



Serving ice cream at last year's social.

Ravenswood to Host Annual Ice Cream Social

The Ravenswood Historic Site in Livermore hosts its Annual Ice Cream Social on Sunday, August 12 from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.

This family event is free to the public. Ice cream, hot dogs and other treats will be available for purchase. There will be games, music, historic demonstrations and much more. The event is sponsored by the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) and the Ravenswood Progress League. All funds raised will go towards the restoration of the Ravenswood Historic Site.

Ravenswood features two Victorian houses set on spacious landscaped grounds with a gazebo, large shady trees and a vineyard. The site is on the National Register of Historic Places.

(See ICE CREAM, page 9)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen
The annual Pooch Parade was held last Wednesday in Pleasanton. A dog dressed as Harry Potter took second prize in the costume category.

Renovation Of Veterans Building Nearly Complete

The renovation of the Veterans Memorial Building is nearing completion. The temporary construction fencing will be removed this week. The building will remain closed during final construction as finishing and detail work continues through the end of the month.

A rededication ceremony is scheduled for Sunday, October 7 at 1:00 p.m. Following the ceremony, the facility will be open until 5:00 pm for tours.

This \$4.8 million renovation project preserved the building's exterior appearance and restored significant interior features, including many that are historic.

The renovation addressed safety issues by bringing the building into compliance with the current building code, while also upgrading all building systems for program needs, energy efficiency and cost effectiveness.

To seismically strengthen the building, the roof was removed, steel columns were craned into place and attached to the exist-

(See BUILDING, page 3)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen
Several fire departments responded to a fire at Cedar Mountain Winery last Tuesday. No structures were threatened by the blaze.

LVCS Limits New Hires, Shortens School Day

By Patricia Koning

Last week, parents of students attending the Livermore Valley Charter School (LVCS) learned the details behind the \$2.5 million cut from the original budget for the 2007/08 school year. The majority of the cuts are in the areas of staffing and facilities.

Approximately \$470,000 was cut from the proposed certificated staff. No teachers from the current staff were laid off; new positions were not filled, including a vice principal and several middle school teachers.

On the classified side, \$405,000 was cut from the origi-

nal 2007/08 budget. Areas affected include physical education, library, custodial, security, and yard duty.

The school will also realize approximately \$260,000 in savings in benefit payments as a result of limiting the staff size.

The Choice for Children Education Foundation (CCEF), a nonprofit fund-raising entity that supports LVCS, is hoping to raise enough money in its annual fund-raising drive to fund the librarian, custodial staff, yard duty, campus security, and middle school laptop program.

The school's popular laptop program, in which middle school students are given their own laptops for school and home use during the school year, is also taking a hit. Laptops for the additional middle school grade (LVCS was K-7 last year and will be K-8 this year) are not included in the current budget, a savings of approximately \$130,000.

The school leased laptops from Dell and Toshiba in its first two years. Both leases are for three years; the school is in the second year on the Toshiba laptops and the third year on the Dell laptops.

"We need to alter how technology is handled," said Bill Batchelor, president of the LVCS Board of Directors. "Once we are out of these leases, my hope is to purchase equipment."

If CCEF reaches its fund-raising goal, the foundation would pick up the remaining cost of the laptop program. In the 2006/07 school year, CCEF raised over \$500,000 through parent contributions, bingo, and annual events.

A savings of over \$400,000 in facilities costs was realized by not adding portables to the LVCS campus. Another 128 students

will join the student body this year—one class in the second grade and three classes of eighth graders. To accommodate the new students without additional classroom space, the middle school schedule was adjusted to a six-period day.

Parents of middle school students have expressed concern that LVCS is reverting to a traditional middle school in terms of schedules and subjects taught. One particularly sore area is the lack of an instrumental music program.

Batchelor said he has been (See CHARTER, page 2)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Billy Tonis flies high.

Disability Fails to Douse Athlete's Competitive Fire

Livermore resident Billy Tonis loves sports and the competitive spirit too much to let a disabling injury halt him.

Tonis, 31, was in Orlando, Florida this past July 19-21, participating in the wakeboarding event at the O&P Extremity Games. This was his second time in the Extremity Games; last year he placed third. He finished second this year.

"I'm moving up one rung every year. I'll be first next year," Tonis says, chuckling.

The Extremity Games are an offshoot of the X-Games, with many of the same events. How-

ever, the competitors in the Extremity Games are all athletes with a limb loss or limb disability.

Tonis played college baseball at Ohlone and San Francisco State and was also a golfer. He was a catcher, good enough to be recruited by the Chicago White Sox.

That prospective career came to a crashing end in 1998 when he had a motorcycle accident in San Ramon and suffered a devastating brachial plexus injury. The crash severed some of his spinal nerves and snapped his femur in half. Tonis spent five

days in ICU. The accident left him with a paralyzed right arm, his throwing arm, from the shoulder down.

He brooded about the life now awaiting him, but his mood soon rebounded. "The competitive spirit was still very much alive in me. The competitive spirit, there's just no replacement for it," Tonis says.

A buddy took him to a lake and introduced him to wakeboarding. The sport is a water version of snowboarding. "I instantly felt a passion for it. I've been wakeboarding ever

(See ATHLETE, page 3)

Haggerty Has Harsh Words for Pleasanton

If either of the Pleasanton citizen initiatives targeting Staples Ranch were approved by voters, Alameda County will make the land available to Livermore to annex.

That was one of the statements made by County Supervisor Scott Haggerty during his annual State of the County talk. The presentation was made at a Livermore Chamber of Commerce luncheon.

His comments about Staples Ranch included some harsh words for the City of Pleasanton.

"Staples Ranch is of value to Livermore. There are two Pleasanton citizen initiatives being circulated. One would keep the land in open space. The other sets aside 37 acres for an auto mall. If either initiative were approved," Haggerty stated, "the county would give Livermore the project and the \$3 million in tax revenues each year that goes with it."

"I'm tired of playing around with this. We've messed around with this over and over because of a small group of people. If Livermore doesn't want it, Dub-

lin has said they will take it," said Haggerty.

The two Pleasanton citizen initiatives are viewed by Haggerty and others as a means of blocking the extension of Stoneridge Drive. Without the Staples Ranch development, the demand for the extension and funds for it would be reduced.

Livermore residents must vote to extend their urban growth boundary to annex the planned development.

"Stoneridge should be built. A couple of people are making life miserable for the entire Tri-Valley. It's not just about circulation, it's a safety and health issue for Livermore residents trying to get to the hospital for emergency service," declared Haggerty.

The Stoneridge Drive right-of-way is part of Staples Ranch, which is owned by Alameda County. The Pleasanton City Council has agreed to keep the right-of-way in the general plan. If it were ever removed, the land would revert to the county.

Haggerty also discussed the proposed Livermore Valley (See TALK, page 4)

Houston Will Run Against Ally For Supervisorial Seat

Assemblyman Guy Houston will not run for re-election even if term limits are extended. Instead Houston will make a bid to become a Contra Costa County supervisor next year, running against an incumbent who is a former political aide.

Houston is scheduled to be termed out of office next year. He

told the Independent on Monday that even if voters extend term limits for incumbents in an initiative in the presidential primary election Feb. 5, he will not run for another term in the 15th Assembly District. Instead, Houston will oppose supervisor Mary Nejedly Piepho, who was elected (See HOUSTON, page 4)

Vasco Road Safety Efforts Move Forward

Efforts are underway to make Vasco Road safer by straightening a portion of the road.

Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty was joined by other local officials in a groundbreaking ceremony to move two gas lines to accommodate construction of improvements to Vasco Road in unincorporated Livermore.

"Relocating these PG&E gas lines is a prelude to the construction of the County's new section of Vasco Road slated to begin this

Fall," said Haggerty. "It's been almost a decade during which we've worked to advance this project through some especially challenging economic times. It's definitely called for some creative and collaborative efforts to design, fund and construct a road that will help to improve safety for motorists traveling on Vasco Road in Alameda County."

The new segment will replace 1.3-mile that has winding (See VASCO, page 2)

Board Candidates Narrowed to Three

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) Board of Directors voted last Wednesday to interview three persons who submitted applications for the seat left vacant by the resignation of Director Dale Turner.

The Board reviewed the applications of six candidates for the vacancy and voted to advance the three for an interview. They are Robert J. Coomber, Jr., Corey L. Nelson and Beth Wilson. The applicants were interviewed at the Wednesday, August 8 meeting. Following the interviews that

evening, the Board may make a selection to fill the vacant seat. The meeting took place after The Independent's deadline.

Other candidates, who were not selected as finalists, are former board member Alice Quinn, Stan Peters, and Mark Thrailkill.

Last week, the Board voted to appoint Director Steve Goodman as the panel's President. The Board also voted to elect Director Maryalice Faltings to the position of Vice-President.



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Helping to plant young vines were Anastasia Bendebury and Yulia Bendebury.

New Vineyard Planted at Las Positas College

Students and faculty director David Everett planted grapevines at Las Positas College's new vineyard.

The 3-acre vineyard will be-

come a hands-on classroom that students will use as part of Las Positas' viticulture and winery technology program. The college offers 16 courses in this program

designed to prepare graduates to work in the wine industry.

The three-year-old program was started to support the Liver- (See VINEYARDS, page 3)

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PETS OF THE WEEK

Cowboy and his brothers are just three of a large selection of adorable kittens available for adoption at Valley Humane Society. They are all well socialized, healthy, and cuddly. All cats and kittens, dogs and puppies available from Valley Humane have been spayed or neutered, micro-chipped, dewormed, and have their age-appropriate vaccinations. For

more information about our kittens, call Valley Humane Society at 925-426-8656, or visit them at our Adoption Center at 3670 Nevada St. in Pleasanton's Stanley Business Park Wed-Sun 11 am-5 pm. Valley Humane Society holds mobile pet adoptions for dogs at Pet Extreme in Livermore every Saturday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Do You Remember?

