



Lori Myers

## LPC Graduate Earns Top Honors

Now that she has graduated from Las Positas College, Loretta "Lori" Myers takes with her great memories as well as highest honors.

Lori, a Pleasanton resident, received two particularly notable honors. She is the first Las Positas College student to receive a Jack Kent Cooke Foundation scholarship, just one of 51 awards given nationally to students moving from two-year colleges to universities. The scholarship provides for up to \$30,000 per year to the university of the recipient's choice.

In addition, she was selected as the top California student by Alpha Gamma Sigma, the honor society for community colleges.

She plans to attend Berkeley in the fall to pursue a degree in psychology and then attend medical school.

Lori is the first member of her family to attend college and has had both an unusual and challenging life. Raised by her single mom, Frenesi, she started ballet

(See GRADUATE, page 8)



"Green Boat"

## Artists to Open Their Studios

When Bothwell artists picked up keys to the new studios in early April, it was almost four years to the day that the ArtWorks Studios group disbanded. In the interval, they spent many years working from home, moving from studio to studio, waiting to regroup.

While some ArtWorks artists have moved on, many of the core group hung in through the years of negotiations, including Diana Marion, Alan Ryall, Linda Ryan, Barbara Stanton, Sue Marchand, and Linda Tacy. As Bothwell Artists, they plan to rebuild that special creative "synergy" that developed at their prior home, and spawned exhibits, "ArtWalk," group assemblages and critique nights.

A June 2 open house/open studios event is their first collective effort. The open house will be from 1 to 5 p.m. There is no admission charge.

The Bothwell Art Center is more than studio space for paint-

(See OPEN HOUSE, page 9)

## Hearing Set on Wheels Changes

The Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority, operator of the WHEELS bus system, will hold a public hearing to obtain input on proposed changes to routes and schedules for August 25, 2007.

The hearing will be held June 4 at 4 p.m. at the Livermore Amador Valley transit Authority offices, 1362 Rutan Ct., Suite 100, Livermore.

Changes include the following:  
 • **1A/B - Rose Pavilion - East Dublin:** WHEELS proposes to operate route 1A counterclockwise in the AM and clockwise in the PM to better serve passengers traveling to/from the Dublin/Pleasanton BART station and employment centers in the Northeast portion of Dublin. During the midday, the route would be modified to provide service to Dublin Ranch Villages. In addition, the route would be realigned away from Central Parkway and relocated to Dublin Boulevard between Hacienda Drive and Tassajara Road. The new route configuration will provide increased service along Dublin Boulevard with connections to

(See WHEELS, page 3)

# \$850,000 to Improve Education at School

By Patricia Koning

Marylin Avenue is one lucky school. Earlier this month the elementary school learned it was selected through a random drawing to receive funding through the Quality Education Investment Act (QEIA).

Marylin will receive nearly \$850,000 in funding over the next three years, with the potential for up to four more years of funding. In the first year, the school will receive \$333 per child in kindergarten through third grade and \$600 per child in fourth and fifth grades.

In the second and third year,

those numbers increase to \$500 for K-3 and \$900 for 4-5. This works out to approximately \$209,000 in the 2007/08 school year and \$320,000 in the 2008/09 and 2009/10 school years.

The funding must be used to lower class sizes, hire new staff, and provide professional development. Marylin will reduce its fourth and fifth grade classes from 30 to 1 to 22 to 1. An additional teacher will be hired at each grade level. Science specialist time will be increased appropriately.

"We are thrilled about this funding and what it will do for

our school. Lowering class size is really important for our fourth and fifth graders," says Marylin Principal Jeff Keller. "It will also support the professional development and intervention programs that are already underway."

Marylin's staff will return from summer vacation three days early for a retreat, funded by QEIA money. Keller says they'll use the extra time to "unwrap" the essential standards—a process that involves teachers analyzing each standard and identifying its essential concepts and skills, resulting in more effective instructional planning, assess-

ment, and learning.

The staff also will undergo training on Step up to Writing, an elementary writing program being implemented District-wide.

"It is going to be hard work," says Keller. "Marylin has a number of unique challenges. The number of English Language Learners and students on Free and Reduced Lunch goes up every year."

The number of students on Free and Reduced Lunch has increased from 46% of the student population in 2002 to 76% in 2007. In the 2005/06 school year,

49% of Marylin students were English Language Learners (ELL), compared with 60% in the current school year. A total of 83% of current kindergartens are ELL.

Keller initiated a professional development program last summer, before the school was even notified it was in Program Improvement (PI) for not making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) under No Child Left Behind (NCLB).

Last summer Keller, along with six of his teachers and a representative from the District, at-

(See SCHOOL, page 3)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Monday was a day to remember those who served. In Pleasanton, VFW and American Legion members conducted a special ceremony. Among those on hand for the event was Congressman Jerry McNerney.

## Pleasanton Schools OK Teachers Contract, High Schools Plan

Pleasanton school trustees have raised teachers' salaries by approximately 3.4 percent, approved a master plan for high school expansion, and set the stage for expansion of arts education in the district.

Trustees voted 4-0 at their meeting May 22, with Pat Kernan absent, for the pay increase in a new three-year contract with the teachers union. The raise begins in the next school year, and is not scheduled to increase above that in the final two years of the contract.

Teachers also receive an automatic annual raise each year that they are with the district, as well as pay increases for certain numbers of earned college cred-

its as they continue post-baccalaureate education.

