

Zone 7 Plans To Look At Alternative Energy

By Ron McNicoll

Zone 7 Water Agency has made a commitment to reduce its carbon footprint by seeing how it can use clean energy to replace fossil fuels.

The carbon footprint is a measurement of how much fossil fuel is burned to operate a business, industry or household. AB 32, a California law that will take effect Jan. 1, requires power producers to cut their fossil fuel use to ease the impact on global climate change.

Other intentions are to have a lower impact on the power grid, and reduce the importation of foreign oil. It's an attempt by state lawmakers to bring California in accordance with the Kyoto

treaty's call for a worldwide reduction to 1990 levels of emissions.

It's not clear yet how AB 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act, will be administered, or what specific standards will be set. Polluting businesses would be able to trade credits to businesses that use alternative energy.

How the law might impact public agencies isn't known. However, directors and staff at Zone 7 want to do their part by cutting back on the agency's fossil fuel use, whatever happens with AB32.

Dick Quigley told his fellow Zone 7 board members at their meeting Dec. 20 that water agencies aggregately in north-

ern California use 20 percent of the power grid's output just for water transmission. That's the cumulative impact of all those pumps and pipes, and keeping the lights on at plants and administrative offices. It's important for Zone 7 to help cut that impact, said Quigley.

Quigley and two other Zone 7 directors, Bill Stevens and Steve Kalthoff, were appointed as a committee to examine the agency's energy use, and to recommend how to shrink the carbon footprint. They will look at all forms of renewable energy — solar, wind, methane, and the technologies used for fleet vehicles.

Zone 7 has looked at energy saving

before. In the mid-to-late 1990s, the board considered putting a turbine in a stream to generate electricity that would power a pump. The project would have run too far in red ink, according to staff projections.

When the agency designed the future Altamont Water Treatment Plant on Dyer Road several years ago, there was talk about hooking up to a wind-power turbine in the Altamont to get electricity. Uncertainty then about the county's standards for repowering the wind turbines ended the idea at that time. However, the county has since resolved the issue. It may not be too late for Zone 7 to connect to an Altamont wind turbine.

Assistant general manager Jill Duerig said at the meeting that Zone 7 can look at building the Altamont plant so that it would be easy to retrofit for a possible future connection to a wind turbine or for other alternative energy source. The agency could probably review all of its facilities with an eye toward retrofitting them, at a review cost of \$100,000, she said.

SONOMA AGENCY SETS ENERGY EXAMPLE

Duerig said that Zone 7 can learn from the Sonoma County Water District (SCWD), which is a Northern California model and pioneer in alternative energy.

(See ENERGY, page 3)

Free Rides On New Year's Eve

Wheels riders will be able to ride free during the prime festive hours on New Year's Eve for trips, between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. on New Year's Day. The free promotion does not include Wheels' Dial-A-Ride paratransit service.

The Wheels Board of Directors also approved additional holiday enhancements including more frequent trips to Routes 10 and 810, the all nighter service to Bay Fair from 6 p.m. to 5:30 a.m.; and expanded services hours on routes 3, 8, 12 and 15 until approximately 4:30 a.m.

Service schedules are available on-line at www.wheelsbus.com, at the Wheels' Transit Center, Wheels Administration Office, Tri-Valley libraries, and at the Dublin/Pleasanton BART station.

For personalized trip planning assistance, call 455-7500 or go on-line at www.511.org.



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) is hosting the Youth Basketball Holiday Classic Tournament through December 28 in the gym at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave. Games begin at 5 p.m. each day and continue until 9:00 p.m. More than 200 fourth and seventh grade players on are participating in the tourney. Fourth grade teams from St. Michael's/St. Charles squared off in this match-up.

Livermore Man Who Needed Lung Transplant Dies

Charlie Stockley, the Livermore native who was hoping for a lung transplant to save his life, died Dec. 24 at Stanford Medical Center. Doctors were not able to find a compatible lung donation for him in time to save his life.

Stockley, 38, had cystic fibrosis, a degenerative lung disease that made it imperative that he receive the transplant. In his final days, he was breathing only through a ventilator in the hospital.

Stockley's immediate family issued a statement on a special web page, charliestockley.com, that stated that as terrible as their loss has been, "We fervently be-

lieve that Charlie's courageous battle with cystic fibrosis has inspired countless people to register as the organ donors that someday might save the lives of others in his situation."

The web site has a spot where visitors can click to go to a page where they can obtain information about organ donations and sign up for them.

The family's statement also said, "Although Charlie didn't receive the lungs he so desperately needed, we know he would be happy if only one person was helped by his struggle."

The family prefers memorials in which people register as an

(See TRANSPLANT, page 4)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

A hawk perched on an old-fashioned windmill in North Livermore.

First Six Months of 2006

Election, General Plan Focus in Pleasanton

During the first six months of the year, candidates began lining up for the mayoral and council elections in Pleasanton. The city also continued to move forward with its general plan update, including the selection of a preferred land use plan that would disperse units throughout the city.

In Livermore, the first six months saw the city focusing on completing various redevelopment projects.

Both cities moved ahead with facilities for the arts. Construction began on the 500-seat performing arts theater in Livermore. The council approved the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton.

JANUARY 2006

Former Republican Congressman Pete McCloskey moved to the Central Valley in order to run in the June primary against Rep. Richard Pombo for the 11th Congressional District seat. McCloskey was quoted as saying, "It would be a battle for the soul of the Republican party."

The City of Livermore came out in opposition to a cemetery planned in North Livermore. The city council voted 3 to 1, Lorraine Dietrich opposed, to send a letter pointing out that the project does not conform with Measure D in that it exceeded the 2-acre building envelope. In addition, a cemetery

is not considered public or quasi-public infrastructure.

Chris Moore of Pleasanton was selected to fill a vacant seat on the Zone 7 Water Board. He replaced John Marchand, who was elected to the Livermore City Council the previous November.

A new coalition started on a ranch in Sunol was formed to convince ranchers, government and environmentalists to cooperate on saving endangered species habitat on rangelands. The California Rangeland Resolution was signed by 32 organizations, setting the stage for lobbying, sharing information, and acquiring private and public grants that would enable ranchers to dedicate conservation easements or alter their property to better accommodate endangered species. The aim was to help preserve at least 500,000 acres of rangelands.

Tina Morris was selected as interim principal of the Livermore Valley Charter School. She replaced Principal Mike Hazelhofer who was dismissed without cause by the charter school board of directors.

The U.S. Department of Energy began the process to compete the management operating contract for the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

Jackson Avenue Elementary School in Livermore earned

\$4,685 in the Wal-Mart Kids' Recycling Challenge. Students at the school recycled nearly 11,000 pounds of plastic bags.

The South Livermore Valley Specific Plan was awarded the 2005 Outstanding Planning Award for Implementation by the American Planning Association. The award was presented, "for the plan's innovative approach to balancing preservation and development."

Livermore's 35th winery, Page Mill Winery, opened in Livermore.

Livermore Poet Laureate Connie Post hosted the first Ravenswood Poetry Series.

FEBRUARY 2006

In Pleasanton, traffic emerged as the main issue raised by the public during a scoping session for the general plan update's environmental impact report. Congested city streets and freeways make driving difficult, the public said. Also as part of the general plan update, the Pleasanton City Council recommended placing a large area on the eastside in a study area. The recommendation came out of a joint meeting of the council and Pleasanton Planning Commission. The meeting continued the land use discussion as part of the general plan update. The eastside encompasses over 1000 acres.

The design of the Robert Livermore Community Center was

selected as a 2005 Achievement Award winner by the California Parks and Recreation Society.

Monitoring noise created by uses at the Livermore Airport drew opposing viewpoints during a meeting called to take input on what should be included in a noise monitoring system. Some said it would be a valuable tool that could lead to more cooperation between pilots and the airport's neighbors. Others wondered why such a study was needed, asking how the information could be used to reduce noise.

Freak dancing was banned at school dances in Pleasanton. Freak dancing involves some bumps and grinds between partners. School district administrators felt that such dancing sometimes looks overtly sexually suggestive.

Schools throughout the Tri-Valley led the nation when it came to recycling. Local schools participated in the Pleasanton-based Go Green Initiative.

The Pleasanton School Board voted to drop mandatory senior projects as a graduation requirement. The decision came after the board heard from a large number of speakers, all opposed to the requirement. The main objection was the imposition of just one more task on students who already have full schedules.

(See YEAR IN REVIEW, page 4)

Pleasanton Approves New Events Center, Wine Tasting Facility

A new events center, wine tasting room, and wine making facilities in Ruby Hill were approved by a unanimous vote of the Pleasanton City Council last week.

Councilmembers praised the "Casa Real" project brought forward by Michael Callahan. It is to be located on property adjacent to the Palm Event Center and Mitchell Katz Winery and across from Campo di Bocce along Vineyard Avenue.

Councilmember Matt Sullivan stated, "It is a very good looking facility. It is a good project for wine country, Pleasanton and the South Livermore Plan. This is what makes the plan work. It's the kind of thing we want to have."

Sullivan said at first he had been concerned that the large facility might hurt smaller wineries. However, he said he was assured it would help them by drawing more people to the area. Sullivan was also pleased with Callahan's efforts to work with neighbors in Ruby Hill, addressing their concerns by moving the event center to another area of the property.

The project consists of a 19,800 square foot event center that includes a 4800 square foot

wine tasting area. The existing farm buildings will be restored and used as the wine making facility. The existing house will also be restored for either a caretaker or winemaker to live in.

Callahan told the council that the farm buildings and house date from the early 1900s. "They are historical and neat. We wanted to keep them."

Callahan also noted that the tasting room would include a 2000 square foot barrel storage area. "We wanted it to feel like a real winery," he explained. He added there are plans to put in consignment art from local artists.

Councilmember Cheryl Cook-Kallio was pleased with the fact that the historic buildings would be restored.

There is a conservation easement over the property that is held by the Tri-Valley Conservancy.

Sharon Burnham, executive director of the conservancy, told the council that Callahan's plan conforms to the rules completely. "We are happy to have the winery come into the area."

While most speakers spoke glowingly of the proposal and what it will do to help enhance

(See EVENTS CENTER, page 3)

Work Proceeds to Restore Granada Native Gardens

Plans to restore Granada Native Gardens, a three-quarter acre native plant garden across the Arroyo Mocho from Granada High School, are moving ahead, according to volunteer Louann Tung of Friends of the Arroyos.

Tung released a schedule of volunteer actions that will be taken to restore the site back to first-class condition. The actions will begin in January, with a completion goal set for July 1.

The mosaics on tables and educational scrolls at the arroyo-side native plant gardens were the target of vandalism, some of it severe, during 2006.

Mosaics depicting what Tung said are three different Valley endangered species — the burrowing owl, the red-legged frog, and

steelhead trout — have been broken. Also vandalized were two tabletop mosaics that show a map of the Valley's watershed, including the headwaters of the Arroyo Mocho, and the routes that Zone 7 Water Agency uses to transport South Bay Aqueduct water to the Valley's underground storage basin.

The mosaics are educational tools to show the public that "the water they see in the arroyos is their future drinking water, so don't trash it," said Tung.

While the gardens' volunteers have conducted routine cleaning at the site from time to time, they have seen many cyclists, hikers and runners using the trail alongside the gardens, and stopping

(See GARDENS, page 2)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

During the week of December 18 - 21, students in the Technology Exploration program at Pleasanton Middle School created holiday ornaments to help brighten the season for hospitalized children. Every year, the classes produce about 200 ornaments that are delivered to the youngsters at Children's Hospital in Oakland. Henry Boswell, in the foreground, assembles some of the ornaments.

