

Poll Shows Residents Willing To Back Stream Plan

A poll of 401 voters within Zone 7 Water Agency's boundary shows support for the overall concept of a Stream Management Master Plan (SMMP), and a willingness to pay up to \$50 annually to support it.

The poll was divided among voters in Livermore, Pleasanton and Dublin, the three cities that use the water from wholesaler Zone 7, which is part of the state water project. Polling was conducted in the middle of March by a professional firm that also conducted two focus groups before the survey.

The Zone 7 board's administrative committee had a look at some of the re-

sults earlier this month. The full board will receive a more extensive update from staff at its meeting May 16.

The survey cost the district \$26,800. Zone 7 commissioned the survey to see whether the public is informed about the SMMP. Zone 7 created the plan over an eight-year span, with the involvement of many stakeholders.

The other key issue is how much financial support the public is willing to contribute to it. The plan is a road map with 45 potential projects in it. However, not all of the 45 projects would necessarily be built. Total cost could be \$726 million.

Some \$479 million of that would be earmarked for flood control. The remaining amounts would be \$127 million for habitat and environmental protection and enhancement, nearly \$86 million for recreation and trails, slightly more than \$32 million for water quality improvement, and approximately \$2 million for water supply improvement. It's anticipated that approximately \$360 million of the total cost would be financed by development fees.

An earlier plan for using concrete channels would have cost \$600 million, but only deliver the flood control portion, according to an estimate in 2001.

67 PERCENT SAID THEY SUPPORT ITS PRINCIPLES

The poll found that 87 percent of respondents had not heard anything about the SMMP. Some 11 percent said they knew a little about it. Only 1 percent said they had heard "a great deal" about it.

After being told some of the aspects of the plan, 67 percent said they support the SMMP's general principals. Some 23 percent oppose it, and 10 percent had no opinion. About 52 percent of those polled said they would support paying \$50 a year for the plan, 45 percent said they would not, and the re-

maining 3 percent had no opinion.

When the financial level dipped to \$25 per year, the supporters rose to 68 percent and opposition shrunk to 30 percent.

The big talking point for the SMMP has been that it would avoid flood control's past designs, with their concrete channels, and replace them with use of the natural stream beds, and mined-out gravel quarries for peak storm-water storage. The new plan would control floods, but not require the concrete channels that many say are ugly and hurt wildlife habitat. The SMMP

(See POLL, page 3)

Council OKs New Road Alignment to Golf Course

The Pleasanton City Council were in unanimous support of a new alignment for the long promised Happy Valley bypass road.

The decision was not popular with everyone at last week's city council meeting. The new alignment would extend Sycamore Creek Road along the lower western edge of the Spotorno property, eventually connecting to the city's golf course.

Originally, the road was to have been built along the upper portion of the Spotorno property. However, that was deemed to be too expensive and to have too many environmental problems. Pleasanton established a blue ribbon committee to recommend a new alignment for the road.

Residents who live along Sycamore Creek Road don't want the traffic from the golf course and future development to the east. They told the council that the traffic would have a negative impact on the quality of life along the street.

On the other side, residents who live in Happy Valley pointed out that the bypass road had been promised as part of the golf course. A lawsuit filed by the residents resulted in a court opinion that the road is required as part of the mitigation for the golf course.

In making its decision, the council noted that it was very difficult having one neighborhood pitted against another.

Councilmember Cheryl Cook-Kallio commented, "I do see a difference between Happy Valley and Sycamore Creek roads. I believe we are obligated to build a bypass road. It is a difficult balancing act. I don't think we're going to walk out of here with everyone happy."

Councilmember Cindy McGovern added, "I believe the city has its integrity on the line. When the golf course was built, we agreed to build a road to it to take traffic off of Happy Valley Road."

"This is probably one of the two most difficult decisions the council will have to make," declared Councilmember Matt Sullivan. The other is the Stoneridge extension. "I believe the bypass road has been a promise of the city. Sycamore Creek has always been designated as the bypass road."

Sullivan said he wanted the

(See BYPASS, page 4)



Richard and Candace Dixon at Les Chenes Estate Vineyards.

Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Rhone Wines Focus of New Winery

Livermore Wine Country welcomed its newest winery in early April, Les Chenes Estate Vineyards. The site provides sweeping views of the nearby hills, many covered with vineyards.

Les Chenes, which is French for The Oaks, is located at the end of Victoria Lane off of Tesla Road. Owners, Candace and Richard Dixon, bring to the venture family history, a love of entertaining, and an enthusiasm for wine. Richard tends the vineyard and creates the wines. Candace focuses on the food.

According to the website, "The Oaks" not only reflects the vineyard site but the rich flavors

and tradition of the wines.

The winery specializes in Estate Rhone Wines. Currently they offer a 2005 Viognier and two Syrahs. Two additional wines are planned for release. One, a blend, is called Deux Rouge; the other is an estate grown Rousanne. Richard describes the current wine releases as food friendly. There are plans to make future 'big bomb' wines.

"We chose Rhone wines because the terroir of the area suggested it was the right thing to do. This is a great place to grow them. Plus, we like Rhone wines," said Richard. He ex-

plained, "There is more opportunity for blending. There are seventeen varieties of Rhone grapes, all with different characteristics depending on where they are grown. This provides us a bigger palette to work with."

Candace added, "We are passionate about using Livermore grapes. We will do everything possible to purchase local grapes, before we go anywhere else."

Richard anticipates producing about 1000 cases of wine a year. There are no goals beyond that number. "We will try very hard to control the winery, rather than have the winery control us."

(See WINERY, page 3)

New Cultural Arts Master Plan Endorsed By Livermore Council

A draft Cultural Arts Master Plan (CAMP) drew unanimous support from the Livermore City Council.

Official action on the plan is scheduled for the June 11 council meeting. The draft document includes a two year action plan that calls for a .5 percent Art in Public Places fee on private development and amendments to the existing art fee on public projects that allows the funds to be used for a variety of cultural arts needs. The fee would be increased to 1 percent in 2009.

Developers could either pay the fee or provide art on site.

Mayor Marshall Kamena was concerned that raising the fee so quickly might have a negative

impact on development in the planning stage.

Jim Schmidt, Chairman of the Commission for the Arts, pointed out that other cities have art expenditures far in excess of what the City of Livermore provides. The fee would bring Livermore up to the average or somewhat above it.

Councilmember John Marchand felt that the fee might be enough. He suggested the city might want to consider a citywide assessment for the arts.

The plan does call for a much broader base for funding the arts, said Charles Hartwig, President of Del Valle Fine Arts and a board member of the Livermore Cul-

(See PLAN, page 4)

McNerney Co-sponsor On Two Science Bills

Rep. Jerry McNerney, D-Pleasanton, is a co-sponsor of two bills that were up for a vote in the House of Representatives on Tuesday. They are aimed at encouraging more scientists and students to become science teachers.

One of the bills, HR 362, passed 389 to 22. H.R. 363 passed by a vote of 397-20. Both McNerney and Ellen Tauscher, whose district includes Livermore, voted for the two measures.

Tauscher authored an Amendment to HR 363 to Expand Science and Engineering Grants.

McNerney, who has a Ph.D in mathematics, serves on the House Committee on Science and Tech-

nology. He is one of 32 co-sponsors of HR 362, which is The Science and Math Scholarship Act.

HR 362 would increase the number of scholarships for students majoring in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields, provided they are committed to teaching. The bill would also fund professional development opportunities for as many as 250,000 math and science teachers. This would include funding for teacher institutes and workshops and for master's degree programs.

"Before my election to Congress, I spent my entire academic and professional career as a sci-

(See SCIENCE, page 4)

Success of RRW Depends on Engineering and Management

An independent study released Tuesday identifies risks in sustaining the current, aging nuclear weapons stockpile by either extending the life of the legacy warheads or replacing them with RRWs.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), through its Nuclear Weapons Complex Assessment Committee, chartered the study in May, 2006 to examine the possible role the Reliable Replacement Warhead (RRW) might play in the future of the United States nuclear weapons program.

Bruce Tarter, former head of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, chaired the committee.

The report finds that the success of the proposed RRW program strongly depends on the engineering and project management skills of the Department of Energy and National Nuclear Security Administration in concert with the Department of Defense. Most of the anticipated benefits of the program would occur in the long term through a more effective production complex and more easily maintained weapons with enhanced safety and security features.

"There are risks in either long-term outcome—a stockpile that would be composed of all or mostly RRWs, or one that would

(See RRW, page 4)

Community College District Narrows Search for Chancellor

The Board of Trustees of the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District has announced the four finalists for the position of District Chancellor.

They are Jesus "Jess" Carreon, Raul Rodriguez, Frances White and Joel Kinnamon.

Kinnamon is the only candidate who has worked with the district in the past. He served as the Vice Chancellor, Educational Services and Planning for the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District. During his tenure he also served as interim Chancellor from March to July, 2005.

These four individuals will appear at the Chancellor Candidate Forums on May 8th from 12 to 4 p.m. at Chabot College and on May 9th from 12 to 4 p.m. at

Las Positas College.

Interviews at Chabot will be conducted in the Little Theater and at Las Positas in room 801 on the following schedule at both locations: Carreon at noon, Rodriguez at 1 p.m. White at 2 p.m. and Kinnamon at 3 p.m.

Carreon most recently served as the interim President of San Jose City College. He is currently on assignment in the San Jose/Evergreen Community College District. He has previously served as Chancellor of the Dallas County Community College District, President of Portland Community College, Superintendent/President of the Rio Hondo Community College District in Whittier, CA, President of Ventura College, Assistant/Su-

(See SEARCH, page 4)



Loni Anderson (left) was the recipient of the California Independent Film Festival 2007 Lifetime Achievement Award at a gala held Sunday evening. She shares a laugh with Barbara Eden (right), who is looking into a "genie bottle." Eden was on hand to help honor Anderson.

Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Christensen Students Take a Stand for Homeless Kids

By Patricia Koning

This year Dorothy Bedrin, a teacher at Christensen Middle School (CMS) in Livermore challenged her eighth grade Honors Core class to develop and implement a Citizenship Project. The students chose to support StandUp For Kids, a nonprofit organization that helps homeless and street kids.

"They went way beyond what I expected," she says. "They will help a lot of homeless kids. These guys are awesome."

On April 27, Luke Lakor, Akshay Prabhu, Celeste Rietveld, and Katie Draschner, all students in Bedrin's class, gave a presentation on the problem of homeless children and how StandUp For Kids helps. The students showed photo-

(See KIDS, page 4)

Do You Remember?

By Anne Homan

Mechanical Mr. Mohr

Henry P. Mohr was a practical mechanic, able to fabricate parts needed for broken farm machinery in his blacksmith shop. Although a wealthy man with a number of laborers working on his farm, "He wasn't afraid to get out and get a little bit dirty. Not only that, anybody in the valley could come and say, 'Henry, do you have such-and-such a piece?' He kept quite a supply of tools and parts for the machines." Visitors frequently would find him in a barn. His six-foot body would unroll from under a threshing machine, "all dirty and greasy," to greet his guest.

These quotes are from two of his five daughters, Edna and Cecile, who were interviewed by valley historian Virginia Bennett for the *Village Pioneer* in May 1972. At the time they were still living in the 1875 two-story house in Pleasanton built originally by John M. English, which the Mohr family had purchased in 1885.

Henry Mohr collected old farm machinery—a corn planter and a self-tying binder in his collection were bought by the Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan. He also invented a straw and chaff separator that was patented in 1909.

