

# LARPD Wants to Buy Former School Site

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District has made a formal request to purchase property belonging to the school district.

The 13-acre site adjacent to Robertson Park could be used to provide three additional sports fields for the district bringing the total in the park to eight. The land is currently vacant.

A letter sent to Superintendent Brenda Miller from the district states that, "To meet the demand for additional sports fields and park space, we are interested in acquiring this land for future park development."

Board President Scott Kamena said the district would like to expand Robertson Park. We could do a lot of

things with the additional land, he stated. "A lot of people already think of it this property as part of the park."

When asked about uses, Kamena said the board had made no decisions. The site could accommodate up to three soccer fields plus a parking lot. He said there could also be a tot lot.

If the district were to acquire the land and decide to build soccer fields, Robertson Park would become a sports complex. An equestrian center and a stadium are already sited on the property. There are two lighted softball fields, two lighted and fenced soccer fields and one open field that is also used for soccer games. With artificial turf that could be rolled out, the stadium could be used

much of the year. The Livermore Rodeo and equestrian groups would use it the rest of the time.

LARPD general manager Tim Barry explains that the district is about to begin a process to update the Robertson Park Master Plan.

"There is a demand for additional sports fields. They would be one component. Since the land is in a neighborhood, there would be neighborhood amenities such as a playground and picnic area."

Barry said in an interview. Barry said there would be a public process to plan what would go on the site should the district purchase it.

Kamena pointed out that the master plan update process makes this an ex-

cellent time to pursue the purchase of the property.

In January, LARPD began the master plan update that was inspired by a proposal from the Livermore Youth Soccer League (LYSL) to create a soccer complex at Robertson Park. The league, in a report, described a Vision for Robertson Park Soccer Complex that included replacing grass with all-weather surface on existing fields, constructing all weather field and an adjacent all weather goal-keeper training area, and a permanent snack shack. LYSL has indicated that it could contribute \$300,000 to the project. The estimated cost to convert the fields is \$1.5 million. Another potential donor has indicated a willingness to contribute \$500,000 in exchange for naming the

field after a family member

In his letter to the school district Barry writes, "Please consider this a formal request to purchase this property. Please indicate whether or not the district is interested in selling the site to LARPD. If so, we can take steps to secure an appraisal to get the ball rolling."

The site is located within subarea three of the South Livermore Valley Specific Plan. It had been designated as an elementary school site.

School Superintendent Brenda Miller said the district is embarking on a process that looks at district needs. That would determine whether the district needs this piece of land. She anticipated that study would be completed sometime next spring.

## Director Wants To Improve BART Safety Approach

BART director Zoyd Luce, who represents the Valley, said he thinks it's great that BART is receiving some money for security. However, he told the BART board that it's important to focus on safety, too.

Luce, a Dublin resident, told his fellow directors at their meeting Aug. 10 that he would like to see an outside consultant evaluate BART's safety program. Luce was BART's safety officer before he left the agency a few years ago.

He said that as a BART director, safety is an area of expertise that he can contribute to the board. Luce said that there are areas for improvement. He noted that BART ceased evacuation drills in the car shops. They had been held twice each year. Later, they were reinstated, but only once each year.

With BART on the lookout for terrorist problems, "how can you

(See SAFETY, page 2)



Anthony Perisi (left), age 5, and Richard Kim, age 6, tried their skill at a game of chess at the Pleasanton Library. Anthony admitted he had been playing for about a minute. Richard was a veteran at ten games.

Photo - Doug Jorgensen

## Pleasanton Schools To Pause In Run-Up To Parcel Tax Survey

By Ron McNicoll

The Pleasanton school district's aim of conducting a community survey to see whether there is support for an education parcel tax will be put on hold for probably six months or so.

The district lined up consultant Catherine Lew in the spring to sound out the community about potential support for a parcel tax. The school board wants to push the district's performance to a higher level, and sees supplemental money beyond state funding as the best way to do it.

State funding doesn't bring in enough money to add programs that the district says will help all students greatly. The board has been inspired in part by a 55-member education excellence committee, which made a list of more than 20 recommendations on improvements to step up achievement.

The state had a pleasant surprise this year with more money for education. Three of the highest goals of the excellence com-

mittee are being given some attention, at least in part, by the new funding.

The top priority, hiring more counselors, will be met substantially, with the hiring of 7.8 full time equivalent counselors for high school, middle school and elementary school levels. The high school counselor ratio will drop from 750 to 1 to 400 to 1, although the goal set by the excellence committee is 350 to 1.

There also will be some money for arts and music, though the districtwide funds are only about 10 percent of what the excellence committee wants to see in Pleasanton. The panels' vision is to have an arts teacher at every site, which would cost \$1.2 million. The state money, a one-time block grant, is \$212,000.

Technology money is in the same boat as the arts grants, coming from the state in the form of a one-time block grant of \$277,000 for the district. That's only 10 percent of the total of a raft of technology goals totaling

(See PLEASANTON, page 4)

## Labor Day Weekend Has Big Events

### 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Livermore Harvest Festival Celebration

by Laura Ness

It might still feel like full-on summer, but the Harvest season, along with the beginning of September, is approaching like a Ferrari in your rearview mirror. This year's Harvest Wine Celebration will be Livermore's 25, so it's going to be a bigger party than ever, in every way. According to the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association, 35 Livermore Valley wineries in the Livermore, Pleasanton, Sunol and Castro Valley will host over 10,000 visitors during the celebration, held September 3rd and 4th from noon to 5:00 pm. each day. Every participating winery will have something unique and fun to share with guests, including great food, live music and of course, great wine. Many will feature vendor booths selling everything from fine jewelry and wine art to dried apricot preserves and chutneys. This may be the largest "private" event in Livermore history: the wineries will be open only to ticket holders for the Harvest Celebration.