Lary Aladeen, president of the Association of Pleasanton Teachers, said the membership ratified the agreement with 97 percent in favor. He said that he was pleased the negotiations went so well.

The raises will cost the district \$3 million, but will not shrink the district's reserve fund of \$5.4 million, said assistant superintendent Sandra Lepley. An increase in cost-of-living money from the state helped the district avoid using its reserves.

The cost to the district includes offsetting the cost of granting more preparation time for some teachers in the new con-

tract. Negotiations with the classified employees union, which represents school administrative staff and custodians, have not been finished.

### FUNDING STILL SOUGHT FOR HIGH SCHOOL PLAN

The board endorsed the high school facilities master plan on a 4-0 vote. The plan has been discussed at several consecutive recent board meetings. It has three levels of priorities concerning future projects, which include such things as adding classrooms, enlarging the gymnasiums and the seating at the stadiums, and expanding weight rooms.

Board members made it clear that the plan is only a plan.

(See SCHOOL, page 4)

## CarrAmerica Plans Hotel, More Offices In Its Hacienda Park Complex

CarrAmerica has plans to build three office buildings, a 130-room hotel and three parking structures on its land in Hacienda Business Park at 4400 and 4460 Rosewood Drive, Pleasanton.

The firm was scheduled to meet with the Pleasanton Planning Commission at a workshop Wednesday night after the Independent's deadline.

There are six buildings on the site now. They occupy more than 1 million square feet. Four are office buildings. The others are a conference center and a cafeteria building that includes more conference rooms. They were constructed in 1989, when AT&T built them as its regional head-

quarters. Later, the firm moved some of its offices elsewhere, but kept some space in one of the buildings.

CarrAmerica has a 60-acre site. The current buildings occupy less than 40 percent of the total space. If the new construction were built as planned, it would add 573,000 square feet, excluding the area of the parking garages. The new buildings would bring the total building footprint to between 50 and 60 percent of the site, said James Paxson, general manager of Hacienda Business Park.

The business park is a consortium of owners of more than

(See COMPLEX, page 12)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Kindergartners, who will be attending Sunset School in Livermore next fall, took a tour of the facilities last week. The school has been closed for renovations. It will reopen this fall.

## Campers Will Look Inward To Discover and Spread Peace

Tools For Peace, an organization that uses art and meditation to teach people how to make peace with themselves and others, will conduct a camp in August at Camp Arroyo near Livermore.

The annual summer event will draw young people ages 13 to 16 from around the state, Aug. 6 through 11, said Marilyn Stoner, a southern California resident who is a member of Tools for Peace.

This will be the first time the summer camp will take place in northern California. Stoner said that organization members in charge of making arrangements found the facilities at Camp Arroyo to be ideal for the program.

A Tibetan Buddhist lama, Chodak Gyatso Nubpa, will be present to create a sand mandala. He will teach participants how to draw their own mandalas. Using the mandalas and meditation, the participants will gain

insight into their own attitudes, said Stoner.

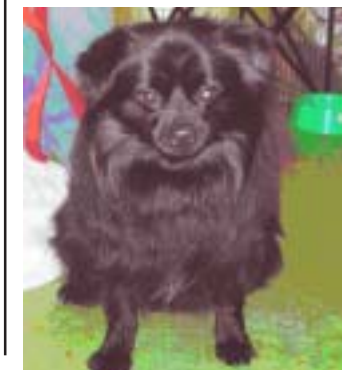
A mandala is the representation of ideas, generally in an abstract, symbolic way. It is usually made of colored sand. For centu-

(See CAMP, page 4)

### PET OF THE WEEK

Sparks is a very playful, friendly, and energetic 2-year old Pomeranian/Spitz mix. He loves to play outside, chasing toys and going for walks. He is housetrained, neutered, weighs 28 pounds, and gets along with children of all sizes. Sparks is unable to attend our adoption events at Pet Extreme, so please call Valley Humane Society at 925-426-8656 for more information, or

to make an appointment to see Sparks in his foster home. Or visit Valley Humane Society's new Adoption Center at 3670 Nevada St. in Pleasanton's Stanley Business Park Wed-Sun 11 am-5 pm to visit our cats. Valley Humane Society holds mobile pet adoptions for dogs at Pet Extreme in Livermore every Saturday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.



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## Do You Remember?

By Anne Homan



### Native Americans of the Livermore/Amador Valley

The Native Americans who were settled along the Livermore/Amador Valley when Europeans arrived were all part of the Ohlone (also called Costanoan) language group. They were small clusters of hunter-gatherers, each tribe with probably fewer than 200 members, divided into several villages. Author Malcolm Margolin thought it probable that they had been in the San Francisco Bay Area for many generations: "We are confronted by the likelihood that the people found by the Spanish at the end of the 18th century were the direct descendants of a people who lived undisturbed on their land for centuries—a bare minimum of 1,200 years ... and probably for as long as 4,500 or 5,000 years."

The Spanish government set into motion a system of Catholic missions, which changed the world of California Native Americans forever. Mission San José, established in 1797, claimed the Livermore/Amador Valley for grazing lands. Soon, large flocks of sheep and herds of cattle were competing with deer, elk, antelope, and the Native Americans themselves for grasses and seed harvests. By 1828, Mission San José was running 15,000 cattle and 15,000 sheep. John G. Stokle, in his study of the era, commented, "The land gradually reverted from aboriginal ownership to mission ownership, from Indian habitat to stock rangeland."