By Anne Homan



The Irish in Murray Township

The six-year-old grabbed the worn rope handle of the wooden bucket his mother handed him and followed the path to the side yard of the cottage, where the potato pit had been dug. Whistling, he swung the bucket back and forth as he walked, as high as he could stretch, like a pendulum gone amok. He knelt to loose back the straw covering the pit, reached in, and stirred the peels dirt, feeling for a potato. He pulled one out, but instead of dropping it in the bucket, he remained stock still, staring at the stinking black mass that melted in his hand. Disgusted, he threw it on the ground and reached in the dirt several more times, only to find more of the same rotting substance.

With a partial crop failure in 1845, the nightmarish saga of invasion of Ireland by potato blight began. By 1846 the disease had affected the potato crop of the entire country. The results were catastrophic. The potato, introduced from South America 200 years earlier, had become the mainstay of the Irish diet. Potato blight is caused by a fungus with tiny spores that can quickly and imperceptibly infect an entire healthy field of growing potatoes. Often the harvested potatoes appeared fine when first stored in the pits; only later did the rotting effects of the disease appear.

To make matters worse, the winter of 1846-47 proved to be the coldest and most prolonged that Ireland had known. Then the blight struck again in 1848. The toll: more than a million and a half people in a country of eight million died of starvation or from problems exacerbated by lack of nourishing food. Another million chose to emigrate between 1845 and 1851, many to the United States.

The 1880 Alameda County census shows that the Irish were by far the largest group of foreign-born settlers in Murray Township. Often, they followed the usual custom of many immigrants by sending travel money back to Ireland for their relatives and friends to follow in their footsteps. Even the name of our township is Irish, named for the first member of the family, Michael Murray, who came in here in 1850 and bought property from José María Amador. He served as Alameda County Supervisor in 1860 and 1861. His relatives from County Roscommon soon arrived, and their descendants still remain, longtime sheepmen, farmers and cattlemen in the valley.

Dublin itself is said to have been named for its large Irish population. John Green emigrated from County Longford in 1851. He arrived in California in 1858 and by 1862 had paid Michael Murray for his property. Green built a general store and a hotel in the 1860s at the southeast and southwest corners respectively of what is now Dublin Boulevard and Donlon Way, then the main arteries for north/south and east/west travel. He served for many years as the Dublin postmaster and was elected Alameda County Supervisor from 1863 to 1866 and again from 1877 to 1882. Greenville Road in Livermore is named for him because he had another store in that area on the old Stockton Road.

Livermore also had its share of Irish immigrants. John McGlinchey came in 1882 from Donegal, Ireland, to Canada and then traveled by train cross-country to Livermore. He raised sheep in the Corral Hollow area. McGlinchey was one of the founders of the Stockmen's Protective Association, formed in 1904 to prevent and fight fires, control hunting and address other mutual problems in local rural areas. McGlinchey was elected president and organized the fire crews. Eventually he was appointed county fire warden and developed the Alameda County Fire Patrol. He fought more than 2,000 fires in his lifetime. Under his leadership, the stockmen also took on the challenge in 1918 of sponsoring the Livermore rodeo.

Another sheepman, Michael Mulqueeny, who had emigrated from County Clare, Ireland, was running his flocks on 4,000 acres in the Altamont hills near Midway by 1882. The *Alameda County History of 1883* called him "the acknowledged king of that industry in this section of the state, having from five to eight thousand head of sheep on his range." He acquired more land, and eventually his descendants switched from sheep to cattle. Today, they also have many windmills on their property.

Perhaps the most famous person to come to our valley from Ireland was James Concannon. He was born on St. Patrick's Day in 1847, to a Gaelic-speaking fisherman's family on Inisman, one of the windswept Aran Islands west of Galway Bay. He immigrated to the United States when he was 18, eventually coming to Livermore in 1883 to plant his first vineyard and establish his winery. This year, his grandson, Jim Concannon, published a beautiful history of the winery, *Concannon*.

Isabel Nolte has also published a book recently, *The Early Pioneers in the Livermore Valley Were One Big Family*; it covers many local Irish families, including the Armstrongs, Callaghans, Colliers, Croaks, Doolans, Fallons, Gallaghers, Kellys, Moys and Twoheys. It is available from the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society. (Readers can reach me at am50homan@yahoo.com.)

VASCO

(continued from page one)

curves, lacks guardrails and has restricted sight distance. There will also be median barriers. This project will reconstruct the roadway on a new and improved alignment and grade, provide wider shoulders and add a truck/bus climbing lane to improve traffic operations and safety.

The segment is near the Vasco Landfill in Alameda County.

The first phase of the project includes the relocation of two natural gas pipelines by Pacific Gas and Electric Company. In order to straighten out the section of roadway, PG&E will relocate a 24" and one 36" natural gas pipelines that run through the area. The preliminary location and preparation for the relocation of the pipelines is already underway.

Some 20,000 vehicles travel the two-lane Vasco Road each day. Sixteen people have died in collisions on the road since 2003.

According to the California Highway Patrol, speeding drivers cause most Vasco Road accidents. Because of the limited passing lanes on the road, tailgating is also a major problem.

Supervisor Haggerty commented during his state of the county talk that Alameda County is designing the new road with a median barrier. "We will not see cross-over head-ons in the future," Haggerty added, "We can build the best roads in the world. We can't build for stupidity."

Vasco Road is a regional roadway that has become the primary access between job centers in the Tri-Valley area of Alameda

County and residences in the southern portion of east Contra Costa County. The upgrades are expected to improve traffic flow and safety and facilitate express and regular bus service between the two counties.

The estimated costs of the project is \$30 million. Funding for the project has been secured from Alameda County, the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA), the Alameda County Congestion Management Agency (ACCMA), the Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority (ACTIA), the East County [Contra Costa] Transportation Improvement Authority (ECTIA), and federal earmark funding included in SAFETEA-LU. Additional support for the project is being sought from federal sources, State Transportation Improvement Project (STIP), as well as the ECTIA and Alameda's Tri-Valley Transportation Council (TVTC).

The realignment is just another step in efforts to improve safety on the road.

In 2006, Brentwood and Livermore police departments received a two-year grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety to step up traffic enforcement on Vasco Road. The funds provide about 25 hours of overtime pay per week to be split between the two police departments. In August of 2006, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed a bill that doubled fines for traffic violations along the corridor. Rumble strips and vertical delineators were added to the road in the past couple of years.

CHARTER

(continued from page one)

talking with Brenda Miller, Superintendent of the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District, about sharing resources so LVCS can offer instrumental music as an elective for middle school students. One issue is hiring a teacher for just one class a day.

This change also led to a shortened school day for all students except kindergartners. Middle school students will be released at 2:25 p.m. rather than 3 p.m. Students in grades 1-5 will be released at 2:45 p.m., rather than 3:15 p.m.

Even with the shortened school day, LVCS' academic program still far exceeds state standards for educational minutes. Kindergartners receive 43,680 instructional minutes per year, compared with the state minimum of 36,000. Students in grades 1-8 will receive approxi-

mately 64,500 instructional minutes, compared with the state minimum of 50,400 in grades 1-3 and 54,000 in grades 4-8.

LVJUSD offers 36,000 instructional minutes for kindergarten in all elementary schools except Marylin and Portola, which have extended day programs. Students in grades 1-8 receive approximately 53,000-56,000 instructional minutes per year, with exact amounts varying by school site.

The LVCS calendar for the 2007/08 school year was also adjusted. December 21 was added to the winter break, which lasts through Jan. 4 (students return to school on Jan. 7). A scheduled three-day break in early March so that teachers could attend a charter school conference has been cancelled. The last day of school, which was originally planned for June 13, will be on June 12, the same as LVJUSD.

Meet and Greet 'Les' Knott at the Park

A chance to meet and greet Lester "Les" Knott will be held August 11 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Residents of five developments near the Lester J. "Les" Knott Neighborhood Park are invited to attend.

Knott served on the LARPD Board of Directors from 1958-1982. He turned 89 years old on July 31, 2007. Residents in the

area of the 5.2 acre park known as Lester Knott Park have enjoyed this center piece of their development for over 11 years.

Lester J. Knott Neighborhood Park is located at 655 N. Mines Road, Livermore. There is a tot lot, barbecue pits, picnic tables and a basketball court. The event will include a visit from Sparkles the Clown from noon to 2 p.m.

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College to Host Expo on August 14

Las Positas College (LPC) in Livermore will host Expo LPC 2007 on Tuesday, August 14, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:20 p.m.

Expo LPC is a one-half unit college orientation that includes a tour of the 147-acre campus, a preview to college life, college success strategies, important academic information, an opportunity to meet faculty, staff and fellow students, food, and fun activities.

All new and re-entry students enrolled in 6 or more units are encouraged to register for the August 14 Expo orientation (PSCN 24 section - course code CRN# 20955).

For more information, please call Veronica Jennings at (925)

424-1421 or the Counseling office at (925) 424-1400.

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 Skincare awards by Obagi
 Obagi products purchased during the event will be 20% off.
 Also appearing: Stonewear Jewelry Personal Gems
 Tue August 28th 7-9 p.m.
 Demos by ColorScience Rep.
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The Taylor Family Foundation presents the 17th Annual
Day in the Park
 Sunday, August 26, 2007
 12:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
 Camp Arroyo, Livermore
 Silent Auction • Live Auction • Celebrity Guests
 Gourmet Luncheon and Wine Tasting • Camp Tour
 90% of all proceeds benefit Camp Arroyo, a camp for Northern California children suffering from life-threatening illnesses and disabilities.
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VALLEY ROUNDUP

McNerney Chamber Speaker

Congressman Jerry McNerney will discuss the latest issues in Washington D.C. at the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce Tues., Aug. 28 luncheon.

