

## Mixed Response to Downtown Assessment District

Plans to ask downtown Livermore landowners to assess themselves to help maintain the area has generated both concerns and support.

At its February 12 meeting, the City Council will consider moving forward with formation and balloting of a Downtown Landscape Maintenance District (DTLMD). If approved by the City Council, ballots will be mailed to all property owners within the district. Property owners will then vote to either support or oppose the formation of the district.

According to city engineer, Cheri Sheets, the City of Livermore has in-

vested approximately \$25 million in public improvements in the downtown.

It takes money to maintain the landscaping and amenities including the Flag Pole Plaza, Livermore Valley Center Plaza, Lizzie Fountain Plaza, Carnegie Park, pocket parks, Iron Horse trail and pathways, bluestone sidewalks, flex zone parking and dining areas and the fountains.

Some of the questions that have been asked include who pays for what and how much; why was the DTLMD proposed after the improvements were completed; and since everyone in the city

benefits, shouldn't everyone in the city pay for the maintenance?

Sheets explained there are three major components that determine the assessment. One is the streetscape on First Street. Businesses with frontage on First Street pay for more of the maintenance than businesses on side streets or on Third Street, because they would derive more benefit from the improved streetscape. The assessment is not determined by the parcel size, rather by the building size and lineal footage along First Street, Sheets added.

She provided examples of yearly as-

sessments. The Independent building, a 2600 square foot building with First Street frontage, would have an assessment of \$1921. The Raboli House on Second Street in which Livermore Downtown, Inc. is located, would be assessed \$805; Kawa Sushi on Third Street, a 4600 square foot building, \$119.

The 500-seat performing arts theater and the movie theater must pay their share. The movie theater, with its frontage on First Street, has an assessment of \$11,334 a year; the 500-seat PAC would be assessed \$8,618 per year.

David Corkill, who owns the movie

theater, said, "We feel we need to pay our share of the upkeep of improvements. Obviously we all benefit from the large investment the city has made. It's only fair that we contribute our share of the cost of keeping the improvements in good condition."

For commercial properties that had operating businesses during construction of the First Street Streetscape improvements, assessments would be phased in over a three year period with 0% the first year, 50% the second year and 100% in the third year and beyond.

(See DOWNTOWN, page 3)



Photo - Jorgensen

A second entrance to the Las Positas College campus opened yesterday. It connects the campus to N. Canyons Parkway and back out to Airway. The road enters/exits up near the new gym. Las Positas College is located at 3033 Collier Canyon Road in Livermore.

## Hayashi Signs Letter Seeking More Money For Transit Projects

By Ron McNicoll

The California Transportation Commission (CTC) won't fund public transit projects in its spending of the congestion-freeing \$4.5 billion bond that voters approved in November. Some 28 Democrats, including Assemblywoman Mary Hayashi, have signed a letter that pleads for inclusion of transit projects.

Hayashi, whose 18th Assembly District includes a majority of Pleasanton voters, signed the letter to the CTC, which was written by Sacramento area Assemblyman Dave Jones.

The letter says that Jones learned from transportation planning agencies and the media that the funds will be allocated by the CTC only for state highway and

local road projects that link to state highways. It won't be spent for any public transportation, although public transit is a proven congestion reliever.

Jones' letter says that a phrase in the transportation bond initiative, Proposition 1B, includes the statement that the funds should be spent on projects that "improve travel times within these high-congestion travel corridors." The letter goes on to say that "public transit projects in high congestion travel corridors could help to relieve congestion and improve travel times. There is nothing in (that) section of the Transportation Bond Act which precludes public transit projects from using these funds."

(See TRANSIT, page 3)

## Pleasanton to take a Look at Traffic Impacts Of Stoneridge Drive Extension

Pleasanton will expand its general plan studies to include the impacts of extending Stoneridge Drive to El Charro. The model will also consider the impacts of building transit oriented development in the Hacienda Business Park.

The Pleasanton City Council and Planning Commission conducted a workshop last week to provide input comment on the latest model on the draft circulation plan for the general plan update. The model looks at traffic infrastructure in conjunction with land use.

City staff suggested expanding the traffic model to include the Stoneridge extension now, rather than waiting for the environmental impact report. There was unanimous support by the council for the proposal. They see it as a way to have concrete data on which to make a decision on whether or not to take the extension out of the general plan.

When it came to modeling transit oriented development (TOD), Councilmember Cindy McGovern was opposed. She felt that placing a high number of

units in one location took away the flexibility of the council to consider development in other parts of the city. "I'm not interested in a 1271 unit TOD. That is way too many units for me," she commented.

In one other action related to the general plan update, the council also formalized a restrained gateway policy. The policy will "tolerate some additional congestion" at the gateways to the city.

Principal Planner Janice Stearn provided a brief summary of the results of the latest traffic

model. It shows there will be 12 intersections citywide at E or F level of service. Nine of these are outside the downtown. There is no level of service requirement for downtown intersections.

In order to bring the three of the nine gateway intersections into compliance with general plan standards, the city would have to acquire additional right-of-way. The three are: Owens and Hopyard, I-580 and Santa Rita, and Stoneridge and Johnson. Stearn told the council that trying to meet level of service "D"

(See STONERIDGE, page 3)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

The City of Pleasanton is moving forward with cleaning up Pleasanton Memorial Gardens Cemetery by first removing old structures. Residents asked the city to assume ownership of the 150-year-old burial ground, because of its deteriorating condition.

## \$6.5 Billion for Weapons Activities in NNSA Budget

The budget request for the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) for FY 2008 is just a little over \$9.38 billion, 39 percent of the Department of Energy's budget.

The budget for the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory shows a decrease from \$1.166 billion in 07 to \$1.070 in '08.

NNSA acting administrator Thomas D'Agostino held a roundtable Tuesday to discuss the budget.

The budget includes \$6.5 billion for weapons activities includ-

ing direct work, cybersecurity programs and nuclear security. The numbers also include the Reliable Replacement Warhead (RRW) program as a long-term strategy.

While the weapons activities budget is up \$100 million overall, D'Agostino said there is a decrease in defense weapons programs of about \$2 million.

Two new programs have been added to the budget. One is a R&D program to provide tools for first responders to stabilize improvised nuclear devices (IND)

until professionals arrive. "There has been zero effort in this area," commented D'Agostino. "There aren't tools that currently exist. We have to develop them."

The second would develop a tool to be able to trace radiological signatures back to the source.

The RRW program was increased from \$27 million to \$88 million. There was a competition held between the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and Los Alamos National Laboratory to design the RRW of the future. The decision on the design was

to have been made last year. However, that decision has not yet been made.

D'Agostino said the department is moving forward with a concept. The plan is to use key scientists across multiple laboratories to develop the final design. "We wanted to make sure we had worked out the details of this integrated management approach before proceeding. Both are excellent designs. One design is a lot more progressive (LLNL) in its approach on how to look at the

(See BUDGET, page 4)

## Tough Decision Produces New Pleasanton Trustee

By Ron McNicoll

Chris Grant, a manager of national ventures for Kaiser Permanente, has been chosen to be the new Pleasanton school trustee.

He succeeds Steve Pulido, who resigned Feb. 2 from the board to become a judge in juvenile court.

Grant was a candidate for the board's previous appointment last May, when Jim Ott got the nod to replace Gloria Fredette, who resigned for personal reasons. When Pulido announced his

resignation because of the bench appointment, the board decided not to call a special election. Grant's term will be up for election in November 2008.

Pulido voted with the other board members to name his successor on a unanimous 5-0 tally at the board's meeting Jan. 30. Although the official vote was unanimous, the unofficial vote was 3-2. That was the split when each trustee summed up his or her thoughts about Grant and Jill Buck, the other finalist in a win-

(See TRUSTEE, page 4)

## Last Hearing on VA Facility Slated

The fourth and final meeting of the committee that is taking community comments about the future of the Livermore VA hospital nursing facility will be at 9 a.m. on Feb. 9 in the dining room of the nursing home, which is Building 90. The facility is at 4951 Arroyo Road, near the Wente Vineyards.

In effect, the meeting amounts to a public hearing about the fate of the nursing home on the Liv-

ermore VA grounds. The committee, the Local Advisory Panel (LAP), will hear a report from consultant PricewaterhouseCoopers about three options concerning the nursing home.

One option is to radically remodel the current facility. A second is to tear it down and build a new facility on the site. Although the current building is less than 30 years old, it can't accommodate

(See HEARING, page 3)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Cloudy skies make for brilliantly colored sunsets. This one is a view from North Livermore.

## Pleasanton Council Asked Not to Discuss Iraq War

The Pleasanton City Council at its Tuesday meeting heard from residents totally opposed to any discussion of the Iraq War. A parade of speakers asked the council to remove the discussion of a potential format from its Feb. 20 agenda.

At a meeting in January, the council agreed to hold a session to determine what format a discussion of the Iraq war might take. Councilmembers Matt Sullivan and Cheryl Cook-Kallio and Mayor Jennifer Hosterman supported the idea. Councilmember Jerry Thorne said he would be willing to attend a discussion. However, he preferred that it not be part of a formal council meeting. Councilmember Cindy McGovern was opposed to holding any discussion.

The Iraq war issue was not an agenda item for the Tuesday council meeting. Residents spoke under meeting open to the public.

Several of those who spoke have children who are serving in the military and have either been

or are currently deployed in Iraq. They called the issue divisive. They stated that such a discussion hurts the moral of the military and gives encouragement to the enemy. Some of the speakers said the war is not a local issue and city council and staff time should not be taken up in discussing it.

Roger Gathers stated, "Too many American fail to grasp the fact that we are at war. We are going to fight it, whether we like it or not, either here or over there."

One mother, Judy Dollard, told the council, "This goes way beyond the scope of a local council. The council is supposed to be nonpartisan. This issue is not." She said that it would be hurtful and discouraging to deployed troops who read about the discussion in the local press.

"I cry a lot and pray each and every second of the day that my son will return safely. It doesn't matter whether you are opposed to the war or to President Bush. The only thing I care about is my son's safe return. I don't have the

(See WAR, page 4)



## Do You Remember?



By Anne Homan

### City Clerk Extraordinaire

When Mayor Lou Gardella told Dorothy Hock of her appointment to the Livermore city clerk's office, she was unsure about accepting because her mother was very ill. "I was in somewhat of a turmoil but in any case, they said, 'you're it, kid,' so I was it." Dorothy had been working in the clerk's office since 1949 under Fred S. Young. She had taken typing, shorthand and bookkeeping at Livermore High School. When Fred Young died suddenly of a cerebral hemorrhage in 1951, the city council appointed Dorothy to fill the position because of her familiarity with the office.

When election time rolled around in 1952, Dorothy ran for the office of clerk and became the first woman to hold an elective position in Livermore city government. She never lost an election—no one ever ran against her in any election. Her sister used to tease her, "Great! We really get a lot of choice when we elect a city clerk."

In her position she watched Livermore change from a small predominantly agricultural community with only a few thousand people to a diverse suburb needing not only a governing city council, but also a city manager. She was known for handling mayors, city managers, citizens and reporters alike: respectfully but quite firmly. She found her job "fascinating; it's never dull."

The job of city clerk included taking council minutes, writing letters for the council, publishing ordinances and filing, signing city checks, acting as bookkeeper, ex-officio city assessor, deputy tax collector, voting registrar, city election manager—even at times issuing gas, electrical, and plumbing permits if the proper authority were absent. The salary in 1951 for what was actually sorted into three positions—city clerk, ex-officio city assessor and deputy tax collector—was \$350 per month.

As the city grew, she was responsible for keeping track of annexation notifications and subdivision maps. "In fact, there are so many documents I'm sure in the city that have my signature on them that some day somebody will wonder who the heck is she." For a time she also took minutes of planning commission meetings and notified those involved about variances.

She retired from the position in 1980, after an initiative that she strongly supported passed. The office of city clerk would now be an appointed rather than elective position, which she felt would assure that candidates were well qualified.

In December 1980 her friends and co-workers held a reception in her honor at Ravenswood. Former councilman Clyde Taylor expressed his admiration: "Dorothy was always a very competent and professional city clerk. I could trust her completely. If she presented a document for you to sign, it wasn't necessary to read it. ... Dorothy knew more about this city than her job could ever require her to know. I never attended a council meeting that Dorothy wasn't prepared with all pertinent information at her fingertips."

Several people mentioned that her personal views never affected her professional performance. John Shirley, also a councilman during her tenure, noted another aspect of her personality. "Her ability to find the humor in those long and tedious sessions sustained her through many long nights. Dorothy has great dignity, but she can laugh as well."

Mayor Dale Turner announced that Dorothy would remain an honorary member of the city council during her lifetime.

Dorothy's father, John "Jack" Hock, was born in Duluth, Minnesota. After his high school graduation in 1912, he and his parents, Mary and Martin Hock, came to San Francisco. However, Jack had very bad asthma, and his doctor advised him to find a drier place to live.

In 1915 the family moved to Livermore. For a while his parents ran a rooming house for Hetch Hetchy workers above stores on First Street.

Dorothy's maternal grandfather, George Cardosa, had emigrated from the Azores and married an Irish Colleen, Jane McLaughlin. They had 10 children, but only four daughters survived to adulthood. Their family lived on Ladd Avenue.

Dorothy's mother, Gertrude Cardosa, was the first Holy Ghost queen in Livermore. After graduating from eighth grade, Gertrude worked at the local telephone switchboard. Jack Hock and Gertrude married in October 1918 at St. Michael's; they had two daughters, Dorothy and Mary Elizabeth, known as "Betty."

In 1925 Jack died at age 31 of a ruptured appendix and subsequent peritonitis. Two years before his death, Jack and Harry M. "Skinny" Johnson had purchased the Valley Garage, where Jack had been employed as a bookkeeper. He had been an active member of the Lions Club and a volunteer in the Livermore Fire Department.

After her husband's death, Gertrude Hock tried to reclaim her old position at the telephone exchange but was told that at age 35 she was too old. She earned a living by clerking at various Livermore shops.

After her retirement, Dorothy worked as city clerk for the budding cities of Dublin and San Ramon, helping them through their incorporation procedures. "Those were my only two work experiences afterwards. By then I said to myself, 'no more.'" She continues, however, to volunteer at Valley Memorial Hospital. (Readers can reach me at am3homan@yahoo.com.)

### Students to Host Senior Citizens

Approximately 50 high school seniors from the Livermore High School Class of 2007 are volunteering their time and effort to host a special dinner for local senior citizens on Friday, February 9. The event takes place from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Avenue in Livermore.

Student event coordinator Susie Gazzuolo and her classmates will serve seniors an Ital-

ian dinner of lasagna, French bread, salad and cake. The students are also assembling the entertainment hour, which will feature a mix of music by Sinatra and the crooners of the forties, followed by dancing after dinner. Live entertainment will also be offered by a student guitarist who will play the music of Elvis Presley and Johnny Cash.

The event is free to senior citizens, who may call to make a reservation at (925) 373-5760.

## Creativity is the Focus of Our Savior's Lutheran Talent Fair

By Patricia Koning

Last month middle school students at Our Savior's Lutheran (OSL) School had the chance to show off their best work at the school's annual talent fair. The event showcases student projects in history, art, literature, or science.

Three years ago the OSL staff expanded the traditional science fair to a broader talent fair.

"Some of the kids had lost their enthusiasm for doing a science project three years in a row," said teacher Jane Managan. "They really blossomed with more choices. The creativity really came out."

For the history projects, students must choose either a historical figure or era and create a display with timelines, pictures, models, and other items to capture the essence of their topic. Most students chose historical figures, including Winfield Scott, Benedict Arnold, Sir Francis Drake, Benjamin Franklin, Mozart, Beethoven, and Richard the Lionhearted.

For art projects, the students researched either an artist or an artistic medium and created an original work of art in the medium or artist's style. Sixth-grader Kelly Re created a seashell mosaic from shells she has collected at beaches in Jamaica, Mexico, Santa Cruz, and other areas.

Seventh-grader Julie Stuger picked Coco Chanel as her artist and sewed a Chanel-style dress for her project.

"It was a challenge, because I'd never sewn a dress before,"



Claire Managan, 8th grader at Our Savior Lutheran School, with Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring - 1st place Grand Prize in Literature

she said. "But good practice because I want to be a fashion designer."

Sixth-grader Alyssa Bastovan modeled her project after the book "Why Cats Paint." She gave her cat Tiny some paint and clear piece of plastic as canvas and let her do the work.

"It's fun to share my pet as part of this project," she said. "Tiny didn't like the paint much."

For literature projects, students chose from a designated list of approved books and presented displays about the books. The displays included items such as an author biography, character interview, board game, alternate book jacket, alternate book

ending, additional chapter, and a model of a scene or an important item from the book.

For her project on "To Kill a Mocking Bird," Talia King created a board game. Ricky Gonzales made a model of the giant cuddle fish wrapped around the Nautilus for his project on "20,000 Leagues under the Sea." Ritchie Williams wrote an alternate ending to "Frankenstein" in which Dr. Frankenstein creates a companion for the monster and they live happily ever after.

For science projects, students could either do a controlled experiment or an invention. Eighth-grader Veronica Knowlton conducted an experi-

ment based on Newton's Cradle, substituting balls of different density. She tested steel, golf, wooden, and tennis balls and found that the denser balls did a better job at transferring energy.

Sixth-graders Kenneth Sturgill and Mitchell Mayo took on an ambitious project testing how different wing shapes affect lift and drag. They spent some 75 hours constructing a wind tunnel and another 40 hours testing.

"I've always been fascinated by wings and how airplanes fly," said Sturgill. "I plan to go into the Air Force some day."

Students receive an English grade for their written reports and can receive extra credit in English, history, art, or science for their projects.

