hot chocolate and snacks at Fire Station #8 on Scenic Drive.

This is the fourth year of Caroling for a Cause. It all started five years ago when Monica Baucke's children asked to go Christmas caroling with some friends.

"People were really surprised to see us and wanted to give us something," she says. "They said they'd wish they'd known ahead of time that we were coming. So we got the idea to ask for food and toys for the needy.'

The next year the Bauckes invited neighbors from Mt. Day Drive and their children's friends to join in the caroling. They distributed flyers ahead of time asking neighbors for donations of toys and food items. The response was quite generous.

Last year they collected so many toys and food items that Croce Elementary School was able to request three additional families from the Adopt-a-Family program. This year because Caroling for a Cause was held after the start of Croce's winter break, the carolers added their donations to the firemen's Toys for Tots collection.

"This is like a Christmas party with my friends," says Kaitlyn Baucke, age 9. "It's really fun except for the cold."

Emily Ilharreguy, age 6, enjoyed singing her favorite holiday song, "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer."

Young carolers were out in Livermore, "Caroling for a Cause." One of the singers proclaimed her favorite was "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer.'

"This is a lot of fun," she says. "I get to spend time with my friends and help others who don't have as much stuff."

The firemen at Station #8 also enjoyed the visit by the carolers. The parents provided the snacks and hot chocolate, and the firemen provided a warm spot and cool fire trucks to look at.

"This is a really cool deal," declared engine captain Chris Parker.



Multicultural Holiday Celebration Brings Together Croce Families

By Patricia Koning

Tenca.

Last week several hundred students and families from Croce Elementary School celebrated Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Las Posadas, Chinese New Year, and other winter traditions at the school's annual Multicultural Celebration.

"The purpose of this party is to emphasize our similarities rather than our differences," says Croce parent Monica Baucke. "We all have winter holidays with music, crafts, food, and other customs. I think this helps the kids realize they have more in common with other cultures than they think."

Baucke organized Croce's Multicultural Celebration with the PTA for the first time last year. The goal, she explains, is to represent the school's diverse population, which includes East Indian, Mexican, Jewish, Asian, French, Scottish, and Irish fami-

Combining learning with fun,

The yellow ribbon tree in down-

town 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.

be put on the yellow ribbon tree. A

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Box 2992, Livermore.

ribbon costs \$5.00.

tates the group.

925.933.0107.

parents and children participated in craft stations celebrating Las Posadas, Diwali (Deewali), Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa. Members of the Livermore High School French Club helped children create roses from pipe cleaners and tissue paper to commemorate the French fable of Christmas roses blooming in the snow.

Livermore High's Asian Cultural Club led a Paper Dragon Bag puppet-making activity for Chinese New Year's Day, which will occur on Feb. 18, 2007 to usher in the Year of the Pig. For the high school students, the Multicultural Celebration provided a way to connect with younger children, earn service credit, and even learn a little.

"It's about giving back to the community," says junior Darryl Tanimoto. "The kids are really creative and fast at making these puppets. They've taught me a few things.'

Croce Kindergarten teacher Elise Allen showed students how

to play dreidel, a popular Hanukkah game played with a four-sided top, usually for coins

"I try to get in a little about the tradition of Hanukkah, but the kids mostly just want to play," she says.

Another activity was making Diwali Lamps with candles and playdough. Diwali, the Festival of Lights, is a colorful Hindu celebration held in October or November.

There was also plenty of entertainment. Jeff Campbell, a Croce parent of Scottish ancestry, played the bagpipes. Dancers from Isabel Loza's dance company performed traditional Latin dances in bright, colorful costumes.

Café Art supplied ceramics for the children to paint in a Secret Santa Workshop. Parents brought a variety of desserts, many of which were cultural treats to go along with the theme of the evening.



PET OF THE WEEK

Tyson is an independent and tough cat, with a big heart to match. This 2-year old Orange Tabby loves attention. He shows it when he gives you one of his powerful head butts. He gets along just fine in a multi-pet household, holding his own with the dogs, and cuddling with the cats. He's got a huge purr and a lot of pizzazz. He's Tyson The Cat and he'd love to meet you! For more information on Tyson (ID# 6354), 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.

SHORT NOTES

Christmas Crafts

The Springtown Branch Library in Livermore will host a Christmas crafts program on Fri., Dec. 22 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Children will make a craft to decorate the home for the holidays.

The crafts program is free. No registration is required. The library is at 998 Bluebell Drive. Call 373-5517 for more information.

Movies for Kids

The Pleasanton Library invite children to Friday movie programs during the holiday break.

On Friday, Dec. 29th at 11:00am, movies for the preschool set will be shown in a program lasting approx. 30 On Friday, Jan. 5th starting at

2:00pm, the library will show Ice Age II: The Meltdown. The movie lasts approx. 90 minutes and is rated PG. For more information about library

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

Polar Bear Slide

The Aquatics Division of the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) invites the public to participate in its extreme winter event, the 2nd Annual Polar Bear Slide. Adults and children (at least 48-inches tall) are

invited to take an exhilarating trip down the 22-foot spiral waterslide at the Robert Livermore Community Center pool on Saturday, January 6 at 11:00 a.m.

Complimentary hot chocolate will be waiting at the bottom for all participants, and all participants receive a certificate of completion. For more information, the public may call (925)

Cancer Support Group

Men who have prostate cancer and their family members are invited to participate in a free Man to Man* Prostate Cancer Support Group on the second Tuesday every month, from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The support group meets at San Ramon Regional Medical Center in the South Building, West Day Room, located at 7777 Norris Canyon Road. The Man to Man* American Cancer Society program and the Us Too* are cosponsors of the support group.

The group is designed to help men cope with prostate cancer by providing community-based education and support to patients and their family mem-

Men in any stage of prostate can-cer—from the newly diagnosed, those in treatment and long-term survivorsare invited to participate. The group provides an opportunity to speak oneon-one with others who have been treated for prostate cancer, and learn

from their experience. Family mem-Immunization Clinics bers are welcome

Axis Community Health offers drop-The support group is not intended in immunization clinics for low-income to and will not provide medical advice, and uninsured families. Winter clinics will be held from 9:00-11:30 a.m. on consultation and/or diagnosis. Michael Stephens, MST, a licensed therapist Saturdays, January 6, February 3, and from The Wellness Community, facili-March 3, 2007. All immunization clinics are held at Axis' Pleasanton location For more information about the

only, 4361 Railroad Avenue. Prostate Cancer Support Group, con-The clinics are open to all Tri-Valley tact The Wellness Community families who are low income or uninsured. Families enrolled in Medi-Cal and Medi-Cal Managed Care programs Yellow Ribbon Tree

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 week-day clinic hours at the Pleasanton and Livermore locations by appointment at (925) 462-1755.



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