

Cost Puts Friendship Center on Brink of Closure

The cost of moving the Friendship Center could result in the cancellation of the program.

In May, the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) Board of Directors will hear the results of a feasibility study on the potential to find financing for relocation and the ongoing operation of the center. The report will also look at whether leasing a commercial lease would be a cheaper option to renovating or building at another location.

The Tri-Valley Adult Day Care Program Board (TVADCP) is concerned about the direction LARPD is headed. They plan to ask LARPD at its Feb. 28 meeting to reconsider its decision not to select a capital project.

In a letter to the LARPD Board, TVADCP points out that the leasing op-

tion has very small chance of securing grant monies and donations. Selecting a capital facility for the study would provide a focus for potential donors and generate greater interest.

The letter points out that selecting a capital project for study does not mean that the project itself has been approved. Dennis Gambs, president of TVADCP, said in an interview, that the board missed the point of the feasibility study. The LARPD wasn't being asked to make a choice for a project, rather to provide a focus for the feasibility study by selecting a capital project.

Last week the LARPD Board of Directors rejected all of the staff's proposals for a building or renovating a site for the adult day care program, stating they were all too expensive.

The option recommended by staff

was to remodel the Merritt Building, the former LARPD office building. The cost to remodel the building to accommodate a program for 48 clients was estimated at \$4.3 million.

Other options presented by staff ranged from a \$2.7 million remodel of the Merritt building to accommodate 22 clients to \$6.55 million to renovate a former school site on Vasco Road to serve 48 clients. A certification of participation would have been used to pay for renovations. Debt service over a fifteen year period ranged from \$300,000 to \$720,000 a year.

All of the options would require funding from outside sources. LARPD could only afford debt service on a facility that cost \$1.7 million to renovate.

General Manager Tim Barry stated, "The cost really challenges the district's

ability to fund the project and retain services and projects it is currently committed to provide." He stated that the district could afford to pay debt service of \$200,000 a year, leaving a shortfall between \$100,000 and \$520,000 a year, depending on the option selected by the board. "We need to find partners to share the upfront cost or the debt service payments," Barry explained.

He noted that Dublin, Pleasanton and Alameda County residents are served by the program. They are potential financial partners.

Barry recommended a study be conducted to determine if there were a way to find the necessary funding for both the construction of the facility and an endowment to operate it. The study, which the board approved, will be conducted by the Tri-Valley Community

Foundation.

The district, city and TVADCP would pay the \$50,000 cost of the study, said Barry. The district would provide \$15,000, the city \$20,000 and TVADCP, \$15,000.

However, in its letter to LARPD, TVADCP qualified its commitment to provide \$15,000 towards the feasibility study.

The letter points out that when the TVADCP offered to donate \$15,000 toward this study it was with the understanding that a specific capital project would be chosen as a focus for the feasibility study. "Accordingly, we must qualify our offer of the \$15,000 for a feasibility study to a study that includes a specific capital project option."

Barry told the board at its meeting (See CLOSURE, page 4)

Another Program For Disabled

One more program for the developmentally disabled is now available in Livermore.

Known as the GARDEN project, the program will work with the more severely disabled, teaching them basic skills for adapting to life outside of institutions.

The Independent Way, another service for developmentally disabled, has operated in the Valley for many years, and provides employment opportunities. A second program, Hope Foundation, which is based in San Jose, began its services in Livermore in January.

Like GARDEN, the other programs receive much of their funding from the Regional Center of the East Bay, which disburses state funding for the developmentally disabled. "We're excited to be offering this type of service. There have been employment types of programs (in the Valley), but little for folks with significant support needs," said Will Sanford, executive director of Concord-based Futures Explored, which is operating GARDEN.

GARDEN opened Feb. 1, and is accommodating seven clients. An eighth will be added later. Eventually the facility will be able to take a total of 20 clients. The faculty-staff ratio is one staff member per two clients.

Some of the clients have relatively significant cognitive and physical disabilities, and some have medical issues, said Sanford. They will need work on independent living and communication skills. Many will be able to have some recreation in the community, including use of the parks and swimming pools, he said.

The GARDEN acronym means Growing, Adapting, Relaxing, Doing, (and) Enjoying Naturally. The acronym was created (See PROGRAM, page 4)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Last weekend's warm weather provided an opportunity for stunt bike riders to practice their freestyle skills at Val Vista Park in Pleasanton.

City Council Tables Iraq War Discussion

The Pleasanton City Council permanently tabled the idea of holding a community forum on the Iraq War. The council agreed that the proposal has been too divisive.

Congressman Jerry McNerney has been asked to host a forum, if the community wants to proceed with the idea.

The council vote was 5 to 0.

Mayor Jennifer Hosterman brought forward the idea of canceling the forum and a scheduled discussion of what form such a forum might take. She said that she had envisioned a respectful discourse about the war in a community setting. It was not about changing opinions, rather providing a place for people to express their thoughts and concerns about the war.

"With or without the forum, Pleasanton is already a commu-

nity divided. My job is to serve the entire community. I am choosing at this time not to further divide the community," declared Hosterman.

Her declaration drew support from all four of her council colleagues.

Jerry Thorne said he had made an effort to be as open-minded about the issue as possible. "I do have very strong feelings over debating the war." He related his experiences during the Vietnam War, where the enemy said the best source of information was the American media. The enemy used it to motivate their troops and to de-motivate ours. I am not as open-minded as I thought I was. I am pleased the mayor has stepped forward."

Cindy McGovern was pleased with the idea of having (See IRAQ, page 4)

D.A. Won't Take Legal Action Against Pleasanton Mayor

There was "insufficient evidence" that Mayor Jennifer Hosterman's use of her city e-mail account to solicit campaign endorsements and donations was a violation of state law.

That was the opinion issued by the Alameda County District Attorney's office last week. The District Attorney based his decision on finding that there had been neither monetary loss to the city, nor any monetary gain to Mayor Hosterman.

In a letter to the city, District Attorney Tom Orloff wrote, "There is insufficient evidence to find violation of section 8314 and we are declining to initiate any legal action against the mayor."

During the 2006 election campaign, the City of Pleasanton was asked to review its elected officials' use of the City email system when it was found that sev-

eral emails referenced campaign activity. Because state law generally prohibits the use of public resources for campaign activity, the City referred the matter to the Alameda County District Attorney's office for review.

Emails became an election issue involving both the incumbent Jennifer Hosterman and her challenger Steve Brozosky. Hosterman was accused of using city equipment for her campaign. There were no records available of Brozosky's emails.

Among the e-mails dated June through October, Hosterman asked several people to attend campaign meetings, and requested help putting up yard signs.

Hosterman said during the campaign that she felt the review of her emails was an effort to dig (See EMAIL, page 4)

Asphalt Plant Odors Pop Up Again

A rubberized asphalt batch plant, which gave residents along Vineyard Avenue in Pleasanton some unpleasant odors in the past, has been the source of complaints again.

Supervisor Scott Haggerty's office has received three complaints over the past couple of weeks about odors there, said Haggerty's chief of staff, Chris Gray. He said that one of the complainants was former Pleasanton councilmember Steve Brozosky, who lives across Vineyard Avenue from the site.

The plant site is on the east side of the Arroyo Del Valle and

Vineyard Avenue, not far from a Pleasanton school district parcel which is reserved for Neal elementary school, if and when it is built.

In 2004, the school board joined the City of Pleasanton in urging relocation of the plant. The odor problem is caused by the rubberized asphalt, which is recycled from old tires into the mix to give a better grade of asphalt for highway work.

CalTrans has been requiring more of it for repaving jobs, said Geoff Boraston, director of environmental affairs for Granite Construction Co., the plant op-

erator. Conventional asphalt production at the plant doesn't draw odor complaints, said Boraston.

Eventually Granite will move the plant to the Stanley Boulevard side of its property, an area far from homes. Boraston said he didn't know the date when the plant will move. However, the move is a part of an agreement being negotiated between Granite, the county and Pleasanton. Once the agreement is in place, the long-term solution looks assured.

However, signing the pact is being held up by a dispute over (See ASPHALT, page 4)

LARPD Hires Consultant to Lobby for ERAF Reduction

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District has hired a consultant to lobby in Sacramento to convince legislators to reduce the amount of property tax shifted from the district to the state. If successful, the effort could net the district an additional \$2 million per year in unrestricted property tax revenue, money that is now going to the state.

The board allocated \$36,000 for a six month contract with Johan Klehs and Company and Aprea and Company. The vote was unanimous.

Maryalice Faltings commented that originally she wasn't going to support the contract. However, when she was assured that no other districts in the state would be harmed, "You've won me over."

Currently, 48% of LARPD's property taxes go to the state under what is called ERAF (Education Reimbursement Augmentation Fund). Since 1992, LARPD has lost over \$47 million in property tax shifts to the state. In 2005-06, the district lost \$6.3 million alone to the state.

Klehs, who has held a number of elected positions in Sacramento, said that he will be work-

ing with Pleasant Hill, Hayward and Livermore park districts to cap the ERAF loss at no more than 25 percent. Only 30 districts in the state pay more than 25 percent of the property tax revenues to the state; Livermore among them. "Livermore has suffered a greater percentage of loss than any other district in the state," according to Klehs.

(See LOBBY, page 4)

Oldest Postal Worker Retires after 40 Years

The Livermore Post Office celebrated a very special retirement recently when Olga Mullins called it quits after 40 years as a carrier and clerk.

At 82, Olga retired at an age when most working people have been long retired. She worked full-time right to the end. She thanks Ronald Reagan for enabling her to work so long.

"Before Reagan, retirement at 70 was mandatory in this kind of work. President Reagan rescinded that requirement," Olga said.

Her last day was February 3. Olga's postal employment began in November 1966, her entire career taking place in Livermore. She was a carrier for 14 years, followed by 26 years as a clerk at the front window.

"My thing is people. I liked working with people. I liked being at the window, serving



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Olga Mullins on her last day on the job at the Livermore Post Office.

people," remarked Olga.

Born of Russian parents living in China, Olga came to the United States when she was 12 after the death of both parents. She landed in San Francisco and lived with relatives in Berkeley. After graduating from Berkeley High, she studied at Cal for a year. She also worked at Bank of America during this time. She dropped her studies to get married, but continued at the bank for a few more years.

Her husband, Bill Mullins, died in 1978. They had four children, all boys. A tire salesman, Bill Mullins traveled a lot. He picked Livermore as the place to raise their kids.

"We settled in Livermore in September 1965," said Olga. "Bill told me we need to live in a slow, sleepy cow town. Livermore had about 20,000 people (See RETIRES, page 5)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

The back of the Mel's Furniture building in downtown Livermore is getting a new look with a three dimensional painting.

Do You Remember?

By Anne Homan



Dr. Taylor, Valley Physician for 46 Years

After his funeral in Livermore at Reimers' Funeral Parlor, the body of Dr. William Stewart Taylor was buried in 1931 at Oak Knoll Cemetery, where his tombstone attested to his long service to the Livermore community: "A physician in this valley 46 years."

In 1865 at the age of 18, he had left his home in Pennsylvania and rafted down the Ohio River to St. Louis. From there he started a five-year stint going back and forth as the driver for a six-mule-team wagon across the western plains. He returned to his hometown in Saltsburg, Pennsylvania, roughly 20 miles east of Pittsburgh, about 1870 and "read" medicine with the local general practitioner before heading to medical school in Philadelphia. While at school he married Martha Dickie; their son, Robert, was born in 1873. Dr. Taylor graduated from Jefferson Medical College in 1874, and the family came to California.

After a short stay in San Francisco, they moved to Livermore in 1876. Dr. Milton H. Shutes described Dr. Taylor in a biography for *The Bulletin*, publication of the Alameda-Contra Costa Medical Association: "He was tall and erect, and endowed with a quiet, becoming dignity. No matter what the night exacted, he invariably met the morning freshly bathed and shaved, and immaculately dressed. In his spotless office, on the back of his saddle horse, in the sick room of the town, or in the old adobe ranch house, he had the impressionistic appearance of a British cavalry colonel."

The *Livermore Herald's* obituary said in part, "In the days of the horse and buggy and saddle horse, he reached his patients by this means, and no ride was too long or weather too severe to cause him to even hesitate in answering a call." He used an English saddle, and leather puttees were part of his riding gear. "When bound for a remote ranch in the foothills, he'd throw a saddle in the buggy, drive as far as road and mud permitted, and finish on the horse with medicine and surgical kits in the saddle bags."

Dr. Taylor must have created quite a sensation in the valley in March 1903 when he began making house calls in his new Haynes-Apperson motorcar, the first automobile in Livermore. It had a nine-horsepower engine. Certainly, it made an impression on the *Herald* writer who accompanied the doctor for a day in June: "We now have the up-to-date physician annihilating space with his automobile and bringing relief to sick and injured in the minimum of time."

A front-page advertisement in the 17 October 1889 issue of the *Echo* listed telephones at both Dr. Taylor's office and residence. At first, his office was next door to J.O. McKown's drug store on First Street. Later, his combination home, dispensary, and office were diagonally across from the current First Presbyterian Church on the northwest corner of South L and Fourth. This building was moved in July 1976 to the corner lot at 1909 College Avenue, once part of the old Livermore Sanitarium grounds. At that time Lin Tobin, granddaughter of the sanitarium's founder, gave the original door of her grandparents' house that had been on the site to the new owners of Dr. Taylor's building.

Dr. Shutes praised Taylor, saying that no urban doctor could have served the Livermore community better. "When many men, even on the faculty of medical schools, found it difficult to change from the miasmatic theory of infection to that of bacteria, Dr. Taylor did it easily." Dr. Martin H. Fischer, who became Taylor's friend when Fischer worked at the Livermore Sanitarium, praised Taylor's methods: "He had his own bacteriologic laboratory when schools were still without them; he used antitoxin when professors were still lecturing against it; and he discussed the merits of vaccine therapy when most of his colleagues did not know that such a field existed."

Livermore was indeed fortunate to have had such advanced medical care for those 46 years. In 1913 the Native Sons made Taylor their local lodge physician for life; he had been their physician since the beginning of the lodge 27 years earlier.

After Dr. Taylor's retirement in 1921 because of failing vision, he and Martha moved to Oakland and lived at the Hotel Oakland until their deaths. His wife died first and was buried at Oak Knoll in 1925. Only one of their five children survived them—Marian, who graduated from Stanford with a degree in Latin in 1902. While at the university, she met assistant law professor Jackson E. Reynolds, who had finished at Stanford in 1895 in the first graduating class. They married in 1903 and soon traveled east; Reynolds eventually became a wealthy New York City banker.

The other offspring of Dr. and Mrs. Taylor had died in infancy except for their son Robert Zachary Taylor, who died at age 26 after an operation for appendicitis. Dr. Taylor's burial in 1931, according to *Livermore Herald* editor Maitland Henry, was the last one at Oak Knoll Cemetery.

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

Wine Education Program Set

Tri Valley Conservancy and Livermore Valley Wine Growers Association is hosting a Quest for Excellence Quality Wine Growing Educational Series. The purpose of this series is to assure the highest quality of wine grapes and wines are produced by Livermore Valley Wine Growers and Vintners.

The next Quest for Excellence seminar will be held on Tuesday, February 27th from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at the Robert Livermore Community Center, located at 4444 East Avenue in Livermore. The topic will focus on Wine Analysis and Sensory

Chemistry presented by Sue Ebeler.

Ebeler has been invited to speak about wine flavor chemistry and health effects at a number of national and international meetings, and has organized and served as co-chair for special symposia on wine flavor chemistry at the national meetings of the American Chemical Society and the American Society of Enology and Viticulture.

The session will have a fee of \$10 to help cover the cost of materials. Please RSVP by February 23rd to the Livermore Valley Wine Growers Association at (925) 447-WINE (9463).



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

T.J. Gilmartin (standing) discusses the contents of some of the dictionaries presented to third graders and their teachers at Croce Elementary School in Livermore. The two Livermore Rotary Clubs, their Foundation and the Hindu Community and Cultural Center plan to give the dictionaries to all Livermore third graders and their teachers. This is the fourth year of the program, which Gilmartin described as "a gift of words from us to them."

Arroyo Seco's 'Seussical' Production Hits the Road

By Patricia Koning

This year, Arroyo Seco Elementary School is taking its annual musical production on the road, to Jackson Avenue Elementary. The Acting Up! with Arroyo Seco Afterschool Players will perform the musical "Seussical" at Jackson next Wednesday.

"It is wonderful to have the kids perform at each others' schools. We are looking forward to having other schools perform for our students," says Arroyo Seco Principal Stephen Bering. "These performances are so high caliber they are equal to what we could be paying for from an outside company, so we should be tapping into the talent at our schools."

For the past four years, parent Kelly Cartwright has run the after-school drama program. For the first two years, the students performed shortened versions of musicals adapted for younger children.

Last year Cartwright decided it was time to up the ante. With the help of another parent, Stephanie Fish, she challenged the students by selecting a full-length musical adaptation "Through the Looking Glass." The students performed so well that the two directors began searching for this year's number the day after that performance.

They chose "Seussical", which is based on the books of children's author Theodore Geisel, also known as Dr. Seuss. The musical incorporates aspects of 14 Seuss classics, including "Horton Hears a Who," "Horton Hatches the Egg," "Gertrude McFuzz," "The Butter Battle Book," "If I Ran the Circus," "McElligott's Pool," "I Had Trouble in Getting to Solla Sollew," and "The Cat in the Hat."

"This is not your typical elementary school production. The show is over an hour long with a complex score," says Cartwright. "After seeing how much talent these third-, fourth-, and fifth-graders have, we knew they were up for the challenge."

Becoming the director, choreographer, stage and costume designer, and just about everything else for Arroyo Seco's musical productions was a personal challenge for Cartwright. When

her oldest child was in fifth grade, the after school drama club was cancelled on the day of signups. Seeing her daughter's excitement over the program, Cartwright decided to take it over.

"I thought I was just going to help, but I wound up doing everything that first year," she recalls.

