

Downtown Livermore has taken on a more colorful look for the holidays.

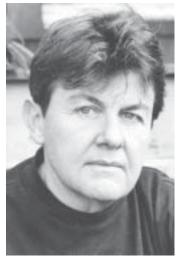
Zone 7 To Seek **Solar Power For Two Water Plants**

Zone 7 Water Agency is wasting no time moving on a consultant's recommendations

on how to save energy. A report from consultant Whitley Burchett & Associates was presented to the board at its meeting Dec. 19. One suggestion was to see whether it would be feasible for Zone 7 to install solar photovoltaic (PV) panels at its Patterson Pass and Del Valle water treatment plants. The board gave staff the nod informally to proceed with a request for proposals from private contractors.

The consultant's report said that if Zone 7 installed the PV panels, there would be little savings. However, hiring a private contractor to construct and operate it, and sell the power to Zone 7 at a reduced rate, could result in long-term savings and reliabil-

Zone 7 would buy the power (See SOLAR, page 3)



Poet Kay Ryan

Year Starts with Wine and Words

Wine and Words will be held Sun., Jan. 6 at the Martinelli Conference and Event Center in Livermore.

Featured poet will be Kay Ryan. The event is hosted by Livermore Poet Laureate Connie

Ryan will read starting at 2 p.m. Following the featured reader, an open mic will take place after a short break (one poem per reader- 40 lines or less).

Ryan was born in California in 1945 and grew up in the small towns of the San Joaquin Valley and the Mojave Desert. She received both a bachelor's and master's degree from UCLA. Ryan has published several collections of poetry, including The Niagara River (Grove Press, 2005); Say Uncle (2000); Elephant Rocks (1996); Flamingo Watching (1994), which was a finalist for both the Lamont Poetry Selection and the Lenore Marshall Prize; Strangely Marked Metal (1985); and Dragon Acts to Dragon Ends (1983).

About her work, J. D. (See POET, page 7)

Correction

A December 6, 2007 article stated that Lon Goldstein had been terminated from his position as Executive Director of the Livermore Valley Charter School amid rumors that he had mishandled school funds. While state and local agencies had expressed concerns about the mismanagement of the school's finances, the action of the school's Board of Directors was not based on any alleged mishandling of funds by Mr. Goldstein and he was offered another position with the school, which he declined.

School, Friendship Center Live in Harmony

School (LVCS) and the Friendship Center run by the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) are in their third year of co-existing at 600 Sonoma Street. The relationship, say both parties, is mutually beneficial and one that they want to see continue.

Last year, LARPD and the Livermore Charter Learning Corporation (LCLC), which oversees LVCS, reached an agreement to keep the Friendship Center in place through June 2008. Now it appears that both parties would like to see that agreement extended indefinitely.

By Patricia Koning
The Livermore Valley Charter
"We love having the kids around," says Cara Houck, administrative coordinator for the Friendship Center. "The seniors pick up on the energy of the children. Seeing the schoolchildren sometimes reminds them of their own children or grandchildren. It's definitely a benefit to the

The Friendship Center is a daytime program for persons over 50 years of age that provides socialization and stimulation in a safe, supervised environment, while giving respite to families. LVCS is a K-8 school serving 865 children. While the benefits of

intergenerational relationships are well-known, fostering such connections has become more difficult in modern years. Many families face geographic challenges in seeing grandparents and extended family. Divorce can complicate relationships. Many couples now wait longer to start a family.

Houck says that Scout troops and other youth volunteers visit the Friendship Center in the summer. That is more difficult during the school year, because the Friendship Center is open the same hours as the school. For some LVCS students, the Friendship Center is just a few steps

down the hall. Muriel Burns, a second-grade teacher at LVCS, brings her class to the Friendship Center about once a month to make crafts. It started when Karen Adams, a nurse at the Friendship Center and grandparent of an LVCS student, asked Burns for ideas for projects they seniors could do.

["]I thought, this is something the kids and the seniors can do together," says Burns. "My stu-dents call them the grandmas and grandpas.

Before her students perform in a school assembly, Burns has them practice singing at the Friendship Center. The seniors

Thanks to the Las ositas Col-

lege Foundation, Las Positas

College students will perform

twice in the Bankhead Theater

in downtown Livermore and re-

turning United States military veterans will receive special

help.
Foundation directors ap-

proved six grants this week to-taling \$35,100 to support stu-dents and faculty at the Liver-

more campus. The Foundation

raises money through events, and business and private investments

to support the mission of Las

particularly pleased about the

\$20,000 investment for the Vet-

Foundation Directors were

Jeff Manchester, the founda-

Positas College.

erans First program.

Program at LPC to Help Returning Vets

have an open invitation to all school assemblies and performances. Last week Burns read 'The Polar Express" to her students and the seniors.

"Their faces just light up when the kids show up," says Adams. "Some of our clients can't remember much, but when they see the children, it triggers some-

LVCS Principal Tara Aderman says one of her goals for the com-ing year is to thoughtfully plan out more opportunities for the students to interact with the seniors. "It's a wonderful opportunity for the students to engage

tion director who chaired the re-

view committee said, "The committee felt very strongly that the

Las Positas College Veterans First program was, in every re-

spect, the best example of what

we need to be doing to support the educational and life needs of

veteran students in our commu-

"Many returning veterans feel disconnected from the main-

stream. With the seed money the

Foundation has granted, the program will be able to build the

knowledge and support base needed to bridge the gap be-

tween the educational support

needs of the veterans and the ex-

isting, but limited and compli-

cated benefits, currently avail-

(See COLLEGE, page 3)

(See HARMONY, page 2)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Hans Peeters is known for his painting and his books on birds.

Sunol suddenly appeared while Hans Peeters was writing a book

about the bird. Especially amazing was the appearance of a pigmy owl. A pigmy — a diminutive owl about the size of a starling — hadn't been seen in the area for 36 years,

according to Peeters. The bird put on a show for was an owl sitting in a tree.

The Tri-Valley picked up important support for a hybrid plan

to bring a future bullet train to

Livermore, where it would deposit

and pick up passengers at an intermodal station linking passen-

Owls that are rarely seen in minol suddenly appeared while ans Peeters was writing a book Peeters was writing a book peared for awhile, then returned. Soon after another pigmy owl arrived and the two mated.

Peeters made sightings of several other owl species during this period — much more than normal. For awhile it seemed that every time he looked, there

With no formal vote, but with

an agreeing nod from its board, the staff of the California High

Speed Rail Authority (CHSRĂ)

said it would coordinate efforts

by the Tri-Valley Regional Rail Working Group (TVRRWG)

Owls Seemed to Know Book Was Being Written about Them "They just kept coming!" he exclaims.

A nearby riparian oak woodland was especially popular with the owls. In the space of an hour, Peeters one day spotted eight barn owls, a pair of great horned owls and a pair of screech owls

Things returned to normal af-(See OWLS, page 7)

to reach an agreement on such a

plan. The staff made its com-

ments Dec. 19 at a meeting of the

CHSRA board in Sacramento.
The importance of the CHSRA

commitment is that the Tri-Val-

ley hybrid plan could be in-

cluded in some of the \$10 bil-

(See TRAIN, page 3)

Pleasanton OKs Electronic Filing, Voluntary Expenditure

The Pleasanton City Council voted last week to require electronic filing of campaign finance data. The council also agreed to place a voluntary limit on campaign spending of \$1 per registered voter.

Votes on both matters were unanimous. The goal is to provide more transparency when it comes to campaign finances.

The electronic filing applies both to the candidates and committees. The system would not provide real time information. The data would be available online on the same schedule now required by Pleasanton for candidates and committees to file campaign finance numbers. Pleasanton has four filing dates, the last one the Friday prior to the election. The website would have links to the Secretary of State and Alameda County voter

information sites. The reporting threshold will remain at \$25.

Councilmember Jerry Thorne said he would like to see more frequent reporting on-line. However, the software isn't available to make that possible.

Councilmember Sullivan first raised the issue of campaign finance after recent elections saw a big jump in donations to individual candidates and an increase in political action committees and independent expenditures in Pleasanton. He felt that the large amounts of money spent in a campaign would limit the number of people who could or would run for of-

The expenditure limit would be a voluntary pledge that candidates would take at the time they filed to run for office. Based

(See CAMPAIGN, page 4)

gers to BART and an upgraded Altamont Commuter Express and the San Joaquin County Council of Governments (COG) (ACE) trains. Change, Controversy Marked

Hybrid Bullet Train Plan For

Livermore Wins Major Backing

The first six months of 2007 were marked by the resignation of several elected officials, including Steve Pulido from the Pleasanton School Board; Tom Reitter from the Livermore City Council; and Dale Turner from the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District board.

In Pleasanton, controversy continued over the Stoneridge Dr. extension and arose concerning the approval of a second Home Depot. A group of residents launched an initiative drive aimed at keeping Staples Ranch in open space.

A new management team, that included the University of California, was selected to manage the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

Livermore began gearing up for the opening of the new 500seat Bankhead Theater in the downtown. There was controversy over a proposal to establish a mainte-

nance district in the redevelop-

ment area to be partially financed

by property owners in the area.

the 1st Six Months of 2007 **JANUARY 2007**

Pleasanton's Callippe Golf Course was ranked in the top ten nationally in the January edition of Golf Digest magazine. It was ranked 9th in "Best New Public Courses Under \$75." Callippe was the only California course listed in the top-10 under \$75

in green fees category.

Five cities in the Tri-Valley organized a sex predator task force. The group was to review policies in each city dealing with sex offenders as a prelude to a discussion about what policies might evolve so that cities can deal with sex offenders when

they are released from custody. Seven candidates applied for a vacancy on the Pleasanton School Board. They were Jill Buck, Robert Gehl, Marti Scalise, Joseph Russo, Stephen Page, Shirley Herrera and Corine Fanene. The vacancy would be created by the resignation of Steve Pulido on Feb. 2 to become a judge.

Long time resident Barbara Bunshah died. She was recognized for her work in retaining (See 2007, page 5)



Students at Alisal Elementary School in Pleasanton gave away 500 CFLs (Compact Florescent Light Bulbs) to parents as they drove or walked up to pick up their children after school. Students wearing the school's "Go Green" T-shirts distributed 1 or 2 bulbs to each family. Trade-ins of incandescent bulbs are encouraged. The CFL Give-Away was underwritten by PG&E, an ongoing partner the Pleasanton Unified School District. PG&E has provided all Pleasanton Unified schools with 500 CFLs each for similar give-away programs.

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PETS OF THE WEEK

Anastasia and Sterling are a brother-sister duo who have never been apart. They are 8 months old and they should not be separated. They would love a quiet household where they can hang out together and keep each other company. They each have unique "bobbed" tails. Valley Humane Society cats can be seen Wed-Sun from 11AM to 5PM at 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton. For more information, please call VHS at 925-426-8656 or go to www.valleyhumane.org.

(continued from page one)

with seniors and give something back to the community," she

Adams says in the two years she's been at the Friendship Center, she hasn't heard any complaints about the schoolchildren. Noise has never been a problem.

When LVCS moved onto the Sonoma campus in the summer of 2005, it was expected that the Friendship Center would relocate to give the school more class-room space as it added eighth grade classes. The additional grade classes. The additional grade has been accommodated with the Friendship Center on site. LVCS serves 865 students and has waiting lists in all grade levels except eighth, which has

three openings.
A feasibility study on moving the Friendship Center concluded that the cost could result in closure of the program. The cost of such a move was estimated at \$2.7 million to \$6.6 million because of the renovations necessary for elderly patients with special needs.

Last year LARPD and the Livermore Charter Learning Corporation (LCLC), which oversees LVCS, reached an agreement to keep the Friendship Center in place through June 2008. Now it appears that both parties would like to see that agreement extended indefinitely.



Laurel Heckman, an LVCS second-grader, shows off a turkey craft she completed with the help of Margaret, a Friendship Center client.

LARPD General Manager Tim Barry says he hopes the Friendship Center will be able to stay at the Sonoma site indefinitely. Such an agreement would require the approval of LARPD, the Livermore School District, and LCLC. The Livermore School

District owns the 600 Sonoma

Street property.
The Livermore School District must first render a decision on the petition to renew the LVCS charter before addressing the

Friendship Center. A decision on

pected at the Jan. 8 meeting of the Livermore School Board.

benefiting from their hard work,' he says.

Brandstetter envisions classrooms adopting a senior, and older students helping the se-

The kids are so entertaining ward to their visits.'

Matthew Brandstetter, LCLC Executive Director, says he'd be hugely disappointed if the Friendship Center were to move. "It's a win-win situation. Having the seniors here can help our kids in so many ways. They gain appreciation for traditions and respect for the elderly. They've been here before us and we are

niors write down memories.

and knowledgeable," says Esther Bogetti, a Friendship Center client. "We all enjoy and look for-

Isabel Avenue Widening **Comments Extended**

The comment period on an EIR for the widening of Isabel Avenue has been extended to

Jannell Gladen told the Independent that ACTIA notified her of the extension. People who wish to mail comments may send them to Caltrans District 4, Office of Environmental Analysis, Att: Ed Pang, 111 Grand Ave., Oakland, CA., 94610.

Gladen is part of a group, called www.highway84facts.org, which is trying to provide more information to the public about the widening plans for Isabel Avenue widening. Isabel is proposed to be extended to six lanes north of Stanley Boulevard to Airway Boulevard, and four lanes south of it to a spot near Ruby Hill.

Noise is the big concern for residents near Isabel. They believe that readings for noise impact haven't been taken thoroughly in the area. They also feel that the structure of a meeting with ACTIA and Caltrans in November left them frustrated, because they had to ask questions of those agencies' staffers on a one-on-one basis, said Gladen. It prevented an open group approach to spontaneous questioning, she said.

Alluding to statements in an earlier Independent story by Kevin Smith, who characterized some of the people there as hostile about he widening, Gladen said people were frustrated, not

Smith was incorrectly reported in that story as a Prima subdivision resident. He is a South Livermore resident.

Gladen said that her husband, Jim, attended the Livermore city council meeting, and spoke under the citizens forum about trying to bring Caltrans to address residents' concerns. Afterward, city engineer Cheri Sheets met with Gladen and said she would try to set up a meeting with ACTIA, the widening project's

sponsor. Sheets confirmed that there will be a meeting. The date hasn't

Gladen also asked to have the item put on the council's agenda for Jan. 14.

Victorian **Tea Tickets** Go On Sale

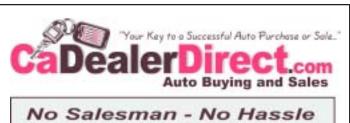
Reservations are now being taken for the Victorian Tea held at Ravenswood Historic Site, located at 2647 Arroyo Road in

The Victorian Tea will be held on Sunday, February 24, from 2:00-4:30 p.m.