Mohr's parents, Cornelius and Cecelia, both emigrated from the town of Elmshorn in the Duchy of Holstein, then a part of Denmark, in the 1850s. They acquired land in Alameda County in Mt. Eden Township, at the southernwestern end of Hayward. Their farm prospered, and so many friends and relatives followed them there from Denmark that the area was called "Little Copenhagen." For example, Maas Luders, who later bought land where the Livermore airport is now located, came from Holstein and worked for Cornelius Mohr for two years.

All of the Mohr children worked with their parents on the land. From roughly 1875 to 1886, the family sent a threshing crew into the Livermore Valley and the San Joaquin Valley as far south as Hanford during harvest time. But in 1886 the crew's profit was falling because of the new combine machinery shipped west by manufacturers John Deere and Cyrus McCormack. The *Haywards Journal* editor wrote, "The entire valley is overrun with these new-fangled machines, and they are a death blow to the laboring man. ... Only three or four men can operate a 'combine' whereas as many as 12 are used on the old, separate machines." Henry Mohr probably loved learning about the new machinery.

Each of the three surviving sons of Cornelius and Cecelia received large pieces of property after their mother's death in 1891. Henry's brother John at first inherited the Pleasanton land. He died in 1892 and Henry took over the 685-acre property. In October 1894 Henry married Ernestine Schween, daughter of a neighboring Mt. Eden farmer. They lived in the two-story English house. Their major crop at first was grain; later they shifted to sugar beets. They also raised cattle and had a Holstein dairy herd.

Known for breeding Clydesdale and Shire draft horses, by 1910 Henry Mohr had 50 horses in his stable. He was a life member of the Clydesdale Horse Society of Great Britain and Ireland. His first stock was imported from overseas. In 1900 his horse "Uncle Sam" won best-of-show at the California State Fair. Ernestine's major interest was gardening. She had about 400 rosebushes in her large garden and loved to entertain friends there.

In 1917 when sacking for grain was no longer available because of World War I, Mohr built the first grain elevator in the Tri-Valley to allow local farmers to store their grain. The elevator burned down in the 1970s. Nearby he had a special siding put in by Southern Pacific to ship the grain. He would also order a carload of coal at a time for himself and his neighbors.

Henry was one of the founders of the First National Bank of Pleasanton in 1910 and served as the president for 20 years. Always supportive of education, he was the president of the Amador Valley High School board at the time of his death in 1934. He was one of the original trustees or shareholders in the Alameda County Fair in 1912. Ernestine died in 1938.

To keep up the road to his farmhouse (at first called Pleasanton Avenue, now Mohr Avenue), Henry Mohr dug a small gravel pit and used the material to maintain the road. In the late 1970s his descendants sold most of their Pleasanton property to Kaiser Sand and Gravel. In 1963 the Southern Alameda County Community College, now called Chabot, bought 93 acres for its Hayward campus from the Mohr family for \$1,689,720. The original family home site has been preserved and is at the northeast corner of the college along Hesperian Boulevard. The old wide-roofed horse barn next to the Chabot parking lot is easily visible, but the house is hidden by mature trees. The buildings are painted white and the area is beautifully maintained.

The English-Mohr home in Pleasanton, however, did not fair so well. After the deaths of daughters Edna and Cecile, the house was deserted and no one would take the responsibility to restore and repair it. Gradually, it became the local haunted house. Two neighborhood boys set a fire that burned it down in October 1990. Pleasanton has recently extended the Iron Horse Trail to Mohr Avenue at the site of Mohr's old railroad siding.

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

Pleasanton Library to Be Closed for Renovations

The Pleasanton Library will close in for renovations... The closure will take place Wed., Thurs., and Fri., May 2, 3 and 4. The library will reopen at 10 a.m. on Sat., May 5.

The primary purpose of the renovation is to redo and expand the shelving in the children's department. It will be set up in a new, more customer-friendly pattern. This will require emptying the shelves, then unbolting and moving them with heavy equipment. While the library is closed, new carpet will be installed in the lobby to reduce noise and barrel lights will be replaced with more energy efficient versions. The existing window blinds will be replaced and a donated collection of original works by children's picture book artists will be hung.

A new mural will be painted by Gloria Matsumoto, artist of the existing children's train mural. New furniture, selected by the library's Teen Advisory Group, will be installed.

Julie Farnsworth, Library Director, commented, "We are excited to be able to improve the quality of the library. We chose these days to hopefully impact the fewest patrons. We invite everyone to come on Saturday to enjoy the fresh new look."

Donations from the Friends of

the Pleasanton Library, Fern Skowlund, Gloria Matsumoto, Studio 7 Fine Arts of Pleasanton, and the city's support services staff made the chances possible.

Debbie Look, chairman of the Library Commission, stated, "The library and our patrons are very grateful for the generosity of these donors, who have, and continue to make the library the vital and beautiful place it is."



Al Ramirez trims Bob's hair.

Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Barber Shop Elder Is Living Example of Work Ethic

Livermore's oldest barber is still going strong, working a full-time schedule, though he's had to cut down on those 11-hour days.

Albert Ramirez turns 82 on June 3. He received his barber license in 1946 and has been in the business ever since, 61 years. He currently works at Rick's Classic Barber Shop, where he's been employed since 1973, when it was known as the Granada Barber Shop.

Albert began his career at Dutra's on First Street. He apprenticed under the best, three men whose accumulated barbering experience totaled 100 years: Dan Dutra, with 50 years experience; Ed Christiansen, 35 years; and Dan Dutra, 15 years.

A native of Hayward, Albert frequented barber shops during his growing-up years. "I was very particular about my hair. I had to get a haircut every week," he recalls.

When he started cutting hair as a professional barber, it seemed hardly a job to him.

"To me, it's been like a hobby," Albert says. "I never get tired. I'll work all day — I just never get tired — and go out dancing at night."

For 27 years he worked 11-hour days through the week. Age has slowed him down a bit. He now works only one 11-hour day a week, on Saturday from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Albert never misses a day of work. He's never called in sick.

"Albert is a reflection of 'old school' ethics of work and personal morals," observes Sarah Warren, who works with him at Rick's.

"He is a daily reminder to each of us of how work was not taken for granted. He has respect for the industry and is just as passionate about his work 61 years later as he was when he first began. Each and every day Albert is proud to go to work. And it shows. You can see how much his heart and soul goes into each individual haircut and customer."

"We in the barber and cosmetology profession could sure benefit from having people like Albert around us. Unfortunately, he's one of the last of a dying breed. I'm sure I'm not just speaking for myself when I say that every day we get to work with him is a great honor and irreplaceable pleasure," Sarah says.

Albert's career includes an eight-year stint as co-owner of a barbershop in Hayward.

At the Granada Barber Shop, he worked for many years with Ken Houseworth and Ken's father Art.

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VALLEY ROUNDUP

Bomb Threat

The Pleasanton Police Dispatch received a 911 call on Sunday from a male stating, "I just put a bomb at Home Depot - hope you get there in time." The call originated from a pay phone located outside Home Depot and lasted only a couple of seconds.

Pleasanton police units, along with a bomb sniffing dog responded and spoke to management. A decision to evacuate the building was made. Because of the size of the building, additional assistance was requested from BART PD and the Alameda County Sheriff's office. Both sent additional bomb sniffing dogs. The interior and exterior of the business was searched. Nothing suspicious was found. The dogs did not raise any alerts regarding objects.

The store was reopened for business three hours after the initial call, at about 6 p.m.

Anyone with information about the incident is asked to call the Pleasanton Police at 931-5100.

Deferred Fees

Assembly Member Alberto Torrico's bill to defer the payment of local development fees on affordable housing projects was approved by the Assembly Local Government Committee 5-0 last week.

AB 641 would require local governments to defer the payment of local fees until the developer has received a certificate of occupancy for any housing development in which at least 49 percent of the units are affordable to low and or very low-income households.

AB 641 would not apply to school fees, Quimby Park fees, fees collected under development agreements and certain processing fees. The bill is supported by affordable housing advocate organizations throughout California and now moves to the Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee.

Housing Resource Fair

Assembly Member Alberto Torrico (D-Newark) will host the Second Annual Affordable Housing & Home Resource Fair from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, May 19 at the Ruggieri Senior Center, 33997 Alvarado-Niles Road, Union City.

The free workshop is open to the public. People can learn about programs that can help unlock the door to homeownership, home energy efficiency, and affordable rental opportunities. Information and assistance will be provided on the following:

- Government and non-profit assistance programs for first-time homebuyers
- Lenders and financing options / Credit assistance / How your credit affects buying a home
- How to avoid predatory lenders and risky loans / Assistance for predatory lending victims
- Government and non-profit rental assistance programs
- Senior housing, transitional housing, and crisis housing
- How to make your home more energy efficient / tips on water conservation
- Assistance programs to lower your energy bills

Please RSVP to Assembly Member Torrico's office at 510-440-9030 by May 17th.

Peace Forum

Seven speakers headline a Peace Forum set for May 12. It will be sponsored by Resolution Peace, a network of Democratic Clubs and progressive organizations.

The free and wheelchair accessible forum, will be held from 1-4 p.m. at the IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin, CA.

Diablo Valley College professor, Scott MacDougal will moderate the discussion which includes Nadia McCaffrey and Karen Meredith of Gold Star Families Speak Out. That organization is creating a "Veterans' Village," a transition home for homeless and disabled and injured veterans, in honor of McCaffrey's son Patrick who was killed in Iraq in 2004.

Other speakers include Dr. Peter Phillips of Project Censored, a media research group at Sonoma State University, David J. Dionisi, former military intelligence officer and author of "American Hiroshima," and Suraya Sayadi, an Iraqi Kurd, and long-time U.S. citizen living in San Ramon, who bring insiders' perspectives about the war.

Details can be found at www.ResolutionPeace.Org.

Livermore High School Aims To Make STAR Testing Fun

By Patricia Koning

Over the next few weeks, schools around the state are administering standardized tests to their students. This might seem like a serious, stressful time. However, at Livermore High School (LHS) it is cause for celebration.

"We used to view testing as a major chore and the students saw it that way too," says Julie Einess, an ESL teacher at Livermore High. "So we set about changing our approach to testing as a way to improve scores."

A few years ago, LHS was experiencing a steady drop in its Academic Performance Index (API), which is based on standardized test results. In a four-year period the school's API score dropped from 720 in 2001 to 679 in 2004.

Einess and a group of six other LHS teachers attended a conference on testing in the spring of 2004 and began implementing new strategies. The "STAR cheerleaders," as the team called themselves, believed the problem was not with the students' knowledge of academic subjects, but with how they were taking the tests.

Key in this approach was providing students with incentives to give their best effort.

Some of this came through communication, such as explaining the consequences of low test scores to the school. The state standards are now posted in every classroom. Teachers refer to them frequently so the students understand the connection to what they are learning.

During each day of testing, students who exhibit appropriate test taking behavior are given a ticket for good work. When test taking is finished, the tickets are entered into a drawing for year-books, class rings, gift cards, and other prizes.

Appropriate test taking behavior essentially means giving it your best shot; taking your time, working quietly, and checking your answers.

"We used to have students drawing Christmas trees on the Scantrons," says Einess.

The tickets are also good for extra credit and even class parties from some teachers. Jennifer Jensen, a resource teacher, rewards her students with a movie day.