Drama has always been an important part of Cartwright's life. She was involved in numerous productions growing up. She preferred the quirky parts to starring roles; her favorite part was that of Dr. Einstein in "Arsenic and Old Lace."

Work on "Seussical" began in mid-October. The cast will perform twice at Jackson Avenue Elementary School during school hours on Feb. 28. The show plays again that evening at Arroyo Seco at 7 p.m. The public is invited to that performance. The cast will perform the show again on March 2, the day of Dr. Seuss's birthday, for the Arroyo Seco student body.

Cartwright and Fish are also directing "Seussical" at East Avenue Middle School, where both women have students. Performances will be held Mother's Day weekend. This is the first year East Avenue has put on a student musical production.

One reason for taking the elementary school show on the road this year is to encourage other schools to mount similar productions.

"My advice would be to just try it," says Cartwright. "Just make sure you love what you are doing because the kids can tell. I get so much more out of this than I put into it."

The cast of Arroyo Seco's production of "Seussical" is: Braden Cartwright as The Cat in the Hat; Samantha Schwartz as Horton the Elephant; Meghan Hornbacker as Gertrude McFuzz; Kelsey Santin as Mayzie La Bird; Elizabeth Dimits as the Sour Kangaroo; Molly Scheid as the Young Kangaroo; Samantha Whalen as Mr. Mayor; Ashley Breyer as Mrs. Mayor; and Cassandra Dukes as JoJo.

Playing the role of the Wickersham Brothers are Nathan Fish, Ben Gill, and Kyle Tucker. The Bird Girls are played by Misha Brewster, Jordan Griffin, Lexie Herberth, Shannon Melrose, Courtney Offill, and Sadie Serdahl. The Things are



PET OF THE WEEK

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VALLEY ROUNDUP

More Help with Compensation

The U.S. Department of Labor has announced enhanced services at its Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program (EEOICP) resource centers to assist atomic weapons industry workers and their families in filing claims under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA).

The local office is at 2600 Kitty Hawk Road, Suite 101 in Livermore.

Due to the complex nature of the Part E benefit structure and the difficulty of most employees in understanding the requirements necessary to qualify for impairment and/or wage-loss benefits, resource center staff will contact EEOICPA claimants who have received positive causation determinations under Part E and who have not applied for wage-loss and impairment benefits. Resource center staff will provide claimants with an overview of the additional benefits for which they may be entitled, criteria for eligibility, options for filing, and assistance in applying for wage-loss and impairment benefits.

Staff will also address claimants' questions and provide in-person support to those who file for wage-loss and impairment benefits at resource center locations.

Shelby Hallmark, director of the Department of Labor's Office of Workers' Compensation Programs, stated, "This new outreach effort at our resource centers promises to increase claimant awareness and understanding of the potential for additional compensation under the EEOICPA."

The additional claims assistance by the resource centers is designed to support the efforts of the EEOICP district offices to increase the number of wage loss and impairment claims received, processed, and awarded.

Hayashi On Mental Health Commission

California State Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez (D-Los Angeles) announced he has named Assemblymember Mary Hayashi (D-Hayward) to the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission.

Assemblymember Hayashi represents the 18th Assembly District. She is Assistant Majority Whip for the Democratic Caucus. Prior to joining the Assembly, she founded the Iris Alliance Fund that leverages resources for suicide prevention efforts and for strengthening community and families to protect children and adolescents. She was also the Alameda County coordinator for the winning campaign for California's Proposition 63 that provides state-wide public funds for mental health care services for children and adults in need. She previously served as a commissioner on the California Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission, which was created to monitor the implementation of Proposition 63.

The 16-member California Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission advises the governor and legislature on actions the state may take to improve care and services for people with mental illness and annually reviews and approves each county's mental health programs. The commission meets at least once per quarter and members are compensated for expenses related to the discharge of commission duties.

Assemblymember Hayashi serves the 18th Assembly District which includes the cities of Hayward, San Leandro, Dublin, most of Castro Valley and Pleasanton, and a portion of Oakland, as well as the unincorporated areas of

Ashland, Cherryland, Sunol and San Lorenzo.

Parkview Licensing Granted

The Parkview Assisted Living and Memory Care housing in Pleasanton was granted a final license last week.

The 105 apartment community can now welcome residents. The State Department of Social Services conducted a final inspection of operations and approved the license. "This was the last hurdle we needed to get over in order to begin moving residents in and begin serving the seniors of this community," stated Sylvia Zaininger, executive director of Parkview.

The housing was developed through a partnership between the City of Pleasanton and BRIDGE Housing. It is managed by Eskaton. The Parkview was designed to provide assisted living for seniors in need of assistance with activities involved in day-to-day living. It includes both an affordable apartment program for low income seniors and market rate apartments. There are 88 studio, one-bedroom and two-bedroom apartments in the assisted living area and 19 specially designed apartments in memory care for seniors with Alzheimer's or dementia.

"The Parkview is the jewel in the crown of what has evolved as a campus for seniors," declared Mayor Jennifer Hosterman. "It represents a significant step toward addressing the entire spectrum of housing needs for seniors."

The apartments are approximately 60 percent reserved, which includes the 31 units set aside for low income seniors.

A gala to celebrate the opening is being planned for April. For more information, call 461-3042.

Car Jacking Arrest

An 18-year-old Salinas man was arrested in Livermore Friday afternoon for car jacking after he allegedly robbed a check cashing store in Morgan Hill.

The suspect, Anthony Celso, reportedly stole a vehicle in Salinas and drove to Morgan Hill. Once there, he entered a check cashing store and became belligerent with the clerk. The clerk left the counter and went into a back room to call police. Celso then left the store and drove to another check cashing store. While there, he demanded money from the clerk who complied and gave Celso an undisclosed amount of cash.

The suspect left the area in the stolen vehicle and drove to Livermore where he attempted to steal a vehicle from the Livermore Jaguar dealership on Las Positas Road. Witnesses say Celso concealed his hand in a bag and simulated the possession of a firearm. He confronted one of the employees and demanded the keys to one of the Jaguar vehicles. The staff of the dealership thwarted his attempt by tackling him and restraining him with cords from cell phone chargers until police arrived and took him into custody.

Livermore Police recovered the stolen vehicle and found cash in the vehicle and on Celso's person similar to the amount taken during the robbery.

He was arrested and charged with attempted robbery and possession of stolen property.

Correction

In last week's article "Livermore District, Union at Impasse over Workday", the 7% raise is for all school district employees, not just teachers. Also, LEA may ratify the school calendar separately, but all other issues will not be ratified until negotiations are concluded.

Pleasanton Schools To Offer Students More Help On Writing

In an effort to bring more students up to the level of writing required by colleges, the Pleasanton school board has decided to test all high school juniors to see who may need further help in improving their writing skills. Juniors who do not meet minimum test standards will be required in their senior year to take a year-long course designed to meet college entry English standards.

The board at its meeting Feb. 13 voted 4-0 to set the requirement, with Juanita Haugen unable to attend. She was not feeling up to attending via speakerphone, as she has done in recent times, said trustee Pat Kernan.

Dianne Howell, the district's director of secondary education, and James Rallis, acting director of assessment, presented statistics about performance from the class of 2005. Approximately one-fourth of Amador Valley and Foothill high school graduates who were admitted to the state colleges and universities were required to take English remediation courses as college freshmen.

However, the notion that one out of four seniors is inadequate in composition is a little misleading, according to a reading trainer who contributed to the presentation. The colleges' screening tests are based on a different approach to the teaching of writing than the one taken by Pleasanton, which uses the literary tradition as a model for teaching writing. The colleges use the more pragmatic, non-fiction writing that highlights rhetoric and persuasion.

Trustees agreed that the district will have to adjust to the requirements of the test, and that the skills improvement would be good for everyone, not just the college-bound.

New trustee Chris Grant summed it up when he said, "Communication skills are the key for anything in life."

The board will hear back from staff next month about other recommendations aimed at improving writing skills that a task force of teachers and site administrators drew up earlier this month. The ideas include hiring lay readers so that teachers can assign more writing, having smaller class sizes, and hiring a district writing specialist.

Since the recommendations have fiscal implications, district staff will go over the list and make recommendations, probably at the board's meeting March 27.

PARCEL TAX SURVEY PLAN BACK ON TRACK

The consensus of the board was to have Superintendent John

Casey activate the district's consultant to conduct a survey about whether school district residents think a parcel tax would be a good idea.

Trustees have said in the past that the district has funding for a good level of programs, but wants to push toward the goal of a world-class level of education.

Trustees talked last year about the survey, and had hired the consultant. They put the idea on hold to see whether a state initiative for a tax of \$50 per parcel would pass last November. It failed.

The district also waited for Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's budget message in January to see whether there would be much help for Pleasanton's goals. There wasn't, said Casey. He will let the

board know about further developments with the consultant.

On another item, trustee Jim Ott asked that the board look into the potential health impacts of chemical air fresheners on students in classrooms where they are used. Parents have told him that the freshener can threaten children's health, especially if they have asthma or other diseases related to breathing. If there is a need to make the air smell better, there are natural, citrus-based sprays that can do the job, said Ott.

Casey said that the PTA council is looking at air quality, both the overall quality and specific things like fresheners. The district staff will keep informed about that information, Casey said.



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EDITORIAL

VA Deaf To Public Input

Veterans Affairs (VA) isn't listening.

The agency has held a series of hearings on the question of whether to rebuild the VA nursing home in Livermore or construct a new facility in the Central Valley. The majority of the veterans and local officials who testified at the hearings said VA needs to be in both places.

VA administrators, however, continue to see the issue as an either/or decision: either Livermore or the Central Valley, but not both.

At the latest hearing Jerry McNerney, the Valley's newly elected congressman, added his voice to those who want VA to both rebuild Livermore and construct a Central Valley facility.

McNerney's involvement is encouraging. The freshman congressman from Pleasanton has some influence here, as he is a member of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, which controls VA's purse-strings. We hope he will take the fullest advantage of that seat to push his point of view on this issue.

With the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan creating a new wave of veterans in need of VA's care, it's outrageous that a choice between Livermore and the Central Valley is even being proposed. Both sites would meet clear needs.

CLOSURE

(continued from page one)

last week that if the study found that funding partnerships could not be found, he would recommend the district not continue the program. "It's a reality we have to consider," he stated.

Director Maryalice Faltings made a motion to renovate the Merritt Building, capping costs at \$1.7 million, a figure the district could afford. However, her motion was rejected by a 2-3 vote. Scott Kamena, Dale Turner and David Furst voted "no." They voted against the motion when staff explained that the minimum costs of renovations to meet state standards for an adult day care facility at the Merritt Building would be \$2.7 million.

Director Scott Kamena introduced a motion to look at leasing a commercial site that would not include an outdoor area. The motion was approved 4 to 1 with Maryalice Faltings opposed.

Kamena said in making the motion, "The center has been a wonderful program. We need to come to terms with the fact that something has got to give. We are not going to be able to put on a program the way we do now at any reasonable cost. The costs we have heard are totally unreasonable. I can make a long list of wonderful things we can do with this kind of money."

Kamena said it appears that the outdoor area is the most expensive part of the program. He said that the program should provide a safe, friendly place to bring those who need care. "I don't think they need to go outside to have that happen. I cannot support any of the options laid out by staff."

Board President Dale Turner stated, "I agree. There is not one project I can support. We don't have the money. It's not fair to sacrifice other programs the district offers. Commercial sites are cheaper options."

Turner also pointed out that a commercial site owner could be asked to provide improvements built to tenant specifications. The rent would go up. However,

ASPHALT

(continued from page one)

how many days Granite can produce the rubberized asphalt at its current location. Two years ago, Granite produced rubberized asphalt for 10 days. However, demand has grown, and Granite wants a bigger number, said Gray.

Asked about a number, Boraston said that he hasn't been the lead in negotiations, and would not be able to obtain a number from company officials in time for the Independent's deadline. He did confirm that reaching agreement on the number is the key to finishing the agreement.

Ironically, anti-pollution equipment that would help control odors when the rubberized asphalt is loaded into trucks has not received a building permit yet from the county. The equipment is still lying on the ground at the site, said Boraston. Its approval, too, is part of the negotiations over the final agreement, he said.

When the odor problem first surfaced in 2004, Granite put other odor control devices on the plant. The firm also installed anti-noise measures to satisfy complaints from neighbors about op-

eration of noisy gates late at night.

Many neighbors said that the plant virtually sneaked into operation, flying below the radar of the usual government procedures. However, Granite did not appear to violate any ordinance. One of Granite's predecessors obtained a permit in the 1950s to operate an asphalt batch plant, back when virtually no one lived in the area. However, no batch plant ever operated, until Granite did so in 2003.

The only county scrutiny that Granite's application received was from James Sorensen, then the county planning director, now the county director of community development. Sorensen signed off administratively on the modern version of the 1950s permit.

Although the population of the area increased since the 1950s, there was no notice sent to residential neighbors or the City of Pleasanton. That drew a hot reaction from Pleasanton, which said that the planning department should have had the good sense to tell the city what was going on. That reaction led to the negotiations with Granite.

Director Steve Goodman supported Kamena's motion, because he said it does not close the door on the Friendship Center.

In addition to the cost of providing a new facility, the district was concerned about operating costs. They will go up no matter where the center is located. The school district rented the Sonoma School site to the park district for \$1 a year and charged a low rate for utilities.

Director Furst noted that the number of clients served by the center has decreased over seven years. "I have concerns about moving forward. I don't think we can cover operating costs with client fees."

The center serves 62 clients, with an average daily attendance of 22. It is licensed for 30. Dennis Gambis said that the numbers are misleading. It does not take into account the family members who benefit from the service. He also argued that the Friendship Center does not draw from the same funding sources as other LARPD programs. The current program is financed by client fees, our organization and donations.

Barry commented that a commercial site would increase the monthly operating costs. He added that it is easier to obtain capital costs than operating costs.

The results of the feasibility funding study and the cost of leasing a commercial site will be presented to the board in May. At that time a decision will be made on whether to proceed with moving the Friendship Center.

The move became necessary when the Charter School expanded at the Sonoma School site. The current Friendship Center lease expires in June 2007. The charter school and the school district have agreed to extend the lease through June of 2008 and possibly June of 2009, if it were necessary.

Financial and systems services manager Tamara Baptista told the board of directors' finance committee at its meeting Feb. 15 that overall the water cost will be going up \$2 million. A price increase of \$2 per acre foot from the state water project (SWP) is in part responsible for the boost.

There is also some cost for Zone 7's participation in the Bay Delta Conservation Plan. Most of Zone 7's water comes from the Delta. The agency wants to ensure continued quality and reliability of amounts.

Another aspect of the cost increase is that Zone 7 will buy more water to store for drought years, ensuring a comfortable margin so that the Valley's water retailers won't have to impose mandatory rationing. It's a policy adopted years ago by the board. The projected rise of 7000 acre feet annually (AFA) will

Tauscher, McNerney Support Congressional Resolution Opposing Troop 'Surge'

Last week, a bipartisan resolution that challenges the President's escalation plan and expresses support for the troops passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 246-182.

Both local representatives, Ellen Tauscher and Jerry McNerney, voted for the resolution. Both are Democrats.

The resolution contained two provisions: Offering support to those American soldiers who have served or are currently serving in Iraq, and opposing the President's plan to escalate the conflict and deploy an additional 21,500 combat troops to Iraq.

McNerney stated, "I voted for this resolution because I oppose the President's proposed escalation in Iraq. It would put more U.S. lives at risk, further stretch the readiness of our ground forces and increase the drain on our Treasury."

"The members of our Armed Forces who have served in Iraq have done so bravely and honor-

ably. Concern for their safety and security - as well as appreciation for their patriotism and commitment to service - is always at the top of my mind, not just because it is my duty and responsibility, but because it is personal for me and my family," added Rep. McNerney said.

Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher, Chair of the House Armed Services Strategic Forces Subcommittee, also spoke against the troop surge.

Tauscher stated, "I am pleased to lend my strong support to this bipartisan resolution supporting our men and women in uniform and opposing the President's decision to send more troops into Iraq. Rather than chart a new course, the President is proposing more of the same. His actions will only deepen America's involvement in Iraq's civil war."

"It's been four years, Mr. President -- the American people have every right to expect a change of course in Iraq. And it's your re-

sponsibility to them and to our men and women in uniform to stop fighting Iraq's civil war.

"Sending more U.S. troops to Iraq will not stabilize it or the region as a whole. As the latest National Intelligence Estimate makes clear: Iraq is becoming more polarized and violent, not less."

"My consistent opposition to this troop surge is built upon years of hearings in the House Armed Services Committee, Congressional briefings, and five trips to the region including three to Iraq, witnessing the war firsthand and speaking with our troops and commanders on the ground," said Tauscher.

She added, "I will continue to challenge the President to abandon his flawed troop surge policy, and I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution. We owe it to our troops and to our conscience."

McNerney pointed out in a press release that recently the Washington Post reported that

the Marine Corps and Army brigades that the President proposes to send to Iraq do not have enough advanced armor kits for Humvees, which offers the best protection against the roadside bombs that have caused so many of the casualties in Iraq.

Other reports, according to McNerney, demonstrate short supplies of logistical and lodging support, as well as jamming devices and radios. And, outgoing Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker commented that sending additional troops to Iraq will erode the Army's ability to respond to threats elsewhere in the world.

McNerney said, "It is for these reasons and others that I believe the President's recent proposal is misguided and will send our brave men and women further down the wrong course in Iraq."

Tauscher also referenced the concerns about troop training and equipment during her remarks.

IRAQ

(continued from page one)

McNerney host a discussion. "That is his job."

Cheryl Cook-Kallio said she had never envisioned a forum held in the council chambers. She was saddened that the community was unable to talk about the issue. "The idea turned into something unproductive. I don't want to spend another minute to discuss the issue," she stated.

Matt Sullivan said he wants citizens to have a voice in government. "Providing a place for that voice to be heard is by far the most important thing we do. We don't always get to pick and choose the subject. This particular subject has touched a nerve. The council has been attacked and our patriotism questioned." He added that it does not bode well for a democracy when people aren't able to speak out on issues important to them for fear of being attacked or ques-

tioned.