Do You Remember?

By Anne Homan



Before There Was a Vine Theater

"Moving pictures exhibitions" were shown in Livermore in the early 1900s at the Farmers' Union building at the northwest corner of Livermore and Railroad Avenues. As a come-on for their annual masquerade ball in January 1902, the Foresters showed films of the battle of San Juan Hill, Niagara Falls, and the ruins of Galveston after the 1900 hurricane. Professor Bradshaw came in April 1903 and presented views of the prize fight between Jeffries and Sharkey as well as illustrated songs.

However, the first actual motion picture theater in Livermore was started by Isadore Durand on Aug. 22, 1908, in the old brewery building on First Street, then owned by Dennis F. Bernal. A newspaper advertisement that fall boasted a "new flickerless machine" and a souvenir matinee every Saturday at the nickelodeon, a new word coined from the price of admission with the Greek word for theater. Admission for children was 5 cents, adults 10 cents.

Less than three months after the theater opened, the brewery building burned down. Durand's hands and face were badly burned when he warned the Bernal family, sleeping on the second floor. Several city dances were given to raise money for his personal needs and also to help him restart the theater.

On Jan. 9, 1909, the Bell Theater with Isadore Durand continuing as manager and projectionist opened in the McVicar building at the southeast corner of Second and J Streets. In February the *Herald* announced that a stage had been erected in the east end of the hall for special presentations. At the Bell on Mar. 6 and 7, Edwin Kennedy and Peter Higuera gave an exhibition of baton swinging and appeared in a farce along with Harold Brown.

A week later in March, Durand purchased a new Edison moving picture machine in San Francisco. Music was supplied by creative local pianists. Harold Brown often sang the illustrated songs that were a feature of the early films. The audience chimed in on songs like "In the Shade of the Old Apple Tree" and "Wait Till the Sun Shines, Nellie."

On Friday night, Oct. 10, 1913, citizens of Livermore heard "talking movies" at the Bell for the first time. The new owner/manager, Archer M. Bowles, explained to the audience how Edison's invention, the kinetophone, worked to bring action and sound simultaneously. A newspaper reporter noted, "The only defect appeared to be that the female voices ... were indistinct, which led a cynical person at our elbow to remark that for once in history woman had been unable to make herself heard."

In 1913 the Bell moved to the new Schenone Building on First Street. This structure had a theater kiosk in the front between two stores on the ground floor. Moviegoers walked down a long hall to the auditorium. The opening bill, with Bowles still the manager, played there on Friday, Dec. 27.

Newspaper ads in 1917 listed a different film every day. Warner Anderson and Daniel Dutro remembered that as children in the 1920s they paid 10 cents every Saturday afternoon to see "The Green Archer," a serial. In 1923, the theater had two name changes, first to the Livermore Theater, and then to the California.

Judy Stanley Davies recalled the story that her grandfather, Howard Stanley, told about pumping the pedals for the organist. He would become so interested in the film that the music would slow down until someone in the audience would yell at him, "Pump faster!"

On Aug. 23, 1931 while James B. Lima was manager, an explosion in the projection room caused a fire. The projectionist was Vince Porazzo, Lima's nephew. Lima's son, James A. Lima, wrote to the Livermore Heritage Guild about his cousin's experience.

"The only entrance to the projection booth at that time was a trap door in the ceiling of the men's rest room. The morning of the fire, Vince was in the booth preparing the film for the night's showing when it caught fire. The nitrate-based film of that time burned like gunpowder, and the fire prevented Vince from getting to the trap door and exiting the booth.

"He broke one of the projection porthole windows and squeezed through, dropping 10 or more feet into the loge section of the auditorium and escaped with a badly burned and bruised arm. He sounded the alarm for the volunteer fire department and then drove to our home at 6th and M Streets to tell my father about the fire."

While the damage was being repaired, manager Lima ran films in the Sweeney Opera House. After the Schenone Building interior was rebuilt, the theater opened as the State Theater on Dec. 30, 1931. More than 1,300 people attended the two shows on opening night.

On June 10, 1941, Livermore's theater franchise was purchased by West Side Theaters. That firm continued to operate in the Schenone Building until it built a separate theater building, today's Vine. At its opening on Dec. 26, 1956, the double bill was "You Can't Run Away from It," starring June Allyson and Jack Lemmon, plus the western "7th Cavalry," the story of the Little Big Horn battle, with Randolph Scott in the lead, playing on its 40-foot wide "cinemascope" screen. Local moviegoers enjoyed stereophonic sound and air conditioning for the first time.

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

New Zone 7 Manager Has Environmental Outlook

Zone 7 Water Agency's next general manager, Jill Duerig, gives high priority to having the agency make as soft an impact on the environment as it can.

Duerig has worked for Zone 7 for more than a year, and is the assistant general manager in charge of engineering. She will take over in late February from Dale Myers, long-time agency veteran who served 10 years as its general manager. He is retiring.

"I've been excited about the opportunity to work more closely on optimizing our power usage to make us a reduced-carbon organization. We thought of it with the design of the Altamont water treatment plant. We couldn't make it happen then, but we got the board to approve about \$100,000 to look in this fiscal year at the feasibility of retrofitting all of our production facilities," she said.

Duerig said that she also looks forward to helping bring the agency's adopted Stream Management Master Plan (SMMP) to fruition over the next few years. It will employ ecological approaches to habitat preservation for the flood control arroyos' plants, animals and fish. It will provide recreational opportunities, in addition to its main task of flood control.

Duerig lives in Sunol with her husband, Tom, and has three grown children.

Duerig will be the first woman to lead Zone 7, and only the fourth general manager in its history, since it gained independence from county staff in the mid-1960s. Mun Mar was first in the office, for 25 years. He was succeeded by James Dixon, and then Myers.

The Zone 7 board voted unanimously to appoint Duerig

at its meeting Dec. 20. It was a move that surprised her. Directors went into closed session, and called in Duerig, who had stayed in the building because of another item on the agenda for closed session.

Duerig's closed session with the board turned into a one-hour interview. After she left the room and went to her office, she said that the board deliberated for perhaps 10 minutes, and voted unanimously to name her to the post.

In a statement issued later, board president James Concannon said, "We all felt that going through a formal recruitment process could not result in a better, more highly qualified candidate. We are really excited to have Jill take the helm. Her unique mix of technical, legal and managerial experience — coupled with her innate ability to relate and work with people — will greatly serve the interests of our community."

Duerig told the Independent, "I was honored by the fact that they made a quick decision. It shows that they were confident enough in me not to go outside

to recruit further. But I was willing to fight for the position."

As Concannon mentioned, Duerig has a varied background. She has degrees in engineering, chemistry and law. She has worked as a water chemist, an attorney and recently earned a certificate to operate a water treatment plant. Her master's degree thesis focused on how to optimize the operation of treatment plants.

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MAILBOX

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Oak Grove Project Dolores Bengtson Pleasanton

Thanks to the Independent, the concern of trails advocates that the nearly 500 acres of public open space proposed for Alternative 4 of the Oak Grove Project, if approved "as is" will be only minimally available for public use is now out in the open. Previous media and developer generated brochures spoke glowingly of the ability of the developer and the Kottinger Ranch Homeowners Association, in meetings facilitated by the City, arriving at a project called "Alternative 4". Alternative 4 seemed to satisfy just about everyone participating in the meetings as it reduced the number of homes proposed from 98 to 51 and provided the City with the opportunity to own and preserve 497 acres of open space. What all those brochures and articles did not clearly tell the public was that public access would be very limited as the staging area and internal trails were deleted. Why? Because the Kottinger Ranch Homeowners Association did not want them due to potential traffic impacts! Now the only access to the open space that is clearly secured is an easement for a future regional trail accessed from the Callippe Golf Course or the Vineyard Corridor.

The 497 acres of open space

will serve the Kottinger Ranch Homeowners and the 51 new estate homeowners as a private preserve unless a public staging area (think parking, rest rooms, water, maps) and internal trails are secured with this project. Whether the City pays to maintain a preserve solely for the Kottinger Ranch Homeowners or all the citizens of Pleasanton remains to be seen. For the many of you who enjoy and use Augustin Bernal Park (237 acres) on Pleasanton Ridge, this open space land (497 acres) offers the same potential for use and enjoyment. Please contact your Councilmembers and attend the Jan. 11th. Park and Recreation Commission meeting and the Jan. 24th. Planning Commission meeting to add your voice of concern. Your help is needed to make the 497 acres of open space fully available to the citizens of Pleasanton.

Unwed Mothers Donald King Livermore

While listening to KCBS a week or so ago, I was startled to hear that a recent study indicates that in one out of ten births (presuming U.S.A.) the mother does not have a husband. Beyond that, the study revealed that the act of giving birth out of wedlock has lost much of its stigma. What is going on here?

This development is beyond my understanding. However, I do find it appalling, if, as seems to be the case, many women are not very concerned about bringing a child into the world burdened with the label "illegitimate." And, society has come to share that concern. But the children born under such circumstances are still victims. This trend should be opposed.

Restrooms Open in Downtown Pleasanton

The new restrooms in Delucchi Park are open.

These, and all other City of Pleasanton public restrooms, will be available for use daily, opening between 5:00 am and 8:00 am, and closing at dusk. The Delucchi Park restrooms will also have extended hours during downtown events.

In response to a community need for public restrooms in the downtown, the City Council, with support from the downtown businesses and the Pleasanton Downtown Association, approved the construction of a public restroom facility in late 2005. Preparation work at the site started this past June, and construction of the building began in July.

Most of the downtown merchants do not have public restrooms. The demand for such facilities was high, especially during weekends and special events. "We are pleased to add another amenity to downtown Pleasanton. While restrooms

aren't what we necessarily draw attention to, they are a necessary element of supporting a busy downtown," said City Manager Nelson Fialho.

ELS Architecture and Urban Design, the firm that is designing the Firehouse Arts Center in adjacent Lions Wayside Park, designed the restroom facility. The architecture of building is reflective of the natural setting of the park and incorporates colors and materials seen on nearby structures.

GARDENS

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to look at the information, she said.

GE Vallecitos has been helping the volunteers make the repairs. An employee group at the firm has turned out to work with Tung's group. The firm has also donated \$5000, because the project was eligible for community funds by virtue of having an employee group working on it, said Tung.

Tung would like to see the long-range problem of vandalism curbed. "There is already a light

pole there. We'd like a spotlight shining on the tables," she said. It might even be possible to set up a web camera focused on the spot to provide better vigilance, said Tung.

Tung said that she wants to talk to the city and to LARPD about better vigilance for the site, and for maintenance, too. The garden is on land owned by the school district.

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THE GOOD SHEPPARD (PG13)	11:30	3:30	6:45	10:00
ERAGON (PG) DLP	11:45	2:10	4:20	7:10 9:40
CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G) DLP	12:00	2:15	4:30	6:50 9:15
APOCALYPTO (R) DLP	11:50	3:45	6:40	9:35
THE HOLIDAY (PG13)	12:20	4:05	6:55	9:50
BLOOD DIAMOND (R) DLP	11:40	3:40	6:30	9:25

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VALLEY ROUNDUP

Judiciary Committee

Newly elected State Senator Ellen Corbett (D-San Leandro), was appointed to chair the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Corbett is the second freshman state senator in California history to chair the committee. The other was John Burton of San Francisco.

The commission guides major pieces of legislation that govern civil rights, environmental protection, health care reform and all other types of civil law issues.

Corbett represents the 10th State Senate District that includes Pleasanton and Sunol.