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

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





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Photo - Doug Jorgensen Five Las Positas College Spanish classes taught by Catherine Suarez adopted two CAPE pre-school classrooms at Jackson Avenue School in Livermore. Classmembers presented baskets to 24 children and their families last week. Each basket contained a full Christmas meal including a ham or a turkey, fresh tortillas, juice, hot chocolate plus the traditional side dishes. The baskets also contained an educational toy purchased by the Livermorebased charity, BasicNecessities.org with the help of Restoration Hardware. The Las Positas classes started gathering food and donations for the CAPE classes in early November and provided Thanksgiving baskets to these families. Pictured helping to pack baskets is Denise Rodgers.











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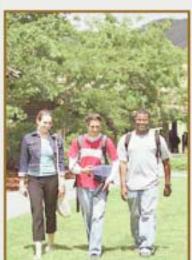
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VALLEY ROUNDUP

Money for Communications

Congressman Jerry McNerney (CA-11) announced that as a result of requests that he made, he has secured over \$800,000 in federal funding for the East Bay Regional Communications Sys-

The funding was included in the Appropriations Bill that passed Congress this week.

'The impact of fires, earthquakes, and storms that strike the Bay Area are felt all across the region. That's why when major events like that take place, emergency personnel from across jurisdictions should be able to communicate and coordinate," McNerney said

Funding will be used to purchase communications equipment for a digital communication system that will allow for shared public safetyrelated communications among the five Tri-Valley cities in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties: Danville, Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton, and San Ramon. The proposed system would also allow for communication with emergency service personnel in San Francisco and Oakland.

The Tri-Valley sector is part of a larger East Bay network, which itself is part of a much larger network that encompasses the entire Bay Area.

Art Grants Available

The Alameda County Arts Commission released the 2008 Alameda County Supervisors' ARTSFUND Grants Program guidelines and application for Alameda County-based nonprofit organizations seeking grant funding. Organizations may be eligible for Grants of \$1,000 each. Application deadline is February 29, 2008.

The Arts Commission will host two free workshops to assist organizations preparing grant applications. Reservations are required. Grant workshops will be held on Wednesday, January 23 from 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the Fremont Main Library in Fremont and Wednesday, January 30 from 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the Alameda County Lakeside Plaza Building in Oakland. Arts organizations must contact the Arts Commission to make a reservation.

Further details are available in the Alameda County Supervisors' ARTSFUND Grants Program Guidelines and Application available at the Arts Commission website www.acgov.org/arts or by contacting the Alameda County Arts Commission by phone (510) 208-9646 or email artscommission@acgov.org.

Environmentalists Sue Over Frog Habitat Shrinkage

The Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) has sued the federal Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) over its reduction in designation for California redlegged frog habitat. The suit was filed Dec. 19.

Earthjustice filed the frog lawsuit on behalf of CBD. It was one of 13 suits filed nationally over critical habitat designation for 55 endangered species. At issue is an Endangered Species Act rule, adopted by the service in April 2006, that revised the "critical habitat" for the California red-legged frog by reducing it from 4.1 million acres to approximately 450,000 acres.

Jeff Miller, a spokesman for

CBD, said the change in 2006 came in a settlement between FWS and industry, which argued for a much smaller habitat area. Homebuilding interests said in the past, in a victorious lawsuit, that FWS was not taking into account the financial impact on communities when habitat areas are made too large, and without enough science to back them up.

Conservationists said that the builders shrink the territory by refusing to acknowledge that wide stretches of areas are needed for habitat recovery. They also said that the science shows that even if the species has not been seen by visits to sites or in lore, the conditions of habitat present

for a species are still necessary.

The FWS shrinkage in habitat designation for the frog went from 4.1 million acres to 450,000 in the decision in 2006. Eastern Alameda County has two redlegged frog habitats. One is in east Dublin, the other northeast of Livermore.

There were other habitat locations, too. However, they were de-listed when the FWS heeded the building industry's suit.

The California red-legged frog is the species of one of the most famous frogs in literature, the frog in the title of Mark Twain's short story, "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County.

COLLEGE

able to them," Manchester concluded. He is a manager at Sandia National Laboratory.

The Las Positas College veterans' program is designed to ease the transition of service personnel from the military to civilian life as a college student. The program provides assistance with educational and financial needs, as well as other support. The grant will provide money for scholarships and a textbook loan program for veterans. It also includes an aggressive outreach

The Veterans First program started out as a dream - a realization that we as a college needed to recognize the unique needs of our veterans and provide additional services for them. The Foundation's generous grant will allow the dream of a comprehensive program to move closer to reality," said Sylvia Rodriguez, Dean of Students.

A \$4,000 grant will allow the performing arts department to

underwrite a May 2008 dance concert and a December 2008 orchestra and band concert at the new 500-seat Bankhead Theater

in downtown Livermore. 'The committee saw the performances at the Bankhead Theater as an opportunity to showcase the quality of the performing arts program and exceptional work of the talented performing artists at the college," said Manchester.

Philip Manwell, dean of arts and communications, stated, "As we await the groundbreaking of the Las Positas College Center for the Performing Arts, our students look forward to performing at the spectacular new Bankhead Theater.

'We are providing excellent training for future Bankhead artists. We envision a strong relationship between the two organizations," Manwell said.

The Las Positas theater is scheduled to break ground in spring of 2008.

The other foundation grants included: \$8,000 for a textbook loan fund to serve students who need extra help to succeed in college; \$1,200 to underwrite a faculty member's attendance at the Čalifornia Great Teachers Seminar in 2008; \$900 to provide a professional trainer for Staff Development Day for classified staff members; \$1000 to the Automotive Tech Department to underwrite software, copyrighted images and curriculum needed to develop a distance-

learning program The Foundation was established in 2003 to serve as a funding support resource for the college, as well as to educate surrounding communities about the many learning opportunities available at the college, and its cultural contributions to the re-

Las Positas College is located at 3000 Campus Hill Drive in Livermore.

(continued from page one)

lion bond funding that the state hopes to get approved on the statewide ballot in November

The bond is expected to have \$950 million devoted to highspeed commuter trains, which are not as fast as bullet trains, but twice as fast as the current Altamont Commuter Express (ACE) trains. The speed improvement for commuters in the Tri-Valley and the San Joaquin Valley would be a big factor in getting more cars off the highways, said Livermore Councilmember Marj Leider, who spoke at the

ley.
The CHSRA staff said the agency would also help find financial sources from state, local, federal and private funds. Further the CHSRA would coordinate efforts between the Tri-Valley and San Joaquin County groups to work out a commuter rail plan acceptable to both areas, said

meeting on behalf of the Tri-Val-

Leider. If there is success by March, the plan could be qualified for funding from the November 2008 bond issue, which has not qualified yet for the ballot.

WIN/WIN ON BULLET TRAIN ROUTES

The state authority's meeting on Dec. 19 was the same one in which the CHSRA board approved a bullet train route from Merced to San Francisco via

Pacheco Pass and up through San Jose. The main route for the bullet train already is approved from San Diego to Sacramento. The consideration of the Pacheco Pass, near Gilroy, and the Altamont Pass is about which spur would shoot over to the Bay Area.

Press reports about the meeting made it look like the Tri-Valley lost a bid to get the Altamont Pass as the bullet train's entry to the Bay Area, said Leider. In fact, the Tri-Valley group backed selection of a route through Pacheco Pass, she said.

In a classic win/win situation, the Pacheco Pass provides San Francisco and San Jose the speedy route to southern California that its large populations want, said Leider. If the train authority had said all the trains would go through the Altamont instead, there might be too much bullet train traffic in the Tri-Valley, which would alienate some residents, she said. This way the pressure will be off the hybrid

The hybrid plan would also take some of the pressure off the Pacheco Pass, where environmentalists are concerned that the train would induce growth in relatively pristine areas. In the hybrid plan, the intermodal station between bullet train, BART and ACE would be at Stanley Boulevard and Isabel Avenue, a location favored by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. Others, such as supervisor Scott Haggerty, who came up with the hybrid plan, favor having the intermodal station at Greenville Road, as is currently shown on the Livermore general plan.

One argument for selecting Stanley is that it draws more commuters from Livermore and south Pleasanton than a Greenville Sta-

Right of way isn't expected to be a problem, because there is a railroad right of way all the way from Stanley Boulevard eastward to the Altamont. Both the bullet train, which would terminate at Stanley/Isabel, and ACE would share the right of way.

New tracks for AČE along that line could boost that train's top operating speed from 35 mph to 65 mph. That's significant enough to draw many more commuters, said Leider.

Asked whether Livermore would have a tough time selling residents on putting the intermodal station at Stanley/ Isabel, Leider told the Independent, "I don't think anyone cares where BART goes (in Livermore), as long as it is built.'

A Livermore station has been in BART's plans since the railway's construction in the

(continued from page one)

back from the private firm at a negotiated rate lower than that charged by PG&E. Such a project would be immune from PG&E price rises in the future. It also would be secure from any breakdowns on the power grid. Alternative energy would also reduce the agency's carbon footprint, which directors and general manager Jill Duerig have said is an important goal for the agency.

A private firm undertaking the solar installation could lower the costs by taking advantage of two subsidy programs. One is a rebate program administered by PG&E, and sponsored by the state. It returns a specific amount of money per megawatt to the firm that did the work. Although Zone 7 is eligible for that, even if it were to do the work itself, the cost savings with that subsidy alone wouldn't be dramatic, said the

However, if a federal tax credit of 30 percent were added to that rebate, it could be a meaningful cost advantage, said Zone 7 principal engineer Dennis Gambs, who presented the report to the board. As a public agency, Zone 7 can't qualify for a tax credit. However, a private firm can.

Zone 7 will work on a request for proposal (RFP) to entice firms into bidding on the project,

said Gambs.

The consultant's report identified other potential energy savings areas. The future Altamont water treatment plant is a good site to employ three power generation facilities — solar, wind and hydrogen.

The Altamont is a windy place. A wind turbine could be a good source of power. The fuel cells need gas fuel. Natural gas prices are high now, said the consultant. They would not prove cost-effective. However, methane gas at the nearby Altamont landfill could be purchased at onethird the price of natural gas, which could make it "economically attractive," says the report.

The report also raises the possibility of hydroelectric generation from a water rate-control station associated with the future Altamont pipeline. The volume of water through the station could produce enough power to make it pay as an electricity source. The consultant recommends installing a pipe that would allow the future installation of a hydroelectric turbine.

FORMAL ENERGY POLICY **SHELVED AWHILE**

On a related item, the board continued for six months a staff proposal to set a policy for en-

ergy conservation. The policy goals would be to reduce energy usage when and where possible, cut energy-related costs, reduce adverse energy-related environmental impacts when and where possible, and investigate the feasibility of using sustainable energy sources, considering both their costs and benefits.

Zone 7 staff already is energyconscious in designing its projects. However, adopting a policy would raise it to a more formal level. The board discussed the approach in November, and continued it to December.

Director's positions were the same again at the December meeting. Jim Kohnen and Dick Quigley said that they like the idea of adopting it as a policy. Board president Bill Stevens was still opposed, believing that the few formal policies that Zone 7 has should relate directly to Zone 7's mission on water and flood control. Director Sarah Palmer wanted to see more staff study and information about the topic.

At Duerig's suggestion, the board continued the matter six months to allow staff time to develop further thoughts concerning the topic. The energy committee is expected to review staff's findings at that time.





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EDITORIAL

Jazz

This has been a great, great year for the arts of the Livermore-Amador Valley.

Both the performing arts and the literary arts have thrived. Almost every weekend there are concerts, recitals, shows, films, plays, readings, and more.

In additiion, the area boasts a wonderful new performing arts venue, the 500-seat Bankhead Theater in downtown Livermore.

It seems only fitting the year is ending with an announcement that Pleasanton's Campana Jazz Festival will expand to a three-day event next year. The festival to date has been a one-day affair spotlighting Bay Area student jazz bands. The student day will be retained, while two days will be added and will feature professional groups, including some of the big names of jazz. Opening the festival on February 8 will be saxophonist Ravi Coltrane, son of John Coltrane and an eminent musician in his own right.

This is exciting news. Jazz has been somewhat missing from the local arts scene. With the expansion of the Campana Jazz Festival, the plate is now very full.

CAMPAIGN

on current registration, the \$1 per registered voter would enable candidates \$36,721 to spend that amount on their campaigns. If a candidate were to violate the spending pledge there would be no penalty imposed.

One concern was whether the limit would prevent responses to late hit pieces. If a candidate had not exceeded the spending limit, but did not have the necessary funds, he or she could loan the campaign money or go into debt and collect donations afterward to pay off the debt or loan.

Mayor Jennifer Hosterman pointed out that she spent between \$32,000 and \$34,000 in the last campaign, her opponent close to \$80,000. Setting the expenditure limit would level the playing field, she stated.

"I'm not naive enough to think we can fix this in a way that people can follow all of the money. I suspect there will be loopholes we don't see today,' Hosterman said.

Still to be determined is an ordinance that would include a timeline when the voluntary expenditure limit would apply.

City staff had suggested starting 113 days prior to an election. Sullivan made a motion that

would have set the time from one day after the previous election to seven days prior to the current election. There was no vote on the motion. The concern was that poten-

tial candidates could stockpile signs and literature prior to when the limit went into effect.

City Manager Nelson Fialho asked for a delay on the decision of when the spending limit would apply to allow staff to look for

Also to come back to the council would be wording on an ethics pledge. Sullivan said he would like to see something about candidates discouraging independent expenditures that are made on their behalf without input from a candidate.

The council rejected a proposal to limit donations to a candidate. They felt it would not be necessary with the expenditure limit and electronic filing in place. Voters would have access to information as to where the money came from and how it was

being spent on line. Current law prevents expenditure or spending limits from being applied to independent expenditures by individuals or committees that support or oppose candidates or ballot mea-

Councilmember Cheryl Cook-Kallio discussed memberto-member communication as a way to support candidates or causes. Such action does not have to be reported, allowing groups such as unions to contact all members regarding an issue or a candidate.
Cook-Kallio was the least

supportive of expenditure and donation limits. The city is pretty much handcuffed in how it applies such rules by federal election law and the Supreme Court. "I don't favor contribution limits. I could live with expenditure limits," she stated.

Councilmember Cindy McGovern said she would find it hard to come up with \$36,000 in donations. "I've never raised more than \$12,000 in my life (for my campaigns)." McGovern served on the school board prior to being elected to the council.

City staff is finalizing the selection of a software vendor for such electronic filing at a projected cost of approximately \$10,000 annually for the software license. Electronic filing is considered to be more efficient, as data is searchable and information can be downloaded in Excel. Each filer is issued a Filer

ID and secure password. VICE MAYOR CHOSEN

Mayor Jennifer Hosterman selected Jerry Thorne to serve as vice mayor during the next year. The council ratified the choice by a unanimous vote.

Suit Seeks to Stop Oak Grove Referendum

Attorneys for Jennifer and Frederic Lin filed a request in Alameda County Superior Court to stop the referendum of the Oak Grove project in Pleasanton.

The Lins' lawsuit names the Pleasanton City Clerk Karen Diaz and Kay Ayala, one of the leaders of the referendum.