"The council and community will face difficult issues over the next few years. To be effective, residents must have free access to the council without fear of intimidation," he stated.

Members of the public, for the most part, applauded the council's decision.

Resident Mike Duarte also liked the idea of asking McNerney to host a forum. "The war is a divisive issue. It pits neighbor against neighbor. We elected you as nonpartisans to handle Pleasanton issues. Stay focused there."

A resident with a son in the Army, Hal Maguirk, called the war a hot button issue. "Now you're talking about children and parents. I don't like war. If you tell soldiers war is wrong, you are basically telling my son

he is doing something wrong. When you talk about the war, you have to consider those who have someone in that war."

Art Tenbrink took a different view. He too has a son in the military. However, Tenbrink said he was saddened that the council chose not to sanction a dialog. I am gladdened you are opening a dialog with our Congressman who can lead us on a safe path to this end."

Cathy Dowding said she supported the forum. She understands the council's decision. "However, we will never come together unless we are able to talk and listen to each other. It's critical to start talking, to respect each other. I am a passionate patriot. I also believe it is my responsibility to understand what is going on and to listen to the other side."

E-MAIL

(continued from page one)

up dirt on her. She said that she had not used her city email account intentionally.

Dan Carl, Brozosky's campaign manager, brought the matter to the attention of the city attorney. Carl felt that the e-mails were a clear violation of California Government Code 8314, which states, "It is unlawful for any elected or local officer ... to use or permit others to use public resources for a campaign activity, or personal or other purposes which are not authorized by law."

City Attorney Michael Roush forwarded the emails to the district attorney for review.

Orloff in the final letter noted, "We have reviewed your letter of October 24, 2006, the copies of the relevant emails and your letter of October 27. Since receipt of your correspondence, we have received additional information from Mr. Fialho (city manager), Mayor Hosterman and other persons with knowledge and background on the issue you raised."

Orloff agreed with Roush that there was a two part test to consider in determining whether there had been criminal activity.

"The first, the question of whether or not a court would find that these emails constituted an 'incidental or minimal' use of public resources, is not a question we can confidently answer," according to the letter.

The second part relates to the definition of the word "use." The District Attorney points out that the definition clearly "mandates that there must be a loss or gain to which a monetary value can be assigned."

The city has been reviewing its email policies to ensure that guidelines are clear regarding the appropriate and legal use of the city email system. Assistant City Attorney Larissa Seto said that includes ongoing training of elected officials.

The city will be preparing a policy to bring to the council regarding emails.

Allen Hammond, the city's information services manager, said that one immediate change was made when no copies of Brozosky's emails were available. A program called Journaling was instituted. The program provides a snapshot of all ingoing and

outgoing messages.

Hammond said that Journaling provided a short term solution. The council will be addressing a retention policy. It is yet to be determined how long the emails are to be kept. He said that an email is not much different than a phone conversation or voice mail. "Until I hear otherwise, I keep everything on tape," said Hammond.

Carl addressed the city council at its Tuesday meeting on the decision issued by the district attorney regarding the mayor's use of emails during the last election. He contends that the letter says that the district attorney "chose not to pursue legal action. It did not exonerate the Mayor's actions."

Carl asked the council to establish a policy of public review to review a councilmember's actions. He suggested a three member council committee that could vote to remove the person from office.

"This case is not closed. The matter will be pursued further with the state attorney general," declared Carl.

More Water at More Expense Boosts Zone 7 Budget

Zone 7 Water Agency will see a 7 percent boost in its budget in 2007-08, bringing the total to \$69.1 million, including reserves.

Financial and systems services manager Tamara Baptista told the board of directors' finance committee at its meeting Feb. 15 that overall the water cost will be going up \$2 million. A price increase of \$2 per acre foot from the state water project (SWP) is in part responsible for the boost.

There is also some cost for Zone 7's participation in the Bay Delta Conservation Plan. Most of Zone 7's water comes from the Delta. The agency wants to ensure continued quality and reliability of amounts.

Another aspect of the cost increase is that Zone 7 will buy more water to store for drought years, ensuring a comfortable margin so that the Valley's water retailers won't have to impose mandatory rationing. It's a policy adopted years ago by the board. The projected rise of 7000 acre feet annually (AFA) will

bring the new amount to 59,000 AFA.

An acre foot is the amount of water that covers 1 acre to a depth of 1 foot. It's the amount that two typical households use in one year.

Much of the increased water volume will be sent to Zone 7's newly acquired water storage capacity in the Cawelo Water District in the Central Valley. Zone 7 will also take 4000 AFA from Byron Bethany Irrigation District, an increase of 3000 AFA from the current year's distribution.

The budget projection shows that Zone 7 is still on target for an 8 percent increase in the water rate, which won't be set until October, and made effective Jan. 1.

Some of the water rate boost is to bring the equipment replacement fund — such things as pipes and other hardware — up to a realistic level to meet rising cost for those components.

The board committed itself two years ago to a tentative

schedule of water rate increases over five years to bring the fund up to a realistic level.

The budget contains one bit of good news. It will be free from any more of the state's ERAF III (Education Reimbursement Augmentation Fund) fund takeaways.

Zone 7 lost \$6 million over two years because of ERAF III, which was created to funnel money from special districts to pay off state budget shortfalls.

Zone 7 coped with the ERAF III takeaway by not undertaking any preventive maintenance. When there was some damage to arroyo banks last winter, Zone 7 obtained a FEMA grant to pay for stream bank restoration.

Next year, with Zone 7 made whole again, work will resume on preventive maintenance.

The two members present at the finance committee meeting, Sarah Palmer and Steve Kalthoff, sent the budget to the full board, which was scheduled to vote on it Feb. 21, after the Independent's deadline.

Decision on Home Depot Put On Hold

The Home Depot item was pulled from the Pleasanton City Council agenda last Tuesday at the request of the applicant.

Mayor Jennifer Hosterman explained that Home Depot representatives didn't realize how important the discussion of the Stoneridge Drive extension was to the issue of building Home Depot. They have decided to allow the city needs in order to discuss the Stoneridge extension.

The city is in the process of preparing a traffic model showing traffic patterns in the city with and without the Stoneridge extension as part of the general plan update.

Home Depot has applied to build near the corner of Stanley Blvd. and Valley Ave. Residents who live along Valley have spoken in opposition to the use, saying it would just add more traffic to the already congested roads and intersection.

The same residents have said that if Stoneridge Drive were extended it would provide another access route to the east, taking some of the traffic off of Valley.

PROGRAM

(continued from page one)

ated to reflect the fact that gardening will be one of the sensory experiences available to clients at the facility, said Sanford. The physical garden will be in the back yard of the facility on North L Street.

Previously, the facility housed a daycare center, and was painted purple. One of the city's conditions for Futures Explored to take over the building was that it repaint it another color. Futures Explored chose an off-white and beige, said Sanford.

Non-profit Futures Explored has been in business for 45 years. It is opening the GARDEN project because of the projected closure in July 2008 of the state facility for developmentally disabled Agnews facility in San Jose.

Several other facilities will probably open in Livermore in the future, now that patients must leave Agnews, said Sanford. He said he is not aware of any specific locations or organizations that might do so.

LOBBY

(continued from page one)

He said that he felt combining an effort for all three districts located around the East Bay Regional Park District provides a unique position with representatives from two counties. He noted that as a multi-county district, EBRPD was successfully protected from property tax losses. He is hopeful that he would be able to obtain a similar result for the three districts. The goal would not be to have specific legislation, rather wording in the budget limiting the shift.

General Manager Tim Barry said he felt it was an opportune time to make the effort. He recommended only a six month contract. "We would take a break and evaluate what there is to show for the money. Perhaps, the contract could be extended if we see the value."

Board President Dale Turner commented, "It would make sense. Klehs knows how the game is played in Sacramento."

Opportunity to Name Downtown 500-Seat Performing Arts Theater

With construction of its new 500-seat theater more than 60% complete, the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center is stepping up its drive to find a naming sponsor for the theater.

"With our initial program rollout approaching in late spring, we need to determine the exact name for the 500-seat theater in order to build audience awareness and establish a brand name for our resident companies," said LVPAC's Executive Director Len Alexander. "The default name for the building is the Ravenswood Theater. However, we'd prefer to have it named for

someone in the Tri-Valley. We're looking for an individual or couple who care about the cultural life of our community and wish to provide a legacy that will ensure a vibrant and exciting performing arts community for years to come."

The asking price to name the theater is two million dollars, about 10% of the construction cost. Unlike some other named facilities in the Bay Area, the LVPAC name would never expire or need to be renewed. Naming the theater is a key element in completing the Center's 15 mil-

lion dollar capital campaign. To date more 10 million dollars has been raised.

LVPAC's 500-seat theater, the first of two performance venues, is slated to open in October of this year and will serve as home for a number of Tri-Valley performing organizations including the Livermore Valley Opera, Del Valle Fine Arts and the Livermore-Amador Symphony. In addition, the theater is expected to host visiting performers from around the Bay Area and beyond, along with conferences, public events lectures and seminars.

Alper Named New Chief of Medical Staff

Michael Alper, M.D. has been named the new Chief of the Medical Staff at ValleyCare Health System.

The not-for-profit health care system operates ValleyCare Medical Center in Pleasanton and the ValleyCare medical campus in Livermore.

Dr. Alper, who specializes in internal medicine, came to ValleyCare in 1991 and opened a private practice on Fenton Street in Livermore, where he remains today. Four years ago, his practice went "paperless" when he installed a fully integrated computer system that includes patient charting, prescrip-

tions and billing. Since only about 5-10 percent of physician offices are paperless, Dr. Alper's practice is ahead of the curve. "It is a more thorough form of documentation, which will improve quality or care. Eventually, the government will mandate that records be electronic," said Dr. Alper. "I would like to assist our medical staff in understanding how this technology is beneficial for them and their patients, and how it can be acquired."

As Chief of Staff, Dr. Alper sees his role as liaison between the medical staff, the ValleyCare Board of Directors and administration, and working to integrate

the goals of all three to ensure that ValleyCare remains a strong, high quality health care provider.

"ValleyCare is an excellent community hospital. It will take careful planning, foresight and the support of the community to ensure that it continues to thrive in this rapidly changing world of healthcare delivery," he said.

Originally from Southern California, Dr. Alper completed his undergraduate work at U.C. Irvine. He received his medical degree from Drexel University in Pennsylvania and then completed his residency at U.C. Irvine in 1991. He and his wife currently live in Danville.

Pleasanton Council OKs Economic Development Strategic Plan

An Economic Development Strategic Plan was approved by the Pleasanton City Council at its Feb. 6 meeting.

The plan was put together over the last eighteen months by the Economic Vitality Committee. It includes six primary goals that address key sectors in supporting the city's economy and the community. For each goal, there are policies and strategies.

The city council praised the plan. Councilmember Matt Sullivan called it one of two pieces needed for a sustainable future. The other is the long term fiscal picture that is part of the general plan update, said Sullivan.

Councilmember Cheryl Cook-Kallio called the plan well put-together. "I like the UC extension and housing parts, as well as the shop at home."

The goals are: maintain and expand Pleasanton's economy; maintain and enhance Pleasanton's fiscal revenues; promote tourism, cultural and recreational activities; strengthen Pleasanton's retail and entertainment sector; increasing housing opportunities for Pleasanton's workforce and residents; and integrate economic development, land use and transportation decisions to create a sustainable city.

Among the housing goal strategies is organizing a business/workforce housing task force to

include local employers and developers across all income levels to develop a plan for workforce housing. The task force would document what workers earn and what they can afford and then educate policymakers on the gap between this and housing costs in Pleasanton.

Another strategy would be to consider a demonstration project using city funding to convene a design competition, creating a "world-class architectural quality in the next low-cost project." The project would integrate green building and showcase local firms.

Other ideas would be to consider housing for public service employees outside the housing cap, explore the use of publicly owned land to develop permanent affordable housing, and consider creating a housing trust fund in conjunction with Pleasanton employers to create workforce housing giving preference to local public service workers.

Part of the effort to expand the economy would be to locate a UC extension facility in Pleasanton.

This goal also includes encouraging the development of high-quality, flexible, small and medium size office spaces in mixed use settings.

The city should continue to work with the Hacienda Owners

Association and the owners of Stoneridge Shopping Center to encourage sustainable, mixed use, contemporary development.

The economic goal also suggests consideration of convening an annual economic summit event, with either a Pleasanton or Tri-Valley focus.

The goal to promote tourism, cultural and recreational activities includes a strategy to promote wine country tourism throughout the Valley.

It also suggests commissioning local artists to develop a "Visit Downtown Pleasanton" pamphlet showcasing museums, festivals, restaurants, etc.

There is also a proposal to study Napa's car free tourism initiatives for potential implementation in the Tri-Valley.

To strengthen the retail and entertainment sector, the city should initiate a shop Pleasanton campaign including the exploration of the possibility of a shop Pleasanton credit card with incentive programs for local spending.

Under land use and transportation, the city might consider a green transit demonstration project that links major activity centers with BART and hotels, such as a shuttle system using alternative energy. The city should also review and amend development regulations to allow live/work development in selected locations.

Mayor Jennifer Hosterman stated, "I am really excited that we have reached the point where we can talk about creating a sustainable city for the future. The economic vitality committee has really led the way on this."

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Winegrowers Association Honors Volunteers; Installs Officers

At its annual membership meeting held on February 6, the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association (LVWA) paid tribute to its members and volunteers, announced its officers for 2007 and celebrated the past year's achievements.

Outgoing LVWA board president, Carolyn Wente, pointed to the year's success and presented the annual leadership awards.

Linda Galles of Galles Vineyard received the 2006 Volunteer of the Year. Linda took this prize for her key volunteer roles in nearly every wine country event last year.

Named 2006 Grower of the Year, Aaron Wilker was a enormous supporter at several events, especially during the 25th Annual Harvest Celebration last year. 2005 Affiliate Member of the Year went to Jim Denham in recognition for his work with the media, the Annual Harvest Celebration, and Quest for Excellence education programs.

Incoming President Mike Wood of Wood Family Vineyards presented Carolyn Wente, Wente Family Estates with the 2006 Member of the Year Award. Carolyn, who was instrumental in founding the Association,

served as the first LVWA president in 1981, and just completed her fourth term as president. Wente led the organization through three years of unprecedented growth. Her legacy includes the development of a new governance policy, a five-year strategic plan, and financial stability for the organization.

While accepting her award to enthusiastic applause Carolyn recalled the early years of the Association, noting the growth of the region from just a handful of wineries to nearly 40. In closing, she challenged everyone to make great wine, grow outstanding premium grapes, and to help tell the world the compelling story of Livermore Valley Wine Country.

New LVWA Board Members are Gina Cardera, Garre Winery & Cafe; Dane Stark, Page Mill Winery; and Karen Belli, PW Markets. Returning board members include Chris Tarantino, Tarantino Vineyards; Melody O'Shea, US Foodservice; Jennifer Fazio, The Steven Kent Winery/La Rochelle Winery; Chuck Ott, Falling Star Vineyard; Jim Ryan, Concannon Vineyard, and Lanny Replege of Fenestra Win-

ery, who continues his service as Board Secretary. The following board members were elected officers for two year terms: Treasurer Mark Triska, Triska Crane Ridge Vineyards; Vice President Darcie Kent, Darcie Kent Vineyards; and President Mike Wood, Wood Family Vineyards.

Lynn Wallace Naylor, executive director of the LVWA, reported on the achievements and events in 2006. The association membership grew significantly, necessitating the production of a new map and brochure that includes the many new wineries and tasting rooms. She noted the success of the "Experience Livermore Valley Wine Country" marketing campaign as demonstrated by increased tasting room visitors, sold out events, and the increased support of marketing partners. "Our marketing efforts translate directly to new and returning visitors to our wine country. More and more people come each year to experience first hand our Livermore Valley hospitality."

President Mike Wood encouraged members to continue their active participation in association events and the member education series, Quest for Excellence.

Livermore Adds Funds to Tourism Grants Program

Livermore will spend \$30,000 for its tourism and special event grants program over the coming year.

The city council okayed the expenditure and new guidelines for awarding the money at Monday's meeting.

Previously, the fund contained \$18,000. However, last year the city received requests for over \$51,000, leading to the increase.

Councilmember Tom Reitter had suggested \$35,000, noting the large gap between requests and funding requests.

However, Mayor Marshall Kamena said that if there were enough applications for funding, the council could add funding the evening the grants are approved.

Councilmember Lorraine Dietrich objected to the proposed guidelines. She said that the new criteria pretty much leaves out three events that have taken place over the years, the Diversity Day Celebration, Annual Pow Wow and the Children's Fair.

Dietrich pointed out that the

new guidelines give preference to activities that generate tourism. She suggested reserving \$5000 for local events.

Kevin Roberts, economic development director, said he believes the proposed guidelines give the council the flexibility to grant money to long standing events. One of the reasons for approving the change, is to be able to provide money now for the California Independent Film Festival (CIFF), said Roberts.


The festival has moved from

October to April, leaving less time for the organizers to raise money. Roberts stated that if the council approves the funding changes, it would be possible to help finance the CIFF out of the 2007-08 funds.

Councilmember John Marchand suggested adding language to the guidelines that funding would be available to local cultural and enrichment opportunities.

The council approved the change.

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RETIRES

(continued from page one)

then and was pretty much the cow town he said it was. It's not a sleepy cow town any longer, though. Where did the cows go?"

When she went to work at the post office, she chose to be a carrier rather than work inside because the hours enabled her to be home when her children were out of school. "It was better. I'd deliver the mail and go home at 2:30. I'd be there to take care of my boys."

Her route was in the Sunset Homes area. "The people there were just wonderful. A lot of them were Mormon. They were so open-hearted and kind. They were always giving me little treats and inviting me to their weddings and birthday parties."

Olga remembers she lost 20 pounds during her first weeks carrying mail.

"I thought, This is better than going to a spa, and I don't have to pay anything. They're paying me!"

Olga speaks with pride about

the postal service. Though individual problems occasionally happen, she says they're miniscule compared to the consistent level of service that brings the mail to homes and businesses across the nation day after day.