The grand prize winners were:

ART: 1st: Jenna Cisterman (6<sup>th</sup> grade), Watercolor Photo Collage; 2nd: Evan Carlo (8<sup>th</sup>), Photo Mosaic; 3rd: Christina Tomasetti (7<sup>th</sup>), Oil Painting "Wintertime". HISTORY: 1st: Shervyn Beard (7<sup>th</sup>), Benjamin Franklin; 2nd: Jacob Jones (7<sup>th</sup>), Decade: 1940-1949; 3rd: Daniel Wright (8<sup>th</sup>), Richard the Lionhearted.

LITERATURE: 1st: Claire Managan (8<sup>th</sup>), Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring; 2nd: Nolan Beguhl (7<sup>th</sup>), Island of the Blue Dolphins; 3rd: Kaylie Phillips (6<sup>th</sup>), Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry.

SCIENCE: 1st: Matthew Droege (6<sup>th</sup>), Making Realistic Animation; 2nd: Forrest Bradley (8<sup>th</sup>), Is Your Water Clear?; 3rd: Morgan Cortez (7<sup>th</sup>), Float.

### Nathan Weinstein of Christensen Middle School Wins Districtwide Spelling Bee

By Patricia Koning

Last week 27 fourth, fifth, and sixth-graders competed in the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District's spelling bee. Nathan Weinstein, a sixth-grader at Christensen Middle School, came out on top thanks to his correct spelling of "bureaucracy."

"We're all very proud of Nathan," said Christensen principal Janet Loughran-Smith. "He's a wonderful young man."

Finishing second was Benjamin Alexander, a sixth-grader at Junction Avenue Middle School. Jordan Lian, a sixth-grader at Mendenhall Middle School, took third place.

Weinstein, Alexander, and Lian will compete at the Alameda County Spelling Bee on March 10 at the Alameda County Office of Education in Hayward. The top two finishers will represent Alameda County at the California State Elementary Spelling Championship, scheduled for

May 19 at Sonoma State University.

This is the first year that the Alameda County Office of Education has participated in the California State Elementary Spelling Championship. The event, which is coordinated by the Sonoma County Office of Education, is in its 26<sup>th</sup> year.

The California State Elementary Spelling Championship is a separate event from the Scripps National Spelling Bee, which is run through newspapers. The San Francisco Chronicle is the sponsor of the Bay Area regional Scripps National Spelling Bee.

Public, private, and home schools in San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Alameda, Marin, Napa, Sonoma, and Mendocino counties are eligible to participate. Students must be under 16 years old as of May 30 and in eighth grade or below.

The written portion of the Chronicle Bee will be held on

Feb. 24. Qualifying students will compete in the Chronicle Oral Bee on March 24. The Scripps National Spelling Bee will be held on May 30-31 in Washington DC.

The Livermore Valley Charter School (LVCS) recently held its school-wide spelling bee. The winner was seventh-grader Jessica Olson, who will represent LVCS in the Chronicle Bee. The first runner up was seventh grader Dana Hartman and the second runner up was fifth grader Paul Epperson.

Seventh-grader Girish Kowligi will represent East Avenue Middle School at the Chronicle Bee. Eighth-grader Amity Gregg was the first runner up and sixth-grader Lynn Tran was the second runner up.

Christensen is sending seventh-grader Sarah Pawloski to the Chronicle Bee. District champion Weinstein was the first runner up and sixth-grader Michaela

Molina was the second runner up.

Eighth-grader Trevor Robertson won Mendenhall's school-wide bee and will compete in the Chronicle Bee. The first runner up was eighth-grader Brian Belak and the second runner up was eighth-grader Lillian Bussell.

Junction Avenue Middle School is not participating in the Scripps Spelling Bee.

In 2001 Jason Black, who was an eighth-grader at Mendenhall at the time, placed 16<sup>th</sup> in the Scripps National Spelling Bee. Black graduated from Granada High School in 2005 and now attends Brigham Young University.

### East Meets West at 'Fusion Fashion Show

A Fusion Fashion Show: East Meets West in Beauty and Style will be presented on Sun., Feb. 11 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd.

The program will be presented as a haute couture fashion runway show. It will include a slideshow of traditional costumes from all regions of India and the expert hand-work of traditional Indian crafts. There will be information on how Indian couture is influencing western fashion design.

The Free Fusion Fashion Show will feature the original designs of Swati Kapoor and Rupakshi Kapur, as well as jewelry by designer Anagha Joshi and finely crafted shawls from the Kashmir Company.

SWATI is a couture design studio specializing in exclusive world fashions. It represents a bilingual view of fashion that blends the sensuous and the practical, bringing the art of the east to the west. SWATI promotes the art of textiles and embroidery representing the finest fashion de-

signers and craft-persons from India.

Rupakshi Kapur will offer High Fashions Presented By Divas. His Exclusive Designer Wear Divas ensembles have an understated elegance marked by a restrained classic style.

The Kashmir Company will present a range of Kashmir products acquired directly from the

artisans who weave them.

Catering will be offered by Haveli Indian Cuisine of Dublin.

The show is sponsored by the East Bay Marathi Mandal and the Pleasanton Public Library.

For more information call Penny Johnson, Adult Programs Librarian, at 925/931-3405, or Varsha Upadhye, East Bay Marathi Mandal, at 339-8090.

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7 DAYS A WEEK  
HOURS: 11 AM - 10 PM



## TRANSIT

(continued from page one)

A lawyer who works for the Assembly researched the question, said a spokesperson for Jones, who is not on the Assembly's transportation committee. He was raising the issue because he is a supporter of public transit, said the spokesperson.

However, CTC executive director John Barna disputed Jones' interpretation of Prop. 1B. Barna said that the commission has been using guidelines for inviting proposals in accord with those that the Legislature's leaders said should be used. The money should be strictly for roadways and such improvements, said Barna.

Transit facilities have their own section of Prop. 1B, allocated at \$4 billion, said Barna. There will be \$3.6 billion for transit operators to use on capital projects, distributed according to a state transit assistance formula.

Another \$400 million will go for inner city rail projects. Even the \$4.5 billion restricted to highways can aid transit, said Barna. For example the Metropolitan Transportation Commission has

nominated the HOV lanes project eastbound and westbound on Interstate 580 for some of the funding. The lanes can be used by buses as a way to avoid the traffic backups, which will speed things up as Prop. 1B intends.

**TIMING IS AN ISSUE**  
Whether Jones' letter could have any impact on the CTC isn't clear. The initiative set certain deadlines for the CTC to take action. The CTC had to issue guidelines for proposals by Dec. 1, 2006, which it did. The Jan. 15 deadline has also passed for the commission to receive the proposals.

The CTC is supposed to make its decision about the funding by March 1. However, the Assembly may still have leverage.

Jones' letter reminds the CTC that the initiative requires a two-thirds vote of the Legislature for approval before a dollar can be spent. Whether or not that means the Assembly could force the CTC to initiate a process for projects again isn't clear, because it may involve legal interpretations of Prop. 1B.

About the only impact the letter might have politically, if the CTC agreed, would be is not to commit all of the money this year, so that there would be some left for transit next year.

That may not be likely, for several reasons. One is the separate \$4 billion fund for public transit. Another is the fact that the enabling legislation is part of the budget, and it's unlikely that Jones and his allies would block passage of the budget just to obtain more money for transit. They would be perceived as an unreasonable roadblock to budget adoption.

Barna noted that the Democrats couldn't count on help from Republicans to open up the fund to transit, since they traditionally vote against transit measures. It's not clear whether the \$4.5 billion for roadways will be committed all in the first round, said Barna. The requested projects just from the California Department of Transportation total more than \$6 billion, so there will be plenty of opportunity to spend the money between that request and others.

## DOWNTOWN

(continued from page one)

The second component has to do with parks. The cost of their maintenance would be spread out equally over the entire redevelopment area.

The final component is the trail and pocket parks. The trail is along Railroad. Businesses within one block are to pay a higher rate to maintain the trail. Pocket parks are included in new developments, which would pay 85 percent of the maintenance; the city 10 percent and the maintenance district 5 percent.

Residential homeowners will pay nothing for the streetscape. They would help maintain parks and trails. The maximum any homeowner would pay is \$25 per year. For owner occupied residential properties within the proposed district, the City is offering an option for assessment deferral, added Sheets. Under this option, property owners can choose to enter into an agreement with the City to defer their assessments until such time as their property either sells or develops. Assessment deferral could be continued for property sale or transfer to a family member. As long as the property remains in the family, the assessment payment can be deferred.

Sheets pointed out that the rest of the city is paying for the maintenance. At the beginning, 60 percent of the costs would be paid from the city's budget; when build-out is reached about 40 percent of the maintenance would be paid by the city. The first year estimated maintenance cost is \$750,000. The city will pay \$450,000. The city's contribution will go up to about \$500,000 at build-out.

Rachael Snedecor, Livermore Downtown, Inc. executive director, spoke to the formation of the district after the improvements. She said that there was a push to get the improvements built. The question then arose as to how the improvements would be maintained. "Reality caught up with our visioning. If I felt there was a conspiracy, I'd be the first to protest," said Snedecor.

She added, "We've seen the benefits of the improvements. Nobody likes to get an assessment. It's a tax. However, the increases at the cash register should outweigh the assessment. Revitalization increases property values for both homes and businesses."

Snedecor pointed out that there are many merchants who understand they will be paying for the maintenance. They support the idea, because they don't want the downtown to go back to the way it was."

One of those merchants is Tommie Van Fossen of Tommie's Deli and Sandwiches. He opened his business on Second Street in October 2006. Van Fossen said he was aware of the proposal for the DTLMD before he opened. He had attended meetings where the plan was discussed.

"I think it's the appropriate thing to do (implement the DTLMD). The improvements have made the downtown wonderful. Merchants should take responsibility and keep it that way," he declared. He added that merchants will need to make sure they are getting what they pay for in the way of maintenance.

Van Fossen admits that the city did not make the right decision in not offering the plan at the beginning. "We have to get past that. It's a fair plan."

A longtime First Street merchant, Mel Luna of Mel's Furniture, questions the fairness. As he understands the proposal now, he is opposed to it. "It was done after the fact. Right now business is bad. We have not done as well as we thought we would given the improvements. A lot of local customers don't like the improvements. They complain about traffic congestion and parking problems."

Luna did offer the opinion that if he were to be convinced the plan is fair to everyone, he might support it. "I have heard a lot of negatives."

Dennis Swanson, who owns Main Street Designs, which adjacent to Mel's, supports the DTLMD. "It's a non-issue," he declared. "I feel obligated to pay, because of the benefits I receive. My business has increased. The value of my property has increased significantly."

Swanson explained he had moved his business to Livermore 20 years ago. At that time the blue-stone sidewalks were put in. "We waited and waited to relocate 84 so we could have a more customer friendly downtown. Now we have it. The downtown has to be maintained. Businesses should step up and do it."

Mike Madden, the developer behind many of the new buildings and renovation of older buildings, said of the DTLMD, "The devil is in the details. The concept is okay. I don't think it was handled right. That has made people upset about the past and skeptical about the future."

"I think the city is on the way to doing it the right way now. There will be no giant reserve account. There is an accountability to the people paying into the DTLMD. The way I understand it, we get to check in twice a year to see if we're overpaying or underpaying. I like that," Madden stated. "It's our downtown. It's our money."

Madden added that the spirit of the idea is okay. All of the improvements mean we will see property values increase and rents will go up. The economics of downtown should cover the assessments."

Madden still has one issue, the phasing of assessments for businesses open during the First Street changes. "That sends a lousy signal to new businesses who have to pay immediately. If

phasing in is the right thing to do, it's a good idea for all businesses," he declared.

Several other First Street business owners expressed opposition to the assessment.

Bob Borden of Fantasy Books and Games, declared, "I am extremely opposed. It's back-door politics. There was never any discussion of setting up a maintenance district that I am aware of prior to construction. It was pitched to us as a benefit to the whole community. It's not right to make only a few hundred businesses and homes foot maintenance expenses of the downtown for the whole community. We should pay exactly the same amount as a person ten blocks or twenty blocks from here. Six cents a foot year after year is a lot of money. Once the city gets the taste of our money, they will want even more. There needs to be a number of small independent shops in the downtown. We don't want to scare them away."

Fine Fretted Friends owner Michael Ferrucci stated, "I was disturbed that they didn't give us any warning. I think it's unfair. We suffered for nine months when they tore up the street. It's difficult for a small merchant to attend meetings. The assessment is going to hurt. From the point of view of mom and pop businesses, it's going to be increasingly difficult to locate in the downtown."

The DTLMD funds would pay for the following: personnel costs including wages and benefits for those performing the work; materials including soil, rocks and plants; water for irrigation; utilities including electricity and phone for running automatic or centralized irrigation systems; and equipment for ongoing maintenance and future purchases of items such as mowers, trimmers, etc.

## HEARING

(continued from page one)

date new advances in medical technology very well without the proposed work, according to the VA.

The third option is to close the Livermore nursing home, after building one in San Joaquin County near a full-service medical facility. VA says that at least 60 percent of the veterans using services at Livermore VA are from the Central Valley. A major reason is that retired veterans, and younger ones, too, are locating there for more affordable housing.

The three options are the survivors of more recommendations that were addressed, as part of the process, to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs R. James Nicholson.

Rep. Ellen Tauscher, whose district includes Livermore, has come out strongly against closing the Livermore facility.

## STONERIDGE

(continued from page one)

called for in the general plan at these intersections would require wide areas of concrete, making the city less pedestrian friendly.

"Mitigating the three sites would create wide, large intersections that would detract from the visual character of Pleasanton and result in the loss of landscaping," said Stearn. She proposed formalizing a restrained gateway policy for such intersections.

The most controversial intersection is at Valley Avenue at Santa Rita. To improve traffic flow would require a triple left turn lane in order to mitigate the congestion. Residents in the area say that would just put more traffic on an already congested Valley Avenue. They want the Stoneridge Drive extension built. Speakers at the hearing said they believe that would take some of the eastbound traffic off of their streets.

Naomi Jones, who lives near Valley Avenue, said the city had promised to model the Stoneridge extension. She noted that the extension had been planned for fifteen years. Jones raised concerns about the city's plans to approve a new shopping center with a Home Depot at the end of Valley Avenue. She felt that would make the traffic problem even worse.

Several other speakers urged the council not to approve the Home Depot because they believe it would create greater traffic problems along Valley Avenue.

Heidi Massie, another Valley Avenue area resident, said it would be beneficial to model Stoneridge now. "There is no hard data that shows 580 traffic would use it. It's urban legend." She felt that the traffic would be dispersed more evenly throughout the city if the road were extended.

Another resident of the area, Nancy Allen, called the decision on the Stoneridge extension one of the most sensitive and important decisions the council will make. "I believe the process the city goes through to reach the decision may be as important as the final decision. The city needs to provide the data that all residents can understand in order to support the decision. My hope is that the modeling will be done immediately."

On the other side of the issue, Dan Maslana said of Stoneridge that cut-through traffic would be a disaster if the road were extended, particularly in light of Livermore's plans to build a shopping outlet. "People from Hayward and other cities to the west would cut-through Pleasanton to shop there."

Max Maheni said that extending Stoneridge would be a bad mistake. "As long as 580 and 84 are congested, the extension won't alleviate traffic in other areas of the city. It will just add

more cut-through."

John Gutierrez felt that modeling was a good idea. At the same time, he said it would be a waste of money. "The traffic will not go away. People are people. They will avoid traffic. They will get off the freeway and use city streets. I don't see what extending Stoneridge will do for Pleasanton."

Brad Hirst spoke to both the restrained gateway policy and the Stoneridge extension. He supported going ahead with the Stoneridge modeling sooner rather than later. He supported restraining the gateways. "One of the things that makes Pleasanton pleasant is our streets. Don't delete any landscaping to increase traffic flow," he stated.

George Withers raised the issue of emergency vehicle access from the east. He pointed out that the closest fire station is at the Livermore Airport. Without the Stoneridge extension, units from that station would have a difficult time reaching east Pleasanton.

City Manager Nelson Fialho explained that an emergency vehicle access (EVA) is planned as part of the Staples Ranch development. The EVA would allow fire fighting equipment, police vehicles and ambulances to access Pleasanton from El Charro.

There was concern raised about the validity of any traffic model. It was suggested that as many assumptions about traffic and land use as possible be included in the model.

City council members offered their input on the three issues: modeling the Stoneridge extension and TOD, and the constrained gateway policy.

Sheryl Cook-Kallio supported modeling Stoneridge now. "It is important to have as much data as soon as possible." She was in favor of looking at TOD. As for the gateway police, she had mixed feelings. "I don't like inhibiting entrances to the freeway. At the same time, I don't like removing trees and grass."

McGovern suggested adding different assumptions to the Stoneridge model, including both local and regional traffic. She opposed the TOD. McGovern offered the same view as Cook-Kallio on the gateway policy.

Jerry Thorne liked the idea of adding a policy of constrained gateways to the general plan.

Thorne pointed out that he had asked for the model of Stoneridge impacts four years ago. "There is no data available to make a good decision on Stoneridge. We should model the impacts as soon as possible and make a decision on it as soon as possible to stop the polarization of the community," said Thorne.

While in favor of modeling the TOD, Thorne wasn't sure that he would approve over 1200 units for the area.

Matt Sullivan spoke in favor of the gateway policy. He also agreed that Stoneridge should be modeled now. It would be useful to obtain data to work through the issues. As to making a decision now, Sullivan commented, "We need the full EIR before a decision on Stoneridge is made, whether it is by the council or the voters."