Natives gradually entered the mission system, some attracted by the new, apparently strong magic of the priests and urged by hunger, some forced to comply by the Spanish military. At the missions, many died of white men's diseases, such as measles, for which they had no antibodies, and from diseases caused by poor sanitation. Others, leaving the mission for a yearly paseo, unwittingly carried contagion back to their home villages. Eventually, not enough people were left in the villages to perform crucial tasks. The survivors capitulated and came into the missions. Randall Milliken has used the mission records to locate the tribes, reasoning that the earliest groups to give in would be closest to the local mission's influence and that intermarriage gave important clues about neighbors.

The farthest west tribe in the valley, the Pelnens, lived in the area of what is today Pleasanton and down the Interstate 680 corridor toward Sunol. Most of them entered Mission San José between 1801 and 1804—a total of 124 were baptized. The main village of the next tribe, the Seunens, was located at present-day Dublin; 84 members were baptized at the mission, also mainly between 1801 and 1804. The Souyen tribe held the lands north of the large willow marsh called the *bolsa* that once existed in the western Livermore Valley where the Arroyo Las Positas and the Arroyo Mocho ended. Souyen territory included the Tassajara Creek drainage up into the southern foothills of Mount Diablo. One hundred thirty-three Souyens became neophytes at Mission San José mostly between 1802 and 1805. Along Arroyo Las Positas near present-day Livermore and up into the Altamont Pass and Brushy Peak area was the Ssaom tribe. They might have had a village in the Vasco Caves area as well; their tribal name translates as "At the Rocks" or "Rocky Place." The majority of their 128 known members were baptized at the mission between 1803 and 1805.

To the southeast of Livermore in the rough country along the Arroyo Mocho and in Corral Hollow, the Luecha tribe, another Ohlone group, had its territory. The Luecha did not come into the missions in any significant number until 1805 and 1806. Of their 125 known members, 24 were baptized at Mission San José and the rest at Mission Santa Clara. Another Ohlone tribe, the Taunans, lived in the steep hills lining Alameda Creek and the Arroyo del Valle south of Livermore. An unknown number of this tribe entered Mission Santa Clara, which had been in existence since 1777; after Mission San José opened in 1797, 154 members were baptized there, mostly between 1798 and 1804.

Although Mission San José was secularized by Mexico in 1836, none of the remnants of these tribes returned to their original areas. An Indian *rancheria* called Alisal functioned until 1914 below the Castlewood Country Club on the Arroyo de la Laguna, perhaps at an old Pelen site. However, the majority of the population there used the Miwok language, not the Ohlone of most Livermore/Amador Valley tribes. Another *rancheria* was located along Marsh Creek near the rancho claimed by John Marsh in 1837; its residents were predominantly Julpuns, Bay Miwok speakers, but perhaps with a few Volvons. They gradually disappeared after Marsh's death in 1855. In a letter to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs in 1850, agent Adam Johnston wrote: "Almost the entire tribes of the Costanoes or Coast Indians have passed away. Of the numerous tribes which but a few years ago inhabited the country bordering on the Bay of San Francisco, scarcely an individual is left." Those few who were not buried in the mission grounds disappeared as servants into kitchens and ranchos. The census of 1870 recorded 85 Indians in Alameda County, most of them at Alisal.

Although the tribes have disappeared, their portable stone mortars and pestles are still occasionally found by local residents. Often bedrock mortars can be seen in lithic scatter in the foothills and along the creeks. And we still appreciate the beauty of three local places held sacred by the tribes—Mount Diablo, Brushy Peak, and the Vasco Caves.

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

## Tauscher, McNerney Vote Against War Funding

Both local members of Congress from the Valley voted against funding for the Iraq war.

Both said they could not support giving the President a blank check.

Congressman Jerry McNerney (CA-11) voted against giving President Bush a blank check to conduct the war in Iraq. "I have been steadfast in my commitment to use the most responsible and effective strategy to bring about a close to the violence in Iraq," said McNerney.

The Iraq spending bill did not include provisions provided in previous versions of the funding plan, such as a timeline for redeploying troops from Iraq, enforceable benchmarks, and the

Pentagon's requirements for providing the training and equipment for men and women in uniform.

McNerney said, "The bill also includes no requirement to use diplomacy to create the framework to end this conflict. That is the course I believe is necessary and is the one advocated by the Iraq Study Group and other independent experts."

Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher delivered the following statement: "I have voted for every bill to bring our troops home because I am deeply committed to ending our involvement in an Iraqi civil war. After much thought, deliberation and listening to my constituents, I voted

against the supplemental appropriations bill.

"I look forward to voting on a de-authorization of the use of force. Speaker Pelosi has promised me that a vote on my bill, the Change the Course in Iraq Act (H.R. 1460), will come to the floor in September at the end of this short term funding measure. The mission in Iraq no longer bears any resemblance to what Congress authorized four years ago. Repealing the Congressional authorization for the war is the responsible way for the Congress to make it crystal clear to the President that Congress and the people we represent have had enough," concluded Tauscher.

Legislative proceedings also

included a vote on additional supplemental spending for military and veterans healthcare, agricultural disaster assistance, and the SCHIP children's health insurance program. "While I could not support the Iraq spending plan, I was pleased to vote to fund these critical needs," Rep. McNerney said. "Our veterans deserve the highest quality healthcare, especially as many of them return home with Traumatic Brain Injury. And our farmers, ranchers and growers - especially those in California's Central Valley who were hit by heat, drought and freezing temperatures in less than a year - desperately need the assistance provided under this bill."

