

# County Holds Off on Cemetery Decision

Approval of plans to build a cemetery in North Livermore were continued by the Alameda County Planning Commission until its first meeting in December.

The decision came after the commission rejected motions to approve and deny the project. Owner representative Jack Smith had asked the commission to vote for a denial after commissioners had voted against approval. The denial would have allowed the project to move on to the Board of Supervisors for consideration.

Commissioners wanted to allow time for the City of Livermore to review the most recent reports on the

project and make a recommendation. Livermore had asked the commission to continue the matter.

The planning commission also asked for information about water availability and a clarification on the definition of community uses.

Commissioner Glenn Kirby disagreed with staff as to whether the definition stated in Alameda County's Measure D, adopted by the voters in 2000, should be viewed as law or merely a guide. Kirby, unlike staff, argued that Measure D was the standard that should be applied to the cemetery project. Using Measure D's criteria, Kirby rejected the notion that a cemetery qualifies as a

public use, public facility or infrastructure required to serve a public need.

Dick Schneider, representing the Sierra Club, raised the same issue. He pointed out that Measure D very specifically defines public facilities. They include a church, rectory or convent; school; nursery school, library, college or university; recreation facilities, and newspaper carrier distribution locations. "None of these uses are included in the cemetery proposal," said Schneider.

Water was the issue for Commissioner Kathy Ready. "The fact remains that this is a dry farm area. No one has any lush, green lawns. I need some answers before this project goes further,

whether we are taking water from people already there. I see the need for a cemetery. There is no water in that ground," she declared.

One commissioner suggested that the crematory should be considered as a separate use. He wasn't sure a crematory was covered by the county's zoning code.

Several commissioners felt that responses to letters of comment were inadequate or not responded to at all. The environmental consultant explained that no responses to comments are required as part of a mitigated negative declaration.

The applicant, Jack Smith, called the

area a good location for a cemetery. It doesn't interfere with anyone else. It takes a piece of property not good for farming and puts it to good use.

A consultant hired by Smith also said it would be a good site for a cemetery. Larry Sloan said the site has freeway access. Little grading would be required. With baby boomers aging, the need for cemetery space will become acute, he stated.

The cemetery is proposed for 110 acres on North Livermore Avenue. The cemetery and an array of buildings would occupy 40 acres of the site.

Planned are a mausoleum, mortuary, (See CEMETERY, page 4)

## Court Asked to Require Pleasanton to Rezone Land

Public Advocates and the California Affordable Housing Law Project filed a motion Monday for writ of mandate on behalf of petitioners Urban Habitat and Sandra DeGregorio, asking the Alameda County Superior Court to direct Pleasanton to implement key Housing Element programs and to come into compliance with the state Housing Element Law and the Least Cost Zoning Law.

In particular, the Court was asked to order the City to implement its Housing Element program that commits the City to rezone 30 to 40 acres of commercial land for high-density affordable residential development. The city would be required to identify sites within 30 days and complete the rezoning with specified densities within 120 days.

The writ also seeks an interim order restricting the City's authority to approve commercial development until it complies with state law.

The writ was filed in Superior Court. The motion is set for hearing on December 1, 2006.

In the writ, the defendants note that the city's failure to comply is not only affecting Pleasanton but the entire Bay Area. This affluent community is a regional job center that faces an

(See REZONE, page 3)



Larry Kuntz with the tractor he restored.

Photo - Doug Jorgensen

## Livermore Man Joins Great American Cattle Drive

Larry Kuntz of Livermore has made a career as a United Airlines mechanic, but he remains a Kansas farmboy at heart.

Kuntz joined some 50 other Old West enthusiasts to ride in "The Great American Cattle Drive" September 28-30 in Ellsworth, Kansas, not far from the

farm in Abilene where he grew up.

He left the farm in 1959, joining the Navy. He has been with United Airlines for 37 years, and has lived in Livermore since 1974.

He plans to return to Kansas eventually. The farm has been

divided among himself and his two brothers. Kuntz has 160 acres. Someone rents the land at present, growing wheat and milo.

Awaiting the day when he can "go home," Larry Kuntz feeds his love of that life by joining activities such as the The Great (See CATTLE, page 3)

## Boost In Child Care Quality, Availability Is Being Sought

By Ron McNicoll

Groups concerned about early childhood education in Alameda County have released a strategic plan designed to increase the amount of high-quality education for pre-schoolers.

The plan was discussed Nov. 2 and 3 at public meetings in San Leandro, where headquarters for Alameda County First 5 is located.

First 5, which is funded by Proposition 10 tobacco tax money, is one of the sponsors of the study, along with the county office of education and the county's child care coordination office.

Angie Garling, the county's child care coordinator, said that the overall goal of the strategic plan is to raise consciousness of parents, providers, colleges, and school districts about the status of child care programs, and the need for more of them at a high level of quality.

The plan commits to goals to increase the availability of programs and improve their quality.

One goal is to increase the amount of funding in the county to help parents pay for care, or at least not lose any of the current revenue, said Garling. There is a total of \$172 million coming into the county annually from the federal and state governments to help subsidize families that qualify for aid, said Garling.

Alameda County is second in revenue, with Los Angeles in first place. Alameda County does better than would be expected for its status as the seventh or eighth most populous county with a high number of low-income people in it, said Garling. She credited the county's child care advocates in the past.

The most recent portion of the \$172 million came from Assemblywoman Wilma Chan's AB172. The new law provides \$50 million for each of the next four years in operational cost, and another \$50 million annually for facilities construction or addition. When Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed the bill, he promised to expand the amounts even further each year,

said Garling. "There are many groups out there that will hold him to his word," she said.