**There'll Be Music In the Air,**

**and Wine in Your Glass:** Music is a big component of this year's celebration with more than 30 bands playing everything from Rock 'n' Roll to Reggae, Celtic to Caribbean steel drum, from the 50s through the 80s and everything in between. While sipping and nibbling on fare from the area's fine chefs and catering establishments, guests will be able to shop a fabulous selection of jewelry, pottery, glass and metal crafts. This is an ideal time to

(See HARVEST, page 5)

### 141st Scotland Highland Gathering and Games

The 141st Scotland Highland Gathering and Games will be held at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 2 and 3.

Activities take place from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Games are hosted by the Caledonian Club of San Francisco. Both days culminate in the big Grandstand Show with 33 pipe bands from throughout North America performing in front of the covered grandstands.

#### HEAVY EVENTS

Four-time World Heavy Events Champion Ryan Vierra will defend his title when the 2006 World Championships. This marks the third time that the Pleasanton games has hosted the

professional World Championships.

The games also include four other divisions; Men's Open Amateur, Women's Open Class, Men's 40-49 Masters and Men's 50-Plus Masters, vying for wins in the 32nd U.S. Invitational Championships. Vierra has also earned eleven U.S. National Championships and has established 329 individual games records, four world records, ten North American and American records and six world championship records, to establish him among the greatest Heavy Event athletes of all time.

Six of the two days of events are held on the athletic field in the morning. The final two, the

Weight for Height and the ancient Caber Toss, are held in front of grandstand in the early afternoon.

The athletic field events include two different required styles and weights in the Putting of the Stone, Scottish Hammer and Weight for Distance. Aggregate scoring determines the overall winner and champion. The athletes are also competing for individual scoring in each of the categories.

#### BIRDS, SHEEPDOGS, ETC.

Birds, sheep dogs, fiddlers and harpers are all part of the festivities.

The Bird of Prey area features hawks, falcons and owls,

(See GAMES, page 5)



Cruising the fairgrounds was just one of the activities during last weekend's Goodguys Show. Some of the entries also took a drive down Main Street in the evening.

Photo - Doug Jorgensen

## Livermore District to Look at Such Issues As Third High School; How to Spend Funds

The Livermore School District is embarking on a variety of planning efforts.

They include a study of school size and educational issues, a visioning process, and how to spend additional money.

The district finds itself in a situation that has been rare over the last few years. It has the opportunity to determine how to spend money on new programs. The budget contains over \$5.7 million in undesignated funds.

The Livermore Education Association (LEA) union has its eyes on this pot of money, as well as money in the reserve account. Currently the district reserves are at 4 percent; the state only requires a 3 percent reserve. The district and union are currently in contract negotiations.

The LEA union president Keith Pickering-Walters told the board at its last meeting, "Employees supported the district during

the recent financial crisis. Now money is coming in. The union would like the district to support teachers and programs."

In addition to the undesignated funds, there is over \$3 million in grant monies. These one time funds include \$1 million for art, music and PE equipment and programs, \$203,000 in art and music block grants, and another \$1 million in discretionary grants of which 75 percent will be distributed to school sites based on the number of pupils.

The district has also been given \$498,000 for secondary counselors and money for use in libraries.

How the grant monies will be spent is to be determined by school site councils. The councils will develop plans that would then be brought to the school board for approval.

Resident David Curtis suggested that the school board pro-

vide guidelines to school site councils on ways the money might be spent. He pointed out that schools could pool their money and finance such things as hiring a fourth grade music teacher who would spend time at each school.

Superintendent Brenda Miller commented that if someone were hired, the district should plan funds for future years to pay the salary. She also noted that some of the grants are for supplies and equipment only.

Curtis felt that with money available for schools, that the district should hold discussions on how to spend it. "It's a wonderful place to be. I want the district to be as aggressive as possible in bringing back programs," Curtis stated.

The school board agreed that it might be time to hold discussions on what to do with avail-

(See LIVERMORE, page 3)

## Houston Poll Shows Big Support For Livermore BART

By Ron McNicoll

A Livermore BART extension is favored overwhelmingly by the more than 1500 people who responded to a poll conducted by Assemblyman Guy Houston.

Aaron Bone, Houston's chief of staff, said that almost 94 percent of respondents said that BART owes Livermore a station because of "residents' longtime financial investment in BART."

When the question is flipped around, some 84 percent disagreed with the statement that "building Livermore connection

to BART is a bad idea," said Bone.

Two other questions were asked. Some 91 percent agreed that sending BART to Livermore will reduce traffic congestion. Ninety percent agreed with the statement that bringing BART to Livermore would improve local air quality.

Bone said the most of the respondents who were identifiable by place were living in Livermore and Tracy. Respondents replied via e-mail from Houston's

(See POLL, page 3)



Erika Richert acrylic painting, "Bill Combs his Cats," is just one work of art that poets will be writing about. For the story, see page 9.