There were two documents approved by the city council in regard to Oak Grove. One is the development plan; the second a developer agreement. The referendum seeks to overturn the development plan, but would also cancel out the developer agreement. The city council included a "poison pill" provision in the approval so that if one document were successfully referended, both would be set aside.

The project is being developed by Charter Properties headed by James Tong.

The matter is scheduled to be heard Feb. 22 in Oakland. Both parties to the lawsuit agreed to an expedited process. City Attornev Michael Roush said that the last day to place the matter on the June ballot would be March 4. He anticipated a ruling would be issued from the bench following oral arguments or within a day or two of the hearing.

At issue is a 51-unit luxury home development approved by the council within 562 acres on southeast hills of Pleasanton to the east of the Kottinger Ranch subdivision. The homes would range in size from 9,000 to 12,500 square feet. The city would receive 496 acres of open space, trails, a staging area and a new firetruck.

In an earlier letter to the city clerk, Karen Diaz, the Lins' attorney, Clark Morrison, demanded that she stop processing the petitions. He stated that the petitions were invalid, because they were circulated without the full text and circulated under false and misleading statements. In addition, residents collecting signatures did not make it clear that voters were being asked to overturn two ordinances.

In Morrison's opinion the "full text" comprises the PUD development plan, the conditions of approval, the EIR, design guidelines, geotechnical reports, tree report and the mitigation, monitoring and implementation plan. In addition, Morrison declared the petition gatherers issued false statements concerning the project. They include the height of the homes and number of trees to be removed.

Roush said during an interview, "From the city's perspective, we provided the referendum supporters with what we considered to be the necessary documents for the PUD plan.

Roush had written comments sent to Morrison in which he noted, "I cannot conclude that it is so clear that the failure to include other documents with the petitions triggers a ministerial duty on the part of the city clerk to refuse to process the petitions further." Roush wrote that he didn't feel the statements rose to the level that would stop the city clerk from processing the peti-

The petitions, which were certified by Diaz earlier this month, are with the Alameda County registrar of voters for verification of the authenticity and number of signatures. Diaz indicated there were 5225 signatures. The registrar has until mid-January to verify the signatures. There are 3672 valid signatures needed to qualify the measure for the bal-

Kay Ayala, one of the leaders of the referendum was upset over what she termed as harassment by the developers. She attended last week's city council meeting to voice her concerns. Ayala said that the attorney for the developer "is trying to paint a picture of residents who gathered signatures as dishonest.

Ayala said of the demand that all documents should have been carried was "unreasonable." She asked the council to look into the issue, then presented them with a stack of the documents the developer said were required to be circulated with the petitions. The stack, which looked to be about 15 inches tall, was neatly tied up with a bow.

Ayala told the council that supporters of the referendum will read every word of the PUD approval and developer agreement. They will be ready to educate the public about every piece of both

Mayor Jennifer Hosterman and Čouncilmembers Jerry Thorne and Cheryl Cook-Kallio are actively involved with a group called Keep Our Park.

Keep Our Park representatives have also said that they will be prepared to provide accurate information to resident regarding

Pleasanton School Board Will Look At Future Needs for School Facilities

A wide-ranging discussion of how the Pleasanton school district should deal with housing its future enrollment is set for the school board's meeting at 5 p.m. Dec. 7 in the board room, 4665 Bernal Ave.

The board will hear a report from its demographer about projected profiles of new housing and other housing sales, and how many children those will generate for the schools. The board also will talk about school facilities, with special emphasis on the district's two comprehensive high schools, Amador Valley and Foothill.

Both facilities are being expanded, with projects recently approved by the board and a \$31 million funding package to build them. However, many parents have complained to board members that the campuses themselves are too small, as set by state standards for schools' population. They have sent many e-mails to board members abut their concerns.

Trustee Steve Brozosky said that he has had e-mail dialogues with some of the correspondents. Pinning them down on specifics, Brozosky found the top complaint was about traffic at

were other concerns, such as less chance of making a team because of the large enrollment. Long lines at lunch were another

Some complained about a feeling of "bigness" that makes kids feel lost. However, the district recognizes the importance of that, and tries to make sure every student has at least one adult connection on campus, said Brozosky. There are also ways to create a school within a school, such as the vocational

Brozosky said that most people feel that building a new comprehensive high school is not possible. Perhaps an arts, or science, or other vocational magnet school with 500 students could take the load off the existing campuses. There are grants for vocational schools that help with some of the construction of facilities, and those could be explored, he said.

Superintendent John Casey, however, has said that he wouldn't rule out a third comprehensive high school, especially if Pleasanton's projected building goes beyond 29,000 units at build-out. It would be very tough under current circumthe campuses. However, there stances to house high school stu-

dents then.

Brozosky said that even elementary school students could be impacted, especially if new development were put into one concentrated area, such as Hacienda Park, which lacks any land for building a new school. Enrollment would have to be spread to other schools in the city.

One vexing question for the demographer has been whether there is a bubble traveling through the high schools now, or whether it will become a relatively permanent high level. With school enrollment higher this year than predicted, Brozosky said he was concerned in particular about the kindergarten increase, because "those students could be with us for a long

Unlike other communities that decline after the city is built out, Pleasanton may not turn out that way, said Brozosky. The reputation for the schools is so good that people want to move to the city. As a result, the schools may well stay filled for many years past build-out, he said.

Further, people in neighboring communities have sought interdistrict transfers to put their children in Pleasanton schools

said Brozosky. That could continue to keep Pleasanton schools full, if the district ever worries about declining enrollment. State money goes away with enrollment decline. This is all the more reason to pay attention to the planning of future facilities, said Brozosky.

Also unknown is what the city will do in its general plan revision, said Brozosky. So far the policy is to disperse any new housing around the city, so there is no heavy impact on any one elementary school. If all new development occurred in Hacienda Park, for example, there is no land for a new school, so it would have a big impact on other schools, he said.

If the city doesn't make its general plan final by the November 2008 election, and a new council were elected, the general plan could change, Brozosky

Looking ahead to the session Jan. 7, Brozosky said, "This board is very open to investigating new ideas, listening to new things, and questioning. There are no sacred stones. The board is willing to look at what it takes, if we are convinced of the need for something, and we can pay

(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-layed.)

Access to Arts **Natalie Molina** Livermore

Oh, how I loved watching the most classical of Christmas classics unfold on the stage. For me, the experience of witnessing The Nutcracker on stage was awesome. I was raised by my grandparents and a great group of aunts and uncles in a little town in Southern California. I was fortunate my aunt had a great job, she was able to afford to take my cousin and I to the city theater.

However, with time and the loss of a great job (which I believed at the time was great), I can't afford to take my daughter to the beautiful, and striking Bankhead Theatre. With \$17, I can buy \$5 of gas, \$4 toilet paper, \$7 milk and put four quarters in my daughter's piggybank. Remember, this is the cost of the cheapest ticket.

I wonder about the rest of the working almost poor, barely making it, who have to depend on food pantry families and how they are feeling about it.

Aren't we not good enough for the arts?

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Concannon Speed Joe Pavlak Livermore

In response to Mr. Caselli's opinion, I pray we don't see the day when just because everyone decides to break the law, we change the law. Mr. Caselli must be new to our city because here we obey the laws, travel at the posted speed limit and not travel at a speed that fits the "nature of the particular stretch of road."

Keep in mind that the incline lengthens the braking distance. I am asking that we enforce the speed limit, certainly not raise it.

Bicycle Parasites Jim Lenz

Livermore It is the motorists who pay for the roads and highways in Čalifornia. After paying hundreds of dollars in sales tax for buying an expensive vehicle, motorists must pay an annual registration fee plus there are hidden highway taxes within the price of each gallon of gasoline and sales tax on that, a tax on a tax!

Instead of being grateful for the free ride on the backs of motorists, we get arrogance from bicyclists; disgustingly displayed by "critical mass," where bicyclists flout the traffic laws to purposely disrupt, aggravate and delay motorists on their way home from a hard days work.

Bicyclists should be thanking Don Turner for being allowed to use Mines Road and be as cooperative as possible to coexist with

the tax paying motorists.

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County Receives \$20 Million for Homeless Programs

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has awarded more than \$20 million to programs serving homeless people in Alameda County. The award is the second highest award to a single jurisdiction in the State (behind only Los Angeles County). These grants will sustain current programs countywide, including permanent and transitional housing and provide additional support services to more than 3,000 homeless families and individuals throughout the County. The award will also create two new permanent housing projects. One new program will provide permanent supportive housing for thirteen chronically homeless individuals in Alameda County. The other new program will provide permanent supportive housing for 31 transition age youth in Alameda County.

The programs requested fund-

ing from HUD earlier this year as part of a countywide application containing 48 new and existing programs. Alameda County **Board of Supervisors President** Scott Haggerty said, "This award allows for vital housing and services to continue in Alameda County. I am extremely pleased that additional resources will create rental subsidies for homeless people with disabilities, who are some of our most vulnerable residents and is a key step in the implementation of the EveryOne Home Plan to end homelessness in Alameda County.

The grant represents a key step in the implementation of the EveryOne Home Plan. In a County where over 5,000 people are homeless on any given night, new and smarter strategies are being launched to aggressively end homelessness in Alameda County. EveryOne Home, the Alameda County-wide Homeless

and Special Needs Housing Plan, is a collaborative effort between Alameda County, cities in the County, and the community to address the need for updated approaches to ending chronic homelessness and meeting the housing needs of extremely lowincome people living with HIV/ AIDS and/or serious mental health issues.

EveryOne Home focuses on the large, overlapping populations of people in different systems care (homeless services and housing, AIDS services and housing, mental health services and housing) who frequently are on the streets or cycle in and out of

As a part of this grant award, two new projects were funded to provide permanent supportive housing. One of the two new projects is a collaboration between Alameda County's Housing and Community Development Department (HCD) and Behavioral Health Care Services (BHCS). The Forensic Assertive Community Treatment (FACT) Shelter Plus Care program will provide permanent supportive housing and supportive services to thirteen chronically homeless individuals with serious mental illness and a history of criminal justice system involvement in Alameda County. BCHS will use Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funding to provide mental health resources for this

The other new program, the STAY Well Housing Project, is a collaboration between Tri-City Homeless Coalition, Fred Finch Youth Center, East Bay Recovery Project and BHCS. STAY Well will provide integrated, wrap-around mental health services and permanent housing to 31 mentally ill young adults (18-25) throughout Alameda County.

Researchers Study What Happens During an Explosion

U.S. troops blew up enemy bridges with explosives in World War II to slow the advance of supplies or enemy forces.

In modern times, patrollers use explosives at ski resorts to purposely create avalanches so the runs are safer when skiers ar-

Other than creating the desired effect (a destroyed bridge or avalanche), the users didn't exactly know the microscopic details and extreme states of matter found within a detonating high explosive.

In fact, most scientists don't know what happens either.

Howevers, researchers from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology have created the first quantum molecular dynamics simulation

of a shocked explosive near detonation conditions to reveal what happens at the microscopic scale.

The explosive, nitromethane, undergoes a chemical decomposition and a transformation into a semi-metallic state for a limited distance behind the detonation front.

Nitromethane is a more energetic high explosive than TNT, although TNT has a higher velocity of detonation and shattering power against hard targets. Nitromethane is oxygen poor, but when mixed with ammonium nitrate can be extremely lethal, such as in the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Build-

ing in Oklahoma City. Despite the extensive production and use of explosives for more than a century, their basic microscopic properties during detonation haven't been unraveled," said Evan Reed, the lead author of a paper appearing in the Dec. 9 online edition of the journal, Nature Physics. "We've gotten the first glimpse of the properties by performing the first quantum molecular dynamics simulation.

In 2005 alone, 3.2 billion kilograms of explosives were sold in the United States for a wide range of applications, including mining, demolition and military applications.

Nitromethane is burned as a fuel in drag racing autos, but also can be made to detonate, a special kind of burning in which the material undergoes a much faster and far more violent type of chemical transformation. With its single nitrogen dioxide (NO2) group, it is a simple representative version of explosives with more NO2 groups.

Though it is an optically transparent, electrically insulating material, it undergoes a shocking transformation. It turns into an optically reflecting, nearly metallic state for a short time behind the detonation shock wave front. Further behind the wave front, the material returns to being optically transparent and electrically insulating.

Other Livermore researchers include M. Riad Manaa, Laurence Fried, and Kurt Glaesemann, as well as J.D. Joannopoulos of MIT.

The work was funded by the Laboratory Directed Research and Development program.

(continued from page one)

and cataloging Livermore his-

tory.
Teachers and other staff of the
Livermore Valley Unified School District were granted a 7% salary increase retroactive to Sept. 2006. The teachers' union and district still planned to negotiate over the work day issue.

Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty asked for a delay on a decision on a proposed cemetery in North Livermore. Haggerty asked for an independent analysis of the water and Measure D questions. The questions concerned whether the project could count on a reliable water supply and whether the cemetery would be compatible with the agricultural renewal goals in Measure D.

The Foothill High School marching band won its first national championship in 32 years. The band captured the national title for parade bands at the Fiesta Bowl Jan. 8 in Phoenix. There were 20 bands in the competition.

Livermore Lab Green LLC filed a protest over rejection of its bid to manage the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. The protest listed "improper and biased handling" of the group's bid. The group was led by Tri-Valley CAREs, a Lab watchdog

group.
The Livermore School District named its community learning center in honor of Nancy Steele. She had been with the district since 1965, serving as the principal of Vineyard High School for 20 years.

The Pleasanton City Council agreed to determine what format would be used to hold a discussion on the Iraq War. Resident Fred Norman had requested that the council and public weigh in on the issue.

The Livermore School District began consideration of a community day school. The school would provide an alternative educational facility for students who have been expelled from traditional schools, and are identified as at-risk, or referred by a school attendance review board. The proposed school would serve students in grades 6

Michael Fraser was sworn in as the new Pleasanton Police Chief. He replaced Tim Neal, who would formally retire on Jan. 31. Fraser, a member of the Pleasanton Police Department, was selected from among 7 applicants.

Kevin Roberts announced he would be leaving his job as director of economic development in the City of Livermore. Roberts led the redevelopment effort in the downtown.

The City of Pleasanton obiected to the methodology used by ABAG to assign regional housing numbers. Pieasanton ieit that the methodology should discourage housing in areas adjacent to gridlocked freeways. Another suggestion was that areas where housing costs are high should not have the same affordable housing burden. The final point was that ABAG should consider a definition of a jobs/ housing balance that identifies a regional balance rather than a local balance.

FEBRUARY 2007

The Livermore Valley Charter School received approval from the Livermore School District for petitions to establish middle and high schools.

Chris Grant was selected to replace Steve Pulido on the Pleasanton School Board.

Pleasanton agreed to expand its general plan studies to look at the impacts of extending Stoneridge Drive to El Charro Road. The goal was to provide concrete data on which to make a decision on whether or not to take the extension out of the general plan.