Despite the county's good performance in obtaining state and federal aid, there is a shortfall of money. Garling said that the expected new number for the waiting list for subsidized child care in the county will be approximately 6000 or 7000. A family of four qualifies for a subsidy of as much as 90 percent of tuition, if it earns less than \$48,000 annually, said Garling. That requirement is a boost from \$40,000 last year.

It's not easy for a family to afford child care in view of the high cost of living in the county, said Garling.

### LOOKING FOR AGREEMENT

Another goal set by the new strategy is for those representing all segments of child-care to come to agreement on principles and definitions on quality care. There is no uniform report card or checklist about where and when quality child care is being (See CHILD CARE, page 4)

## Tauscher Looks Forward To New 'New Democrats'

By Ron McNicoll

Rep. Ellen Tauscher, whose 10th Congressional District includes Livermore, is looking forward to two kinds of new Democrats, now that the election dust has settled.

She was optimistic in an interview Tuesday, while the election was still going on, about the Democrats picking up a net gain of 20 seats in the House of Representatives, five more than would be needed to install the Democrats as the majority.

That would be a lot of new Democrats. They would be joined by some new Democrats running for open seats that had been occupied by Democrats. They will

be schooled by the Democratic caucus about their new jobs.

When Tauscher was first elected in 1996, she also went to school with other members of Congress from both sides of the aisle in a seminar at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. She said she isn't sure whether Congress still does that for its new lawmakers.

Tauscher also hopes to encourage some of those new Democrats to become "New Democrats." She is chair of the New Democrats' caucus in the House.

She described the caucus as a "center-left" coalition, which up (See TAUSCHER, page 4)



A reception will be held this Sunday, Nov. 12 for the opening of Orchestration! For the details, see page 7.

Photo - Doug Jorgensen

## Council Rescinds Pay Raise Following Brown Act Violation

The Pleasanton City Council rescinded the raise for councilmembers and the mayor approved at its Oct. 17 meeting.

The vote was 3 to 2 with Mayor Jennifer Hosterman and Councilmember Matt Sullivan opposing the motion.

The granting of the salary increase along with a car allowance, raised a public furor, because the discussion leading to the raise was held in closed session, a violation of the Brown Act.

At the Oct. 17 meeting, four of the councilmembers approved the increase from \$500 to \$700 per month for councilmembers and \$600 to \$800 per month for the mayor plus a \$200 per month car allowance. Steve Brozosky was the only negative vote at that time.

City Attorney Michael Roush commented that the cure for a violation of the Brown Act is to hold a public hearing. He said that the council could rescind the increases, or continue the item and revisit it at same point in the future.

By state law, a council cannot give itself a raise. Any approved increase in reimbursement does not take affect until a new council is seated. In this case, it would have gone into affect in December.

The council's last increase was in 1990. The state allows a 5 percent increase each year. If the allowed increases had been approved, the salaries could have been raised to \$900 for the council and \$1000 for the mayor.

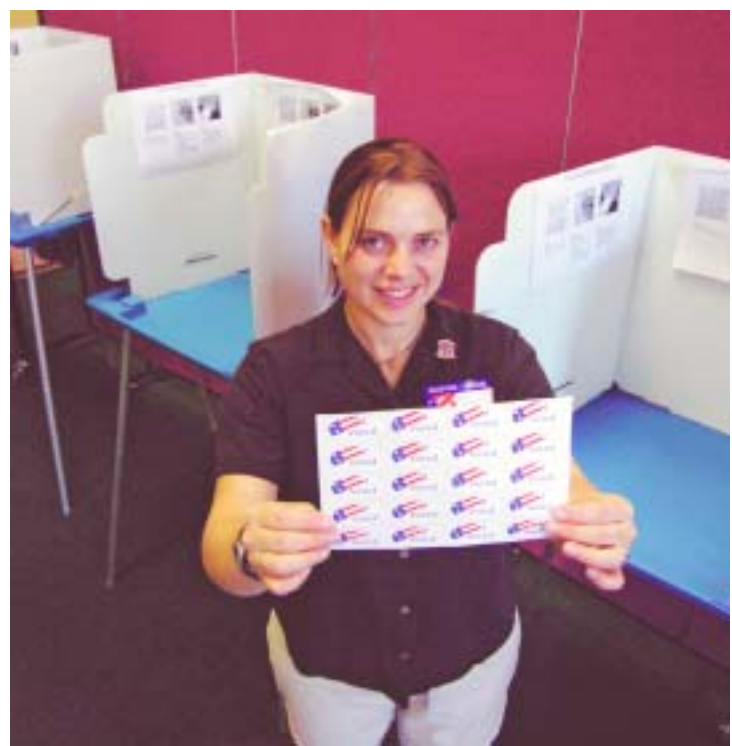
The council was roundly scolded by former councilmember Kay Ayala. "You broke the law. We have no idea what you talked about in closed session. You cannot move forward and cure the violation with this hearing. Three of you will be back on the council when it takes affect. You must let the next council address this issue."

Brozosky stated, "We didn't realize we were in violation until after the last hearing. I did not support this at that time. It felt the timing was poor enacting a raise at the last possible minute."

Sullivan said the violation was unintentional. "The Brown Act does provide a remedy to correct the violation. That's what we are trying to do. I'm completely comfortable with the process." He added that it is hard enough to get people to run for city council without costing money to be on the council. Councilmembers should be reimbursed for costs.