McNerney was sworn into office on January 4, 2007. He serves in the U.S. House of Representatives representing California's 11th District, which includes parts of San Joaquin County in the Central Valley as well as parts of Contra Costa, Alameda and Santa Clara Counties in the Bay Area.

The luncheon will be held at Wente Vineyards in the Cresta Blanca room, 5050 Arroyo Road, Livermore. 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Chamber Luncheons are open to the community. Cost is \$30 per person for members; \$35 for non-members. Limited space available. For reservations, call (925) 846-5858.

Texas A&M Affiliated with Lab

The Texas A&M University System last week announced its affiliation with Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC (LLNS), which was selected in May to be the management and operations contractor for Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL).

The Texas A&M System is an academic affiliate of LLNS, a management team that includes Bechtel National, Inc., the University of California, BWX Technologies, Inc., Washington Group International, Inc and Battelle. The A&M System's role, subject to DOE approval, will be to operate an institute at LLNL dedicated to national security education and research. The concept paper to establish the institute was presented

and discussed last week at the regular meeting of the A&M System Board of Regents.

Once approved, the institute will collaborate with LLNS to develop educational and research programs in three areas: detection and prevention of the proliferation of nuclear and radiological weapons; large-scale computer simulations of complex physical processes; and homeland and international security. The institute also will collaborate with LLNS to develop a multidisciplinary educational program.

Three A&M System members—Texas A&M University, the Texas Engineering Experiment Station and the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station—are partners in the System's academic alliance with LLNS. The collaboration is led by Marvin Adams, associate vice president for research and professor of nuclear engineering at Texas A&M University. Adams is slated to become director of the institute when it is officially established by the A&M System Board of Regents.

Faculty in several colleges at Texas A&M will participate in the collaboration, including the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Bush School of Government and Public Service, Dwight Look College of Engineering, College of Science and College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. Also involved in the institute are the Integrative Center for Homeland Security, the Nuclear Security Science and Policy Institute and the Center for Large-Scale Scientific Simulations, all located at Texas A&M. Other A&M System universities involved with the institute are Prairie View A&M University and Texas A&M University-Kingsville.



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Monday marked the 62nd anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombing of Hiroshima. Anti-nuclear activists gathered at the West Gate of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory to commemorate the day. The gathering, which included poetry, music and spoken word, ended with an air raid siren and moment of silence at 8:15 a.m., the time of day the bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. Several protestors were arrested for blocking access to the Lab. In the photo, some of the demonstrators are drawing outlines of "nuclear victims" on the road. Among those on hand for the event was Daniel Ellsberg.

BUILDING

(continued from page one)

ing concrete walls; the roof was then seismically sheathed with plywood and the original hand fabricated terra cotta barrel were replaced. Lighting upgrades were added. Both fire protection and security systems were installed, and air conditioning and heating systems added, without impact to the historical integrity of the facility.

The building has been made accessible to the disabled by the

addition of ramps at all entrances.

The City will move the veterans' organizations back into the building in mid-September. As part of the renovation, the two rooms dedicated for use by the Veterans' of Pleasanton (VOP) organization - comprised of VFW Post 6298 and Ladies Auxiliary, and American Legion Post 237 - have been improved.

The renovation project was

one of the five city council priorities.

The building was first completed in 1933 at a cost of \$38,800. At that time, a dedication ceremony featured a five-piece orchestra and American Legion representatives. Community leaders were present, including Alameda County Attorney General Earl Warren, who later became Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

VINEYARD

(continued from page one)

more Valley wine industry. The wineries range from the pioneer wineries of Wente Vineyards and Concannon Vineyards that have operated for more than 120 years to wineries established in the last few years.

The local Livermore wineries have welcomed Las Positas students into their facilities to take part in a work exchange program and have donated materials as well as provided advice, said David Everett, faculty/program coordinator of viticulture and winery technology department.

"The vineyard will be a hands-on classroom where students can learn principles and disciplines and really experience a Livermore vineyard during class time," Everett said.

About 60 students are currently enrolled in the viticulture program at Las Positas. Some are pursuing a track that will lead to further studies in winemaking, while others are working on the grape-growing and winery operations track.

Several varieties of grapes were planted including Portuguese, Spanish and Rhone varietals as well as traditional grapes such as cabernet sauvignon and cabernet franc. The white grape plantings will be viognier, albarino and sauvignon blanc, which Everett said is like an heirloom grape here in the valley, steeped in Livermore Valley history. There will

be enough vines planted of each variety to make a minimum of one barrel of wine, which will also offer valuable blending opportunities.

"This is more of a research vineyard site as opposed to production for cash flow," Everett said. "We will experiment and see what works. One goal is to provide answers for valley vintners. Lots of people don't have the opportunity to do trials and experiments and see what works. In the name of education, we don't have to worry about failing. Failing can give as many good answers as succeeding," he said.

Once the vines are mature and producing, plans call for the enology department to make wine. Eventually, the college plans to sell both grapes and bottled wine.

Napa Community College has just received its bonding approval from the state and now can sell its wine at retail. There are

also wine programs at Santa Rosa and Modesto community colleges.

For further information, please contact David Everett, faculty/program coordinator of viticulture and winery technology department, at (925) 285-3954 cell or by email deverett@laspositascollege.edu.

Deadline Friday to File for Election

The deadline for candidates to file for Livermore city council or mayor for the November 6, 2007 election is tomorrow Friday, August 10 at 5:00 p.m.

As of Tuesday, incumbents Mayor Marshall Kamena, Councilmembers Lorraine Dietrich and Marj Leider had filed. The only other candidate is Jeff Williams, who is running for council.

Nomination papers are available at the city clerk's office in city hall.

ATHLETE

(continued from page one)

since," he says.

Tonis has become so engrossed in wakeboarding that he has co-founded a business, CIE Sports, devoted to the sport. It markets wakeboarding gear and is active in promoting the sport nationwide — indeed, worldwide. Tonis says wakeboarding is spreading. He has met wakeboarders from Germany and Holland.

Tonis is married. He and wife Allison moved to Livermore from Dublin about a year ago. Their household includes a sweet, gentle 5-year-old pit bull named Jade.

The wakeboarding season runs about nine months, beginning around March and continuing to December, with a winter break when the lakes and Delta waters turn cold.

Tonis is out there every weekend. He competes in Advanced, one of the higher categories.

The highest is Outlaw. Tonis says the Outlaw competition is for pros and is beyond his abilities.

He is proud to be good enough to compete in Advanced. In the competitions he commonly places in the top three. With his disability, no one would begrudge him if he competed in a lower category. "I could do that and bring home a lot of first place trophies, but I'd rather be in competition that challenges me. I do pretty good," Tonis explains.

He goes wakeboarding with three friends, Jarrod Ehlers of Castro Valley, Evan Brown of Dublin and Allen Bischofberger of Tracy. "They motivate me.

They push me to do my best. I really owe them a lot," Tonis says.

Jarrod Ehlers sits nearby, listening. He says, "Billy is known throughout the industry. He's known for what he does and how he does it. All the pros know him. He has the reputation of being a top-notch athlete. Billy has to live with that disability, but he doesn't let it slow him down."

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Pen Women Display Work

An exhibition of work by members of the Diablo-Alameda Branch of American Pen Women is currently at the John O'League Galleria in Hayward.

"Art: Believe/Achieve" will be at the gallery through September 27.

Pen Women represented are Kazumi Cranney, Elaine Drew, Evelyn Glaubman, Elizabeth Hack, Lenona Nichandros, Dori Pendergrass, Clarice Roberts, Glynys Hunt Ronan, Charlotte Severin, Pallayi Sharma, Barbara Spanske, Frances Spencer, and Tomye.

The National League of American Pen Women began in 1897 in Washington, D.C., when three well known professionals in the fields of writing and art were denied access to the Press Club because they were women. The three formed their own orga-



"Matilija Poppies" by Charlotte Severin, watercolor on Yupo paper.

nization of seventeen women of achievement in letters, art, and music composition. The get-together for networking and to provide support. Presently about 4000 meet for support and inspiration.

The Gallery is located at Hayward City Hall, 777 B Street. Hours are weekends 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Camp Arroyo Paintings at Library

The Livermore Art Association (LAA) is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. To commemorate this event, the LAA artists are sponsoring an exhibit at the Livermore Library Gallery featuring the many different types of art that they represent.

As a special added feature, a group of LAA artists conducted a Plein Aire painting of Camp Arroyo.

Camp Arroyo is in the Livermore hills and is managed by the YMCA, East Bay Regional Parks, and the Taylor Family Foundation.

The exhibit runs from August



Painting "Camp Arroyo" by Larry Gipson

2-31. The Library Artists' Gallery is located at 1188 S. Livermore Ave., Livermore and is open during business hours. For more information call LAA at 449-9927.



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Pastel artist Lenore Kriet demonstrated her technique during the Livermore Art Association's annual Montmartre: A Little Bit of Paris in the Park event at Carnegie Park last weekend.

Authors of New 'Dune' Books to Speak at Livermore Library

Sandworms of Dune brings together the great story lines and beloved characters in Frank Herbert's classic Dune universe. Based directly on Frank Herbert's final outline, which lay hidden in a safe-deposit box for a decade, Kevin Anderson and Brian Herbert, Frank Herbert's son, will finally answer the urgent questions Dune fans have been debating for two decades.