Legislation to Increase Military

Representative Ellen Tauscher (D-CA) will introduce legislation for the third year in a row that will increase the end-strength of both the Army and the Marines. The legislation, to be introduced in the 110th Congress, recognizes the realities of a military ground force that is over-stretched, overcommitted, and in desperate need of relief. Today, over 300,000 U.S. troops are deployed in 120 countries, while lengthy deployments, growing casualties in Iraq, and increasingly unpredictable missions are causing significant recruitment and retention challenges.

"An overstretched military undermines homeland security and America's ability to meet present and emerging threats around the world," noted Rep. Tauscher. "An increase in end-strength needs to start now to hedge against future challenges. It is vital that in a global environment where allies with equivalent military capabilities are scarce and where access to overseas staging areas is becoming more problematic that we have a military that is not only balanced and well-equipped, but has the proper manpower on the ground needed to execute their missions as well as post-conflict situations."

The bill would increase the size of the Army by 40,000 troops, the Marines by 20,000, and Special Forces by 10,000 troops. Recruiting and training additional ground force units in high demand / low density specialties will take the pressure off the Guard and Reserve, allowing us to rely less on our citizen soldiers and letting them go back to growing the economy and protecting the homeland.

Shade Structures Added

New shade structures have been erected at the Robert Livermore Community Center Pools located at 4444 East Avenue. The \$95,000 project was made possible by a donation from Shea Homes. The funds provided for three large shade structures, one at the zero-foot entry to the pool area, where parents watch toddlers splash, and another is located in front of the life guard office area. A third shade structure with a total footprint of 20 feet by 72 feet is situated over the bleacher section of the lap and competition pool, where families can watch swim teams compete.

"With temperatures reaching past 110 degrees in the heat of the summer, shaded areas are critically important to provide a respite from the blazing sun," says Rich Lange, Director of the Robert Livermore Community Center. "We are very grateful to Shea Homes for making such a valuable contribution to the local community," he adds.

For more information, please visit www.larpd.dst.ca.us.

Assistant City Manager Selected

Julie Yuan-Miu has been selected as the City of Pleasanton's Deputy City Manager/Director of Administrative Services. Yuan-Miu will join the City on January 8, 2007. She replaces Lorie Tinfow who left the City to become the Assistant City Manager in Walnut Creek.

Yuan-Miu has over 25 years of experience in local government, having served previously for the cities of Concord, Milpitas and Tracy. She is currently the Assistant City Manager for the City of Tracy and oversees all aspects of human resources, labor relations, city clerk, and information technology. Julie earned a Bachelors of Arts degree from Cornell University, a Masters of Public Health degree from the University of Hawaii, and a Masters of Public Administration degree from CSU Hayward.

As Deputy City Manager/Director of Administrative Services, Yuan-Miu will oversee the Administrative Services functions of the City including all aspects of human resources, the City Clerk's office, central services, training and development, and special projects. Julie will also assume transition activities associated with the Pleasanton OddFellows Cemetery and bring to a conclusion the activities of the Happy Valley Bypass Road Blue Ribbon Committee.

ENERGY

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The goal at SCWD is to cut the carbon footprint to zero, the agency's capital projects manager, Cordel Stillman, told the Independent last week. The agency got a good start on it by dedicating a solar panel installation at its administration building in May. That installation provides one-half of a megawatt (a megawatt is 1 million watts), which meets all of the electricity needed for the site.

SCWD is also converting its gasoline fleet to gas/electric hybrid vehicles, primarily the Toyota Prius and Honda Civic, and changing its diesel trucks to bio-diesel fuel. The agency is pushing hybrid engines one more step by being one of the first fleet users in the United States to have a new Toyota car that goes beyond the Prius in gas mileage. It has both gas and electric engines, like the Prius, but it has a plug-in battery, not one charged by the gas engine and the brakes' friction, as is the case with the Prius. The plug-in feature is expected to enable the new car to get 100 miles per gallon, instead of the 50 or 60 mpg of the fleet's Prius cars, said Stillman.

SCWD operates 11 wastewater treatment plants. It is studying a plan to take the algae grown at those sites, and put it to use in bio-diesel fuel. SCWD may form a partnership with the city of Santa Rosa to obtain more algae from the city's wastewater treatment plant. SCWD buys six megawatts of electricity from the Sonoma County landfill, which generates power from methane gas that the operators pull from underground. It supplies one-third of SCWD's power needs. A 10-year contract was signed last summer.

The agency is also studying the feasibility of using the biomass in its sewage treatment plants for methane that would produce electricity. The source would be from compost and waste food from markets, restaurants and food companies. If that kind of electricity generation would work, "we would probably sell it to ourselves. We are a large power user," said Stillman.

SCWD joined the California Climate Action Registry, a government agency which acts as a clearinghouse for corporations that want to track their greenhouse gas emissions. "It's a subset of California EPA. We joined it last August. We'll report our independently audited greenhouse gas emissions next August," said Stillman.

Another goal for SCWD is to achieve ISO 14,000. ISO is the International Standards Organization, which sets standards for efficiency in reducing the carbon footprint, especially through

small actions accomplished inside a business or agency. The 14,000 is a category, not a pollution level. It is much like a library's Dewey decimal system category for a genre of book.

"Using recycled material wherever possible and buying from people who don't use a lot of packaging are examples. It is prevalent in Europe. A lot of companies there won't do business with you unless you achieve the ISO 14,000 standard. It's universal throughout Europe. They are a little ahead of us," said Stillman.

CLIMATE CHANGE TO IMPACT ZONE 7

The need to reduce carbon emissions was underscored in a report to the Zone 7 board by consultant Jerry Nakano. He said that global climate change would have a big impact on Zone 7 Water Agency over the next 100 years, as it will on all agencies involved in flood control and water supply.

Some of the water agency's impact includes the need to build more storage facilities to take care of both the expected longer droughts and increased rainfall from climate change. It's desirable to be able to store more water locally for long droughts. It's also a good idea to capture the increased

to help supply that drought need.

Building storage facilities always costs money. However, there is a silver lining for Zone 7 in its future acquisition of a chain of

lakes, said Nakano. The lake chain, which has been in the agency's plans for decades, involves the conversion of gravel quarries that will be abandoned over the next 25 years or so. Zone 7 already has acquired several of them.

The lakes can be used to help prevent flooding in Sunol and further downstream from the Valley run-off flood waters in Sunol and further downstream. One lake may also be used as a reservoir.

The rising sea level from climate change, predicted to be anywhere from eight to 18 inches in the next 100 years, may not sound like much. However, even a six inch rise can have a threatening impact on the levees holding back the sea water from some portions of the Delta, said Nakano. The result could be a push of the ocean salt water much farther into the Delta, creating future salt problems for Zone 7's water source.

ZONE LOOKSAHEAD TO 50TH BIRTHDAY

The board also voted to allocate up to \$50,000 for a celebration of the agency's 50th anniversary in 2007. Specific activities will be chosen from a proposed list of many ideas, including a history booklet, a traveling exhibit, and a parade float. Working in some way with the children's museum in Dublin was also rated a high priority. Quigley and director Sarah Palmer are serving on an ad hoc committee for the project. They met with staff to brainstorm ideas.

Pleasanton Scouts Use Xmas Tree Pickup to Raise Funds for Programs

Pleasanton residents can arrange for a Christmas tree pick-up by members of Boy Scout troops 941 and 943. The pick-up will take place on Sat., Jan. 6.

Order must be received by January 4, 2007. Minimum donation is \$5.00 for residential trees, \$10 for residential trees over 8 feet, businesses or flocked trees of any size.

Trees must be in the driveway or curbside by 8:00 AM, Saturday, January 6th. Please remove all tree stands and send in all payments. Do not attach payment to tree.

Donations go directly to support local scouts in their yearly activities.

For more information, please call 925-417-5177 or register online at www.troop943.org or www.troop941.org.

Vine Cinema 1722 First Street - Livermore WWW.VINECINEMA.COM (925) 447-2545 Playing Dec. 29 - Jan. 04	
Golden Globe Nominated DREAMGIRLS Coming Friday January 12	
Matthew McConaughey Matthew Fox WE ARE MARSHALL Showing Fri - Mon: 11:45 2:30 5:15 8:00 Showing Tues - Thurs: 12:00 2:30 5:15 8:00	CASINO ROYALE Showing Fri - Mon: 6:30 9:15 Showing Tues - Thurs: 5:00 7:45
HAPPY FEET Showing Fri - Mon: 12:00 2:10 4:20 Showing Tues - Thurs: 12:30 2:45	

EVENTS CENTER

(continued from page one)

wine country, several of those living in the Vineyard Corridor were concerned about traffic that would be generated. Two speakers were worried about the consumption of alcohol and the potential for traffic accidents that could result from those driving under the influence. Another concern was that the added commercial use and noise that would make the area less rural in feeling.

Pleasanton Director of Planning and Community Development Jerry Iserson commented, "While we feel there are some objections to the use, staff is satisfied that impacts have been mitigated for those living closest to the facility."

Callahan said he has pledged to the neighbors that he will sit down with them and do whatever needs to be done to deal with any issues that may arise. The pledge is in writing, he added.

Mayor Jennifer Hosterman pointed out that the facility will have a conditional use permit. If there were problems, the city can change the conditions of use to

deal with them. "It is a wonderful project," Hosterman added.

Several speakers noted that there had been no complaints about activities related to the Palm Event Center, a similar facility. Dave Perry, a Ruby Hill resident, said he hears more noise from the Ruby Hill Golf Course than from the Palm Event Center.

Lynn Wallace Nahler, executive director of the Livermore Valley Winegrowers, said that the community is seeing a great deal of benefit from visitors to wine region each year. The South Livermore Plan encourages these types of facilities that are tied to a winery. There are 38 bonded wineries and several more to be announced soon. This adds one more high quality project to the area.

STAPLES PARK

The city council approved a contract with Rasmussen Planning, Inc. to coordinate the planning process to develop a conceptual site plan for the proposed Staples Ranch Community Park.

While the process is viewed

as one starting from scratch, the 17-acre site has been proposed for an ice arena by the San Jose Sharks.

Councilmember Matt Sullivan expressed concern that the expectation that the ice arena will be built precludes any discussion by the community on other uses in the park.

City Manager Nelson Fialho explained that the Parks and Recreation Commission would hold a series of meetings to take public input. "Ultimately, the commission will make a recommendation on the use of the land. It may or may not include the Sharks' facility. However, there is a lot of momentum behind the Sharks' proposal."

The Sharks are paying for the consultant. It is expected to take 6 to 8 months to complete the process. If the eventual recommendation to the council includes the Sharks' ice facility, the council could direct staff to proceed with preparation of land lease and legal agreements, as well as processing facility and site design.



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Getting your full 40 winks

By William Lide, MD

Sleep is as vital to good health as clean water and nutritious food, yet sometimes a good night's sleep can seem impossible to achieve. Stress, too much coffee, late-night eating—these and other factors can all make healthy slumber elusive.

To improve your sleep, try these tips for three or four weeks:

- **Stick to a routine.** Try to go to bed and get up at roughly the same time every day, including weekends.
- **Avoid taking sleeping pills.** Continued use can actually increase sleeplessness.
- **Limit naps.** If you have sleep problems, don't nap longer than 20 minutes.
- **Make your bedroom sleep-friendly.** Keep it quiet and dark, and reserve it for sleep and romance; use other parts of your home for eating, working, and watching TV.
- **Avoid caffeine and alcohol.** Although it may make you sleepy at first, alcohol can cause light, fragmented sleep.
- **Increase daytime exercise.** Regular physical activity helps reduce stress and increase deep sleep, but avoid strenuous exercise within two hours of your bedtime.