And among the post offices of the area, the Livermore Post Office is special, she believes.

"At the other post offices the windows close at 5 and the front doors are locked then, too. Livermore, the doors stay open. People can come in any hour of the day, get mail from their boxes, buy stamps. The lobby is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. The attitude is that the post office is there to serve the people.

"I've enjoyed my 40 years. The people of Livermore have made it an especially enjoyable job. The people have been so sweet, so nice to me. Livermore is a very, very sweet town."

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SPORTS NOTES

Teams Advance to Soccer State Cup Finals

The **Livermore Elite Titans (U13, Division I)** advanced to the Cal North CYSA State Cup finals by defeating ACC Mavericks Broncos 6-0 in the quarterfinals and ACC Mavericks Alliance Fusion 3-1 in the semifinals this past weekend. The Titans will play Santa Clara Sporting 93 in the Championship game on Saturday, Feb. 24.

Once again the Titans pinpoint passing created scoring opportunities that allowed them to score six goals in the quarterfinals game. Victor Reyes led the way with three goals, Jesse Morales had two and Joey Martinez scored the final goal. Tsuyoshi Kohlgreuber had two assists, and Juan Guerrero and Reyes each had an assist.

In the semifinals on Sunday, the Titans played a very tough, physical game. The Titans broke through first on a goal by Morales off a give and go from Kohlgreuber. The Alliance Fusion came right back and tied the game before halftime. The second half was a defensive struggle but the Titans were up to the challenge. Goalkeeper Douglas McNeill put together another outstanding game in the box, while sweeper Yan Carlos Trujillo and defenders Oscar Garcia and Aaron Grewal had a busy day in the backfield turning back every offensive charge Alliance Fusion made. Midfielders Steven Dubberly, Michael Kronenberg, Greg Gusco, Tyler Amick and Danny McNeill had their work cut out for them trying to gain control of the midfield. The Titans hard work paid off as Morales was able to score what turned out to be the winning goal off a cross from Kronenberg. Morales scored the third goal with seconds left in the game off a break-away.

The **Pleasanton Ballistic United Soccer Club U11** team dominated the Merced United Lobos in quarterfinal State Cup play this weekend in Turlock, coming away with a 5 to 0 win. United played their best game to date, with goals scored by Jackson Adams (2), Alex Valencia, Sam Olson, and Marek Jurkiewicz. The defense, led by Joey DeVivo, Brian Hsu, Sam Olson and Eric Toombs only allowed a couple shots on goal.

United's victory advanced them to the Semi Finals on Sunday against the Santa Cruz Breakers White. The United team dominated in ball possession, with 2 goals scored by Zane Manaa and 1 by Marek Jurkiewicz, winning the game 3-1.

The United Team, coached by Sean Lemoine and Pablo Espinoza, now advances to the Finals, facing Placer United Prestige Gold, to be played 10am Saturday, February 24th at Robertson Park in Livermore.

Lady Dons Win Title

The Lady Dons earned the EBAL Freshman Basketball Championship with a 45-22 victory over Granada High on Monday night. Led by Chelsea Luther (13 points) and Kelsey Martin (11 points) the team dispatched the Matadors. All around balanced stats in points scored, rebounds, steals and blocked shots truly made this a team effort. All nine Lady Dons scored at least one point. Emily Pease led the team in rebounding while Jessica Infield and Courtney Wagner led the team in assists. Haley Douglas led the team in steals while Pauline Rosa, Paula Krzesinska, and Neha Seelam also played aggressive defense. Seelam had two block shots to her credit as well.

With the victory, Freshman Girls Basketball Coach Justin Bigler achieved his fifth EBAL freshman title (He also has one at the Junior Varsity level). In his sixth season at Amador Valley his freshman teams have compiled an impressive EBAL record of 53-11! Including his stint as the JV coach he is a notable 64-2 overall in league play.

The Amador Valley High freshman girl's basketball team defeated the Cal High Grizzlies in EBAL action on Wednesday night. The Lady Dons took the opening tip and converted it into a basket and never lost the lead. The final score was 44-11. Courtney Wagner had an overall good game scored most of her game high 11 points off of Grizzly turnovers which she converted into lay ups. Guards Jessica Infield and Pauline Rosa applied persistent pressure to the Cal guards forcing many turnovers. Amador Valley dominated the offensive and defense boards as Emily Pease, Kelsey Martin, Neha Seelam, Paula Krzesinska and Haley Douglas hit the boards hard. Chelsea Luther added five points as well as played tough hard nose defense on the Grizzlies. Martin also added eight points to the effort. The Lady Don defense allowed six first half points and only five second half points. The team held the Grizzlies scoreless in the final period.

The Amador Valley High freshman girl's basketball team completed a clean sweep of all the EBAL teams on Thursday night by defeating their cross town rivals the Foothill Falcons by the score of 48-18. All the Lady Dons played well, got ahead early and never relinquished the lead; however a spark was missing in the first half as the Dons were only up by nine points at the end of two quarters by the score of 15-6. At the half, Coach Bigler made some adjustments and Amador Valley came out with focus and purpose. In the second half the Don's scored 33 points to the Falcon's seven to cruise to the easy victory. The final score was 48-18.

CVO Basketball

Two very strong and determined Catholic Community of Pleasanton (CCP) teams Sunday to earn a spot in the CVO basketball championship game on 2/25. CCOP 7005 just edged 7009, 32 to 30. CCOP #7009 scored the first 4 points, which was followed by a game that never had a margin larger than three points after the opening lead. Both teams were evenly matched, with a point spread of one during a large portion of the game. CCOP #7009's team had balanced scoring - with 8 of its 9 players putting points on the board - lead by Elena Victor scoring a season high of 13 points. Rachel Orpina made 10 rebounds, Marisa Victor 3 assists. CCOP #7009 had overall outstanding defense; Autumn Whitney and Nicole Torquato played a very fast-paced game - holding their opponents high scorers. Coaches Gregg Whitney and Alex Victor are very proud of all of the girls that played on their team this year.

The press by both teams caused numerous turnovers which resulted in a close first half with 7009 up 16-15. By the end of the 3rd the score was tied 27-27. In the 4th quarter Sydney Okumura made her one important shot to put 7005 up 31-30 and Lauren MacDonnell sunk a free throw to go up by 2 with seconds remaining. For 7005, hard earned points were scored by Jessica Morosoli/Michelle Mann/Lyndsay Godwin (6 points each), MacDonnell (5 points, all free throws), Kelly Parsons (4 points), Nicole Ponzini (3 points) and Okumura (2 points). Contributing defensively were Godwin (10 rebounds, 4 steals), Okumura (7 rebounds, 4 steals) and Ponzini (6 rebounds, 2 steals).

In the first round of 8th grade American

boys' playoff action, St. Michael's/St. Charles (SM/SC) defeated St. Joan's, 59-50. In an intensely-played game, SM/SC pulled out to an early lead and held it throughout the game. Leading scorers for SM/SC were Dominic Palino with 26 points, Kevin Stein with 14 points, Nikko Marcelo with 6 points, and Shane Jackson with 4 points. Leading scorers for St. Joan's were Joe Wilson and Sam Frazier with 13 points each, Andrew Mo with 11, and Jack Lindburg with 5. SM/SC will now advance to the semifinals.

The SM/SC 8th grade boys (#804) team defeated the St. Raymond's 8th grade boys (#818) 36-35 at the San Ramon Valley High gym on Sunday afternoon. SM/SC bounced back from a nine point deficit at halftime to pull out a one point win in first round CYO playoffs. SM/SC advances to play the #1 seed in the 8th grade division next week. SM/SC out scored St. Raymond's 25-15 in the 2nd half to secure the victory. SM/SC top performers were: Jacob Hohli with 12 points, 14 rebounds and 2 blocks; Jacob Goodness with 10 points, 2 rebounds and an assist and a steal; Zach Edwards with 6 points, 7 rebounds and one block; Ryan Rogers with 6 rebounds, 3 assists, 2 steals and a point; Kyle Phillips with 4 rebounds and 2 points. Strong defensive play in the second half from Justin Brauer, Steven Dubberly, Mike Griffin and Jeffrey Stanford all contributed to the SM/SC victory.

SM/SC (717), 7th grade boys, defeated CCOP (708), 34-32 Sunday during their first play-off round. This game was neck and neck to the whole way with both teams playing hard. Top scorers for SM/SC were Jeremy Mata, Ryan Viera, Austin Andrews and Austin Nelson. Nelson also played a terrific defensive game with endless rebounds and a hold on the ball that no one was going to get! Every player for CCOP contributed to the score. SM/SC (717) continues its post-season next Saturday at St. Isidore's gymnasium.

In the semifinal playoffs, 5th-ranked SM/SC upset 1st-place St. Isidore's, 49-45. Despite trailing at halftime, 31-22, SM/SC turned on the heat, starting with two 3-pointers by Ryan Silva, and scored 20 in the 3rd to St. Isidore's 4. From that point on, SM/SC maintained the lead. Leading scorers for SM/SC were Dominic Palino with 16 points, Ryan Silva and Kevin Stein both with 10, and Shane Jackson with 6 points. Leading scorers for St. Isidore's were Hamblin with 8 points and Auberd, Ruzich, Kevorkian, Fontana, and Tollesfen, each with 6. SM/SC advances to the championship game next weekend.

SM/SC fourth grade girls American League team finished off the regular season with a solid 24-11 win over St. Raymond's. Anna Neitzel led all scorers with 8 points to go with her many rebounds. Samantha Trask did a great job running the offense, adding four points of her own to go along with her assists. Gabrielle Rios played solidly at both ends of the court, and sank two free throws to break an early tie and get the team rolling. The girls' great ball movement and hustle on defense generated another total team effort from a squad that has been getting better every week going into the playoffs.

In 4th grade playoff action, SM/SC, in one of their best-played games of the season, held St. Isidore's for 3 quarters of exciting play, but it wasn't enough to stop them. St. Isidore's beat SM/SC 35-19, but not without a fight. Leading scorers for SM/SC were Kameron Johnson with 6 points, Tyler Silva with 4 points, and Harrison Mayo with 4. Leading scorers for St. Isidore's were J. Norcisse with 8 points, S. Doughty with 8 points and Duell with 6.

The 4th grade boys of CCOP (#401) defeated St. Isidore's in a triple overtime game Sunday. With Arnez Chafee almost fouling out and Michael Anastassiou being double and triple teamed, the CCOP players refused to give up and fought hard to beat the previously undefeated St. Isidore's team. Aggressive defense by both teams, resulted in a roller coaster score. It was in the final 15 seconds of the third overtime, that the CCOP team prevailed, 29 to 24. CCOP players Michael Anastassiou, Arnez Chafee, John Doug, Anthony Doty, Karl Fernando, Cameron Freeman, Rod Hajian, Chandler Johnson, Daniel Payne, Enrique Perez, R J Scott, head coach Kevin Coenen and assistant Ed Doty will advance to the semifinals in a game set for Saturday.

Middle School Basketball

East Avenue Middle School 8th grade girls defeated Fallon MS 45 to 15. First game back after an injury, Kaitlyn Taylor had a great game on both sides of the ball scoring 12 pts. and grabbing 8 rebounds. Having their best offensive games of the season were Caitlin Taylor and Kelly Frydendal. Strong offensive performances by McKenna Kettenhofen (12 pts, 4 rebs, 2 asst, 2 blks), Kaitlynn Amaral (11 pts) and Brooke Betts (7 pts, 4 rebs, 3 asst, 2 stls). Putting the brakes on Fallon for East Ave. was Kathryn Rambo, Veronica Garza and Audrey Brooks. East Ave. MS 7th grade girls downed Fallon MS 44 to 8. East Ave. got off to a hot start offensively by Julie Walsh (5 pts, 3 rebs), Erin Walthall (4 pts, 3 FTs, 2 rebs, stl) and Jamie Elliott (4 pts, reb, stl). Shannon Sunnergren (2 pts, 4 rebs), Sami Schiller (8 pts, 3 rebs, 4 stls, 2 blks) and Ashley Holmes (6 pts, 3 rebs, 7 stls) played aggressive defense to slow the good shooting Fallon team. Pounding the glass was McKenzie Hubert (4 pts, 7 rebs), Katy Jones (4 pts, 10 rebs) and Jessica Beckwith (4 pts, 8 rebs).

8th grade girls defeated Wells MS 39 to 20. Kaitlyn Taylor hot off her previous game scored 14 points and pulled down 5 rebounds. Offensive standouts for East Ave. was McKenna Kettenhofen (11 pts, 5 rebs, 4 stls, 3 blks), Audrey Brooks (2 pts) and Caitlin Taylor (2 pts). Kathryn Rambo, Brooke Betts, Kelly Frydendal and Veronica Garza (2pts, 5 rebs, 5 assts) kept busy on defense to slow Wells down.

7th grade girls edged Wells MS 32 to 29 in a nail biter. Firing from all over the court was Alyse Kline (17 pts, 2 3's, reb, 3 stls). Chipping in on offense for East was Sami Schiller (7 pts, 7 rebs, 5 stls, 2 FT's) and Ashley Holmes (7 pts, 4 stls, 4 rebs, 3 FT's). Shannon Sunnergren (3 rebs, 2 stls), McKenzie Hubert (8 rebs, 3 stls, 2 blks), and Erin Walthall (reb, stl) worked hard on defense the entire game. Working hard in the paint for East was Katy Jones (3 rebs, FT), Jessica Beckwith (reb) and Julie Walsh (2 rebs, stl).

Bowling News

Tom Dewey returned to the Classic League in great fashion last week, when he just missed a perfect game after ten strikes in a row and settled for a 288 game and then concluded his series with a 246 and 224 to complete a 758 series at Granada Bowl in Livermore.

Ken Sartoris ReMax Executive Cheyenne Men League started with a 223 game and then poured it on with a 266 and finished with a 267 game for his 756 set.

Greg Kwasiak had a couple of nice sets last week with a 723 series in the Monday Mashers aided by his 268 game and then rolled a 275 game on his way to a 724 series in the Kings and Queens league. Kevin Stapp rolled a 278 and a 255 on his way to a 738 series while Mark McCreary had a 262 Game to finish off a 732 Series. Jim French's 717 set was the result of his 232, 238 and 247 efforts. Joe Delise rolled neat 711 series with games of 241, 237 and a 233. Jim Sisco again exceeded the 700 plateau with a 709 which included a 254, 227 and a 228.

Maria Lockridge rolled a 268 on her way to a 672 series and Cheryl Rose whose normal average is 133 rolled her first ever series over 500; a 512.

Sirs Bowler Phil Niemi had a 621 Series that included games of 204, 207 and a 210, while Rich Baguto had a 241 high game in the same Sirs loop.

Youth Bowler Casey Albert exploded with a 247 in the Generation Gap and Alex Stuber of the Friday Family Affair rolled a 236 game on his way to a 615 series.

Run Like the Wind

The City of San Ramon will host the inaugural Run Like the Wind in San Ramon. The 1/2 Marathon & 5K Run/Walk will be held on Sunday, March 25, at the San Ramon Dougherty Station Community Center. "Run like the Wind" will benefit middle and high school athletics in San Ramon, as well as Agape Villages (a local non-profit organization serving foster children and their caretakers).

This event features a run, or a walk, for every member of the family, including the 5K run or walk or the 1/2 marathon (13.1 miles). The 5K and 1/2 Marathon are both paved and fast courses through the rolling hills of San Ramon's established and recently constructed planned communities (east side of highway 680).

Trophies will go to the top male, female, and team finishers of each race. In addition, medals will be awarded to all 1/2 marathon finishers. Medals are also given three deep in designated age groups for both male and female participants (check application or Web site for age groups).

Entry fees Pre-Registration: 5K Single: \$20.00 5K Family Rate: \$17.00 per person (3 or more people, must register at the same time) 5K Family Competition Rate: \$17.00 per person (minimum of 3) Half Marathon Single: \$40.00 (ages 12 and up) Half Marathon Team: \$35.00 (minimum of 6)

Race-day Registration: Check-in and race day registration opens at 6:00 a.m., at the San Ramon Dougherty Station Community Center 17011 Bollinger Canyon Road, in San Ramon—same location of the races' start and finish lines. The Half Marathon Race will start at 7:30 a.m., with the 5K Run / Walk beginning at 7:45 a.m.

For more information and/or an application, visit www.runlikethewindinsanramon.com. There is also information about the race's pre-night dinner, hosted by Leadership San Ramon: "Run like the Wind" free Training Clinic; family registration; race-team competition registration and scoring; course maps; and much more.

Seahawks Fast in Water

The Pleasanton Seahawks team members set out for Salinas last weekend to swim at the Zone 2 Championships, with team spirit and great swims abounding. Placing 3rd as a team, several swimmers stepped up and really assisted their team members when it mattered most: Bridget Booe, Emily Saccullo, Brittany Gallagher, Josh Nuzzo, Anna Parker, Julianna De La Torre, and Peter Huang went out of their way to assist their relay teams to contribute to the team placement.

Kayla Lindsay earned High Point honors for the 8& Under Girls. Annalese Chinn, Kayla Lindsay, Adrian Rooney, and Maxime Rooney all made the 8& Under Zone All-Star Team to compete in early March. Rishab Nair earned a spot as an alternate for that team as well, resulting in the potential to have 5 swimmer on the 16 person Zone All-Star squad.

Most notable were the following young swimmers' performance: Natalia Bello, 8, swam 2 new best times in the 25 free and 25 breast with a new A time in the 25 free, making her eligible for the 10& Under Championships in Sunnyvale this April.

Analese Chinn, 8, stopped the clock with 4 new best times in the 25 free, 50 free, 100 free, & 100 IM.

Kayla Lindsay, 8, took 6 new best times including 4 new A- times and 2 new PRT times in the 25 free, 50 free, 100 free, and 100 IM.

Rishab Nair, 7, swam to 6 new best times, including 5 new B- times, in the 25 free, 50 free, 100 free, 25 breast, 50 fly, and 100 IM.