# Do You Remember?

By Anne Homan



## Livermore Collegiate Institute

Perhaps you've wondered why Livermore has a street named College Avenue when no college is nearby.

Long before our valley had Las Positas College, it had a college. However, it was not a college as we know it today, but a private coeducational high school. At the time, neither Livermore nor Pleasanton had a public high school. Students who received a graduation diploma from their eighth grade class either traveled to a larger city like Oakland and boarded with friends or relatives to attend high school, or they could pay to attend the Livermore Collegiate Institute.

In 1870 the college was built south of College Avenue and west of L Street in Livermore on six acres near the Arroyo Mocho donated by William M. Mendenhall. Three stories high, the college building was topped with a cupola and surrounded by trees and beautifully landscaped grounds. The cost of the building was largely covered by a donation of \$3,000 from Mendenhall. Dr. Willard B. Kingsbury and his wife, Helen, were the founders of the private school.

In 1874 the Kingsburys sold the business to Professor James Dale Smith for \$5,000; six years later Mendenhall sold him the building and grounds for \$1,000.

Red-haired Jimmie Smith was born in Kilmarnock, Scotland. He came to this country with his parents in 1848 when he was three years old. Four years later, the family settled in the San Ramon Valley, a little south of what is now Danville.

Smith's parents died within weeks of each other in July 1864 when Jim was only 19 years old. Members of the local community helped him with burial costs and loaned him the money to attend McClure's Military Academy in Oakland. While there he met his future wife, Adeline Lewelling.

After graduation from McClure's, he moved back to the San Ramon area and taught the Glass and Harlan children privately for two years. Addie was still attending school in Oakland; while they were separated, she christened him with the middle name "Dale." "Jim Smith" was such a common name that she worried he would not receive her letters.

He and Addie married in 1870, after her graduation from the Female College of the Pacific in Oakland. He taught at the San Ramon Public School, at the San Leandro Grammar School, and at Washington College in Irvington before purchasing the Livermore Collegiate Institute.

Livermore residents remembered that Professor Smith brought students in the 1880s to services at the First Presbyterian church, where they marched in pairs down the aisle to front row seats reserved for them each Sunday. The *Herald* in 1881 sang the praises of the school: "Slowly, but surely, its merits as a thoroughly practical institution are becoming known and appreciated, not only at home, but abroad, and it now ranks among the best of such schools in our State."

By 1883 the college had about 50 students, not only from Sunol, Livermore, and Pleasanton, but from Modesto, Hayward, San Lorenzo, Antioch, San Francisco, Cambria, and even from other states: Oregon, Washington, and Nevada.

Probably the most famous alumnus of the college was George C. Pardee, mayor of Oakland from 1893 to 1897 and governor of California from 1903 to 1907. Smith was always proud that none of his former students who attended teacher's college ever failed to obtain a certificate.

Addie Lewelling Smith taught art at the college, working alongside her husband. She died at age 43 in 1890. Her remains were interred in a vault on the college grounds at her favorite spot in the gardens. Professor Smith closed the institute in 1892, probably because of the competition from Livermore's public high school, which started in 1891.

Looking back on his life, he said, "I have found my greatest satisfaction in cultivating the minds of California's... young men and women."

He had never refused admission to any needy student, remembering his own case. In all, he estimated that he granted loans to 12 students, and only one "forgot the promise to repay." Some students earned their way by working for Smith at his other career: buying land to plant vineyards, fruit, and almond trees with nursery stock provided by his father-in-law.

In 1894 Dr. John W. Robertson bought the old college building and started the Livermore Sanitarium, an institution for treating the mentally ill. After about 10 years, the sanitarium abandoned the 28-room college building for a more modern structure, its hydropath building. In 1906 John McGlinchey bought the college and remodeled it as a home for his family. However, in 1931 fire badly damaged the building, and it had to be torn down.

Professor Smith spent his later years at the Masonic Home in Fremont. On Sundays he often came out to Livermore by train to visit old friends. In retirement Smith published a newspaper series of his early memories of the San Ramon Valley, and Gary Drummond has edited them into a collection titled *Reflections*. The Smiths' only child, Duncan, died in 1927, two years before his father. (Readers can reach me at am3homan@yahoo.com.)

## SAFETY

(continued from page one) not have evacuation drills," he asked.

Luce was also critical of statistics on safety as presented in reports from staff. He said that quarterly report data was mixed with annual reporting standards. It was impossible to get a correct look at just where BART falls statistically in national standards.

With BART applying for millions in grants to beef up security, the agency might be able to attract more money if the agency could show it has a top-notch safety program, said Luce.

Tom Radulovich, a San Francisco BART director, told the Independent that he made the same pitch to staff at the following board meeting, on Aug. 24. "We have bomb-sniffing dogs. We are a leader, and have done it before any other district. When the issue of safety came up, (general manager Tom) Margro said that a report would not show any deficiencies on safety. But that's a different tone."

"I want to strike the same tone on both (safety and security), and be proactive on this (safety). We want to be leaders, not just sufficient. The staff didn't disagree. They are looking forward to see what can be done so BART can lead in safety," said Radulovich.

Although Luce called for a consultant's review of the safety department, which he said would cost \$25,000, other directors wouldn't go that far. They said they would prefer a peer review, conducted by people in the field who do not work for BART.

Luce said that a peer review is like "calling in your friends to say good things about you."