For more tips on sleeping well, check out the *Kaiser Permanente Healthwise Handbook*, which can be accessed in Spanish and English through my Web site at www.kp.org/mydoctor/lide.

This article is proudly sponsored by Kaiser Permanente. William Lide, MD, is Physician Site Leader for the Pleasanton Medical Offices.

EDITORIALS

Open Space Access Threatened

Two former City of Pleasanton officials, Dolores Bengtson and Becky Dennis, are sounding an alarm about the proposed Oak Grove open space area.

Formerly known as Kottinger Hills, the Oak Grove development originally had 98 residential lots and 495 acres of open space. As a result of meetings with the Kottinger Ranch Homeowners Association, the landowner revised the plan this past June to 51 lots and 497 acres of open space.

Dolores Bengtson is the city's former parks and recreation chief. Since retiring, she has taken on a citizen watchdog role. She points out that the city's master plan for trails calls for a network of trails throughout this property. The Oak Grove plan, she notes, originally had that network, including several staging areas with basic amenities, such as parking, a restroom and water. However, the new plan, while reducing the number of homes, also eliminates from the open space area the trail network and staging sites. Only one trail — a link to a regional trail — is shown.

Bengtson says if this plan were approved, with its lack of public access, it would effectively create a taxpayer maintained "private preserve" for the neighboring residents.

Becky Dennis, former councilmember, appeared recently at a City Council meeting to raise awareness about the issue. Dennis said this property should receive the same high priority to public access and planning as that given to the Bernal property.

The issue is scheduled to be heard by the Parks/Recreation Commission on January 11 and Planning Commission on January 24. We hope the outcry by Bengtson and Dennis will restore the trails and staging areas. This large and lovely open space area should enjoy the fullest possible public access.

Painting The Town Green

The Livermore City Council has approved an ordinance that makes "green building" mandatory for all new private development. These regulations already exist for public buildings.

The ordinance will be phased in during the coming year and take effect on January 1, 2008. It establishes a point system based on the county's green checkpoint list: housing projects must earn 50 points, non-residential must score 20. These totals are achievable, and will have an effect, reported staff.

Among those who spoke in support of the ordinance was a developer, David Best of Shea Homes. "Fifty points is something we can actually achieve," said Best.

Less waste, less maintenance costs, healthier indoor environments. These will be some of the benefits. We applaud the council for extending these regulations to the private realm — painting the whole town green.

TRANSPLANT

(continued from page one)

organ donor or contribute to any chapter of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation specifically in honor of Charlie Stockley. The family would like donors to use Alison Stockley as the name of the family in the donation. The e-mail address should be info@charliestockley.com. The web page will post details later about a celebration of his life.

One of Charlie's lifelong friends, Dan Flores, grew up next door to him. "It's like losing a brother," he told the Indepen-

dent. "He certainly lived a full life. That's one of the reasons it's so sad. We used to go skiing together. He wasn't sickly, but grew up to be six feet tall and weigh 180 pounds."

Like Stockley's family, Flores said that it was good that people could hear about his friend's need for lung donations, because it might encourage them to become donors. "It's something Charlie would have wanted," he said.

Mural Just Part of Plans For Downtown Pleasanton

A new mural is proposed to be created in downtown Pleasanton as part of the Pleasanton Downtown Association's beautification effort.

That is just some of the information provided for the city council last week by PDA executive director Christine Saldivar. "The downtown had a fantastic year," she continued. "Our partnership with the city allows us to be the downtown others aspire to become." There were thirty-three events that drew people into the downtown. In addition, the PDA worked to acquaint people with services and side street businesses by creating a directory and map.

The city council heard from staff concerning the annual assessment of businesses in the Downtown Improvement District. There were no changes in the boundaries or assessments approved by the council.

Mayor Jennifer Hosterman suggested that it might be time to revisit how businesses are assessed, particularly with relation to retail and non-retail businesses.

The last review was ten years ago. City staff suggested asking the PDA for input on whether and or how the formula should be re-

vised.

The PDA has an annual budget of just under half a million dollars for 2007. The assessment payments to the district range from \$50 to \$350 depending on the location. Businesses on the first floor along Main Street pay the highest amount. The payments provide \$60,000 to the PDA, an amount matched by the city. The \$120,000 accounts for about 25 percent of the total 2007 sources of funding. Events provide about \$180,000. There is a carry-over of \$158,000 of which \$50,000 goes into a reserve, and \$103,000 will be used for increased marking, signage and capital improvement projects.

Among the capital projects are art murals. "We want to create a more beautiful place," stated Saldivar. "Our goal is to have one up this year."

Funds will be used to provide education programs for businesses on the use of such things as websites and the wifi city is installing in downtown. Kiosks are planned, which will list businesses and events.

Saldivar was also pleased with the opening of public restrooms. "They look great," she commented.

YEAR IN REVIEW

(continued from page one)

Fire trucks in Livermore and Pleasanton were equipped with oxygen masks designed to fit dog and cat muzzles. The masks were donated by the Valley Humane Society.

The Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory added a six-barrel Gatling Gun to its security arsenal.

Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty made it known that the county wanted the Stoneridge Drive extension right-of-way preserved. The Pleasanton City Council had indicated they wanted the right-of-way for the extension removed from the general plan as part of the update process. The issue affected plans for Staples Ranch, land belonging to the county.

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District began the process of finding a new location for the Friendship Center, an adult day care program. The center shared Sonoma School with the Livermore Valley Charter School. The school is growing and needs the entire site.

Livermore held a celebration to introduce residents to the new downtown streetscape. Mayor Marshall Kamena commented, "It is just awe inspiring to look around."

The City of Livermore received a grant of \$750,000 from the California Housing Finance Agency's program called, Housing Enabled by Local Partnerships. The money was to be used to help finance the renovation of several small rental housing projects.

Plans for the Alviso Adobe Park in Pleasanton moved forward. The park consists of a 7-acre site north of Foothill Road. The adobe house on the property was built in 1855. Plans are to restore the adobe. Programs focusing on the history of Pleasanton would be presented at the park.

Plans were announced for the upcoming Livermore Valley Wine Country Championships to be held at The Course at Wente Vineyards. The tournament was one of the stops on the PGA Nationwide Tour.

MARCH 2006

The Livermore City Council approved creation of a Social Opportunity Endowment Fund. The money for the fund would come from Shea Homes as part of a development agreement. The money would be to help pay for human service programs in the city.

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District Board voted to approve the concept of leasing the Bothwell Recreation Center to the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Commission to use as an arts center.

Results of a poll conducted for the City of Livermore found that residents liked living in the city. Eighty-two percent of those responding rated the overall quality of life as excellent or good. Eighty-nine percent said Livermore is an excellent or good place to live.

Pleasanton should focus on small, entrepreneurial businesses as well as promote tourism, cultural and recreational activities to add to the city's economic viability in the future. Those were some of the recommendations in a draft Economic Development Strategic Plan prepared for the city.

Groth Bros. took the first step in moving from its downtown location to a site nearer the freeway. The downtown site is designated as a catalyst site in the city's redevelopment plans.

Tom Reitter and John Marchand were appointed by the Livermore City Council to prepare a report on a plan to provide water for agriculture in North Livermore. The decision came after several presentations on the costs to provide the water. The main message of the presentations to the council was that providing the water would require regional cooperation.

Lynwood Methodist Church announced plans to help the homeless in the Tri-Valley Over the next three years. Lynwood members planned to donate funds and supplies to help Tri-Valley Haven expand its assistance to homeless individuals and families.

Sandia National Laboratories/California celebrated its 50th anniversary with a rededication program. Keynote speaker Johnny Foster called for continued "competition and cooperation" among the nation's four weapons laboratories. Foster is a former director of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District approved plans to build a BMX bicycle facility at Sunken Gardens Park. The board rejected a proposal to build public restrooms in neighborhood parks.

The Pleasanton City Council approved a plan to fund its five top priority projects: the Veterans Building renovation, Phase I of the Bernal sports fields, the Firehouse Arts Center, Alviso

Adobe Park, and Kottinger Creek restoration. The projected costs of the five projects was close to \$27 million. The plan was to transfer funds from capital improvement program (CIP) reserves attached to projects with a lower priority.

Tina Morris was named the permanent principal of the Livermore Valley Charter School.

Two challengers announced plans to take on four incumbents in the June 6 election for the Zone 7 Water District Board. Challengers were George Vonheeder and Sarah Palmer. Incumbents included John Greci, Bill Stevens, Steve Kalthoff and Chris Moore.

Granada High School in Livermore became the top Go Green Initiative school in the nation.

Downtown revitalization continued to be a top priority of the Livermore City Council. Other projects considered important during a priority setting session were funding the maintenance of the city's infrastructure, establishing bus rapid transit, creating an El Charro Specific Plan, and protecting the physical environment that includes efforts to create a permanent open space/greenbelt area in North Livermore. Doolan Canyon was singled out as a priority area.

A blue ribbon committee was established in Pleasanton to study options for a Happy Valley bypass road. As part of the mitigation for the city's Callippe Preserve Golf Course, a bypass road was to have been constructed.

Singing superstar Barry Manilow selected White Crane Winery in Livermore to produce his wines.

George Miller was selected as interim director of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. He is to serve through the remainder of the University of California's contract to manage the Lab. The contract expires Sept. 30, 2007.

The Livermore City Council approved a plan to move forward with construction of the 500-seat performing arts theater. It was decided that allowing the first phase, building the foundation of the theater, to move forward before the financing plan was finalized would help keep construction on schedule and keep costs down.

The Pleasanton City Council approved an ordinance that would require all future residential development in Pleasanton to be green, with several exceptions. Single family homes of less than 2000 square feet and additions to historic buildings would not be required to compile a total of 50 points from a list of green building options.

Greg Ahern of Livermore was slated to become the next Alameda County Sheriff. He was unopposed on the June 6 ballot.

APRIL 2006

The Center for Biological Diversity rejected a proposal by the Alameda County Planning Department to hire a Wyoming consultant to act as a monitoring expert on a place to prevent windmills from killing endangered birds in the Altamont. The concern was that the consultant, Dale Strickland, had worked for several of the firms in the Altamont.

Affordable housing advocates urged Pleasanton to rezone land for affordable housing. They pointed out that the city was not fulfilling the requirements of its housing element, which called for rezoning. There were also suggestions that developer fees be lowered and the approval process streamlined to help lower the cost of building affordable housing. There are 1690 units left under the voter improved 29,000 housing cap. All other units have been approved, built or zoning identified.

Granada High School freshman Catherine Fletcher came up with the award winning slogan in the Teen Anti-Drinking and Driving Contest sponsored by AAA in Northern California, Nevada and Utah. Her slogan was, "There is a reason another word for drunk is SMASHED."

Red Sky Winery became the newest winery to open in Livermore.

Gloria Fredette resigned from the Pleasanton School Board, citing lack of time. The school board made the decision to appoint her replacement rather than hold a special election.

Mina Bionta, a senior at Livermore High School, was the sweepstakes winner in the senior division at the Tri-Valley Science and Engineering Fair sponsored by the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

Tripp Isenhour was the winner of the inaugural Livermore Valley Wine Country Championship held at The Course at Wente Vineyards.

ValleyCare Health System announced plans to open its cardiac center in May and break ground on a cancer center later in the year.

The Pleasanton City Council approved design plans for the Firehouse Arts Center. The center includes a small theater, art gallery, display space, and classrooms.

The House Armed Services Strategic Forces Subcommittee heard plans to remove all plutonium and highly enriched uranium from the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory by the end of 2014. Plans were also proposed to retain two independent centers of excellence for nuclear warhead design/development at Los Alamos and Livermore, each supported by Sandia.