Sullivan declared himself a strong advocate of TOD modeling. "That doesn't mean I'm signing up for 1200 units. However, I see the potential for traffic improvements and affordable housing in the area. TOD is the best opportunity to do anything significant with affordable housing," he stated.

Mayor Jennifer Hosterman said she agreed with many of the comments made by councilmembers. She added that it is important in making any decision to identify quality of life issues that are important to the community.

## Ask Kathleen



Kathleen Minser strongly supports public education on her favorite subject: waste reduction.

This year, to add spice to the subject, WM is adding an Ask Kathleen advice column in its newsletters regularly mailed to curbside & commercial customers. In the column, Kathleen will answer customer questions & give advice about WM's recycling programs and other resources that help reduce unnecessary waste & pollutants in overcrowded landfills.

Watch for Kathleen's column in future newsletters! Email Ask Kathleen questions to AskKathleen@wm.com or send written questions to: Attn. Ask Kathleen, Waste Management, 6175 Southfront Rd., Livermore, CA 94551.



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# EDITORIALS

## Access To A Treasure

A compromise has been reached regarding the public access to the proposed Oak Grove development in Pleasanton.

This southeast hills project will consist of 51 homesites and 497 acres of donated open space. An earlier plan, worked out in talks between the developer and Kottlinger Ranch Homeowners Association, included virtually no public access to the open space. That brought a strenuous protest by Dolores Bengtson and other Pleasanton trail activists.

The parties responded, negotiating a plan that has public trails and a modest staging area with basic amenities (parking, restroom, etc.). The trails will be opened to the public upon the sale of the fifth residential lot.

The Park and Recreation Commission endorsed the plan January 11. It will be reviewed by the Planning Commission next Tuesday.

Bengtson — who has become a citizen advocate for trails and parks since retiring as head of the Pleasanton park and recreation department — had high praise for the compromise. "The open space and trail community looks forward to supporting projects that will assure the southeast hills will remain an open space resource the entire community can enjoy forever," she said.

We join Bengtson in that hope and vision. These pristine hills are certain to be one of the treasures of the Pleasanton park system.

## ABAG Methodology Questioned

City of Pleasanton has written to the Association of Bay Area Governments asking ABAG to revise the methodology by which a city's affordable housing obligations are determined.

Pleasanton says cities that have exceptionally high housing costs and other special factors such as growth limits should be forgiven some of their burden.

In addition, Pleasanton wants job/housing balance to be determined on a subregional basis, rather than a city-by-city one. Neighboring cities that benefit from the job growth should have to meet some of the need for housing, Pleasanton argues.

To our eye, the ABAG methodology is heavily influenced by the development industry and as such it indeed does not accurately reflect local realities.

Nevertheless, while there may be some wisdom to the changes requested by Pleasanton, local accountability must be preserved, in our opinion. Pleasanton job growth mostly benefits Pleasanton, rather than the subregion. The ABAG methodology must not be changed in a way that enables affluent suburban cities to get off the hook regarding their affordable housing responsibilities.

Pleasanton councilmembers themselves seem sensitive to that. During the council's recent discussion of the issue, Councilmember Cheryl Cook-Kallio observed, "We are going to have to address affordability. It is not reasonable to say we can never provide it."

May those words be guiding ones in the discussions that lie ahead.

## BUDGET

(continued from page one)

nuclear package We would not move forward with this design should it require underground testing."

Marty Schoenbauer, in charge of defense programs at NNSA, said he believes there is strong support on the Democratic side for the RRW program. "It provides a credible deterrent, creates a smaller stockpile and requires no testing. In addition it provides greater security and safety for the weapons," he stated.

Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher has offered her input on the RRW as a way to decrease the number of weapons in the nuclear stockpile. "The focus of the RRW program is to extend the life of those military capabilities provided by existing warheads, not develop warheads for new or different military missions. It is my hope that by ensuring the long-term reliability of our nuclear arsenal we will be able to decrease our national stockpile and stop the production of new nuclear weapons."

In 2008, Schoenbauer said the RRW will move from the design and planning stage to hardware production to determine if the design can be manufactured.

D'Agostino was asked about the future for the weapons complex. He replied that the goal is to modernize, make it smaller and more efficient. There will be more sensitivity about what is discharged into the atmosphere. "Each site has unique characteristics. The complex twenty years from now has to be smaller. It's too big. We will definitely be taking beryllium out of the stockpile. It's bad stuff."

Plutonium will be removed from Sandia National Laboratories by 2008 and from the Livermore Lab by 2014. The material will be consolidated into fewer sites, making it easier to protect it.

He was also asked about drug testing. Random testing of current employees and testing of new employees has been imple-

mented at Los Alamos. "We are intrigued by it. We see drug testing as a way to ensure the work force understands the seriousness and that drug use is not compatible with nuclear weapons work. We will consider it after we see what happens at Los Alamos," stated D'Agostino.

## WAR

(continued from page one)

emotion to take part in a debate. I don't care if people are for or against the war. Keep the war off the agenda," said Dollard.

Sherry Kirby spoke for her son, Garrett. "I do not believe we should use council time to discuss world politics. Eighteen years ago I got off the freeway at Pleasanton, not Berkeley (referring to her decision to move to Pleasanton). Please let us not forget we need to support the moral of the troops through published and spoken word."

Kirby added that Pleasanton sons and daughters volunteer for service, because they believe it is worth risking their lives for us. "Please do not associate any debate on Iraq with the City of Pleasanton."

Other speakers echoed the sentiments of Kirby and Dollard.

Dan Faustina, who finished third in the last city council election, stated, "I do not wish to debate the validity of this war. I believe such a discussion has no place at the local level." Faustina said that the President and Congressman are elected to debate issues such as the war.

Hosterman told those in the chamber that the council had received many email in support of discussing the Iraq war. "I envision a panel of experts. I hope it will be an academic discussion and a meaningful one."

Cook-Kallio pointed out that the Feb. 20 agenda item would be only a discussion of a potential format, not a discussion of the war.

# Livermore-Dublin May Revisit Doolan Canyon MOU

In 2002, the cities of Livermore and Dublin established a memorandum of understanding on the future of Doolan Canyon.

The MOU called for both cities to look to Doolan Canyon for regulatory agency habitat preservation/restoration mitigation requirements to offset urban development in any area of Dublin or Livermore.

Recently, representatives of both cities met to discuss the MOU. Councilmembers Tom Reitter and Marj Leider attended from Livermore, along with staff members. Dublin was represented by Councilmember Tony Oravetz and city staff.

Reitter had requested the meeting with Dublin's counterpart to discuss the future of Doolan Canyon. He is concerned about the threat of development.

Reitter stated, "Both sides agreed that neither city is interested in development of Doolan Canyon. We made it clear that Livermore views Doolan Canyon as a greenbelt buffer between the two cities."

Reitter said an agreement was reached at the meeting to come back with a modified MOU for discussion by the liaison committee. The new MOU would spell out that there would be no urban or suburban development in Doolan Canyon.

"If landowners want to develop land, they would have to go to a countywide vote," explained Reitter.

plained Reitter.

Dublin City Manager Richard Ambrose said that both Livermore and Dublin, at this time, have similar views of Doolan Canyon. It is a good buffer between the two cities. "It is not in our planning area," he said. Currently, there are no plans in front of the city to include it."

As for the MOU, Ambrose said the two cities will look at it, to see if it should be revised. He said that he would be meeting with Livermore City Manager Linda Barton. "We will look at the MOU to determine whether it is working and if there should be any changes," commented Ambrose.

The Eastern Dublin General Plan Amendment originally proposed low and medium density residential uses with accessory neighborhood commercial uses for the Doolan Canyon area and adjacent lands. These are outside the City's approved Sphere of Influence (SOI). In May of 2002, the City Council adopted an Agricultural designation and designated the area east of the sphere of influence, including Doolan Canyon, as Future Study Area. The Future Study Area designation required that, if and when, urban land uses were proposed, additional studies would be prepared to determine the most suitable type of development or preservation for that area.

During last November's East

Bay Regional park District election, incumbent Ayn Wieskamp indicated that Doolan Canyon was an area she would like to have included in the district's master plan map. "That would allow the district to start to look at the area for a park and regional trail," she indicated.

Livermore has not had any one approach it about developing in or near Doolan Canyon, said Reitter in an earlier interview. It's unlikely that would happen, since the only way Livermore could annex land there, and allow development, would be by a vote of the Livermore electorate, he said.

Dublin has no requirement of voter-approved annexation and development. Dublin has a voter approved urban growth line, but only on the west side. The only boundary on Dublin's east side is the current city limit. A look at maps shows that to be about 1700 to 2500 feet west of Doolan Canyon in the closest places.

One landowner controls 1200 acres in the area. Ambrose said he had heard there was interest in developing a community for seniors on the part of the landowner. "There is no application in front of the city. We have no infrastructure that goes out there," he added.

There is support on the Livermore council to acquire parcels for open space to provide a buffer against Dublin development.

Livermore has been amassing money in an open space fund into which developers have contributed through the density transfer program. The city also could apply for open space funds generated by the tipping fee at the Altamont landfill. Between the two funds, there could be as much as \$5 million, which possibly could leverage foundation grants to a much larger sum.

In addition, there is the potential to take out a loan to be repaid from the Altamont open space funds. It is estimated the amount of the loan could be over \$30 million. The loan would be paid back over a thirty year time period or longer.

Ambrose said that Dublin has created a resource management plan as part of its East Dublin development. It identifies natural resource and habitat protection areas. The city does not require that developers mitigate offsite, rather focus is on saving the identified areas within the planning area. However, regulatory agencies may require offsite mitigation. Where the mitigation is to be located is determined through negotiations between the developer and the regulatory agencies, he explained.

Dublin does receive some money from the Altamont settlement. Ambrose said it is to be spent in the western hills.

## TRUSTEE

(continued from page one)

nowing process conducted by the board at the meeting.

Buck ran for Congress as the Republican candidate in the last election, losing to the Democratic candidate.

The board asked detailed questions of the two finalists.

Grant in his interview emphasized accountability. He said he would take a look at a set goal, then see where the performance was six months later. He talked about his experience in corporate work, and also about hands-on projects he has taken part in with the school district, including the district's academic excellence committee. Grant stated that the district's push for an excellence committee to improve educational quality was begun in a conversation between him and superintendent John Casey, who did not contradict Grant's statement.

Buck emphasized reaching out to the community through her involvement at the school site level. She mentioned her work teaching religion at her church and her service as president of the PTA council at Walnut Grove Elementary School, where she has two children. She also mentioned her activities on the environmental awareness and student achievement committees.

Buck declared that such community contact would be important to her as a way of guiding her decisions as a school trustee.

Buck said that her major achievement in relation to children and the district was her organizing of the Go Green Initiative (GGI) in 2002, starting with Walnut Grove school, and then other schools in the district. It has spread to 29 states and the United Kingdom and Mozambique, and continues to grow. GGI focuses on getting schools organized at the student level to promote recycling at the school and in the students' families, where it then can spread to other people.

**ALL SAID IT WAS A DIFFICULT DECISION**

All five trustees said they had great difficulty in choosing between Grant and Buck. The first two trustees to speak, Pulido and board president Juanita Haugen, favored Buck.

Pulido said it was pretty close, but that Buck impressed him more because of her state and national activity with GGI, which took her beyond the school site level. Pulido said that Haugen's involvement in state and national organizations of school boards and other groups for many years has helped the district immensely. He would like to see that kind of contact continue in a new board member, and felt that Buck was the more promising candidate for that.

Pulido also said that while Grant and Buck both have children in the second and fourth grades at Walnut Grove elementary, Buck also has a child further along in the system, too, which means she has a direct information channel at another level of the schools.

Haugen took part in the meeting from her home via speakerphone, because she is undergoing treatments for cancer. Speaking after Pulido, she said that both finalists "are excellent people and candidates." She liked Buck's involvement beyond the community with GGI, and expressed hope that Buck would continue that type of involvement similar to her own with national and state educational organizations, if she were chosen.

Jim Ott was the next trustee to speak. He favored Grant, because he liked Grant's corporate background. Also, Grant has "spent more time in the trenches with

the issues at schools. I'm very torn (about the choice). I have no doubt that both will be on the board at some point," said Ott.

Speaking next, Kris Weaver declared, "This is very hard to do. I keep changing my mind, back and forth." Weaver said the decision came down to the fact that Grant has had extensive experience "in a high-level position."

Weaver said that the one negative about Buck was a controversy raised by an audience speaker, Cherub Halperin, during the public part of the process at the meeting that night. It centered on Buck's unsuccessful run for the Assembly in November. Halperin said that while Buck may not be considering a run for the Assembly again, there are also state jobs to which people can be appointed. Halperin said the board should consider that Buck might be using the board appointment as a stepping stone to such an appointment.

Pulido took up that statement after the audience portion of the meeting, and said it should be no factor at all in deciding the appointment. It's normal to have ambitions, and it shouldn't have to stand in the way of volunteering for a community appointment such as school board, he said.

Ott made remarks along the same lines when it was his turn to comment.

With the board's expressed preferences tied at 2-2, all eyes were on Kernan to see which way he would vote. He told Buck and Grant that "both of you will be on the board" at some point. He said that he heard Haugen and Pulido mention the importance of national and state involvement by a trustee. However, he stated, "I'm for Chris. He will take us to the next level. Chris will push us, maybe more than we want."

Haugen then commented, "I have to go along with the board majority. It's one of the ways we've been a successful board."

Buck turned to Grant, shook his hand, and wished him "the very best." She said she was honored to be sitting next to "someone I respect."

The formal motion that resulted in the unanimous vote was made by Ott and seconded by Weaver.

Asked after the meeting whether he was surprised, Grant said that he was "grateful that the board had trust in me."

**NINE STARTED, SEVEN INTERVIEWED**

The field of applicants began with nine. One, Jennifer Carolan, dropped out a few days before the meeting. Another, Joseph Russo, quit on the day of the meeting, but was in the audience to watch the proceedings. That left seven, and each gave brief statements, and fielded a few questions about why they should be named to the position. In addition to Grant and Buck, the candidates were Robert Gehl, Marti Scalise, Stephen Page, Shirley Herrera, and Corine Fanene.

The field then was narrowed down to Buck, Grant, Robert Gehl and Marti Scalise, with the latter two appearing on Weaver's list for more questioning. After a few questions, they were eliminated.

Audience members made their comments and asked questions after all seven spoke, but before the field was narrowed at first to four candidates.

One speaker, Julie Testa, made remarks similar to those quoted last month in the Independent. She was critical of the board for not going to a special election. It may have produced a field wider in opinion and perspective, she said.

Board members responded in the story last month that since no one filed against appointee Ott, it seemed to indicate a lack of interest in the position. Testa had said in the story that it simply means no one wants to spend the money to overcome the ballot advantage held by an appointed incumbent.

Graham Barnes, a Sunol district school board member, said that he serves on a foundation committee with Grant. He spoke highly of Grant's ability to communicate with people and help create a consensus despite differing opinions on the board. He said he wasn't asked by Grant to appear at the school board meeting, but had known about his application only because he had read the news in the Independent.

Angela Ramirez Holmes said that she supported Grant. The fact that he is on the excellence committee is significant, because

"that is where the district is going." She said she hoped that the board would give weight to a community screening committee of 12 people who ranked the candidates, with Grant in first place.

Technically, there was no ranking, in the sense of first place through last place. A summary sheet of the committee's vote resembled a scattergram, where data are recorded all over a chart. It showed that Grant had nine people rating him as excellent and three as very good. Buck had five saying she was excellent, and a split vote by one person that resulted in 3.5 "votes" for very good and 3.5 for good.

Other candidates were lower overall on the chart, which also had poor and fair categories. Steve Belleville praised Grant as a "solution oriented person," and also said that "when he does something he does it with a great deal of commitment."

## MAILBOX

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

### Outside Issues Charles W. Meier Pleasanton

The Pleasanton City Council should not be in the business of producing resolutions on issues not directly related to city business. We did not elect our council members to transform Pleasanton into an activist community where the city council's proclamations become the official position of the citizens of Pleasanton on issues such as the Iraq War. Rather, we elected our senators and representatives to speak for us on these issues.

Our congressionally elected officials stated their positions on the Iraq War and other topical issues. The election process gave them our permission to represent each of us on these important issues. Conversely, none of the city council members publicly discussed or ran on these issues or on a platform seeking our permission to represent us on issues such as the Iraq War.

Think about it - this is a slippery slope. What will the council do if another vocal citizen group decides the City of Pleasanton should weigh in on abortion vs. right-to-life? Is that an issue of less import to the citizens of Pleasanton than the Iraq War? How about global warming? What will or will not become a City of Pleasanton resolution can be decided by the vote of three council members, motivated by their own prejudices.

If the city council decides to pursue this path, then each councilman's position on these issues should be stated for the record. Then, next election, the citizens of Pleasanton will clearly understand the full implications of their vote.

### GreenWaste Darryl Mueller for Altamont Landowners Against Rural Mismanagement

Recent articles assume that Altamont Pass is the prime place for Green Waste. I made a point to go to the Sunol hearing and say "no we don't want your smell and waste."

"No Altamont Pass does not want you green waste." Alameda County Voters want to recycle and voted for it, so give to them. Many small green waste recycling centers are in their own towns like Sunol, Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton, San Ramon, Castro Valley and so forth. Altamont Pass should not be the dumping ground for the Bay Area. Each town should be responsible for its recycling. You want Green than recycle and be responsible or vote against it.