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District approved an extension of a lease to continue the Friendship Center (senior day car) at Sonoma School. The lease would run through June 2008. The school houses the Livermore Charter School, which wants to use the entire facility. LARPD began a search for a new

location. The Livermore School District and teachers' union declared an impasse over the work day issue. The State Mediation and Conciliation Service was asked to send an individual to assist in bargaining.

moved forward with plans to form

a Landscape Maintenance District in downtown Livermore. Property owners would be asked to vote on the district. The district drew criticism on how the process was handled, stating it should have been clear before improvements were made that property owners would be asked to help pay for the maintenance. The city is to pay for replacement costs of about \$300,000 a year.

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District celebrated its 60th anniversary.

The Pleasanton City Council reversed its decision to host a discussion of the Iraq War, calling the issue too divisive.

Mike Wood was installed as president of the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association, replacing Carolyn Wente.

MÄRCH 2007

The City of Livermore agreed purchase the historic Hagemann Farm on Olivina Avenue. The sale was based on the city acquiring funds for the \$1.8 million purchase price. The 4.5 acre site was once part of a large agricultural estate dating from the 1800s.

The Pleasanton City Council approved a list of 70 projects they plan to tackle over the next two years. Among them were completing the general plan update and creating a way to finance the Bernal Park.

The Amador Valley High School Civics Team captured first place in the state "We the People" competition.

The Pleasanton Cultural Arts Foundation established a Community Advisory Board to support fund-raising efforts for the Firehouse Arts Center.

The changes to First Street in Livermore garnered an award of excellence from the California Redevelopment Association.

Controversy arose over Pleasanton Mayor Jennifer Hosterman's sĕlection to replace Brian Arkin on the Planning Commission. Arkin resigned. Hosterman bypassed the current alternate, Greg O'Conner, in favor of Kathy Narum. Speakers who addressed the council called the decision political. O'Connor had donated money to Steve Brozosky's campaign to replace Hosterman as mayor.

Efforts by Livermore Mayor Marshall Kämena and Supervisor Scott Haggerty were successful in obtaining \$68 million in funding to complete construction of the Isabel Avenue/Highway 580 interchange. Two other I-580 projects also received funding in the first round of Measure 1B projects. They include eastbound and westbound HOV lanes on I-580.

Juanita Haugen, long time Pleasanton school board member and recognized as a national leader in education, died at the age of 69. She worked as a trustee until the end of her life, attending meetings by watching on lo-cal cable TV and commenting via speakerphone.

The design team from Lawrence Livermore and Sandia National Laboratories was selected to develop the Reliable Replacement Warhead. The decision raised questions about the need for a change in the design of nuclear weapons in the stockpile, which has been certified regularly through the stewardship program. Some argued that new elements could result in the need to conduct underground testing. In addition, they could lead to greater proliferation of nuclear weapons around the

Granada High School students organized a Black Student Union aimed at making a difference at the school, especially in the academic area. Focus would be on college readiness.

The Livermore Chamber of Commerce Film Commission representatives headed to Hollywood to market the area as perfect for filmmakers from features to commercials. A new brochure showcasing area attractions was delivered to decision makers in the film industry.

Rick and Pam Corbett purchased Crooked Vine and Stony Ridge wineries.

Livermore student Lisa Ackerman earned a spot in the semi-finals of the Jeopardy Teen Tournament.

The Pleasanton School Board approved a 9 percent increase in developer fees, raising the gift fee from \$7.75 to \$8.45 a square foot for single family homes. The

erties and Standard Pacific pay the cooperative fee. The lower amount was based on an agreement to build Neal elementary school. Signature and the district are currently in court over a dispute about the contract's language and exactly what Signature's financial obligations

are regarding the school. The Livermore City Council voted to ban superstores. The ban applies to any store that meets the definition of a superstore. The ordinance defined a superstore as a facility that exceeds 90,000 square feet in floor area with five percent nontaxable merchandise, such as groceries.

The Livermore Cultural Arts Master Plan was unveiled. Among the proposals were the creation of a downtown arts and culture festival, adoption of policies that encourage provision of cultural events and opportunities for young adults, develop an arts education partnership with other agencies, development of a communitywide arts and culture marketing program, and development and expansion of arts and cultural facilities and spaces in the core area over 3 to 5 years and expansion into other areas of the city.

The Triangle Study Committee, established to make recommendations on projects to improve traffic on Í-580, I-680 and Highway 84, voted to remove funding for projects on Highway 84. The vote was an attempt to force Pleasanton to extend Stoneridge Drive. Pleasanton has stated many times that improvements to 84 would help to take cut-through traffic off of city Construction streets. Stoneridge Dr. without the improvements would invite more cut-through traffic into the city, Pleasanton leaders claimed.

Trader Joe's opened in Liver-

APRIL 2007

Seven members of Livermore Rotary, ranging in age from 50 to 70, announced plans to climb Mount Kilimanjaro to raise funds for the Wheelchair Foundation.

The City of Livermore's building department was selected as department of the year and Stephan Kiefer as building official of the year by the California Building Officials.

The Pleasanton School Board again agreed to appoint a new trustee, this time to replace the late Juanita Haugen. It would be the third time in one year that the board made such an appointment. Jim Ott was appointed last May to replace Gloria Fredette and Chris Grant replaced Steve Pulido earlier this year.

Property owners in downtown Livermore voted to establish a Landscape Maintenance District. The vote was weighted based on property value.

i ne first murai in the Pieasanton Downtown Association Mural Program was begun by artist Gary Winter. The mural was painted on the north side of Strizzi's Restaurant.

A new covered horse arena at Robertson Park in Livermore was completed in time for the annual Spring Stampede.

The Pleasanton City Council approved a new alignment for the long promised Happy Valley bypass road. The new alignment would extend Sycamore Creek Road along the lower western edge of land belonging to the Spotorno family, eventually connecting to the city's golf course. Originally, the road was to go along the upper portion of the Spotorno property. However, that route was deemed too expensive. Homeowners along Sycamore Creek objected to the decision.

Les Chenes Estate Vineyards became Livermore's newest winery. Owners Richard and Candace Dixon plan to focus on Rhone

style wines. Loni Anderson was honored as the recipient of the California Independent Film festival's 2007 Lifetime Achievement Award.

The new Cultural Arts Master Plan was endorsed by the Livermore City Council. However, the council delayed implementation of a new art in public places fee on development. A committee comprised of representatives from the business, development and art communities was established to make a recommenda-

tion on the amount and timing of the new fee.

MAY 2007

The Pleasanton City Council voted to keep the Stoneridge Drive extension in the general plan. The council also voted to work with regional partners to create a roadmap that could lead to construction of the road.

Four cities that sponsor local cable TV channel 30 took over the governing board following disclosure of a cash shortfall close to \$200,000. The mayors of Livermore, Dublin, Pleasanton and San Ramon will comprise the new board.

The Livermore School District and the teachers' union reached a tentative agreement on the teacher work day. The two parties had been in mediation since the beginning of April. Details were not available.

Former City Councilmember Steve Brozosky was named to succeed the late Juanita Haugen on the Pleasanton School Board. During his interview, Brozosky said he would not run for re-election when the term expired in November 2008.

David Lowell, associate publisher of The Independent, received the David A. Heagerty Award. The recognition is "awarded to the individual who has made the greatest personal commitment to the promotion

and public image of Rotary."
The Amador Valley High School civics team finished second in the national "We the People" competition in Washington, D.C. It was the second consecutive national second place finish for the team.

A team that includes UC and Bechtel National was selected by the Department of Energy to manage the Livermore National Laboratory. The Lab had been managed since its inception in 1952 by the University of California. The new management also includes BWX Technologies, Washington Group International, Battelle and Texas A&M University. The main competition for the management contract came from a team led by Northrup-Grumman.

The Livermore City Council okayed the use of \$825,000 to purchase the historic Southern Pacific Railroad Depot. The depot, located in the old Lucky Shopping Center, would need to be moved to make way for redevelopment of the site.

The Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council set up a fund to support the Pleasanton Downfown Association's new mural pro-

The Livermore School Board delayed a decision on the location of a community day school following protests by neighbors of the proposed site at Almond Avenue School.

10m Relitter announced plans to resign from the Livermore City Council. He said he planned to retire from the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory after 34 years. He and his wife planned to move from Livermore.

Joel Kinnamon was selected to serve as chancellor of the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District.

Friends of Pleasanton launched an initiative they said would preserve publicly owned lands for public use. The main target was the Staples Ranch. Opponents declared the goal was to stop the Stoneridge Drive extension, which is part of Staples Ranch.

The Pleasanton City Council approved a second Home Depot at the intersection of Bernal, Valley and Stanley Blvd. Matt Sullivan was opposed. The location is at the busiest intersection in the city, leading residents to voice objections to adding additional traffic. There were also concerns about the impact of a new large box store on small, locally owned home improvement businesses.

The Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center added David Dial, general manager, and Kimberly Moore, director of development, as the nonprofit geared up for the opening of the Bankhead Theater.

Congressman Jerry McNerney asked that the VA expand post traumatic stress disorder care at the Livermore site. He stated that

On LASIK!

See Your Best! Look Your Best

the VA should keep the Livermore location open for such treatment. The VA was considering closing the Livermore VA and building new facilities in the Central Valley along with a clinic

somewhere in the East Bay. **JUNE 2007**

Len Alexander, executive director of the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center, announced that stage, TV and film star Bernadette Peters would headline the opening of the new 500-seat Bankhead Theater in October.

Marylin Avenue School in Livermore was selected to receive nearly \$850,000 over the next three years to improve learning at the school.

Pleasanton school trustees approved a 3.4 percent salary increase for teachers.

Retiring Las Positas College President Karen Halliday was honored at a celebration. The event included a tour of the new multidisciplinary building.

The Livermore City Council decided to appoint a replacement for Tom Reitter on the city council. Reitter had announced his resignation earlier this year. Councilmember Lorraine Dietrich voiced a preference to let voters select the new councilmember.

The Pleasanton City Council decided to delay approval of the second reading for a new Home Depot store in Pleasanton. The delay was recommended by city staff to allow time to look into concerns raised by the residents during a public hearing.

Sandia National Laboratories scientists helped prepare the National Spelling Bee Champion, Evan O'Dorney, for competition.

Steve Krull resigned as Livermore Police Chief. Captain Steve Sweeney was appointed as interim police chief.

Three riders from Livermore, Ted Athan, Kyle Labrucherie and Jake Larsen, helped lead West Hills Community College to a number one ranking in college rodeo national standings. Representatives from private

industry were for the first time included in the management of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. President George Miller would remain as director. Steve Liedle, a Bechtel principal, would take on the role of deputy director.

Pleasanton ImagiNation Teams finished second, fourth and fifth at the Global Finals in Knoxville Tennessee. The students were from Pleasanton Middle School, Foothill High School, and Amador Valley High School. There were 8000 students on 990 teams taking part in the competition.

Pleasanton began testing its new Wi-Fi system in the downtown. The pilot project included an area bounded by the Rose Hotel, First Street, the Senior Center, and Peters Avenue.

The Pleasanton City Council voted to ban medical marijuana dispensaries in the city.

Chris Chandler was selected as the new executive director for the Livermore Valley Winegrowers. She replaced Lynn Wallace.

The Tri-Valley Business Council announced reorganization plans. The goal was to become more effective in backing measures that would help businesses. Five new policy committees would be established. They are economic vitality, community planning, education, gov-ernment relations, and transportation. Several members of the Pleas-

anton City Council questioned whether it was appropriate for planning commission chairman

Anne Fox to be involved in an initiative to stop development of Staples Ranch. At issue was the use of her title in her activist ef-

Robert White was hired to replace Kevin Roberts as Livermore Economic Development

Save Mt. Diablo announced plans to become actively involved in land use issues in the Tri-Valley. There was concern about keeping open the roads, cattle tunnels, canals, arroyos and other places that cross I-580.

There were twelve applicants to replace Tom Reitter on the Livermore City Council. The council narrowed the field to six: Tom Vargas, Carolyn Siegfried, Doug Horner, Steven Hunter, Darryl West, and Jeff Williams.

The I-580 corridor commutes in the Tri-Valley were listed among the worst by Caltrans and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. The afternoon drive from I-680 to El Charro ranked as the second worst; the westbound drive from Flynn Road to Airway Blvd. was the third worst.

Livermore held a dedication ceremony for the new downtown plaza in front of the 500-seat the-

Dianne Everett retired as principal and district superintendent of the Sunol Glen School. She held the position for 16 years.

The California Department of Education told the Livermore Valley Charter School to get its finances in order or face possible revocation of its charter. The CDE issued a notice of concern because of the \$1 million debt the school had incurred.

Dale Turner announced that he would be leaving the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District Board of Directors effective July 10.

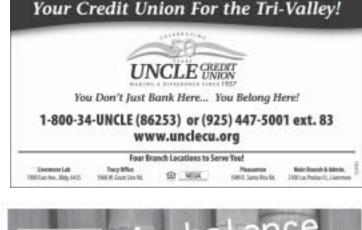
Wendy Madden was selected as the new director of the California Independent Film Festi-

The Livermore City Council approved a ground lease for a fixed base operator (FBO) at the Livermore Airport. Livermore Air Center, LLC headed by Jim Ghielmetti of Signature Properties was chosen. The FBO is seen as an effort to expand activity at the airport by the Livermore Airport Citizens Group. They believe that many more jets will use the airport.

The new Picazo Winery issued its first wine, a 2004 Merlot.

The Pleasanton Library announced plans for the "Big Read," a celebration of Dashiell Hammet's "The Maltese Falcon." The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts designed to restore reading to the center of American culture. The Pleasanton Library planned a series of events celebrating reading and the Maltese Falcon.









Do You Remember?



By Anne Homan

Two Remarkable Women

Imagine for a minute a world without a radio, without movies without television, with telephones having human operators, with more horses than automobiles, without cell phones. Russia still has a czar. Theodore Roosevelt, not FDR, is President of the United States, and the Wright brothers have just had their memorable flight six years ago. Into this world Grace Evans and Henrietta Stewart were born almost 100 years ago. Although they have some difficulty getting around these days, their minds are sharp, and they each still have a delightful sense of humor. Grace Evans married Henry Devnich; the Devniches became doctors and are well known in the Livermore community. I wrote a column about them in June 2006, so I will concentrate more on Henrietta in this column. Henrietta is less known to the general public since she lives on a farm in the Altamont hills, but she is well known in the agricultural community.