An operating and use plan was approved by the Livermore City Council for the 500-seat performing arts theater. The plan identified revenue sources and operating expenses, as well as rental rates for various users.

Pleasanton City Councilmember Steve Brozosky announced plans to challenge incumbent Jennifer Hosterman for the mayor's seat.

Centex Homes began building a 30-home project in Pleasanton - the first zero energy subdivision in Alameda County.

Livermore Area Recreation and Park District agreed to accept the donation of the historic Denton House. It is to be moved to Sycamore Grove Park where it will be renovated to serve as a ranger station.

The Pleasanton City Council approved plans to remove two roundabouts from new Vineyard Avenue. The decision was made for safety reasons. The roundabouts had been built to accommodate traffic going in out of Neal Elementary School. However, the school has not yet been built.

The Valley's first demonstration agriculture park was planned for 18 acres in Sunol adjacent to the Sunol Water Temple.

The penalty for use, sale or possession of fireworks in Livermore was increased to a fine of \$500 or up to 30 days in jail.

The Pleasanton City Council and Alameda County agreed on a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for future uses of the Staples Ranch. The MOU included retention of the Stoneridge Drive extension right-of-way. The city would have the final approval as to whether the extension would be built. Uses for the 124-acre site include an auto mall, senior housing, commercial buildings, and a park.

Organizers of the Livermore Valley Charter School announced plans to establish a high school.

Big White House and el Sol Vineyards opened a shared tasting room in the South Livermore wine region.

MAY 2006

Pleasanton began exploring the possibility of purchasing the Pleasanton Memorial Gardens Cemetery. Pleasanton Pioneer Cemetery, Inc., a nonprofit foundation, asked the city to consider the purchase. The group had an option to purchase the property for \$1 from the Oddfellows Lodge in Livermore, the current trustee.

Art Takes Place and Orchestration were two projects proposed to promote the arts. Orchestration would involve artists creating works of art out of instruments, which would then be displayed throughout the area. The instruments would be auctioned off with proceeds going to the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton and the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center. Art Takes Place would be a year long effort to create public art throughout the Valley.

The Pleasanton City Council selected a preferred land use plan for its updated general plan. The preferred plan placed 200 units in reserve, designated 350 units for the West BART station, 240 for Staples Ranch, up to 250 units for the eastside, 100 for both downtown infill and redevelopment of senior housing, with the remaining 333 units going to Hacienda Business Park. The plan addressed only where housing not yet assigned might be built.

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District approved the concept for a sports park east of Greenville Road. The board majority favored a park comprised of 56 acres spread over a 355 acre site. The park would have been built in conjunction with a housing development proposed by Ponderosa Homes. The property is outside the urban growth boundary, requiring voter approval for the housing.

The Livermore School Board voted to add teachers at both high schools in order to bring the district into compliance with state law. The state requires the district to offer 64,800 minutes per year for students in grades 9 to 12. The cost to the district for the 14 new teachers is estimated at \$921,000.

Livermore Downtown, Inc. celebrated its 20th anniversary. Mayor Jennifer Hosterman

announced plans to run for reelection.

Residents urged the Livermore City Council to preserve the Hagemann farm buildings. The house was built in 1836. The property also includes a large horse barn and a cow barn. Wal-Mart purchased 20 acres at the corner of Jack London Blvd. and Isabel Avenue with the intent of building a superstore.

Livermore Mayor Marshall Kamena was selected as the new president of the Alameda County Conference of Mayors.

The Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center began its community outreach for the 500-seat performing arts theater. Members of the public were invited to purchase a brick or a seat to help finance the theater.

The June primary offered the first hint that incumbent Congressman, Richard Pombo, faced a tough battle for reelection when Vice President Dick Cheney made an appearance in the district to campaign for Pombo.

The Pleasanton City Council okayed a specific plan for the Bernal property and voted to place it on the November ballot for ratification. An earlier vote by residents in Pleasanton required that any plan for the site be approved by voters.

The full Kottinger Creek restoration plan was not approved by the Pleasanton City Council. The majority felt the full plan was too costly at \$1.46 million. The plan approved by the council costs \$1.175 million and included removal of invasive species, a new irrigation system, and new bridge railings.

Jim Ott was selected by the Pleasanton School Board to complete the term of Gloria Fredette, who resigned earlier in the year.

Mina Bionta, who was a sweepstakes winner in the Tri-Valley Science and Engineering Fair, was awarded an \$8000 scholarship from the Office of Naval Research at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair held in Indianapolis. She also earned a 3rd place in earth sciences, garnering a \$1000 cash prize. Bionta was a senior at Livermore High School.

Jerry Thorne announced plans to seek reelection to the Pleasanton City Council.

JUNE 2006

The Alameda County Planning Commission postponed a request to subdivide two parcels within the City of Livermore opposite Wal-Mart. The land is surrounded by the city, but is under the jurisdiction of Alameda County. The city objected to the subdivision for a variety of reasons, including the fact that it is located within the scenic corridor and also because the property is comprised mainly of steep slopes.

The cities of Livermore and Pleasanton began exploration of a plan that would be designed to create more solar energy use.

Sarah Palmer was elected to serve on the Zone 7 Board, finishing first in a field of six. Re-elected to the board were John Greci, Bill Stevens and Steve Kalthoff.

Pleasanton Councilmember Steve Brozosky first raised the issue of Mayor Jennifer Hosterman's travels to conferences. Brozosky asked to have a council discussion regarding council rules on travel to outside organizations and the use of city funds to attend. He said his concern was whether the mayor was reflecting his or her own opinion of those of the city when voting on issues at the conferences.

Voters selected Democrat Jerry McNerney to take on Republican incumbent Richard Pombo in the 11th Congressional District race in November. Wente Vineyards celebrated 20 years of hosting concerts.

Brian Arkin and Dan Faustina announced plans to run for the Pleasanton City Council. There are two seats available. Earlier, incumbent Jerry Thorne announced plans to run for reelection. The other incumbent, Steve Brozosky planned to run for mayor.

The historic Midway Public School was given to the Livermore Heritage Guild.

The Livermore City Council approved construction of 62 new hangars at the Livermore Airport, drawing criticism from those opposed to any changes at the airport that they say could increase use of the airport. Increased use, they argued would add to the noise. The council also voted to ask Pleasanton to pay for its portion of a noise monitoring system.

Pleasanton approved plans to purchase and install a wireless network (Wi-Fi) in the downtown.

The Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory was part of a team testing a pilot program to screen passenger aircraft cargo for explosives. The program was launched at the San Francisco Airport.

THE Independent

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SHORT NOTES

Ravenswood Docents

Those interested in living history projects can register now to train to become a docent at the Ravenswood Historic Site, located at 2647 Arroyo Road in Livermore. The six week course begins on Tuesday, January 9 at 7:00 p.m. at Ravenswood, and will continue again from January 13 through February 13. The training curriculum will include Ravenswood and Livermore history in the 1890's, period costuming, and techniques for leading guided tours. To register for this free class, please call (925) 443-0238.

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. In 1931, the estate was acquired by a Catholic order, the Redemptorist Fathers. Called "Villa San Clemente" by the priests, Ravenswood served as their religious retreat for over 30 years. In 1968, Ravenswood was purchased by developer Masud Mehran, who donated the core 32.6 acres to be used as a park. The 1891 Main House and 1885 Tank House were restored by the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District in 1979. The 1885 Cottage was restored in 1986.

Ravenswood is on the National Register of Historic Places, is a State of California Historical Point of Interest, and is a City of Livermore Historic Preservation Landmark Site. Free public tours are led by costumed docents on the second and fourth (except in December) Sundays of each month, from noon to 4:00 p.m.



Ron Tenuta, a retired engineer from Diebold and former owner of Tenuta Vineyards, was married on November 25, 2006 to Donna Hayes Lubell, a registered nurse for Kaiser Permanente. The ceremony took place at the Bridges Golf Club in San Ramon. Children from both sides accompanied the couple in the ceremony. A sit-down dinner, attended by family and close friends, was held after the ceremony. Following a two week honeymoon in St. Maarten and Puerto Rico, the couple will reside in Klamath Falls, Oregon. They plan to open "Riva de Lago Cellars" at the Running-Y Resort by the summer of 2007. The tasting room will feature fine wines from California and Oregon along with coffee, desserts and port.

Winter Storytimes

Stories and songs for preschoolers and toddlers will take place at the Livermore Library. Storytimes are free. Registration is not required. Storytimes are scheduled from January 9 to May 10, 2007 at the following times and branches:

Tuesdays at the Rincon Branch, 725 Rincon Avenue: Lapsit at 10:30 a.m. and preschool at 11 a.m. Sessions are presented in Spanish and English.

Wednesdays at the Civic Center, 1188 So. Livermore Avenue: Lapsit at 10:30 a.m. and preschool at 11 a.m.

Thursdays at the Springtown Branch, 998 Bluebell Drive: Lapsit and preschool at 10:30 a.m.

For information, call 373-5504.

Family Storytimes

Stories about pigs, weather and pyramids will be featured by storyteller John Weaver at Family Storytimes in January at Livermore libraries.

"Pigs" storytime will be offered for the whole family at 7 p.m. on Mon., Jan. 8 at the Civic Center Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave.

Weather or Not is the topic at 11 a.m. on Jan. 13 at the Springtown Branch, 998 Bluebell Drive.

At 11 a.m. on Jan. 20 plan a Visit to the Pyramids at the Rincon Branch, 725 Rincon Ave. Stories in Spanish and English about pyramids in Egypt and South America and food pyramids too.

All ages are welcome to attend these free programs. Contact youth services at 373-5504 for more information or pick up a winter/spring storytime schedule at any of the libraries.

Checker's Goes Green

For Checker's Catering & Special Events, "waste not" refers to more than

just how food is consumed and disposed. The waste-not philosophy starts with the food and catering supplies purchased. It involves making choices about organic foods and foods packaged in boxes or wood as well as using cloth napkins and tablecloths, and biodegradable plates, utensils, and plastic food containers.

Checker's Catering & Special Events, recently certified as an Alameda County Green Business, is the first catering company in the Tri-Valley area to earn this honor. The company is one of only three such businesses in the county to receive the "Certified Green Business" designation. Certification is a stamp of approval that Checker's Catering & Special Events has met and exceeded all environmental regulations and taken measures to reduce waste, prevent pollution and conserve resources.

The following are among the "green" and environmentally-responsible practices implemented by Checker's Catering & Special Events:

- Reducing weekly waste from 80 to 8 cubic yards—to 10 percent of the company's original volume. Checker's Catering & Special Events is the first Livermore company to take this extra measure in handling kitchen waste, separating food and service ware waste for composting at an offsite facility. (In addition, excess nonperishable food, including bread and produce, is donated to charitable organizations.)
- Purchasing organic greens and local olive oil (made with no pesticides) and strawberries and grapes packed in wood and boxes instead of plastic or styrofoam.
- Using cloth table covers and napkins and selecting biodegradable utensils, plates made from sugar cane (bagasse) and compostable containers made from corn-based plastic.

- Installing a low-flow pre-rinse nozzle for dish scraping that can efficiently rinse dishes under high pressure while using only three gallons of water a minute (recycling water). This, in addition to upgrading existing fluorescent lighting to T-8 lamps (operating on up to 40 percent less energy than conventional systems), choosing energy-saving electrical equipment and a water-conserving dishwasher, and installing lighting sensors for low-occupancy areas like the dry and can storage rooms.

Checker's Catering & Special Events is a family-owned and operated business for the past 18 years. Two years ago, owner Denise Slavitt moved the company into its 10,000 square foot facility in Livermore, and was honored by DiversityBusiness.com as one of the top 500 women-owned businesses in the United States.