This free event will be presented on Thursday, August 16th at 6pm at the Livermore Public Library Civic Center, 1188 S. Livermore Avenue. The Friends of the Livermore Library have underwritten this program as part of the Friends Authors and Arts Series. For additional events, check the library's website at www.livermore.lib.ca.us

For further information about programs, please contact Joyce Nevins at (925) 373-5500 extension 5577.

Men of Worth Perform at Library

Men of Worth will be performing at the Livermore Library on Thurs., Aug. 16. The program begins at 7 p.m.

The Celtic/folk music duo of James Keigher and Donnie Macdonald, have been performing music from Ireland and Scotland since 1986. Their show is a unique combination of humor, exciting tunes, and soulful, heartfelt ballads. Blending their voices in harmony, James and Donnie perform on a varied selection of instruments. Men of Worth perform internationally at concerts and festivals, and have recorded seven albums.

This free event will be presented at the Livermore Public Library Civic Center, 1188 So. Livermore Ave.. The Friends of the Livermore Library have underwritten this program as part of the Friends Authors and Arts Series.

For additional events, check the library's website at www.livermore.lib.ca.us. For more information, please contact Joyce Nevins at (925) 373-5500 extension 5577.

Don't Always Believe Those (Other) Critics

By Susan Steinberg

I was prejudiced against Berkeley Opera's "Aida" without ever seeing it. After reading two scathing reviews by other critics, I envisioned the new production as an ugly throwback to Berkeley's 1980's "Guerrilla Theater."

Alan Frank, founder of our Livermore Valley Opera, and a member of the "Aida" chorus, persuaded me to go judge the show for myself, for which I am humbly grateful. This new take on an old classic was an exciting, effective, and vocally stunning collaboration by director Yuval Sharon and artistic director/conductor Jonathan Khuner. Stripped of all the pretentious pageantry and traditional stylized staging, "Aida" is as intense an interpersonal drama as "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" with enough sex and violence, rivalry and betrayal to match any popular TV series. It's always been there, but buried and smothered under the burden of formalized productions.

Here we have the most visually believable Aida in memory: a thin, stoic-faced slave-princess, hiding her true rank from the conquering princess she now serves. She is also hiding a hopeless love for the warrior who has just vanquished her people, and been promised to her mistress as husband and co-ruler.

Surprise - this slim young woman sings with passion, volume, conviction, and a vibrato that throbs with heartbreaking anguish. It was an emotional vocal performance that connected viscerally with the audience, as did her electrifying acting, from desperation to courageous resolve. Welcome Juyeon Song to the roster of brilliant new artists we hope to hear again soon.

Aida's haughty mistress, Princess Amneris, jealously suspicious of a possible rival, was sung by impressive mezzo Jennifer Roderer. Her rich powerful voice practically raised the roof of the Julia Morgan Theater with the force of her frenzied emotions. Her carefully controlled cajoling of Aida to elicit her secret love was a believable and chilling change of voice and style, showing the range of her acting versatility. A rare artist who always sings full-throttle, even in rehearsal, she is also a "must-see-again" star.

Caught between these two strong women is the unfortunate soldier-hero Radames, in love with Aida, but officially betrothed to Princess Amneris. Kevin Courtemanche's ringing tenor and fearlessly-flung high notes made even long-time "Aida"-lovers sit up, take notice, and yell "Bravo!"

When these lead singers began the Act I trio, expressing their conflicting emotions, it was a high-powered dramatic experience. Confined to a small stage, their passionate energy was intensified by physical proximity, unlike the spread-out ensembles in big-stage productions, and more like scorpions in a bottle. The same energy carried through the rousing scene of Radames public sendoff to battle, and the grand Triumphal March.

Not surprisingly, even the "small" duets exploded with unusual force and tension, especially the Amneris-Aida rivalry scene, the powerful psychological confrontation between Aida and her disguised father Amonasro, Aida's subsequent seduction of Radames to flee with her, and Amneris' final desperate bid for Radames' life and love.

The immediacy of this theatrical energy was obvious from the enthusiastic audience reaction. A long-time opera lover who had even seen "Aida" (com-

plete with elephants) in Rome's Baths of Caracalla, exclaimed, "Why would anyone do it any other way than this?"

I agree completely. This is the real "Aida", without all the gorgeous ceremonial window-dressing: a personal human tragedy like that of today's British Royals. It is also a painfully realistic political parable, as referential of Caesar's Rome, the Third Reich, or Stalin's USSR as it is to contemporary world events.

The naked ugliness of war and the clichéd patriotism trotted out by militaristic leaders to popularize the carnage of combat were also basic to Verdi's humanitarian message. But productions parading nearly-naked Nubian warriors, writhing slave girls, and blaring blood-stirring trumpets in the Grand Triumphal March usually smooth over the horror of war with glorious pomp and circumstance.

Not in this production, which bared the cynical workings of manipulative government, controlling the media to show a carefully-calculated façade, and rouse the populace to a war-committed frenzy.

"Glory to God, and let's rush on to victory" is the rallying slogan from king and high priest alike - the united power structure - until the people's cries of "War, War, War!" are deafening.

Behind-the-scenes (or rather on the upper stage level) cold-blooded acts of torture, murder, and debauchery played out very aptly while idealistic platitudes of religiosity, patriotism, and ideal love were being sung. Some of the explicit nastiness was admittedly hard to take, and even distracted at times from the music, but it effectively evoked the world of tyrannical governmental corruption, hypocrisy, and abuse of power.

Does any of this sound familiar? After an initial quick victory, there was even a triumphal banner inscribed "Missioni Compuita" (Mission Accomplished).

Unfortunately, reviewers repelled by this aspect of the production published some very negative opinions, a decided disservice to the ticket-buying public. To their credit, they did praise the voices of the entire cast, as well as the off-stage chorus, all richly deserving of plaudits.

Livermore Valley Opera's favorite Figaro, Jo Vincent Parks, in the role of Amonasro, King of Ethiopia, literally commanded the stage. Even in the rags and humble demeanor of a conquered prisoner, he was obviously a larger-than-life force of fighting spirit. His powerful voice and strong acting ability elicited spontaneous "bravos" hardly ever associated with the stiff father-figure of most traditional stagings.

Ramfis the High Priest, another traditional cardboard cut-out character, was also personalized by popular basso William Pickersgill. A cold and menacing minion of the repressive govern-

ment, he showed himself a shameless hypocrite: all professional piety in public and an abandoned sensualist in private.

Even that ultimate cipher, the King of Egypt, came to life in Paul Cheak's preening persona: the benevolent smiling patriarch on camera, but the cold-blooded tyrant off-screen. Without the impressive regalia of their high offices, these three male characters emerged as recognizable power-figures on the contemporary world stage, and it was genuinely frightening.

In fact, that was the key to this small-scale production's impact: the powerful intimate passions of the vital young protagonists and the painfully bitter realism of its timeless political message. The cheering audiences obviously "got it." Why didn't all the critics?

Congratulations from this critic to Stage Director Yuval Sharon for his insightful vision. Seeing the triumphant commander Radames returning "vincitor" (conqueror) in a wheelchair grimacing in pain brought to mind all-too-vivid images of today's disabled vets.

Great praise is due to Conductor Jonathan Khuner for an amazingly effective "mini-orchestration" of a major big-pit score, and for one of the truest libretto translations in memory.

Eschewing the usual graceful euphemisms, it finally gives audiences the straightforward words of Verdi himself.

Chorus director Mark Summer pulled off a minor miracle with a strong-voiced well-timed chorus singing completely hidden behind the set, but almost never sounding ragged off-beat.

Projection Designer Jeremy Knight provided most amazing special effects. His combined live and pre-recorded imagery in the Triumphal March video was a theatrical tour-de-force of realistic and surrealistic imagery that enhanced the sense of artificially-contrived political pageantry.

Finally, hats off to young Charlotte Khuner for her cheerful patriotic dance routine, which devolved into the vicious beating and killing of an "enemy figure." As a fresh-faced and innocent-looking 11-year-old, she symbolized the cadres of children currently being indoctrinated with the glorious virtue of murdering their enemies all over the world.

It was one more chilling dose of "Reality Theater" that re-emphasized Verdi's relevance to world politics. As they still say in Italy, "Viva Verdi!" like Shakespeare, a voice for the ages. (The production has closed.)

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ART & ENTERTAINMENT

Talk Planned on Early Indians in Livermore Valley



Grant Lowenstein, a Livermore resident, plays the role of Mayor of the Munchkins in the Woodminster Summer Musicals' "The Wizard of Oz." The show runs August 10-19 in historic Woodminster Amphitheater in Oakland's Joaquin Miller Park. Grant returns to Woodminster for his second season, after having played Edgar in "Ragtime" in 2006. In "The Wizard of Oz," Grant plays the Mayor of a group of 21 Munchkins portrayed by children aged 4 to 14, living in 11 different Bay Area cities and attending 17 different schools. "The Wizard of Oz," plays August 10-19 at the Woodminster Amphitheater in Joaquin Miller Park, 3300 Joaquin Miller Road, Oakland. Tickets can be purchased at 510-531-9597 or www.woodminster.com, \$23-\$36 (\$2 discount for children/seniors).

Hair, '60s tribal love-rock musical. Friday-Saturday, Aug. 10-11, 17-18 at 8 p.m.; Sunday, Aug. 19 at 2 p.m. University Theatre, 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., Hayward tickets for the CSUEB production, at \$14 general, \$12 senior/youth/alumni, and \$8 for CSUEB students, may be reserved at (510) 885-3261, or purchased at the door beginning one hour prior to show time.