Henrietta Stewart's mother was Margaret Nissen, May Nissen's sister; her grandparents were Hans and Sophie Nissen, longtime Livermore residents. Although the Stewart family lived near Petaluma, Henrietta came to Livermore occasionally to help her grandmother, who was partially paralyzed from polio. In 1932 Henrietta married Tom Greer; they had met when he was doing farm work for her father. They moved to Livermore and at first lived in her grandparents' house in town at 508 McLeod Street. Tom worked at several jobs, including one at the Livermore Brickyard where he unloaded clay and loaded bricks on the trains. Tom and Henrietta moved to her grandparents' ranch on Patterson Pass Road on September 1, 1936 to start a dairy farm. They could not afford to buy the cows all at once, so they started a chicken farm and bought several cows at a time. They soaked barley in the skim milk for the chicken feed and shipped the cream in 10gallon cans on the Southern Pacific Railroad to a San Francisco creamery. The milk-fed chickens had meat that tasted especially

Finally, they bought enough of the brown and white jerseys to consider their enterprise a dairy. The largest herd they managed through the years was more than a hundred head, with 75 milking cows. Henrietta emphasized that she and Tom did everything together. They sold the milk in bulk to the Carnation Milk Company of Oakland. The Carnation truck showed up every morning promptly at 7:30 a.m. Henrietta and Tom got up at 3:30 to get the herd in the barn, milk them, feed them, and clean up in time for the delivery truck. When the herd numbered 12, they purchased a milking machine. A second go-round started at three in the afternoon, first feeding the calves hay, then another milking. Eventually, they built a special milking barn. Darrel Sweet remembered being fascinated by the milking machines as a child when he visited the Greers. In 1960 the South Bay Aqueduct was put through the Greer's property; it cut so much into their grazing land that they had to sell the herd. Henrietta's voice was bitter as she pulled back the window curtains to show a visitor the water in the aqueduct flowing by her house.

Henrietta and Tom were active in the Farm Bureau, 4H, and the First Presbyterian Church. During World War II, Tom Greer called square dances for the Pleasanton USO on Sunday nights; on Tuesday nights he did the same thing at the USO in Livermore. Henrietta always went along to help. They bought property in the hills east of the farm on South Flynn Road; it had three excellent springs and, on a clear day, a view of the Golden Gate. They planted apple, peach, apricot, fig, plum, pear, and almond trees, and dreamed of moving up there some day. Tom had a green thumb and spent many happy hours in his gardens. He died in 1996, however, before their anticipated move. They had celebrated their

An old-fashioned word, "feisty," describes both Dr. Grace Devnich and Henrietta Greer. I don't mean that these two strong, independent women are looking for a fight, but rather that they are full of spirit, energetic. Even today, Henrietta invites friends out to the farm for tea and homemade cake and sends us home with gifts—a book she has read, a bag of persimmons. Dr. Grace works at her writing, gifting us with tales of her family and her early days of teaching.

Dr. Grace was born December 30, 1907 and Henrietta January 1, 1908. It is interesting to note that on New Year's Eve, December 31, 1907—the day in between their birthdates—for the first time a ball was dropped down in Times Square to signal the New Year. We can imagine that this event was also in celebration of the births of two remarkable women.

(Readers can reach me at am50homan@yahoo.com.)

SPORTS NOTES

Adventure Racing

On January 26, teams of two will gather to compete in Lake Chabot's first-ever adventure race, a multi-sport, off-road competition

featuring running/trekking, kayaking and mountain biking. Pleasanton bike shop

Cyclepath is putting together the "sprint distance" (which refers to a shorter distance)

event especially for people with little or no adventure race experience.

Participants must run/trek 1.5 miles, kayak 1.5 miles and mountain bike between

10 to 20 miles, all while collecting points by navigating correctly to collect hidden items at various checkpoints. The race should take teams between two and five hours to com-

plete.

The idea for a local adventure race was

hatched on one of the shop's weekly mountain rides at Lake Chabot. The rides are often

attended by the Cyclepath-sponsored adventure racing team whose enthusiasm for the

sport got other riders excited about trying adventure racing.

The race takes place January 26, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. and starts and ends at the Ranger

Registration is \$30 per person and is limited to 50 people (25 teams of two). You must have your own mountain bike and helme to

participate. Kayaks will be provided. To register, visit www.cyclepath.com. You must be 18 years or older to participate.

Prizes will be awarded to all divisions:

all male, all female, coed and masters (over 40). Race participants will also receive SWAG (Stuff We All Get) bags with free goodies as well as post-race food and bever-

The Livermore Pleasanton Umpires As-

sociation (LPUA) is looking to recruit new umpires for the Girls Fast Pitch and Adult

Slow Pitch leagues in the Livermore and

asamon area. Those interested in umpiring can gather ormation on its website information on its website www.jabjams.com/lpua.htm or contacting Edward Wong at edwardwong_99@yahoo.com. Training will be provided.

Softball Umpires

Pleasanton area.

Center Helps Students to Study

College students typically spend lots of time in libraries, but for students at Las Positas College in Livermore there's another study alternative that also includes help from faculty mem-

The Integrated Learning Center offers assistance from faculty members in different disciplines to students who need a little extra help outside of the classroom experience. It's a busy place as students get help with English, English-as-a-second-language or math assignments.

Sora Boer, 19 of San Ramon, said "You can come here and get help from a faculty member. You can't do that in the library.

The learning center was recognized earlier this fall when the Campaign for College Opportunity recognized Las Positas College by singling out three programs at the Livermore campus as exceptional. It was the only institution with more than one program recognized.

The Integrated Learning Center has several dynamics leading to its success. The first is a student-driven approach to learning where the faculty members work directly with students on a lab hour attached to a math, English or English as a Second Language course.

The second dynamic is the interdisciplinary learning that takes place in the center. Students are aware of a "hub" of academic activity going on around them and they can feel comfortable asking questions at any time.

Lastly, faculty members also are learning at the same time.

They learn more about the other disciplines and can see different teaching techniques at work.

The center grew out of a math project that began more than six years ago to offer drop-in help to students. As that program grew, it partnered with the English Dept. and those teaching English to non-native speakers and was able to find a space on the cam-

Students vote with their time and it's clear that it's a big success. Last spring, 3,420 students signed in and spent more than 38,000 hours there. Students like the easy access to direct help from faculty members that is provided one-on-one.

Faculty members love working in the **ILC** as students are so receptive to help. It is a joy to talk with students when they are ready for help and anxious to learn, said Dale Boercker, one of the math instructors who set up the original facility.

"Two other benefits for faculty are that adjunct faculty get to know the full-time faculty and vice versa. Another unexpected benefit for faculty is the interactions with faculty members from other disciplines," Boercker said,

John Peeler, who lives in Mountain House after graduating from Granada High School in Livermore, is finishing up his first semester.

"They make it easy by working with you," he said.

Peeler is taking under-graduate classes designed to transfer to a four-year university. He plans to study business management.

"The center's primary purpose

has evolved from a drop-in tutoring center to a program for supplementary instruction through lab assignments tied to the course content in English 1A and many ESL and mathematics courses. While "drop-in" tutoring still goes on, that is an ancillary benefit of having the center," said math instructor Teri Henson, who coordinates math activities there.

She also cited an additional benefit, "Students make academic connections between the disciplines and create personal, supportive relationships with other students and faculty. By the end of a semester working in the ILC, faculty are familiar with on a first-name basis - many students not enrolled in their

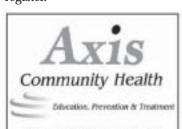
Instructor Michael Sato said, This gives students an alternative to waiting until the next class meeting or office hour to ask a question since faculty members are always present in the facility. For students, it's an alternative to their usual conventionally isolated commuter-school learning environment.

"For faculty, we learn by watching the variety of teaching styles used by our colleagues, he concluded.

For adjunct faculty member Sarah Delos Santos, the learning center is ideal. She requires her students to spend one hour there each week studying for her trigonometry class. She also holds her office hours in the center and said she'd seen the combination help

her student progress.

Registration for the spring semester, which begins Jan. 22, is open. Students can go online to www.laspositascollege.edu to register.



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Sandia Fitness Program Earns Gold Trophy Award

The California Task Force on Youth and Workplace Wellness recently honored over 80 employers with the 2007 Fit Business Awards sponsored by Kaiser Permanente. The annual awards program was first launched in 2003 to private and non-profit companies across California seeking to recognize business models that promote a healthier workplace.

In the East Bay, Sandia National Laboratories was awarded with a Gold trophy and Safeway received the Silver trophy from State Senator Tom Torlakson (D-Antioch), founder and Chair of the California Task Force on Youth and Workplace Wellness.

Sandia National Laboratories, a government-owned, contractor-operated science research facility based in Livermore, has just over a thousand employees. It has established Life Design Center programs, that provide a one-on-one and small group approach to sustaining employee health and fitness, including a variety of free wellness programs and activities. These free services (which are accompanied by education classes) include: health screenings, body fat testing, personal trainers, nutrition

counseling, stress assessments, use of on-site gym facilities, bicycles to ride across campus, aerobics, and educational programs aimed at decreasing health risks associated with cancer, diabetes and other chronic diseases.

Sandia also maintains a small health library available to all employees with access to the internet for health-related re-

A recent review of health promotion and disease management programs found a significant return on investment for employee wellness programs, with benefitto-cost ratios ranging from \$1.49 to \$4.91(median of \$3.14) in benefits for every dollar spent on innovative workplace programs.

Among the innovations implemented by other award winners were free use of bicycles, lock and helmet for employees; healthy food and beverage options in cafeterias and at staff meetings; healthy and organic vending machine options; free bottle water and juice for employees; Weight Watchers, walking, and running clubs; healthy cooking classes, on-site massage therapists, fitness evaluations and free fitness classes; physical activity and stretch breaks; in addition to reimbursement for wellness and fitness-related services such as gym memberships.



in the Livermore Community Center





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sions in the Pleasanton Phantom Girls Softball League. All girls living in Pleasanton, Dublin and Sunol are eligible to play PGSL softball. Two ways to register: 1) On-line at www.pleasantonsoftball.org; 2) Mail-in: PGSL, P.O. Box 911, Pleasanton, CA 94566 (download a registration form from 94566 (download a registration form from our website). Registration deadline is Janu-

Hats Off Run/Walk

The 10th Hats Off America Red T-Shirt 10K Run/5K Walk on Saturday, will be held

The first scheduled meeting will be held at noon on January 13, 2009 at the Livermore

Community Center located at 4444 East Avenue in Livermore

on Saturday, February 9. The event begins at 10 a.m. 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 lunch donated by El Balazo Restaurant. There is no entry fee for yolunteers.

There is no entry fee for volunteers.

For information or to register or volunred inhomator of the register of volunteer, contact Sparky George at (925) 855-1950 or the bearflagrunner@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.

Holiday Tennis Camps

Lifetime Tennis and the City of Pleasanton are offering youth tennis camps during the Christmas break. Camps are available for all levels from beginner to the more advanced player for ages 4 tough age 18.
Sign up at the City of Pleasanton Tennis Park, 5801 Valley Ave. (corner of Valley and Hopyard). For more information, please call the Lifetime Tennis office at 931-3449.

Baseball Winter Camp

Livermore High Varsity Baseball Coach David Perotti is hosting a three day winter baseball camp. Each camper will receive individual instruction from coaches and Liv-ermore High players, a snack each day and a camp shirt. This 5-12 year old camp costs \$130 and runs from 9:00-12:00 everyday. The dates are December 26-28. For more info to sign up please contact David Perotti at (925) 443-2742 or lvbinfo@yahoo.com or

PGSL Registration

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ary 1, 2008. A late fee will be applied to any registration submitted after January 1st. For more information visit the PGSL website at www.pleasantonsoftball.org.

Spring Travel Team

Colt .45s Jr. Elite Baseball program is looking for 9-10U players for the Spring travel team. Please contact Coach Max Valencia at maxvbaseball@hotmail.com or (925) 639-9034 for more information and go to www.eteamz.com/colt45s for your flyer.

Rock Climbing

Valley Rock Climbing Gym's Winter Break Climbing Camp is available to 7 to 14

year olds.

Staff will provide formal group instruction focusing on movement, technique, belaying, equipment and knots. Equipment rental and day passes for the gym are included.

Camp will meet January 2-4 from 2:00-

5:00 pm. Fee is \$81 Reservations required online at www.larpd.dst.ca.us or by calling (925)373-5707.

Women's Soccer

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District is now taking registration for the Livermore Area Women's Soccer League's winter season. This recreational league is for women of all ages and skill levels. The main

women of all ages and skill levels. The main goal is to have fun.
Games are played Tuesday evenings from January through February. Registration packets may be picked up at the LARPD office, 4444 East Ave., Livermore, or download the forms from LARPD's web site: www.larpd.dst.ca.us. Call (925) 417-2631 for more information.



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from the Staff The Independent

Pleasanton Poet Plans More Programs

Pleasanton Poet Laureate Martha Meltzer will launch the New Year with a new adult poetry writing group and a children's Haiku workshop in January.

The writing group will meet on the first Monday of each month from 7:00-9:00 p.m., beginning on January 7, at Towne Center Books, 555 Main Street, Pleasanton.

'The writing group is for all those people who are writing poetry currently, are trying to write more poetry, and are thinking about writing poetry," says Meltzer. "We know that one of the best ways to be successful is to be part of a community of writers that is supportive, so we'll work together in a relaxed atmosphere and enjoy each other's creative efforts.

The Haiku workshop is for children ages 7-11 years. It will be held on Saturday, January 5, from 10:00-11:30 a.m., at Towne Center Books. Admission to the event is free. However, space is limited. Reservations are required by calling (925) 846-8826.

"We'll have fun spending a Saturday morning exploring and writing traditional and modern Japanese poetry," adds Meltzer.

The Poet Laureate program is part of City of Pleasanton Civic Arts, a division of the Department of Parks and Community Services. For more information, contact Michelle Russo at (925) 931-5350 or mrusso@ci.pleasanton.ca.us or visit www.civicartsliterary.org.

Class in 'Motion Capture' Planned

Actor Woody Schultz will teach students attending the Young Actors' Theatre Camp all about the newest innovation in Hollywood – Motion Capture!

Motion Capture is the technique of digitally recording an actor's movements, then using that information to animate digital characters in 3D. Schultz, who is currently in New Zealand filming James Cameron's highly anticipated film "Avatar," has worked on all of the Motion Čapture films produced in Hollywood, including "Beowulf," "Monster House," and "The Polar Express." Students will learn about this new form of acting that has made actors like Schultz some of the most sought after actors in Hollywood.

Schultz, along with a team from the Oakland based Motion Capture Company Phasespace Inc. will re-create a "volume" - the camera laden 20 foot by 20 foot cube that actors perform in while outfitted in special motion capture suits - allowing students to simultaneously act as cartoon characters on screen.

Other teachers scheduled will be comedy writer and Hollywood funny man Bruce Vilanch who will teach "Comedy Writing for Kids;" actor Kristy Cates, "Elphaba" from Broadway's "Wicked;" and Hollywood Casting Director, Josh Einsohn, who has worked on NBC's "Life" and "The West Wing."

Young Actors' Theatre Camp Winter Sessionis an Overnight Theatre Camp for ages 8-18. It is scheduled for December 26th, 2007 -January 1, 2008 at YMCA Camp Arroyo, 5555 Arroyo Rd., Liver-

For information, go to www.youngactorstheatrecamp.org.

Met Opera Simulcasts Scheduled

By Susan Steinberg

A special simulcast of the Metropolitan Opera's traditional New Year performance of Humperdinck's "Hansel and Gretel" will be shown on Tuesday, January 1, at Dublin's Regal Hacienda Cinema.