Adrian Rooney, 7, came in with 3 A times in the 25 free, 50 free, and 25 back.

Maxime Rooney, 8, went 3 for 8 with new best times with new PRT times to boot, in the 25 free, 100 free, and 100 IM.

Heather Chandler, 10, took 5 new best/B times in the 100 free, 50 breast, 50 fly, with new BB times in the 50 free and 200 free, the first of her career, making her eligible for the 10& Under Championships in April.

Julianna De La Torre, 10, swam 2 new best times in the 50 back and 50 breast.

Anna Parker, 9, had a great meet with 3 new best times, including 2 new B times in the 50 free and 200 free, and a new BB time in the 50 back.

Ryan Zhang, 9, took 3 new best times, including his first ever B time as a 9-10 swimmer in the 50 back.

Kevin McLaughlin, 11, swam to 5 new best times in the 100 free, 200 free, 100 back, 50 fly, and 200 IM, including his first ever B time of his career.

Next Rank Achieved

Some of the martial artists from the United Studios of Self Defense in Livermore recently received promotions to their next rank during a test procedure that lasted anywhere from one to four hours depending on the level being tested.

This particular test was very impressive; with all nine people easily passing with impressive scores in all categories. All three members of the Samuelson family testing for various ranks also headlined Saturday's test.

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

Some of the students who tested have waited over a year to be promoted to their next rank. Evaluations are held approximately ten times per year depending on necessity.

For more information about belt tests and other programs and special events at United Studios of Self Defense, we welcome visitors at any time, or you can call 925-449-1746 to speak to an instructor.

Yellow Belt Promotions: Logan Dickey, Ethan Briggs, Frank Ferrel; Orange Belt Promotions: Alan Pham, Mattea Maroney; Purple Belt Promotions: Kate Samuelson Scott Samuelson; Blue Belt Promotions: Anne Samuelson, Doug Jones.

Wiffle-Ball League

Competitive Fast Pitch Wiffle-Ball League Tournament! Serious players wanted for high competition with real Wiffle-Balls (holes on one side of ball). For more info call Ed at (925) 846-1199.

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 Rick 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.

Bay to Breakers

Registration for the 96th annual one-and-a-half internationally-known footrace, ING Bay to Breakers 12K, is underway. Come Sunday, May 20, 2007, runners and spectators will embark on a weekend full of athleticism, musical events, food and fun! To register visit www.ingbaytobreakers.com.

For the first time, in 2007, all registered participants will receive a specially created timing chip, the first in a series of five collectible chips leading up to the 100th anniversary of the race, which will automatically collect data from each runner as they complete along the course. These results will be processed and distributed at the conclusion of the race. The chips will be worn on the shoes of each participant. Their official time will be determined as they cross the Start Line where they begin their "personal" race. Each version of the five chip collectible series will commemorate a well-known visual icon from along the race course.

In addition, all registered runners will be able to obtain their finishing time on a bib sticker at the end of the race and have the opportunity to print out an official finisher's certificate online.

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 \$30.00 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 (925) 846-3520 or nbronzini@pleasanton.k12.ca.us or contact the PPIE office at (925) 846-5620 or mail@ppie.org, to purchase your tickets.

Jr. Football Signup

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.

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 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 Foot-

ball 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, visit www.livermorejuniorfootball.com. President and Vice-President of LJFL are Jay Frost and Jim Burke.

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.

Time, shot gun scramble, is at 1 p.m., no host 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 925-833-3300 ext. 5217 or changyeesandy@dublin.k12.ca.us

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.

Football Players Invited To Take Part in Combine

MSL Sports will hold a 2007 High School Combine in Livermore on Sat., March 3.

The event is open to all college eligible athletes. Former NFL player Chuck Muncie is the organizer of the combines.

More than 300 top High School Athletes from around the country will participate in the Combine to showcase their talent and ability. The Combine will test the athletes' strength, speed and individual skills and use MSL's Video technology to capture each player's results - all of which will be made available to collegiate coaches nationwide.

Participants must pre-register online at www.msports.net. The cost is \$25.

Registration begins at 6:30 a.m. The Combine will be held at Livermore High School, 600 Maple St., Livermore.

Alameda County Fair Takes Home 22 First Place Awards

The 2006 Alameda County Fair took home 43 Western Fairs Association (WFA) awards at the 84th annual achievement awards convention in Reno last week. The 2006 Fair, which enjoyed a turnout of over 380,000 patrons for its 17-day event, received 22 first place honors, two more than the previous year. The Fair also received five second place and ten third place awards, as well as six honorable mentions.

During the convention, Alameda County Fair CEO Rick K. Pickering was sworn in as Vice President of the WFA Board of Directors and will serve as Board President in 2008.

First place awards include top honors for the Radio and Television Advertising campaigns. Some of the other winning entries include the Young California Building ("Creative Competitive Exhibits"), Agricultural Exhibits ("Agricultural Educational Program"), and Fair Theme ("Creative Fair Concepts").

The Alameda County Fair also received four International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE) awards for its 2006 Fair agricultural and marketing programs.

Planning is currently underway for the next award-winning annual Fair. The 2007 Fair will mark the Fair's 95th Anniversary, which will run from June 22nd through July 8th. For more information, please visit the website at www.AlamedaCountyFair.com or call (925) 426-7600.

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2007 LIVERMORE JUNIOR FOOTBALL

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.

Livermore Peripheral Neuropathy Support Group meets every fourth Tuesday of the month, 10 a.m., at Heritage Estates Retirement Community, 900 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore. The group is open to persons in the Tri-Valley area suffering from Peripheral Nerve disorders and/or those that know persons suffering from this. Peripheral Neuropathy can be difficult to diagnose and often manifests itself in "tingling" of the hands and/or feet. Come to the next meeting on February 27, 10 a.m. if you wish further information. Contacts are Lorene Stack, 447-6158 or Ann Laye, 443-4098.

Tri-Valley Republican Women Federated, Tom Del Beccaro, the newly-elected Vice Chairman of the California Republican Party, will be the guest speaker at the Thursday, March 8 meeting. It begins at 6:30 p.m. at the Sheraton Pleasanton Hotel, 5990 Stoneridge Mall Rd., Pleasanton. New members and visitors are welcome. Reservation deadline is March 2. Call (925) 426-1995. Tom Del Beccaro most recently served as President of the California Republican Party's County Chairmen's Association, which represents Republican parties statewide. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the California Republican Party and Chairman of the Contra Costa Republican Party.

Valley Spokesmen Bicycle Touring Club, Sat., Feb. 24, 35-55 miles, ride offers a number of routes all leading to Orinda, meet at 10 a.m. at Bollinger Park 'n Ride in San

Ramon. Jim Duncan, 806-9467. Sun., Feb. 25, 38 miles San Ramon to Livermore and back through Pleasanton, meet 10 a.m. at Central Park, Peter Rathmann, 828-1973. Wed., Feb. 28, 30 miles Pleasanton to Livermore and through Sycamore Grove, meet 10 a.m. at Val Vista Park, Curtis Stallins, 462-8384. Anyone planning to go on a ride is asked to call the leader for details on where to meet and what to bring.

Fantasia Latina Gala Night, March 24th, 7pm-midnight, San Ramon Parks and Community Services, 12501 Alcosta Blvd. Dinner and dancing. Live music by the South American orchestra "Nostalgia" playing real salsa music. Donation \$40 per person. Formal attire is required. For tickets call Cecilia Valent 925-487-5675 or 925-455-9420 or Ada Pestana 925-930-7408 or 925-457-3222. Fund-raiser for Panamerican Roundtable of Contra Costa and Alameda, a non-profit organization that raises money for scholarships.

The War Tapes, Saturday, February 24th, a riveting film on what it's like to be a soldier in Iraq, will be shown at 7 PM at the IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin. This event is free (or \$2.00 donation accepted), open to the public, and is wheelchair accessible. Meet and greet starts at 6:30 PM. After the film, for those interested, we will have a short discussion about the movie. Snacks and beverages, convenient, ample parking, and tables for your literature are provided. If you wish to make a brief announcement or would like more information, call 925-462-3459.

Scholarships for Tri-Valley students, Four scholarships, each worth \$1,000, are offered by Tri-Valley Retired Educators. The awards are offered to high school graduating

seniors, Las Positas students, and Cal State East Bay students who are residents of Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton or Sunol and are planning a career in education. Applications for the scholarships have been distributed to each of the Tri-Valley high schools and are available on the scholarships links at Las Positas and Cal State East Bay. The completed applications are due by March 2, 2007.

The Pleasanton PTA Council's annual Founder's Day luncheon celebrates 100 years of child advocacy on Wednesday, February 28, 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., at the Castlewood Country Club. The event includes a special panel including school and community leaders who will discuss, "Beyond the Classroom: PTA Supports Pleasanton Youth in Becoming Active Citizens." Tickets are \$25 and include a buffet lunch. Please reserve tickets no later than February 16 by contacting the PTA Council 846-3257 or e-mail Jamie at jhntzke@aol.com.

Mad Hatter's Tea, Assistance League of Amador Valley, April 28, noon to 4 p.m. Tea and sandwiches, and spring fashion show presented by Chico's. The afternoon activities include a hat contest, raffle, and the sale of lucky teacups. Shrine Event Center in Livermore. It will benefit Assistance League of Amador Valley's many philanthropic projects, including Operation School Bell. Ninety percent of all net proceeds go toward philanthropic projects. For further information contact Annette at 925-462-5275 or Rickie at 925-846-3922 or email alamadorvalley@yahoo.com. Additional information is available on the web at www.amadorvalley.assistanceleague.org.

Mt. Wanda Bird Walk, Sat., Feb. 24, 8:30 to 11 a.m. John Muir National Historic

Site, corner Alhambra Ave and Franklin Canyon Rd., Martinez. Terrain is steep. Wear comfortable clothing and walking shoes. Bring water and binoculars. Rain or unsafe conditions cancels. Admission free. Information, 228-8860.

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.

A Starry Night at the Vineyard, Pleasanton Middle School Parent Fund 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.

Annual Spring Fling, fund-raiser for Rancho Las Positas Elementary School, Sat., March 10, 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. Shrine Event Center, Livermore. "It's An Adventure Around the World," with silent and live auctions, raffle prizes, casino tables, no host bar, heavy hors d'oeuvres, and more. Tickets \$35 includes \$20 in casino money, one 50/50 raffle ticket, 3 prize raffle tickets, a complimentary cocktail. After Feb. 26, ticket price will be \$40. Information, contact Melissa Schaible at 455-5833 or ranchofundraising@sbcglobal.net.

Free tax preparation assistance, Feb. 1 to April 14 at the Livermore Civic Center Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave., Thurs-

days and Fridays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Rincon Library on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Trained volunteers from AARP will be available to answer questions and help prepare state and federal tax forms. For more information, contact Rosemary Dukelow, 373-5500 ext. 5514.

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

RELIGION
Unitarian Universalist, 1893 N. Vasco Rd., Livermore, Sun., Feb. 25, "Celebrating 100 years." New member orientation at 11:45 a.m. Information 447-8747.

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

Catholic Community of Pleasanton, bereavement support ministry meetings on Feb. 22, March 8, 22; and April 12 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Seton in the chapel, 4001 Stoneridge Dr., Pleasanton. All are welcome. Questions? Please call Kim at 735-3741.

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.

The Roots of Secular Humanistic Judaism, presented by Executive Director of the Congress of Secular Jewish Organizations, Rifke Feinstein. Shabbat potluck

dinner precedes presentation, 7 p.m. Friday, February 23, 1817 Sinclair Drive, Pleasanton. Home of Rabbi Judith Seid. Tri-Valley Cultural Jews serves those whose Jewish identity is based on culture, heritage and family, rather than on religion. It is an affiliate of the Congress of Secular Jewish Organizations. Bring a dish for 8. Reservations required (space is limited). 485-1049 or CulturalJews@aol.com. Tri-Valley Cultural Jews 1817 Sinclair Drive Pleasanton.

Simpler Living, Compassionate Life: A Christian Perspective, Mondays at 7 p.m. March 7-28 at St. Clare's Church. The Sessions are: March 7: Storytelling: Listening to our lives. March 14: Theology for the Practice of Simplicity. March 21: You Money or Your Life: The Place of Money in Modern Life. March 28: Broader Impacts of Our Everyday Food Choices. Each participant will need a journal and a copy of the book *Simpler Living, Compassionate Life: A Christian Perspective*. Copies of the book are available at Towne Center Books on Main Street in Pleasanton. All are welcome, regardless of faith. Classes are free and meet at St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Rd. in Pleasanton. Call the church office at (925) 462-4802 for information or to register.

Couples And Family Relationships Conference: Unlock the secrets to quality couple and family relationships, including parenting techniques, at this unique learning experience. First Presbyterian Church 2020 Fifth Street Livermore California. March 31, 8 a.m. to noon. \$39 per person (\$59 after March 1). www.kivaspirit.org for registration and information. Kiva Counseling Group (925) 485-9370

United Christian Church, 1886 College Ave., at Mt. St., Livermore; worship's Sunday morning at 10:30am. Children's program on Sunday morning and first Fridays. The community is welcome. United CC is an Open and Affirming ministry. Call 449-6820 for more information.

OBITUARIES

John Thomas Psenak

John Thomas Psenak died February 9, 2007 in Pleasanton. He was 85.

He was born in Peoria, Illinois on May 13, 1923. He served his country for 20 years in the U.S. Air Force. After leaving the service, he worked for General Motors, retiring after 42 years as an auditor.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Beverly; sons Jay Thomas Psenak of Ft. Worth, TX and Stephen Goodwin of Larkspur; grandchildren, Jason and Brian Psenak, Reed and Nisha Goodwin, Sarah Ramos and James Abbott; great grandchildren, Amanda, Trinity and Candace Psenak of Texas.

A memorial service was held February 18 at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in Livermore. Interment followed at St. Timothy's Episcopal Cemetery in Danville.

Donations may be made to the American Heart Association.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

Guido Michael Roggi

Guido Michael Roggi died February 10, 2007 in Williams, CA. He was 55.

He was a long time resident of Livermore and had lived in Williams and Colusa County. He graduated from Livermore High School in 1969. Michael helped his parents with maintenance at their many motels and businesses. He enjoyed being a handyman and was well known by many to lend a hand with anything for his family and friends. He loved riding motorcycles and enjoyed music of all kinds. Michael had an incredible love of all animals, especially dogs and cats. He enjoyed being with his family.

He is survived by three sisters, Marie Jackson of Livermore, Lola Ross Bobba of Pleasanton and Elisa Ann Clark of Sacramento; eight nieces and nephews, Vincent Bobba, John Jackson, Tony Schwartz, Cameron Clark, Denise Paddock, Cindy Greci, Teri Capriola and Laura Bennett, as well as numerous great nieces and nephews and many cousins, his uncle Louis Santucci of Discovery Bay, former spouse, Mary Seagraves Roggi of Colusa and four stepsons, Saville, Robert, Anthony and Christopher Seagraves. He was preceded in death by his parents, Guido in 1981 and Alberta in 2001, a sister, Vivian in 1954, and brothers-in-law Russell in 2004 and Dario in 2000.

A Chapel Blessing Service was held February 19 in Livermore. Interment at St. Michael's Cemetery in Livermore was held February 20.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

Major Marlton Simons

Major Marlton Simons died February 12, 2007 in Livermore. He was 85.

Mr. Simons was a field engineer with IBM for 35 years, retiring in 1986. He was a faithful member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Livermore First Ward and was also the Stake Executive Secretary. He was a longtime Boy Scouts of America leader and Scoutmaster and active with leadership training on many levels. He enjoyed woodworking, backpacking, and hiking and wildflowers.

He is survived by three sons, Craig Marlton Simons of Bountiful, Utah; Kent Lowell Simons of American Fork, Utah; and David Murray Simons of Atascadero, a daughter, Laurel Bauserman of Abingdon, VA; a sister, Mary McCrea of North Ogden, Utah, brothers, Calvin Simons of

Santa Rosa and Harold Simons of Weiser, Utah, and sixteen grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Lorraine in 2001.

Funeral services were held February 17 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Livermore. Burial was February 20 at the San Joaquin National Cemetery in Gustine.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

Robert Michael Darrah

Robert Michael Darrah died February 7, 2007 in Yuba City. He was 76. He was born on November 9, 1930 in Evanston, IL to William and Irene Darrah. Robert graduated with a BS in food science and began working for Safeway in 1962 as a quality control supervisor. He retired in 1992. Robert and Laura moved from Livermore in 2006 to Yuba City. He was a member of E. Clampus Vitus and the Safeway Retirement Group. He was a fan of Dixieland jazz.

He is survived by his wife, Laura of Yuba City, children Holly Smith of Granite Bay, Brian Darrah of Yuba City, Bill Darrah of Fair Oaks and Steven Todd Darrah (who preceded him in death); a sister Lynn Shoot of Clemson, South Carolina, and a granddaughter, Laura Jean Smith.

Funeral services were held February 17 in Livermore. Burial was at Memory Gardens in Livermore following the service.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

Effie Viola Hieb

Effie Viola Hieb died February 10, 2007 in Walnut Creek. She was 81.

She came to Livermore in 1963 from Missouri. She worked as a LVN at the Livermore Veteran's Administration Hospital for 22 years, retiring in 1985. She was a avid reader.

She is survived by son Larry (Nancy) Camp of Livermore, daughter-in-law, Toni Camp of Livermore, sister Mary Gray of Livermore, grandchildren, Kelly and John Camp of Livermore, great grandchildren, Kenny and Kelsey Wheeler of Livermore and nieces Jo Allen and Linda Lema of Livermore. She was preceded in death by her son, Eddie Camp in 2005.

A graveside service was held February 16 at Memory Gardens in Livermore.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

Paul Andrew Gronley

Paul Andrew Gronley passed away peacefully at his home of Feb. 14, 2007. He was 67.