### Run for Charlie Lisa Stanford Livermore

Over the Christmas holidays a very special person passed away leaving his mark on the hearts of many. Charlie Stockley, 38, was raised in Livermore and graduated from Livermore High School. He was one of those individuals who had everything going his way: a beautiful fiancée, wonderful career, close family, and his lifelong love of music. Charlie was an accomplished drummer for a couple of Bay Area bands, Mad Dog Toor and the Milk Bones and Mojo Deluxe. He fell victim to the disease that had plagued him since childhood, cystic fibrosis. He spent 12 hours a day on a ventilator at Stanford awaiting a lung transplant that unfortunately never came.

In an effort to attempt to raise awareness for the need for people to register as organ donors a group of runners and walkers are getting together to participate in the San Jose Rock n Roll Half Marathon this October. Charlie's mom, Allison has graciously offered to contribute \$3000 towards t-shirts for those who will participate for team Charlie. Please go to the website, www.charliestockley.com to see the links for the race. There is also an email address for a friend of Charlie's who is organizing the shirt order, so that you may send her your size information.

At the very least, we hope to get as many people to register as organ donors as possible. The link for the California Donor website can also be found at Charlie's website. Please join us for this great event to help celebrate the life of an extraordinary individual. Take it up a notch and register today. The beat goes on.



# LARPD Okays Friendship Center Lease Extension; Considers New Locations

Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) Board of Directors voted unanimously to accept a lease extension with the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District that would allow the Friendship Center to remain on the premises of the Livermore Charter School through June of 2008. In addition, the school district will consider yet another one year extension if substantial progress on generating another site is demonstrated by LARPD, the operators of the Friendship Center.

The extension gives LARPD more time to thoughtfully explore an optimal location and funding sources for the center that serves as the Tri-Valley's only licensed adult day care facility.

The board could make a decision on a future site as early as its February 14 meeting. There are three sites on the short list. They include the Merritt Building, the former LARPD offices; land adjacent to the Livermore Civic Center on Pacific Avenue; and a former private school site on Vasco Road.

The preliminary cost estimates to make changes at the sites range from \$3.75 million to renovate the Merritt Building to \$5.6 million for a new facility on Pacific Avenue. The cost to purchase the school site and complete necessary changes is estimated at \$5 million. The school site would be able to accommodate additional facilities, such as sports fields.

The new facility is planned to include a second user, which could help pay the cost of construction.

The board also approved applications for \$125,000 in Community Block Grant funds from both Pleasanton and Livermore to help pay for planning the Friendship Center facility.

General Manager Tim Barry would present a report on the options complete with timelines, cost estimates, and other data required for the Board to assess relocation options for the Center.

Barry has said in the past that district cannot afford the \$5 million pricetag for the school site.

Now in its 14th year, the Friendship Center serves adults

over 50 years of age who cannot care for themselves during the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.,

Monday through Friday. It is licensed to serve 30 adults per day. The average attendance is 25.

The average age of clients is 80, and most have Alzheimer's, the most common form of dementia.

## Zone 7 Turns Off Water to Arroyo

Lack of rainfall has led Zone 7 to gradually turn off the recharge spigot normally used on Arroyo Mocho through Livermore to help replenish the underground water basin.

During normal rainfall years, Zone 7 releases surplus imported Delta water from the South Bay Aqueduct down the arroyo to augment natural flow that seeps into the basin. However, with January one of the driest on record and Zone 7 still unsure of its state water allocations for 2007, the agency, for the present, is curtailing its recharge activi-

ties. Instead the water is being sent to treatment plants for municipal use.

Artificial releases were cut last Thursday from 15 cubic feet per second to five cubic feet per second. The flow was cut again on Friday to 2 cubic feet per second and on Monday was shut off completely. A natural flow of about 1/2 cubic feet per second will continue.

By gradually reducing the releases, Zone 7 hopes to ensure the drying out period is slow and mimics what would happen natu-

rally in a low rainfall year. Artificial releases from Arroyo del Valle will continue, because under state permits allowing Zone 7 to use part of Lake Del Valle for water storage, Zone 7 must provide minimal flows below the dam to maintain habitat conditions for fish and wildlife.

Zone 7 expects to see a reduction in its state water allocation for 2007. However, the agency will have adequate water supplies to meet all customer demands with existing local and offsite groundwater storage.

## SPORTS NOTES

### State Cup Action

The No. 11 ranked Livermore Elite Titans (U13, Division 1) advanced to the quarter finals in the Cal North CYSA State Cup tournament by defeating No. 14 ranked De Anza Force 93 Blue 2-0 in Morgan Hill, Calif., this past weekend. With this win, the Titans advanced to the "Elite Eight" making them one of the top eight teams in Northern California.

Titans' goal keeper, Douglas McNeill, was the MVP of the game. He was constantly under attack but was up to the challenge. McNeill kept the Titans in the game by denying every shot that De Anza took.

De Anza was on the attack the minute the game started but was unable to capitalize. The Titans also had chances to score but didn't break through until just before half time. Joey Martinez scored off an assist from Jesse Morales. Morales created the scoring opportunity by getting De Anza's goalie into a one-on-one situation. The second half started off the same way the first half did with an even more intense De Anza team trying to break through for a score but the Titans were up to the challenge. Defenders Yan Carlos Trujillo, Oscar Garcia, Aaron Grewal and midfielders Juan Guerrero, Michael Kronenberg, Steven Dubberly, Greg Crusco, Daniel McNeill, Chase Martinez and Tsyuoshi Kohlgruber kept De Anza off balance, not allowing them to score. Strikers Victor Reyes, Tyler Amick and Morales kept the offense on track working to penetrate through for a second goal. With seconds left in the game, the Titans broke through and scored on a corner kick by Morales that Reyes was able to head into the goal.

The Pleasanton Ballistic Boys U11 United Soccer team moved on to the Quarter Finals of CYSA State Cup play, by defeating the Livermore Eagles 3-0, in the Round of 16 in Morgan Hill. The team is coached by Sean Lemoine and Pablo Squinoza.

The strong United squad dominated ball possession. Goals were scored by Zane Manana, Zac Landers and Alex Valencia. The United Team reached the Rounds of 16 after pool play January 21-22 in Hayward. The Team got better and better each game, first tying Walnut Creek 2-2, then beating WCC Alliance Barcelona 1-0, then playing a near flawless game against River City United Boca winning 5-0.

The team will play in the Quarter Finals against the Merced United Lobos on February 17th in Turlock.

Top Offensive Players: Glenn Leininger, Michael Lamos, Salvador Morales, Jackson Adams, Marek Jukiewicz, Kenny Rockwood.

Top Defensive Players: Derek Wilcox, Brian Hsu, Sam Olson, Eric Toombs, Danny O'lenic, Joey DeVivo, Vince Naples.

The Dublin Class I U12 Fighters' run for the State Cup ended this weekend with a close (3-2) loss to the CA Odyssey Red from Clovis. Despite being down (2-0) at the half, the Fighters rallied in the 2nd and tied it up with goals from Amanda Garcia and Adriana Nugen. They continued to play tenaciously, only to lose in the last few minutes of play to a stray ball.

Top Offensive Players: Amanda Garcia (1 goal and an assist), Adrianna Nugen (1 goal), Rebecca Beasley, Veronica Bossio, Mikaila Constable, Allison Mitchell, Niki Mohebi, and Megan Zummo all played exceptionally, exerting pressure on the Odyssey' Mids and defenses. Top Defensive Players: Joanna Giron, Veronica Highsmith, Annie Jones, Christine Laymon, Halley Zummo, anchored by goalie Heather Seeley stepped up their game and repeatedly thwarted the swift Odyssey attacks right to the bitter end.

### CYO Basketball

The Catholic Community of Pleasanton (CCOP) 7th grade girls (team 7005) struggled to establish anything inside in CYO basketball action as St. Isidore's (team 7006) defense held CCOP to 6 points and CCOP found themselves down by 10 at the half. It wasn't until the second half that CCOP came alive and the excitement began. With poise and control CCOP began to work the inside game relying on Sydney Okumura (6 points, 7 rebounds), Michelle Mann (4 points, 5 rebounds) and Lauren MacDonnell (2 points). Outside shooter, Nicole Ponzini, was not to be denied by scoring 8 points (5 rebounds). Top scorer, Lyndsay Godwin, with 10 points (6 rebounds), made 3 consecutive shots from the outside keeping CCOP's offensive game on track. CCOP and St. Isidore exchanged baskets back and forth in the 4th quarter with the game winning shot made by CCOP and a final score of 30-28. Contributing defensively were Jessica Morosoli, Vivian Hare, Emily Alberts and Kelly Parsons.

Stephen Ferrel went 6 for 6 from the field and converted his only foul shot to lead CCOP with 13 points and a 41-26 victory over St. Raymond's, 41 to 26. Ferrel also played stellar defense and recorded six steals and four rebounds. Carson Ewanich scored 7 points grabbed 4 rebounds and David Elson added 6 points and 3 rebounds for CCOP. Top Offensive Players: Stephen Ferrel (13 points, 4 rebounds, six steals); Carson Ewanich (7 points, 4 rebounds); David Elson (6 points, 3 rebounds). Top Defensive Players: Stephan Molhajer (4 points, 2 rebounds, 2 steals); Keaton Housman (4 points, 7 rebounds); Nick Roby (3 points, 2 rebounds).

In fifth grade action, St. Michael's/St. Charles (SM/SC) Team 527 lost 35-15 to a visiting St. Isidore's Team 522. As in their first game earlier this season, St. Isidore used its height advantage to dominate under the baskets and jumped to a 19-4 half-time lead.

SM/SC played more aggressively in the second half, but was outplayed. St. Isidore passed well and stole the ball many times. The game's top scorers were St. Isidore's Zach Wallace (13 points) and Cole Kusner (12 points); SM/SC's top scorers were Alec Bradley (7 points) and Tito Quihuis (4 points).

SM/SC 4th grade girls American League team took a nail-biter from a fired up CCOP team. The game was close all the way, with neither team able to mount more than a two point lead at any point in the contest. Ultimately, the game was decided by solid defense down the stretch. Grace Naylor played great defense, disrupting the CCOP offense throughout the game as well as sinking a clutch free throw in the final minute. Anna Neitzel and Rachel Hernandez each played strong games at both ends, with tenacious defense and great rebounding and playmaking. CCOP had a shot to tie at the buzzer, but fell just short and SM/SC hung on to win 14-12.

The St. Michael's/St. Charles (SM/SC) 6th Grade boys American division team (#66) fought hard to win a close game vs. St. Joan of Arc (#63) with the final score being 37-31. The top scorers for SM/SC were Collin Sommerhauser (9 points), Ryan Kirby (6), and Kevin Kalmar (6). For St. Joan's the top scorers were John Massimino (9 points) and Marshall Rodriguez (6).

### California Gymnastics

California Gymnastics Academy competed in the Tidal Wave Classic hosted by Peninsula Gymnastics in San Mateo on Feb. 3.

RESULTS (by event):  
LEVEL 4: Age Group: 8+ FLOOR - Rex Lueth - 1st place (8.9); Eric Beckermann - 3rd place (8.5); Myles Hewitt - 7th place (7.8)  
POMMEL - Eric Beckermann - 2nd place (8.8); Rex Lueth - 7th place (7.95); Myles Hewitt - 10th place (7.55) RINGS - Eric Beckermann - 1st place (9.3); Rex Lueth - 14th (8.8); Myles Hewitt - 12th place (8.0) VAULT - Myles Hewitt - 2nd place (9.35); Eric Beckermann - 3rd place (9.2); Rex Lueth - 15th place (9.15) PARALLEL BARS - Eric Beckermann - 2nd place (8.9); Rex Lueth - 10th place (8.2); Myles Hewitt - 18th place (8.1) HIGH BAR - Rex Lueth - 3rd (7.9); Myles Hewitt - 5th place (7.3); Eric Beckermann - 7th place (6.85) ALL AROUND - Eric Beckermann - 2nd place (51.35); Rex Lueth - 3rd place (50.9); Myles Hewitt - 7th place (48.1).

LEVEL 5: Age Group: 10+ FLOOR - Yianni Constantindes - 10th place (6.65); Dvir Reif - 11th place (6.6) POMMEL - Yianni Constantindes - 4th place (8.45); Dvir Reif - 6th place (7.9) RINGS - Dvir Reif - 7th place (8.3); Yianni Constantindes - 13th place (7.9) VAULT - Yianni Constantindes - 18th place (9.0); Dvir Reif - 13th place (8.75) PARALLEL BARS - Dvir Reif - 11th place (8.4); Yianni Constantindes - 11th place (8.0) HIGH BAR - Dvir Reif - 5th place (8.7); Yianni Constantindes - 12th place (7.8) ALL AROUND - Dvir Reif - 8th place (48.65); Yianni Constantindes - 10th place (47.8).

LEVEL 8: Age Group: 10+ FLOOR - Jason Phillips - 15th place (8.5); Patrick Corona - 9th place (7.2) POMMEL - Patrick Corona - 5th place (7.25); Jason Phillips - 7th place (7.0) RINGS - Jason Phillips - 5th place (7.5); Patrick Corona - 8th place (7.2) VAULT - Jason Phillips - 1st place (7.8); Patrick Corona - 14th place (7.5) PARALLEL BARS - Patrick Corona - 8th place (7.4); Jason Phillips - 9th place (7.0) HIGH BAR - Jason Phillips - 3rd place (7.7); Patrick Corona - 8th place (6.6) ALL AROUND - Jason Phillips - 7th place (45.5); Patrick Corona - 9th place (43.15).

LEVEL 9: Age Group: 12-13 yrs old FLOOR - Brandon Jessup - 2nd place (9.3) POMMEL - Brandon Jessup - 3rd place (6.7) RINGS - Brandon Jessup - 3rd place (7.6) VAULT - Brandon Jessup - 1st place (8.1) PARALLEL BARS - Brandon Jessup - 3rd place (7.0) HIGH BAR - Brandon Jessup - 3rd place (7.2) ALL AROUND - Brandon Jessup - 3rd place (45.9).

### Middle School Basketball

East Avenue Middle School 8th grade girls defeated Wells MS, 43 to 31. The East Ave. was hot offensively with Carrie Melrose scoring 14 points with 5 rebounds and Brooke Betts adding 12 points with 4 steals of her own. Also playing well for East Ave. was M'Kenna Kettenhofen scoring 9 points with 7 rebounds and Kaitlynn Amaral shooting for 7 more points.

East Ave 7th grade girls lost a close one to Wells MS, 28 to 33. After leading most of the game East Ave. was unable to hold off the hot shooting Wells team. Scoring and playing well offensively for East Ave. was Sami Schiller (12 pts, 8 ebs, 9 stls), Alyse Kline (9 pts, reb, 4 stls) and Ashley Holmes (6 pts, 3 rebs, 2 stls). Playing well defensively and slowing down the offense for Wells was Erin Walthall (5 rebs, stl), McKenzie Hubert (3 rebs, stl, 2 blocks), Katelyn Jones (6 rebs) and Shannon Sumnergren (2 rebs).

East Ave. 8th grade girls defeated Junction MS, 39 to 15. The defense for East Ave. was tough limiting the good shooting Junction team. M'Kenna Kettenhofen for East Ave. had a big game hitting for 17 points, 10 rebounds and 2 blocked shots. East Ave. remained hot during the game with Kaitlynn Amaral (11 pts, 5 stls) and Brooke Betts (8 pts, 4 assts, 4 stls) also having outstanding games.

East Ave. 7th grade girls topped Junction MS, 44 to 4. The East Avenue team was crashing the boards registering 32 rebounds

for the game. McKenzie Hubert (7 pts, 8 rebs, 4 blocks), Jamie Elliott (2 pts, reb, 4 stls) and Julie Walsh (4 pts, 5 rebs) had outstanding games offensively for East Avenue. Tough on the boards for East Avenue was Jessica Beckwith (2 pts, 6 rebs), Katelyn Jones (2 pts, 6 rebs) and Ashley Holmes (6 pts, 4 rebs, 2 stls, blk). Erin Walthall (2 pts, 2 rebs, 2 stls), Sami Schiller (9 pts, 5 rebs, 11 stls) and Alyse Kline (10 pts, 9 stls, blk) were hustling on defense for East Avenue to slow down the passing attack of Junction. Cassidy Sherman statistician and asst. coach played an important role in the winning effort by East.

### Tri-Valley Red Sox

In their first tournament as a team, the Tri-Valley Red Sox 14 demonstrated good teamwork and fundamentals while battling against some of the highest ranked competitors in Northern California. Despite losses to the Norcal Blacksox (1-11), the Headfirst Gamers Elite (2-4) and the SV Yankees (0-13), the Red Sox team displayed excellent pitching by Greg Shehtanian, Troy Stetsom, Tyler Cook, Drake Rivenes, and Nick Hilgen. Defense was in high gear with stunning catches (Aaron Hatford, Jack Pilling, Sean Gallager, Ryan Kochian) and impressive double play action by infielders Taylor Menzel, Keaton Housman, and Justin Brunnett. RBIs went to Jack Pilling and Aaron Hatford.

### Bowling News

Scott Hylton led bowling action at Granada Bowl in Livermore. Hylton, Eagles Renovations League, rolled more strikes as the games went on as he started with a 236 then a 266 and found more bags of strikes for a big 280 game and 782 series. Gene Brault, Gene's Pro Shop team in the ReMax Reality league, opened with a 268 - 224 and a eleven strike game of 289 for his 781 set.

The Valley Family and Friends saw Scott Cooper roll a 769 series with games of 268-237-264. Chuck Harding, 130 average in the Friday Family Affair, bowled his career first 200 game and in a big way with a 244 game. Greg Kwasiak had a good scoring week with three 700 sets - In the Kings and Queens - 257-232-249 - 38 set; 4 Seasons Heating and Air highs of 255-248 for a 708 and came in with a 707 series in the Monday Mashers. Joe Monastriak had a pair of 700's with games of 257-248-228-733 series in the ReMax Reality League and followed with a 742 series with games of 247-269-226.