At the Oct. 17 meeting, Jerry Thorne said he wanted to hear from other candidates. He said the concern he heard was similar to his own, the credibility of the council. "To retain that credibility, I will have to change my mind and vote 'no'."

Cindy McGovern was close to tears when she said she takes the violation very seriously. "We made a mistake and should stop and not proceed with the raise. Everyone in this room bears some responsibility for the violation (See RAISE, page 4)



Nina Woodward, an election official at Lighthouse Baptist Church in Pleasanton, shows off the "I Voted" stickers issued to all voters.

Photo - Doug Jorgensen

## LAFCO to Consider Annexation

Property Owners Says Compromise Offered

The Alameda County LAFCO will consider an annexation request from the City of Livermore for property opposite Wal-Mart.

The city is requesting an "island annexation" under the state law that allows that LAFCO shall waive protest proceedings and approve the annexation, following a publicly noticed hearing. The area is considered an island, because it is completely surrounded by the city.

LAFCO will meet Thurs., Nov. 9 at 4:30 p.m. in Dublin at the Dublin San Ramon Services District office, 7051 Dublin Blvd.

The city decided to move forward (See ANNEXATION, page 3)

## Slurry Ponds Draw Attention of Commission

Alameda County has been looking into activity on three sites in the county they say may "require additional permitting or enforcement action." The Planning Commission considered the issue at its meeting on Monday.

In question are slurry ponds in Dublin Canyon, Collier Canyon and along Greenville Road. Of particular concern to the commission is activity at the Collier Canyon site. Neighbors were out in force to complain to the commission about the potential harm to their water.

The Regional Water Quality Management Board has issued a notice of six violations to Larry Gosselin, the property owner. If issues aren't resolved, the fine would be \$25,000 per day. The main concern is contamination of waterways in the area.

Gosselin said that there were several inaccuracies being circulated about the situation.

For one, the violations discussed by the Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board were directed at the contractor, American Civil Constructors, not at him. Gosselin said that he was named because he had to be notified as the property owner.

A slurry pond involves the preparation of finely ground concrete material from Caltrans for landfill disposal or limited reuse. The activity includes the placement of a liquefied slurry of ground concrete and water into textile lined settling and drying ponds. After they have dried, the cakes of ground concrete material can be removed.

The Planning Commission has asked for additional information to be considered at its November 20 meeting. As part of the next meeting, the commissioners asked for staff to provide a clearer picture of the county's ability to enforce zoning viola-

tions. Members of the public living along Collier Canyon Road said their number one concern is water quality. "Wells and springs are our only source of water," said one. He wondered if they were a plan in place to provide water if the wells were contaminated.

Allison Beatty asked for the wells to be tested for contamination.

Ken Watt, who previously owned the land, accused Gosselin of leaving asphalt, concrete, trees and stumps on the site and covering them up with tons of fill over creeks and springs. "The county isn't doing anything," he charged. "If silicon shows up in our wells, there will be a huge lawsuit."

The planning commission wondered why the county couldn't go out and test the wells. One Commissioner, Kathie (See PONDS, page 4)



# VALLEY ROUNDUP

## Service Awards and Installation

The Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce will host its annual Community Service Awards and Installation of Officers and Directors dinner on Thurs., Nov. 30.

The event will take place at Castlewood Country Club. No host-cocktails at 6 p.m. followed by the dinner and program at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$75 per person or \$600 for a table of 8. Black tie optional.

Information or tickets available at 846-5858 or www.pleasanton.org.

## Park Problems

Neighbors to Summit Park may notice the park drying out and turning brown. The problem appears to be with the irrigation controller system. Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) staff is currently working with representatives from John Deere Landscapes to try to determine why problems with the irrigation controller persist. The controller panel is being removed and a replacement, which is being loaned by John Deere Landscapes, is being installed while technical assessments are made

to determine the causes of the controller failure and subsequently repairs are made. Park staff will be taking additional steps to help alleviate the problem.

Bruno Canziani Park is undergoing a couple of changes.

Park staff has begun the process of changing the turf grass type around the tot lot and picnic area from the taller hard fescue variety to a turf type variety of grass. This change will eventually be completed around the upper portion of the bowl area as well.

Staff is also looking into the cost to change the sprinkler heads along the trail corridor from the four inch pop-up heads originally installed to twelve inch pop-up heads for better coverage in the taller hard fescue grass throughout the corridor. Completion of these improvements is scheduled for summer 2007.

## Correction

A letter in last week's Independent from LARPD general manager Tim Barry incorrectly identified him as Timmy Barry.

# CATTLE

(continued from page one)

American Cattle Drive and restoring antique tractors.

Kuntz saw a notice about the cattle drive in a magazine and signed up. The drive commemorated Ellsworth's history as an end-of-the-trail railhead cowtown. The event was sponsored by the National Drivers Hall of Fame as a fund-raiser for a museum it hopes to open in Ellsworth. The participants came from all over the country, but none came farther than Kuntz.

In addition to an entry fee, his expenses included rental of a horse. He still has a lot of family in Kansas and a cousin offered him a horse for the cattle drive, but he rented one instead.

Growing up on the farm, he had a horse, a Morgan mare named Daisy, and he has feelings for the animal. "I knew there was to be special events the last night. I didn't want the horse (the family horse) to have to sit in a trailer all night waiting for me," he said.

During the cattle drive, which lasted three days and two nights, Kuntz and his fellow drovers spent the days herding 40 longhorns across the prairie and rolling Smoky Hills of central Kansas. At night they slept under the stars, ate chuckwagon style and sat around campfires where they were entertained by two balladeers, Michael Martin Murphey and Fred Hargrove.