Paul was born in San Jose, CA and longtime Livermore resident. He attended Amador Valley High School in Pleasanton. He worked in the lithograph industry for 45 years and loved his job at Silgan Containers. Paul enjoyed going to Reno with his gal pals, Barb, Lorraine, Marge, Sally and Yolanda. He loved square dancing at the Square Circle Club in Pleasanton and spending time with his family and traveling with Barbara. A modern Day Dr. Doolittle, Paul loved his animals; 2 lovebirds, a backyard full of flying friends, Buddy his parrot, Tyler his dog, and his cats; BB & Lil' B.

Paul is survived by his love, Barbara Downen, his children, Sheri Gannon of Tulare, Holly Russo of Livermore, Brian Gronley of Reno and Tommy Brown of Tracy. He is also survived by his three brothers, Eric, Lorry and Steve; two sisters, Andrea and Johna, his mother Mildred, and grandchildren, Sheena, Justin, Brandon, Tommy Jr., and Sarah.

A Celebration of Life was held February 20 in Livermore.

Donations can be made to Stanford University, Research for Pancreatic Cancer.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary/Livermore Crematory.

Paul Van Erden

Paul Van Erden, 74, passed away January 30, 2007, after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease.

Possessing a friendly and outgoing personality, he left behind many friends and a loving family. He was born in Riverside, Illinois, the son of Mack and Gertrude Van Erden. At age 15, he moved to Redwood City, where he lived with an uncle and aunt, Bill and Harriet Trice. After graduating from Sequoia High School, he served in the Marine Corp during the Korean War. He later earned degrees in mathematics from San Jose State University and Oklahoma University.

During a career that spanned almost 40 years, Paul worked as a teacher at Amador High School in Sutter Creek and American River College in Placerville and Sacramento. He taught math and PE and coached basketball before retiring in 1991. His retirement years were spent large in Mesa, AZ, participating in sports and making many close friends. Throughout his life, Paul enjoyed old cars, particularly Studebakers; playing softball and tennis; and backpacking and fishing in the Sierras. His spirit will live on along the banks of his favorite trout stream.

Three children survive Paul from his first marriage to Nancy Koch: son and daughter-in-law Lynn and Melodie Van Erden of Livermore; daughter and son-in-law Jean and Vince Eckles of Altadena; and daughter and son-in-law Kristin and David Hayes of Colorado Springs, Colorado. Also surviving are brother and sister-in-law Donald and Paulette Van Erden of Wildwood, IL., second wife Margaret Van Erden of Mesa, AZ, and six grandsons.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Fri., Feb. 23 at Callaghan Mortuary, 3833 East Ave., Livermore.

Donations in his memory may be made to the National Parkinson Foundation, Inc., Office of Development, 1501 NW 9th Avenue, Bob Hope Road, Miami, FL 33136-1494 or www.parkinson.org.

Isabel LaTorre

Isabel LaTorre died February 19, 2007 in Pleasanton. She was 87.

The native of Oakland, CA had lived in Livermore for 30 years. She was the former co-owner of Bellina's Restaurant in Pleasanton for 20 years. Her hobbies included cooking and gardening.

She is survived by her husband of 59 years, Antonio LaTorre, her son, Peter LaTorre of San Ramon, daughters, Christine Galysh of Waco, TX and JoAnn Filiault of Manchester, CT, sisters Florence Wittmeyer of Santa Clara and Virginia Cassavant of Oakland, and three grandchildren.

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Thurs., Feb. 22 at St. Augustine Catholic Church, 3999 Bernal Ave., Pleasanton. Burial will follow at St. Augustine Catholic Cemetery in Pleasanton.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks donations be made to the American Cancer Society, 7000 Village Parkway, Suite E, Dublin, CA 94568.

Arrangements by Graham-Hitch Mortuary.

Alison Kathryn Pennisi

Alison Kathryn Pennisi died February 14, 2007. She was 29.

Alison was born August 30, 1977 at Valley Memorial Hospital in Livermore and grew up in Pleasanton where she graduated from Foothill High School. A perennial student, Ali attended Canada College in Redwood City and was a longtime resident of Redwood City.

She is survived by her parents, Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Pennisi, her beloved fiance Daniel Morgan, three brothers, Joseph and wife Lauren, Robert and wife Sandra and Michael and wife Lindsey, her niece Chloe, and nephews Joey, R.J., and Anthony.

A Memorial Mass will be said in her honor at 11 a.m. on Feb. 24 at St. Augustine Catholic Church, 3999 Bernal Ave., Pleasanton. A reception will follow at noon.

A trust fund has been established in her name at The First Republic Bank in Pleasanton. Three charities will be the recipients of any donations: South County Mental Health, Stanford-Packard Children's Hospital, and San Mateo County Medical Center.

Arrangements by Graham-Hitch Mortuary.

Gilbert E. (Gill) Cruz

Gilbert E. Cruz of Pleasanton left us in the early morning hours of February 20, 2007. He was 60.

The near lifelong Valley resident was the son of the late Edward Cruz, Elaine (Cruz) Troutman and Joe Troutman. He leaves his wife of 38 years, Janice, a son Brandon (Mil-

waukee, WI), daughter and son-in-law Kendra and Phil Frerich and grandchildren, Brooklyn and Adam Frerich (Livermore). He also had four siblings, Greg and Gina Cruz of CO, Gary and Trish Cruz of AZ, Edward and Marla Cruz of San Diego and Michele Matthew and Steve McNabb of Livermore.

He was a many of many passions, first and foremost was his family. Gill adored his grandchildren, who on very tough days took away his pain and gave him an even greater desire to fight his courageous battle.

His other passions included his love of his alma mater Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, his second career as an engineering instructor at Las Positas College, travel, fine food and wine, gourmet cooking, scuba diving, still photography, award winning underwater photography and golf, just to

name a few. He was much closer to being a master of these passions than a jack of all trades. The Amador Valley High School class of 1964 graduate was a worldwide traveler and published author. It has been said a person is lucky to count the number of close friends they have on one hand. Gill didn't have enough hands to cover his close friends.

Please join Janice and her family to honor Gill with a celebration of his amazing life at one of his favorite place, Fenestra Winery, 83 E. Vallecitos Rd., Livermore, on Sun., Feb. 25 from 2 to 4 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate donations to Hope Hospice of Dublin or the Las Positas College Foundation in the name of Gill Cruz.

Arrangements by Graham-Hitch Mortuary.

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Speakers:
Mahmood Kazemi, M.D.
Endocrinologist
Pam Wilson, M.S., R.D.
Chief Clinical Dietitian

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ART & ENTERTAINMENT

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.

Wine County Festival open to local artists and businesses. The 16th Annual Livermore Wine Country Festival, May 5 and 6 in downtown Livermore. Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Application deadline is March 1st. Volunteers are also needed. For information go to the Downtown Livermore, Inc. website at <http://www.livermoredowntown.com>.

Seussical. Students from Arroyo Seco Elementary School in Livermore are performing the musical "Seussical," based on the characters and stories of Dr. Seuss. This is the fourth year Seco's after school education program has produced a musical. The cast of "Seussical" will go on the road

to Jackson Avenue Elementary, performing for students during school hours on February 28th. That evening at 7:00 pm the show plays at Arroyo Seco, and again during school hours on March 2nd for Seco students. The public is welcome to attend the February 28th evening show.

World Class Four Hand Piano. featuring Mark Anderson and 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 & Petruska 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 Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and for two hours prior to the performance. Group discounts are available.

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, or in person at the Amador Theater Box Office.

(continued on page 10)

'Bollywood Dreams' Program Slated

Vamsee Juluri, an Associate Professor of Media Studies at the University of San Francisco, will speak on the Indian film industry and its growing popularity in America.

The program, "Bollywood Dreams," will be Sat., March 3 from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave.

Film screening will follow.

"The Indian film industry continues to make more movies (and related songs) than any other film industry on earth; it entertains rich and poor even in the age of globalization and satellite television; it routinely sends its stars to elected office; it holds a diverse — and at times divisive — nation together. And it offers faith in the morality and goodness of the universe in the face of myriad tribulations, ranging from poverty and family conflict to political upheaval and, of course, terrorism."

Refreshments will be served. Admission is free. No registration is required.

The program is sponsored by the East Bay Marathi Mandal and the Pleasanton Public Library. It is funded by a California State Library Grant through the California Cultural Crossroads Program and the Friends of the Pleasanton Public Library.

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

All Tchaikovsky Concert in Oakland

Pianist Russell Hancock, will appear as soloist with the Temple Hill Orchestra.

The all Tchaikovsky Concert will be presented Sat. and Sun., Feb. 24 and 25 at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free.

Hancock will be featured playing the Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No. 1. Other works on the program include Swan Lake Suite and Waltz from Eugene Onegin. The orchestra is under the direction of John Pew.

Hancock has performed since age eight. His solo debut came at age 11 as a soloist with the Northwest Chamber Orchestra. He recently performed with the Ohlone Chamber Orchestra. In addition to his career as a classical pianist, he is a Harvard graduate and holds a Ph.D. in political science from Stanford where he has an appointment in the Public Policy program. He is active in



Russell Hancock

the Stanford music milieu and appears in master classes.

The performance will be at the Oakland Interstake Center Auditorium located at the Mormon Temple, 4780 Lincoln Ave., Oakland. Directions: Exit Hwy 13 at Joaquin Miller Rd./Lincoln Ave.

Vine Cinema Showing Two Films From International Jewish Film Festival

The Contra Costa International Jewish Film Festival is bringing two films to the Tri-Valley for showings at the Vine Cinema in downtown Livermore on Tuesday, February 27 and Thursday, March 1.

The films are co-sponsored by Congregation Beth Emek and Temple Beth Torah.

Teens will be admitted to the March 1 film at no charge. Both films are in French with subtitles and are suitable for ages 13 and up.

"The First Time I Was Twenty" will be shown at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 27: (France, 2004, 94 minutes, French with English subtitles.) Laced with humor and a great jazz sound track, this heart-warming film follows the struggles of underdog Hannah, a likeable sixteen year-

old living in a Paris suburb in the early 1960's. Hannah is smart, funny, and plays a mean upright bass. While she is good enough to break the gender barrier, the renowned all-male jazz band at her school refuses to accept her and does its best to make her quit. Her struggle unfolds both as a female and as a Jew. (Please note this film contains one brief shot of male frontal nudity.)

On Thursday, March 1, the film is "Vis, Va et Deviens" (Live and Become), shown at 7:30 p.m. (France-Israel, 2005, 130 minutes, French, Amharic, Hebrew with subtitles.) 1984. Hundreds of thousands of Africans from 26 countries hit by famine travel to Sudanese refugee camps. But hope awaits for the Jews of Ethiopia, who are airlifted to Israel un-

der Operation Moses. Trying to save her child, a Christian Ethiopian woman seizes the opportunity and sends her young son to join the exodus. Once in Israel, the newly named Shlomo struggles not only with his secret, but also with a new culture and new parents. With the strong support of his adoptive family, he finds love, Israeli culture and a career—a career that will eventually send him back to the same refugee camp he left twenty years before. *Underwritten by The David B. Gold Foundation.*

Tickets in advance are \$9; and \$10 at the door. They can be purchased online at www.jfed.org or call 943-5238. Interested viewers can contact Charlotte Salomon, with any questions at (925) 462-7279.

'The Fantasticks' Offers Entertaining Evening

By Janet Armantrout

If you've got two hours, a great way to spend them is watching the Pleasanton Playhouse production of "The Fantasticks."

The musical, which is the longest-playing show in American theater history and the longest-running musical in the world, is filled with humor, subtle messages about life, and memorable music such as the signature piece, "Try to Remember."

The set uses the idea of a play to produce a play. A bedsheet serves as the curtain. There is a trunk filled with everything needed to tell the story, including actors.

The Fantasticks features two matchmaking fathers, Hucklebee and Bellomy (Dean Creighton and Tom Leone), who scheme to bring their two children together, only to find out just how little control they have over their offspring's decisions.

The boy, Matt, (Eric Inman) is an innocent, romantic, kind fellow, who writes poetry. Luisa, (Liz Caffrey) is an energetic, idealistic girl with an active imagination who sees herself as a princess.

The fathers stage a mock feud, going so far as to build a wall to keep their children apart. The idea is that by telling the children they can't see each other will it encour-

age them to do so. It works. The romance blossoms. Now the dads need to end the feud and set up a happily ever after ending. They hire a bandito, complete with swashbuckling cape, El Gallo (Dan Kapler), to abduct the girl and allow the boy to be a hero in rescuing her. End of act one and the fairytale story.

(El Gallo plays two roles: one the handsome, brave narrator and the second the organizer of the abduction.)

As in life, things don't always go as planned. With their love no longer forbidden, Matt and Luisa begin to grow restless. Matt leaves angrily, to find out what lies "Beyond that Road." Luisa allows herself to be seduced by El Gallo. The young couple eventually rediscovers their love for each other.

Two quirky characters, the actors in the trunk, add a touch of fantasy and fun to the play. Jay Krohngold as an elderly Shakespearean actor, Henry, can't remember his lines. He plays the role with just the right amount of befuddlement. Jack Larsen as

the "man who dies" demonstrates a flair for death scenes.

Jeri Reed portrays the Mute. This character represents various elements of the story, such as the wall between the two houses. Unfortunately, the lighting in this production often prevented the audience from enjoying her art.

Steve Binder provides the accompaniment.

The fathers, who were audience favorites, have a couple of funny song-and-dance numbers, "Never Say No" and "Plant a Radish," about the trials of parenthood. As a gentle, bespectacled button maker (and amateur gardener), Leone is believable. Creighton, whose character learned horticulture in the Navy, gets into his part with enthusiasm and skill.

Kudos to several of the actors, who were suffering from the flu, but took the stage opening night. They performed to a level that the fact they were ill was not apparent to the audience.

"The Fantasticks" is directed by Jennifer Schwartz, with choreography by Michael Ryken

Pre-Opera Parties Planned for 'Mikado'

Livermore Valley Opera is introducing an "opera experience" for its upcoming production of "The Mikado."

"The Mikado," by Gilbert and Sullivan, will be performed March 10, 11, 17, 18 at the Livermore Performing Arts Center, 600 Maple Street, Livermore.

The Mikado is a comic opera in two acts. It is considered to be one of the most beloved musical theatre pieces in history. It opened on March 14, 1885, in London, where it ran at the Savoy Theatre for 672 performances, unprecedented for musical theatre pieces. It was one of the longest runs of any theatre piece up to that time.

All of the lyrics and speaking are performed in English.

Pre-opera parties will be offered at several locations.

John Christopher Cellars, Retzlaff Winery and the Livermore Valley Opera will host a joint Mikado Opera party at Blacksmith Square on opening night, Saturday, March 10.

A Livermore Valley Opera host will be present to welcome guests, answer questions, and deliver a short Mikado commentary.

The wineries will present a joint wine tasting and heavy-ap-

petizer event beginning at 5:30 p.m. At 7:30 the party will adjourn and move on to the LVO's production of "The Mikado" at the Livermore High School Theater. Tickets are on sale at both tasting rooms. Tickets entitle the holder to taste wine, enjoy a variety of appetizers at both locations and a Mikado Operetta ticket. The price is \$65.

Blacksmith square is located at 25 So. Livermore Ave, on the corner of Railroad Avenue and South Livermore Ave, close to the High School Theater. Parking is available at Blacksmith Square, the Livermore Valley Parking garage on Railroad or at the old "Lucky's" shopping center plaza next door to Blacksmith Square.

Tickets at \$65 per person are all inclusive. They are available at either winery. Call or visit John Christopher Cellars 456-WINE (9463) to purchase tickets. For additional information go to www.livermorevalleyopera.com or go to the website at www.johnchristophercellars.com

Bring in your ticket stub after the matinee performance on either Sunday, March 11 or Sunday, March 18 and taste any John Christopher Cellars wines on the

current tasting list at no charge.

Wente Vineyards will host its first-ever Wine Country Brunch and Opera event on Sundays, March 11 and March 18.

The special culinary and musical theater experience begins in The Restaurant at Wente Vineyards with a two-course gourmet sparkling wine brunch. Following the brunch, guests will depart for the Livermore Valley Theater, to view the comic opera, Gilbert & Sullivan's "The Mikado."

The brunch will include one complimentary glass of sparkling wine or other beverage. Seatings are at 11:15 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 11:45 a.m. Guests will be seated in the front dining room with others attending the opera, or a table of 8 may be reserved for a group.

Tickets are \$90 per person all inclusive, available at www.wentevineyards.com or by calling 925-456-2400

Livermore restaurants offering discounts or other promotions (check with restaurant for more information) to Mikado ticket holders: Casa Orozco, Kawa Sushi, Zephyr Grill and Bar, Bruno's Italian Cuisine and Uncle Yu's At The Vineyard.

Filmmaker Presents Program at Museum

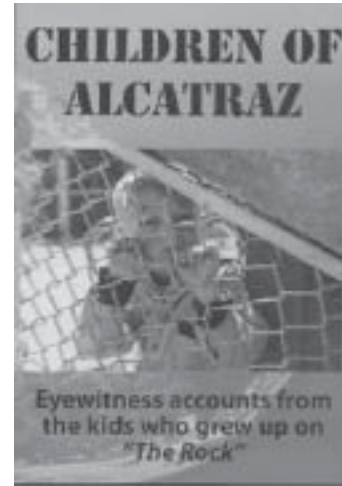
Filmmaker Scott Cornfield will show and talk about his film "Children of Alcatraz," the first film to provide an exclusive look at America's most famous prison through the eyes of the children who grew up on the island.

The lecture and film show will be held at 7 p.m., Thursday, March 15, at the Museum On Main, 603 Main Street, Pleasanton.

Reservations are requested. Admission is \$5 for museum members and \$10 for non-members. Call (925) 462-2766. Memberships will be available for purchase that night.

"Children of Alcatraz" offers an extraordinary glimpse into a side of the prison that few have ever heard about. In the film, sons and daughters of prison guards tell first-hand stories and provide exclusive home movies about life on The Rock. Viewers of the film experience everything from the riots, the jailbreaks and contact with famous inmates to the daily adventures of taking the boat to school. Cornfield has been involved in video production and filmmaking for 25 years. He has written, produced, directed and appeared on camera in a wide variety of productions from broadcast television and corporate video to documentaries and shorts.