More of the big sets were turned in by Landon Lawson - 254-244-724; Pat Kruse 268-735; Dave Milichichi 246-704 set. In the 4 Seasons Heating and Air league, Joe Morganstern topped his 173 average with his career game of 289. Ed Ghirso, Friday Family Affair, took honors with 243-224-222-0689 series; Brian Estabrook, 173 norm Valley Family and Friends, bowled a 226 game and 615 series.

### Sharks Tickets

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) is selling a limited amount of tickets to a big game for the San Jose Sharks. Tickets are available for the Sunday, March 11, 2007 game against the Edmonton Oilers, starting at 5:00 p.m. at the Shark Tank in San Jose. The Oilers were ranked sixth in the NHL in 2005 and made it to the Stanley Cup finals.

Tickets are Upper Reserved seats in sections 217, 218, 226, and 227. Cost is \$43 each. Tickets can be purchased by calling (925) 373-5700. For more information, please contact Moe Kline at (925) 373-5717.

### Track and Field Sign ups

Athenian Athletics is accepting applications for youth athletes between the ages of 7-17 for the upcoming track and field season. Athletes 18 and older are also invited to join the club and train during our adult sessions.

Practices are held year round and are scheduled on Mondays and Wednesdays. For practice time and location, please visit www.athenianathletics.com or call Coach Rik Richardson (Home) 1-925-862-0855 or (Cell) 1-925-518-9356.

### Benefit Golf Tourney

Livermore High Baseball will host its 1st annual Benefit Golf Tournament at Poppy Ridge Golf Course on Fri., March 16. Scramble format is at 1 p.m. The \$150 fee includes golf with cart, lunch, range balls, winner, clubhouse credit and door prizes. For information, call Coach Dave Perotti at 586-2811.

### Junior Empires Needed

Pleasanton Phantom Girls Softball League is looking for boys and girls in 7th grade or older to become Junior Empires. This is a great way to be part of the exciting games, have fun, earn money and build confidence at the same time. A mandatory training session will take place on Feb. 24 at the Pleasanton Tennis Complex. If you are interested, email your name, address, phone numbers (home & cell), age, grade and any previous experience to Garry Bardakos gbardakos@comcast.net or James Gilbreth james@baysal.com. For more information, contact Garry Bardakos at 462-5830.

### Football and Cheer

Youth Football & Cheer (LYF&C) is a full contact football league that has been established for more than 30 years. The league's motto is "children first, game second." The goal is teaching the fundamentals of both football and cheer. The league works together with the local High Schools to ensure participants are learning the fundamentals needed for the high schools' competitive football and cheer programs. LYF&C emphasizes is on proper technique and fundamentals, responsibility, accountability, and most importantly being a good person and teammate.

All coaches are CPR and First Aid certified as well as NYSCA certified. All coaches are required to attend coaching clinics each year to strengthen their knowledge of the game. The football and cheer squads have been very successful in the highly competitive Diablo Valley Youth Football Conference (DVFYC). DVFYC is one of the strongest youth football conferences in Northern CA. It consists of 16 "city" teams that attract the best football players and cheerleaders in the Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. In the past 5 years LYF&C has sent at least 2 teams to the playoffs each year, with one team reaching the championship 4 consecutive years. Cheer squads consistently place in regional as well as national cheer competitions. There are 5 levels to tryout for with ages 7 to 14 (football) 5 to 14 (cheerleading). Registration will be held March 15th from 6-8pm @ Round Table Pizza 1024 East Stanley Blvd. Information at web site www.eteamz.com/lyfc or call 925-454-1421 (evenings).

### Golf Tourney Tickets

The Livermore Valley Wine Country Championship Tournament will be held at The Course at Wente Vineyards from March 29 - April 1.

This tournament showcases the PGA Nationwide Tour featuring "up and coming" golf stars.

Pleasanton Partnerships in Education Foundation (PPIE) and Pleasanton Schools Education Enrichment Foundation (PSEE) will be partnering with the school organizations to sell tickets to this tournament. The tickets are \$25.00 each and will allow the ticket holder to access the grounds for all 4 days of the tournament! This event will also feature food and wine, art and performances from the local community, and more!

Please contact Nancy Bronzini, PPIE ambassador at nbronzini@pleasanton.k12.ca.us or (925) 846-3520, or contact the PPIE office at (925) 846-3620 or mail@ppie.org, to purchase your tickets.

### 10K Run

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

Entry fee is \$35 per person. All runners and volunteers will receive a red t-shirt and a barbecue lunch after the run. There is no entry fee for volunteers.

Run with Sparky George, the Bear Flag Runner, to raise awareness and money for the Hats Off America (HOA) nonprofit organization. HOA raises money for families of soldiers who have died in Afghanistan and Iraq. The run is another way that Hats Off America lets the families know that they and their loved ones will not be forgotten. For information or to register or volunteer, contact Sparky George at (925) 853-1950 or thebehatragrunner@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.

### Golf Tournament

The Dublin High School athletic programs will benefit from the Dublin High School Golf Tournament to be held April 20 at the Sunol Golf Course.

Tea time, shot gun scramble, is at 1 p.m., no hot cocktails and silent auction 6 to 6:30, and dinner, live auction, raffle and awards 6:30 p.m.

The \$175 fee includes golf, cart, box lunch, buffet dinner, and contest package. For information, contact Sandy Yee at 833-3300 ext. 5217 or changyeasandy@dublin.k12.ca.us.

### Adult Softball Leagues

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District adult softball leagues for Spring/Summer 2007 are now forming and completed team packets are due the week of February 12-16. Men's, coed, business coed, and women's leagues are all offered. Those players who are looking to join a team can register as "free agents." Learn more by visiting www.eteamz.com/larpddultsports, or call Beanie Lucivero, the league coordinator at (925) 373-5732.

### Golf Tournament

The Livermore High Baseball Team is having a fund-raiser golf tournament on

March 16th at Poppy Ridge Golf Course at 1:00. The cost is \$150 and it is a scramble format. Fee includes: range balls, cart, lunch, dinner with auction, clubhouse credit, door prizes. All the money benefits the baseball program at LHS.

For more information, please call Coach David Perotti at 925-606-4812 x2438 or go to www.eteamz.com/LHSCowboysBaseball and click on the golf tournament link. Sponsorship opportunities are also available.

## New Youth Football League Taking Signups

Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) and the football programs at Livermore and Granada High Schools have announced the inaugural season of the Livermore Junior Football League in 2007.

LJFL is founded under the principle that every Livermore child who wants to play football should have the opportunity.

Scott Kamena, LARPD Board member commented on the league at last week's meeting. Everyone who signs up will play. This is a no cut-league with no tryouts.

Kamena said that the league was formed to provide kids a chance to learn to play football. "We have found that kids trying out for football teams at Livermore and Granada high schools have never played football. In Pleasanton, 80 percent of those trying out have played. This league will provide an opportunity to increase the level of play in our high schools."

This inaugural year is open to all 7th and 8th grade middle school students for the 2007/08 school year. All participants will learn the fundamentals of contact football in a safe and positive environment and play regardless of talent level or ability. All games will be played in Livermore or Pleasanton. For the inaugural season, games will be played at the high schools' gridirons or at Pleasanton's sports park. Thereafter, LJFL will play at the new lighted, turf gridiron to be built by LARPD and Shea Homes north of I-580. All practices will

take place in Livermore. LJFL's sign-ups will take place on Saturdays, February 10, February 24 and March 17, 2007, 9am - Noon at Livermore High School.

The cost is \$205 (checks only.) Players must be present for weigh-in. Please arrive early! Inaugural season registration will close when the league reaches 100 players. Players that are not able to register with LJFL will be given instructions to Pleasanton Junior Football League registration. LJFL intends to expand in the future to accept all Livermore children who wish to play contact football.

LJFL is thankful to Madden Charities and numerous local businesses for providing equipment and uniform funding for the league.

For additional information, interested parents should visit: www.livermorejuniorfootball.com. President and Vice-President of LJFL are Jay Frost and Jim Burke.

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## ART &amp; ENTERTAINMENT

**THIS WEEKEND**  
**Pacific Chamber Symphony.** "Garden of Delights." Theme, Livermore concert on Fri., Feb. 9, 8 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, 4th and L Streets. Program: Beethoven, "Lenore Overture No. 3," Prokofiev, "Piano Concerto #3," Ilya Petrov, piano soloist; Rachmaninoff, "Rhapsody on the Theme of Paganini," Dinara Nadzhafova, piano soloist. Brahms, "Variations on a Theme of Haydn." Tickets at 931-3444 or www.civictickets.org.

**Early Music Series.** Sat., Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m. Las Positas College Library, 3033 Collier Canyon Rd., Livermore. Iranian born harpsichordist Mahan Eshahani will perform a repertoire of Elizabethan England, Court of the Sun King, and J.S. Bach. Tickets \$15 for adults, \$5 students. Available at the college.

**Campana Jazz Festival.** Sat., Feb. 10. Competition all day, awards in the afternoon, evening concert featuring award winners. Performances start at 7:30 a.m. 461-6196 or www.amadorband.org.

**The Witness,** a one-woman, one-act play by Martha Boesing, at Lynnwood Methodist Church on Sat., Feb. 10 at 7 p.m. It is a fundraiser for Tri-Valley Haven. Tickets are \$20, which includes the play, refreshments and child care. Discounts are available for seniors, youth and groups of ten or more. To purchase tickets in advance, contact the church office at 846-0221. The church is located at 4444 Black Ave.,

Pleasanton.  
**Benefit Concert.** Sun., Feb. 11, 2 p.m. Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. Presented by Amador Valley High School and Vietnam Youth Projects. Proceeds support children in need in Vietnam. Chi and Truc Nguyen and other Bay Area professional musicians will perform. Tickets and information at www.vnyouthprojects.net or 275-9250.

**The Pleasanton Chamber Players and Friends.** Sun., Feb. 11, 3 p.m. Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. Program: cellists Lawrence Granger, Gay Hagen Dunn, Peter Bedrossian, and Jim Alkin in music by Bach and romanticists Klengel and Fitzenhagen. Clarinetists Joseph Bonfiglio and Gary Sears perform works by Crussell and Mendelssohn with pianist Mary Martin; flutists Karen Stasko Veca and Teresa Orozco-Petersen plan works by Kuhlau and Fauré. Soprano Sarah Franklin and mezzo-soprano Lisa Scarborough pair up in song settings by Bellini and Offenbach (accompanied by harpist Dominique Piana) and by Heggie (in collaboration with pianist Priscilla Carter Granger and Lawrence Granger). \$15 advance, \$18 at the door, group/senior discounts available, children free. 600-1331.

**26th annual Melodrama.** Sunol Repertory Theatre will present "Taming the Wild, Wild West in a Dress,"

or....Let's Give the Villain the Slip," adapted from a play by Billy St. John and directed by Klay Kunkel. Performances are March 10, 16, 17, 23, 30 & 31 at 8 p.m. in the auditorium of Sunol Glen School at 11601 Main St. in Sunol. Tickets are \$12.50 and can be ordered on line at www.sunol.net or by calling (925) 862-0664 for further information. Tickets can be purchased at Elliston Vineyards & Little Valley Winery tasting room on Saturdays and Sundays between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. beginning February 10. So hiss and boo and have a laugh with the whole family.

**World Class Four Hand Piano.** featuring Mark Anderson & Tamriko Siprashvili on Saturday, February 24, at 8 p.m. The performance will take place at the Amador Theater, located at 1155 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. Annual two-piano benefit concert for the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council's Arts in the Schools Program. Piano selections will include Stravinski's Tango & Petrushka as well as Vivaldi's Four Seasons Winter, Paul Dukas' The Sorcerer's Apprentice and Ravel's Bolero. City of Pleasanton Civic Arts Presents will host. Advance tickets are \$15, \$20 and \$25. Tickets may be purchased online at www.civictickets.org up to three hours prior to the performance, by phone at (925) 931-3444, or in person at the Amador Theater Box Office.

**Fifth Annual Youth Music Festival.** City of Pleasanton Civic Arts Presents will host the on Friday, February 23,

at 8:00 p.m. Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. Entertainment will include solo vocalists, instrumentalists, and vocal and instrumental ensembles. Young artists, age 18 and under, from the East Bay and beyond will perform. Ticket prices are \$7 in advance and \$10 at the door. Tickets may be purchased online at www.civictickets.org up to three hours prior to the performance, by phone at (925) 931-3444.

**Bordeaux Tasting.** Tues., Feb. 20, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Uncle Yu's at the Vineyard, 39 So. Livermore Ave. Sample wines from the region of Bordeaux imported by Grand Cru Imports. \$45 per person includes wine, passed hors d'oeuvres, tax and gratuity. RSVP at 449-7000.

**Killer Laughs Comedy Competition.** Tommy T's Comedy and Steakhouse, 5104 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton; info 227-1800. Each show will feature a special guest comedian after the competition. Presented by Laugh-A-Lot Productions Presents. Dates for preliminary rounds: Feb. 27; March 6, 1; semi-finals: March 20, 27; finals: April 3 featuring nine comics. All shows start 8 p.m.; doors open 6 p.m. \$7 cover plus two item minimum. For more information call (925) 264-4413 or john@laughalotproductions.com.

**Cinema at Wente Vineyards.** My Big Fat Greek Wedding, Thurs., Feb. 8. Dinner and the movie is \$39 (plus tax and gratuity). Proceeds benefit the California Independent Film Festival. Movie begins at 7:30 pm Dinner & Movie: \$39 (plus tax and gratuity). Movie only tickets are also available for \$9 per adult and \$5 per child (12 and under). Wente Vineyards Visitors Center, Arroyo Rd., Livermore. For more information and ticket sales,

call the box office at 925-456-2400.  
**California State University, East Bay Annual Faculty Art Exhibition** Mondays-Thursdays, Feb. 12 to March 1 12:30-3:30 p.m. University Art Gallery in Arts & Education Building Free (510) 885-3299, http://class.csueastbay.edu/artgallery/  
**Auditions, To Kill a Mockingbird.** Feb. 10 and 11, 11 a.m.; callbacks Feb. 17, 2 p.m. The cast features 2 African-American actors (ages 25 to 50), 8 actors (ages 25 to 60+), 2 African-American actresses (ages 25 to 50), 5 actresses (ages 18 to 60+) 2 Boys (ages 10 to 13), and 1 Girl (age 8 to 11). All roles are open - All roles are unpaid. Auditions will be performing cold readings from the script. Scripts will be provided at the audition. The Douglas Morrison Theatre 22311 North Third Street Hayward. For additional information about the Douglas Morrison Theatre and this production please visit our website at www.dmtonline.org.

**Early registration:** The Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council and City of Pleasanton Civic Arts announce the opening of early registration for the Sixth Annual Poetry, Prose & Arts Festival on Saturday, March 31. The Festival will be held at the CarrAmerica Conference Center, 4400 Rosewood Drive, Pleasanton from 8:30 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. Adult registration includes two workshops, sessions with California Poet Laureate Al Young and author Michael Chabon, afternoon events that are open to the public, and meals, including the evening awards banquet. The adult fee is \$80 before March 3 and \$95 after. Youth Poetry & Arts registration includes a morning poetry workshop and the public afternoon activities. Youth fee \$15 prior to

March 3 and \$20 after. Teen Prose registration includes two workshops, the Al Young and Michael Chabon sessions, and the afternoon public activities. Early registration for teens is \$25; After March 3, the fee is \$35. Adults, teens and youth who wish to enter the Festival's poetry contests must submit their entries with early registration. Early registrations and payments must be postmarked on or before March 3. Registration forms may be downloaded from the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council website at www.pleasantonarts.org or obtained by contacting Michelle Russo at (925) 931-5350 or mrusso@ci.pleasanton.ca.us.

**2007 Livermore Lives! Teen Art Expo.** Livermore residents in the sixth through twelfth grades are invited to submit a piece of original art visually expressing a distinct perspective of their lives. Media including painting, sculpture, photography, textiles and collage are eligible for this exhibit. Entries will be accepted Mon., March 5 through Sun., March 25 at the Civic Center Library, 1188 So. Livermore Avenue. Artwork will be shown as space allows. Teen Expo Artwork will be on display from April 2-29 in the Civic Center art gallery during regular library hours. For more information and to access applications, visit the library's website at www.livermore.lib.ca.us or contact Mary Sue Nocar at 373-5500 ext. 5583.

**Murder Mystery Dinner.** Trio at Stony Ridge Restaurant, located at the Stony Ridge and Crooked Vine wineries is hosting on February 10, at 6 p.m. Cost is \$55.00 per person for dinner and show. Wine, beer and sangria menu available. Call 925-449-0660 for required reservations.

## OBITUARIES

## Bruce Bordenkircher

Bruce Odell Bordenkircher died January 30, 2007 at his home in Livermore. He was 82.

The native of Ohio had lived in Livermore for 34 years. Bruce loved his dogs, fishing, playing golf and working on cars.

He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Joann Bordenkircher, sons Richard Bordenkircher of Camarillo, Dale Bordenkircher of Carmichael and Gary Bordenkircher of Los Gatos and three grandchildren.

Funeral services were held February 2 in Livermore. Burial as a Roselawn Cemetery in Livermore.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

## June Marie Abbey

June or "Junebug" as she was known, died January 29, 2007 at her home in Dublin. She was 66.

The native of Teaneck, New Jersey had lived in Dublin for 34 years. She touched many lives with her gentle spirit, her devotion to family and her very positive outlook on life. June loved fishing, camping and traveling with her family. Pinochle with good friends and playing games with her grandchildren also brought her great joy. She was a wonderful crafts person, who made and donated holiday gifts to worthy charitable organizations. Karate, baseball and soccer were of great interest when her grandchildren were participating. June loved the world and the world loved her back. She will be greatly missed.