The drive covered 26 miles. They arrived in Ellsworth to great festivity. Some 6000 persons lined the main street as the cowboys herded the longhorns through the town.

"These longhorns were trained animals," Kuntz explained. "It might've been a bit harder to get untrained longhorns down the main street in such an orderly fashion. They use these trained longhorns on TV."

The cattle drive was followed by a big western festival, with games, a chuckwagon dinner, Buffalo Soldiers and other historic characters, a medicine show,

storytelling, an outhouse race, and a concert.

The cattle drive next year will celebrate the 140th birthday of Ellsworth and the Chisolm Trail. That drive will feature one longhorn for each year of the town's history, 140 in all.

Many people in Livermore know Larry Kuntz as the man who rides the small, bright red antique tractor in the Rodeo Parade every June. He also brings out the tractor — which he restored, with help from his son, Matthew — for the community's annual Christmas parade, festooning it with yule lights.

The tractor was owned by his father, who acquired it in 1950. "Dad was gonna get rid of it. We can't allow that, I thought," Kuntz said.

It took about a year and a half for him and his son to complete the restoration. He has become a tractor restoration enthusiast. He is currently working on a large tractor made in 1948. "I found it sitting on a junk pile in Turlock," Kuntz related.

He said he does his restoration work little by little, whenever he has parts to proceed. Searching out the parts is a challenge. He said tractor restoration has become a very popular hobby, causing the parts — which used to be cheap — to soar in price.

"Compared to finding the parts, the mechanical work is easy," Kuntz said. "After all, I'm a mechanic for United. I'm used to taking things apart and putting them back together."

# REZONE

(continued from page one)

"extraordinary and worsening imbalance between its supply of low-wage jobs and its supply of affordable housing."

The city's Housing Element is out of compliance, according to the state. In order to be in compliance, the city agreed that within one year, land use studies would be conducted to identify sites for rezoning. This would be approximately 30 acres at 20 units per acre or 40 acres at 30 units per acre. In addition, the city has failed to implement a proposed change in its housing element that provides for the city council to override the growth management limitation of 350 units per year.

"The city has failed to create realistic opportunities for the development of its share of the Bay Area's need for housing affordable to its local workforce," according to the writ filed with the court. ABAG has assigned 800 lower income housing units as its goal.

Pleasanton Mayor Jennifer Hosterman said of the lawsuit, "I

think it is premature. It is likely that the general plan update will result in rezonings. The basis for the lawsuit won't be there."

She added, when asked, that she does believe the lawsuit is an attempt to overturn the housing cap. "I think the housing cap has served us well," she stated. "It has allowed the council to really control what it wants the community to look like." Hosterman added that she wasn't sure the allegations against the housing cap (that it inhibited devel-

# ANNEXATION

(continued from page one)

ward with a forced annexation after property owners applied to the county for permission to subdivide the land into six new one acre parcels. The land is currently zoned for a minimum lot size of 5 acres.

The land belongs to the Campbell and Waterman families.

Dave Waterman said he had recently talked to the city and offered what he felt was a fair compromise. He proposed that the flatter areas of the land be zoned for commercial development. "It would save the hills and allow us to subdivide in a similar manner as property around us," said Waterman.

Waterman is suggesting that the city hold off on the annexation proceedings for a month, to "see if we can come up with

something that works for everyone."

Steve Riley, senior planner for the city, said the city did have discussions with Mr. Waterman about areas he would like to develop. "We told him we would be happy to talk about his options after the annexation. We would evaluate any proposal based on city standards. The city wants to be clear about who has jurisdiction before entering into any discussions."

Riley said if LAFCO turns down the city's annexation request, Mr. Waterman would continue to talk to Alameda County about any plans he might have.

The city, in determining to move forward with the annexation, argued that subdivision of the property for houses violates the city's general plan. The development would occur within the scenic corridor. In addition, steep slopes dominate much of the land. That would require extensive grading and cutting of hillsides.

Waterman said that he has engineering and seismic reports detailing how development could take place on the slopes. "Houses can be built on steep hills."

"I feel we have a very strong

case against the city at LAFCO," Waterman added. "The city never discussed with us the petition to annex our land. All of our neighbors are opposed to the annexation."

During the public hearing prior to the city council decision to move forward with the annexation, Waterman pointed out that under Measure D the area is considered infill. It is within the urban growth boundary.

The other property owner, Terry Campbell, told the council, that the scenic corridor had been violated many times already. "If the scenic corridor actually existed, we wouldn't be looking at Wal-Mart, Target, fast food places and gas stations."

The city made the following findings: the land is not prime agriculture land; the area is substantially developed or developing; and the area would benefit from the annexation.

The council pointed out that the annexation doesn't change how the landowners can use the property now.

Waterman feels that the city exaggerated its claims, particularly when it comes to providing benefit to the property owners. He didn't believe there would be any benefit.

# Sweet Dreamz To Host Official Grand Opening

Sweet Dreamz Lingerie will host its official Chamber of Commerce grand opening on November 15th.

Described as offering "shabby chic," Sweet Dreamz will give shoppers a 15% discount throughout the weekend of November 19th. (Discounts cannot be used with other offers.)

There will be an early bird special on Sat., November 18th 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Those arriving early will receive a 20% discount during these hours. Orange juice and pastries will be served.

Sweet Dreamz is located at 2074 First Street in downtown Livermore. For additional information, call 447-3769.