Testing is administered during the homeroom period each day, so students typically are not supervised by the teacher who taught them that particular subject. The "good work" tickets are a way for teachers to stay connected to all their students during testing.

"This is a way of letting our students know that we care about their testing behavior and performance even if we aren't there when they are taking the test," says Jensen.

Each morning before testing, parent volunteers and staff serve breakfast to ensure that students start the day with a full stomach. The entire staff, from the principal to the custodians, along with parent volunteers are dressed in

green T-shirts that read "Every student counts ... every answer counts."

To prepare the students, teachers work in test-taking strategies throughout the year. In the month prior to testing, tips are read in the Daily Gram each morning.

Knowing how the test is scored gives students confidence during the exam. Einess broke down the scale for the five performance levels: Advanced, Proficient, Basic, Below Below Basic, and Far Below Basic.

"A raw score of about 77% will typically land you in the advanced range. Proficient is usually around 60%," she explains. "It is important that students understand that they don't have to get all the answers correct to score well."

The new approach to testing has paid off: LHS raised its API 58 points to 737 in 2005 and another 36 points to 773 in 2006. This increase was one factor in the school receiving the Distinguished School Award this year.

To celebrate this accomplishment, every student was treated to a free lunch from campus catering last week. English Language Arts teachers handed out Award Improvement Certificates for every student who moved up a performance level.

"I think the students are really taking pride in this school," says social studies teacher Ron Nicola. "They understand that testing matters and that they each need to do their part."

POLL

(continued from page one)

also includes recreational opportunities, such as trails along the arroyos.

The poll found that 81 percent found working with nature in controlling flooding was a convincing reason to support the plan. Other reasons were to help preserve water quality in streams (85 percent), and protecting clean water and open space as the Valley continues to grow (82 percent).

The strongest argument against it was a perception that voters statewide last year approved bonds to fund flood protection. Zone 7 should tap into those funds. (Zone 7 has used state grants in the past. However, the whole \$600 million-plus price tag for the SMMP can't be carried by state subsidies alone.)

The reduction of other problems, such as traffic congestion and crime, and improvement of schools rate higher for spending public money, said 72 percent. Although there is some flooding nearly every year along some spots on the Valley's arroyos, some 71 percent agreed with the statement that "there have not been any serious floods in our areas for years." The money isn't needed because the threat is "not very serious."

STUDENTS HONORED FOR SCIENCE PROJECTS

On another item, the board and audience applauded four students for their achievements in a recent science fair.

Zone 7 staff members were judges in the water segment of the Tri-Valley Science and Engineering Fair held on March 28 at the Robert Livermore Community Center.

For Livermore High School sophomore Amanda Johnston, her science project about "The Nitrate Dilemma in Southeast Livermore," was a matter of "like mother, like daughter." Amanda is the daughter of former Zone 7 board member Susan Johnston, who teaches science at Granada High School.

Amanda sampled wells on Buena Vista Avenue and used a spectrometer to conduct the analysis. She found that 54 percent of samples were higher than the drinking water standard of 10 parts of nitrate per million parts of water. She also found a direct correlation between well depth and nitrate levels. Wells below 100 feet had "hardly any nitrates," she said. (Zone 7 has been aware of the nitrate levels there for many years, and has monitored them.)

Forrest Bradley, an eighth grader at Our Savior Lutheran School in Livermore, called his study, "Is Your Water Clean?" He studied the water at his home, and found that tap water and hose water were clean. The filtered water at the sink was not. The filter had bacteria, which he attributed to months of build-up in the

filter. The filter also screened out nutrients from the water.

Bradley also tested creek water, which hit the level of "filthy" in the first five minutes of a 48-hour test, and swimming pool water, which was "very clean," but was high in chlorine. The chlorine level was expected, because the chemical is added to kill bacteria.

Julie Famular and Julia Schleimer, freshmen at San Ramon Valley High School, studied contamination of water by phenols, which are a component of plastic. The girls had read that plastic leaching into water may be a contributor to breast cancer. They found that plastic from bottles leached into the water they tested. However, there were no phenols in filtered water they put into glass.

They concluded that it's better to use a Nalgene bottle containing tap water than a store-bought plastic bottle of water, if one needs portable water. Nalgene is a much harder plastic, and less susceptible to leaching into the water.

GOLF COURSE WATER

The board also approved a permanent turnout of water for Mountain House Golf Course in the Altamont. Zone 7 had given approval for a temporary turnout in 1997. The course uses up to 64 acre feet annually (AFA), which is the equivalent of water use by 128 homes.

WINERY

(continued from page one)

Candace stated.

The Dixon family is the second generation of premium wine grape growers that started in Sonoma and Lake counties in the 1960s. When Richard and Dixon purchased land in Livermore eight years ago, they decided to sell the Sonoma vineyards.

"I didn't want to get in a car and drive to the winery. I wanted home and winery in one location," Richard explained.

"This was an old farm," said Candace of the Livermore site. "Dr. McFarlane, a longtime dentist, owned it. He grew wheat. The property was sold to someone else and got pretty run-down. We spent the first six months doing nothing but cleaning up the area."

The vineyard was planted for them by the Wentes. Rousanne and Mouvedre varietals were grafted over the original plantings.

Richard designed the label. Each varietal will feature a different photo taken somewhere in the world during their travels.

He also spends time in the vineyards, trimming away un-

wanted growth, dropping fruit in an effort to produce quality grapes. The goal is to grow the grapes and pick them at the optimum level so "we don't have to go through heroic measures to make wine. You can't make good wine out of bad grapes," he added.

Together they designed the building and tasting room. Candace recalls spending hours on-line trying to find the right lights, for example.

The brand new tasting room includes a stove. Asked what the plans were for the stove, Candace explained that the first weekend of each month, there will be a guest chef or some type of program pairing food and wines. There are also plans to host winemaker dinners. "We just love to entertain," Candace stated.

There are barrels filled with aging wine. There is winemaking equipment to process one to two tons of wine at a time on site. "I don't want to process more than three or four tons, because I want to do justice to the grapes. When you begin with each crush, you

don't know how everything will turn out. You say I will do this, this and this. The grapes don't know that," Richard laughed.

Richard calls the winery a second career. He worked in the paper and packaging business previously. Candace worked as an officer manager for a medical group.

They say they love Livermore. "I feel like I've come home," declared Candace. "I'm glad we landed here."

Richard adds, "I have a great deal of admiration for the current grape growers and wine makers. There are a lot of really good wineries and vintners. We're privileged to be associated with them."

Both feel that owning the winery and hosting events is an extension of their life experiences. "I believe we were predestined to do it," declared Richard.

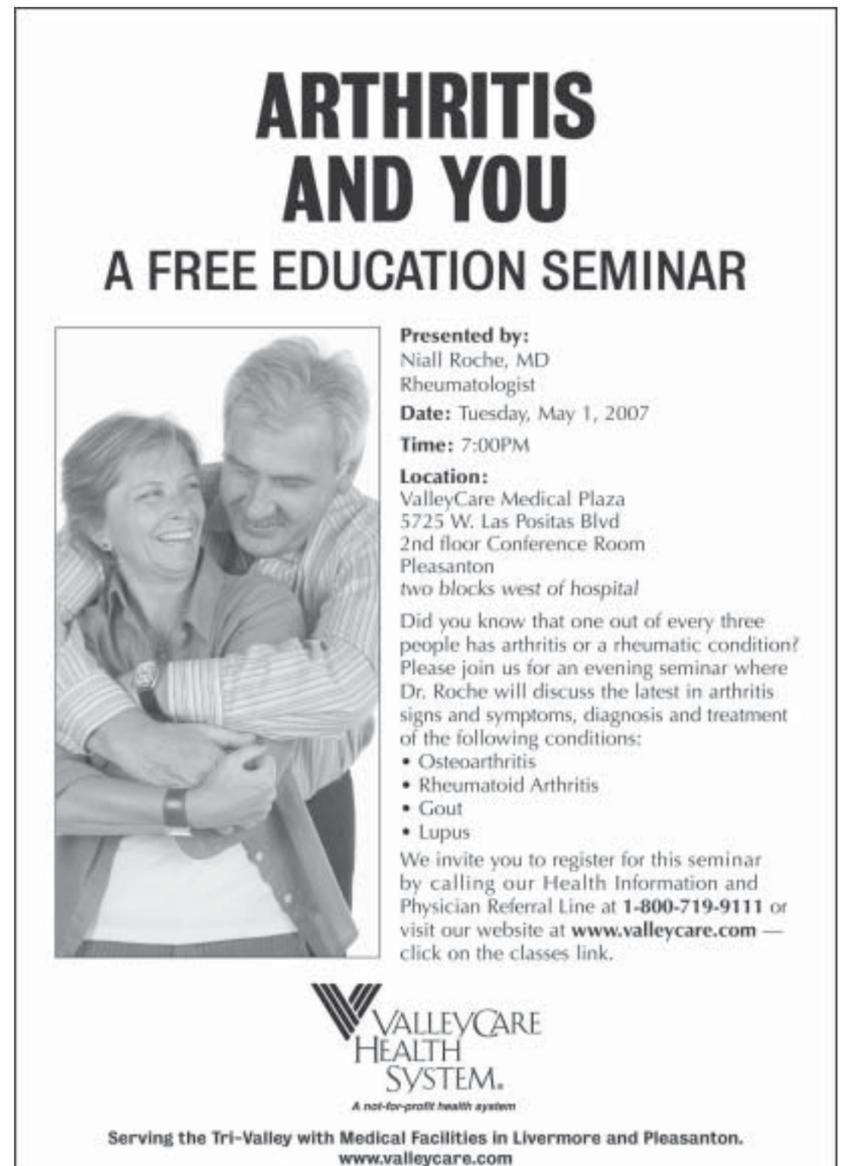
The tasting room is open the first weekend of each month from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and by appointment at 5562 Victoria Lane, Livermore. For information, call 373-1662 or go to www.leschenesvine.com.



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ARTHRITIS AND YOU

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Presented by:
Niall Roche, MD
Rheumatologist

Date: Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Time: 7:00PM

Location:
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5725 W. Las Positas Blvd
2nd floor Conference Room
Pleasanton
two blocks west of hospital

Did you know that one out of every three people has arthritis or a rheumatic condition? Please join us for an evening seminar where Dr. Roche will discuss the latest in arthritis signs and symptoms, diagnosis and treatment of the following conditions:

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EDITORIAL

McNerney's Ag Advisors

Congressman Jerry McNerney has formed an agricultural advisory board. He will meet with it several times during the year, as well as seek its advice as issues arise.

"Whether they're from the Central Valley or the Tri-Valley, I've heard from people all over who say we need to do more for California agriculture, and I couldn't agree more," McNerney said in a press release announcing the board's formation.

Though most of the members are Central Valley ranchers and growers and that area will be their main focus, Tri-Valley agriculture is certain to benefit.

Representing our valley on the panel will be Sunol rancher Tim Koopman — a man experienced and wise about matters pertaining to present-day agriculture.

We commend McNerney. This ag advisory board will promote not only agriculture, but also democratic values. Our new congressman is showing that he wants the people of his district to be actively involved in the legislative process.

BYPASS

(continued from page one)

city to look at adding additional safety measures on Sycamore Creek Road, such as traffic calming.

The alignment supported by the council was the one recommended by the committee. It dovetails with the development planned by Greenbriar Homes on a portion of the Spotorno property. It is development that would help to pay for the road.