## OPENING

(continued from page one)

as "The Carol Burnett Show" and an Emmy-nominated performance on "The Muppet Show." She appeared in the star-studded "Sondheim: A Celebration" at Carnegie Hall and also played an opera diva on-the-verge-of-a-nervous-breakdown in Terrence McNally's "The Last Mile," both for PBS' Great Performances series. Other television credits include PBS's "Hey Mr. Producer!: The Musical World of Cameron Mackintosh" and the ABC-TV special "Quincy Jones: The First 50 Years."

Peters received an Emmy nomination for her performance in FOX's hit TV series "Ally McBeal." She portrayed the wicked stepmother in "Cinderella" with Brandy and Whitney Houston, and starred in "What The Deaf Man Heard: The Odyssey" starring Armand Assante, "David, Fall From Grace" with Kevin Spacey, and "The Last Best Year" with Mary Tyler Moore. She also appeared in the Showtime movie "Bobbie's Girl" (Daytime Emmy nomination) and "Prince Charming," a TNT movie co-starring Martin Short and Christina Applegate.

Peters has lit up the silver screen in 17 films throughout her distinguished career. She received a Golden Globe Award for her performance in "Pennies From Heaven" Film credits include "The Jerk" with Steve Martin, "The Longest Yard" with Burt Reynolds, "Silent Movie" with Mel Brooks, "Annie" with Carol Burnett, "Pink Cadillac" with Clint Eastwood, "Slaves of New York" with Mercedes Ruehl, Woody Allen's "Alice

with Mia Farrow, "Impromptu" with Hugh Grant and Mandy Patinkin, and most recently, "It Runs in the Family," starring opposite Kirk and Michael Douglas.

In addition to *Bernadette Peters in Concert*, the two week gala, which begins October 1, will include appearances by other nationally known artists as well as concerts and performances by local arts groups. Among those performing will be Del Valle Fine Arts, Bay Area Dance Company, Livermore-Amador Symphony, Livermore Valley Opera, Pleasanton Playhouse, Valley Dance Theatre, Pacific Chamber Symphony, Livermore School of Dance and Shakespeare's Associates. The complete schedule of events and ticket information will be announced in August.

The Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center is a partnership between the City of Livermore and the non-profit Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center, Inc., which was created to build and operate the Center's two theaters. Construction of the 500-seat facility started in February 2006 and is scheduled for completion in September, 2007. Also planned in a second phase is an 1,800-seat regional theater. In addition, the Center operates the Bothwell Arts Center, an arts incubator that provides classroom, studio and rehearsal space for area artists, students and arts organizations.

For more information, contact the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center at (925) 373-6100 or visit the website at [www.livermoreperformingarts.org](http://www.livermoreperformingarts.org).

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# VALLEY ROUNDUP

## RRW Funds Cut

The House Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee approved their spending bill for FY 2008 last week.

No funding was approved for the Reliable Replacement Warhead (RRW) program. The request had been for \$88.7 million for the program.

The Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory was recently selected to develop the RRW. Subcommittee Chairman Pete Visclosky (D-IN) was highly critical of DOE's history of poor project management and priorities in his statement.

He noted, "Without question, there is a need for a comprehensive nuclear defense strategy and stockpile plan to guide transformation and downsizing of the stockpile and nuclear weapons complex, and until progress is made on this critical issue, there will be no new facilities or Reliable Replacement Warhead. Only when a future nuclear weapons strategy is established can the Department of Energy determine the requirements for the future nuclear weapons stockpile and nuclear weapons complex plan."

"Given the serious international and domestic consequences of the U.S. initiating a new nuclear weapons production activity, it is critical that the administration lay out a comprehensive course of action before funding is appropriated. Given the track record of mismanagement at the agency for projects that have a

plan, I don't think it is asking too much for a comprehensive nuclear strategy before we build a new nuclear weapon."

## Grant for Haven

Through its continued efforts to help ensure a successful start for children ages 5 and younger, "First 5 Alameda County" announced allocation of more than \$5.1 million to fund 46 community organizations during the next two years.

The only grant to the valley was \$150,000 to the Tri-Valley Haven.

Available as part of the Every Child Counts Community Grants Initiative, these grant funds fulfill a key mission of the organization - to expand and enhance organizations serving local expectant women, young children and their families.

Funding will become effective on July 1, 2007.

## Corrections

The Excellence in Education Awards will be presented on Wednesday, June 6, 3:30-5 p.m. at Pleasanton Presbyterian Church. The event is open to all.

Ron Galatolo, age 44, the Chancellor of the San Mateo Community College District is the youngest chancellor in the state system, not the new Chabot-Las Positas Community College District chancellor as indicated in a story in The Independent.

# WHEELS

(continued from page one)

the Dublin/Pleasanton BART station. The Pleasanton portion of the route would not be operated during the midday hours.

• **New 1E - Dublin Ranch Villages - Dublin/Pleasanton BART Station - Fallon Middle School:** The change would implement a new commute hour service between Northern Dublin Ranch and the Dublin/Pleasanton BART station. The service would operate along Central Parkway and Dublin Ranch Drive connecting directly with the Dublin/Pleasanton BART station. Service would operate from approximately 6-9 AM and 4-7 PM. This route would also serve students traveling to/from Fallon Middle School.