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## OPEN HOUSE

In celebration of ValleyCare's new Open Heart Surgery Program and Perioperative Nurse Week, the public is invited to an Open House

**November 18, 2006**  
**9 am - 1 pm**

ValleyCare Medical Center, 5555 W. Las Positas Boulevard, Pleasanton

- Tours of the Heart and Orthopedic operating rooms
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Cast rehearsing for the upcoming *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown* includes (from left, back) Wendy Amador, Emily Serdahl, Morgan Breedveld, Woody Peifer, Alex Orenberg, Taylor Johnson, Bohn Kerns, Benji, Hall, Daphne Ford, Natalie Hawkins; (front) Ryker Johnson, and Max Beck. Pleasanton Playhouse presents the play at the Studio Theatre as a special fund-raiser for the Pleasanton Playhouse Orchestra. The show goes on November 10, 11, 17, 18 at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, November 12 and 19 at 2:00 p.m. Call 925-462-2121 to reserve seats. A minimum donation of \$10 per admission will benefit the Pleasanton Playhouse Orchestra.

## Writer of Sacred Icons Guest of Art Groups

Livermore Art Association and Pleasanton Art League will host Archpriest Leo Arrosmith, a "writer of sacred icons," as guest artist for their general meeting on Monday, November 13, 7:30 p.m. at Almond Avenue School, Almond Avenue, in Livermore.

Father Leo brings with him an impressive resume and many years of artistic experience. He studied at the Bistram School of Fine Arts in Los Angeles under Mr. Bistram, a disciple of Wassily Kandinski. He attended evening classes in the Art Center in downtown LA where he met such notables as Norman

Rockwell. Besides his early exposure to art, Father Leo spent 12 years as a Jesuit missionary in Japan. He earned three masters' degrees in: philosophy, theology and architecture, and has taught at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley.

He is married and now serves as rector of the St. Innocent Orthodox Church here in Livermore.

Father Leo will share with his audience his many years of experience "writing" icons, a unique and beautiful art form.

The meeting is free. It is open to the public.



Icon created by Archpriest Leo Arrosmith.

## Comedy Show Benefits Film Festival

The California Independent Film Festival Association and Laugh-A-Lot Productions will present "Comedy Fest For Films" at Tommy T's Comedy and Steakhouse in Pleasanton on Wed., Nov. 15.

This fundraiser will benefit the California Independent Film Festival in Livermore.

Starring is comic Albert Valjejo. He will be joined by other special guests. Valjejo began performing stand up while in College - during class! His professors were thrilled and usually offered him an opportunity for an encore - in the Deans office. He regularly performs for various benefits and charity

fundraisers. He has appeared in concert with Foghat, Tower of Power, Rick Springfield, Richard Lewis and many more.

The evening's host is funnyman John DeKoven. A long tortuous divorce propelled John into the world of comedy. Comedy was a fun pursuit and it was cheaper than therapy. There is no truth in the rumor that his ex-wife asked for half of his jokes. Besides performing he also produces comedy shows through his company Laugh-A-Lot Productions.

The California Independent Film Festival is dedicated to furthering the art of independent

filmmakers, and is produced by the California Independent Film Festival Association, the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association, and the Tri-Valley Visitors and Convention Bureau.

To purchase tickets, call 925-552-7335 or go online at [www.caindiefest.com](http://www.caindiefest.com). Tickets are \$20 (two item minimum). Doors open at 7 p.m. Raffles, silent auction and other activities begin at 6:30 p.m. The show starts at 8 p.m. (approximately 90 minutes). Tommy T's Comedy and Steakhouse is located at 5104 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton. For information, call (925) 227-1800.

## Christmas Ornament Designer at Main Street Designs

Main Street Designs will be hosting Christopher Radko, nationally known design of glass blown Christmas ornaments, Sunday, Nov. 12 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

At the event, Christopher will personally sign an exclusive ornament, "From Frosty Friends," as well as any other ornaments purchased that evening.

Since his first collection of 65 ornaments in 1986, Christopher has created over 10,000 designs in glass and "home for the Holidays" products. Named the "Czar of Christmas Present" by the New York Times, Christopher Radko has been featured in magazines such as People, House and Garden and Instyle.

Radko ornaments adorn the Bush family Christmas tree, and at the request of former President Clinton and Vice President Gore, Christopher has decorated both

the mantel of the White House and the entire vice presidential residence. His creations have graced the Connecticut governor's residence and Gracie Mansion.

In addition to being featured on such programs as the Today Show, the Oprah Winfrey Show, Extra, The Other Half, Donny and Marie, Rosie O'Donnell, and Entertainment Tonight, Christopher has won the designers' challenge on HGTV. His ornaments are in the collections of Elton John, Ricky Martin, Oprah Winfrey, Robert Redford, Kim Basinger, John Travolta, Robert DeNiro, Dolly Parton, Elizabeth Taylor, Whoopi Goldberg, and Arnold Schwarzenegger.

It was at the request of Barbra Streisand that Christopher designed and produced his first Hanukkah ornaments.

Main Street Designs is located at 2196 First Street in downtown

Livermore. Wines from Charles R Vineyard, one of Livermore's newest wineries, will be served during the Nov. 12 event.

For additional information, contact Dennis Swanson at 449-8573.

## Author, Nancy Pearl, at Livermore Library

Author and librarian Nancy Pearl will present a program at the Livermore Library on Wed., Nov. 15. The program begins at 7 p.m.