Helping Others

Students and families of the Quarry Lane School made donations to area families this month. In Dublin the school donated to the McHenry House in Tracy, a homeless shelter with six families now in residence. In Pleasanton the two Quarry Lane Schools donated to families referred by The Perinatal Council, a group that helps at-risk children and families in Alameda and Contra Costa County.

In Pleasanton, the schools' families donated over 40 gifts for families. Wish list snowflakes were hung on a tree so that parents could donate the gifts most needed by the families. A very full van left for its destination bearing gifts of clothing, strollers, high chairs and gift cards.

The McHenry House Family Shelter in Tracy benefited from the work of the Dublin Campus students. The shel-

ter staff trains the homeless to become self sufficient with job skills, interview skills, helping with job searches and eventual placement into family apartments. Seven families were ready to "graduate" from the McHenry House this December, and students at the school wanted to help them get set up in new homes. New toys were purchased for the 17 children of the families, as well as home furnishings, clothing and small appliances.

The Quarry Lane School student leadership program organized the school-wide collection effort. Wish lists for each family were matched with gifts contributed by families of students in grades kindergarten through ninth grade. The ninth grade sorted numerous items by family and made sure that each family had items they wanted and needed. A couple of children

The sixth to ninth grade students held a gift wrap-a-thon at Barnes and Noble Books and raised \$189 to buy additional gifts. They worked all the next day to sort, wrap and deliver the gifts. A truck and van went to Tracy loaded with 36 giant-sized garbage bags filled with wrapped gifts.

Samantha "Sam" Jerrell-Taylor, a ninth grader said, "I thought it would be really fun, but it's actually a good thing we were involved in helping people. I felt like we had accomplished a huge goal and I felt better about myself."

Other high school students are creating their own leadership projects with the goal of helping others.

Omar Ibrahim is setting up a non-profit organization to collect donations to raise money for schools in Afghanistan, where war-torn class rooms might have only a chalkboard for instruction. Laura Weber participated in "Operation Christmas Child" and packaged over 80 boxes of donated gifts and toys sent to children in third world countries. As a thank you she received miniature shoe boxes, one for each week of the year, with a prayer in it.

Christopher Hair conducted a bone marrow drive to help patients with leukemia and lymphoma. He organized a marrow registration day where volunteers from the school community were swabbed for matching donors to patients. In just an hour and a half, eighteen people had signed up as potential donors.

ART & ENTERTAINMENT

Auditions, Valley Concert Choral.

by appointment for experienced singers interested in singing with the chorus on Monday, January 15 and Monday, January 29, 2007 in Livermore. The Choral is looking for singers who enjoy performing a wide range of music from classical to contemporary, from folk to jazz. If you have sight reading skills and enjoy singing exciting and challenging music, call 925-462-4205 to schedule an appointment. For more information, visit www.valleyconcertchorale.org.

Danville Arts Salon, Thursday, Jan. 4, 7:00 pm, "What is Friendship?" Wanted: artistic, free-thinking, creative, cultured, thoughtful, intelligent, opinionated, articulate, curious, fun-loving, well-read, engaging, sociable, and friendly people to share ideas in a moderated discussion. Potluck: serving Soup de Salon, crackers, cookies, coffee. Bring finger food or beverage to share, or a donation. Upstairs, 233 Front Street, Danville. Last Salon at the Gallery - No handicapped access. For more information call Fred, (925) 216-4590.

Contra Costa Children's Chorus holds placement interviews at the Dougherty Station Community Center in San Ramon on January 15 and 22, 2007. The chorus begins its 2nd

satellite chorus through the Department of Parks and Community Services, with rehearsals to take place at the Dougherty Station Community Center. The Chorus has performed at such venerable institutions as Canterbury Cathedral, the Vatican and Carnegie Hall. The Chorus is currently preparing for a Summer 2007 tour to China. Director Iris Lamanna will lead children ages 5-14 (grades 1-4 and grades 5-8) in two separate levels at the San Ramon site. Participants in the San Ramon program will also have the opportunity to perform and eventually tour with the more advanced group in Walnut Creek. Placement interviews will be held on Monday 1/15/07 from 4-5:15, with additional interviews the 1/22/07 and 1/29/07. Please call 925 973-3368 to sign up for an audition time slot. Please come prepared to sing a short song. For more information check out the Contra Costa Children's Chorus Web site at www.childrenschorus.com.

Tommy T's (comedy) Pleasanton, 5104 Hopyard Rd. 227-1800 or www.tommyts.com.

Orchid Roundup, Jan. 6-7, 2007, Community Activities Bldg., 1400 Roosevelt Ave., Redwood City. Peninsula Orchid Society show and sale features exhibits, vendors, seminars, member sales and orchid art. Admis-

sion \$5 adults, \$3 seniors, disabled and children age 12-16. Information <http://penorchidsofoc.org> or 650-361-8658.

Lounge entertainment: Pleasanton Hotel, 855 Main St., Pleasanton; Thurs., Dec. 28, Fred McCarty sings folk rock, 6 to 8:30 p.m.; Fri., Dec. 29, Cruiseton, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.; Sat., Dec. 30, Major Link, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Close Up, Livermore Art Association exhibit at the Livermore Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave. Focus is on life in a macro view. The object of the show will be to view things encountered at close range. Exhibit Dec. 1-30. Available for viewing during regular library hours.

Art Collecting 101, Saturday January 20, 2007, 3-4pm. Free to the Public. Refreshments Served. Worthington Gallery West, 739 J. Main St., Pleasanton. Led by Claudia Hess who has spent the last 30 years studying art in the US, Europe and Japan. 485-1183.

Ravenswood Poetry Series, Jan. 7, 2 to 4 p.m. presented by Livermore Poet Laureate Connie Post, Ravenswood Historic Site, 2647 Arroyo Rd., Livermore. Featured readers Armand Brint, Theresa Whitehall. Open Mic will take place after a short break around 3 p.m. Light Refreshments will be served. \$5.00 admission fee

Literary event at Library, Persis Karim

will present her anthology, "Let Me Tell you where I've Been: New Writing by Women of the Iranian Diaspora," at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., Pleasanton on Sun., Jan. 28 at 2 p.m. She will be joined by authors Tara Fatemi, Esther Kamkar, and Sanaz Nikaein. All library programs are free and open to all. Contact Penny Johnson at 925/931-3405 for more information.

Folksinger John McCutcheon performs at St. James' Episcopal Church on Monday, January 15, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. General admission tickets are on sale now for \$20, \$15 for children under age 12. Children under age 5 are admitted free of charge. A limited number of higher priced tickets may be available at the door. For ticket information, call the St. James' office at 510-797-1492 or visit www.saintj.com. St. James' Episcopal Church: 37051 Cabrillo Terrace (at Thornton), Fremont.

Poet's Showcase, Hosted by Pleasanton's Poet Laureate Cynthia L. Bryant on Thursday, January 25th 7:30pm Towne Center Books, 555 Main Street, Pleasanton in honor of Charlene Vilella, Pleasanton's first poet laureate. No fee, light refreshments.

Aftershocker, plays at Blue Bar, 2293 First St., Livermore, January 18, at 10 p.m.



The friends and family announced the engagement of Justin Cody Wilkes and Heidi Kathleen Chang, which occurred on October 7, 2006. The wedding is scheduled to take place in Livermore, on April 7, 2007. Justin is the son of Jerry Wilkes and Christine Wilkes, Pam Wilkes. Heidi is the daughter of Kathy Chang and Gary Chang.

SPORTS NOTES

Seahawks Sizzle

The Pacific Swimming Senior Championships were held in frigid temps last weekend in San Jose. That didn't stop the Pleasanton Seahawks team members from sizzling.

The Seahawks finished with a Women's 400 Medley Relay, 400 Free Relay, and 800 Free Relay qualifying for Spring Nationals. In addition, Karen Wang picked up an individual cut in the 200 Back to qualify for Spring Nationals, to be held in Long Island, NY 3/27-31 of 2007. The 3 relays also qualified for the Winter Short Course Nationals to be held in December 2007.

National relay team members include: Karen Wang, Neda Nguyen, Lisa Narum, Kayleigh Foley in the 400 Medley Relay; Katrina Anderson, Karen Wang, Lisa Narum, and Karen Wang in the 400 Free Relay; and Catherine Breed, Kayleigh Foley, Lisa Narum, and Karen Wang in the 800 Free Relay. They join Brandon Fischer with his 100 and 200 Breast qualifying times.

In addition to the Nationals qualifying swims, there were several outstanding individual swims: Katrina Anderson: 100 and 200 Back, 100 and 200 Free, 200 and 400 IM; Catherine Breed: 100 Back, 500, 1000, and 1650 Free; Brandon Fischer: 100 and 200 Breast; Kayleigh Foley: 50, 100, and 200 Free; Chris Guido: 200 and 1000 Free; Tory Houston: 100 Breast, 100 and 200 Free, 200 and 400 IM; Josh Meintz: 100 and 200 Back, 50 and 200 Free, 200 IM; Lisa Narum: 100 Fly, 100 Back, 200 Free, 400 IM; Neda Nguyen: 100 Fly, 100 and 200 Breast, and 200 IM; Andrew Seitz: 1000 and 1650 Free; Karen Wang: 100 and 200 Back, 50, 100, and 200 Free.

East Bay Fit

A new season of East Bay FIT (formerly Danville FIT) will begin on January 27, 2007 to train for a marathon or half marathon. The first meeting will be held at 8 a.m. at the Iron Horse Trail at the corner of Railroad & Prospect Avenues in Danville. The target race will again be the San Francisco Marathon & Half Marathon scheduled for July 29, 2007.

East Bay FIT is part of a larger, national program called USA FIT, which was developed to prepare people of all fitness levels to run or walk a marathon or half marathon using a 6-month training plan. Mostly paved trails around the East Bay are used as part of our training. A few runs will take place on unpaved trails as well. Long group runs are on Saturday mornings. Weekday runs are left to individual members. For more information, please visit www.danvillefit.com or call 1-866-333-9828.

10K Run

The 6th Hats Off America Red T-Shirt 10K Run/5K Walk will be held beginning at 10 a.m. on Saturday, February 10, 2007 at Sycamore Valley Park, 2101 Holbrook Drive, Danville, rain or shine.

Entry fee is \$35 per person. All runners and volunteers will receive a red t-shirt and a barbecue lunch after the run. There is no entry fee for volunteers.

Run with Sparky George, the Bear Flag Runner, to raise awareness and money for the Hats Off America (HOA) nonprofit organization. HOA raises money for families of soldiers who have died in Afghanistan and Iraq. The run is another way that Hats Off America lets the families know that they and their loved ones will not be forgotten.

For information or to register or volunteer, contact Sparky George at (925) 855-1950 or thebearflagrunner@yahoo.com Visit www.hatsoffamerica.us. The site includes links to other organizations that support our troops. Hats Off America is a nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization.

Hats Off America fund-raising events are held each year and include Casino Night in April 2007; The Muscle Car, Hot Rod & Art Fair in May 2007; and Red T-Shirt 10KRun/5K Walks in February, September and November 2007. There is also a blood drive on February 3.

Golf Club

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) Golf Association launches its sixth year as an associate golf club with the USGA/Northern California Golf Association. The club is open to those 18 years of age and older, and to youth golfers ages 14 to 17 who are accompanied by an adult member. The LARPD Golf Association is taking registration for the 2007 membership year through December 30.

Membership fees include NCGA membership, sanction and its amenities, discounts on golf, merchandise and apparel, tournaments at surrounding bay area courses including Poppy Hills and Poppy Ridge, tournament deposits, club affiliated socials and special events, and much more. Registration fees are \$60 through December 30 and \$70 after January 1, 2007.