The city has made no determination as to the number of units that would be required. The one thing residents in both areas could agree on was the fewer homes, the better. The current specific plan for the area contemplates that the Spotornos would pay two-thirds of the cost of the road; the city the other third. City manager Nelson Fialho said that he expects the city to come up with a different funding mechanism.

The next step will be to design the actual road. The city would begin discussions with Greenbriar on its development plans. Numbers of units mentioned range from 16 (the current specific plan designation) to 63. An environmental impact review would be conducted.

The council heard from members of the public, both in support of and opposed to the new alignment.

Phyllis Lee, who lives in the Sycamore Creek area, said the process to come up with the recommendation was flawed and biased. Only one of the members on the committee represented the new developments in the area. Discussions were focused on the Happy Valley area, rather than the entire area, she said. Traffic and additional development that might occur if the road were built were her main concern.

Others in the area made similar comments. Bill Lincoln said that the alignment was unacceptable to 200 homeowners who will be the most impacted. "Go back to the drawing board and find a better solution," he declared.

Steve McGinness said it looked as if the proposal were moving the traffic problem from one neighborhood to another. "That is not a solution."

SEARCH

(continued from page one)

perintendent/Vice President of Instruction at El Camino College in Torrance, CA, and in two assistant dean positions at San Bernardino Valley College.

Kinnamon currently serves as the Vice Chancellor, Educational Services and Planning for the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District. During his tenure he also served as interim Chancellor from March to July, 2005. He has previously served as Provost (CEO) of the Southeast Campus of Tulsa Community College, Academic Dean, Department Chair for Business & Chair of Budget, Professor of Management, Director for Budget Systems and Management Services, and Administrative Services Project Manager, at Oklahoma City Community College.

Rodriguez currently serves as the Superintendent/President of San Joaquin Delta College, San Joaquin Delta Community College District. He has previously served as President of Los Medanos College in the Contra Costa Community College Dis-

trict, interim President and Vice President of Instruction at San Jose City College, Dean of Instruction, Acting Director of Student Development, Director of Institutional Research and Psychology Instructor at Cabrillo College, and as a Psychology Instructor at Cabrillo College and the University of California, Santa Cruz.

White currently serves as the Superintendent/President of College of Marin, Marin Community College District. She has previously served as President of Skyline College in the San Mateo Community College District, Executive Vice Chancellor at the City College of San Francisco, Interim Chancellor of the San Jose/Evergreen Community College District, Dean of Social Sciences/Physical Education at Evergreen Valley College and Assistant Dean of Communications, Arts and Physical Education at Laney College in the Peralta Community College District. She has also held several community college faculty positions in Psychology, Basic English, ESL, and Basic Math.

Others said that when they purchased their homes, Greenbriar had not disclosed the fact that the road might be extended. Some pointed out that the new bypass would provide only one way in and out of the area, creating a potential safety problem.

Kellen Aura, a committee member, said that the Happy Valley loop was never intended to be an access to the golf course. It is a narrow, winding road with limited visibility. Sycamore Creek was built to carry traffic. She urged the council to fulfill its promise to residents in the Happy Valley area and build the bypass road.

Other Happy Valley residents made similar comments. Laverne Spotorno spoke for the family. She noted that they had ranched the area for 140 years and hope to continue for another 150 years. The property has been tied up for 14 years in discussions of a bypass road. "We are not willing to have our land tied up any longer." She said she laughed when people referred to the area as "their hills. We have maintained, managed and paid taxes on those hills for 140 years. They are our hills."

Spotorno said only twenty percent of the property is planned for development in order to provide the land for the road. "The bypass road will impact us more than any one. It destroys the beauty and peacefulness of our life-style and exposes us to increased trespassing, theft, vandalism, fire danger and liability. Others have investments in stocks and bonds. Ranchers and farmers invest in the land. Our five generation family has earned the right to a return on its investment."

Mayor Jennifer Hosterman said that the density issue was a discussion for another day. "There is a lot of work to do. This is just the beginning. I'm not convinced we will approve the density needed to pay for this increasingly expensive road."

The original estimate for the cost of the bypass road was \$5 million. That has increased to around \$15 million.

An initiative proposing changes in political redistricting has qualified for signature circulation. The proposal is sponsored by the League of Women Voters, Common Cause, and People's Advocate, Inc.

The three groups propose that the Secretary of State appoint 11 registered voters to a commission that would submit a redistricting plan, consistent with specified criteria, after each national census. It requires that the commission hold public hearings before approving its plan. Any legal challenges to the redistricting plan would have to be filed within 45 days of its certification. The plan could be challenged with a referendum.

The petition backers must gather signatures of 694,354 registered voters by Sept. 17 to put the measure on the ballot in time for the presidential primary Feb. 5.

A rival proposal, by Democratic Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez, might start circulating

for signatures late this week. Nunez wants both the Legislature's and Congress's boundaries drawn by a commission. The proposal drew objections from House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a Democrat.

Republican Sen. Roy Ashburn has introduced a reform bill in Sacramento. It would allow the Legislature to continue to draw congressional district boundaries, but use a commission for the Legislature's races.

REPUBLICANS APPEAR TO HAVE INCENTIVE

Although two of the grassroots initiative sponsors, the League of Women Voters and Common Cause, present a neutral image when they advocate change in government, People's Advocate, Inc., has a political action committee and an agenda of tax opposition, as expressed by its founder, Paul Gann, in 1978 during the Proposition 13 campaign.

People's Advocate's CEO Ted Costa is listed as the official proponent for the redistricting mea-

sure. Costa, a Republican, filed the recall petition against former Democratic Gov. Gray Davis in 2003. That campaign for signatures was financed with \$1 million from Republican Rep. Darrell Issa, who has endorsed this measure. Republicans are in a minority in both houses of the Legislature.

Republican Assemblyman Guy Houston, in a previous story in the Independent, estimated that only five seats, including his, were in play between the two major political parties in the 2006 Assembly election. If the Assembly lost control of the redistricting to an outside panel, there might be as many as 20 seats in play, Houston said.

A change has the potential to hurt the Democrats, since they have nearly a two-thirds majority in both houses say political observers. According to the Secretary of State's office, official registration on Feb. 7 showed 15.6 million registered voters in the state; 6.6 million were Demo-

crats, 5.3 million were Republicans, and 2.9 were listed as "decline to state." The remainder are in minor parties.

The two major parties are the only ones represented in the Legislature. They split 55 to 45 percent in registered voters between them statewide.

Houston told the Independent that a court-ordered redistricting in the 1990s, which trumped the Democratic plan vetoed then by Gov. Pete Wilson, resulted in Republican control of the Assembly. However, later the majority shifted to the Democrats, while still keeping the relatively neutral district boundaries, said Houston.

Most observers at the time attributed the shift to the Democrats to a massive turnout for the Democrats by disaffected Latinos, who resented a Republican-backed measure that would have restricted benefits to illegal aliens. The shift also was said to have helped elect Gov. Gray Davis in 1998.

Livermore Downtown Maintenance District Approved

The Livermore City Council approved formation of a Downtown Landscape Maintenance District (LMD) amid continuing criticism of the district and the threat of a class action lawsuit.

The vote was 4 to 1 with Lorraine Dietrich opposed. In the past, she has objected to the process undertaken to form the district.

The city counted the ballots last Tuesday. Only property owners were allowed to vote. Votes were weighted based on the value of the property. The sum of the assessments in favor of the dis-

trict was \$241,997; opposed \$124,941. Of the total eligible votes, 32.8 percent were obligated through development agreements to vote in favor of the LMD. The city controlled 1.5 percent of the vote.

The LMD includes a phase-in plan for businesses impacted by the construction of First Street improvements. Homeowners are allowed to defer payment of the fee until they sell their homes outside the family. The city will also consider hardship waivers on a case-by-case basis.

During the public hearing, Pete Clark spoke for one homeowner, who he said is currently unemployed. He offered the view that the LMD is unconstitutional. "I have been asked if it would be possible to file a class action lawsuit against Livermore," said Clark.

Carl Serklund, a member of the Masonic Lodge, owners of a downtown building, called the vote a "show election." With the development agreements in place, he argued that the outcome of the vote was a foregone

conclusion.

One homeowner said it wasn't fair that she had to pay the assessment, when homes located closer to the downtown did not.

Jim Schmidt spoke in favor of the LMD. He noted that the state has a history of tax inequity. He pointed out that people who move in pay 20 to 30 percent more in property taxes. "I do believe homeowners are getting something - a better downtown that needs to be maintained. The downtown provides an ambience for homeowners."

RRW

(continued from page one)

be composed of all or mostly legacy warheads—and it is difficult today to weigh the pros and cons. It will be crucial to continually reevaluate the risks, costs, and benefits of these alternative futures—and to adapt accordingly," according to the report.

The report also suggests that the United States should work with the international community to ally concerns regarding nonproliferation and arms control. Many of those concerns center on compatibility with the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and issues such as whether the RRW is a new weapon. To respond, the United States should carry out a comprehensive assessment of those impacts and make a systematic effort to ensure that foreign perceptions of the programs are consistent with U.S. intent and its broad national security goals, including nonproliferation.

Rep. Ellen Tauscher, Chairman of Strategic Forces Subcommittee, stressed the need for clear policy objectives. She stated, "The American Association for the Advancement of Science report is extremely consistent with what I have been saying and informs the direction Congress should take in the future. If the Reliable Replacement Warhead (RRW) is going to move forward and we are to realize the program's real potential, its risks

must be identified and clear policy objectives must be outlined."

The report finds that the stockpile stewardship program has satisfactorily maintained U.S. nuclear weapons for nearly 15 years without nuclear testing. Sustaining this record will require a continuation of the commitment to the scientific facilities and staff at the National Laboratories and modernization of the production complex.

Stockpile stewardship has succeeded politically because of the dual commitment to a sound nuclear weapons program and to one that proceeds without nuclear testing. A successful RRW program would likely require an approach that balances weapons program goals with those of nonproliferation and arms control.

The independent designs for the first RRW could lead to a final design that is certifiable without a nuclear test. The design for the first proposed RRW is being completed by the Lawrence Livermore as the lead laboratory. Both the certification of that design and the method of certification, however, still need to go through a rigorous implementation and demonstration process, the report points out.

The first RRW is scheduled to be produced in 2012 at existing facilities that are expected to operate at a much higher level than they have demonstrated in recent years.

SCIENCE

(continued from page one)

entist, mathematician and engineer," said Rep. McNerney. "I know how important scientific research is because it leads to the innovative discoveries that fuel our economy."

"I am concerned," Rep. McNerney continued, "having seen a number of recent studies warning that the United States is falling behind other countries in science and math education. That is why I am pleased that we took steps today to increase the number of qualified K-12 math and science teachers and to encourage young scientists and researchers to pursue high-risk/high-reward research."

McNerney is one of 18 cosponsors of HR 363, which is titled Sowing the Seeds Through Science and Engineering Research Act. It would increase support for long-term scientific research. It would also encourage young scientists to pursue high-risk and high-reward research. The measure establishes a Presidential Innovation Award to stimulate scientific and engineering advances, and a national coordination office to identify and prioritize research infrastructure needs at universities and national

laboratories.

McNerney said, "I recognize the need for renewed interest in, and dedication to, scientific development in order to keep our country competitive on the world stage. I hope the measures we voted on today will aid in compelling today's students and researchers to follow their scientific pursuits."

Tauscher stated, "Taken together, these two bills are a critical step toward restoring our American technological base as well as giving students, engineers and researchers the tools needed to compete in a global economy."