Over the years he has won awards including Best Documentary at the Danville International Children's Film Festival for "Children of Alcatraz;" Best Government Training Video for an in-house television series for the San Jose Police Dept; and



Best Comedy at the Poppy Jasper Film Festival. Cornfield won the "Iron Filmmaker" Award at the California Independent Film Festival.

He currently runs a nonprofit organization, the Center for Nonprofit Media, that produces documentaries and provides low-cost production services to other nonprofits.

Current productions include a documentary chronicling a 1934 San Jose kidnapping and lynching, a comedy short shot in Tahiti and a dramatic training movie about an Internet predator.



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Quartet to Perform All Beethoven Concert

The Fry Street Quartet performs in Livermore on Saturday March 3 as the fourth concert in the Del Valle Fine Arts series.

Their program is an all-Beethoven concert: Opus 18 No. 1, Opus 127 and Opus 59 No.3. The concert will be at the First Presbyterian Church, 2020 5th St. (at South L St) in Livermore at 8 p.m.

Fry Street was the location of the quartet's first rehearsal space in the Chicago neighborhood once ruled by Al Capone. Co-founded by violinist Rebecca McFaul and violist Russell Fallstad in 1997, the youthful Fry Street Quartet has earned the Millennium Grand Prize at the Fischoff National Chamber Music Competition, First Prize at the Yellow Springs Competition, and a prize at the 2004 Banff International String Quartet Competition. They currently serve as the Faculty String-Quartet-in-Residence at Utah State University. Their acclaimed Carnegie Hall debut, which the *New York Concert Review* said "spoke of precision, preparation, excitement, profound heritage and ultimate satisfaction," has been followed with highly regarded tours throughout the U. S. and Europe.

The quartet has come together from a diverse background. Originally from Wisconsin, Rebecca McFaul received a B.M. in violin performance from the Oberlin Conservatory and continued her studies earning a M.M. in violin performance at North-



Fry Street Quartet in Livermore.

western University. Her "freedom" and "brilliance" (New York Concert Review) has marked performances that "glide through with a dancer's grace" (Charlotte Observer).

Hailed for his "glorious strength" and "elegance" (New York Concert Review), Russell Fallstad has blazed a remarkable trail as violinist and violist since beginning Suzuki lessons in the Minnesota public school system. As a principal player in the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, he performed under the batons of world-renowned conductors Daniel Barenboim, Pierre Boulez,

and Sir George Solti. Fallstad's eclectic musical interests have marked his trajectory as an artist. An active performer in the new music scene, he debuted many performances of new works at the Chicago Museum of Contemporary Art, the University of Chicago, and with the Cube Ensemble.

Violinist William Fedkenheuer began his studies at four at the Conservatory of Music at Mount Royal College in Calgary. His performing career was launched at age seven as the youngest member of the world-renowned Calgary Fid-

dlers and earning national acclaim as the Fiddling Champion of Canada in his early teens. His performances are "passionately intelligent and intelligently passionate" (Boston Globe). Winner of the Lincoln Center Martin E. Segal Award, he has distinguished himself as a versatile artist with performances as soloist, chamber, and orchestral musician. He has performed at Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall Presents, San Francisco Performances and the National Gallery.

Cello Anne Francis has combined her "light, fleet touch" (Charlotte Observer) and "searing cello" (Deseret Morning News) in performances since her debut at age 10 on the international stage of the Inaugural World Cello Congress. Winner of the Darius Milhaud Performance Prize and the Fischoff National Chamber Music Competition, Anne has performed in venues from Carnegie Hall in New York to a Maori Longhouse in New Zealand, firmly establishing herself as a leading educator and artist of her generation.

Tickets are \$18, \$16 for 62 & over or college, and high school or younger are admitted free. Individual tickets may be purchased at the door or in advance at Cooleykatz Toys in Livermore, Towne Center Books in Pleasanton or P. O. Box 2335, Livermore CA 94551. Call 925-447-2752 for more information or go to www.delvallefinearts.org.



A Day in the Park by Melanie Lacki

Exhibit in Pleasanton to Help Raise Funds for Firehouse Arts Center

Studio 7 Fine Arts will be exhibiting a selection of watercolors and oil paintings by award-winning artist Melanie Lacki. Exhibit dates are February 24th through March 18th.

The gallery also will host an opening reception on Saturday, February 24th, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The reception and exhibition are free to the public. Guests are invited to enter a raffle for an original painting by Lacki. Proceeds from the raffle will benefit the Firehouse Arts Center.

Lacki, whose work spans the gamut from landscapes to still lifes to figurative pieces, studied for many years under master artists, including the late watercolorist Jade Fon. Her paintings are a symbiosis of light, value and composition, attesting to her distinct sense of color and design. Greatly inspired by the art of Spanish painter Joaquin Sorolla, she paints everyday people and places, connecting

with the emotional aspect of the situation.

Lacki alternates between watercolor and oil media. She explains that prompts her to analyze the process, rather than painting by rote. Prior to commencing each piece, she paints small studies and takes photographs of the subject on location. At exhibits, she displays many of these studies along with the finished pieces so viewers can follow the progression of her thoughts as she worked.

In addition to winning many awards, her paintings have been exhibited throughout the nation and published in eight art books. Lacki has been a resident of Pleasanton for 32 years and paints five to six days a week in her studio.

For more information about the exhibit, call 846-4322. Studio 7 Fine Arts is located in downtown Pleasanton at 400 Main Street.

Harpichordist Interprets Music from the Past

By Nancy O'Connell

Mahan Esfahani, an Iranian born harpsichordist, performed on February 10th in the Las Positas College Library in the first of three early music concerts. The other two will feature Musica Pacifica on March 24th and Farallon Quartet on April 21. The library provided a more intimate setting than a large auditorium would have. The acoustics were good. The audience could hear every note as Esfahani's fingers flew over the keyboards.

Like the guitar, the harpsichord is not suited for the large concert hall. Years ago I heard Segovia perform with the San Francisco Symphony. The legendary artist's instrument did not carry. He was heard only by a lucky few who were very close to the stage. Two nights later I went to a solo recital given by Segovia in a more intimate setting and was thrilled to hear every note, every nuance of this great man's interpretation.

Mahan Esfahani and the creator of this beautiful harpsichord, Kevin Fryer, first held a dialogue. Fryer also handcrafted the instrument used two weeks ago in the Red Priest's concert in the Del Valle concert series. He told me then that I must hear Esfahani, a musician's musician, who would be playing on Fryer's personal harpsichord. Fryer told us that the instrument was partially made from spruce which he brought back from the Alps, from the same area where the spruce was grown for the making of Stradivarius violins. This particular model is based on the Flemish school of harpsichord building. It has two keyboards. The strings are plucked by a plectrum rather than being struck by tiny hammers as in a piano. The touch is therefore very different, so different that when Putnam Aldrich taught harpsichord at Stanford University he would not permit his students to play any other type of keyboard for an entire year.

When Mahan Esfahani studied at Stanford he was not given such an edict. He is also known as a very fine organist. He told the audience that although he was Iranian born he grew up in Washington, D.C. and he devel-



or immigrant to this country. He was sent to Stanford to go to medical school, but didn't want this profession and decided to work for a Ph.D. in musicology. He minored in history, and explained, "If we can't talk to people from the past, we can hear the music that they heard in their lifetimes."

Now based in Boston and studying for two different masters, he is actively concertizing and has recorded under the Naxos label. His first work on the program was John Bull's "Why Ask You?" a Pavan and Galliard. The Pavan was originally a court dance, slow and stately, usually in a duple meter, and was often followed by the Galliard in a triple meter. This Galliard was a rollicking contrast to the slow Pavan. The harpsichord places great demands on the keyboardist. Every note must be cleanly sounded. There are no pedals to blur sounds together or to hide behind. The ornamentation was complex.

Esfahani in his program notes states that John Bull was the "Liszt of his Age," and was the organist to the Chapel Royal of Elizabeth I. It is interesting to think that Shakespeare doubtlessly heard John Bull perform. What a juxtaposition of brilliant minds!

"Dr. Bull's My Grief" was in a minor key with lots of running notes in the left hand bass line with a long cadential pattern. A Gigge, "Dr. Bull's My Selfe" was played on both keyboards whereas the earlier works were primarily on the upper keyboard. By pushing in the upper keyboard slightly, he had a full rich sound on both keyboards simul-

taneously. It was uncanny to watch him playing on just the lower notes and to see all the keys on the upper keyboard move simultaneously without being touched. (It's like watching the keys of Eugene O'Neill's player piano tear through a well known piece.)

In "The King's Hunt" one could almost hear the horses and the hounds because of the rhythms used. Esfahani was bobbing up and down as though riding a horse. In "Walsingham," he displayed an awesome keyboard technique. His fingers flew like lightning over the keys. In his program notes, he says that this work is seldom performed because it has been considered "unplayable." Consisting of 30 variations, he also compared it to Bach's Goldberg Variations. Esfahani gave the work a great variety of sound. With his formidable technique he made it all look almost easy, but I did notice that he removed his jacket before tackling this work.

After the intermission, Esfahani performed Georg Bohm's "Praeludium, Fuga, et Postludium in G-Moll." (G Minor) The Preludium began with a low pedal point (a repeated note played again and again) in the bass, followed by exciting tonalities in the right hand. Interesting arpeggios were played on the upper keyboard. In the "Fuga" he managed to get many tonal contrasts with a quiet piano on the upper, and a loud forte on the lower. On the harpsichord no crescendo or decrescendo is possible. However, the young virtuoso we heard Saturday night managed an enormous variety of effects.

The last work on the program was J.S. Bach's "Capriccio in B-Dur" (B Major) composed when an older brother Johann Jacob Bach left to join the Swedish Army band as an oboist. He never saw this brother again, and the music is almost programmatic. In the *Arioso* one hears the friends talking, urging him not to go. Then we hear of his adventures as he joins the band. The most beautiful and haunting melodies were heard in the *Adagissimo*, a lament for their friend who was leaving them. Perhaps the rea-

son for my not being familiar with this work is that Esfahani worked from Bach's manuscript with only the left hand figured bass indicating the chords, and with a "sketch of the melody for the right hand." As was so often the case in the Baroque period, the performer, Esfahani, then improvises and fills out the piece. He "realized" the work with his own composition. With each performer, it therefore would be a different sounding composition. I hope that this *Adagissimo* is published with Esfahani's realization so that others can perform it.

The audience on Saturday night gave him a standing ovation and was rewarded with one encore - a short work by Henry Purcell. This Esfahani played by memory. There was a delightful interplay of the two voices. For the entire concert, Mahan Esfahani demonstrated a complete mastery of his instrument, and his program notes display a keen mind with a great interest in philosophy. To quote from his notes, "What makes Bull and Bach at times intimidating and unfathomable is what ultimately makes their music timeless."

This, then, is what makes the music of the Baroque endure and causes young artists of great talent like Esfahani to probe its mystery and depth.

Jazz Trio Plays At Library

Jazz musicians, "The George Brooks Trio," will perform at the Pleasanton Public Library from 2 to 3 p.m. on Sun., Feb. 25.

Saxophonist George Brooks has performed with such notable musicians as Etta James, the Brooklyn Philharmonic, Kronos Quartet, Anthony Braxton, Zakir Hussain and Terry Riley. His original compositions combine elegant melodies with the rich harmonies of modern jazz and the driving rhythms of North India to form a unique and wholly satisfying musical experience.

The George Brooks Trio will be performing a program of jazz standards and original compositions at the Pleasanton Public Library.

All library programs are free and open to the public. No registration is required. For more information, please call Penny Johnson, 931-3405.

California Poet Laureate Reading in Livermore



Al Young

Livermore's First Poet Laureate, Connie Post will host the next Wine and Words poetry reading on Sunday, March 4 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Featured reader will be Al Young, Poet Laureate of California.

Young's honors include Guggenheim, NEA, Fulbright fellowships, American Book Awards, the Pushcart Prize, and two New York Times Notable Book of the year citations

He is the author of *The Sounds of Dreams Remembered: Poems 1990-2000* and *Heaven:*

Poems 1956-2000. He is also a fiction writer and essayist. His many published books include novels and memoirs. The Centre for the Book will soon publish a chapbook of his latest poems. Next year Sourcebooks will bring out his *New and Collected Poems, 1956-2006*.

Young has taught poetry and fiction writing at U.C. Berkeley, U.C. Santa Cruz, U.C. Davis, Foothill College, the Colorado College, Rice University, the University of Washington, the

University of Michigan, the University of Arkansas, and San José State University. In the spring of 2003 he taught poetry at Davidson College (Davidson, NC), where he was McGee Professor in Writing.

Featured readings begin at 2 p.m. An open mic will take place following a short break (one poem per reader - 40 lines or less).

The reading will be held at the Martinelli Event Center, 3585 Greenville Road, Livermore. Admission is \$5.

Vine Cinema Playing Feb. 23 - Mar. 1
1722 First Street - Livermore (925) 447-2545 WWW.VINECINEMA.COM

Contra Costa Jewish Film Festival Tues. 2/27 & Thurs. 3/1 @ 7:30pm

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RENO 911 (R) DLP THX	12:15	2:10	4:20	7:25	9:40
BLACK SNARE MOAN (R)	1:30	4:30	7:15	9:50	
GHOST RIDER (PG-13) DLP	1:00	4:00	6:40	9:15	
GHOST RIDER (PG-13) DLP THX	2:30	5:00	7:30	10:00*	
THE NUMBER 23 (R) DLP	1:05	4:10	7:35	9:45	
MUSIC & LYRICS (PG-13) DLP	12:45	4:35	7:10	9:25	
DADDY'S LIL GIRL (PG-13) DLP			7:20	9:30	
BREACH (PG-13)		1:10	4:15	7:10	9:35
NORBIT (PG-13) DLP	12:00	2:20	4:40	7:05	9:25
BECAUSE I SAID SO (PG-13) DLP	1:10	4:05	7:05	9:45	
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) DLP				12:50	4:25

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ART & ENTERTAINMENT

(continued from page 8)

rice Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and for two hours prior to the performance. Group discounts are re. 2231 North Third Street, Hayward. Tickets (510) 881-6777; information dntonline.org.

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.

Chinese cooking demonstration and wine-tasting benefit to support the Valley Dance Theatre. Sunday, March 18, from 4 to 7 p.m. Afternoon with lots of food and festivities in Ruby Hill featuring wine tasting and a demonstration of how to cook Chinese food at home. Reservations are \$50 per person (limited capacity). Informal attire requested. Adults only. Call 925-243-0927 for reservations.

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.

The Secret Garden. Willows Theatre Company production. February 23 through March 25th, at the Willows Theatre, 1975 Diamond Boulevard, Concord. Tickets are \$33-\$38 with discounts for students (6-18), seniors (65+), groups (10+), and Preview performances. To purchase tickets call (925) 798-1300 or visit the Willows Theatre Company Web site at www.willowstheatre.org. Performances are Wednesday and Thursday at 7:30 p.m., and Friday and Saturday at 8:00 p.m., with matinees Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m., Saturdays

at 2 p.m., and Sundays at 3 p.m.

Russian-American Kids Circus. City of Pleasanton Civic Arts Presents will host family fun and thrills on Wednesday, February 28, at 7:30 p.m. Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. These young artists, trained by veterans of the famed Moscow Circus, will perform spectacular acrobatics, tightrope walking, juggling, unicycling and more. Adult tickets are \$14, \$18 & \$22; Child tickets are \$10, \$14 & \$18. 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 Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and for two hours prior to the performance. Group discounts are available.

Art and Education Building gallery. 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., Hayward. The exhibition will be open through March 1. Admission will be free. The Art Gallery is part of the College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences. Additional information is available by telephone at (510) 885-3299.

Laurence Juber. Finger-style Guitarist Formerly of Paul McCartney and Wings, performs Sat., Feb. 24 at The Wesley Center, 902 Danville Blvd., Alamo. Doors open 7:15 p.m., show at 8 p.m. Tickets \$40 Gold Circle; \$25 adults, \$22 seniors and children. Tickets at 229-2710 or www.communityconcerts.com.

Art Collecting 101 Series. Sat., Feb. 24, 3 to 4 p.m. features Seamus Berkeley, Bay Area painter, sharing fascinating tales about exotic locals. Perfect for armchair travelers, artists, and art lovers. Free to the Public. Refreshments served. Worthington Gallery West, 739 J. Main St., Pleasanton. Information 485-1183 or www.worthingtongallerywest.com

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LEGAL NOTICE

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 390637-390638

The following person (s) doing business as 1)Stony Ridge Winery 2)Stony Ridge, 4948 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 Alghan 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 Najia a. 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 24, 2007. Expires January 24, 2012. The Independent Legal No. 2112. Publish February 1, 8, 15, 22, 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 Terry Cruz, 2664 Torrey Pines Drive, Brentwood, CA 94513 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, 2007. 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 Gloria Evarista Burner, 1264 Jessica Drive, 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:/Gina Marie De Sousa and Gloria Bruner This statement was filed with

the County Clerk of Alameda County on January 26, 2007. Expires January 26, 2012. The Independent Legal No. 2115. Publish February 8, 15, 22, March 1, 2007.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 391167

The following person (s) doing business as Serenity Stone Works, 252 Main St., Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Larry Bourland 4865 Mason St., Pleasanton, CA 94588 This business is conducted by an individual

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 2/2/07.

Signature of Registrant: /s:/Larry Bourland This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on February 2, 2007. Expires February 2, 2012. The Independent Legal No. 2117. Publish February 15, 22, March 1, 8, 2007.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 391374

The following person (s) doing business as Safety Zone, 4138 Stanford Way, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Tony Frye, 4138 Stanford Way, Livermore, CA 94550 Rhonda Frye, 4138 Stanford Way, 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:/Tony Frye and Rhonda Frye This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on February 7, 2007. Expires February 7, 2012. The Independent Legal No. 2118. Publish February 15, 22, March, 1, 8, 2007.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 391294

The following person (s) doing business as Corporate Auto Wholesale, 1849 Klondike Rd., Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner (s):

Steven L. Sheffield, 1849 Klondike Rd. Livermore, CA 94550

This business is conducted by an individual

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

Signature of Registrant: /s:/Steven L. Sheffield This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on February 6, 2007. Expires February 6, 2012.