This should be a priority family outing, perfect for children familiar with the fairy tale, but this one is enhanced by lively costumes, staging, and acting. It always features a highly hilarious witch, appealing children's choruses, and, of course, those angels singing the familiar bedtime prayer, "When at night to bed I creep, 14 angels guard my sleep."

A bit of brother-sister play and their familiar sibling spats should definitely entertain the children, as will the yummy

(continued from page one)

McClatchy has said, "Her poems are compact, exhilarating, strange affairs, like Erik Satie miniatures or Joseph Cornell boxes. She is an anomaly in today's literary culture: as intense and elliptical as Dickinson, as buoyant and rueful as Frost."

Ryan's awards include the Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize, a Guggenheim fellowship, an Ingram Merrill Award, a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Union League Poetry Prize, the Maurice English Poetry Award, and three Pushcart Prizes. Her work has been selected four times for The Best American Poetry and was included in The Best of the Best

American Poetry 1988-1997. She was named to the "It List" by Entertainment Weekly and one of her poems has been permanently installed at New York's Central Park Zoo. Ryan was elected a Chancellor of The Academy of American Poets in 2006. Since 1971, she has lived

in Marin County in California. Martinelli Event Center is located at 3585 Greenville Rd. in Livermore. Admission to Wine and Words is \$5; free to students with valid ID. Information at Connie@poetrypost.com for furtherinformation.

happy ending. Scheduled at the convenient time of 10 a.m., the show will finish just as hungry

tummies are ready for lunch.

What better way for a family to spend New Years Day together? Originally composed as a children's entertainment, the opera soon became popular even with Europe's sophisticated adult audiences as well. (By the way, adults are welcome to attend this performance even if unaccompanied by children!)

Ticket prices are \$22 adults. \$20 seniors and \$15 children. Not your typical movie prices, but then this is a unique up-front and immediate live performance from New York's famed Met, and much, much cheaper than the up-front and center tickets for their shows. For tickets or further information, call the Regal Hacienda office at 560-0900 or reach their website at fandango.com.

And, heads up you Shakespeare fans: a simulcast of Verdi's "Macbeth" is scheduled for Sat., January 12 at 10:30 a.m. (half-hour later) at the Regal.

Comedy Competition Open to Teens

The Livermore Public Library will sponsor a teen comedy competition; "Livermore's Last Teen Comic Standing" on Jan. 11 starting at 4 p.m. Teens, ages thirteen to seventeen, will each perform a two minute comedy act that will be judged by a panel of young adult volunteers.

The best comedy acts will be asked to return for the semi-finals and possibly advance to the final round of the competition. For more information and to view the rules for participation, please visit TEEN SPACE at www.livermore.lib.ca.us or call 925-373-5504.

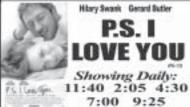
Ticket Prices

The ticket prices for Ravi Coltrane's performance on February 8 in the Amador Theater were stated incorrectly in last week's Independent. The correct prices are adults - \$25, \$30 and \$35; students - \$15, \$18 and \$21. www.civicartstickets.org or 931-

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(continued from page one) ter Peeters finished the book. "Soon as the book was done, poof, the owls were gone, Peeters says.

The book, "Field Guide to Owls of California and the West," has just been published by the University of California Press. A Sunol resident, Peeters is a retired Chabot College profesor of biology/zoology. He is an award winning artist who specializes in wildlife paintings and illustrations. His paintings and photographs richly illustrate the 326page book. The book is a companion to Peeters' "Raptors of . California," which UC Press published a couple of years ago.

The guide covers all 19 species of owls found in North America. 14 of which live in California. There are maps showing their distribution throughout the West, with tips for finding and watching owls and for building nest boxes.

Peeters discusses human attitudes toward owls throughout history, observing that the owl is a night bird and its image has often been associated with darkness; the owl brings forth primal fears in most cultures.

Peeters writes, "On the next visit to your favorite ethnic restaurant, ask about the attitude toward owls in a foreign-born proprietor's home country. Chances are the response will be negative: hearing an owl's call means your business deal will fall

through, or you will be taken ill, or worse. Rarely do owls foretell happy events. Yet, the owl, with its big eyes and funny face, is a much be-

loved birď. Peeters quotes a saying from Sussex, England: "When owls whoop much at night, expect a fair morrow. Peeters has been fascinated with owls almost his entire life,

beginning back in his native Germany. He remembers at 10 stuffing a dead owl that someone had given him.

His home on rustic Kilkare Road in Sunol is abundant with tall sycamores and other trees. "There've always been owls in the yard here," he says. "We've

raised owls, and set them loose when they were old enough to

His wife, Pam Peeters, shares his interest. She collaborated with him on the rapter book and helped with some of the research and editing on the owl guide.

The book has received high praise. Clay Sutton, coauthor of 'How to Spot an Owl," said that as a field guide for owls the book "sets a new standard."

Allen Fish of the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory called it "an exquisitely illustrated, thoroughly researched and engag-ingly written guide that will be as valuable to young students as it will be to seasoned biologists.

Author Lauire Powers to Talk about Grandfather's Writing Career

Laurie Powers will be speaking at the Livermore Public Library on Wednesday, January 30, 2008. She will discuss the discovery of her grandfather's memoir, his career as a pulp fiction writer, and the phenomenon of pulp fiction magazines during the Great Depression.

The talk will be at 7 p.m. at the library, 1188 So. Livermore

Growing up in Livermore in the 1960s, Laurie Powers barely knew her grandfather, Western writer Paul S. Powers. He had written only one novel, a Western, in 1949, and spent most of

his time running a bookstore in Berkeley. Her grandfather died in 1971, leaving Laurie with only a few memories of him as a failed writer. In 1999, Laurie conducted a casual Internet search that led her to his past: Her grandfather had also been a prolific and well-known pulp Western writer during the Great Depression. His characters Sonny Tabor, Kid Wolf, Freckles Malone, and Johnny Forty-five enraptured an entire generation of readers across the country.

For fifteen years, from 1928 to 1943, Paul Powers slammed out 15,000 word stories almost

every week that were spirited off to Street and Smith Publishing Company in New York City and published in Wild West Weekly. After Wild West Weekly folded in 1943, Powers moved on.

Laurie's discovery of her grandfather's career on the Internet in 1999 was just the beginning of a year long journey of finding her lost family. While searching on the Internet, Laurie relocated her grandfather's family. When Laure reunited with her aunt that summer, she was greeted by another surprise: her grandfather had kept voluminous

amounts of records dealing with his pulp fiction career. Included in the collection was her grandfather's unpublished memoir, written in 1943, which chronicles his life as a pulp fiction writer during the Great Depression.

That memoir, *Pulp Writer:* Twenty years in the American Grub Street has been recently published by the University of Nebraska Press to critical ac-

For more information about the program at the Livermore Library, call 925-373-5505 Joyce Nevins.

stranded in a 1950s Topeka diner in

a snowstorm grapple with the challenges of loneliness and connection,

romance and reality. Directed by Dana Anderson. Jan. 18th thru Feb.

Recital, Jordan Even , a junior piano performance major at Valparaiso University (Valparaiso, Indiana), will present a recital on Thursday, De-cember 27, at 7:30 pm. The recital will be at Our Savior Lutheran Min-istrics 1395 So. Livermore Avenue istries, 1385 So. Livermore Avenue. He will play music by Beethoven, Chopin, Debussy, Rachmaninoff and Bolcom. The public is invited to this recital; there is no charge.

Will Durst presents: The Big Fat Year End Kiss Off Comedy Show XV, Fri., Dec. 28, 8 to 11 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Cost \$25, \$20, \$15. 925-373-6800. www.livermoreperformingarts.org/ tickets. Cast includes political satirist Will Durst, Johnny Steele, Jim Short, Steven Kravitz, Debit Durst, Arthur Gaus, and Mike Bossier.

Valley Concert Chorale auditions for the March 8, 2008 performance of Carl Orff's choral masterpiece Carmina Burana. Auditions will be held by appointment on Monday, January 14th and 21st at the First Presbyterian Church of Livermore. The church is located at the corner of 4th and L Streets. The March performance will be held at the Livermore Performing Arts Center's new Bankhead Theater. The Chorale is seeking experienced singers with sight-reading skills who enjoy singing challenging music. To schedule an appointment, call (925) 462-4205. More information about the Valley Concert Chorale is available at www.valleyconcertchorale.org.

Deer Ridge Vineyards, California pastel artist, Victoria Ryan. The exhibit of Ryan's work, "Dreaming in Color," will be at Deer Ridge through January 23, 2008. Gallery hours are Thurs.-Sun. 11 .am. to 5 p.m. Deer

Thurs.-Sun. 11 .am. to 5 p.m. Deer Ridge Vineyards, 1828 Wetmore Rd., Livermore. 1-866-561-0838. Pirate Day! Workshop, January 5, 2 to 4 p.m. Dublin Heritage Center, 6600 Donlon Way, Dublin. 925-452-2100. \$3 per person. Make shrunken heads, follow treasure maps, sing sea charties and learn Pirate sing sea chanties and learn Pirate
Lingo - arrr! Dress up - prize for best
costume. Songs and merriment with
Bingo Schmingo.
Wine and words, Jan 6, 2 -4 p.m.

Featured reader Kay Ryan at 2 p.m.
Open mic is at 3 p.m.
www.poetrypost.com. Martinelli
Center, Greenville Rd., Livermore.
Hosted by Livermore Poet Laureate
Connie Post. S5 admission.

Taste and See: A Musical Journey through ten centuries of Russian Sa-cred Music. Sun., Jan. 6, First Presby-terian Church, 2020 5th St., Livermore. 5 p.m. pre-concert lecture; 6 p.m. concert. Special guests: San Francisco Symphony's Lawrence Granger, cellist, Victoria Ramasevich, violinist with pianist Marilyn Thompson; program Rachmaninov's Elegiac Trio No. 1, in G minor and Andriasov's Piano Trio, Op. 7 in C minor. Adults \$20 (\$25 at the door), student \$12.50 (\$15 at the door). Mail ticket requests to Concert Tickets, 193 Contractors Way, Livermore, CA 94550; include check, name, address for mailing or indicate will call.

Keyboard Conversations with Jef**frey Siegal**, piano concert-plus-commentary, Jan. 11, 8 pm, Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center Presents, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First Livermore,

www.livermoreperformingarts.org. os Californios: The Alta California Orchestra, Jan. 13, 2 p.m. Liver-more Civic Center Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave. Free admission. Arts & Authors series. 373-5505.

Ed Kinney Lecture Series at the Museum On Main Street, "Aerial Photography, Global Warming and the Longest-Burning Light Bulb in the World," a lecture by Dick Jones at 7 p.m. on Thursday, January 17 at the Museum On Main Street, 603 Main Street, Pleasanton. Lecture reserva tions are requested. Admission is \$5 for museum members and \$10 for non-members. Call (925) 462-2766. Memberships will be available for purchase that night.

The Wizard of Oz, Pleasanton Play house musical production, Jan. 18-Feb. 3, 8 p.m. Fri. and Sat. (except Feb. 2), and 2 p.m. Sun. and Feb. 2. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., 462-2121 Livermore,

www.pleasantonplayhouse.com.

Friends of the Vineyards, annual meeting 7 to 9 p.m. Wed., Jan. 23, Livermore Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave. David Everett, Las Positas College, is the guest speaker. He will discuss the research vineyard and classes on food and wine pairing at college. Information

www.fov.org.

George Winston, Jan. 23, 8 p.m. Lilting, lyrical and melodic folk-style piano. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. \$41, \$36, \$31, \$28.www.livermoreperformingarts.org.

S28.www.nvennose (Sold out)

Peter and the Wolf, by Jim Gamble's Puppets. Sat., Jan. 26 at 11 a.m. Pleasanton Civic Arts Presents. Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd.. Pleasanton. www.civicartstickets.org or 931-3444. Jim Gamble's appealing pup-pets interpret Prokofiev's favorite classic about a boy who disobeys his grandfather and encounters a dangerous wolf.

Ring Rong Singers concert choral music. Sat., Jan. 26, 7 p.m. Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. www.civicartstickets.org or 931-3444.

Pulp Writer: Twenty Years in the American Grub Street, Jan. 30, 7 p.m. Livermore Civic Center Library 1188 So. Livermore Ave. Free admission. Arts & Authors series. 373-

Moreality New Year's Eve, Moreality and members of Generation Blue will be ringing in the New Year at Babe's Place in Livermore. Babe's Place is located at 2562 Old First St. in Liv-Amador Valley High School Drama's 4th Annual Middle School Drama

Festival January 28, at Amador's Second Stage/multipurpose room. All middle school students are welcome, no matter what their drama experience. Fee of \$20. Information, contact Ms. Hartman, Amador Drama khartman@pleasanton.k12.ca.us.

The Secret Garden, Lamplighters Music Theatre, Jan. 31, Feb. 1 and 2 at 8 p.m., and Feb. 2 and 3 at 2 p.m. Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr. Walnut Creek. \$13-\$46. 943-7469 or www.lamplighters.org. **Bus Stop**, Role Players Ensemble The atre presents Bus Stop by William Inge. A classic American play in which bus passengers and locals 9th. 8pm Thurs-Sat. 2pm Sundays at the Village Theatre, 233 Front St. Danville, CA 94526. Tickets \$15-25 from 925-314-3400 or www.villagetheatreshows.com. Fur-ther information at 925-820-1278 or www.danvilletheatre.com. **BUS TRIP** TO THE PRICE IS RIGHT GAME SHOW!



LIVERMORE CINEMAS GREAT DEBATERS (PGILLDLP) 1:15 4:00 6:50 9:40 ALIEN VS PREDATORS REQUIEM ROLP 11:00 1:20 3:40 6:45 9:40 11:15 1:55 4:25 7:00 9:35 WATER HORSE (PG) DLP JUNO (PG) DLP 12:05 2:20 4:50 7:05 9:30 NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS (PG) DLP 11:00 12:20 1:50 3:30 4:40 6:20 7:30 9:15 CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR IRIDLE 7:10 9:25 11:50 2:30 4:50 SWEENEY TODD (R) DUP 11:05 1:45 4:30 7:15 9:50 WALK HARD: THE DEWEY COX STORY PLDIP 12:00 2:20 4:55 7:25 9:55 I AM LEGEND (PG13) DLP 12:30 3:20 6:40 7:20 9:20 9:55 ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS PRIDLE 11:20 12:05 1:30 2:15 3:50 4:35 6:30 9:00 THE GOLDEN COMPASS PORTIONS 11:30 2:05 4:45 7:15 9:45

BANKHE KEYBOARD



CONVERSATIONS® WITH JEFFREY SIEGEL

The Power and Passion of Beethoven January 11 · 8pm \$26, \$31, \$36

Distinguished concert planist and conductor Jeffrey Siegel takes listeners on an intimate journey through classical music and its masters.