"The Amendment expands eligibility for National Science Foundation Early Career Awards to thousands of scientists and engineers who have followed alternative career paths such as working part-time or in non-academic settings, or who have taken a significant career break or other leave of absence."

"In particular, the Amendment levels the playing field for women scientists who have taken maternity leave, and for all scientists and engineers who have taken internships, worked in industry, or who have pursued an entrepreneurial effort."

PLAN

(continued from page one)

tural Arts Council. He said there is a strong emphasis on private funding; there is a plan for workplace giving and corporate sponsorships.

Councilmembers commented on the fact that there already is an increase in arts activity in Livermore. Tom Reitter said it is interesting how many things are going on before the master plan is in place.

Marchand noted that the opening of the Bothwell Arts Center has allowed the visual and performing arts to come together creating a "magnificent synergy. It's a very exciting time."

The draft plan details four key objectives. One is the promotion of a unique sense of place in Livermore, including the designation of a cultural arts district in downtown. The proposed boundaries for the district are Railroad Avenue, P Street, Maple Street, and Fourth Street. Arts and cultural facilities would be developed within the area.

The second goal is build the vitality of cultural arts organizations. This includes assistance with grant writing, and creation of a common calendar. The third objective is to provide a range of opportunities for all residents, businesses, and visitors to par-

ticipate in the arts. One idea for this objective would be to expand programs such as ArtWalk to include a festival.

The final objective would be to develop long term sustainable resources to support the arts and culture community. The proposed fee is part of this strategy. Other ideas are corporation partnerships and a workplace giving program.

Members of the public and the Commission for the Arts spoke in support of CAMP.

Resident Don Meeker called it a "community based plan. There has been an effort to ensure that everyone can participate. They can watch or participate in a stage show; or look at or create art."

President of the Livermore Heritage Guild, Neal Cavanaugh, was pleased that history is included as a cultural aspect of the community.

Walter Davies, former chair of the commission, said that the plan must be flexible enough to deal with changing conditions, yet contain enough substance to accomplish the goals. "I believe that future generations will look back in time and identify this document as ambitious and visionary."

MAILBOX

(Opinions voiced in letters published in Mailbox are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Independent. Letter Policy: The Independent will not publish anonymous letters, nor will it publish letters without names. Frequent letter writers may have publication of their letters delayed. The Independent does not have space to publish all of the letters it receives. Those not appearing in the newspaper, will be available to read online at www.independentnews.com.)

Wal-Mart Dante Vanturini Livermore

I wish you would consider the people needing a store where the prices are lower and where one can shop in one place for everything one needs.

Also, Livermore has let Home Depot and Lowes in resulting in the closing of the small shops. That was okay. The city also let in Costco, which hurts the smaller shops. I can't see why you are picking on Wal-Mart. We need a store that will help the low income families with their needs. Please reconsider and think of the people of Livermore.

'Againsters' Tom O'Neill Livermore

It seems from his letter of March 29 that Rich Buckley is against 1) science, 2) people who have agendas, 3) the French, 4) the Kyoto Accords, and 5) politicians in general (Republicans and Democrats alike). None of this particularly surprises or dismays me. The world needs "againsters," and it seems from his letter that Buckley is among the "againstest" of them all. What did surprise me is his apparent complaint that people who are against science and agendas have trouble getting research grants.

Thank You Sunset PTO, Parents, Students and Faculty

On behalf of the Sunset Parent Teacher Organization, Parents, Students and Faculty we would like to take this opportunity to thank our generous business donors and corporate sponsors who made our annual Gala, Dine by the Vines, a great success. We greatly appreciate you supporting our school and our children.

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Highway Connection Steve Behm Pleasanton

I had a dream that San Jose's I-680 was connected via freeway directly east over mountain valley to Interstate I-5 in the Central Valley. Yahoo! Just like i.e. Altamont Pass.

This new 6 lane connector caused all the congestion at 580-680 to clear up. Tri-Valley was happy, Tracy was happy. Oakland shipping docks were happy. Homeland defense was happy. San Jose was happy. Patterson was happy. Manteca & Stockton was happy getting traffic from 5 not just 205. In my dream even Vasco Road had zero deaths. Scott Haggerty was the hero along with Guy Houston and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. All three were holding a "golden shovel" for groundbreaking of the connecting freeway connecting San Jose's I-680 to Central Valley's I-5 since they pushed it to happen since the Silicon Valley folks were too slow.

The new I-5 to I-680 connector saved diesel fumes from trucks entering 680-580 intersection just to sit in stop and go traffic. It increased productivity for all commuters for work, school and play. New mountain pass was easy on environment too. Modesto happy. South Tracy happy. The City of Patterson was the happiest and apricots were bountiful. Truckers were astounded with easy of new bypass they could get to LA and/or Sacramento sooner. City of Oakland Port truck traffic felt relief too. This dream of a I-680 to I-5 connector between Santa Clara/San Jose to the Central Valley even lets the Atherton/Los Gatos/Saratoga/Santa Cruz "South Peninsula" weekender Tahoe traffic find an easier way to get to the Sierra Nevada mountains. Walnut Creek/Concord had less San Jose/Gilroy/Santa Cruz/Monterey Traffic going thru 680 to go around Mt. Diablo to cross the Delta to go to a Sacramento/Oregon thru Walnut Creek/Concord.

Life is good. Public works is good. (ie Hetch-Hetchy) Many CA contractors will hire many CA workers if a dramatic new 6 lane San Jose I-680 connector to I-5 were built.

Houston - No Response Dolores Bengtson Pleasanton

I recently attended a League of Women Voters meeting and was surprised and disappointed to hear Assembly Member Guy Houston of District 15 has chosen to not respond to a request from the local LWV (League of Women Voters) to participate in an interview. A member of the LWV contacted Guy Houston's office not once but five times between February 8th and March 27th - by telephone, by e-mail and by letter - to his local office and to his Sacramento office. He has not responded.

Each year CA League of Women Voters interview their state representatives giving the League and legislators a chance to exchange ideas before the League focuses on specific legislation. The interviews also give legislators an opportunity to learn about League positions and to share their priorities. Questions are submitted to the legislators ahead of time so meetings are efficient and productive. However, our League will not be providing feedback to the State from our Assembly District as Assemblyman Houston has chosen to ignore the League's request.

The League takes government seriously and works hard to promote good government. It is discouraging to know our representative, Guy Houston, is simply not interested or too busy to provide input that would have been helpful in directing the League in the future. It is even more discouraging that he did not provide a response to the request either in the positive or the negative. Assembly member Houston's failure to respond to the request and failure to participate in a reasonable interview makes me question his commitment to public service.

Let Freedom Ring Steven Rego Pleasanton

Abraham Lincoln would shed a tear at what his present day party has unken to. He would cringe at how folks show up to Pleasanton City Council meetings wrapped in the flag, with their corporate flag logos pinned on lapels, like they have some sort of monopoly on patriotism, and take shots at the Mayor and council members trying to promote a grassroots discussion on important issues, such as Iraq.

That these same people talk about "supporting our troops" by gagging discussion on the subject is contradictory to what the troops are supposed to be over there fighting for, besides, war is a brutal compromise in and of itself. Dwight Eisenhower spoke of a permanent wartime status in the Military Industrial Complex that seems to be the status quo in today's standards. I would think every Pleasanton resident would want to be as informed as possible on what our government is doing, and why.

Oscar Wilde was once quoted as saying "Patriotism is the virtue of the vicious" and that is not how I want my country to be seen. I salute mayor Hosterman and city council member Sullivan, and support them in letting "Freedom Ring."

Airport Upgrade Bruce Anderson Livermore

Unfortunately Mr. Sheth is still trying to fan the flames against our airport upgrade. In his letter published April 6th, he continues to push the "If FedEX/UPS decides to make this a base of operations..." concept. I tried to tell him there wasn't room at our airport for the operation he proposed. But they're lengthening the runways! (Note: this was back at the Granada High School City Council meeting; I believe lengthening the shorter runway is no longer on the table.) I tried

to tell him the runways were landlocked by a road and a golf course. But they'll move the golf course! I shook my head and thought geeze. It's possible he exclaimed!

I have lived about a mile-and-a-half southeast of our airport for over 20 years. Yes, business aircraft, including jets, have brought commerce to our region for that long. And yes, occasionally they are loud although, I believe they have gotten quieter. Is it possible they also helped our economy? I believe so.

Would City Councils of the Tri-Valley have enticed corporations to our business parks with the aid of our transportation infrastructure (580/680, rail, as well as an airport)? Probably. Would commerce from their employees help drive our local economy? Probably. Would business meetings be held where attendees went through the Livermore Airport? Probably. With all the jobs they brought to the area, would real estate values have gone up? Probably. Do we have nice schools and parks due in part to the revenues from corporations that have moved into our business parks? Probably.

Don't allow a Full Service FBO (Fixed Base Operator)? I've been flying with them out of Livermore since 1981 when I moved here. Possibly this is a semantics issue. FBOs are companies marketing aviation services such as instruction, rentals, maintenance, selling pilot supplies such as charts, and fueling services. Since I arrived, the City of Livermore has been pumping fuel instead of a FBO.

I thought the Livermore City Council had proposed a new FBO facility and a one-for-one exchange between tie-down spots and hangers to aid our community. If you flew for business or pleasure, wouldn't you like to know your aircraft hadn't been baking our valley's hot sun for weeks on end? I would.

Hysteria Doug Miller Pleasanton

The latest letter by Paulette Kenyon illustrates the delusion and hysteria of those on the extreme political left. Her letter repeats the lies about "an illegal war" in Iraq and ignores 10 years of history leading up to September 11, 2001.

The letter writer then went on to cite the February 20th Pleasanton City Council meeting as an example where free speech has been stifled. In fact, just the opposite happened. Many people spoke at that meeting and almost

every one spoke against the plans that were being considered by the city council to hold a meeting about the War in Iraq. At a previous city council meeting Mayor Hosterman had cited the existence of numerous emails that were in support of conducting such a meeting.

So, we asked the City of Pleasanton for a public records search and found that our mayor had lied to us. Twenty two residents had sent emails to the mayor and city council members during the past six months regarding a meeting about the war. None had written in support of such a meeting. Appropriately, the city council decided to drop plans for a meeting about the war and get back to work on city issues. Like traffic.

Stop the War Fred Norman Pleasanton

As of this writing, almost 3,300 American Military Men and Women have been killed in Iraq. In vain. Needlessly. Sacrifices to the imperial gods of oil and political power. Congress could put a stop to it, but they don't. Oh, they talk a good story, but the genre is fiction. Our state government could try to put a stop to it, but they're pretty useless when it comes to national moral issues. Our local City Councils could try to stop it, but they seem to be afraid to make their views known.

Pleasanton's City Council refuses to discuss the issue, and they even refuse to honor the Troops who have been killed. That leaves the American people to try to stop it. I don't mean the majority of Americans who don't seem to care or the shouting, hissing, spitting minority who support the war and its consequences. I mean those who truly care about the lives of our Troops. We who care can stop this war. We must stop this war. If we don't, the next American to die in Iraq will have died because we failed.

Where are the people who care? Where are the demonstra-

tions against this unjust war? Where is the anger, the rage, as the death count rises? Except for a few whispers against the war, a cloud of silence covers the Tri-Valley, a fog that hides the shame that our Troops are being sent to their deaths, and the Tri-Valley does not object.