Visit www.larpdgolfclub.com to download a copy of the registration form, which should be mailed or delivered to the LARPD Golf Association, 4444 East Avenue, Livermore, CA 94550. For more information, call Frank LaScala at (925) 373-5731.

Girls Softball Tryouts

Tryouts for the 2007 Pleasanton Phantom Girls Softball 18U 'A' summer travel team will be held on January 7, 2007 at the California High School varsity softball fields.

9870 Broadmoor Dr. San Ramon. Tryouts begin 12 noon. All girls from the bay area are welcome to tryout.

See the PGSL web site for additional information www.pleasantonsoftball.org or contact Louie Greco at sicala1531@comcast.net or 828-1861.

Girls Softball Registration

2007 Registration for all Pleasanton Phantom divisions is now open. Phantom softball is open to girls in grades K-12 living in Pleasanton, Dublin and Sunol. Registration can be made online or mail-in. Registration forms are available on line or you may request one by mailing to PGSL, P.O. Box 911, Pleasanton, CA 94566. Return the registration to the same address. See the PGSL web site for additional information www.pleasantonsoftball.org or contact Dalice Godwin at ponyperf@comcast.net or 462-5608.

Sharks Tickets

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) is selling a limited amount of tickets to two games in the upcoming National Hockey League season of the San Jose Sharks.

The public can purchase tickets for the January 15, 2007 game against the Colorado Avalanche, which kicks off at 7:00 p.m. at the Shark Tank in San Jose. Also available are

tickets for the Sunday, March 11, 2007 game against the Edmonton Oilers, starting at 5:00 p.m. The Oilers were ranked sixth in the NHL in 2005 and made it to the Stanley Cup finals.

Tickets for both games are Upper Reserved seats in sections 217, 218, 226, and 227. Tickets are \$43 each and can be purchased by calling (925) 373-5700. For more information, please contact Moe Kline at (925) 373-5717.

Alumni Soccer Game

The 4th Ryan Gordon Foothill-Amador Alumni Soccer Game will be held Sat., Dec. 30 at Amador Valley High School in Pleasanton.

There will be 2 games featuring men's and women's soccer players from the 70's, 80's, 90's and 2000's. The women will play starting at 4 p.m., the men at 6:30 p.m. The game benefits the Foothill and Amador soccer programs. All gate receipts (\$7 adults and \$4 students) and Snack Bar proceeds will go directly to the programs.

The teams will be playing for trophies to be awarded to the schools of the winners. The winning school will gain possession of the trophies each year. Games during the 1st three years featured victorious teams from both Amador and Foothill.

Ryan Gordon was a 2003 graduate of Foothill High School. He was killed in a boating accident shortly after graduating. He played soccer at Foothill for four years and was planning on attending Santa Barbara

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BULLETIN BOARD

Organizations wishing to run notices in Bulletin Board, send information to PO Box 1198, Livermore, CA 94551, in care of Bulletin Board. Include name of organization, meeting date, time, place and theme or subject. Phone number and contact person should also be included.

Literacy Pioneer to Speak, Jan. 8 at 7 p.m. at the Livermore Library. Ruth J. Colvin, Founder of Literacy Volunteers of America and recent recipient of the nation's highest civilian honor - the Presidential Medal of Freedom, will discuss her life's work and her campaign to promote adult literacy throughout the world. Livermore Civic Center Library, Community Room, 1188 S. Livermore Ave. The public is invited. There is no charge.

Book Sale - Friends of the Livermore Library will hold their monthly book sale on Sunday, January 7, from 12:00 noon to 4 p.m. in front of the former Library at 1000 South Livermore Avenue in Livermore. Fiction and nonfiction books, magazines and audio-visuales are sold at deep discounted prices and there will be a table of free books. From 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. books will be sold for \$ 2.00 a shopping bag full of books.

Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club, meets 7:30 p.m. Thurs., Jan. 9 at the Alisal Multipurpose Room, 1454 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. Ivy Munion, principal and CEO of Irrigation System Consultants of Livermore, will be the guest speaker. She will discuss irrigation choices available to the homeowner, as well as installation techniques. Visitors are welcome. For information, call Bev at 485-7812.

Valley Spokenmen Bicycle Touring Club, Sat., Dec. 30, 45 miles San Ramon to Sunol Regional Park, meet 10 a.m. at Central Park, Randy Huey, 679-0375. Sun., Dec. 31, 30-60 miles Pleasanton out to Calaveras Road to Milpitas with optional Sierra Road loop, meet 9 a.m. at Val Vista Park, Curtis Stallins, 925-2461. Wed., Jan. 3, 30 miles Woodland Valley and Gordon Valley, meet 10 a.m. in Busch parking lot, Barbara Wood, 707-745-6353. Anyone planning to go on a ride is asked to call the leader for details on where to meet and what to bring.

Valley Care Auxiliary will be holding a "gently read" book sale on Mon. and Tues., Jan. 8 and 9 from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the lobby of LifeStyleRX building, 1119 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore.

New Year's Eve Dance, Parents without Partners is sponsoring a dance on New Year's Eve. The event is open to the public. It is set for Dec 31, 2006 from 8:30 p.m. - 12:30 a.m. at Rhythm Street Dance Studio, 6635 Dublin Blvd., Suite D, Dublin, CA. Cost \$35. Call Clyde for more information (925) 443-7168.

Tri-Valley Republican Women, Ward Connerly will be the guest speaker at the Thursday, January 11, 2007 dinner meeting of the Tri-Valley Republican Women Federation beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Sheraton Pleasanton Hotel (formerly the Wyndham Garden Hotel) 5990 Stoneridge Mall Rd., Pleasanton. New members and visitors are welcome. Reservation deadline is January 8. Contact Marilyn (925) 485-9869. Connerly, author of the autobiography, Creating Equal: My Fight Against Race Preferences, is founder and chairman of the American Civil Rights Institute, a national, not-for-profit organiza-

tion aimed at educating the public about the need to move beyond racial and gender preferences.

Granada Dance Clinic for Elementary & Middle School Girls, Granada High School Dance Team will be holding 2 jazz/hip-hop dance clinics on Jan. 27, 2007 from 9am - 12pm. The elementary clinic will be for 3rd - 5th grade girls. The middle school clinic will be for 6-8th grade girls. Each clinic will teach a separate routine and will perform at a Granada Basketball game. The cost is \$40 and includes dance instruction, a t-shirt, snacks, and a cd with music to take home. Registration forms can be found online at <http://www.granadadance.com>. The deadline to register is Jan. 15, 2007.

Service news: Air Force Airman Grant C. Cairel He is the son of Delina and Minda Cairel of Livermore. The airman is a 2006 graduate of Livermore High School.

Entering the Entrepreneurial World, Attend TVC's Center for Commercialization & Entrepreneurial Training on Wednesday, January 17th from 8:30 am - 12:30 pm (registration/continental breakfast at 8 am). This session introduces the emerging or expanding entrepreneur to the services of Technology Ventures Corporation (TVC), commercializing a technology-based product, analyzing the business and financial potential of a product, and exploring the organization and legal alternatives. Technology Ventures Corporation (TVC) provides consulting and support services to technology start-ups. TVC's training sessions are free to attendees and will be held at the Carr America Conference Center, 4400 Rosewood Drive, Pleasanton. Please register online at: <http://www.123signup.com/calendar/org-tvc>. For more information, contact TVC at 925.960.1600 or TVC.CA@technventures.com.

Student news: A total of 261 students participated in Coastal Carolina University's fall commencement ceremony Dec. 9 at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center. Among them was Kelly Feely of Livermore, who received a BA degree.

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

Pruning Classes: Fruit trees, pruning, spraying and maintenance, classes Sat., Jan. 6 at 10 a.m. and Sun. Jan. 7 at 1 p.m. Roses: pruning, spraying and maintenance, classes Sat., Jan. 13 at 10 a.m. and Sun., Jan. 14 at 1 p.m. Japanese Maples: timing and technique show and tell with demonstrations, classes Sat., Jan. 27, 10 a.m. and Sun., Jan. 28 at 1 p.m. Western Garden Nursery, 2756 Vineyard Ave., Pleasanton. Free. Information 462-1760.

Jack London Foundation Auction, books and collectibles, Jan. 13 at the Sonoma Community Center, 276 East Napa Street. Preview noon to 1 p.m. Auction starts at 1 p.m. Admission is free. For more information call 707-996-2888 or email the Foundation at jlondon@vom.com.

Inner and Outer Peace Meditation Program at Pleasanton Library, Jan. 14 at 2 p.m. A free seminar with Marshall Zaslove, M.D., a Board certified psychiatrist, author

and meditation practitioner for over 30 years. 400 Old Bernal Ave., Pleasanton. The program is free and open to all. No registration required. For more information, call Penny Johnson, 931-3405.

Pet adoptions, Tri-Valley Animal Rescue (TVAR) hosts dog and cat adoptions at the Pleasanton Farmers Market every Saturday from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM. Cat adoptions at Dublin PetsMart on Saturdays from 12:00 to 4:00 PM and on Sundays from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. Cat adoptions at Dublin Pet Food Express on Saturdays from 12:00 to 4:00 PM (excluding 4th Sat) and on Sundays from 12:00 to 4:00 PM. For more information please call TVAR at (925) 803-7043 or view animals at www.tvvar.org.

Volunteer Orientation, Tri-Valley Animal Rescue offers volunteer orientations on the 2nd Saturday and 4th Sunday of every month from 1:00 to 2:30 PM at the East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Drive, in Dublin. For more information please contact Cathy Bergren at caliccatyb@yahoo.com or (925) 426-2472.

34th annual Crab Feed and Dance, This session introduces the emerging or expanding entrepreneur to the services of Technology Ventures Corporation (TVC), commercializing a technology-based product, analyzing the business and financial potential of a product, and exploring the organization and legal alternatives. Technology Ventures Corporation (TVC) provides consulting and support services to technology start-ups. TVC's training sessions are free to attendees and will be held at the Carr America Conference Center, 4400 Rosewood Drive, Pleasanton. Please register online at: <http://www.123signup.com/calendar/org-tvc>. For more information, contact TVC at 925.960.1600 or TVC.CA@technventures.com.

Amador Valley Toastmasters meets every Thursday morning at 7 a.m. at Mini's Cafe Restaurant, at the Hacienda Crossings Shopping Center, Dublin Blvd. and Hacienda Dr. in Dublin. Come improve your speaking and listening skills, and have a lot of fun while doing so! Contact Mark Triska for more info, mtriska@colliersparish.com, or 925-227-6210.

San Ramon Newcomers Club, lunch at Forbes Mill in Danville on Jan. 25; 11:30 a.m. social, lunch at noon. Open to residents of San Ramon, Dublin, Pleasanton and Livermore. For information, call 735-3508 or go to <http://newcomers.home.comcast.net>.

Religion, **First Presbyterian Church**, 2020 Fifth Street, Livermore, has worship services on Sundays at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary, located at 4th and L Streets. Adult Bible study is at 9 a.m. and Sunday school is held at 10:30 a.m. For details, call (925) 447-2078.

United Universalist, 1893 N. Vasco Rd., Livermore. Topic for Dec. 31 is "Letting Go, Hanging on, Making the Effort," with intern minister Sonya Sukalski speaking. Information 447-8747.

Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Avenue, Livermore. 9 a.m. Sunday worship, Christmas Eve services at 7 and 11 p.m. Information 447-1950.