Directors said they definitely



Photo - Doug Jorgensen  
Michelle Williams, a kindergarten teacher at Walnut Grove Elementary School greets students during orientation on Monday. School officially got underway on Tuesday.

want to study Luce's concerns. They asked staff, and were promised, a clearer explanation of the safety statistics. They intend to discuss things further after they hear a report by a consultant about the structure of BART management.

There will be a series of reports on the topic, which was brought up by BART unions last year. The unions wanted to make sure BART is not top-heavy with management, said BART spokesman Linton Johnson.

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# POLL

(continued from page one)

web site, and also mailed in letters and phoned in replies.

Houston started the informal, unscientific poll a few months ago because it's an issue that his constituents care about, said Bone. "We aired a TV show on cable TV 30 early in the year about BART to Livermore. (BART director) Zoyd Luce and Linda Jeffery Sailors were on the

show. Guy said we should check and see where people are on this," said Bone.

Sailors has launched a web site to agitate for a Livermore BART station. Most recently, the site has been upgraded, and can now take people's comments.

In an interview, Sailors said that she "knew that's what would happen," when asked about the

high level of support for Livermore BART in Houston's poll. "We need to change the political will, and ask for it (BART). That's how we got the first station."

"BART told us that we didn't have enough people to fill the trains. But when the Dublin/Pleasanton line came in, it reached the 10-year projected

ridership in the first week. The number never went lower," said Sailors.

Sailors was mayor and city councilmember in Dublin during part of the campaigning time to get BART.

Livermore paid property taxes to BART on the original

bond over the past 40 years, ending a few years ago. Although that has been paid off, Livermore residents are paying through Measure B, which funds county transportation projects, including BART.

It's a matter of simple justice

that BART should come to Livermore, said Sailors.

Sailors' web site is [www.livermoreBART.org](http://www.livermoreBART.org). It has a link to Houston's poll.

Bone said that his office will be removing the poll from Houston's web site soon.

## VALLEY ROUNDUP

### Missing Teen

The Livermore Police Department is investigating a missing 14 year old Livermore resident named Chelsey Dias-George. They consider the teen to be an "at risk" missing person.

She is 5 foot 5 inches tall, weighs 120 pounds and has brown hair and blue eyes.

Last Friday, Chelsey voluntarily left Livermore High School with two female juvenile friends. They were driven to Oakland by an adult male where they reportedly visited several locations in the downtown area of Oakland. According to her friends, Chelsey was last seen on Aug. 26 at 4 a.m., entering a 1970s 2-door, brown vehicle on International Blvd near 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Oakland. The driver was a black male approx. 16 years old, with the first name of "Vernon." Chelsey reportedly drove away with "Vernon" voluntarily.

As of Monday, Chelsey had not made any contact with family or friends and it is unknown if she is being held against her will.

Based upon Chelsey's age, lack of prior history for running away, and her dangerous behavior, Chelsey is considered an "At Risk" missing person.

The Livermore Police Department is working with the Oakland Police Department attempting to locate her. They are asking for help from the public. Anyone who may have seen Chelsey, or have any information as to her location, is asked to contact the Livermore Police Department at 371-4781.

### Vasco Road Fines Doubled

Gov. Schwarzenegger signed legislation Monday that would double fines for traffic violations along Vasco Road between Livermore and Brentwood.

The goal is to reduce accidents on the stretch of highway that has claimed 16 lives in four years.

The law takes effect on January 1. Fines would double for unlawful passing and overtaking, excessive speed, reckless driving, drunken driving and other serious moving violations. The law remains in effect until Jan. 1, 2010.

Sen. Tom Torkelson was the author of the bill.

### Construction Project

Construction on Dublin Boulevard between Interstate 680 and Silvergate Drive was scheduled to begin as soon as August 30, probably after the Labor Day holiday, and is expected to last for approximately four months.

On June 20, the Dublin San Ramon Services District Board of Directors awarded a \$1,974,000 contract to K.J. Woods Construction Inc. (San Francisco, CA) to extend and improve the sewer pipeline that runs beneath Dublin Blvd.

This project will relieve current sewer maintenance deficiencies and provide additional capacity for future developments in the west Dublin area including the West Dublin Bay Area Rapid Transit station and the Schaefer Ranch Project. The project will replace 4,640 feet of existing eight- and ten-inch diameter sewer main (pipeline) with 12-inch sewer main between Interstate 680 and Hansen Drive. In addition, the

sewer will be extended 1,160 feet between Hansen Drive and Silvergate Drive.

The project will reduce future repair and maintenance costs, a clear benefit to existing customers, so one quarter of the cost is funded by existing rate payers. The remaining cost is funded by future development, as the project provides additional sewer capacity.

Pipe bursting, a trenchless construction technique, will be used on 60 percent of the 5,800 linear feet of pipeline that is being upgraded. This technique uses strategically placed launch and receiving pits to pull a bursting cone through the old pipe. The cone breaks up the old pipe, pushing it into the surrounding soil. The new larger pipe is then pulled behind the bursting cone. This technique results in less damage to the pavement and less disruption to traffic.

### Transportation Projects At Risk

Collection of Alameda County's half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements produced \$104.3 million in the 2004/2005 fiscal year - \$4.6 million more than had been anticipated, according to an annual report issued by the Citizens Watchdog Committee (CWC) that oversees Measure B expenditures.