• **3/3V - Stoneridge Mall/West Dublin: Route 3:** To better serve residents of West Dublin, WHEELS proposes to operate the route in both directions during the core PM commute hours. Three additional trips would operate in the clockwise direction from approximately 4-7 PM to serve passengers traveling to/from the Dublin/Pleasanton BART station. Two midday trips of the Route 3 would be removed from the Wildwood Road segment, with those 2 midday trips instead serving the Safeway Shopping Center on Amador Plaza Road (at Dublin Boulevard). On Saturdays, one additional AM and one additional PM trip would be provided, extending service to 6-11 AM and 2-8 PM. In the route's Hacienda Business Park portion,

north-south service would be moved one block to the west - from Willow Road to Chabot Drive.

• **Route 3V:** Two additional trips would be added in the AM serving the Shannon Park area and one additional PM trip to serve passengers traveling to/from the Dublin/Pleasanton BART station.

• **10 - Stoneridge Mall/BART Station/Livermore Transit Center/East Ave-Vasco Road:** WHEELS proposes to increase service frequency to more closely match those of BART trains - both on weekdays and on weekends. Midday service frequency on weekdays would increase from every 30 minutes to every 15 minutes. Some of the evening service frequency would increase from 40 minutes to 20 minutes. Saturday service frequency on East Avenue would be increased from 40 minutes to 20 minutes, and Sunday frequencies would increase from every 30 minutes to 20 minutes.

• **11 - Livermore Transit Center/Springtown:** WHEELS proposes to extend service from the Livermore Transit Center, to employment and retail centers located along Las Positas Road and First Street to Greenville Road. Service to Springtown would be discontinued but be filled by increased frequency on Route 15 (see below). The route would serve Scott Street and a portion of Portola Avenue. The new 11 route would no longer serve the Livermore Civic Center, leaving the service to Route 14. Options are being explored to bring Route 14 service closer to the new Livermore Library on Livermore Avenue. Service hours would be approximately 6-9 AM and 4-7 PM.

• **15 - Livermore Transit Center/Springtown:** WHEELS proposes increasing daytime service frequency from 60 minutes to 30 minutes on weekdays and Saturdays, with evening service remaining at every 60 minutes. Route 15 weekdays would start one hour earlier in the AM and operate one hour later in the evening, bringing its total service span to be approximately 5 AM to midnight.

• **20 - BART / East Avenue / Vasco / LLNL:** operate a longer service span in the AM with service beginning 5:45 AM with a last east-

bound bus leaving from the Dublin/Pleasanton BART station at 9:30 AM.

• **51 - BART / Santa Rita Jail:** Operated as weekend-only service between Dublin/Pleasanton BART and Santa Rita Jail, WHEELS proposes to extend service by 20 minutes in the evening to better coincide with the end of visiting hours at the Santa Rita Jail.

Express Routes

• **70X - Dublin/Pleasanton BART/Walnut Creek/BART/Pleasanton Hill/BART/Kaiser Medical Center/Walnut Creek:** WHEELS proposes an addition of four daily roundtrips, providing for consistent 30-minute frequency and an expansion of service hours (5:15-9:30 AM and 3:10-7:30 PM). This route will now serve the Kaiser Medical Center in Walnut Creek on the non-commute direction (northbound in AM, southbound in PM). Service would begin one hour earlier in the AM and operate one hour later in the PM.

Chnages are also proposed for shuttle and school service.

Those unable to attend the meeting, can review the proposed changes and submit comments via fax to 925-443-1375 or by e-mail to info@lavta.org or by mail to: WHEELS, 1362 Rutan Court, Suite 100, Livermore, CA 94551, Attention: Board of Directors.

Final route and schedule changes will be developed after all public comment is gathered and evaluated. New route and schedule information will be published in the WHEELS Bus Book and distributed two weeks prior to the effective date of the schedule change in August 2007.

# Pleasanton School Unions Back Health Care Bill

Pleasanton's two school unions are backers of SB 840, which would bring a form of universal health care to California.

Pat Mitchell, a member of the Pleasanton local of the California School Board employees, reported at a school board meeting earlier this month that union members rented a bus to take representatives to Sacramento to show support for the measure.

The delegation was too late to have a scheduled meeting with Assemblymember Mary Hayashi,

a co-sponsor of the bill. However, they did hear testimony before a committee, including stories by people who lost their health care coverage, said Mitchell.

Lary Aladeen, president of the Association of Pleasanton Teachers, told the Independent that the California Teachers Association has endorsed SB 840 statewide. There are several health insurance reform bills in the legislative hopper. However, SB 840 promises universal health coverage, which would benefit families the most,

said Aladeen.

Pleasanton school superintendent John Casey said that he is not aware of any state administrators' group taking a stand on health care bills. He noted that while the district has given teachers close to a cost of living increase between 3 and 4 percent, he has heard that one health insurance plan may be boosting its rates by 18 percent next year.

SB 840, whose author is Senator Sheila Kuehl, is patterned after laws in Maine and Arizona. It

would create a health care policy board appointed by a health care commissioner, who would be publicly elected. There would also be a public advisory board. It would be appointed by the governor, Assembly and Senate, and include representatives of consumers, business, labor, and health care providers.

The public advisory board would establish the scope of services, and set priorities and guidelines for evaluations, research, capital investment, and public input. It would also make decision about needed changes or increases in health care premiums.

Besides Hayashi, Assemblyman Alberto Torrico, whose district includes south Pleasanton, is a co-sponsor. Senator Ellen Corbett is a principal co-author. Sen. Don Perata, whose district includes Dublin and Livermore, is a co-sponsor.

Information about the bill may be downloaded at info.sen.ca.gov. The bill passed the Senate Health Committee, and is due for a hearing in the Senate Appropriations Committee May 31.