Nancy Pearl is described as having become a rock star among readers since the release of "Book Lust: 1,000 New Reading Recommendations for Every Mood, Moment and Reason." A librarian action figure modeled on her likeness has also been released.

The former executive director of the Washington Center for the Book is a regular commentator about books on National Public Radio's "Morning Edition," and affiliate stations. In 2004, she won the Women's National Book Association Award for her contributions to the world of books. In Livermore Pearl will speak

# Go See Gwyneth

by Susan Steinberg

Crackling dialogue, high-stakes international diplomacy, family feuding on a royal scale, bitter resentment and tender affection - all on one small stage, vigorously presented by a superb ensemble cast.

It's the outstanding trio of Valley Shakespeare's summer stars that shine most brightly in "A Lion in Winter," now exploding with energy at Walnut Creek's Leshner Center.

Richard Aiello, "Alls Well"'s king, plays the great English monarch Henry II, a public success, but a personal failure, the desperate "aging lion" of the title. Less authoritative than Peter O'Toole's film portrayal, Aiello proves a most movingly human and sympathetically vulnerable ruler and father.

Hannah Knapp is once again playing the dutiful adopted daughter with a hopeless love, as in "Alls Well." The exquisitely winning pawn in a dynastic struggle between the Kings of France (her brother) and England (her lover and promised father-in-law), she makes her helpless frustration into a gem of private anguish and public dignity.

Queen of the scene in every sense is the magnificent Gwyneth

Richards. Forget Katherine Hepburn's imperious film portrayal of Eleanor of Aquitaine. Here is not only the larger-than-life historical phenomenon, but also a believable wounded and grieving woman.

No longer a power in state affairs of France and England (she was queen of each in turn - a unique feat!), she has lost her husband to the beloved girl she raised to marry her favorite son, and is hated by her children.

Banished to "house arrest" in England for her political scheming, she is a sidelined general, Napoleon on Elba, frustrated and furious. Freed to join her family for state occasions, such as Henry's Christmas Court in Chinon Castle, Eleanor arrives hoping to re-establish herself with everyone. Instead she finds them scheming intently with and against the others by turns, and must attempt any alliance she can manage.

Outstanding as a wise and compassionate countess in "Alls Well," Gwyneth Richards here rules the stage with a kaleidoscopic portrait of Europe's most amazing queen. When are her emotions genuine and when is she a consummate stage actress maneuvering for effect? It's im-

possible to detect!

Just watching her silent reactions to others is a great lesson in dramatic art. No wonder she has earned so many leading roles and awards for 25 years, and teaches highly acclaimed classes for professional actors at ACT, CAL SHAKES, and many colleges.

A trio of contentious royal princes embody the disappointing dynastic hopes for England's throne: warrior Richard ("The Lion-Heart"), schemer Geoffrey, and sniveller John. All are given strongly believable characterizations by Eddie Peabody, Joseph Hirsch, and Jeff Bryant, while Bret Hodson brings an enigmatic French King Phillip to complicate Henry's already dysfunctional family situation.

The play's tensions, intrigues and sudden revelations make Agatha Christie plots seem slow and plodding. It's an edge-of-the-seat battle of wits, featuring such memorable one-liners as, "Which shall we hang first - the holly or each other?"

For a memorable theatrical experience, catch Valley Shakespeare's favorites in ACT NOW's production through Nov. 18 at the Leshner Theater, W.C. Tickets are available at 925-943-7469 or [www.dlra.org](http://www.dlra.org).

## Orchestration! Opening This Weekend

An exhibition opening and artists reception for "Orchestration!" will be held Sunday, November 12 at the Bothwell Arts Center.

Fifty instruments hand-decorated by Tri-Valley artists will be on display at the Bothwell Arts Center, 8th and J, Livermore, between 4:30 and 7 p.m.

Wine and light refreshments will be served.

The exhibit will be open to the public on Nov. 12 and 13 from 1 to 4 p.m., Nov. 14 and 15 from noon to 5 p.m. and Nov. 16 from 1 to 4 p.m. The instruments will go on display throughout Liver-

more, Pleasanton and Dublin beginning Dec. 1.

The Orchestration! project was developed as a way to raise awareness of the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center during the 2006-2007 arts season. At the end of the year, the instruments will be auctioned off in support of the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton and the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center.

Orchestration! is a project of the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center in conjunction with the Livermore Chamber of Commerce, Livermore Downtown Inc., and the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Foundation.

To learn where the instruments are displayed go to [www.livermoreperformingarts.org](http://www.livermoreperformingarts.org) or call the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center at 373-6100.

<b>Vine Cinema</b> 1722 First Street - Livermore WWW.VINECINEMA.COM (925) 447-2545 Playing Nov. 10 - Nov. 16	
<b>HAPPY FEET</b> STARTS NOV. 17 @ 11:30 2:00 4:40 7:15 9:35 TICKETS ON SALE NOW! Win a HAPPY FEET Poster or other great prizes! Visit our website for the details. <a href="http://www.vinecinema.com">www.vinecinema.com</a>	<b>FLUSHED AWAY</b> Showing Fri - Sat: 11:20 1:15 3:15 5:15 7:15 9:05 Showing Mon - Thur: 3:30 5:30 7:30 <b>THE SANTA CLAUSE 3</b> Showing Fri - Sat: 11:45 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:00 Showing Mon - Thur: 3:15 5:15 7:30

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## Native American Historian Scheduled at Pleasanton Library

Local historian and storyteller Mary Puthoff will present a special family program of Native American stories, history and music at the Pleasanton Library on Wednesday evening, Nov. 15th at 7:00pm.