Tax Revenues John Stein Livermore

A well-financed group is planning to place a measure on this November's ballot to increase Livermore's hotel tax. They are now conducting a push poll to try to convince voters that this is a really great idea.

The proposed tax increase would make Livermore's hotel tax 50% higher than that of surrounding communities. This tax increase will make it more difficult to attract businessmen and tourists into Livermore and make it more expensive to have friends and family visit. In the long term it may kill off the construction of new revenue producing inns and motels.

In their search for votes the poll suggested that the tax could fund such things as: downtown revitalization, new theaters and art programs, improved parking, reduced traffic congestion, purchase of open space, preservation of historical buildings, fighting big box stores, stopping sprawl and perhaps curing the common cold. These are all worthwhile goals but the tax will not raise enough money to fund more than one or two. The proponents of this tax are trying to find an emotional hook on which to hang their tax.

The real question to be answered is should taxes be increased. If they are, in the face of Livermore's inadequate funding for day to day operations and steadily increasing backlog of deferred maintenance, what are the priorities of Livermore's needs and wants. Livermore needs an integrated approach to this problem.

Geological Technics Inc. c/o Tony & Rita Sullins, Arrow Rentals Service

NOTICE OF INVITATION OF PUBLIC COMMENT

DATE OF NOTICE: April 26, 2007
DATES OF PUBLIC COMMENT: April 27, 2007 to May 27, 2007
DEADLINE FOR WRITTEN COMMENTS: May 27, 2007

SUBMIT TO: Raymond I. Kabanow II, Geological Technics Inc., 1101 7th Street, Modesto, CA 95354, (209) 522-4119
(Note: Comments will be forwarded to Owner and County & City Staff)

PROJECT TYPE/NUMBER: Corrective Action Plan
PROJECT NAME: Arrow Rentals Service
PROJECT LOCATION: 187 N. L Street, Livermore, CA 94550

Project description:
Between 1951 and 1968, a Mobil service station operated at the site. In 1972, Arrow Rentals purchased the property and removed three 1,500 gallon underground storage tanks (UST) were removed after they failed integrity tests. In 1984 two remaining UST were removed and one 1,000 gallon gasoline UST with a vapor monitoring well was installed in the southeastern corner of the site. In June 1985, approximately 600 gallons of gasoline were accidentally dispersed into the vapor monitoring well.

From 1989 to present various activities were conducted in order to identify the potential risks from contaminants in the soil and groundwater at the above referenced site. The various activities included installing monitoring wells, soil borings, and a soil gas survey.

The Corrective Action Plan (CAP) as developed by Geological Technics Inc. (GTI) proposes to implement Dual Phase Extraction (DPE) to restore the quality of the groundwater. DPE involves the use of soil vapor extraction and groundwater extraction simultaneously from one well - extracting groundwater induces a cone of depression that exposes more impacted soil to vapor extraction. The CAP document is a proposed remedy that is protective of public health and safety as well as the environment.

Where to get additional information:
A detailed copy of the proposed CAP is available for public review at the Livermore Public Library, 1188 South Livermore, CA 94550, and at the Livermore City Hall at the Clerk's Office, 1052 South Livermore Avenue, Livermore, CA 94550.

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SHORT NOTES

Swallows and Neighbors

Swallows and Their Neighbors is the topic of a Sun., April 29 nature program presented by the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District ranger staff.

Meet Ranger Patti Cole at 8:30 a.m. at Veterans Park.

The cliff swallows should have returned to their special bridge in the park by now. The program will include a hike out to the bridge to observe these energetic aerial acrobats. Along the way participants will look for other feathered neighbors who are here year round or just arriving for the nesting season. Canceled if raining. Reservations required by calling (925)960-2400.

There is a \$3 per vehicle parking fee. A \$2 donation is requested to help support the programs.

Ask the Doctor

Ophthalmologists, Todd Auker, M.D., and Todd Severin, M.D., will answer questions on Laser Refractive Surgery and Eye Health on the Ask the Doctor television show airing LIVE on Channel 30, Wednesday, May 2, from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Viewers can phone-in their medical questions for the doctors by calling TV30 at 925.462.3030.

On this episode of Ask the Doctor, viewers will learn about recent advances in laser treatments for vision correction, treatments for eye diseases such as glaucoma, cataracts, and even eyelid conditions. The physicians will explain the differences among Lasek, Lasik and Photo-refractive Keratectomy (PRK), and who would benefit from each procedure.

Ask the Doctor is sponsored by San Ramon Regional Medical Center. TV30 produces and broadcasts the award-winning educational program on Comcast Channel 30 in Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton, and San Ramon. The show will be available through a live Web cast on www.tv30.org.

Ask the Doctor airs live with questions from viewers about a new health topic on the first Wednesday of every month. That show is rerun every

Wednesday at 7 p.m. for the rest of the month.

Robert Litman, M.D., family medicine specialist, serves as the medical commentator, and Jane Roberts-MacArt is the producer.

Children's Fair Vendors

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) is taking applications for vendors interested in participating in the LARPD Children's Fair. The fair will be held on Saturday and Sunday, September 8 and 9, 2007.

This free event is expected to draw up to 7,000 visitors, mostly local families from throughout the Tri-Valley region. There will be free entertainment, educational booths related to health and safety, activities for children, and much more.

Appropriate vendors would include nonprofit groups seeking to generate revenue through food booths, commercial vendors that sell merchandise for children, nonprofit groups and community organizations, and commercial vendors with products that are of interest to families.

Applications may be obtained by contacting Moe Kline at mkline@larpd.dst.ca.us, and are due by June 1, 2007 to be considered.

League Targets Immigration

Immigration, a topic critical to Californians and to all Americans is the focus for the primary speaker at the Livermore-Amador Valley League of Women Voters' annual meeting on Saturday, May 12, 10 a.m. at the Livermore Police Station community room, 1110 South Livermore Ave. The lecture is open to the public.

Berkeley Professor of Sociology, Irene Bloemraad, will sketch out current patterns of immigration in the United States and California. She will discuss what social scientists know about immigrant integration in the U.S., and talk about the peculiar politics of immigration, which crosses partisan lines and divides people within both major parties. Her talk will consider debates around border control and open con-

versations about other policies related to immigration that we need to consider. The talk will be followed by discussion with the audience.

Bloemraad's presentation will introduce the topic for the local League's study group for the coming year. For more information about the Livermore-Amador Valley League, call 925-443-8683 or e-mail lavlww@comcast.net.

Marketing Seminar

The Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association hosts a monthly Marketing Seminar series for winery owners, industry affiliates and wine enthusiasts. The purpose of this series is to educate attendees on how to market, promote, and expand the Valley's wine region.

The next Marketing Seminar will be held on Wednesday, May 2, 2007 from 6-8pm at the Rios-Lovell Estate Winery Event Building, located at 6500 Tesla Road in Livermore.

The upcoming Marketing Seminar's topic is Marketing Compliance. Panel Members include Leroy Lukas and Eva Bedolla (founders of WineCompliancePro, Inc.), Peter Leary - Director of FedEx, and more. Panel members will address the following issues pertaining to Wine Compliance: industry trends, basic licenses, wholesaler and retail relationships, tasting room practices, inter/intra state shipping of wine, systems for tracking, and more.

There is a \$10 fee to attend this seminar, which covers materials, wine tasting, and snacks. Attendees receive complimentary wine tasting from 2 of Livermore Valley's wineries. RSVP is required for this event. Please RSVP by April 27th to the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association at (925) 447-WINE (9463).

Spring Book Sale

Friends of the Pleasanton Library will host the Spring Book Sale 2007 on Friday, April 27; Sat., April 28; and Sun., April 30 at the library in the large meeting room, 400 Old Bernal Ave.

The Friday night members only sale will run from 7 to 9 p.m. Memberships will be available at the door. The sale is open to everyone on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m.

More than 40,000 donated books of all types from best-sellers to biographies to children's picture books will be for sale. Paperbacks will cost 50 cents and hardbacks and trade backs a dollar. The books are in good to perfect condition. There will also be videos and other media for sale.

Friends of the Pleasanton Library is a nonprofit organization created to support the library. All revenues from the book sale will go to purchase new library materials, programs or equipment.

The Friends are seeking adult volunteers to help set up the sale and to help during the sale hours. For book sale or volunteer information, please call Nancy Bering at 462-4368.

Duck Races

The 15th Annual Duck Races are scheduled for April 28 at the Granada High School Pool, Wall Street, in Livermore from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Over a total of \$5000 in cash prizes will be given away during the races.

This is a fund-raiser for Livermore schools and nonprofit groups. Carnival booths, food and beverages will be available.

There will be two Little Duckie Races for kids 12 years of age and younger. These races are free with a parent present. Prizes will be awarded compliments of Livermore McDonalds.

The Livermore Lioness Club and the Livermore Y's Men Club will float plastic ducks on the pool at Granada High. Tickets are five dollars per entry. They can be purchased from Livermore PTA organizations or write to Livermore Duck Races, PO Box 48, Livermore, CA 94551.

For more information, call 449-1315 or 443-4541.

Biblical Scholar Speaks

Jack Rogers, the author of a recent book, *Jesus, the Bible, and Homosex-*

ality, will be speaking at the First Presbyterian Church in Livermore on April 28 and 29.

He will be discussing the evolution of his views over the last 10 years on this controversial subject.

Rogers is a Professor of Theology Emeritus of the San Francisco Theological Seminary and was Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in 2001. His book has been controversial, but has provoked many thoughtful exchanges, largely because of the strong biblical and theological basis for the evolution of his thinking.

As a longtime biblical scholar, Rogers traces how the Bible's interpretations of many societal issues have evolved over the centuries, and how we must look to the fundamental teaching of Jesus Christ for views of relationships.

There will be a seminar and workshop on Saturday, April 28 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. that will consist of several presentations by Rogers followed by roundtable discussions. The focus of the morning session will be "How has the Christian tradition responded to homosexuality over time?" The focus of the afternoon session will be "What does the Bible say?" A lunch will be provided that is covered by the \$15 registration fee.

On Sunday, April 29, Rogers will be preaching at both the 9 a.m. service in the Chapel and the 10:30 a.m. service in the Sanctuary.

The church is located at Fourth and L Streets in Livermore.

Teacher Stipends

The California Retired Teachers Association Tri-Valley Branch has awarded ten \$100 stipends to Tri-Valley teachers out of the one hundred proposals received.

The recipients are: Heidi Evans from Wells School, Dublin; Sandra Henriott from Murray, Dublin; Felicia Suminski from Frederiksen School, Dublin; Pam Blake from Granada High School, Livermore; Robin Loos from Portola, Livermore; Sarah Ko from Jackson Avenue School, Livermore;

OBITUARIES

Edward P. McCreary, Jr.

Edward P. McCreary, Jr. died April 16, 2007 in Fremont. He was 78.

The New Mexico native had lived in Pleasanton for two years, moving here from Brentwood where he lived for three and a half years. He earned an AA degree from San Jose City College and was a US Air Force veteran. He worked in field procurement with Bechtel Corp. for 18 years. His hobbies were model railroads and golf.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Frieda S. McCreary, sons Edward and Frank and his wife Patti, grandchildren, Danny, Camie, Sean, Taylor, Trevor and Allison and great grandchildren Maddalynn and Makayla.

A memorial mass was celebrated April 23 at St. Augustine Catholic Church in Pleasanton. Burial was private.

Donations in his name may be made to the American Cancer Society, 7000 Village Parkway, Suite E, Dublin, CA 94568.