EINSTEIN THE PRACTICAL BOHEMIAN

Einstein as the Cosmic Comedian February 10 • 2pm \$21, \$26, \$31

Ed Metzger's tour-de-force portrayal shows the human side of the man who perceived everything differently than anyone before him





MOBY DICK REHEARSED, THE ACTING COMPANY "Theater becomes a

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WILL DURST Big Fat Year End Kiss Off Comedy Show XV December 28 · 8 pm · 516, 521, 526

KEYBOARD CONVERSATIONS WITH JEFFREY SIEGEL The Power and Passion of Beethoven January 11 · 8 pm · \$26, \$31, \$36

THE WIZARD OF OZ Pleasanton Playbouse January 18-20, 25-26, February 1-3 · 2 & 8pm

> GEORGE WINSTON Lilting, lyrical and melodic folk-style piano January 23 · 8pm · SOLD OUT

ALBERS TRIO Presented by Del Valle Fine Arts February 2 · 8pm · \$19, \$24, \$29

SheaHomes

2400 First Street, Livermore For tickets 925-373-6800 www.livermoreperformingarts.org

Amador Valley Quilt Guild will meet on Saturday, January 12, at 1:30 p.m. at the Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Avenue, Pleasanton. Fiber artist and teacher Leora Raiken, who is noted for her knowledge of African folklore embroidery, will be the guest speaker. Leora will conduct a workshop on the following day. The guild is a non-profit educational association for quilters of all skill levels. Anyone interested in quilting may attend. For further informa tion about the guild or upcoming speakers, please visit our website, http://amadorvalleyquilters.org.

East County Birding, Round Valley, Big Break, Mike Moran 9-11:30 a.m., ursday, January 3, Plentiful passerines and resplendent raptors at Round Valley. 9 11:30 a.m. Thursday, January 31. Wetland wanderers (shorebirds) and widely traveled waterfowl at Big Break. East Bay Regional

waterfowl at Big Break. East Bay Regional park District; Registration Required: 1-888-EBPARKS (1-888-327-2757), option 2, 3. Round Valley Regional Preserve, 19450 Marsh Creek Road, Brentwood; Big Break Regional Shoreline, Oakley.

Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club meets Tuesday, January 8, at 7:00 p.m. at Walnut Grove School, 1991 Harvest Road, Pleasanton. The speaker will be Bobbi Feyerabend, owner of Feyerabend and Madden in Emeryville, a landscape architecture company. Bobbi will discuss garden struccompany. Bobbi will discuss garden structures. Visitors are welcome. For questions,

valley Spokesmen Bicycle Touring
Club, Sat., Jan. 29, 38 miles San Ramon to
Livermore and Pleasanton, meet 9 a.m. at Central Park, Michelle McBee, 200-0078. Sun., Jan. 30, 65 miles old Allerednic loop, meet 8 a.m. at Dublin High School, Dan Granahan, 323-9798. Anyone planning to go on a ride is asked to call the leader for details on where to meet and what to bring.

Tri-Valley Holistic Moms Network: Whole Foods Market of San Ramon has selected the Tri-Valley Holisitc Moms Network as the recipient for its 5% Community work as the recipient for its 5% Community Giving Day! Please come shop and support this new Tri-Valley non-profit organization on Thursday, January 17. On this designated day, a total of 5% of the day's net sales will be donated to the Tri-Valley Holistic Moms

Network. Tri-Valley Holistic Moms Network as Chapter members will be hosting a booth from 9AM - 7PM. A gift basket will be donated and raffled off by Whole Foods Market of San Ramon. Whole Foods Market of San Ramon is located at 100 Sunset Drive, San Ramon.For further information, please visit www.holisticmoms.org or e-mail Tri-ValleyHMN@hotmail.com.

Computer training classes, Livermore Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave. Introduction to the Internet class on Saturday, January 5th from 10:15 am to 12:15 pm. Microsoft 5th from 10:15 am to 12:15 pm. Microsort Word Basics, Wednesday evening, January 9th from 6:15 pm - 8:15 pm, Searching the Internet on Saturday, January 12th from 10:15 am to 12:15 pm. Learn how to send and receive e-mail in an E-Mail Basics class on Saturday, January 19thth from 10:15 am -12:15 pm. Classes are bands on first come 12:15pm. Classes are hands on, first come first served, and take place in Community Meeting Room B. Stop by the Civic Center Library Adult Information Services Desk or

Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society, meets 7:30 p.m. Tues., Jan. 8 at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Ct., Pleasanton. Sue Johnston, guest speaker, End Writer's Block: Write Your Family History One Byte at a Time." Visitors welcome. No charge. www.L-AGS.org/maps/

Pls-BethEmek.html.

Crab Feed, Livermore Knights of
Columbus Father Patrick Power Council
#4588 35th Annual Crab Feed & Dance Crab, #458 35" Annual Crab Feed & Dance Crab, Pasta, Salad & Cake too! Sat., Jan. 5, St. Michael's Hall, 3rd and Maple Streets, Livermore. Social hour 5 p.m., dinner 6 p.m., music and dancing 8 to 11:30 p.m. Live music by OpenRoad. Tickets are \$38.00 per person through December 23, after that tickets are \$43.00 per person. On sale after most Sunday Masses in the courtyard. For more ticket information contact: Michael and Cecilia Valent (925) 455-9420; John Gutierrez

447-0357; Manny and Chris Figueiredo 445-0543 or Jake and Angel Raposa 449-1278. Tri-Valley California Convention & Visitors Bureau will host the 11th Annual Tri-Valley Regional Mixer at CarrAmerica Conference Center, 4400 Rosewood Drive, Pleasanton, January 8, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 advanced purchase \$35 at the door. Register now at www.trivalleycvb.com/ meetings, or call the Tri-Valley CVB at 925.846.8910 for more information. **Prenatal Yoga** at Livermore Valley

Tennis Club, Prenatal yoga can benefit both mom and baby in so many ways! Work with

breath and postures to learn labor manage ment. Ease labor by strengthening muscles used during birth. Relieve stress & tension. Ease pregnancy related discomforts. Classes are Tuesdays, 6:45 P.M. - 8:00. Livermore Valley Tennis Club, 2000 Arroyo Road, Livermore. The first 6 week session is Jan 8-Feb 12. Members \$40 / Nonmembers \$80. Sign up at the LVTC front desk. For any questions about the class, contact the instructor, Katherine, at 925-371-5574.

RELIGION First Church of Christ, Scientist, Livermore, 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. (925) 447-2946.

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

The Spirituality of Sexuality is the presentation on Tuesday, January 15, 2008 at 7:30 -9:00 pm at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, 1315 Lomitas Ave., in Livermore this is part of their 2007-2008 L.I.F.E. (Lessons in Faith Experiences) adult series. Rachel Bundang, a profes sor in the Religious Education Department at Santa Clara University, will present. The entire Tri-Valley Community is invited. A \$5.00 free will donation is asked to offset speaker fees. For more information contact Julie at upcatholic@aol.com or 447-4549.

Tri-Valley Unity Church, Special Services, Sunday, Dec. 30. At 10 a.m. service, guest speaker Bob Hardy will give a message on "The Winds of Change," and communion celebrated. That evening at 7 p.m., the Burning Bowl Service, where participants release the past year and set intentions for the new year. (925) 829-2733; www.trivalleyunity.com

St. Charles/St. Michael's Bible Study Group. Begins Monday evening January 14, at 7:30 pm. The focus will be on Letter of James. Meetings are for 8 weeks beginning January 14th in the Pope John XXIII room at St. Charles Catholic Church 1315 Lomitas Ave. A donation of \$10/session is appreciated. Call to reserve a place and materials: Julie at upcatholic@aol.com or 447-4549 ex 114.

SHORT NOTES

Ultimate Hike

The Ultimate Hike will be offered on Sat., Dec. 29. Meet Ranger Glen Florey at 10 a.m. at the Wetmore Road entrance to Sycamore Grove Park.

Participants will be hiking up into

the hills attempting to burn some of those holiday calories. Dress in layers, and bring shoes that can deal with mud.

This is an Livermore Area Recreation and Park District ranger program. There is a \$3 per vehicle parking fee. A \$2 donation is requested to help support the programs. Participants may call (925) 960-2400 for more informa-

Altamont Creek

Altamont Creek Elementary School second graders participated in the an-nual Thanksgiving feast on November 16. All classes contributed turkey and each class brought another feast item. Each student made a Thanksgiving

placemat and shared one thing for which they are thankful.

The San Francisco Opera brought their "Opera a la Carte" program to Altamont Creek on November 27, Fifth grade teacher Janice Paquette helped students rehearse lines for several weeks in preparation for their performance with the Opera. They performed "The Magic Flute."

Recycling is in full swing at Altamont Creek with a lunchtime recycling program in the cafeteria headed.

cling program in the cafeteria headed by Nicole DeCarsky and her 4th grade son Zach. The school also recycles plastic grocery bags as part of the Wal-Mart recycling program.

Character Counts continues at Alta-

mont Creek where this month's focus is "respect." Last month, fifth grade student Vincent Rizzo and his sister, Noelle, exemplified several Character Noelle, exemplified several Character Counts traits of trustworthiness, responsibility and citizenship when they found a large diamond wedding ring in the school parking lot and promptly turned it in to the office.

The Polar Express has made a "stop" at Altamont Creek! First grade students celebrated "Polar Express Day" on December 14 when they came to school in their pajamas, read the book and watched the movie, and had hot cocoa

(of course!). This was part of a language arts activities. On Friday, December 21, third graders in room 401 received ticket to board the Polar Express train. They will come to school in their pajamas, drink hot chocolate and make their own trains out of cooking and deans and candies.

ies, gum drops and candies.

Ms Hoy's first grade class has been learning about compassion, giving, responsibility and how to make a difference of the compassion. responsibility and now to make a difference for other less fortunate children. The children are earning money at home doing chores and will donate their allowance to "Books for the Barrier". rios." The students also gathered their old books and stuffed animals to donate to "Books for the Barrios." They ond books and stuffed allimats to do-nate to "Books for the Barrios." They will have pen pals from the schools where their items have been distrib-uted. The class is learning to "think global and act local" in an effort to make the world a better place for every-

Valentine's Day

The Livermore Valley Opera will be performing at the LARPD Senior Services Valentine's Day Luncheon on February 14.

Singers and instrumentalists from the Livermore Valley Opera will perform music from one of the world's most popular operas, "Carmen," by French composer Bizet. This program of approximately one hour will include some of the most popular arias from the opera, as well as selected arrangements for flute, clarinet and piano. The per-formers will also give brief explanations of each song and be happy to answer your questions.

Location is the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Avenue, Livermore. Doors open at 11:00. Lunch served 12:00. Seniors and nonseniors welcome. Tickets are \$7.00 and must to be purchased by Feb. 8 in the Senior Services office. For more information, call 373-5760.

Labyrinth Walk

A New Year's Eve labyrinth walk will be hosted by the First Presbyterian Church of Livermore on Mon., Dec.

The walk is held between 8 p.m. and

midnight in the courtvard. 4th and L Streets, Livermore.

The walk is open to the public. It is an opportunity to say good-bye to the old year and welcome the new year with peace and intention. The labyrinth is an 11-circuit. Chartress-style labyrinth that measures 42 feet in diameter On New Year's eve, it will be decorated with luminaries. There will be music,

hot cider and coffee. At the same time, the indoor canvas labyrinth will be available in the sanctuary. There will also be lights and

The Harmony Walk will be at 11:30 p.m. using handbells on the labyrinth that ushers in the new year musically and joyfully.

For more information, contact Judy

Hughes, labyrinth facilitator, 485-2524 or the church office at 447-2078.

Livermore Library

Jungle Joe, animal puppet trainer, is returning for an encore performance on Wednesday, January 2 at 10:30 a.m. at the Livermore Civic Center Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave.

All ages are welcome to these free library programs. Contact Youth Services at (925) 373-5504 for more information or pick up a Fall Storytime schedule at any one of the Livermore Public Libraries.

Immunization Clinics

Axis Community Health has scheduled its free winter immunization clinics for children on January 5, February 2 and March 1, 2008, from 9:00-11:30 a.m. The clinics will take place at Axis' Pleasanton Clinic only, 4361 Railroad Avenue in downtown Pleasanton.

Saturday Immunization clinics are open to all Tri-Valley families who are low income or uninsured, including those enrolled in Medi-Cal and Medi-Cal Managed Care. Parents should bring child's immunization records and in formation about family income and medical insurance. There is a fee for some immunizations.

Immunization appointments are also available at (925) 462-1755.

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Barbara Merritt Adams

Barbara Adams, 85, passed away quietly and peacefully on December 19, 2007. Her two daughters



Barbara Adams

land, CA. but lived most of her live in Livermore. She survived having polio

during an outbreak in 1927. She was a 1944 graduate of Mills College in Öakland. Barbara lived a very full life; each day was lived positively and with a strong iron will.

Barbara was the daughter of Ralph E. Merritt and Lulu Wells Merritt. She was preceded in death by her husband of 32 years, Walter "Wally" Adams, her brother James A. Merritt and her sister Florence Merritt Gede. She leaves behind her two daughters, Mary Coykendall of Kingman, AZ and Lynda Adams of Livermore; grandchildren Amy Coykendall and Adam Coykendall of Las Vegas, NV, Michael Beard of Plato, MO, and Patrick Beard of Lakebay, WA, as well as five great grandchil-

In her 63 years in Livermore, Barbara was an active participant in its growth and cultural development. She was a Girl Scout leader, started the Livermore Art Association, and was the first woman elected to the Livermore Elementary School Board. She was later elected to the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School Board, which she sat on for several years. Barbara was active in

the Republican Party Association in the Tri-Valley for many years. She was also active in many of the cultural and civic organizations in Livermore and Pleasanton-Amador Valley. She was an artist, a weaver, a potter, a seamstress and an avid bridge player. She also was a great traveler with her husband and daughters and by herself. Barbara traveled many times throughout the United States in her RV accompanied by her dog. She traveled throughout Europe with her daughters and camped throughout Europe and parts of Eastern Europe with her husband, Wally.

Barbara brought a blunt honesty to any conversation with those who sat down and talked with her. She brought a vision of cultural growth to the Livermore Valley and a sense of humor al-

Barbara will be greatly missed by her family and friends. Those who knew her will miss the directness of her opinions and the ease with which she volunteered her time and energies.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 2 p.m. on Sun., Jan. 13 at the Springtown Association Social Hall, 931 Larkspur Dr., Liv-

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a charity of choice.

Justin M. Bardellini

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Justin (Rick) Bardellini on December 20, 2007. He was born (Feb. 2, 1927) and raised in Oakland, Rick graduated from UC Berkeley where he also received his Doctorate in Education. His professional career spanned from a classroom mathematics teacher to a school district administrator in the Mount Diablo Unified School District and the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District and finally to the Superintendent of the Fairfield Schools.

He was a resident of Moraga

at the time of his death. Rick raised five children with his wife Pat, often holding two jobs while working on his Ph.D. and still finding time to read poetry to his children at bedtime, work with his kids on geometry problems at the dining room table, or watching them play endless tennis matches.

Rick was a man of passions and peace, fairness and, honesty and embodied those qualities in all he did.