The additional money was the result of a somewhat brighter local economy, the report noted.

At the same time, the report noted that, looking to the future, "Measure B projects are dependent upon a variety of funds," including state and federal sources that are subject to budgeting decisions. "Nine projects are facing funding shortfalls. If outside funding is not assured by April 2007, the ACTIA Governing Board will have to decide whether or not to re-allocate ACTIA funds."

Among the projects at risk are the Isabel - Route 84/1-580 Interchange and Vasco Road safety improvements.

The projects that the report describes as "at risk" depend on funding sources from state, federal or other local governments that are in most cases programmed on lists for future funding but not guaranteed, or in some cases, funds for which sources have not yet been identified.

The CWC was created as part of Measure B on the November 2000 ballot, by which voters reauthorized the local sales tax through 2022. Part of the committee's responsibility is to issue an annual report to voters and taxpayers commenting on how the sales tax funds are being spent.

In all, the report said, ACTIA spent \$88.5 million in sales tax funds during the year that ended on June 30, 2005, as follows: \$43.3 million (41.5% of revenues) for public transit investments and operations, \$37.2 million (35.7% of revenues) for cities and the County to spend on local transportation, \$4.2 million (4.0% of revenues) for highway and street projects, \$3.8 million (3.6% of revenues) for administration, and \$15.8 million (15.2% of revenues) beyond the \$88.5 million was dedicated for future expenditures.

The CWC Annual Report is available on the ACTIA website, [www.actia2022.com](http://www.actia2022.com)

## LIVERMORE

(continued from page one)

able funds.

The district is already moving forward with a study on school size and educational issues. Among the issues to be looked at are grade configuration, school size, a third high school and magnet programs.

"A series of meetings will be held to look at each of the issues," said Superintendent Brenda Miller.

The first of seven special meetings will be held September 19 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. in the board

meeting room.

The topic will be grade configuration, which addresses what grades are grouped together. Miller explained that staff will provide information on such things as what the configurations are now, the impact changing them might have, and what research says about combining various grades. In addition, there will be information on how programs might change, the impact on extracurricular activities and personnel needs, as well as parent

concerns.

The school size meeting will address how big or small schools should be. The third high school has been an ongoing question. Magnet programs may include technology or art or some other area of interest.

Miller added that the school board is also interested in undergoing a visioning process. This would look at what students will need to learn over the next ten to twenty years in order to be successful.

## Organization Has donated More than 8200 Blankets

Since the nonprofit organization Blankets for Kids was founded in 2003, it has donated more than 8,200 hand-made fleece blankets to agencies working with neglected and abused children.

They include 40 blankets to Tri-Valley Haven, Livermore; 58 to Shepherd's Gate, Livermore; 1,050 to Calico Center, San Leandro, 7,056 to My Stuff Bags, Los Angeles and 80 to Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton and San Ramon police departments.

The ladies of Ridgeview Commons in Pleasanton have made over 5,467 of the blankets plus a wide variety of crocheted blankets, handmade dolls, scarves and more for distribution.

Calico Center provides a caring, supportive environment to interview children and facilitate a response to child abuse in which the needs of the children take precedence. The Tri-Valley Haven, an abused women's shelter open to women and children, has provided shelter and counseling for battered women and

their children since 1977. Shepherd's Gate provides a safe haven for women and their children who are homeless because of abusive relationships, addictions, loss of financial support and other factors.

"Blankets For Kids," an all-volunteer organization, was founded in 2003 in Pleasanton, by R. Jo Molz and her daughter, Marcy Molz, after Jo discovered that there are nearly 300,000 abused and neglected children in the United States. They wanted to do something that would, even

in some small way, alleviate the suffering of children in those circumstances.

All donations go toward blanket material. Blankets For Kids appreciates money donations, blanket fleece and blanket fleece gift certificates from fabric stores.

Blankets For Kids is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. If you would like to donate or need more information, please call Jo Molz in Pleasanton at (925) 846-6155 or e-mail [blanketsforkids@sbcglobal.net](mailto:blanketsforkids@sbcglobal.net).

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**It's an Emergency!**

For 45 years, ValleyCare has provided emergency care to local residents, visitors, employers, commuters and those without means to pay. At the crossroads of two major interstate highways, ValleyCare began emergency services at ValleyCare Medical Center in 1991.

With the explosive growth in the Tri-Valley, ValleyCare's emergency visits have doubled, from 13,000 to 26,000. County and State emergency planners say our area needs a 10,000 square foot emergency department. Today, ValleyCare operates with 4,000 square feet.



### \$6.7 Million Needed to Expand ValleyCare ER

ValleyCare Foundation has launched a capital campaign to raise \$6.7 million towards the expansion of the ER, which includes 23 treatment areas (compared to 12), a waiting area with seating for 30 (compared to 10), two triage areas and private registration stations.

If you can help, please contact Vice President Ken Mercer, ValleyCare Foundation at 925-373-4566.

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[www.valleycare.com](http://www.valleycare.com)



# GAMES

(continued from page one)

among other species. Accredited expert falconers exhibit these beautiful birds and explain the art of training, their history and natural habitat. Many of these creatures have been saved from injury that does not allow them to return to the wild.

The Sheepdog Trials this year feature the Border Collie. These highly trained dogs herd sheep during the judged trials sanctioned by the Northern California Working Sheepdog Association. The sheepdogs work their magic through the verbal instructions of their handler, a fascinating adventure for the family.