Arrangements by Graham-Hitch Mortuary.

Rudy Enriquez

Rudy Enriquez died unexpectedly on April 12, 2007 at his home in Pleasanton. He was 52.

He was born Jan. 20, 1955 in Huntington Park, CA. He had lived in Pleasanton for 33 years. He graduated from Sunset High School in Hayward in 1973.

Rudy is survived by his parents Richard and Linda Benson of Pleasanton, sisters Jill Felts of Pleasanton and Julie (George) Avila of Livermore, a brother Anthony (Rebecca) Gonzales of Pleasanton, and nieces and nephews Susan, Michael, Andrew, Alyssa, Rachel and Ashley.

A private service is planned in Johnsville, CA. Arrangements by Graham-Hitch Mortuary.

Charles Wesley Mann

Charles Wesley Mann died April 18, 2007 in Oakland. He was 24.

He was born in Berkeley on Sept. 26, 1982 and moved to Pleasanton at the age of 2. He attended Valley View and Vintage Hills elementary schools, and Pleasanton Middle School and was a member of the class of 2001 of Amador Valley High School. He attended Brandeis University in Boston and graduated in 2005 with a BS in economics. He completed his masters program in fi-

nance at Brandeis and spent six months in Brazil at F.G.B. He was an outstanding basketball player, captain of the high school team at Amador. He played guard on his college team and in Brazil. Most recently, he coached his sister Michelle's basketball team the Liberty with Pleasanton Youth Basketball. He was a member of St. Matthew's Baptist Church in Livermore.

He is survived by his parents Michael Mann and Joann Daley of Pleasanton, sisters Jasmine E. Mann and Michelle A. Mann of Pleasanton, paternal grandmother Janice L. Mann of Virginia, and girl friend, Erica Richardson of Sacramento.

Funeral services were held April 25 at St. Matthew's Baptist Church in Livermore with Pastor Turner officiating. Burial was at Roselawn Cemetery in Livermore.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

Kathleen M. Rogan

Kathleen M. Rogan died April 18, 2007 in Livermore. She was 89.

She was a native of County Galway, Ireland and lived there until age 19 when she was sponsored by an aunt and uncle to immigrate to America in 1937. She married John Rogan in 1943. She was a very active parishioner at St. Joseph's Parish in New York and a member of the Ave Maria Guild, and a member of the Moose Lodge. In December 2005, she moved to Livermore to be with her family. She enjoyed singing and gardening and was pro-life.

She is survived by sons John (Lynn) Rogan of Livermore, Matthew Rogan of New York, James (Jennifer) Rogan of Coral Springs, FL; grandchildren, Ann, Kathleen and Patrick of Livermore and John and Michael of Florida. She was preceded in death by her husband John in 1970.

Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Wurtsboro, NY. Burial will be at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Valhalla, NY.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

Lois Fay Harmon

Lois Fay Harmon died April 17, 2007 in Livermore. She was 75.

She had lived in Livermore for 25 years. Mrs. Harmon worked as a technician with Rhome Electronic for 6 years. She enjoyed reading.

She is survived by a daughter Kathleen (Ralph) Guzman of Livermore and son Richard (Anne) Hankins of Pennsylvania, a brother, Lloyd Harmon of Ogden, Utah, sisters Ann Rooney of Cassville, Missouri and Artie Walden of Texas. She was preceded in death by siblings, Jess, John and Pearl.

Funeral services were held April 25 in Livermore with Rev. Berni Fricke officiating.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

Richard O. Brierly

Richard O. Brierly, who was born and raised in Oakland, died April 19, 2007. He was 66.

Richard had lived in Pleasanton for 35 years. He served his country in the U.S. Army 82nd Airborne. Richard received his B.S. degree from California State University in Sacramento, then pursued a career with the Oakland Police Department, retiring after 21 years as a Lieutenant. After retiring, he worked at the Alameda County District Attorney's office as an inspector for 12 years. He was affiliated with Le Societe de Camaraderie and the Oakland Police Officers' Golf Association. Rich enjoyed golf and traveling in his free time away from the force.

He is survived by his wife of 39 years, Marilyn Brierly of Pleasanton, daughter, Stephanie England of Pleasanton, son and daughter-in-law John and Denise Brierly of Manteca, sister Jackie Lindberg of Idaho, and sister and brother-in-law Barbara and Tom Kugler of Alameda. He is also survived by six grandchildren, Jack, Emma and Stella Brierly, Haley England, and Kaela and Sydnee Canales and many nieces

and nephews.

Mass was celebrated April 24 at St. Augustine Catholic Church in Pleasanton. Burial was at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Hayward.

Donations may be made to Multiple Myeloma Foundation, 383 Main Ave., 5th Floor, Norwalk, CT 06851, or Hope Hospice, 6500 Dublin Blvd., Suite 100, Dublin, CA 94568.

Arrangements by Graham-Hitch Mortuary.

Elsie Salmi Leighton

Elsie Salmi Leighton died April 15, 2007 in Dublin. She was 83.

The native of Washington had lived in Pleasanton for 4 years, and Escondido for 15 years. She worked as a secretary for the Seattle Naval Yard in the late 1940s and for fifteen years as secretary of the Alhambra High English Department. Her hobbies included golf, tating, and sewing.

She is survived by a daughter Sigrie Leighton Potter and her husband Bill of Pleasanton, a brother Howard Salmi, sisters Ilmi Phillips and Ethel Dunkle and grandchildren Nicolini and Robby. She was preceded in death by her mother Lena, her father Frans and sister Sigre.

A memorial service will be held in Seattle, Washington in June.

Donations may be made to Hope Hospice or Alzheimer's Association.

Arrangements by Graham-Hitch Mortuary.

Robert L. Basso

Livermore native and lifelong resident Robert L. "Bobby" Basso died April 21, 2007 of complications from diabetes surgery in Pleasanton. He was 69.

He had well established ranching roots and lived in the country most of his life prior to moving to town in 1992. He was employed as an explosives tech-

nician for SOS in Hollister for 26 years before retiring in 1999. He was a member of the Livermore Rodeo Stockmen's Association. He enjoyed the benefits of retirement through dinner exchanges with family and friends, playing cards and watching the Oakland A's play. He was always ready to help family members and enjoyed making raviolis, especially for the holidays. He was particularly proud of his international travels to Italy, where he visited the birthplace of his family. He also visited Greece.

He had a warm place in his heart for his dog, Skippy.

Visitation will be 1 to 9 p.m. Thurs., April 26 with rosary at 7 p.m. at Callaghan Mortuary, 3833 East Ave., Livermore. Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated at 10 a.m. on Fri., April 27 at St. Michael's Catholic Church, 458 Maple St., Livermore. Burial will be at St. Michael's Cemetery.

He is survived by his brothers Earl Basso and Raymond "Tuffy" Basso of Livermore and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents Steve and Emma Basso, brothers Anthony "Shorty", Clarence "Spoofy", and Ernie "Fats."

Contributions to the American Diabetes Association, 1900 Powell St., Suite 285, Emeryville, CA 94608 would be appreciated by the family.

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* Terms & conditions. New members must join by 5/31/07 in order to qualify. Only one Spring Fever Package per new joining membership. Spring Fever Package may not be redeemed for cash. See membership representative for details.

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Livermore Reads Together Program Offers Variety of Events in the Month of May

The Livermore Library's inaugural Livermore Reads Together community book reading event is underway. It features book groups and individuals reading and talking about Isabel Allende's "Zorro." Younger readers are dipping into Jan Adkin's "Young Zorro: The Iron Brand."

Readers are pondering how Diego de la Vega grew from a child in Mexican California into the sophisticated legendary masked caballero known as Zorro, who "will always appear when there are wrongs to be right."

The Friends of the Livermore Library have underwritten Livermore Reads Together allowing the library to purchase many copies of the book in English and in Spanish. Friends' support has also provided a series of programs related to Zorro. Cask and Mask, the Livermore Heritage Guild, Shakespeares Associates, and Cinema West are also col-

laborating in Livermore Reads Together.

May is the month for activities.

On May 5, there will be a Cinco de Mayo celebration at the Rincon Branch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The festivities will include the Las Positas College fencing team in action, a bilingual storytime with John Weaver, and a performance of the "Tamborcito Show" featuring a bilingual clown.

A performance of the fiery flamenco dance will be presented on May 6 at 2 p.m. by the La Fibi Flamenco Dance Company at the Civic Center Library. Led by Phoebe "La Fibi" Vernie, the company of eight dancers, singers, guitarists and percussionists deliver a performance of sultry energy and rhythms.

The Calicanto Singers use traditional songs, dances and singing games to remember life in the early west at a program to be pre-

sented at the Springtown Branch on May 12 at 11 a.m.

There will be a presentation focusing on the history of Mission San Jose, which encompassed the area where Livermore is today, at the Civic Center Library on May 10 at 1:30 p.m. The California missions were important during Zorro's lifetime.

Historian Gary Drummond will review the Legend of Zorro at a program on May 14 at 7 p.m. at the Civic Center Library. The program is sponsored by the Livermore Heritage Guild.

Teri Ann Bengiveno will explain life in Alta California, when this area was part of Spain. The program will be at 3 p.m. on May 24 at the Civic Center Library.

Shakespeares Associates and Cask and Mask will stage dramatic readings based on the book. Cask and Mask will present an Unusual Evening on May 10

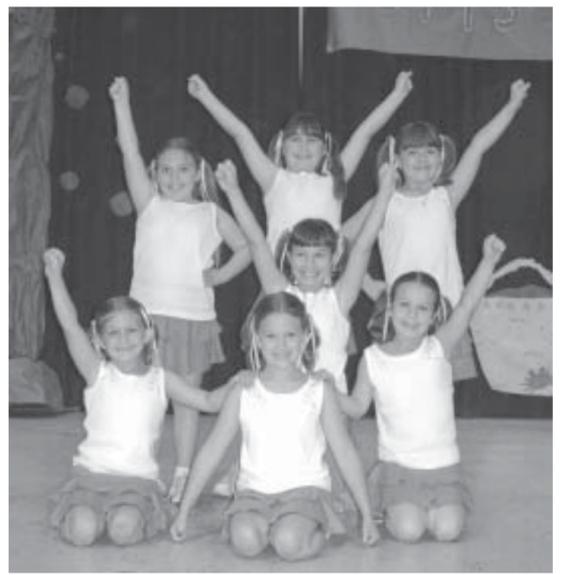
at 7 p.m. at the Bothwell Arts Center. Shakespeares Associates perform May 12 at 2 p.m. at the Civic Center Library.

There will also be book discussions of "Zorro" and "The Young Zorro" led by library staff members.

Mariachi Colima de Javier Magallon, a nine member traveling mariachi band will perform at the Civic Center Library on May 20 at 2 p.m.

After reading the book and taking part in the many programs, there will be an opportunity to see a Zorro spree at Livermore Cinemas. Douglas Fairbanks, Tyrone Power and Antonio Banderas have all portrayed the legendary masked hero dressed in black. The movies will be shown May 30 and 31 at 1, 4 and 7 p.m. Tickets can be purchased in advance.

For more information go to www.livermore.lib.ca.us.



Arroyo Seco Elementary held a talent show last week. The talent show included dancing and singing acts, piano players, guitar players, even a skateboarding act. Several students got together for one of the acts where they performed three cheerleading numbers. Pictured are (left to right, top to bottom) Olivia Olson, Kelly Densberger, Katrina Herweg, Mackensie Miller, Melia Miller, Nicole Boschee and Stephanie Boschee.