Auditions, The Las Positas College Theater Department will hold auditions for *The Diviners*, by Jim Leonard, Jr. on Wednesday and Thursday nights, August 22 and 23 from 7:00 - 9:30 p.m. The play is a poignant drama set in middle America during the Great Depression and tells the story of a boy with a traumatic fear of water and the former preacher who tries to free him from his fear. There are five female and six male roles of various ages, including a boy between the ages of 11

and 17. Auditions will be held in the theater on campus, 3033 Collier Canyon Road in Livermore. Please bring a prepared audition monologue. Performances will be November 9-18. For more information, call (925) 424-1166 or email kross@laspositascollege.edu.

Saturday Night Funnies, Aug. 11, 8 p.m. Bothwell Arts Center West End Stage, 8th and H Streets, Livermore. Laugh-A-Lot Productions presents stand up Bay Area comedians. Doors open at 7 p.m. Seating on first come, first served basis. \$12. Information 264-4413 or info@laughalotproductions.com.

Jazz at the Ridge, Poppy Ridge Golf Course, 4280 Greenville Rd., Livermore. Every Thursday 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Smooth jazz by Two Guys or Opie Bellas and Jeff Massanar. Information 456-8215 or info@poppyridgegolf.com.

Tuesday Tunes, June 5 to October 16, 2007 Livermore Downtown Inc. Free live music at the Flag Pole Plaza 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm Information: 925-373-1795 or www.livermoredowntown.com.

Ceramics by Hanno Hagen, Wente Vineyards Estate Winery tasting room, 5565 Tesla Rd., Livermore. The exhibit will be on display throughout the month of August. For information please call 925-456-2305.

The Mad Woman of Chaillot, Las Positas College production. August 11 and 12. Outdoor performance on campus, 3033 Collier Canyon Rd., Livermore. Information, 925-424-1100 or see www.laspositascollege.edu/performingarts. \$10 general admission, \$7 seniors/students.

Comedy Showcase. Wednesdays 8:00-10:00 pm featuring 6-7 of the best comedians in the Bay Area. Doors open at 6:30, show starts at 8pm. Produced by Laugh-A-Lot Productions \$7.00 cover charge will be collected at the door. Full Restaurant and Bar menu available. No reservations required. Pleasanton Hotel, 855 Main St., Pleasanton, 925-846-8106.

Sunday Blues and BBQ from 4-8 pm on the Patio during August and September, beginning August 11. Bands: August 12 Sinister Blues Band; August 19 Georgi & the Roughweek; August 26 No Band; September 2 Screamin Iain & the Diving Ducks; September 9 Kathleen Cairns & Tattoo Blue; September 16 Annie Sampson; September 23 Jack Pollard Band; September 30 Top Secret. Pleasanton Hotel, 855 Main St., Pleasanton, 925-846-8106.

Blues on the Patio Thursdays 5:30-9:30 pm August 9 Johnny Nitro and the Doorslammers; August 16 Bluestate Band; August 23 Kathleen Cairns & Tattoo Blue; August 30 Marshall Law Band with Sam; September 6 Highwater Blues Band; September 13 Nite Cry; September 20 Kathleen Cairns & Tattoo Blue; September 27 Georgie and the Rough Week. No cover charge. Pleasanton Hotel, 855 Main St., Pleasanton, 925-846-8106.

History - Ed Kinney Lecture series, August 16: Ice Age Mammals of the East Bay. Guest speaker will be Joyce Blueford from the Math Science Nucleus and the Gordon Fossil Hall. The Museum On Main in Pleasanton. Lectures are at 7 p.m. at the museum. Reservations are requested. \$5 members/\$10 nonmembers. Memberships available for purchase. The museum is located at 603 Main Street, downtown Pleasanton. For information, call (925) 462-2766.

The Mundaze at the West End Stage. The Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 8th Street (between "G" and "H" Streets), Livermore. August 17, 8pm (doors open at 7:30). \$10. Tickets may be placed on hold at lyran@livermoreperformingarts.org or 925-447-ARTS. Seating is limited.

Wine and Words, Sun., August 19, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Martinelli Event Center. Catered by Garre Winery and Cafe in Livermore. Featured Readers: Paul Hoover and Jennifer Sweeney. Hosted by Livermore Poet Laureate Connie Post. Featured readers begin at 2 p.m.; open mic after a short break. Admission \$5.

Family Movies Under the Stars, at Emerald Glen Park, Dublin. Presented by City of Dublin. All movies are free of charge and open to the public. All ages are welcome. Fri., Aug. 10; "Charlotte's Web" (g) on Fri., Aug. 24; and "Curious George: (g) on Fri., Sept. 7, 4201 Central Parkway. Arrival time is 7:30 p.m. (movies start at dusk). Refreshments, including candy, popcorn and soda, are available for sale. Attendees can bring their own snacks. People are encouraged to bring blankets and low beach chairs to sit on. No pets, please. For information, call 556-4500 or go to www.ci.dublin.ca.us.

The Livermore Heritage Guild will present a talk on "Early Indians in the Livermore Valley" on Wed., Aug. 15.

The guest speaker will be Beverly Ortiz, who works as a Naturalist at Coyote Hills Regional Park in Fremont. In her work she coordinates a program through which several Ohlone and Bay Miwok share their history and cultures with people. During her talk, she will provide an overview of the cultures, land management practices, social and political organization, and history of the Indians in the Valley from the past to the present. She will also describe the significance of Brushy Peak and other local places to nearby tribes.

Ortiz is a Ph.D. Candidate in Cultural Anthropology at UC Berkeley. She has conducted cultural research with more than 200 individuals of California Indian descent from tribal areas spanning the state. In addition she has published one book, several book chapters, and more than 100 articles about California Indians.

The talk will be given on Wednesday, August 15, at the Civic Center Library, 1188 S.

Livermore Ave., Livermore. Doors will open at 7 pm; talk is at 7:30 pm. Come early for refreshments and chit-chat. A \$2 donation is suggested. For more information call 443-9740.

located at 2647 Arroyo Road in Livermore. Ravenswood is open for free public tours from noon to 4:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Sunday of each month. Costumed docents lead hour-long tours starting every 20 minutes, with the final tour of the day beginning at 3:00 p.m. Also open on public tour days is the Ravenswood Progress League Gift Shop, located in the Tank House and featuring Victorian style gifts and souvenirs. For more information, please call (925) 443-0238.

ICE CREAM

(continued from page one)

a State of California Historical Point of Interest, and is a City of Livermore Historic Preservation Landmark Site. The Ravenswood home was built by Christopher A. Buckley, Sr., known as the "Blind Boss" of San Francisco politics in the 1870's and 80's. While it served as a summer home for the Buckley family from 1885 to 1920, it was also one of the larger early vineyards in the Livermore Valley, with 100 acres in grapes and winery production of 500,000 gallons per year. Ravenswood Historic Site is

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Livermore Downtown Inc., Pacific Coast Farmers Market, The City of Livermore, L.A.R.E.D., The Independent Newspaper, The Lanet Team, The Livermore Valley Tennis Club, Arroyo Crossing: The Collection by Obrien Homes, Marcel Orthodontics, & Planned Parenthood Golden Gate

For more info on this & other events, please contact Livermore Downtown Inc. 925-373-1795 www.livermoredowntown.com

CLASSIFIEDS

Place your ad online at www.independentnews.com

LEGAL NOTICES

FACTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 398233

The following person (s) doing business as Video Technologies International (VTI), 315 North "K" Street, Livermore CA, 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Gary Toralph Bruton, 315 North "K" Street, Livermore, CA, 94551. This business is conducted by a limited partnership. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed. Signature of Registrant: /s/ Gary T. Bruton and Harold A. Pierce. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on July 12, 2007. Expires July 12, 2012. The Independent Legal No. 2197. Publish July 19, 26, August 2, 9, 2007.

FACTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 398235

The following person (s) doing business as Las Positas Vineyards, 2306 Gloria Court, Pleasanton CA, 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Maier Winery, LLC, 2306 Gloria Court, Pleasanton CA, 94588. This business is conducted by limited liability company. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed. Signature of Registrant: /s/ Lisal Maier and Lothar Maier. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda

County on July 13, 2007. Expires July 13, 2012. The Independent Legal No. 2199. Publish July 19, 26, August 2, 9, 2007.

FACTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 398270

The following person (s) doing business as Wine Country Flooring, 1459 Chiant Court, Livermore CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Wine Country Flooring, 1459 Chiant Court, Livermore CA 94550. This business is conducted by a corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on October 10, 2002. Signature of Registrant: /s/ Makolm D. Trunnell. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on July 19, 2007. Expires July 19, 2012. The Independent Legal No. 2200. Publish July 26, August 2, 9, 16, 2007.

FACTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 398246

The following person (s) doing business as Trends Global, 6350 Carson Pass Way, Livermore CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Trends Global LLC, 6350 Carson Pass Way, Livermore CA 94551. This business is conducted by limited liability company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on May 9, 2007. Signature of Registrant: /s/ Erwin F. Chiong. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on July 12, 2007. Ex-

pires July 12, 2012. The Independent Legal No. 2201. Publish July 26, August 2, 9, 16, 2007.

FACTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 398225

The following person (s) doing business as Vision Industries, 2349 Bluebell Dr., Livermore CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): James F. Johnson, 2349 Bluebell Dr., Livermore CA, 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on July 1, 2007. Signature of Registrant: /s/ James F. Johnson. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on July 11, 2007. Expires July 11, 2012. The Independent Legal No. 2202. Publish July 26, August 2, 9, 16, 2007.

FACTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 398296

The following person (s) doing business as Black Hills Enterprises, 16678 Bivar Court, Pleasanton CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): James A. Perry, 16677 Bivar Court, Pleasanton CA 94566. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on June 22, 2007. Signature of Registrant: /s/ James A. Perry. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on July 13, 2007. Expires July 13, 2012. The Independent Legal No. 2203. Publish July 26, August

2, 9, 16, 2007.

FACTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 398361

The following person (s) doing business as Kim's Reality, 2092 Elene Drive, Pleasanton CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Kimberly Ann Graves, 2092 Elene Drive, Pleasanton CA 94588. This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed. Signature of Registrant: /s/ Kimberly A. Graves. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on July 16, 2007. Expires July 16, 2012. The Independent Legal No. 2205. Publish August 2, 9, 16, 23, 2007.

FACTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 398312

The following person (s) doing business as Help-U-Sell Allen Realty, 4171 1st Street, Livermore CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Ronald Stokes, 4948 Mines Rd., Livermore CA 94550. This business is conducted by a general partnership. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on July 1, 2007. Signature of Registrant: /s/ Ronald Stokes and Mary Ann J. Allen. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on July 13, 2007. Expires July 13, 2012. The Independent Legal No. 2206. Publish August 9, 16, 23, 30, 2007.

ANIMALS/PETS

1) CATS/DOGS

AKC Purebred Labrador Retriever Puppies, Females: \$550.00, Males: \$500.00. (209)832-5180

Signature of Registrant: /s/ Aaron Ebinger. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on July 26, 2007. Expires July 26, 2012. The Independent Legal No. 2204. Publish August 2, 9, 16, 23, 2007.

FACTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 398909

The following person (s) doing business as Hi Tech Wood Custom Floors, 1883 Valley of The Moon Road, Livermore CA, 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Aaron O. Ebinger, 1883 Valley of The Moon Road, Livermore CA, 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on July 23, 2007.

Tri-Valley Animal Rescue hosts cat and dog adoptions at the Pleasanton Farmers Market on Saturdays from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM. Cat adoptions are at Dublin Pet Food Express on Saturdays from 12 to 4 PM (excluding 4th Sat) and on Sundays from 1 to 4 PM. Adoptions at Dublin PetsMart on Saturdays from 12 to 4 PM, and on Sundays from 1 to 4 PM, dog adoptions on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month from 1 to 4 PM and rabbit adoptions on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month from 1 to 4 PM. For more information please visit www.tvard.org or call (925) 803-7043.

ADOPT A DOG OR CAT, for adoption information contact Valley Humane Society at 925 426-8656.

5FOUND

FOUND CAT, Small Long-Haired Cat. Female 925 249-1935
Found an animal? Free Section. Call Barbara 925 243-8000

6LOST

LOST ALL GREY MALE KITTEN, 4 mos. Las Positas & 1st in Livermore. 209 532-9579
Lost a family pet? Free Section. Call Barbara 925 243-8000.

AUTOS/MOTOR CYCLES/RV/SUV'S/TRUCKS

SMITH'S GOLF CARS. We sell New, Used & Customized. Sales -Service-Parts-Service Calls. We ship anywhere. E-Z-GO Distributor. 1-800-445-5526. Rohnert Park, CA. www.SmithsGolfCars.com (CAL*SCAN)

7)AUTOS WANTED

DONATEVEHICLE, running or not ACCEPTED! Free Towing. Tax Deductible. Noahs Arc - Support No Kill Shelters, Animal Rights, Research to Advance Veterinary Treatment/ Cures. 1-866-912-GIVE. (CAL*SCAN)

DONATE YOUR CAR: Children's Cancer Fund! Help Save A Child's Life Through Research & Support! It's Fast, Easy & Tax Deductible. Please Call Today 1-800-252-0615. (CAL*SCAN)

EMPLOYMENT

56) ADULT CARE

CAREGIVERS NEEDED for elder care. Light house-keeping errands transportation meal prep personal care. Please fax resume 925 371-8118

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REG. PRICE \$8,292
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ELECTRICAL OVERHEAD CRANE SERVICE TECHNICIAN / INSPECTOR

P&H Morris Material Handling is seeking Electrical/Mechanical Technicians for our Livermore territory location. Duties include inspect, repair, maintain and modernize electric overhead cranes, hoists and runways. The qualified candidate will have a strong electrical background, be knowledgeable and have work experience with AC motors, wound rotor motors and preventive maintenance routines. VFD's and remote control circuits a plus. A minimum of 2 years experience and strong electrical aptitude is required. Organizational and people skills a must. Technician may be dispatched from their home residence in company provided vehicle.

We offer excellent wages, opportunity for growth, full benefits including Health, Dental, Vision, Employee Retirement Savings Plan including 401K Match (no vesting or waiting period), Tuition Reimbursement, paid Vacations and Holidays and company provided Life Insurance. Please visit our website at www.morriscranes.com. If you are interested in this opportunity, please send your resume and salary history/requirements to:

Morris Material Handling
C/O Human Resources
2440 W. 12th St. Suite 6
Tempe, AZ 85281
Fax: 602-233-3960
E-Mail: hr@morriscranes.com

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RETAIL

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OUR NEW LIVERMORE LOCATION IS HOSTING A JOB FAIR

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August 13: 9:00am-4:00pm
August 14-15: 12:30pm-7:15pm

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720 Las Flores Road • Livermore, CA

Kohl's is looking for great new people to join our team. As an Associate, you'll find all the things you'd expect from one of the fastest-growing retailers in the nation—competitive compensation, great benefits, Employee Stock Ownership Plan and immediate discounts on all our merchandise. With Kohl's, you'll be in great company! We're currently seeking Associates for the following part-time positions:

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- Department Associates
- Customer Service/Cash Office Associates
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- Early AM Freight Unloaders/Merchandisers
- Housekeeping Associates
- Evening Ad Set/Pricing Associates

To apply for a position, please visit us at www.kohls.com or call 1-877-NEW-KOHL'S (1-877-639-5645)

Those scheduled for an interview, please bring four work references (with phone numbers) and dress professionally.

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CLASSIFIEDS

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60) BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

START YOUR OWN! Land-scape Curbing Business - High Demand. Low Overheads. High Profit. Training Available. Priced from \$12,000. 1-800-667-5372. www.EdgeMaster.net (CAL'SCAN)

ALL CASH CANDY Route. Be Your Own Boss. 30 machines and candy for \$9,995. MultiVend LLC, 880 Grand Blvd., Deer park, NY. 1-888-625-2405. (CAL'SCAN)

BE WARY of out of area companies. Check with the local Better Business Bureau before you send any money or fees. Read and understand any contracts before you sign. Shop around for rates.

63) CAREGIVERS

CAREGIVERS CNA, HHA, PCA Hourly and Live-In Caregiver experience And CDL required. Call Karen (925) 297-2660 or email dlauren@hillendale.net

68) HAIR SERVICES

Stylists & Salon Management. Great wage, bonuses, benefits. Lowe's Livermore Great Clips. Call Carleigh (877) 631-4995

71) HELP WANTED

HOST AN EXCHANGE STUDENT TODAY - select girl or boy, 15-18 yrs, from France, Germany, Japan, Italy, China, Australia, many other countries. Students become family members, attend high school, share their language and culture. Experience of a lifetime! For information 800-733-2773, email hostinfo@asse.com or www.asse.com/host (CAL'SCAN)

INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL EXCHANGE Representative: Earn supplemental income placing and supervising high school exchange students. Volunteer host families also needed. Promote world peace! 1-866-GO-AFICE or www.afice.org (CAL'SCAN)

ELECTRICIAN APPRENTICES. Hands-on exp as an electrician in appliances, power generation, & lighting. No exp. nec. Under age 34 w/ H.S. diploma. Call 1-800-345-6289 (CAL'SCAN)

Place your ad here call Barbara 925 243-8000 or go on-line at www.independentnews.com

72) HELP WANTED/DRIVERS

Needed Part-time Meals on Wheels Driver Monday - Friday 10:30 am - 12:30 pm Need car & Clean DMV Record. \$7.53 per Hour Mileage reimbursed. Call Karen (925) 339-9227

DRIVER: Don't Just Start Your Career, Start It Right! Company Sponsored CDL training in 3 weeks. Must be 21. Have CDL? Tuition Reimbursement! www.JoinCRST.com 1-800-781-2778. (CAL'SCAN)

DRIVERS - CDL-A \$1,000 Sign-On Bonus. New Pay Package! Local or Regional. Exp. Flatbed Drivers. *Home More *California Runs *Full Benefit Package. Dedicated Runs. 1-877-523-7109. www.SystemTrans.com System Transport, Inc. (CAL'SCAN)

DRIVER - CDL Training \$0 down, financing by Central Refrigerated. Drive for Central, earn up to \$40K+1st year! 1-800-587-0029 x4779. www.CentralDrivingJobs.net (CAL'SCAN)

SPONSORED CDL TRAINING. No Experience Needed! Earn \$40K-\$75K in your new career! Stevens Transport will sponsor the total cost of your CDL Training! Excellent Benefits & 401K! No Money Down! NO Credit Checks! EOE. Call Now! 1-800-333-8595, 1-800-0-3558-9512. www.BecomeADriver.com (CAL'SCAN)

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Be home every week! And get paid up to \$41/mile

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DRIVER - \$5K SIGN-ON Bonus for Experienced Teams: Dry Van & Temp Control available. O/Os & CDL-A Grads welcome. Call Covenant 1-866-684-2519 EOE. (CAL'SCAN)

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DRIVER - \$5K SIGN-ON Bonus for Experienced Teams: Dry Van & Temp Control available. O/Os & CDL-A Grads welcome. Call Covenant 1-866-684-2519 EOE. (CAL'SCAN)

DRIVERS - CALL TODAY!