Puthoff will enhance the cultural experience by bringing artifacts associated with her stories and also conducting a traditional Round Dance.

Puthoff is the program specialist for the Livermore American Indian Center, a local resource and education center founded 1974.

The 40-minute program is free and all ages are welcome. Registration is not required.

For more information on library programs, please check the library's website at

[www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/library/programs-events-child.html](http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/library/programs-events-child.html) or call the Children's Desk at (925) 931-3400 x 8.

## Dublin Concert Series Begins

The Dublin Winter Concert Series will begin this Sat., Nov. 11 with a performance by Rafael Manriquez and his La Amaranto Duo. The performance will be at 7 p.m. at the Old St. Raymond's Church, 6600 Donlon Way, Dublin.

The concert will feature Latin music of Chile, Ecuador, Peru and Mariachi. Manriquez has been one of the leading exponents of Latin American music in the Bay Area for over twenty years. He is currently a featured musician in the California Arts Council touring program.

Tickets will be available at the door at \$10 for adults and \$5 for ages 12 and under. Concerts last approximately two hours. Light refreshments will be served.

The next concert will be Sun., Dec. 10 at 2 p.m. and will be the "Fred McCarthy Holiday Showcase."

For information, call the City of Dublin at 833-6645.

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\*Must Be 21 Yrs Old. 1 beer per person w/ purchase. Not to be combined with any other offers. Expires 11/30/06.







# SHORT NOTES



Photo - Doug Jorgensen  
**Serving up one of the dishes to Bill Long during an "Excellence in Dining" presentation at The Steven Kent Winery is Beth Saccone. In the background is Donna Rodrigues. The program involved downtown restaurants taking part in four workshops. The goal was to raise the level of dining in Livermore, according to Joe Rodrigues of Valley Culinary Consultants, who helped conduct the workshops.**

## Planting Project

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District is looking for volunteers to help with the 2nd Annual Olivina Lanes Planting Project. The work will start at 10 a.m. on Sat., Nov. 11.

Last year most of the historic Olivina walnut lanes were replanted with native seed. There was a good deal of success. Good for ages 5 and up. Bring gloves and a small shovel if you have them (We have some to share). Canceled if raining. Call (925) 960-2400 to sign up.

Meet Ranger Darren Segur at the Wetmore Road entrance to Sycamore Grove Park.

## Movies and Reading

Vine Theater in Livermore will donate all proceeds from purchases of tickets for the new animated movie *Happy Feet* at the Vine Theater in Livermore to improve the reading skills of Pleasanton students.

Tickets can be used for admittance to any one matinee showing of *Happy Feet* from Monday November 20 through Sunday November 26. The Vine Theater is located at 1722 First St., Livermore. Visit [www.vinecinema.com](http://www.vinecinema.com) or call 925-447-2545 for exact show times. Tickets are \$15 each and include popcorn and a soda.

The Barton Reading Program matches at-risk readers with highly trained volunteer tutors. The Program, now in its 5th year, has shown to increase reading and writing skills for over 100 students. The tax-deductible donation will be used to purchase instructional materials for new tutors to help more students next year.

To order tickets by mail, send a check to Valley View School, 480 Adams Way, Pleasanton, CA, 94566 Attention: Barton Reading. Please make check payable to Pleasanton Unified School District and write Barton Reading on the check. Include a self-

addressed, stamped envelope so tickets can be mailed. Also include phone number in case there are questions. Tickets will also be on sale at Towne Center Books (555 Main St., Pleasanton) starting Wednesday, November 1st.

For further information on the PUSD Barton Reading Program, or to become a volunteer reading tutor, please e-mail or call Christina Clark at Valley View School. (cclark@pleasanton.k12.ca.us; 426-4231).

## Internet Predators

Livermore Police Department will make a presentation to the public about internet predators. Crime Prevention Officer Nichole Freeze will present this topic, focusing on how parents can protect their children from these predators, and help kids use the web safely. These people are real, they are dangerous, and unfortunately they have easy access to our children.

Cyber-bullying, another common internet threat to children, will also be discussed.

This program will be presented Wed., Nov. 15 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore.

There is no charge. Open to ages 18 and over. Pre-registration requested by calling (925)373-5700.

This presentation is part of a Safety Series of public presentations conducted by the Livermore Police Department, sponsored by the Livermore Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association, and supported by the Livermore Area Recreation & Park District.

The next scheduled topics are: Avoiding Scams (February 7 at 10:30am) and Gang Awareness (March 21 at 7pm). Anyone interested in being emailed about upcoming presentations by the Livermore Police Department, please send an email to [jjurd@ci.livermore.ca.us](mailto:jjurd@ci.livermore.ca.us).

## Crab Fest/Sports Auction

Greg Papa, Bay Area sports broadcaster and radio voice of the Oakland Raiders, will be the master of ceremonies at the Biletnikoff Foundation's 7th Annual Crab Fest and Sports Auction from 6 p.m. to midnight, Friday, November 10, at the Marriott at Bishop Ranch, 2600 Bishop Drive, San Ramon. Tickets are \$95 per person. Attire is casual.

Crab Fest 2005 raised over \$50,000 for the foundation's projects.

Founded in the memory of Tracey Biletnikoff, whose life was taken in 1999, the Biletnikoff Foundation enables young people to realize their full potential through education addressing problems related to substance abuse and gender violence.

New this year, the Biletnikoff Foundation will be giving back even more to the community by awarding ten \$1,000 educational grants to aid high school seniors who have had to overcome adversity to fulfill their dreams of entering college.