'Talk Hawks' Present Speech Night

The Las Positas College (LPC) "Talk Hawks" will perform their annual Speech Night on Friday, April 27 at 8:00 p.m. in Room 801 of the LPC Theater. This national award-winning forensics team will present dramatic interpretations as well as public address speeches covering topics from medical technology to art history in an array of entertaining performances.

The show is approximately two hours long and provides an excellent extra credit opportunity for middle, high school and college students to observe a demonstration of top quality speech delivery.

Tickets are \$10 for general seating and \$7 for students and seniors. Tickets may be purchased at the door.

The campus is located at 3033 Collier Canyon Road in Livermore.

Artist Flea Market Has Booth Space

The Pleasanton Art League is once again sponsoring The Artists Flea Market, Saturday May 5 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will be held at DeLucchi Park, First Street at Neal in downtown Pleasanton, adjacent to the Farmer's Market.

There will be new and used art supplies and equipment and discounted artwork. Items available may include frames, mat board, canvas, original art, watercolor paints, acrylic and oil paints, used and new brushes, pottery seconds, art books, paper, ink, hardware...and much more, including discounted original art.

Artists wishing to have a booth space are encouraged to contact Dorothy Maestas at (925) 846-6726 or Nancy Thompson (925) 634-3003. Booth spaces are 10'x10 with a \$25 fee. It is not necessary to be a PAL member to have a booth.

New Exhibit Opens at Wente Vineyards

Images from a new body of work by the artist A.S. Edgerton will be exhibited for two months at the Wente Vineyards Estate Winery Tasting Rooms on Tesla Road beginning May 1. It will run through June 30.

The images are prints of ultrachrome ink on William Turner water color paper and are based on photographs by the artist of architectural details combined with scanned and vector drawn elements. They combine western and muslim features in contrasting or complementary styles, in conflict or at peace.

Edgerton notes, "I am interested in intercultural exchanges and how they change over the years, in particular western and muslim relations. The specific composition may have started with an historically significant incident in mind but the final image is more dependent on balance, achieved or in progress. In the juxtaposition of color and shape affected by light there is



Painting by A.E. Edgerton

implied motion, right-left, in-out. Some are restful, others may leave the viewer on edge. It is my hope that they will provoke studied viewing and pleasure."

The more abstract pieces depend on color and form for impact. The exhibited works are 24"x24" framed and come in limited editions of 5 each. Other sizes can be ordered.

Also on exhibit will be some more abstract architectural images mounted on aluminum.

Student Work on Display at Pleasanton Senior Center

The students in Pleasanton's Parks and Community Services class, "Art Made Easy," will celebrate the 13th annual art exhibit April 30 to May 4 at the Pleasanton Senior Center. The class is taught by Charlotte Severin.

The public is invited to meet the artists at an opening reception on Monday, April 30 from 7 to 9 p.m. It is free. Refreshments will be served. The exhibit will be open for viewing during the week from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (closes Fri., May 4 at noon).

A variety of subject matter is included in the exhibition - mountains and marine life, floral, still life, people and local scenes. One of the challenging assignments was to study and paint in the style of an old master.

The Senior Center is located at 5353 Sunol Blvd. in Pleasanton.



'Egrets,' a watercolor by Dorothy Maestas, will be shown.

For additional information, contact Charlotte Severin at 846-6382.



Amador Valley Quilters host their 12th quilt show displaying 400+ quilts at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton on April 28 and 29. The featured artist is Linda Schmidt, an internationally recognized quilter. Vendors selling batiks to bears and everything the quilter could use. Amador Guild members have a Country Store featuring hand crafted items. Raffle quilt winner be drawn on Sunday afternoon. Hours are Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sunday 10:00 a.m. - 4 p.m. Admission is \$6 - \$8, children under 12 free. For information, call 925-829-5768. Pictured is the Raffle quilt designed by Linda Schmidt and made by the members.

Toe-Tapping Numbers Highlight Playhouse's 'Grease'

by Janet Armantrout

The Pleasanton Playhouse production of Grease has a lot going for it - mainly the talented cast that sang and danced its way through the 1950s.

The vocal performances are strong and the choreography energetic.

The play, which when it was first produced was supposed to be a satire of the 1950s, has evolved into a nostalgic look back at what director Misty Megia calls, "a time that seems less complicated, where kids could be kids."

The play takes the audience back to the year 1959 at Rydell High School. The Greasers are more interested in hot rods (the Greased Lightening was an actual car pushed on stage), girls and rock 'n roll. The Pink Ladies are their counterparts.

The main story is about the relationship between Danny

(Tom Tusler) and Sandy (Sarah Klaren). There are the Pink Ladies: fun-loving Jan (Vanessa Lucero), man-loving Marty (Leslie Noel), aspiring hair stylist and color tinting specialist Frenchy (Christina Lazo) and Rizzo, the tough ring leader (Katy Kaul). The Greasers consist of Sonny (Danny Guzman), Kenickie (Patrick Dixon) and Doody (Jesse Garcia).

The story looks at choices the teens make and the impact they have on their lives. Some of the songs were about the teen issues, such as "Look at Me, I'm Sandra Dee," "It's Raining on Prom Night," "Beauty School Dropout," and "Alone at a Drive-in Movie."

But what's best about the play are the toe-tapping numbers ranging from "Greased Lightnin'" to "We Go Together" and "Shakin' at the High School Hop."

The opening of the show was

fun, using a radio program featuring Johnny Casino (Bohn Kerns) to ask audience members for birthdays, anniversaries, etc. Later in the show, a musical number was dedicated to them. He also conducted a hand-jive contest featuring audience members.

The big number, "We Go Together," at the end of the first act is well done with all of the "kids" dancing in block form.

The show uses the recent television reality show theme song, "You're The One That I Want," to end the play rather than a reprise of "We Go Together" number as listed in the program. It was a good choice.

"Grease" continues at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., weekends through May 6. Curtain time is 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays.

Tickets are \$30 for adults, \$28

for seniors age 60 and older and \$20 for juniors 18 and younger. They can be purchased 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at the Pleasanton Playhouse box office at 1048 Serpentine Lane #307 or by telephone at 925-462-2121 or 925-484-4486. Tickets can also be purchased online at www.pleasantonplayhouse.com.

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NEXT (PG)	12:00	2:15	4:35	7:15	9:25
THE CONDEMNED (G)		12:30	3:20	7:10	9:50
FRACTURE (R)		12:15	3:40	6:40	9:30
HOT FUZZ (R)		1:10	4:25	7:05	9:45
VACANCY (R)	12:25	2:30	4:40	6:50	9:20
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Photo - Doug Jorgensen

A human chain was formed to transport palm fronds from one side of the arroyo to the dumpster on the other side as part of a cleanup effort during Earth Day in Livermore.

Croce Wins Back Seat Challenge

By Patricia Koning

Tracy Rebiejo, a Traffic Safety Officer with the Livermore Police Department, spends a lot of time at schools during drop off and pick up times. Recently she observed a disturbing trend.

"At the elementary schools, I started noticing kids riding in the front seat," she says. "The safest place for kids of these ages is the back seat. Typically elementary school students aren't older than 12, so there was a problem."

How big of a difference does the back seat make? Children under the age of 13 are 40% safer riding in the back seat. Air bags are designed to protect an average-sized male adult and increase the risk of death for children younger than 10 by 35%. However, air bags are not the only cause for concern when sitting in the front seat.

The 40%-safer statistic comes from the fact that 60% of crashes are front impact in which the front bumper, hood area, and windshield are crushed into the front passenger space of the vehicle. Passengers in the back seat have approximately three extra feet of intrusion space.

Rebiejo came up with the idea for a competition between Altamont Creek and Croce Elementary Schools to raise awareness of back seat safety. During her normal patrols in January, she conducted surveys of where the kids were sitting. She observed that 74% of children at Altamont Creek sat in the back seat while at Croce 69% of the children sat in the back.

The Livermore Police Department visited both schools to educate the students on the importance of riding in the back seat, properly buckled up, for all trips. They promised a full pizza party, complete with a motor demonstration, for the entire staff and student body of the winning school.

To get the students excited, there was a poster and slogan contest. Every student who entered the poster contest received a book light, perfect for reading in the back seat at night. Students who signed a back seat pledge were entered into a drawing for two iPod nanos at each site.

During the six weeks of the challenge, Rebiejo patrolled the

schools at drop off and pick up times. If she saw students riding in the back, she held up a sign that read "The back is where it's at" and handed out stickers. If a student was riding in the front seat, she flipped the sign around to show a frowning face and the question "In the front seat?"

She didn't expect the signs and stickers to have a big impact. However, one afternoon she received a call from a mother thanking her.

"Her son was so disappointed at not getting a sticker that he decided to sit in the back seat, something his mother had been trying to convince him to do," she says. "It really is the little things. You never know what you are going to do that could save someone's life."

Rebiejo wasn't sure how much progress to expect to result from the challenge. To her amazement, by the end of March back seat ridership at Altamont Creek increased by 12% to 86% and increased by 18% to 87% at Croce. If just two more children at Altamont Creek had sat in the back instead of the front, the school would have won the challenge.

"The truth is in the numbers,"

says Altamont Creek Principal Candice Flint. "We were thrilled with the program. Obviously, there is room for improvement, because we want all of our students riding in the back seat, where they are safest."

Croce students and staff enjoyed their pizza party and motor demonstration from the Livermore Police Department on March 25.

Rebiejo also conducted a survey of the students, asking them questions such as where in the car they sit and who decides. The survey looked at gender and age, among other demographics. She's hopeful the results will yield information that can help increase back seat ridership even more.

The program was the first in its kind in California. It was funded by a grant from AAA and the Altamont Creek and Croce Parent Teacher Associations.

The Livermore Police Department has already received funding from the California Office of Traffic Safety for another back seat challenge next year. Rebiejo plans to put at least two more schools to the test.

"I think this should be an annual program at every school," says Flint.

Apartments For Seniors Now Open

Leisure Care has announced the opening of Heritage Estates Senior Apartments, a brand new apartment community in Livermore. Heritage Estates Senior Apartments will cater to 62+ adults who enjoy active, fun and healthy lifestyles.

Heritage Estates Senior Apartments consists of 130 units available to lease, ranging from 579 to nearly 1,200 square feet.

The complex includes one- and two-bedroom apartment homes competitively priced. The community is designed specifically in response to the substantial number of active adults and 'empty nesters' in the Tri-Valley area. The four-story building also features views of Mt. Diablo and the surrounding hills.

Located at 800 E. Stanley in Livermore, residents are just minutes away from downtown Livermore, wineries, fine restaurants, shopping, ValleyCare Lifestyle and Wellness Center and the brand new Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center.

Amenities include a fitness center, large outdoor pool/hot tub located in the Feng Shui courtyard, computer lounge, concierge services, entertainment lounges with plasma TVs and secured underground parking.

Leisure Care, which manages over 40 active communities throughout the United States and Canada, is very excited about this grand opening. "This project was designed with active and healthy people in mind. We look forward to Heritage Senior Apartments becoming Livermore's premier destination for seniors in the area," said John Wallace, General Manager.

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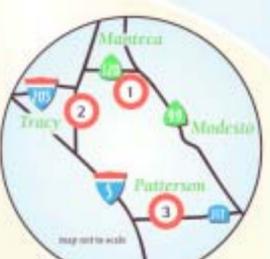
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