# OPENING

(continued from page one)

tended the Education for the Future Initiative with Victoria Bernhardt workshop to learn to use data for continuous school improvement.

Marylin staff members also visited schools with similar demographics but better student achievement, such as Moscone Elementary in San Francisco and Ralph Bunche in Compton. Bunche has improved its API from 445 in 1999, which put it in the lowest 10% of schools statewide, to 866 in 2006.

The walls of Keller's office are covered with flip charts and post-it notes, all part of the school's vision and two-year site plan, required for all PI schools. He and the staff developed "essential" standards on which teachers need to focus more attention.

"There is no way teachers can cover all of the state standards in depth," he explains. "We based our essential standards on what students need to succeed in life, in the next grade, and on the state test."

Common frequent assess-

ments are another tool already in place. Typically, a teacher conducts a pre-assessment of a class before teaching a particular concept, such as multiplication. Two weeks later, the students complete another assessment.

The assessments guide instruction because teachers know right away if what they are doing is working or not. They spend Wednesday afternoons, when students are released from school early, crunching the numbers and sharing successful strategies.

To maintain QEIA funding after the initial three years, Marylin must meet its API and AYP targets. Marylin's 2006 base API is 651 and its 2007 target is 658.

Keller is confident the school can meet its goals. He is aiming for 50% of students to score at proficient or greater in math and language arts. Currently, 30% of Marylin students are proficient in math and 25% at language arts.

Another criterion for continued funding is maintaining an experienced teaching staff. The average years of experience for

Marylin's staff must equal or exceed that of the District as a whole. Currently, Marylin has a sufficiently experienced staff. However, a couple of teachers are expected to retire within the next 2-3 years.

QEIA was the result of a lawsuit settlement over State education funding. State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell and the California Teachers Association jointly sued Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and the California Department of Finance for failing to fully fund Proposition 98 in the 2004-05 and 2005-06 budget years.

The legislation makes approximately \$3 billion available for the next seven years to improve the quality of academic instruction and the learning environment at the lowest-performing schools in the State.

To be eligible for QEIA, schools had to have been ranked 1 or 2 out of ten on the Base Year 2005 API. Marylin was the only school eligible in the Livermore School District.

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**Ask Kathleen**

Kathleen Minser, Waste Reduction Specialist, offers advice about the 4Rs: reduce, reuse, recycle, rot (compost).

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- To sign up, call WM by June 8, 2007. Since WM does not collect unsold items after the event, participants may keep them or donate them to a local charity.

Email Ask Kathleen questions to [AskKathleen@wm.com](mailto:AskKathleen@wm.com)





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# RODEO CORNER

## By Livermore Stockmen's Rodeo Association

Rodeo time is here. The months of preparation, the help from sponsors and support from local businesses have all paid off. In a few short days it will be all about fun in the sun and the thrill of the rodeo.

LSRA would like to express its gratitude to not only sponsors, who are many, but also to the local organizations that support us with time, space and energy. It goes without saying that The Independent is our main connection with the local community and we cannot say thank you enough. The Downtown Livermore Inc. is extremely supportive and is consistently pushing to increase the local awareness of the rodeo. Livermore Rotary is the sponsor, organizer and the reason there is a Rodeo Parade. They put this on for our benefit and to keep the long-standing tradition of rodeo in this town alive. Altogether, these organizations along with many, many volunteers and local businesses keep our rodeo and the historical tradition of rodeo alive in Livermore. The whole town benefits from your efforts and we are truly indebted and grateful.

Alright, pull your boots on and get your hat. Here's the low-down on Rodeo Week.

First and most important: All tickets can be purchased at Baughman's or by calling the Rodeo Office at 925-447-3008. The best way is to Baughman's at 2029 First Street in downtown and pick up your tickets. They're located next to the Donut Wheel.

Wednesday June 6<sup>th</sup> is the absolute best party of the year for the over 21 crowd. The Annual Rodeo Mixer and Team Penning is the kick off party and local team penning action. The event starts with the team penning competition where local cowboys and cowgirls are paired with a 'Greenhorn' and try to pen 2 cattle in under 3 minutes. Then there is a tri-tip barbeque and dancing to live music. Grab your favorite person, eat some great barbeque and dance under the stars till your feet hurt. Tickets are 20 bucks. You can buy them and a hat at Baughman's.

Thursday June 7<sup>th</sup> is Family Night sponsored by Albertsons/SaveMart grocery store, Cathy Graham State Farm Insurance and Wrangler Jeans Company. This is a free event. Family Night features local Slack and Team Roping event. Local cowboys and cowgirls compete in the Team Roping event to try and win a spot in the Pro Rodeo on Saturday and Sunday. There will be dollar hot dogs and dollar drinks sold by The Alameda County Cattle Women. Gates open at 5pm. The competition starts at 6pm.

Friday June 8<sup>th</sup> is Pro Slack. This starts at 8am and is the qualifying competition for the Professional cowboys and cowgirls in the timed events. Breakfast will be available and sold by the Alameda County Cattle Women. This event usually lasts 2-3 hours.