Great Bonus Opportunity! 36 to 43cpm/\$1.20pm. \$0 Lease New Trucks. CDL-A + 3 months OTR. 1-800-635-8660 (CAL'SCAN)

OTR DRIVERS DESERVE more pay and more home time! \$41/mile! Home weekends. Run our Western Region! Great Trucks! Blue Cross/Blue Shield! Dental! Heartland Express 1-800-441-4953. www.HeartlandExpress.com (CAL'SCAN)

75) HELP WANTED SALES

SALES SUPPORT The Independent Newspaper is currently hiring a Part-Time Temporary Sales Support team member. The ideal candidate will have strong customer service skills and able to manage multiple task in a detailed and organized manner. Excellent written and verbal communication skills and ability to demonstrate a positive and professional attitude are a must. For immediate consideration, please email your resume to ipsales@pacbell.net NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

82) MISC. REAL ESTATE

LOAN PROCESSOR In Livermore! We'll Train! Bilingual Spanish/English call Juan 925-784-4994

ALAMEDA BOOKSTORE seeks booksellers for night and week end shifts. FT/PT. \$10 to \$12 per hour to start. Must have bookstore experience. 337-0750

90) SCHOOLS/INSTRUCTION

An Immediate Opening Jr. High Teacher Our Savior Lutheran School, Livermore. Reg. BA in Educ or Sci, CA tch cred. pref. Fax resume 925 447-0201 or email jmanagan@oslm.net

MERCHANDISE

119) ESTATE SALE

SAT Aug. 11th 7:30-1pm. 207 Mont Blanc Ct., Danville. All New Merchandise. Woman's Sweaters, Dresser's J. Jackets, Lg & 1X Only. Scarves & Shawls. CASH SALES ONLY! All Sales Final. Next Sale Aug 25th. Blouses & Garden items.

120) FREE/GIVEAWAY

This section is a no charge classified section. Call 925 243-8000 ask for Barbara

121) GARAGE/RUMMAGE/YARD SALES

GARAGE SALE!!!!!! DATE: AUG. 11, 2007 TIME: 9:00AM-3:00PM LOCATION: 555 RIDGECREST CIRCL. LIVERMORE

Your garage sale ad can go here. Rain or Shine! Call Barbara 925-243-8000 or go to www.independentnews.com before 8am Tuesdays to get your ad in for the next edition.

120) HARDWOOD/FLOORING

HARDWOOD/CARPET I've got 12860 sq ft of really nice Maple and Hickory handscrapped hardwood in my warehouse. I'll install the wood complete in your living room and hall (300sq ft) for \$2,895. No gimmicks, everything included even moldings. I guarantee you would pay this for the wood alone at retail. Call Vicky for a free estimate 209-552-6883. I also have good quality - high end carpet at deep discounted prices.

122) HEALTH & BEAUTY

ONLINE PHARMACY. Buy Soma, Ultram, Fioricet, Prozac, Buspar. 90 Qty \$51.99, 180 Qty \$84.99. Price includes prescription. We will match any competitor's price! 1-866-450-7423 www.PharmKind.com (CAL'SCAN)

124) HORSES/LIVESTOCK/FARM EQUIP

8 Miniature Horses for Sale \$500.00 Each Please Call for Details (925) 228-8568

125) HOUSEHOLDYARD ITEMS

Spa Cover / Brand New Wholesale Cost \$266.44 Box Never Opened Brown - Standard Skirt 6' 3" (74 inches round) Sparkle Pool Call (925) 577-7111

HOTTUB 2007 DELUXE MODEL

Many Jets & Therapy Seat Warranty / Never Used Can Deliver Worth \$5,700 / Sell \$1,950 Call (925) 944-1285

Place your household items here for sale. Call 925 243-8000 or go on-line at www.independentnews.com Also you can pay by Credit Card for Classified and Display Ads.

127) LOST/FOUND

This section is a no charge classified section. Call 925 243-8000 ask for Barbara

130) MISC. FOR SALE

SAWMILLS FROM ONLY \$2,990 - Convert your logs to Valuable Lumber with your own Norwood portable band sawmill. Log skidders also available. www.NorwoodIndustries.com - Free Information: 1-800-578-1363x500-A (CAL'SCAN)

A BRAND NEW Hot-Tub Spa.

Still Packaged w/ Warranty! Over 100 Microjets! Free Shipping within Continental USA! Must Sell - Only \$799! www.TheHotTubPros.com Call 1-888-BUY-15PA. (CAL'SCAN)

NOTICES/ANNOUNCEMENTS

151) ADOPTIONS

CONSIDERING ADOPTION? We match Birthmothers with Families nationwide. Living Expenses Paid. Toll Free 24/7 Abby's One True Gift Adoptions. 1-866-459-3969. (CAL'SCAN)

152) MISCELLANEOUS

Axis Health Center 4361 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. Serves Valley residents with emphasis on those with low income. The center has general medical services, family planning, well baby, prenatal and maternity programs, social services, blood pressure checks, WIC food supplement programs, premarital blood test, sports/camp physicals, TB screening, free transportation available. 925-462-1755

155) NOTICES

"NOTICETO READERS: California law requires that contractors taking jobs that total \$500 or more (labor and/or materials) be licensed by the Contractors State License Board. State law also requires that contractors include their license numbers on all advertising. Check your contractor's status at www.cslb.ca.gov or 800-321-CSLB (2752). Unlicensed persons taking jobs less than \$500 must state in their advertisements that they are not licensed by the Contractors State License Board."

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157) APT/DUPLEX/HOUSE/RENTAL

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3 bedroom 1 bath in excellent neighborhood. Newly remodeled kitchen with granite counters, new and updated bathroom, new carpets/paint through the house. Closed to schools, shopping and transportation. No smokers/pets. \$1550. monthly. Call (925) 846-8016 evenings.

GOT A HOUSE FOR RENT? Let the 47,000+ households that read the Independent find out about it... To place an ad go to www.independentnews.com or call Barbara at 925 243-8000

162) HOUSE/ROOM FOR RENT

Place a classified ad here Call Barbara 925 243-8000 Tuesdays before 8am. or go to www.independentnews.com

163) HOMES FOR SALE

How To Sell Your House Without an Agent Free report reveals *10 Inside Tips to Selling Your House by Yourself* Free recorded message 1 (800) 591-1274 ID#2017 bayareahomeinfo online.com

Platinum Group Funding is now hiring Loan Agents for our new branch opening in exciting downtown Livermore Valley Plaza! Part time or Full time, flexible hours, full training, competitive commission splits, large lender base, and everything you need to succeed! Call (866) 747-9191 or email resume to info@pgfunding.com

Open Houses section with tables for Castro Valley, Danville, and Dublin listings. Each table has columns for Price, Size, Day(s), and Address.

Vintage Roofing Specialty Work Residential - Commercial - Industrial All Types of Roofing Serving the Tri-Valley Since 1980 (925) 447-2207

BUSINESS DIRECTORY section containing numerous sub-directories: APPLIANCES (Atom Appliance), EYES (Valley Eye Care Center), HEALTH (ValleyCare Health System), LANDSCAPING (Landscaping Flowers), HEATING & AIR (Darrell's), COMPUTERES (Tri-Valley PC Medic, Amador Valley Computers), HOUSEKEEPING (At your service), PLUMBING (Icemaker Filters), PSYCHIC (Livermore Spiritualist Psychic), WINE CELLARS (Vino Cellars), GUTTERS (Flow-Rite Rain Gutter Cleaning), and REAL ESTATE listings.

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Great careers departing daily. Multiple Driver Opportunities: Over-the-Road - Teams. Nearly 2/3 of Schneider drivers get home daily or weekly. Company-provided CDL training for qualified candidates. \$33,500-\$56,500 (depending on experience). Low-cost medical and dental insurance. SCHNEIDER NATIONAL 1-800-44-PRIDE

Festival of Homes - August 2007 BIGGEST OPEN HOUSE EVENT OF THE YEAR! 200+ Open Houses along the Pacific Coast where Northern California meets Southern Oregon. TWO BIG WEEKENDS! Saturday, August 11th, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sunday, August 12th, 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, August 25th, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sunday, August 26th, 1 to 4 p.m. Get your map and list of homes beginning August 6th at www.chetcofcu.org

STOCKTON and TRACY real estate listings. Tables with columns for Price, Size, Day(s), and Address.