Music in the tradition of the Scottish fiddler is held on the Celtic Heritage Stage-7, featuring fiddle virtuoso Alasdair Fraser.

Sharing the stage is Verlene Schermer for the Celtic Harpers portion of the day-long program. Schermer is a San Francisco Bay Area harper and singer and directs the prestigious Harpers Hall Ensemble. Other harpers and stu-

dents take part in the program. The Celtic Heritage Stage-6 features the traditional songs of vocalist John Kelly. This Welchman has been a working musician for more than 40-years. He shares the stage with Kirsty Fitch, singing Scottish and Irish songs and performing the ancient Puir-t-a-beul, the Gaelic mouth music for dancing.

Intertwined on both stages are members of The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society with branches from throughout Northern California merging for this annual country dance festival.

### PERFORMERS

No gathering and games would be complete without the baritone voice of Alex Beaton. Complete with kilt and guitar, Beaton has been a fixture at the games before the Caledonian Club of San Francisco moved from Santa Rosa to Pleasanton in 1994. Beaton is the only artist entertaining on the Glenfinn Stage.

Beaton is described as the

quintessential entertainer, taking his fans on musical tours with Scottish ballads, folk music and into comical offerings that keep the audience entertained for hours. He is a featured performer at Scottish festivals throughout the nation and this year will be making his 12th Annual Scotland Guided Tour.

Another of the long-running entertainment regulars is the Browne Sisters. The three sisters, joined by cousin George Cavanaugh, provided silvery harmonies, beautiful arrangements and entertaining personalities. Their repertoire of traditional and modern Gaelic songs, Scottish and Irish selections, as well as original material.

Also on the Edinburgh Stage, Ed Miller is a full-time performer of Scottish Folk music, from old ballads and songs of Robert Burns to more recent songs and has a number of recordings to his credit. Molly's Revenge is an upbeat group that specializes in Scottish, Irish and English mu-

sic with occasional trips to other parts of the world. They provide their driving musical offerings with a variety of musical instruments, including the Scottish Highland Bagpipe, on the Strathclyde Stage.

Among the other balladeers is Neil O'Neill, a Scottish-born Bay Area resident, with a fine tenor voice, who is equally at home singing Scottish Folk, Gilbert & Sullivan or the Beatles, accompanied by his guitar. Sharing the Glasgow Stage with O'Neill is

Scotland's Peter Daldry. He is a singer, songwriter and plays guitar, mandolin and bouzouki, performing traditional Scottish and Irish music.

Cele De, a group of five young and talented musicians, also share the Glasgow Stage. Cele De made their Pleasanton debut last year. The traditional Scottish music is only a part of the musical festivities that include top Celtic Rock groups.

### CLAN TENTS

There will be nearly 100 clan tents that encompasses the mul-

titude of Scottish, as well as Irish and Welch clans. Five stages feature traditional Scottish folk singers and musicians and the beat of Celtic Rock and Roll, performed by national and internationally popular groups such as Tempest, Wicked Tinkers and Stand Easy, among others.

Scottish food is available. One-hundred vendors offer imported wares.

Admission is \$15.00 for adults, \$8.00 for youth, seniors and handicapped. A two-day adult admission is \$20.00.

# HARVEST

(continued from page one)

start your Christmas shopping, as Santa Claus and his antlered crew are also rapidly approaching. If you hadn't noticed, Livermore grows more than grapes. Olive oils abound here, from fruity and light, to tangy and intense. The ones at Cedar Mountain are especially fine.

**Getting Around:** Visitors can park and start their adventure at any winery, or park at the main transportation hub in Robertson Park. Shuttle buses will be running between all participating wineries. Fifty shuttles will be traveling between the wineries over several routes, enabling guests to go from winery to winery without the hassle of driving.

**Truly A Signature Event:** A 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary is special, indeed, and to commemorate, the Winegrower's association will have event posters and t-shirts available for purchase. What better way to remember this event than to collect signatures from all your favorite winemakers and

tasting room friends.

**Tickets are \$35 in advance (\$40 at the event) for both days:** Tickets include admittance for both days, wine tastings at all participating wineries, shuttles, wine glass, and a printed program. Tickets for Monday only are \$30. Those who want to enjoy the atmosphere of wine country without the wine tasting can enjoy the other festivities for \$5.00.

It's not too late to buy tickets. Go to [www.livermorewine.com](http://www.livermorewine.com) or call 925.447.WINE (9463)

Tickets are also available at these locations: PW Markets throughout the Bay Area; First Street Wine Company, 2211 First Street, Livermore, 294-5825; Vino Cellars, 1772 First Street, Livermore, 447-8000; The Wine Steward, 641 Main Street, Pleasanton, 600-9463; and participating Livermore Valley wineries.

Visit [www.livermorewine.com](http://www.livermorewine.com) for up-to-date Harvest Wine Celebration schedules and the shuttle routes through the vineyards. See you at the Celebration!

I'll be the one with a glass in one hand and a camera in the other, and a t-shirt cram-packed with signatures.