Saturday June 9<sup>th</sup> is the Rodeo Parade and the first day of the Livermore Rodeo. At 10am the Rodeo Parade starts downtown. The Livermore Rotary Club does an outstanding job with this parade and it is always crowded. When the parade is complete catch your breath and get ready for one of the most exciting and highest-rated rodeos in the country. The Livermore Rodeo starts at 2pm, gates open at noon. The show will include everything from all the emotion and gallantry of the Grand Entry to some of the roughest, ranked bulls in the business. Featured will be the best Rodeo Act, The One-Armed Bandit, and the best bullfighter, Joe Baumgartner, this year. Joe has been with us for many years and the Livermore event is one of only a few rodeos he works throughout the year. This next bit of info is very important. Saturday is 'Tough Enough to Wear Pink' day. Wear pink shirts or hats to show support for Breast Cancer Awareness and Breast Cancer survivors. Special shirts and pins will be sold to support Livermore's own Breast Cancer Library at ValleyCare Medical Center. It is one of only seven in the country. We're proud to support it any way we can so go ahead, be tough enough to wear pink.

Sunday June 10<sup>th</sup> is Gold Card Team Roping at 8am, Lil Pardner's at noon and the second day of Rodeo at 2pm. Gold Card is the Senior Tour of roping. The competitors are vying for a spot in the Sunday Pro Rodeo. Lil Pardner's is an event for a few of the physically disadvantaged kids in the community and involves lunch and some cowboy events in the arena just prior to the show. These kids have been signed up for a month and the feedback we get is one of pure excitement. Sunday's Rodeo starts at 2pm, gates open at 12pm and will include all of the events of Saturday's show and the final competition for the cowboys and cowgirls to see who wins the prize money and the buckles.

Livermore Rodeo Factoid: The Livermore Stockmen's Rodeo Association was formed the year after the first rodeo in 1918 and has always been a completely volunteer association.



Photo - Christina Yung

The Christensen Middle School choir performed two songs for The Independent staff on Tuesday. In the photo, the choir is standing on the amphitheater stage in front of the 500-seat performing arts theater. One song, "Dirait-on," is from "Las Chansons des Roses" by Morten Lauridsen. Music director Carrie Seng pointed out that the Livermore Cultural Arts Council donated a stand and carrier for a portable piano. State grant monies paid for the piano. "That means we can sing anywhere," said Seng.

## Pleasanton Police Plan Meeting for Parents

The Pleasanton Police Department will host a Town Hall Meeting for parents of teen drivers on Thurs., June 7.

The meeting will take place starting at 6:30 p.m. in the Amador Valley High School library. Topics to be discussed will include a variety of teen driving, alcohol and safety issues that parents need to be aware of. An important goal of the meeting is to emphasize the need for parental support and involvement.

On hand to offer perspectives on the enforcement of

California's provisional license laws, as well as teen DUI and driver safety issues, will be one of Alameda County's traffic commissioners, several members of the Pleasanton Police Department's traffic enforcement unit and the department's two school resource officers.

Parents of Amador and Foothill teens will have an opportunity to view an abbreviated documentary of the "Every 15 Minutes" teen drinking program shown to juniors and seniors.

Though aimed at parents, the

meeting is open to all. For more information, please contact Traffic Sergeant Michael Collins at 931-5186.



1928 Ford Roadster - Sleek custom cars like this 1940 Ford coupe will be the featured attraction

## Goodguys Summer Get Together Set

Over 2,500 hot rods and custom cars will sprawl throughout the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton for the Goodguys 14th Summer Get-Together, June 2 and 3.

The event features over 2,000 American-made or American-powered cars and trucks, huge swap meet and Cars 4 Sale Corral, Model/Pedal Car Show, Kids' Fun Area, Goodgals Gallery, and much more.

Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday.

Tickets are \$13 general admission, \$6 ages 7 to 12 and children 6 and under are admitted free. Parking is \$8.

For information, go to 222.good-guys.com.

## OBITUARIES

### Elizabeth (Beth) Coleman

Elizabeth (Beth) Coleman died May 20, 2007 in Half Moon Bay. She was 45.

The native of Oakland, had lived in Half Moon Bay for three years. Prior to that she lived in Livermore for 15 years. Beth earned an associate degree from Diablo Valley College in Pleasant Hill. She worked as the general manager for Marriott Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco for five years. She loved the beach, hiking, reading and being with her family.

She is survived by her parents, Valerie Gannon of Dublin and Mark Johnson of St. Paul, MN; daughter Brienne Coleman of Long Beach, a sister Christy Gannon of Livermore, brothers Tony Gannon of Livermore and Sam Gannon of Tulare, four nephews and two nieces.

A memorial service was held May 25 in Pleasanton.

Arrangements by Graham-Hitch Mortuary.

### Vickie Lou Governor

Vickie Lou Governor died May 21, 2007 in Livermore.

She had lived in Livermore for 39 years. Vickie was a loving person. She had a gift for drawing. She left us too soon and will be missed by all who knew her.

She is survived by her husband, Charles, sons Nathaniel and Matthew, her father Jay and stepmother Gertrude, and brother Eddie Governor of Livermore. She was preceded in death by her mother Sally in 1997.

A private celebration of her life will be held.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

### Mark Gilbert Foster

Mark Gilbert Foster, a resident of Pleasanton for 42 years, passed away May 24, 2007. He was 81. He was born Jan 7, 1926 in Hayward, CA.

Mark was a Scout Master in Pleasanton, a parishioner of St. Augustine Catholic Church, a 48+ year member of Knights of Columbus, a lifetime member of Postal Supervisors Association, retired Pleasanton Post Master, past President of Alameda County Post Masters Assoc. and a contributing member of the Hayward Area Historical Society for over 40 years.

Mark's hobbies included fishing, camping, gardening, collecting stamps and coins. He visited Maui 17 times.