She is survived by her husband, Robert Abbey Sr., her children Deborah Quezon and husband David Quezon; Robert Abbey Jr., and Scott Abbey. She is also survived by grandchildren, Jessica Abbey, Robert Abbey III, Jonathan Quezon, and Christopher Abbey.

Funeral services were held February 3 in Pleasanton. Burial followed.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests a donation to the American Diabetes Foundation or the American Heart Association. Arrangements by Graham-Hitch Mortuary.

## Audrey Richards

Audrey Richards died January 31, 2007.

The native of Sterling, Michigan had lived in Livermore for 28 years. Audrey was well known for her kind heart and dedication to all. There is a very large extended family that saw her as their mother and/or Nana. She worked for 35 years in the restaurant and bar business. For the last 27 years, she had been an Avon representative. She had several hobbies and most were related to crafts. The last decade, she devoted many hours to the prevention and awareness of breast cancer. Her greatest joy in life was her unrelenting love and devotion for family and friends.

She is survived by her husband of 35 years, Floyd, her children, Sherry Pratt and spouse Bob of Livermore, Todd Richards and spouse Toni of Livermore, Scott Richards and companion Sharon Milstead of Mesquite, TX, and Jeff Richards of Livermore, as well as 15 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.

Mass of Resurrection was celebrated February 6 at St. Michael's Catholic Church in

Livermore. Burial was at St. Michael's Catholic Cemetery in Livermore.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

## John Oliver Walker

Livermore resident John Oliver Walker died February 1, 2007. He was 92.

He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Gladys Walker, sons Kenneth (Gloria), Dale (Judy), and Jim (Sherry), seven grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Fri., Feb. 9 at Callaghan Mortuary, 3833 East Avenue, Livermore.

Memorial gifts may be made to a favorite charity.

## Hiram Allen Phillips

Hiram Allen Phillips died January 23, 2007 in Tracy. He was 76.

He was a native of Oklahoma. The family came to California in 1939 and settled in Visalia. He graduated from Visalia High School in 1948 and then served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1948 to 1950. He came to Livermore in 1951 where he worked at the Fuseworks from 1951 to 1953. He lived in Livermore until 1978. In Livermore he worked at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory for 35 years as a supplies and distribution supervisor, retiring in 1988. He lived in Tracy from 1978-1988. In 1988, he and his wife spent the remaining years traveling, spending winters in Arizona and summers on the Oregon Coast. They enjoyed RVing throughout North America. He was a long-time member of the Livermore-Pleasanton Elks BPOE, partner of Norma's Towing of Livermore since 1981, member of the Golden Anchor Boat Club of Tracy and served as the commander for three years.

He is survived by his wife Karen Phillips of Tracy, children Janie (Ralph) Corum, Steve (Joanne) Bretz, Stephanie (Tim) Harrah, Donovan Bretz-Seymour, Norm (Robyn) Phillips, and eleven grandchildren, and eight great grandchildren and one on the way.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. on Sat., Feb. 10 at Callaghan Mortuary, 3833 East Avenue, Livermore.

Contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, 11200 Golf Links Rd., Oakland, CA 94607.

## Isabel Vidales Gilpin

Isabel Vidales Gilpin ("Isie") passed on Monday, February 5, 2007 in Pleasanton.

Isie was born in Culiacan Sinaloa, Mexico on December 3, 1915. Isie had so many moments which were special in her life. Her marriage to Grampy tops the list, the birth of her beautiful daughter who she loved dearly, the births of her grandchildren and great grandchildren; who she absolutely adored, and finally her move from Arizona to California. Isie was able to spend her last years here in California surrounded with friends and family, attending the Friendship Center for Seniors in Livermore, going to the beach, boating, picnics, scenic drives and flowers, filled her last years with joy. We will

always love you Isie.

She is survived by her daughter, Barbara Gilpin Goodwin of Tucson, Arizona; her grandchildren Deborah Isabel Whitehead Brown (Duane), Roy Charles Whitehead (Anna) and great grandchildren, Duane Leon Brown (Gina) and Delmer Saint Brown.

Services for "Isie" will be held on Friday, February 9, at 10 a.m. at Callaghan Mortuary, 3833 East Avenue, Livermore.

## Detroit Barksdale

Detroit Barksdale died January 22, 2007 at Washington Hospital in Fremont. He was 75. He was a Livermore resident.

He was born July 15, 1921 in Mississippi to Mr. and Mrs. Maynard Barksdale. Detroit received Christ at an early age and joined Jones Grove Missionary Baptist Church where he continued until he moved to Oakland. Detroit then moved to Livermore where he joined St. Matthew's Baptist Church and met his current church family. He was well known and loved throughout the Livermore community by friends and merchants.

He is survived by his wife Katherine Barksdale, sons Willie Barksdale, Sylvester Dean, Alvin Barksdale, Jimmy Dean, and Keith Barksdale, daughters Djuana Barksdale, Alice Johnson, Betty Barksdale, Belinda Barksdale, Hattie Johnson, Sylvia Barksdale and Mary Dean, a host of sons and daughters-in-law, nieces and nephews, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held January 30 at St. Matthew's Baptist Church in Livermore. Interment was at the San Joaquin National Cemetery in Gustine.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

## Josephine Chapple

Josephine Angela Chapple passed on February 4, 2007 with her daughter and son-in-law Mark by her side. She was 95.

Born on Nov. 1, 1909 on the family farm in Bartonville, Ontario, Canada, she married Clifford Chapple in 1930 and moved to Illinois. In 1951, the couple moved to Santa Rosa where Josephine was the administrative assistant at the Social Security Administration. She loved horse racing, gardening and taking care of her family. Josephine spent the last eight years of her life in San Ramon, where she took great pride in serving as president of the Residents Council at Merrill Gardens.

She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, and four nephews, Gerold Smith, Ronald Stevens, Joseph Connors and Patrick Connors. She will be greatly missed.

At her request, no formal services will be held.

Donations in her memory may be made to Canine Companions for Independence, Box 446, Santa Rosa, CA 95402 or VITAS Hospice.

Arrangements by Graham-Hitch Mortuary.

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

**Jewelry, Accessories and Collectibles Event.** American Cancer Society Discovery Shop, 1987-A Santa Rita Rd., Mission Plaza, Pleasanton, Feb. 9 at 10 a.m. Bracelets, baubles and beads; rings, earrings and watches, scarves, handbags and jewelry boxes. All funds support the fight against cancer.

**Anniversary Sale.** First Presbyterian Church annual event, Feb. 9 and 10, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, 451 K St., Livermore.

**The Political Book Group** will meet on February 27th in the Board Room of the Livermore Public Library from 7-9 p.m. This month's book will be *The Revenge of Gaia*, by James Lovelock. For those who have time, we'll also read the article *The Darkening Sea* by Elizabeth Kolbert from *The New Yorker* magazine, available from the web. Open to all.

**California Writers Club** (www.trivalleywriters.com), meets Saturday, February 17 from 11:30a.m. to 2:00p.m. Susan Bono, author and editor of *Tiny Lights: A Journal of Personal Essay*, will lead an interactive workshop on memoir writing. Luncheon held at Girasole Grille, 3180 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. \$18 member/\$25 nonmember. Reservations necessary. Contact Fred Norman fnorman300@aol.com for more information.

**Twins Valley Spokenword Touring Club.** Sat., Feb. 10, 25 miles Dublin to Sunol and back, meet 10 a.m. at Shannon Center. Liz Marcoux, 895-1295. Sat., Feb. 10, 32 miles along the canal trail, meet 10 a.m. at Heather Farms, Randy Huey, 518-8439. Sun., Feb. 11, 53 miles N. Livermore to Marsh Creek and return via Morgan Territory Rd., meet 9 a.m. at Portola Park and Ride, Rob Delfosse, 216-4823. Wed., Feb. 14, 20 miles through Castro Valley hills, meet 10 a.m. at Castro Valley Park and Ride, Linda Longinotti, 510-333-0464. Anyone planning to go on a ride is asked to call the leader for details on where to meet and what to bring.

**Twins Valley Mothers of Twins Club:** Meets Tues. Feb. 13th at John Knox Presbyterian Church, 7421 Amarillo Road, Dublin, Ca. Our goal is to provide support, information & friendship for Mothers of Multiples (Mom's). Roundtable discussion is open to new and prospective members (a Q&A forum that deals with parenting multiples, from pregnancy on up), hosted by one of the Club's members. Round table discussion begins at 6:30 PM. The general meetings begin at 7:30 PM. Babies up to eight months and guests are welcome to the Roundtable discussions. At the general meetings, newborns and breastfeeding babies only, please. For more info visit www.tvmtoc.com.

**Scholarship:** a \$500 scholarship will be awarded to the Tri-Valley Macintosh Users Group (TMUG) to a high school senior graduating in June 2007 from one of the following high schools: Amador Valley, Foothill, Livermore, Granada, Dublin or California. Scholarship based on the creative use of a Macintosh computer in support of the student's educational goals. The winning candidate will be selected based on creativity, knowledge of Macintosh systems, and the ability to demonstrate his/her proposal to the TMUG board of directors. The scholarship will be awarded upon receipt of proof of enrollment at a community college or four-year college. Applications may be obtained through school counselors and are due by March 30, 2007. For additional information, contact Izak Mutlu at imutlu@comcast.net.

**British Women** come for a "cuppa" and a chat with sister Brits in the local chapter of the Daughters of the British Empire. Meetings are 3rd Tues. of month in Pleasanton. Phone 875-0828 or 484-1273 for information. www.dbesociety.org or www.dbemca.org.

**Crab Feed and Silent Auction.** Fri., Feb. 9, 7 p.m. Valley Christian High School Gym, 7500 Inspiration Dr., Dublin. Benefit for athletics programs. Oakland Raider lineman John Parella will be the keynote speaker. Tickets \$35 adults, \$20 students. Ticket info Barb Harris, 560-6226 or bharris@dublinvcc.org.

**Sick Worker Support Group.** meeting Thursday, February 8, 10 a.m. to noon at Livermore Civic Center Library, Community Room B, 1188 So. Livermore Avenue, Livermore. Workers made ill on the job during their work for the Department of Energy, who seek compensation through the EEP/PA program, their survivors, families and friends are invited to share their experi-

ences and advice. Refreshments and snacks provided. Call Mary, (925) 443-7148 for more information.

**A Starry Night at the Vineyard.** Pleasanton Middle School Parent Faculty Association will host the annual fund-raiser on Sat., Feb. 27 at 6 p.m. at Ruby Hill County Club. It includes a sit-down dinner, live and silent auctions and Principal John Whitney's band. All proceeds benefit student programs. Tickets \$75 per person. Donation of auction items is greatly appreciated. For more information, contact the school at 426-4390.

**Free Seminars.** World School of Massage will offer free seminars for the general public on two topics in February. Monday, February 12th from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m., "Breast Health: Lymph Loving!" and Tuesday, February 13th from 12:30 - 2:00p.m., "Foot Freedom: My Feet Are Healthy!" Both seminars are taught by Patricia Cramer, the owner and founder of World School. All programs will be held at World School at 699 Peters Avenue, Suite A, Downtown Pleasanton. Reservations for either seminar are recommended. Info: 925-461-2533 or www.worldschoolmassage.com.

**ABWA Express to Success (E2S) Network** will be presenting Liz Pabon, President and Principal Consultant of Head2Toe Consulting. The discussion will focus on creating a personal brand that gives business women greater control over the personal impact they have on others. This event will take place on Tuesday, February 20, 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. at Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, 5115 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton. The cost is free for members and \$5 for nonmembers. Reservations are not required. Women in business who are interested in joining the networking group or want to know more about the meeting can e-mail info@expressstosuccess.org for more information, or go on-line at www.expressstosuccess.org. This event is sponsored in part by Striking Web and See 360 Studios.

**Amador Valley Quilt Guild** will meet on Saturday, February 10, at 1:30 p.m. at the Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Avenue, Pleasanton. Featured speaker will be Melody Crust, who will discuss the thinking process involved in selecting an appropriate quilting design for both traditional and nontraditional quilts. Melody is an award winning quilt artist and author of several books. She will hold a workshop the following day. The guild is a nonprofit educational association for quilters of all skill levels. Anyone interested in quilting may attend. For further information about the guild or upcoming speakers, please visit our website, http://amadervalleyquilters.org.

**Market Research and the Marketing Plan.** offered by TVC's Center for Commercialization & Entrepreneurial Training on Wednesday, February 14th from 8:30 am - 12:30 pm (registration/continental breakfast at 8 am). This session discusses the significant endeavor in determining the market potential of a product, understanding the dynamics in the marketplace, forecasting sales into a revenue model, and producing a marketing plan. Technology Ventures Corporation (TVC) provides consulting and support services to technology start-ups. TVC's training sessions are free to attendees and will be held at the CarrAmerica Conference Center, 4400 Rosewood Drive, Pleasanton. Please register online at: http://www.w.123signup.com/calendar/org-technventures. For more information, contact TVC at 925-960.1600 or TVC.CA@technventures.org.

**Livermore Chamber Commerce Installation Gala.** "Dancing with the Stars," Sat., Feb. 10, Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. Reception 6 p.m., dinner and program 7 p.m. Black tie optional. \$95 per person contribution. Reservations must be prepaid. For reserva-

tions, call the Chamber at 447-1606.

**Employment and disability rights for people with cancer.** Learn about legal rights conferred by various states such as the Family Medical Leave Act, the California Family Rights Act, American with Disabilities Act, and the California Fair Employment Act. Facilitated by Elizabeth Kristen, staff attorney with the Legal Aid Society Employment Law Center. Thurs., Feb. 15, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Valley Care Health Library, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., Suite 270, Pleasanton. Free. Reservations required. Information, call the Wellness Community, 933-0107.

**San Ramon Newcomers.** Luncheon Feb. 15. Crow Canyon Country Club. Social at 11:30 a.m., lunch at noon. Open to residents of San Ramon, Dublin, Pleasanton, Danville and Livermore. Information call 735-3508 or go to http://newcomers.home.comcast.net.

## RELIGION

**Unitarian Universalist.** 1893 N. Vasco Rd., Livermore. Topic for Feb. 11 is "If Justice Be Our Destiny." Information 447-8747.

**Effective Parenting In a Crazy World.** Wednesday nights February 7-April 11, 6:45pm - 8:15pm at Discovery Church, 5860 Las Positas Rd., Livermore. Contact Debra Eberhart for more info 925-580-7004.

**Open House.** Sunday, February 11. Pathway Community Church, 3470 Forstoria Way, Suite D, San Ramon, east of Costco and the Iron Horse Trail. Contemporary Worship Service 10:30 am, followed by an Open House 12:30 pm. Come and learn about various programs for all ages. Brian Owsing, Senior Pastor. www.pathwaycommunitychurch.org (925)830-4PC4(4722).

**St. Michael's Catholic Church Open House** will be February 15th from 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM. For further questions please contact the school at 447-1888.

**Solutions** meets Wednesday nights at 7 p.m. at Tri-Valley Church of Christ, 4481 East Ave., Livermore. The new series called, "It's Not My Fault," is currently being held. For more information call Greg Brown at 925-447-4333 or visit www.trivalleychurch.org.

**You Call This Jewish Food?** An exploration of Jews Around the World, 7 p.m. Saturday, February 10, 2007 at Sugandh Indian Cuisine, 4515 Rosewood Dr #700, Pleasanton. One of a series of five monthly dining-out events, each focusing on the Jews of a country or region. The second event of the series explores the Jews of India. Participants will have the opportunity to hear a short talk by Rabbi Judith Seid on the three different communities of Jews in India while they wait for their food to be delivered. The series continues on the second Saturday of each of the succeeding three months with dinner at a Chinese restaurant scheduled next. Cost of dinner plus \$20/reservations material fee for non-members of TVCJ. Series are required. 485-1049 or CulturalJews@aol.com.

**Love & Relationships.** The Catholic Community of St. Charles, 1315 Lomitas Ave., Livermore will be hosting an evening for the Tri-Valley of Love and Relationships on Tuesday, February 13, at 7:30 p.m. in Borromeo Hall with Fr. Padraic Greene. Part of the L.I.F.E. (Lessons in Faith Experience) series - A program for Adults who are looking to deepen their relationship with God and to enhance their life of faith. There is a \$5.00 freewill donation requested to pay for the speaker. For more information contact Julie at upcatholic@aol.com or 447-4549.

**Christian 12-Step Meeting for Women.** every Saturday 10:30-11:45 a.m. "The 12-Steps through Psalm 23: is a free drop-in group that can help with co-dependency, addiction and other self-destructive behaviors. R-Quest, 40 California Ave., Suite B, Pleasanton. 426-0501 ext. 21 or www.rquest.org.

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Liz Caffrey as Luisa and Eric Inman as Matt appear in 'The Fantasticks'

## Romantic Story with a Twist Next Playhouse Production

The Pleasanton Playhouse Studio Theatre presents "The Fantasticks." The play opens February 16 and runs weekends through March 18.

With a twist on the plot of "Romeo and Juliet," "The Fantasticks" follows the story of two young neighbors, Matt Hucklebee (Eric Inman) and Luisa Bellomy (Liz Caffrey), whose budding romance is forbidden by their fathers, Hucklebee (Dean Creighton) and Bellomy (Tom Leone). Separated by a wall, known as The Mute (Jeri Reed), the children do not know their fathers are deliberately keeping them apart with the intention of bringing them together. What better way to get kids to do something than to tell them no?