Participating Wineries: Bent Creek Winery, Big White House, Bodegas Aguirre Winery, Cedar Mountain Winery, Charles R Vineyards, Chouinard Vineyards, Concannon Vineyard, Crooked Vine Winery, Eckert Estate Winery, Elliston Vineyards, el Sol Vineyard, Fenestra Winery, Garré Winery & Café, Hidden Creek Wines, John Christopher Cellars, La Rochelle Winery, Little Valley Winery, Livermore Valley Cellars, Mitchell Katz Winery at Ruby Hill, Murrieta's Well, Page Mill Winery, Palomares Vineyards, Red Skye Winery, Retzlaff Vineyards, Rios-Lovell Estate Winery, The Singing Winemaker, The Steven Kent Winery, Stony Ridge Winery, Tamás Estates, Tenuta Vineyards, Thomas Coyne Winery, Wente Vineyards Estate Winery, Westover Winery, White Crane Winery, and Wood Family Vineyards.

# Specially Designed Wine Country Shirt Features Local Winery Labels

Aloha Island Trading Company has come up with a special way to promote Livermore Valley Wine Country.

Labels from several area wineries have been used to create a Hawaiian-style shirt.

Debbie Donald, Aloha Island owner, commented, "It's a pretty popular thing." The idea came about when one of the Pleasanton store's vendors, Reyn Spooner, commented that he had produced a California Wine Shirt. It had sold out.

The big difference between that shirt and the one created by Donald is there are real labels on the Livermore wine country shirt. Reyn Spooner couldn't convince the wineries in the Napa area to allow their labels to be used in conjunction with other wineries.

"I told him I could make it happen in Livermore. I want to a Winegrowers meeting and said the first ten to eleven wineries to contact me could be on my shirt. I didn't pick and choose. It took only a couple of hours to be fully subscribed," Donald said. The only thing we asked is that when the shirt came out, it was displayed in the tasting rooms.

It took almost a year, from start to finish, to produce the shirts. Only 1200 of the shirts have been made.

Donald says it has been so

popular, wineries have asked to have the shirt placed in their tasting rooms on consignment. She will be at The Steven Kent Winery during the Harvest Wine Celebration with the shirts. "It's a wonderful shirt. People who wear it receive a lot of comments." She laughed, "It is my greatest wish to sell out during the harvest celebration."

The fabric is copyrighted. "There will some day be another shirt, but never with this fabric," according to Donald. "They have become collectors items. It would devalue the shirts already out there, if more were ever made."

The success of the wine label shirt has led to start a design phase for shirts for other people. "It is becoming something people like," she said of the Hawaiian-style custom shirts.

Donald is a pilot for United Airlines. She flies between the mainland and Hawaii. The trips to the islands were her and her husband Paul's inspiration for the store in downtown Pleasanton.

"We want people to feel like they have ducked into the islands," she stated. In fact, the decor has proven to be desirable for private parties, such as bridal and baby showers. The store is available for rental.

"The store is a lot of fun. We live downtown. We love this town. It's a place we like and have

been able to combine all of our interests," said Donald.

Her promotion of Livermore Valley Wine Country won't stop with the shirt.

The store will host a Livermore Valley Winemaker series this fall. Starting Oct. 6, each first Friday of the month through Christmas, a winery will pour complimentary tastes between 6 and 9 p.m.

To add to the festivities, neighbors Studio 7 Art Gallery and GourmetWorks will join in with food, chocolate, art, and music. "This will give people something to do in downtown."

For additional information visit the website at [alohaislandtradingcompany.com](http://alohaislandtradingcompany.com).



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THE CITY OF  
**PLEASANTON**

The Human Services Commission of the City of Pleasanton will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, September 6, 2006, 7:00 p.m., at 200 Old Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton, to receive citizens' comments on reports from the following agencies which were allocated federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for Fiscal Year 2005 (05/06):

AGENCY:	PURPOSE:	FUNDING:	
		CDBG	City:
<b>CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS:</b>			
Axis Community Health	Replace wheelchair ramps at Railroad St. community clinic site	\$21,838	
CAPE, Inc.	Hill'n'Dale Head Start Preschool rehab. improvements	\$10,000	
City "Section 108" Loan Repayment	Sojourner House (formerly Family Crisis Shelter)	\$20,324	
Tri-Valley Haven for Women	Equipment and furnishings for domestic violence shelter	\$19,345	
<b>HOUSING REHABILITATION:</b>			
Alameda County HCD	Housing rehab. services for low-income Pleasanton residents	\$75,000	
GRID Alternatives	Solar Affordable Housing rehabilitation program	\$35,524	
Pleasanton Gardens	Miscellaneous senior housing rehabilitation projects	\$25,000	
<b>PUBLIC SERVICES:</b>			
Axis Community Health	Teen substance abuse program	\$5,000	
Bay Area Comm. Services (BACS)	Creative living services for mentally disabled adults	\$6,000	
Comm. Res. for Indep. Living (CRIL)	Services for disabled persons		\$9,000
Easter Seals Bay Area	Tri-Valley Community Inclusion Program for dev.-disabled youth	\$5,000	
ECHO Housing	Tenant-landlord, fair housing, and rental assistance programs	\$7,000	\$34,402
ECHO Housing	Senior reverse mortgage counseling program		\$14,575
Hope Hospice	Bereavement support services for seniors	\$6,000	
Senior Support of the Tri-Valley	Alzheimer's case management support	\$11,000	
Spectrum Community Services	Senior nutrition/meal delivery program	\$8,238	
<b>HOUSING SERVICES:</b>			
Allied Housing	Case management services for Housing Scholarship Program	\$12,000	
<b>ADMINISTRATION:</b>			
City of Pleasanton	Administration of CDBG program by City of Pleasanton	\$64,317	
<b>TOTAL FUNDING (FY 2005):</b>		<b>\$331,568</b>	<b>\$57,977</b>

Following the public hearing, the information obtained from subrecipients and comments received from members of the public will be submitted to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in the form of the FY 2005 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER). For additional information, contact the City of Pleasanton Housing Division at 925-931-5007.