Mark is preceded in death by his brother; Robert Foster in 2002. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Betty; his children, Mark Foster, Thomas Foster, Cynthia Cude, and Nancy Yarbrough all of Livermore and Jim Foster of Modesto, his brothers, David Foster of Hayward, Richard Foster of Reno, Raymond Foster of Oakdale, as well as 8 grandchildren, and 7 great grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. on Friday, June 1,

at Callaghan Mortuary, 3833 East Ave., Livermore. Inurnment at Memory Gardens Cemetery, Livermore.

Donations may be made to American Diabetes Association.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

### Carl Lyle Boyd Jr.

Carl Lyle Boyd Jr. died May 24, 2007 at his home in Livermore as a result of his battle with cancer. He was 30.

Carl was born in Lodi, Ca and moved to Livermore after graduation from Tokay High School in 1994. After high school, he pursued his love of computers by becoming a network engineer and eventually opened his own business. Carl was always a very bright young man who was fascinated by how things worked. He would often find a reason to take apart his new appliances or gadgets to learn what made them tick. He also was an interested political observer and could always be counted on to share his opinions in a debate. Additionally, Carl loved old 1980's sitcoms and shows and cartoons that appealed to his sarcastic sense of humor. He will be missed by his family, friends and colleagues.

He is survived by his wife, Alicia, their unborn child, his parents, Leslie and Carl Boyd Sr., his grandmother and grandfather and numerous aunts and uncles.

Services will be held at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday May 31st, at Callaghan's Mortuary, 3833 East Ave. in Livermore.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alicia Boyd Trustee of the Boyd Educational Fund at the Bank of America, First Street branch in Livermore.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

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For more info on this & other events, please contact Livermore Downtown Inc. 925-373-1795  
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Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Fans waited in lines to view World War II bombers that flew into the Livermore Airport over the weekend. Planes land were the Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress and Consolidated B-24 Liberator heavy bombers, and the North American B-25 Mitchell medium bomber.

## COMPLEX

(continued from page one)

100 individual parcels, with a wide variety of ownerships, ranging from individuals and families to corporate investment.

Two of the proposed office buildings would each be 165,000 square feet, six stories tall, and oriented toward Interstate 580. Another office building, oriented toward Owens Drive, would provide 150,000 square feet, and be six stories tall. The three parking structures would be four-to-five stories tall, but would present a profile one story lower, and have roof-deck parking.

The hotel would have 93,000 square feet and include a 10,000 square-foot retail space related to the hotel usage and the rest of the CarrAmerica complex, said Paxson.

Paxson said that the office park is "very supportive of the

project. It's a good use for the site."

The work session on Wednesday was designed to provide the city a first look at the plans, and collect questions and comments from planning commissioners. There is no estimated date to begin or complete construction, said Paxson.

Access from Interstate 580 to the CarrAmerica site is via Hacienda Drive. That close access and the availability of the Pleasanton BART station nearby should soften increased traffic impact, said Paxson. Hacienda Business Park also works closely with Wheels for scheduling, and provides free rides for all employees and residents inside the park.

Paxson said that CarrAmerica wants to go ahead with more office space because the business future in the Tri-Valley looks bright. "Tenants are available in the market now. We've had some large relocations to Hacienda, for example Kaiser and the State Compensation Fund. They made decisions on the quality of the real estate they found here. We have access to the Bay Area labor market, and a good infrastructure of streets and roads, water and sewer. We have four independent fiber-optics operations crossing the park."

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## Retiring Las Positas President Celebrated

Colleagues, friends and family gathered in Las Positas College's new multidisciplinary building last week to celebrate the career of retiring President Karen Halliday.

Halliday has led Las Positas since 2002. Prior to that she served for two years as interim president. College trustees have named Robert Kratochvil, vice-president of business services, to serve as the interim president while a search is conducted for Halliday's successor.

Halliday presided over her final official event on Saturday, May 26 when Las Positas conducted its annual graduation. It's one of her favorite days. During the rehearsal prior to the ceremony, Halliday asked people to stand up if they fit into various categories of achievement or have other traits.

Her goal was to have every student stand up at least once when the exercise is repeated during the formal ceremony.

She likes it because it's focused on the students, a culture she and her predecessors have built at Las Positas throughout the faculty and staff.

"I remember the first time I came to Las Positas when I was on the state chancellor's staff. I told my husband, Jim, that this was a college staff that sincerely cared about students and each other."

As Halliday leaves, the college compares favorably with its peers on state and national standards. She's very proud that the staff still is striving to improve for students.

The new classroom building, which contains seven smart classrooms as well as a 210-seat lecture hall, is part of the creative and focused planning process that Halliday led to plan for the build-out of the campus. The campus-wide process looked at the educational needs and then matched the facilities to that. The effort received national recognition.

One of her key achievements has been the launching of the college foundation, which now has raised more than \$800,000 to benefit the college. The foundation board of directors has continued to grow and attract community leaders.

Halliday not only has maintained the college's excellence academically, but invested lots of time in effective community relations. The college is well re-



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

### Karen Halliday retires.

garded in each of the three communities it serves. The mayors of all three Valley cities, plus Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty serve on the foundation advisory committee.

She was the major force in lining up community support for Measure B, the \$498 million district facilities bond, which vot-

ers approved in 2004.

One of her key responsibilities was hiring faculty, a choice she described as a \$2 million decision for each post. When the screening committee brought her a final group of three or four, she insisted that each person be of such quality that any of the finalists could do the job well.

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