The fathers' plan includes an elaborate abduction of Luisa by the scoundrel El Gallo (Dan Kapler) and two roving actors, Henry (Jay Krohnengold) and Mortimer (Jack Larson). Matt is meant to "rescue" Luisa, thereby winning Bellomy's approval and ending the charade. Their love is put to the test when Matt and Luisa discover their relationship

must survive more than just their fathers' disapproval.

Written by Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt, "The Fantasticks" premiered off-Broadway in 1960 and ran for more than 17,000 performances. Songs include "Soon It's Going to Rain," "Never Say No," "It Depends on What You Pay," "I Can See It" and the memorable "Try to Remember."

"The Fantasticks" is directed by Jennifer Schwartz, with choreography by Michael Ryken and lighting design by Robert Ted Anderson.

Shows are 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays Feb. 16-March 18, 2007 at the Studio Theatre, 1048 Serpentine Lane #309, Pleasanton. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$18 for seniors 60 and older and juniors 18 and younger. They can be purchased 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at the Pleasanton Playhouse box office at 1048 Serpentine Lane #307 or by telephone at 925-462-2121 or 925-484-4486. Tickets can also be purchased online at [www.pleasantonplayhouse.com](http://www.pleasantonplayhouse.com).

## Livermore Opera Star Shines in San Francisco

By Susan Steinberg

Local operagoers enjoyed the ringing tones and melting lyricism of tenor Brian Thorsett as Prince Tamino, hero of LVO's recent "Magic Flute" production.

Proof of his star quality: he's now thrilling San Francisco audiences as Lionel, the romantic lead in "Martha" by Friedrich von Flotow. A seldom-heard gem of German opera, it sparkles in a new English translation by Donald Pippin, the legendary impresario of San Francisco's Pocket Opera.

As the poor peasant farmer, Lionel falls madly in love with a court noblewoman out for a lark in humble disguise, and, of course, is scornfully spurned by Her Ladyship, sung with dazzling vocal fireworks by Marcelle Dronkers.

Her friend Nancy, sung with astonishing vocal range and acrobatics by Julia Uehla, is also disguised as a peasant girl, and finds herself courted by Lionel's brother, Farmer Plunkett, the rich-voiced baritone Clifton Ronig.

A comical old noble suitor, Sir Tristram, is given a hilariously stuffy portrayal by Roger McCracken, and our "Magic Flute" Pappagena, the pert and petite Joanne Um, adds a lively

personality to the stage fun.

Of course once Lionel is discovered to be son and heir of the exiled Earl of Derby, the obstacle of class disparity is overcome, and the lovers can happily wed with the approval of Society and the Queen.

Brimming with beautiful music, "Martha" is especially famous for two well-loved melodies: "Ach so fromm" ("Ah so pure") and "The Last Rose of Summer," which receive eloquent renditions by soloists, chorus, and full orchestra.

Valley opera fans can catch Brian's stellar performances before he heads off to New York's opera world this spring, and say in the future, "We knew him when..."

Upcoming dates for "Martha" will be Friday, Feb 9, at 7:30 PM; Sunday, Feb 11, at 2 PM; and Saturday, Feb 24, at 2 PM at the Florence Gould Theater in San Francisco's Legion of Honor Museum. Other performances are Sunday, Feb 18, at 2 PM in the Napa Valley Opera House and Sunday March 11, at 2 PM in the Osher-Marj Jewish Community Center.

The box office can be reached at 415-972-8934 and the website is [www.pocketopera.org](http://www.pocketopera.org).

## Program Offers 'A Visit with John Muir'

"A Visit with John Muir," a talk by former Pleasanton school teacher Frank Helling, will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, February 15 at the Museum On Main, 603 Main Street, Pleasanton.

Dressed as Muir, Helling will recount the explorations and history-making events in the life of Muir, a naturalist, conservationist, writer and the founder of the Sierra Club. Reservations are requested. Admission is \$5 for museum members and \$10 for non-members. Call (925) 462-2766. Memberships will be available for purchase.

# It's All That Jazz at Amador High This Saturday

The 32nd Annual Campana Jazz Festival (CJF32) will be held Saturday, February 10.

This is an all day affair, hosted by the Amador Valley High School (AVHS) Music Department and Amador Friends of Music.

The Festival is held on the AVHS Campus, 1155 Santa Rita Road in Pleasanton. The first

bands of the day will begin their competitive performances at 8 a.m. Twenty-four bands from around the Bay Area, will compete in 3 divisions - High School 'A', and High School 'B' and Middle School.

The awards program begins with a Pre-Awards Concert is at 3:25 pm at the Amador Theater. All three Pleasanton Middle

Schools will perform. The Awards Concert begins at 4:00 pm. Both Amador High School Jazz Bands will be performing along with the best jazz bands in each division. Over \$7000 in scholarships to attend many of northern California's summer music camps will be awarded to the best individual musicians.

The public is invited to at-

tend. Admission is \$6 for all of the competitive performances and the Awards Concerts.

This festival is in honor of Jim Campana, who was Music Director at AVHS from 1959 through 1979. Campana created an outstanding music program and began the Festival which now bears his name. He plans to attend this year's Festival.

## PBS Series Star at Art Groups Meeting

The Livermore Art Association and Pleasanton Art League general meeting will be at Almond Avenue School, 1401 Almond Avenue, Livermore on Monday, February 12 beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Featured speaker and guest artist will be Stefan Baumann, host of the PBS television series The Grand View.

All are welcome to attend. The event is free.

Baumann's PBS series, which airs on Saturday mornings on Channel 17 (KCSM), takes the

viewer on a journey of America's National Parks Through the Eyes of An Artist. Baumann has been a renowned landscape painter since the age of 14 and has used the National Park System as his outdoor studio for nearly 25 years.

Baumann has been featured on the cover of Southwest Art and in People Magazine. He also conducts classes and plein aire workshops around the world. More information about the artist and his show are available on at [www.TheGrandView.org](http://www.TheGrandView.org).

## Vineyard Gains Organic Certificate

In 2006 the vineyard at Retzlaff Winery earned organic certification from the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Organic certification requires that no pesticides, herbicides, fungicides or any non-organic products be used. In order to qualify for this honor the vineyard and property must pass a rigorous inspection for 3 consecutive years.

The vineyard and winery were established over 20 years ago by Bob and Gloria Retzlaff Taylor. According to Gloria, "It was always our goal to achieve this distinction. We have always given the vineyard first consideration. The quality of the wine comes from the vineyard."

The public is invited to come to the winery on February 17, 18, and 19 from noon to 4:30 p.m. to taste the new wine while it is still in the barrel. There is a \$5 fee. Call the winery 925-447-8941 for details.

The winery is located at 1356 S. Livermore Avenue in Livermore.

# Symphony: The Sacred and the Profane

By Nancy O'Connell

A musical journey Saturday night lifted the audience from the depths of the underworld and the "Hells Angels" cacophony of sound to the gods entering Valhalla and Humperdinck's ethereal "Evening Prayer." A satisfying night of contrasts and a showcase for young talent.

The Livermore-Amador Symphony, under the direction of Arthur Barnes, gave the concert Saturday night, February 3rd at the Amador Theater in Pleasanton. Two talented young people, Max Loh on the piano, and James Choi, violinist, gave assurances to music lovers that the tradition of classical music in America will be passed on to future generations. Classical music in the schools is in danger of being phased out to make room for the mastery of computers, math and the sciences. However, a few students still manage to balance their love for music with other scholarly pursuits.

The Overture to *Orpheus in the Underworld* by Jacques Offenbach opened the program. Offenbach scandalized the musical world of his time. George Bernard Shaw called his shows "wicked," but people thronged to Offenbach's theater to hear his music. Barnes led the orchestra with sensitivity. The melodies in the various instruments were always heard, while the rest of the musicians kept their dynamics under control, never drowning out the solo voices. Beautiful oboe and English horn solos near the beginning of the overture were performed by Eva Langfeldt and Larry George. The first "cellist, Nick Dargahi, played masterfully, as did the concertmaster, Sally Dalke in her famous melody. Her intonation was excellent while the orchestra played a subdued accompaniment. While the first violins later did not always enter precisely together, there was almost a carnival atmosphere during the well known "can can" which led into a rousing finale.

For those of who knew Bernie Williams, as a warm and wonderful human being and a fine musician, it was touching to have Wagner's work, the "Entrance of the Gods into Valhalla" from *Das Rheingold* played as a tribute to her memory. Wagner wrote eloquently for the French horns, Bernie's instrument, and the four horns, Chris Immesoete, Richard Lamb, Bryan Waugh, and Robert Williams played their sectional solo with verve and feeling.

The pianist, Max Loh, one of the two students who won this year's competition with the Symphony, displayed a brilliant technique in the *Finale* to Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 3 in D Minor. A senior at Amador Valley High School, he also is the lead trumpet in a wind ensemble. Loh played from memory. Again the orchestral accompaniment never overshadowed the soloist. The romantic melodies make this work an audience favorite. Beautiful sonorities in the lower strings while the first violins were tacet brought out the pianist soaring over the rest of the players. His performance was never muddy, his pedaling technique firmly under control. He could make the piano sing, without the harsh percussive touch that some pianists seem to favor. His octave work was strong. This work is technically very difficult for the pianist, but Loh made it all look effortless. An amazing talent to watch for.

After the intermission, James Choi, the other student winner, played the first movement of Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto in E Minor, Opus 64. Choi, who was born in Korea, was dressed in black slacks and a black shirt with a tie. No dark suit or tails for this young man. His left-hand shirt sleeve was unbuttoned to give him more freedom of movement with his fingering. His played his solo passages with sensitivity, yet with great assurance. His intonation in his

double stops was good, and that's always tricky for a string player. There was a good dialogue between the soloist and the orchestra, and his cadenza was well played. There's something ethereal about two high voices heard together, and the flutes and the violin soloist had a haunting passage. In his cadenza Choi had some dramatic flourishes with his bow at the end of each passage *a la Paganini*. A youth of talent and promise. All too human in his curtain bows, it was amusing and touching to see young women rush up to give him bouquets of flowers, and then to watch him try to juggle four bouquets while protecting his precious violin.

In the "Evening Prayer" and "Dream Pantomime" from Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel* the audience heard a good unison "celli passage, even when all of them were up in the difficult thumb positions. The French horns had their glorious melodies, as did the trombones, the bass trombone and tuba. Good generous full bows were used by the upper strings and the bowing was all synchronized. None of the free interpretation which Stokowski was famous for. He was legendary for losing his temper if everyone bowed together!

Dr. Barnes vanished from the stage, there was some shuffling of chairs. Then he reappeared, dressed in a black tee shirt over his concert white long sleeved tux shirt with a black cap on top of his head, fortunately not pulled down over his eyes. He stamped his foot, waved his arms about, and four bassoonists swaggered down the two aisles looking like Hells Angels. They wore black sleeveless shirts and black slacks, had fake, but convincing tattoos on their arms and managed to look like "toughs." One, who carried the contra bassoon, had on a leather jacket with a bright red scarf on her head and wore dark glasses - a "cool cat." "Hell's Angels," as composed by Michael Daugherty, is for a

bassoon quartet and orchestra and it sounded fiendishly difficult. The four soloists were superb on their instruments and pretty convincing in their roles. One used her mouthpiece as a fake cigarette and pretended to puff away on it. The music opened with a recorded sound of motorcycles revving up, and then the fun began. There were some complicated rhythms, syncopation throughout, and very strange sound effects. Dr. Barnes stamped his right foot in unison with about half the orchestra. There were cat calls from the audience before and after the performance. The second bassoon, Amy Duxbury, stood up and played a wonderful solo. The snare drum beat time to running scale passages in the four bassoons accompanied by muted trumpets, followed by a busy percussive "free for all" and driving rhythms throughout.

The four soloists in real life lead more sedate lifestyles. Jennifer Barnes Wolfeld, superb in her first bassoon part, is a college language instructor. Amy Duxbury, a lawyer, Sarah Smith a third grade teacher, and Gail Selburn, a graduate of Indiana University, plays bassoon with several Bay Area ensembles.

An evening filled with surprises!

## Jazz Group Performing in Pleasanton

The legendary jazz group Spyro Gyra will perform in Pleasanton on Friday, February 16, 8 p.m.

City of Pleasanton Civic Arts Presents will host the performance at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road on the Amador Valley High School campus.

Spyro Gyra combines pop qualities with happy uplifting tones, bringing together elements of jazz, Latin and R&B.

"Aside from one of the most amazing live shows in instrumental music and killer, killer songs, Spyro Gyra endures as an audience favorite because they created an original style that sounded like nothing that came before it," remarks Art Good, creator of the popular, nationally syndicated Jazz Trax show. He recalls first playing Spyro Gyra's breakthrough hits, "Morning Dance" and "Shaker Song", as a mainstream AC deejay in the late 1970s. "Whatever Jay had inside him, whatever sort of influences led him to this smooth mixture of styles, it came out as an original voice. Few artists can honestly say they've never copied



Spyro Gyra

anyone, but Spyro Gyra can." Spyro Gyra was founded in Buffalo, New York in the mid-1970s by saxophonist Jay Beckenstein and his high school friend, keyboardist Jeremy Wall. Not having named their group, Beckenstein jokingly gave a club owner the name Spirogyra, a scientific term for "pond scum". It was misspelled on the club's sign and, thirty years later, is known as the name of a contemporary jazz scene mainstay. "Spyro Gyra has produced dozens of albums, from their first,

Spyro Gyra, in 1978, to their newest release, *Wrapped in a Dream*, in 2006. "You know, this music isn't about the latest style," says Beckenstein. "It's about people who spend time perfecting a craft. Following fashion is what puts an expiration date on you as an artist."

Tickets to the Spyro Gyra show are \$25, \$30 and \$35. For patrons' convenience, they may now be purchased online at [www.civcartickets.org](http://www.civcartickets.org) until three hours prior to the performance, by phone at (925) 931-3444, or in person at the Amador Theater Box Office.

LIVERMORE CINEMAS				
HANNIBAL RISING (R)	12:30	1:30	3:50	4:30
	6:30	7:15	9:10	9:50
NORBIT (PG-13) DLP	12:00	2:20	4:40	7:05 9:25
THE MESSENGERS (PG-13) DLP	12:20	2:20	4:20	7:20 9:30
PAN'S LABYRINTH (R)	1:20	4:15	7:15	9:45
BECAUSE I SAID SO (PG-13) DLP	1:10	4:05	7:05	9:45
EPIC MOVIE (PG-13) DLP	12:15	2:30	4:50	7:00 9:35
SMOKIN' ACES (R) DLP	12:45	4:35	7:05	9:25
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) DLP	12:50	4:25	6:50	9:15
PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS (PG-13) DLP	12:10	4:00	7:00	9:30

2490 First Street 443-SHOW [www.cinemawest.com](http://www.cinemawest.com)

Vine Cinema  
1725 First Street - Livermore  
Playing Feb. 9 - Feb. 15  
(925) 447-2545  
[WWW.VINECINEMA.COM](http://WWW.VINECINEMA.COM)

Tickets on Sale Now for BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA  
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## LEGAL NOTICE