This year's Crab Fest will include food, a drawing for diamonds, live and silent auctions, entertainment, and dinner with Oakland Raider's celebrities, present and past.

Crab Fest 2006 highlights include a live art demonstration by nationally renowned painter and performer David Garibaldi, the awarding of ten \$1,000 education grants to deserving high school seniors entering college, a special performance by the Raiderettes, and live and silent auctions including Pro Bowl and Hall of Fame travel packages, dinner with Fred and Angela Biletnikoff and an Oakland Raiders home game package.

Sponsorship opportunities are available from Title sponsor at \$25,000 to Silver Table at \$1,000. Ticket holders who are Grant sponsors of \$1,000 will have the opportunity to award the scholarship in person at the Crab Fest.

Celebrities from the sports world have been invited. Rooty from the movie "Rooty" will attend.

For tickets and information contact the Biletnikoff Foundation, 7080 Donlon Way, Suite 126, Dublin, CA 94568, (925) 556-2525. Visit [www.biletnikoff.org](http://www.biletnikoff.org).

## Cyber Crime

A program offered by the University of Phoenix and ACE trains will allow passengers to receive information on cyber crime during their commutes. As part of the University of Phoenix's Fall Seminar Series, Tim Woods, College Campus Chair for Criminal Justice and Information Technology in the Bay Area, will host a live two-part educational lecture on cyber crime and the individual, and cyber crime and the organization.

The seminar on cyber crime and the organization will be offered on November 16 and will focus on corporate victims of cyber crime and cyber terrorism.

## Stories and Crafts

An evening family storytime at the Civic Center Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave., will be held on Mon., Nov. 13 at 7 p.m. The evening will feature stories about dragons, knights and princesses. Storyteller John Weaver will swashbuckle his way through stories guaranteed to tickle your family's funny bones.

Family storytime will be presented in Spanish and English at the Rincon Branch Library, 725 Rincon Ave., on Sat., Nov. 18 at 11 a.m. "Fish Tales" are on the menu.

All ages are welcome to participate in these programs. There is no charge. Contact youth services at 373-5504 for more information or pick up a fall-winter storytime schedule at any of the libraries.

## Pirate Mom Author

Children's author Deborah Underwood will visit the Pleasanton Library on Friday afternoon, November 17th at 4:00pm as part of the library's Meet the Author series.

Pirate Mom is her first fiction book for children. She wrote it after researching and writing non-fiction titles ranging from orangutans to the northern lights. Underwood has also had stories and articles published in Na-

tional Geographic Kids, Spider and Ladybug magazines.

In Pirate Mom, Pete's mom becomes a buccaneer when hypnotized by the Amazing Marco! It's up to Pete to find a way to rein in his marauding mother when Marco is called away before the spell can be broken.

The 30-minute program is free. Registration is not required.

Towne Center Books will be on hand with titles available for purchase. For more information on library programs, please check the library's website at [www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/library/programs-events-child.html](http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/library/programs-events-child.html) or call the Children's Desk at (925) 931-3400 x 8.

## Open House Set

Alden Lane's annual Open House on Nov. 10 kicks off a series of events.

The nursery will sport more than thirty themed and decorated trees, and will donate 10 per cent of gross sales from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. to the Amador Livermore Valley Historical Society.

Guests who bring a canned food donation will receive a special holiday ornament. Other activities that weekend include stringing popcorn and making Victorian decorations, plus a Holiday cookie decorating class on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be a \$3 charge for the cookie decorating class. All other activities are free.

The weekend of Nov. 18 and 19 is themed Under the Sea, a celebration of the tropics and an opportunity to pick up Holiday Tree Ornaments with a South Pacific theme at a 10 per cent discount. Courtright-Williams and her staff will offer complimentary Hawaiian punch and freshly baked cookies both days. Customers wearing tropical clothing will be eligible to win a \$25 Alden Lane Gift Certificate or Ann Morrow's book *A Gift From the Sea*.

Dancers will perform from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday and 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday. There will also be a soil care class on Saturday.

## LPC Information

High school seniors and their parents are invited to attend a special informational evening at Las Positas College (LPC) in Livermore on Wednesday, November 15 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. The event will take place in the Physical Education Complex on the LPC campus.

Campus visitors will meet and speak with members of the LPC faculty, administration, and student leaders, as well as representatives from the University of California and California State University systems. Students and their parents will have an opportunity to meet in small group sessions with current students, LPC counselors and faculty in their chosen major fields. A Spanish speaking breakout group as well as a nursing information group will be added this year.

One focal point of the program is the Las Positas Early Admission Program, and students will learn how to take advantage of this resource to secure the classes and schedules that are best for them. Discussions will also be held on topics such as Las Positas Programs, Selecting a College Major, Transfer, Financial Aid, Student Services, Services Available to Disabled Students, and College Success Strategies.

Information tables regarding financial aid, scholarship opportunities, student activities and other topics will be available just prior to the event from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

For more information, please contact Roni Jennings at (925) 424-1421.



## PET OF THE WEEK

Hank is a social, and mellow 6-year old Tabby who is happiest when he can be with his people, or just snuggle on a warm lap. Hank "The Tank" is a big fellow (18 pounds) who doesn't let much get him upset. He likes other cats, tolerates dogs, and adores attention from children. For more information on Hank, call Valley Humane Society at (925) 426-8656. Valley Humane Society holds mobile pet adoptions for dogs and cats at Pet Extreme in Livermore every Saturday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.