Jeanne, where they participated in an active life of travel, good food, good music and good

Rick was a great father, a loving husband, a good friend and deep thinker. He was the essence of a good man; he was a kind and decent human being, unpretentious and humble. The world is a better place for knowing him. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him, but mostly by his loving family, including his children, Keith, Kathleen, David, Susan, and Michelle, and his nine

to a memorial service on Thursday, December 27, 2007, at 3:00 pm at the Oakmont Memorial Park & Mortuary, 2099 Reliez Valley Rd., Lafayette, CA 94549

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to: The Harmony Project, 817 Vine St., Suite 204, Los Angeles, CA

Scott Charles Teel

away in Turlock on December 16,

He was born May 28, 1959. Scott worked for Arinc for twelve years in the air traffic communication field.

He was preceded in death by his father, Robert Edward Teel. He is survived by his mother, Donna Jean Teel, four brothers, Robert Lester Teel, Timothy Thomas Teel, Kelly Edward Teel, Douglas Edward Teel, one sister, Kathleen Kay Tocci, one niece, Andrea Rose Tocci, and two nephews, Dominick Robert Tocci and Paul Richard Tocci. He is also survived by his pet Akitas Maya and Inca.

Private services will be held at a later date for family and friends. The family has requested contributions be made in honor of Scott to The Humane Society or The American Legion.

Services by Allen Mortuary www.allenmortuary.com.

Nettie Cavagnolo

Nettie Vestina Cavagnolo died Dec. 16, 2007. She was 91. The native of Liberal, Missouri, made her home in Pleasanton for the past 47 years. She was

a dedicated accountant for 20 years. Nettie is survived by her husband of 46 years, Henry; children Robert Cavagnolo and Lynne

Lauritson, ten grandchildren and three great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by sons Ernest Mendicki and Richard Cavagnolo.

Private services will be held. Arrangements by Graham-Hitch Mortuary.

Peter C. A. Newcomb

Peter Newcomb passed away at El Camino Hospital in Mountain View, CA on December 6, 2007, after a sudden, severe heart

Born in Detroit, MI, Nov. 28, 1929, Peter moved at a young age to Montreal, Canada where he later met and married Estelle Allaire. He earned his Bachelor's degree in Physics in Montreal. The couple moved to California when Peter was accepted by University of California, Berkeley where Peter earned his Doctorate in Physics.

Peter's 30-year career in Physics began at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in Livermore. His work there included the design and fielding of energetic experiments and work at the Nevada Test Site. His more recent endeavors at LLNL concerned problems in international security. Although Peter retired in 1993, he continued to consult in these fields of his expertise.

Retirement brought Peter the opportunity to spend more time with his Estelle. The couple enjoyed taking many trailer trips throughout California. Peter was a member Sons in Retirement Branch 121 and met regularly with fellow retirees over coffee.

Ever the providing father Pe ter, in concert with Estelle, lovingly cared for his dear son, Steve, throughout the ravages of brain cancer. They lost their son in April, 2005.

In June, 2007 Peter and Estelle sold their long-time Pleasanton home and moved to the cooler climate of Los Altos. Their new home brought many challenges and subsequent victories to him. He looked forward to settling in to this new commu-

Peter's parish of St. Augustine Church in Pleasanton, was of particular solace to him. After relocating to Los Altos, he was pleasantly surprised to find a welcoming parish, St. Nicholas Church, headed by Father Larry Percell. Peter eagerly anticipated the Sunday services conducted by

Father Larry both in the celebration of the mass and the Father's thoughtful insights delivered in his homilies.

Survived by his loving wife, Estelle, two adoring daughters, Lucie and Caroline, and many family members and friends, Peter will be missed by many, forgotten by none.

Services were held on Friday, December 14 at St. Augustine Catholic Church in Pleasanton.

Arrangements by Graham-Hitch Mortuary.

John Kenneth Wojcik

John Wojcik, 43, died December, 19, 2007. The native of Miami, FL made his home in Pleasanton for 20 years, before moving to Livermore where he resided with his family for the past

John served proudly in the US Navy. He was a Nascar and San Jose Sharks fan. He was a dedicated route driver for 10 years. John is survived by his wife of 11 years, Corazon Martin Wojcik of Livermore, parents, John Wojcik and Doreen Marie Stretz, his cherished daughter, Sasha Daniel Woicik of Livermore. brother and sister-in-law, David A. and Natalie Wojcik of Tyrone, GA, many nieces and nephews, and his dear best friend, Troy.

He was preceded in death by his stepfather, Ronald L. Rakey.

27, 5-8 pm with vigil at 7 pm at Graham-Hitch Mortuary, 4167 First St., Pleasanton. The funeral will be at the same location at 10 a.m. on Fri., Dec. 28. Burial will follow at Roselawn Cemetery in

In lieu of flowers the family is requesting donations be made to a trust fund established for his daughter, Sasha D. Wojcik, mail to: Doreen Rakey, 3684 Gettysburgh Court, Pleasanton, CA 94588

CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 403676 The following person (s) do-

ing business as:Pane in the

Glass, 1815 Monterey Dr., Livermore CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Patrick Alderman, 1815 Monterey Dr., Livermore CA

94551 This business is conducted by: an individual The registrant commenced to transact business under the

fictitious business name or names listed above on November 1, 2007. Signature of Registrant: /s/:Patrick J. Alderman This statement was filed with

the County Clerk of Alameda

County on November 19, 2007. Expires November 19, The Independent Legal No. 2263. Publish December 6, 13, 20, 27, 2007.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 403517 The following person (s) do-

ing business as:VIP Golf Club, 3908 Valley Avenue Ste A. Pleasanton CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner (s):

by:a corporation

ICV Digital Media, Inc., 3908 Valley Avenue Ste A, Pleasanton CA 94566 This business is conducted

The registrant commenced to

transact business under the

fictitious business name or

names listed above on Janu ary 8, 2002. gnature of Registrant:

the County Clerk of Alameda County on November 19 2007. Éxpires November 19, The Independent Legal No 2264. Publish December 6, 13, 20, 27, 2007.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 403932 The following person (s) do

ing business as:Livermore Saloon, 2223 First Street, Livermore CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owne Sid Brown, Inc., 2223 First

Street, 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 Novem ber 28, 2007 Signature of Registrant: /s/:Shannon Brown This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on November 28

2007. Éxpires November 28 The Independent Legal No 2265. Publish December 6, 13 20, 27, 2007.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 403526 The following person (s) do ing business as:Interrior Recreations, 1745 Linden Street

Livermore CA 94550 is hereby

registered by the following owner (s): Renee Needens, 1745 Linden Street, Livermore CA /s/:David Dunham This statement was filed with 94550

This business is conducted by:an individual Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed

ignature of Registrant: /s/:Renee Needens This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on November 15. 2007. Éxpires November 15,

The Independent Legal No.

2266. Publish December 6, 13,

20, 27, 2007. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 403650 The following person (s) do-

ing business as:JT Bookkeeping Service, 4084 Hillcrest Common, Livermore CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Joan H. Taylor, 4084 Hillcrest Common, Livermore CA 94550 This business is conducted

by:an individual The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on November 1, 2007. Signature of Registrant:

/s/:Joan H. Taylor This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on November 19, 2007. Éxpires November 19, The Independent Legal No.

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2267. Publish December 6, 13, ing business as:Attra Soluto transact business under the This statement was file with

20, 27, 2007 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 403981-403982 The following person (s) doing business as: 1)Opal River, 2)Petroglyph Multimedia. 1308 Hillcrest Ave., Livermore CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): James D. Aikin, 1308 Hillcrest Ave., Livermore CA 94550 This business is conducted by:an individual

fictitious business name or names listed Signature of Registrant /s/:James D. Aikin This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda

Registrant has hot yet begun

to transact business under the

County on November 29, 2007. Éxpires November 29, The Independent Legal No. 2268. Publish December 6, 13, 20, 27, 2007.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS

NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 403991 The following person (s) doing business as:Livermore Real Estate Services, 2219 First Street Suite 3A, Livermore CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Paula Cavagnaro, 4087 Stanford Way, Livermore CA

David James Cromie, 4087 Stanford Way, Livermore CA This business is conducted hy:co-partners The Registrant commenced fictitious business name or names listed above on Novem ber 1, 2007

Signature of Registrant: /s/:Paula Cavagnaro
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on November 29, 2007. Expires November 29,

The Independent Legal No. 2269. Publish December 13, 20, 27, 2007, January 3, 2008 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS FILE NO. 404281

The following person (s) do-

ing business as:Lucky Ham-

mer. 1964 Elm Street, Liver-

more Ca 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner Chneal V. Walling, 1964 Elm Street, Livermore Ca 94551 Ross A. Bergman, 1964 Elm Street, Livermore Ca 94551 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/:Chneal Walling and Ross Bergman This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on December 6, 2007

Expires December 6, 2012. The Independent Legal No 2270. Publish December 13, 20, 27, 2007. January 3, 2008. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 404253

The following person (s) do

tions, 2448 Lakeside Circle, Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner (s) Marlene N. Badall, 878 Pep-

Trudi R. Murphy, 2448 Lakeside Circle, 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

per Tree Lane, Santa Clara Ca

Signature of Registrant: /s/:Trudi R. Murphy This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on December 6, 2007. Expires December 6, 2012.The Independent Legal No. 2272. Publish December 20,27, 2007, January 3, 10,

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 403867

The following person (s) doing business as: Aventine Med Spa, Inc., 101 E. Vineyard Ave. Suite 107, Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Solana Medical Group, Inc. 1628 La Vista Del Oreano, Santa Barbara CA 93105 This business is conducted by:a corporation The registrant commenced to transact business under the

fictitious business name or

names listed above on July 7, Signature of Registrant: /s/:Patrick Wong

the County Clerk of Alameda County on November 27, 2007. Expires November 27, The Independent Legal No. 2273. Publish December 20,

27, 2007, January 3, 10, 2008. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS FILE NO. 404179 The following person (s) doing business as: Tri Valley Tech

Support, 2077 Rapallo Com-

mon, Livermore Ca 94551 is

hereby registered by the following owner (s): Ryan Melton, 2077 Common, Livermore Ca 94551 This business is conducted by:an individual Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the

Signature of Registrant /s/:Ryan Melton This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on December 5, 2007. Expires December 5, 2012. The Independent Legal No 2274. Publish December 20. 27, 2007, January 3, 10, 2008.

fictitious business name or

names listed

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 404351

The following person (s) doing business as:GRASSwerks Consulting, 415 South "P" Street, Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Young's Retractable Screen, Inc., 2312 Loma vista Dr., Sac-

This business is conducted

ramento, CA 95825

Kennedy, 588 Alameda Dr., Livermore Ca 94551 Kennedy, 588 Deena Alameda Dr., Livermore Ca 94551 This business is conducted by:husband and wife Registrant has not yet begur

names listed.

owner (s):

Jeremy

by:a corporation

names listed.

/s/:Tommy Young

Registrant has not yet begun

to transact business under the

fictitious business name or

27, 2007, January 3, 10, 2008.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS

FILE NO. 404748

The following person (s) do-

ing business as:Kennedy

ermore Ca 94551 is hereby

registered by the following

Supply, 588 Alameda Dr., Liv

/s/:Jeremy Kennedy and Deena Kennedy This statement was filed with

Signature of Registrant:

the County Clerk of Alameda County on December 18. 2007. Éxpires December 18, The Independent Legal No 2276. Publish December 27,

2007, January 3, 10, 17, 2008

to transact business under the

fictitious business name or

Visitation is Thursday, Dec.

VISA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 404746 The following person (s) do

ng business as:Creative So-Signature of Registrant: lutions, 3860 Appian Street, Pleasanton CA 94588 is This statement was filed with hereby registered by the folthe County Clerk of Alameda lowing owner (s): Carol Purkis, 3860 Appian Street, Pleasanton CA 94588 County on December 7, 2007. Expires December 7, 2012. The Independent Legal No. 2275. Publish December 20,

bv:an individual Registrant has not yet begur to transact business under the fictitious business name o names listed.

This business is conducted

Signature of Registrant: /s/:Carol Purkis This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on December 18, 2007. Expires December 18,

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2277. Publish December 27, 2007, January 3, 10, 17, 2008. ANIMALS/PETS

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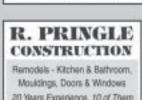


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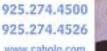


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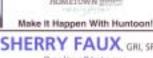




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KEN SMITH





Photo - Scott Hein

A view of Irish Canyon.

320 Acres Purchased By Save Mount Diablo

Save Mount Diablo has received a \$756,100 grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. It has been used to purchase the 320 acre Irish Canyon near Mount Diablo State Park. The foundation grant is the largest in the organization's history.

The property's purchase price

was \$1.344 million.

The grant not only completed the purchase of the property, it includes funds for stewardship that will lay the groundwork for long-term creek and oak woodland restoration. At the same time the grant is meant to encourage the organization to speed up its preservation efforts in the Marsh Creek-Morgan Territory region northeast of Mt. Diablo.

"This is an important acquisition because it supports a land-scape-level strategic effort to protect open space surrounding Mt. Diablo, said Helen Kim, Chief Program Officer for the San Francisco Bay Area Program of the Gordon. During the next 30 years an estimated 400,000 acres of open space are at risk from suburban development. The Foundation seeks to protect the Bay Area's unique and irreplaceable lands for future generations by making grants for land acquisition and conservation easements.

Thirteen years ago Save Mount Diablo bought its 333-acre Chaparral Spring property east of Clayton, stretching north from Marsh Creek Road and Mt. Diablo State Park onto the face of Keller Ridge. It was the first step in creation of a corridor between Mt. Diablo and the historic "Mt. Diablo Coal Field" of Black

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Diamond Mines Regional Preserve

On November 16th SMD signed a purchase agreement with Sawtantra and Aruna Chopra, two Indian American doctors who live in Modesto, to acquire the heart of Irish Canyon, 320 acres for \$1.344 million. The property, a half mile north to south and a full mile east-west, is near Clayton's Oakhurst Country Club. It drops from the crest of Keller Ridge north across Irish Creek and its middle fork before rising toward 1894' Kreiger Peak. The stage road trail passes within a half mile of the property, which has an interesting history and was once part of the Bettencourt Ranch.

The property was threatened by development, but may be saved because of endangered species. "Irish Canyon" is surrounded by 2000 acres of private land but within one or two parcels of three different preserves.

"This property is the gateway to Irish Canyon, located in a strategic position to help protect and preserve this important area between Black Diamond Mines and the City of Clayton," said Scott Hein, chairman of SMD's Land Committee. "A perennial stream that provides water to Irish Canyon and Peacock Creek throughout the year originates at a permanent pond high on the property's slopes. It's the most important water source in the drainage. The parcel affords panoramic views across Keller Ridge to the mountain, to the peninsula, Mt. Tamalpais, and the Carquinez Strait.

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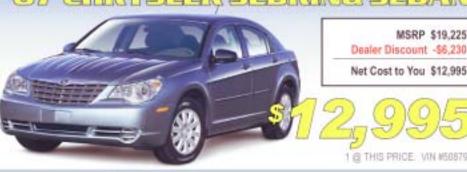
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