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 389765**  
The following person (s) doing business as Les Chenes Estate Vineyards, 5562 Victoria Lane, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Tenuta Vineyards, 633 Kalthoff Common, Livermore, CA 94550  
This business is conducted by an individual  
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.  
Signature of Registrant: /s/ Nancy Tenuta  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on January 4, 2007. Expires January 4, 2012. The Independent Legal No. 2099. Publish January 25, February 1, 8, 15, 2007.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 389990**  
The following person (s) doing business as 34th Street Gifts, 1745 Linden Street, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Renee Needens, 1745 Linden Street, Livermore, CA 94550  
This business is conducted by an individual  
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.  
Signature of Registrant: /s/ Renee Needens  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on January 9, 2012. Expires January 9, 2012. The Independent Legal No. 2102. Publish January 18, 25, February 1, 8, 2007.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 389902**  
The following person (s) doing business as Valley Perks, 2326 Alsace Court, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Maria Mancini, 2326 Alsace Court, Livermore, CA 94550  
This business is conducted by an individual  
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.  
Signature of Registrant: /s/ Maria Mancini  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on January 8, 2007. Expires January 8, 2012. The Independent Legal No. 2103. Publish January 18, 25, February 1, 8, 2007.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 390114**  
The following person (s) doing business as Mediaspex, 4621 Gerrilyn Way #111, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Bryan W. Jensen, 4621 Gerrilyn Way #111, Livermore, CA 94550  
This business is conducted by an individual  
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or name listed.  
Signature of Registrant: /s/ Bryan W. Jensen  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on January 11, 2007. Expires January 11, 2012. The Independent Legal No. 2104. Publish January 18, 25, February 1, 8, 2007.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 389662-389663**  
The following person (s) doing business as (1)Voltz Home Repair, (2) Accessibility Solutions, 849 E. Stanley Blvd. #436, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): David Voltz, 973 Coronado Way, Livermore, CA 94550  
This business is conducted by a general partnership  
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.  
Signature of Registrant: /s/ David Voltz and Gregory Voltz  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on January 3, 2007. Expires January 3, 2012. The Independent Legal No. 2105. Publish January 18, 25, February 1, 8, 2007.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 389710**  
The following person (s) doing business as A+ Carpet Care 1365 Whispering Oak Way, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Michael Ramsey 1365 Whispering Oak Way, Pleasanton, CA 94566  
This business is conducted by an individual  
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.  
Signature of Registrant: /s/ Michael J. Ramsey  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on January 4, 2007. Expires January 4, 2012. The Independent Legal No. 2106. Publish January 18, 25, February 1, 8, 2007.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 389784**  
The following person (s) doing business as Fast Response, 7898 Medinah Ct., Pleasanton, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Alan Duncan Bayley, 7898 Medinah Ct., Pleasanton, 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 March 19, 2001.  
Signature of Registrant: /s/ Alan Bayley  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on January 9, 2007. Expires January 9, 2012. The Independent Legal No. 2107. Publish January 18, 25, February 1, 8, 2007.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 389692**  
The following person (s) doing business as JANMORSYS, 5747 N. Vasco Road, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Janet Sue Moorehead, 5747 N. Vasco Road, 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 May 9, 2006.  
Signature of Registrant: /s/ Janet Sue Moorehead  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on January 4, 2007. Expires January 4, 2012. The Independent Legal No. 2108. Publish January 18, 25, February 1, 8, 2007.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 390033**  
The following person (s) doing business as Loristuff, 790 Sunny Brook Way, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Gina Marie De Sousa, 468 Firenze Ct, Livermore, CA 94551  
This business is conducted by an individual  
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.  
Signature of Registrant: /s/ Lauren Millsagle  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on January 10, 2012. Expires January 10, 2012. The Independent Legal No. 2109. Publish January 25, February 1, 8, 15, 2007.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 390637-390638**  
The following person (s) doing business as (1)Stony Ridge Winery (2)Stony Ridge, 4949 Tesla Road, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Crooked Vine, Inc., 4948 Tesla Road, 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 4/11/00.  
Signature of Registrant: /s/ Dale Vaughn-Bowen  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on January 24, 2007. Expires January 24, 2012. The Independent Legal No. 2111. Publish February 1, 8, 15, 22, 2007.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 390624**  
The following person (s) doing business as Afghan Food Mart, 865 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore, Ca 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Nader Nafey, 865 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore, CA 94550  
This business is conducted by husband and wife  
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.  
Signature of Registrant: /s/ Nader Nafey and Najia Nafey  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on January 18, 25, February 1, 8, 2007.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 390007**  
The following person (s) doing business as Remmyses, 257 Soapstone Common, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Olyremi Awosanya, 257 Soapstone Common, Livermore, CA 94550  
This business is conducted by an individual  
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.  
Signature of Registrant: /s/ Olyremi Awosanya  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on January 10, 2007. Expires January 10, 2012. The Independent Legal No. 2113. Publish February 1, 8, 15, 22, 2007.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 390712**  
The following person (s) doing business as Assisted Help, 2480 Ancona Circle, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Yolanda C. Yassini, 2480 Ancona Circle, Livermore, CA 94550  
This business is conducted by co-partners  
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.  
Signature of Registrant: /s/ Yolanda C. Yassini and Terry Cruz  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on January 25, 2012. Expires January 25, 2012. The Independent Legal No. 2114. Publish February 8, 15, 22, March 1, 2007.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 390765**  
The following person (s) doing business as The Cupcake Ladies, 468 Firenze Ct., Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Gina Marie De Sousa, 468 Firenze Ct, Livermore, CA 94551  
This business is conducted by co-partners  
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.  
Signature of Registrant: /s/ Gina Marie De Sousa and Gloria Bruner  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on January 26, 2012. Expires January 26, 2012. The Independent Legal No. 2115. Publish February 8, 15, 22, March 1, 2007.

**ORDERTO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF ALAMEDA**  
5672 Stoneridge Drive Pleasanton, CA 94588  
**TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:**  
Petitioner Subadra Subramanian filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:  
Present Name: Subadra Subramanian  
Proposed Name: Subadra Nithyananda Meera Subramanian  
**2. THE COURT ORDERS** that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.  
**NOTICE OF HEARING**  
a.Date: 2/13/07 Time: 2:00PM  
b.The address of the court is: 5672 Stoneridge Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94588  
3a.A copy of this Order To Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four consecutive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in the county: The Independent  
Dated: December 27, 2006 /s/ Jacob Blea III  
Judge Of The Superior Court The Independent Legal No. 2093. Published January 18, 25, February 1, 8, 2007.

**ORDERTO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF ALAMEDA**  
5672 Stoneridge Drive Pleasanton, CA 94588  
**TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:**  
Petitioner Martha Vanessa Garcia Grover filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:  
Present Name: Martha Vanessa Garcia Grover  
Proposed Name: Vanessa Maassen  
**2. THE COURT ORDERS** that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.  
**NOTICE OF HEARING**  
a.Date: 3/20/07 Time: 2:00PM  
Dept: 707  
b.The address of the court is: 5672 Stoneridge Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94588  
3a.A copy of this Order To Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four consecutive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in the county: The Independent  
Dated: February 2, 2007 /s/ Judge Alice Vilarid  
Judge Of The Superior Court The Independent Legal No. 2116. Published February 8, 15, 22, March 1, 2007.

**ADOPTE A DOG OR CAT**, for adoption information contact Valley Humane Society at 925 426-8656.  
**Tri-Valley Animal Rescue** hosts cat and dog adoptions at the Pleasanton Farmers Market on Saturdays from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM. Cat adoptions are at Dublin Pet Food Express on Saturdays from 12 to 4 PM (excluding 4th Sat) and on Sundays from 1 to 4 PM. Adoptions at Dublin PetsMart on Saturdays from 12 to 4 PM and on Sundays from 1 to 4 PM, dog adoptions on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month from 1 to 4 PM and rabbit adoptions on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month from 1 to 4 PM. For more information please visit [www.tvr.org](http://www.tvr.org) or call (925) 803-7043.

**9) LOST**  
Lost Cat, missing since 12/21/06. Vicinity of Norma Way & East Ave. Black & White with long hair. Tuxedo white feet, white chin. Call 925 321-1796  
Lost Cat, in Pleasanton, Neal & Entrada. Long, White hair Male, blue eyes, shy but nice, 10lbs. 925 846-7166  
Lost an family pet? Found an animal? Free Section. Call Barbara 925 243-8000 to let 46,000 households know!  
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## Livermore Downtown Installs New Board, Names Award Winners

Livermore Downtown, Inc. recently installed its 2007 Board of Directors and handed out awards.

Rachael Snedecor, Executive Director, presented the awards to the following:

Vicki Teshera, Board Member of the Year; First Street Ale House, Downtown Business Partner of the Year; Signature Properties, Corporate Partner of the Year; Kevin Roberts, City of Livermore Employee of the Year;

TV30, Nonprofit Partner of the Year; Livermore Cinema, Outstanding New Development; Blacksmith Square, Outstanding Historic Renovation; Stephanie Goelzer, Volunteer of the Year; Wente Vineyards, Destination Partner of the Year; Tommie's Deli and Sandwiches, Outstanding New Business of the Year.

Livermore Mayor Marshall Kamena installed the new board members.

The Board of Directors include the following board officers: Lance Leber, president; Karen Long, vice president; Anthony McPeake, secretary; Tommie Van Fossen, treasurer; and Pete Conley, ex officio past president; and board members: Carol Woodward, Pam Hundal, Brooke Pavich, Alex Henry, Chris Doczy, and Jeanette Faenzi.

The festivities took place at Uncle Yu's at the Vineyard.



Photo - Doug Jorgensen  
Executive Director Rachael Snedecor and Livermore Mayor Marshall Kamena teamed to announce award winners.



### PET OF THE WEEK

Jem, a Black Lab Mix, is our "Special Needs" pup that is in need of an "angel" to make his last years comfortable. He has been diagnosed with liver disease and, although he is just one year

old, has only a few years yet to live. However, his condition is currently controlled very well by special diet and medication. Fortunately, he does not know any of this and is just a typical robust, happy, and active dog. He is sweet and gentle with people, respectful of cats, and loves other dogs. He has been in Valley Humane foster care for ten months, but his foster family may have to move soon, and can't take him along. He is housetrained, but because of his liver disease he drinks a lot of water and needs to go outside frequently. He sleeps in a crate indoors at night. He walks three miles every day, and loves to swim in the pool. Jem is a very special dog. Potential adopters may call Valley Humane Society at 925-426-8656 for more information. 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.

## SHORT NOTES

### New Wine Release

Rodrigue Molyneux Winery has just released its 2004 estate grown and bottled Sangiovese.

This wine is an intensely colored elegant wine, full of extraordinary ripe dark red fruit and berry aromas. The acidity is lively and the tannins are smooth. This wine has a rich long finish.

Rodrigue Molyneux Estate Winery is located at 3053 Marina Ave., Livermore. Open for tasting Sat. and Sun. 12:30 to 5.

### Tip-A-Cop

The Pleasanton Police Department will be hosting "Tip-A-Cop" on Thurs., Feb. 8 from 6 to 9 p.m. at Chili's Restaurant, 4801 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton.

This is a fund-raiser for Special Olympics. Police officers, volunteering their time while off duty, will assist in serving patrons their meals and assisting wait staff. All "tips" to the volunteer officers will be donated directly to Special Olympics. All of the money raised during this event, will support Tri-Valley Special Olympic athletes.

### 'Rickshaw Girl'

Towne Center Books is hosting the following event:

Mitali Perkins, author of Rickshaw Girl, at the store Sat. Feb. 10 at 10 a.m. Good for ages 9 and up. Mitali (which means friendly) Bose Perkins was born in Kolkata, India, and immigrated to the United States with her parents and two older sisters when she was seven years old. She studied Political Science at Stanford University and Public Policy at U.C. Berkeley. She is the author of Monsoon Summers and her newest book Rickshaw Girl. Mitali's mother Madhuresh Bose will be joining her to demonstrate the art of alpaca and we will have some special treats. Bring a friend.

Towne Center is located at 555 Main Street, Pleasanton. Information avail-

able at 846-8826.

### Singles Party

Single professionals of all ages are invited to a Wine Tasting Party on Sunday, February 25, 2007, 1-3pm, at Crooked Vine Winery, 4948 Tesla Rd., Livermore.

This party is sponsored by The Society of Single Professionals, a non-profit organization. The fee of \$10 at the door includes the wine tasting, accompanied by light appetizers. Anyone wishing more information may call 415/507-9962 or visit [www.ThePartyHotline.com](http://www.ThePartyHotline.com).

### Thoughts Romantic

Thoughts Romantic is the topic of the Sun., Feb. 11 program presented by the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District ranger staff. The program will be at 6:30 p.m. in the Sycamore Room at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore.

Ranger Dawn Soles will lead the program. Humans are not the only living beings that look toward finding the loves of their lives. Plants and animals have come up with an amazing array of ways to find mates and continue their species. Join us today to learn about some of the reproductive strategies of plants and animals from around the world.

A \$2 donation is requested to help support the programs. Participants may call (925) 960-2400 for more information.

### Sisters Study

More than 31,000 women across the U.S. have joined the Sister Study, the nation's largest research effort to find the causes of breast cancer. The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) is seeking 19,000 more women to join the study. The enrollment goal of 50,000 must be met by the end of 2007. Currently, 300

women from the Tri-Valley have enrolled in the study.

ValleyCare Health System's Committee on Cancer has joined the effort by getting the word out. Women are encouraged to join the study if they meet the following requirements:

- Your sister (living or deceased), related by blood, had breast cancer
- you are between the ages of 35 and 74
- you have never had breast cancer yourself
- you live in the United States or Puerto Rico

"Many women have heard about the Sister Study, but haven't signed up yet," said Dale Sandler, Ph.D., Chief of Epidemiology Branch at NIEHS and Principal Investigator of the Sister Study. "Doctors know very little about how the environment may affect breast cancer, which is why this study is so important. "We hope women will make that call today."

Available in English or Spanish, the Sister Study requires little time from its volunteers. The 10-year observational study begins with participants answering questions about diet, job, hobbies and things they've been exposed to throughout their lives to determine what may influence breast cancer risk. At a convenient time, a female health technician will visit the participant and collect small samples of blood, urine, toenail clippings and house dust, which will help give researchers a better picture of the woman's environment and genes.

To find out more or to enroll in the Sister Study, visit [www.sisterstudy.org](http://www.sisterstudy.org) or call toll free 1-877-4SISTER (1-877-474-7837). For hearing impaired call 1-866-889-4747.

### Science Bowl

Las Positas College has announced the results of the Regional Science Bowl held over the weekend. The competition is sponsored by the college and Sandia National Laboratories. The Science Bowl is a High School

competition with local students competing in a question and answer forum. The winner was Mission San Jose (Fremont). Second and third places were won by the two other teams from Mission San Jose (Fremont) with Livermore High School finishing fourth. The Mission San Jose team will be off to Washington D.C. to compete in the national competition April 26-30 against 66 other regional winners.

Seventeen teams from around the area participated. In the morning a series of round-robin matches took place to determine which teams would advance to the final rounds. Finalists then squared off after lunch to determine the champion. Trophies were presented in the afternoon at the conclusion of the competition.

For more information please contact, Dr. Neal Ely, dean of academic services at (925) 424-1182.

### Ocean Adventure

The Pleasanton Library welcomes marine biologists Wayne and Karen Brown from The Ocean Adventure on Saturday afternoon, Feb. 17th at 2 p.m. for a program showcasing the marine life described in the children's classic book, Island of the Blue Dolphins, by Scott O'Ell.

The Newbery award-winning book tells the real-life story of a 12-year old American Indian girl who fended for herself for 18 years after being abandoned on an island off the California coast. In this interactive program, the Brown's take students on a tour of the giant kelp forests surrounding the Channel Islands, where the story took place. They'll visit various ecosystems and meet marine animals from docile to dangerous that inhabit the islands.

Free tickets to this show will be limited to children age 6 and older. Tickets will be distributed to children from the children's desk 30 minutes prior to the start of the program. Parents and younger children are welcome if space becomes available.

## Livermore Chamber to Hand Out Awards at Annual Gala

Livermore Chamber of Commerce has announced its Community Award winners for 2006. They will be honored at the Livermore Chamber's Annual Gala on Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at the Robert Livermore Community Center.

The Large Business of the Year Award will be presented to Concannon Vineyard / The Wine Group, represented by CEO David Kent. The Wine Group is the third largest wine producer in the world and the first major producer to make a new investment in the Livermore Valley. Concannon is The Wine Group's flagship winery. The Wine Group has infused \$21 million into the facility which they bought in 2002. David, through his role as CEO of the Wine Group, sells Livermore Valley wines around the world. His work continually brands this area as a great wine country.

Receiving the Community Service Award is Safeway Corporation. Safeway is very active in the community, sponsoring youth sports teams, partnering with Livermore schools to provide over \$135,000 a year through the Escrip program, and working with local organizations to improve the lives of those in need. Open Heart Kitchen, the Taylor Family Foundation, and Futures Explored all benefit from the support of the corporation and their employees. As one of the major employers in the Bay Area, Safeway works with a wide-range of agencies, schools, and other community groups to provide quality jobs to a diverse workforce.

Red Bear Property Management, Inc., owned by Mike Madden, is receiving the Small Business Community Service Award. Madden has purchased and renovated many buildings in the downtown area, including Forrester's Hall, the buildings that are occupied by Strizzi's, Orghipchick, and Bruno's and the Old Cal Bike building. Red Bear also purchased and reno-

vated Blacksmith Square, and developed from the ground up Courthouse Square. Livermore Valley Plaza is his largest downtown development to date.

The H. Terry Crane Business of the Year Award is going to John Gordon of Camino Press. This award recognizes a business going above and beyond with their philanthropy. Gordon has been a supporter of the Livermore community for many years, donating supplies and printing to many worthwhile organizations. He has been involved with non-profits and generously gives his time to benefit many worthy causes.

The Rotarian Foundation of Livermore is receiving the Outstanding Nonprofit Organization of the Year Award. Overseen by members of the two Livermore Rotary Clubs, along with community and business leaders, the Foundation's goal is to create opportunities for Livermore people to improve their lives and community. Over \$150,000 has been contributed to a wide spectrum of service projects. In particular, the Foundation is being honored for their partnership with ValleyCare Health Systems to provide a medical van to serve the needs of the uninsured residents of Livermore.

Recognizing her dedication to education, Karen Halliday is the recipient of the Education Excellence Award. Halliday has been serving students in the California Community College System for almost 30 years and has been President of Las Positas College since 2002. Prior to that she was Vice President of Student Services at Las Positas for eight years. Halliday's leadership in facility development, preparing youth for college, developing new and exciting programs such as emergency service training and viticulture, and her tireless promotion of the college's wonderful programs are an inspiration to all. Her process of Dream, Design, and Deliver has gained national attention.

The Public Safety of the Year Award is presented to the City of Livermore Police Department, Investigations Unit. While the entire police department has been busy this year, the Investigations Unit has been significantly challenged by a number of serious and complex events that require a lot of time, dedication, and commitment. They have been more than up to the challenge and are tirelessly working keep our community safe.

As a Psychology student at Las Positas College, Lori Myers has stood out. She is the recipient of the Student of the Year Award. Myers is involved in student government, is founding President of the Math Club/Mu Alpha Theta Mathematics Honor Society, and is active in numerous other campus activities. She has volunteered for community service projects such as the hospital emergency room, and drives for the needy.

The Livermore Chamber of Commerce Ambassador of the Year Award is going to Jim Caldwell. During his relatively short tenure on the Ambassador Committee, Jim has been a dedicated volunteer. Attending almost all Chamber events and acting as outreach for the Chamber, he has been a tireless supporter of the business community. Jim was instrumental in developing the Home Ownership program for

Livermore businesses and their employees.

The Livermore Chamber of Commerce's 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Installation Gala, "Dancing with the Stars," is open to the public. It includes food, Livermore Valley Wines and entertainment. The event on Saturday, February 10 gets underway with a reception starting at 6 pm, dinner and program beginning at 7 pm. It will be held at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave. The cost is \$95 per person, black tie optional. Reservations may be made by calling the Chamber at (925)447-1606.

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