The Independent Legal No. 2119. Publish February 15, 22, March 1, 8, 2007.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 391044

The following person (s) doing business as PKC Collectibles, 2589 Corte Rivera, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Daniel B. Dawson, 2589 Corte Rivera, Pleasanton, CA 94566 This business is conducted by an individual

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on January 1, 2007.

Signature of Registrant: /s:/Daniel B. Dawson This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on January 31, 2007. Expires January 31, 2012.

The Independent Legal No. 2120. Publish February 22, March 1, 8, 15, 2007.

ORDER TO 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 Vilardi Judge Of The Superior Court The Independent Legal No. 2116. Published February 8, 15, 22, March 1, 2007.

ANIMALS/PETS

1) CATS/DOGS

ADOPT 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 or call (925) 803-7043.

2) FOUND

FOUND CAT Manx Cat found in Livermore Area. 925 449-1333

FOUND CAT Adult Female Spayed.. Tabby Tortoise Shell Mix. East, Vasco Vicinity. No collar/no micro chip. Call 925 447-4964 to identify.

3) LOST

Lost Cat, in Pleasanton, Neal & Entrada. Long, White hair Male, blue eyes, shy but nice, 10lbs. 925 846-7166

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9) USED AUTOS

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EMPLOYMENT

56) ADULT CARE

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60) BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

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71) HELP WANTED

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71) HELP WANTED

Eastern Idaho Technical College

EITC is accepting applications for full-time faculty & staff in a new Environmental Safety & Health (ES&H) Training program for the following positions pending receipt of contract funding:

PROJECT LEAD/RESPIRATOR INSTRUCTOR

DUTIES: provide senior leadership, respirator instruction, & oversight of ES&H Training and qualification programs including radiological controls and respirator protection programs; provide analysis, design, development, and evaluation of program components; review progress on projects & budgets, and evaluate results; coordinate, schedule, and supervise project work. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Education: Bachelor's degree or eight years of full-time gainful employment experience in a discipline related to ES&H.

RADIOLOGICAL CONTROLS INSTRUCTOR

DUTIES: Provide technical training in basic and advanced Radiation Safety topics training program design and evaluation, lesson plans and syllabi. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Education: Bachelor's degree or eight years of full-time gainful employment experience in a discipline related to ES&H.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

Applications will be accepted until the positions are filled. To assure consideration, applications must be submitted by February 26, 2007. Applicants must submit (1) a State of Idaho employment application form; (2) a letter of application; (3) resumé or vita; (4) copies of post-secondary education transcripts to:

EITC Environmental Safety & Health Training Application 1600 S. 25th E. Idaho Falls, ID 83404-5788 Fax: (208) 524-0429 Tel: (208) 524-3000 ext 3360 Or e-mail: dallen@eitc.edu AA/EOE/ADA

71) HELP WANTED

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore seeks a program director to work 15 hours a week for 11 months annually to supervise a growing dynamic religious education program for a church of 80 families. This position requires working all but one Sunday a month from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm. The weekday hours are flexible but will require some evening work. Past experience working with children and volunteers is highly desirable. Unitarian Universalist membership not required, but must be able to respect all religious view points. The salary range is \$18.00 to \$21.00 an hour, depending on experience.

Please send resumes by February 28 to RE SEARCH COMMITTEE, UUCIL, 1893 North Vasco Road, Livermore, CA 94551

72) HELP WANTED/DRIVERS

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NOTICES/ANNOUNCEMENTS

130) ANNOUNCEMENTS

What Is God Up To...? Lenten Series Join the Rev. Dr. John L. Kater Wednesday evenings, Feb 28 - March 28, 7-9 p.m. Christ Church, 1700 Santa Clara Ave., \$5/session; \$20 series.

150) ADOPTIONS

PREGNANT? CONSIDERING ADOPTION? Talk with caring people specializing in matching birthmothers with families nationwide. Expenses Paid. Toll free 24/7 Abby's One True Gift Adoptions 1-866-910-5610. (CAL*SCAN)

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156) NOTICES

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Mary has a Bachelors of Science Degree in Speech Pathology and Audiology from San Diego State University. She has been an active Realtor since 1986 and has taken many extended real estate courses including: Real Estate Appraisal, Real Estate Economics, Real Estate Law, Real Estate Finance and Tax Aspects of Real Estate.

Mary is a member of the Livermore Heritage Guild, the Livermore Art Association, and the National Ladies Philanthropic Society. A Livermore native, Mary is a graduate of Livermore High School. She resides in town with her husband Louis, and their children, Matthew and Angela.

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SHORT NOTES



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Clear skies provided spectacular views of the snow-capped Sierras from the Altamont Pass.

Free Spay/Neuter

The East Bay SPCA and Bishop Ranch Veterinary Center & Urgent Care are teaming up on Tuesday, February 27, 2007 to perform 100 free spay and neuter surgeries for dogs and cats belonging to low-income households.

The surgeries will be performed at the East Bay SPCA's Tri-Valley Spay and Neuter Surgery Center by veterinarians and technicians dedicated to ending the pet overpopulation in our community. The Tri-Valley SPCA Spay/Neuter Clinic's staff veterinarian, Dr. Heidi Strand and the East Bay SPCA Spay/Neuter team will work alongside Dr. Frank Utchen, co-owner of Bishop Ranch Veterinary Center & Urgent Care, who is volunteering to help make the event possible. Over \$8,000 in surgical services are being underwritten by the organizations.

"Any chance to partner with the Tri-Valley SPCA in an event like this is an opportunity to make a significant impact on the pet overpopulation problem as well as perform a valuable service to low-income residents of the area," said Dr. Frank Utchen co-owner of Bishop Ranch Veterinary Center & Urgent Care. "I am glad to donate a day of my time for this very worthy cause."

East Bay SPCA Executive Director, Allison Lindquist, adds, "Since opening our first high-quality, low-cost spay and neuter clinic in Oakland in 1998 and adding our Tri-Valley clinic in 2004, our organization has spayed and neutered over 70,000 dogs, cats and rabbits. We are so grateful that the community has embraced this program; we know that today's surgeries will have a tremendous and lasting impact."

According to the Humane Society of the United States, an unspayed cat can give birth to 18 kittens each year and an unspayed dog can give birth to 20 puppies each year. Surgeries performed at the East Bay SPCA's two facilities over the past nine years have helped cut the euthanasia rates for dogs and cats in the community by fifty-five percent.

Spaying and neutering can also help keep dogs and cats healthy by reducing or eliminating the possibility of certain cancers. The surgery also eliminates the problems and risks associated with pregnancy and birth. And a neutered dog or cat is less likely to roam away from his home, which will keep him safe from becoming lost or hit by a car.

For more information and to make a surgery appointment, please call 925-479-9674, or visit the East Bay SPCA's website at www.eastbayspca.org/thefix.

Springtown Library Turns 20

The Springtown Branch Library, after closing for re-carpeting Feb. 23-26 will reopen at 10 a.m. on Tues., Feb. 27 and will celebrate its 20th anniversary.

There will be a display of photos of the library's history.

The celebration will last through Sat., March 3.

The Springtown Branch is located at 998 Bluebell Drive. For information, call 373-5517.

Character Workshops

Amador Valley Adult and Community Education and the Pleasanton Community of Character Committee will present free workshops for business and community leaders.

The workshops, titled "It Takes Everybody to Build a Community of Character," will be offered on February 26 or April 23, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m., at the Amador Valley High School library. The purpose of the sessions are to educate community and business leaders about what community of character means, how to apply it to their organizations, and how to make changes within an organization. The workshops are based on the community-agreed character traits of Responsibility, Compassion, Self-discipline, Honesty, Respect, and Integrity.

A highlight of the workshop is sharing successes. A panel including Pleasanton City Council member Jerry Thorne, ACCUSPLIT President Ron Sutton, Pleasanton Middle School Vice Principal Jon Vranesh, and Tri-Valley YMCA Executive Director Kelly Dulka will be participating in the workshop to share their character experiences.

To register, call 426-4280 or go to www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/adulted. For information about Community of Character, go to www.communityofcharacter.org or contact Ellen at ellen@bumblebeemarketing.net.

Community of Character was founded in 2002 as a coalition under the direction of Pleasanton Unified School District Trustee Juanita Haugen. This volunteer committee is jointly supported by the City of Pleasanton, Pleasanton Unified School District, Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce and various service and faith organizations.

Link to the Past

"A Link to the Past" is the topic of the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District program for Sat., Feb. 24.

Meet Ranger Darren Segur at 10 a.m. at the Wetmore Road entrance to Sycamore Grove Park and learn about the big old ruined building in the middle of Sycamore Grove. The program will include a tour of the remains of the old Olivina estate. A van will take visitors out to the site. The tour will be followed by a moderate one-mile hike to observe the different cultural reminders of an earlier age. Good for ages 5 and up. Cancelled if raining. Reserve your spot by calling (925) 960-2400.

There is a \$3 per vehicle parking fee. A \$2 donation is requested to help support the programs. Participants may call (925) 960-2400 for more information.

DARE Openings for Parents

The Pleasanton Police Department is offering its Spring DARE Parent Program starting February 28 for three consecutive weeks.

The program is intended for parents of children currently in the DARE program and other interested adults. The focus is on developing better skills for parents to interact with their children, identify signs of potential substance abuse, reduce chances of risky behavior by their children, and to address concerns parents may have about kids moving on to middle school and high school.

The first session will be held Wed., Feb. 28. It will deal with communication and teenagers. Robbi Montoya, Adolescent Prevention Coordinator with Axis Community Health, will be the presenter.

The second session on Wed., March 7 will be a question and answer opportunity. The Police Department's two school resource officers that serve the middle schools and high schools will be field the questions.

The final session is on Wed., March 14. It will address current drug trends, drug identification, drug use and signs and symptoms of being under the influence. Sgt. Kim Knox, a drug recognition expert, will lead the talk.

All three programs are 7 to 9 p.m. at the Pleasanton Police Department, 4833 Bernal Ave. Spaces are limited. Advance reservations are required. Please contact either Officer Ted Young at 931-5147, or Officer Jason Knight at 931-5146. Attendance at all three sessions is not required, but highly recommended. Please RSVP by February 23.

Education Awards

The Pleasanton community is encouraged to nominate a special teacher, administrator or staff of the Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) for the 17th annual Excellence in Education Awards.

The Pleasanton PTA Council (PTA) and PUSD will present the awards. This event is made possible by a donation from Steven M. Chew DDS.

Nomination forms may be picked up at the front office of every PUSD school site and at the reception area of the PUSD office. Additional forms will be made available for download through both PTA and PUSD websites at www.pleasantonpta.org and www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us. Individuals should be nominated based on personal merit as well as exemplary contributions made to public education. Previous honorees are no longer eligible for nomination.

Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) presented the awards in the past. PTA Council is resurrecting these awards by a request from PPIE.

Nomination forms and required nomination letters must be sent together and received by March 23, 2007. Please do not fax nominations. A public ceremony for the honorees will be held on June 6, 2007.

For more information, call Kim Chew at 925-462-4891.

Writing & Illustrating

Children in kindergarten through ninth grade are invited to submit entries in the Livermore Library's Newcott-Caldebery Book Writing and Illustrating Contest. Books submitted will be judged by local authors. Prizes will be awarded at each grade level for best writing and for best illustrations. The Sonia Anderson Cordill Award will be given for the most outstanding entry.

One or more children may contribute to each original work. An entry form from each child must be attached to the entry. Forms and rules are available at all Livermore libraries or from the library's website at www.livermore.lib.ca.us. All books entered in the contest will be added to the library's collection and will be able to be checked out.

The deadline for entries is Sat., March 3 at 5 p.m. Contestants will be honored at an awards ceremony on April 18.

The Newcott-Caldebery contest is supported by the Friends of the Livermore Public Library and the members of Writers' Bloc. For more information, call the Youth Services Desk at 373-5504 or go to the library's website.

tival. This year the festival will be held May 5th and 6th. The festival hours are Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to help pour wine. The beer booths will be staffed by the beer companies. Wine pouring shifts are Saturday 10:30 a.m. (hour to set up) to 2:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. (1/2 hour to clean up). Sunday 10:30 a.m. (hour to set up) to 1:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. (1/2 hour to clean up).

The volunteer training meeting will take place on April 24th, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. at the Odd Fellows Hall, 2160 First Street which is above The Music Source. Livermore Downtown Inc.'s insurance carrier and the City of Livermore require this training and all volunteers are asked to attend, whether they have attended a training session in past years or not. For helping out at this event, volunteers will be given a complimentary commemorative wine glass and will be invited to the Volunteer Appreciation event later in the year.

Please complete and return the Volunteer Interest form, available at www.livermoredowntown.com, no later than April 15th, 2007. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Jennifer Lucero, event manager, at 925.373.1795. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Pilates Studio

Pilates on Spring, Pleasanton's first stand-alone Pilates studio opens this month near Main and Spring Street. On Saturday February 24, 2007 from 10am-2pm the public is invited to tour the 800 square foot newly renovated building. Pilates on Spring, at 273 Spring Street, makes the transformation from Humane Society to serene spa-like environment with eco-friendly healthy interior details.

Named after its developer, Joseph Pilates, exercises are performed precisely with detailed direction to add uniform flexibility, stability and balance to the body on a healthy core. All exercises incorporate breathing techniques and attention to posture.

The owner of the studio, podiatrist Dr. Colleen Schwartz, has taken Pilates to the next level to address foot and ankle problems.

At Saturday's studio tour, Dr. Colleen Schwartz and Susanne Sage both certified in Pilates with a specialization in rehabilitation will be available to further discuss Pilates, answer foot questions, perform demonstrations, and distribute studio schedules and rates. For more information, visit pilatesonspring.com or contact the studio at 461-3008.

Black History Month

Clarence B. Jones, Martin Luther King, Jr.'s lawyer and advisor, will be the featured speaker Thursday, Feb. 22 at a Department of Ethnic Studies and History "Black History Month" program at the California State University, East Bay (CSUEB) Hayward Campus, 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd.

The free program, "Seeing the Civil Rights Movement Through Martin Luther King's Eyes: The Work of the King Research and Education Institute," will be presented from noon-2 p.m. in the University Union 311. A reception will follow.

The Carter G. Woodson Lecture will include presentations by Susan Englander, associate director of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Research and Education Institute; Tenisha Armstrong, associate editor; and Louis Jackson, research assistant.

For information contact Robert Phelps, (510) 885-3238, robert.phelps@csueastbay.edu; or Barbara Paige (510) 885-3255, barbara.paige@csueastbay.edu

Magic of Music

Amador Valley High School's three concert bands, two jazz bands, winter percussion and colorguard have planned a major fund-raising event. "The 3rd Annual Magic of Music" will take place at the Pleasanton Hilton on March 31st.

2007. This black tie event includes a sit-down dinner with wine, live and silent auctions, "Shake it Up" Martini Bar, and dancing to the sounds of the Amador Jazz bands.

The Amador band now consists of over 200 members and has more than doubled in size during the last seven years. The tremendous growth of the Amador Band has put a strain on the infrastructure of the program. There is little to no money available for replacing a depleted instrument inventory and uniforms. We are asking for your support by donating goods and services and by purchasing tickets.

Tickets are \$75. Please contact Paulette Callahan at 846-8957 for tickets. Those wanting to make donations are asked to please contact Bill Brown at 846-9706. For any information regarding this event please call Dianne Jones, Event Chair, 426-5662, or Jon Grantham, Director of Bands 462-6196.

Altamont Creek

Altamont Creek Elementary School second grade students made the annual trip to the San Francisco Brown Bear Factory early in January, as part of their study of bears. They also made "bear bread" and a Friendship Fruit salad to share with their classmates. The children wore their pajamas to school and brought their bear to school on Friday, January 12th, where they enjoyed a Teddy Bear Picnic with the entire second grade. Friday night they returned to school, still in their pj's, to enjoy Second Grade Bears at Night. The kids ate pizza and ice cream, and made bear crafts and drawings, had fun with karaoke, and played in a tent city. The kids finish off the month with a bear report where they share what they've learned about their favorite bear.

Altamont Creek held the Third An-

nual Multicultural Potluck on Thursday, January 18th. This is an occasion to celebrate the many diverse cultures that are represented by the students and their families. Families brought an entrée or dessert from their culture to share with others. The Multi-Purpose Room was decorated with flags from many countries, homemade placemats, etc. Students presented ethnic dances as part of sharing their heritage.

On Wednesday, January 24th, Sandia National Lab presented "Family Science Night" at Altamont Creek. Students and parents performed science activities and investigations, including making "goo," finding iron in cereal, putting a skewer through a balloon, making models with marshmallows and toothpicks, and much more. Everyone had a great time while learning about science.

March at Wente

This March, Winemaker and Fifth Generation Winegrower Karl Wente hosts a winemaker dinner at The Event Center.

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Nth Degree with Karl Wente, fifth generation winegrower. In his role as winemaker, Karl creates wines for every occasion, and The Nth Degree, Karl's line of small lot wines were made for nights like this. The gourmet four-course dinner and accompanying wine pairings present a unique and delicious chance to experience the best of Wente Vineyards. Thursday, March 8th, 6:30pm to 9:00pm \$99 per person, plus tax, \$89 Club Wente Members. For reservations call 925-456-2400 or online at www.ticketmaster.com.

• Paintings by award-winning artist and Bay Area native Glenyse Henschel will be featured at the Estate Winery Tasting Room. "The gift of painting is a core part of me which makes my life very rich and incredibly fun," says Henschel. "Through my artwork, I share with the world some of the joy that I continually receive." Meet Henschel in person at exhibit reception on Sunday, March 4th, 1 to 3 p.m. Exhibit will be on display through March 30th, 11:00 am to 5:00 pm at Estate Winery Tasting Room, open daily, 5565 Tesla Road, Livermore. For information call 925-456-2305.

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