## Solar Power, 'Free' Parking Among Pleasanton School District's Additions

Pleasanton school district officials were busy with construction projects over the past year and into the summer, with a variety of jobs completed or significantly progressed.

Staff gave school trustees at their meeting Aug. 22 a slide tour of completed work, and also showed projects underway. Standouts were installation of solar panels at Walnut Grove School and construction of free parking ramp at Amador Valley High School at no cost to the district. Both projects were finished this month.

The two-level parking ramp near the southern edge of the Amador campus will accommodate 338 cars, a boost of 114 stalls over the parking lot that it displaces. The nearby Valley Community Church paid for the construction, after working out a mutual agreement that permits the church to use the facility during non-school hours.

The solar panels at Walnut Grove school, completed this month, were funded by a \$20,000 grant from PG&E. They will generate 10 kilowatts, and have the effect of a discount on the district's power bill.

One facility completed in

April was an addition to Amador's food service. The Snack Shack was replaced by the Amador Cafe. A new speed line facility was installed. Lighting and a new concrete courtyard were added. Total project cost was \$1.4 million.

At Lydixsen Elementary School, work has been completed on modernizing classrooms and offices. Five buildings have been now modernized. Later, 35 staff parking places were added, bringing the total project cost to \$4.6 million.

Science classrooms were added to Pleasanton Middle School and were occupied last fall. Cost was \$1.1 million. Valley View Elementary School had two classrooms added during the

fall, at a cost of \$886,000.

Looking ahead to major projects underway, Foothill High School will get its own cafe by January. There will be modifications to the food service there, including a new food line. A temporary food line has been set up for this fall. Total cost for the facilities, including a shade structure, will be \$1.2 million. Foothill will also add 3600 square feet to Building J for two new science classrooms at a cost of about \$2 million.

Amador's home economics facility will be modernized, a project valued at \$1.2 million. Occupancy is projected for January. The high school will be adding 4560 square feet in an addition to Building D to generate



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Solar panels at Walnut Grove mimic the action of the sunflowers, as they track the sun throughout the day.

three new science classrooms at a cost of \$2.5 million. Vintage Hills Elementary

School will receive new air conditioning and heating by November, at a cost of \$525,000.

## Programs Encourage Healthy Lifestyle Choices

Encouraging students to make healthy life-style choices is the goal of the wellness policy in the Livermore School District.

Along the way, parents, staff and community members are becoming involved, opening the way for families to become more healthy.

A Wellness Committee has been established in the district. The committee stems from changes in the law. Food choices is one aspect of a healthy life-style, exercise another.

Barbara Lee, director of food services at the school district, noted that the wellness program is just in the beginning stages. It will take some time and education to implement it. The district is partnering with parents, students, staff and the community on programs. "We want to support, encourage and engage students in making healthy life-style choices."

One step has been taken with the awarding of a small healthy cooking grant to the district. The district will collaborate with Kaiser Permanente and the Pacific Coast Farmers Market in offering cooking classes for parents and possibly students.

"The idea is to equip parents and possibly children with some basic knowledge, to be able to change out various ingredients to make a recipe more healthy," said Lee.

Parents will work directly with a chef to learn what minor changes could be made to a favorite recipe that would make it

healthy and one the family will enjoy. The parents come in and cook the meal and then take it home.

Lee said that surveys and research have found that the audience the district is trying to reach with the wellness program is very busy. "You have to make it worth their while to come. The best way to learn is to actually do it."

The new regulations have resulted in a close look at such customs as cupcakes in the classroom to celebrate a birthday, selling candy to raise money, and school lunches. Desserts cannot contain more than 150 calories.

Lee said she didn't want to make any judgement as to what would be appropriate food. The district supports celebrations. However, we may need to look at what we are using as a focal point of a celebration. There is a need to rethink how students raise money, as well. Lee said one class

sold emergency kits as a fundraiser.

The Wellness Committee is in the process of putting together a list of alternatives to raise funds for classrooms.

As for school lunches the emphasis is not so much on prohibiting foods or identifying food as good or bad, rather the push is to consume more fruit and vegetables. For example, on Tuesday, Lee said students had a choice of strawberries, watermelon and cantaloupe for fresh fruit. Garden salads and baby carrots were also available. "We have been very encouraged that the students are selecting the fruits and vegetables. That tells us they are ready for some of these changes," said Lee.

The district may take old favorite and use more whole grains, less fat and cheese in the recipe to make them more healthy.

"It's really all about modera-



**PET OF THE WEEK: SIMONE**  
Simone is a great little kitten who is very friendly, social, and loving. She is also bouncy, playful, and active—in short, a typical happy kitten. She is about 5-months old and has a sleek black coat of medium length. For more information on Simone (ID# 6379), call Valley Humane Society at (925) 426-8656. Valley Humane Society holds mobile pet adoptions for dogs and cats at Pet Extreme in Livermore every Saturday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.



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