1 CLASSIFIEDS

Place your ad online at www.independentnews.com



163) HOMES FOR SALE

ZERO DOWN PAYMENT
Free Weekly List of LIVERMORE Homes
www.LivemoreHomeSearch.com

"FOR SALE WITH OWNER" HOMES

Help-U-Sell Tri-Valley See our website for our complete list of Open Homes, with addresses, prices, owners' phone numbers etc. www.helpuselltri-valley.com 925-484-1000

166) LAND/LOTS/ACREAGE

A RARE FIND New Mexico. Lake Access Retreat - 10 acres - \$29,900. Priced For Quick Sale. Incredible setting, including frequently running Peos River, views and diverse topography. Limited availability. Excellent financing. Call NML&R, Inc. 1-888-204-9760. (CAL*SCAN)

168) LAND FOR SALE/OUT OF STATE

FISH LAKE VALLEY, NV. 10ac Trout Stream \$59,900 Endless Recreational Opportunities. Spectacular views of Eastern slope of snowcapped White Mountains. Within looming presence of Nevada's highest peak and range. Cool, clean year round Rainbow Trout Creek. Call today! Won't last! Call 1-877-349-0822. (CAL*SCAN)

LAND FOR SALE: Affordable Tennessee Mountain Property, 5 Acres and Up from \$29,900. Borders a 12,000 acre equestrian center. Call 1-800-708-8157 www.RockCastleFarms.com (CAL*SCAN)

WYOMING RANCH LIQUIDATION. 35 acres - \$59,900. Recreational paradise perfect getaway. Great climate, wildlife, easy access. Title insurance, surveyed. Financing. Call UTLR 1-888-703-5263. (CAL*SCAN)

1ST TIME OFFERED. New Mexico Ranch Dispersal. 140 acres - \$99,900. River Access. Northern New Mexico. Cool 6,500' elevation with stunning views. Great tree cover including Ponderosa, rolling grassland and rock outcroppings. Abundant wildlife, great hunting. EZ Terms. Call NML&R, Inc. 1-866-354-5263. (CAL*SCAN)

1ST TIME OFFERED - 40 acres - \$39,900; 80 acres - \$69,900. Near Moses Lake, WA. 300 days of sunshine. Mix of rolling hills and rock outcroppings. Excellent views, private gravel roads, ground water and easy access! Financing available. Call WALR 1-866-585-5687. (CAL*SCAN)

ARIZONA LAND LIQUIDATION! Near Tucson, Football Field Sized Lots. \$0 Down/\$0 Interest, \$159/mo. (\$18,995 total). Free Information. Money Back Guarantee! 1-800-682-6103 Op #10. (CAL*SCAN)

ABSOLUTE STEAL - ARIZONA Ranch Liquidation. 36 AC - \$59,900. Perfect for private retreat. Endless views. Beautiful setting with fresh mountain air. Abundant wildlife. Secluded with good access. Financing available. Offered by AZLR 1-877-301-5263. (CAL*SCAN)

SO. COLORADO RANCH Sale. 35 Acres - \$36,900 Spectacular Rocky Mountain Views. Year round access, elec/tee included. Come for the weekend, stay for a lifetime. Excellent financing available w/low down payment. Call Red Creek Land Co. today! 1-866-696-5263 x2679. (CAL*SCAN)

1ST TIME OFFERED - Arizona Show Low area. 6 acres - \$39,900. Cool climate, spectacular views of White Mountains, trees, horse privileges, nearby lakes, priced well below comparables offered by AZLR. ADWR report available. 1-866-551-5687. (CAL*SCAN)

BEAUTIFUL MONTANA RANCH Land Everyone can afford! 160 Acres & up - Under \$900/acre with financing available! Pines, hills, coulees, grassy parks, BLM and state land, elk, whitetails, mules & gamebirds. Call Western Skies Land Co. anytime @ 1-888-361-3006 or check out www.MontanaLandAndCamps.com (CAL*SCAN)

DRASTICALLY REDUCED! 36 acres - \$89,900. Arizona - Wickenburg area. Motivated seller wants a quick sale. Ideal climate, spectacular views, wildlife, privacy. E-Z terms. ADWR report available. Saddle Creek Ranch is offered by AZLR 1-888-246-1914. (CAL*SCAN)

NEW TO MARKET. 3-5 ac Ranch Homesites, starting at \$39,900 outside Ruidoso, New Mexico. Located 30 minutes outside Ruidoso. Affordable living with no compromises. Stunning land, hard surfaced roads, municipal water, adjacent to golf, convenient to all Ruidoso has, but more affordable, bigger & prettier. Call MNL&R, Inc. 1-888-417-2024. (CAL*SCAN)

1ST TIME OFFERED - Colorado Mountain Ranch. 35 acres - \$39,900. Priced for Quick Sale. Overlooking a majestic lake, beautiful tree, 360 degrees mountain views, adjacent to national forest. EZ terms. Offered by Colorado Land & Ranches. 1-888-640-9023. (CAL*SCAN)

SERVICES

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Photo - Doug Jorgensen
The Pleasanton Arch celebrated its 75th birthday last Wednesday with what else, but a birthday cake. It was created by Noland's Cake Shop.

U.S. House Passes Energy Package

The U.S. House of Representatives last Saturday passed a package of energy legislation that would promote conservation and the use of renewable resources.

The New Direction for Energy Independence, National Security, and Consumer Protection Act, a combination of H.R. 3221 and 2776, passed the House over the weekend, 241 to 172. It would require more energy efficiency in appliances, buildings and power grids. It also would provide grants for studies to promote ethanol pipelines, installation of pumps for 85 percent ethanol fuel at gas stations and production of cellulosic ethanol.

Fifteen percent of electricity from private utilities must come from solar, wind or other renewable energy sources. The legislation closes loopholes that offer incentives for businesses to purchase gas-guzzling vehicles and

repeals \$23 billion in tax subsidies and royalty relief provisions for big oil companies.

Congressman Jerry McNerney (CA-11) praised the House of Representatives for passing landmark energy legislation that he says will help lead the nation to energy independence, make the nation more secure, create new, good-paying American jobs, reduce energy costs to consumers, and fight global warming.

"Today the House took a giant step forward in providing a new direction for American energy policy by passing legislation that will expand the use of renewable energy, create new American jobs, reduce our dependence on foreign oil, and begin to tackle the issue of global warming," McNerney said.

According to McNerney, the initiative approved by the House strengthens national security by reducing our dependence on foreign oil, making the largest investment in homegrown biofuels in history, and repealing giveaways to big oil companies. The legislation also supports cutting edge-research and the development of new technologies that will bring down energy costs and help create new jobs.

The legislation includes provisions of a bill originally authored by McNerney, the Advanced Geothermal Energy Research and Development Act, H.R. 2304, which will increase research and development funding for next-generation geothermal technology. "Geothermal is just one element of the solution to ending our dependence on foreign oil," said McNerney.

"Doing so will make our nation more secure and is good for consumers and the environment."

"I am excited about the effort we took because it will mean the creation of an entire spectrum of good-paying jobs here in the

United States," Rep. McNerney said. "Conservative estimates show that clean technology could create at least 500,000 jobs in the next few years. I believe California's 11th district offers a number of advantages to researchers and manufacturers and is well-positioned to benefit from cleantech job creation."

Energy Secretary Samuel W. Bodman had a different view. "Today the House passed legis-

lation that does little to increase our nation's energy security or reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In fact, the bills will actually lead to less domestic oil and gas production and increased dependence on imported oil."

Bodman noted that the measure would lead to higher energy costs and higher taxes. He would recommend that the President veto the bill.

Bellamy In Charge of Finance & Administration

David Bellamy, a former financial executive from The Body Shop and Intel Corp., has been appointed Vice President of Finance and Administration at Alain Pinel Realtors, announced President & COO Larry Knapp.

Bellamy has 20 years of experience across a broad range of financial functions at the corporate, division and operating levels. Most recently he was CFO, VP Finance, Real Estate & IT at The Body Shop, a \$1.5 billion global specialty retailer and a subsidiary of L'Oreal. As CFO of The Body Shop, he was responsible for all financial, real estate and con-

struction functions within the Americas region. Previous posts with The Body Shop include VP Real Estate and Director of Planning & Analysis.

At Alain Pinel Realtors, Bellamy will manage corporate finance and administration.

Bellamy, a Certified Public Accountant, has a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from University of Santa Clara, a B. Com (Accounting) from the University of Cape Town, South Africa, and a Master of Business Administration in Finance from the University of Chicago.

Groundbreaking Corneal Transplant Performed

ValleyCare Health System ophthalmologist Michael Gagnon, M.D. recently performed the first corneal transplant without sutures (stitches) in the Tri-Valley at ValleyCare's Outpatient Surgery Center in Livermore.

The procedure, called DSEK, was introduced in the U.S. a little over two years ago. At the University of Utah while doing his corneal fellowship, Dr. Gagnon helped to perform the first sutureless corneal transplants in the state of Utah. When he joined the Valley Eye Care practice in Livermore and Pleasanton, Dr. Gagnon, who specializes in corneal and refractive surgery, brought it to the Tri-Valley.

The traditional method of corneal transplant, which has been around for nearly 100 years, is to cut out the entire cornea (somewhat like a circle cookie cutter) and to stitch in place a donated cornea. This type of surgery requires a longer recovery and usually takes one to two years to fully regain sight. Because astigmatism normally develops after tra-

ditional surgery, a contact lens is required. In addition, the structural integrity of the eye is compromised, which can cause serious eye injury or loss of sight if a person were to fall or bump their eye.

According to Dr. Gagnon, the sutureless transplant is a huge boon for patients. "Not only is the recovery time much shorter, but most patients regain sight within one to two months compared to one to two years," said Gagnon. "In addition, the structure of the eye is stronger because we only make a very tiny incision to remove just the diseased part of the cornea and insert the donated cornea through the same small incision. It is somewhat similar to cataract surgery today," he said. Another advantage is that no contact lens is required because this new surgery doesn't cause astigmatism. "It is much better for the patient all around," said Gagnon.

Seventy-nine year-old Livermore resident Anton Kuendig and his wife Aida can attest to the advantages. Nearly blind in one eye with vision of 20/300, he can

now see almost 20/50 in just a little over a month following the surgery. Recovery time for the traditional method was one to two years compared to one to two months. "He had no pain and his vision has definitely improved," said Mrs. Kuendig (speaking for her husband who has Alzheimers). "Having the surgery right here in Livermore was such a blessing. Before Dr. Gagnon came, we were thinking of having the surgery in Concord. That would have meant getting a room. This was so convenient," she said.

Cornea transplants are used when a person's eyesight is extremely poor due to eye disease such as Fuch's Dystrophy or Pseudophakic Bullous Keratopathy. This new procedure can be used for all of these as well as for a failed cornea transplant. Some corneal diseases like keratoconus and corneal scars still require a traditional corneal transplant. "With the tremendous patient benefits using this new method, I fully expect that sutureless corneal transplants will soon become the standard procedure," said Dr. Gagnon.

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