Faith Chapel Assembly of God, 6656 Alisal St., Pleasanton. Sunday school 9:30 a.m., worship with Pastor Glenn Matlock at 10:30 a.m. (nursery for both Sunday school and worship); children's church (age 3-12) at 11:15 a.m.; women's Bible study, Wed. at 10 a.m., Wed. evening programs; choir 7:15 p.m. (boys and girls mission club K-6);

seniors 55 Plus meet Thursdays 7 p.m. Information 846-8650.

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

Sunset Community Church, 2200 Arroyo Rd., Livermore. Sunday worship service at 10:30 a.m. Nursery and children's church provided. A "Night of Worship" first Sunday of each month at 6 p.m. Wednesday night program for all ages at 7 p.m. Information, call 447-6282.

Faith Chapel Assembly of God, Pleasanton, 6656 Alisal St. Sunday school for all ages 9:30 a.m., worship service 10:30 a.m. (nursery for both Sunday school and worship), children's church program, age 3-12, 11:15 a.m. Singles and young married home Bible study Monday 7:30 p.m. (call for address). Women's Bible study Wednesday 10 a.m. Information, call the church office, 846-8650.

World Day of Peace, will be celebrated as part of the regular worship service on Sunday, Dec. 31, 10:00 a.m., at Tri-Valley Unity Church, 6680 Regional St (at the Radisson), Dublin. Special readings and prayers will be offered. All are welcome. Rev. Mary Anne Harris, minister. (925) 829-2733. www.trivalleyunity.com

Pleasanton Presbyterian Church, 4300 Miral Drive. December 31, 9:30 a.m. special New Year's Eve service with a focus on God's love. There will be an inspiring message and creative prayer to usher in the New Year. 846-4436.

Catholic Community of Pleasanton, bereavement support ministry meetings on Dec. 28, Jan. 11, 25; Feb. 8, 22; March 8, 22; and April 12 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Seton in the chapel, 4001 Stoneridge Dr., Pleasanton. All are welcome. Questions? Please call Kim at 735-3741.

Tri-Valley Cultural Jews (TVCJ) will hold a family sabbath pizza dinner in Castro Valley on Fri., Jan. 5. The event will begin at 6:00 p.m. and include a short Secular Humanist ceremony of singing, candle-lighting and sharing challah and wine or grape juice. The cost is \$6 per adult; there is no charge for children. Reservations are required and can be made by e-mail to CulturalJews@aol.com or by phone to (510) 888-1404. Intermarried and non-traditional families are particularly welcome.

New Year's Labyrinth Walk, Sun., Dec. 31, First Presbyterian Church, 4th and L Streets, Livermore, will host a labyrinth walk in the courtyard 8 p.m. to midnight. The walk is open to the public. It is an opportunity to say good-bye to the old year and welcome the new one with peace and intention. The labyrinth will be decorated with luminaries. Music will be playing. Hot cider and coffee will be available. The indoor canvas labyrinth will be available in the sanctuary, also with light and music. Information, contact Judy Hughes, labyrinth facilitator, 485-2524 or the church office, 447-2078.

LEGAL NOTICE

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 387819

The following person (s) doing business as Geleria Caramella, 2300 1st Street 1st Floor, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Caramella LLC., 2300 1st Street, Livermore, CA 94550 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/ Ulma Kamal
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on November 9, 2006. Expires November 9, 2011. The Independent Legal No. 2083, Publish December 7, 14, 21, 28, 2006.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 388454-388455

The following person (s) doing business as 1) Women's Integral Development Institute 2) Women's Development Institute, 2243 Hampton Rd., Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Jensen & Associates, Inc., 2243 Hampton Road, Livermore, CA 94550 This business is conducted by a corporation. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.

Signature of Registrant: /s/ Martha Jensen
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on November 29, 2006. Expires November 29, 2011. The Independent Legal No. 2084, Publish December 7, 14, 21, 28, 2006.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 388588

The following person (s) doing business as Weston Properties, 2088 First St., Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Matthew Ford, 8500 Crane Ridge Rd., Livermore, CA 94550 This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.

Signature of Registrant: /s/ Jala Aboujoudm and Daoud Aboujoudm
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on December 19, 2006. Expires December 19, 2011. The Independent Legal No. 2092, Publish December 28, 2006. January 4, 11, 18, 2007.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 389140

The following person (s) doing business as J-2 Document Signing, 4623 Nicol Common #109, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Janet Mariea Gregory-McCarroll, 4623 Nicol Common #109, Livermore, CA 94550 This business is conducted by a general partnership. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.

Signature of Registrant: /s/ Janet Mariea Gregory-McCarroll
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on December 15, 2006. Expires December 15, 2011. The Independent Legal No. 2093, Publish December 28, 2006. January 4, 11, 18, 2007.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:
JEROME MARTIN AUERBACH

CASE NO. VP06299187
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of JEROME M. AUERBACH, JEROME AUERBACH, AND JEROME MARTIN AUERBACH A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by PAULA J. AUERBACH in the Superior Court of California, County of ALAMEDA.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that PAULA J. AUERBACH be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important action, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action). The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held on FEBRUARY 26, 2007 at 1:30PM in Dept. 707 at SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF ALAMEDA, 5672 STONERIDGE DRIVE, PLEASANTON, CA 94588.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 388676-388677

The following person (s) doing business as 1) Kindred Spirits Healing 2) Paws on Healing, 1085 Carrara Way, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Gina K. Jacobs, 1085 Carrara Way, Livermore, CA 94550 This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name of names listed above on October 25, 2006. Signature of Registrant: /s/ Gina Jacobs

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on December 4, 2006. Expires December 4, 2011. The Independent Legal No. 2089, Publish December 21, 28, 2006, January 4, 11, 2007.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 389151

The following person (s) doing business as CNG Garden Supplies, 22 Rickenbacker Cir., Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the fol-

lowing owner (s): Blair Gach, 2268 N. Livermore, Livermore, CA 94551 Jose L. Carrasco Jr. 2021 Del Monte St. Livermore, CA 94550 This business is conducted by a general partnership. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.

Signature of Registrant: /s/ Jose L Carrasco and Blair Gach
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on December 18, 2006. Expires December 18, 2011. The Independent Legal No. 2090, Publish December 21, 28, 2006, January 4, 11, 2007.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 388700

The following person (s) doing business as Douglas Designs, 3567 Touriga Dr., Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Douglas Terry Pearson, 3567 Touriga Dr., Pleasanton, CA, 94566 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/ Doug Pearson
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on December 5, 2006. Expires December 5, 2011. The Independent Legal No. 2091, Publish December 28, 2006, January 4, 11, 18, 2007.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 389192

The following person (s) doing business as Cafe Paradiso, 53A Wright Brothers Ave., Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Hala Aboujoudm, 1904 Armondo Court, Pleasanton, CA 94566 This business is conducted by husband and wife. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.

Signature of Registrant: /s/ Jala Aboujoudm and Daoud Aboujoudm
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on December 19, 2006. Expires December 19, 2011. The Independent Legal No. 2092, Publish December 28, 2006. January 4, 11, 18, 2007.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 389140

The following person (s) doing business as J-2 Document Signing, 4623 Nicol Common #109, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Janet Mariea Gregory-McCarroll, 4623 Nicol Common #109, Livermore, CA 94550 This business is conducted by a general partnership. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.

Signature of Registrant: /s/ Janet Mariea Gregory-McCarroll
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on December 15, 2006. Expires December 15, 2011. The Independent Legal No. 2093, Publish December 28, 2006. January 4, 11, 18, 2007.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:
JEROME MARTIN AUERBACH

CASE NO. VP06299187
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of JEROME M. AUERBACH, JEROME AUERBACH, AND JEROME MARTIN AUERBACH A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by PAULA J. AUERBACH in the Superior Court of California, County of ALAMEDA.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that PAULA J. AUERBACH be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important action, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action). The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held on FEBRUARY 26, 2007 at 1:30PM in Dept. 707 at SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF ALAMEDA, 5672 STONERIDGE DRIVE, PLEASANTON, CA 94588.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a

copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1200. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner: RICHARD L. FULLER SBN#95418 821 13th Street, Suite E Modesto, CA 95354 The Independent Legal #2088, Publish December 14, 21, 28, January 4, 2007.

ANIMALS/PETS

1) CATS/DOGS

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

Adopt a new best friend: TVAR, the Tri-Valley Animal Rescue, offers animals for adoption every Saturday and Sunday, excluding most holidays. On Saturdays from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm, both dogs and cats are available at the Pleasanton Farmers Market at W. Angela and First Streets. Two locations will showcase cats only: Petsmart in Dublin from 12:00 to 4:00 and Pet Food Express in Livermore from 1:00 to 4:00. On Sundays, cats are available at Petsmart in Dublin from 1:00 to 4:00, and Petco in San Ramon from 11:00 to 3:00. For more information, call (925) 803-7043 or website at www.tvvar.org

6) PETS FOR SALE

Joyous Yorkie named Isaac. All shots. 5 months. \$85 parents on premises - Livermore Paul 925-337-0997.

AUTOS/MOTORCYCLES/RV/SUN/TRUCKS

7) AUTOS WANTED

DONATE YOUR CAR to the Original 1-800-Charity Cars! Full market value deduction if we provide your car to a struggling family. Call 1-800-CHARITY. (1-800-242-7489) www.800CharityCars.org (CAL/SCAN)

DONATE VEHICLE, 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)

8) COMMERCIAL VEHICLES

Min 2yrs exp. S/Mtn pref. Lift 80ths. Exc Comp. Hm Nts & Wknd. Cln DMV Call 209/832-0118

9) USED AUTOS

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EMPLOYMENT

56) ADULT CARE

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57) BANKING & FINANCE

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60) BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

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OBITUARIES

Bernie Williams

Bernie Williams died December 24, 2006. She was 67.

Born in Harrisburg, PA, Bernadine Doris Blumenstine grew up in Steelton, PA. She was educated in sociology and social work at Gettysburg College and the University of Chicago. She was known for her work at the Veterans Administration unit in Livermore.

She was also trained in music at Cal State Hayward and in Vienna, Austria. She has been a very active horn player, performing with the Pleasanton Community Concert Band, Livermore-Amador Symphony Orchestra, Vineyard Quartet, Vintage Brass, Pleasanton Playhouse, and many other groups during her thirty years residence in the Tri-Valley. She was a tireless worker for fund-raising activities for the Livermore Symphony Guild. Her hobbies of hiking and travel took her to a wide range of places over four continents.

She is survived by her husband Horace Robert, a son, Paul Eric Rose and his wife Rachelle of Salt Lake City; a daughter, Karen Rosenkilde Bayne and her husband David Bayne, and two granddaughters of Woodland; a stepson, Rob Williams and his wife Janelle; and a sister, Wanda Roth of PA.

Cremation has been arranged by Graham-Hitch Mortuary of Pleasanton. A memorial function will be arranged.

Donations may be made to Pleasanton Community Concert Band, PO Box 135, Pleasanton, CA 94566; Livermore-Amador Symphony,

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ATTENTION CDL TRUCK DRIVERS - McKelvey. Busy during Year & HoHoHome for the Holidays! 1-800-410-6255. (CAL*SCAN)

80)HELP WANTED SALES

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120)EQUIPMENT FOR SALE
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134)STEEL BUILDINGS

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NOTICES/ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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156)NOTICES

"NOTICE TO 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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162)HOUSE/ROOM FOR RENT

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174)OUT OF STATE

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182)FINANCIAL SERVICES

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185)SCHOOLS/INSTRUCTION

TEACHER: Alameda Unified School Dist. High School Math Teacher. Download application and No Child Left Behind forms at: www.alameda.k12.ca.us & mail to AUUSD, 2200 Central Ave., Alameda, CA 94501 or call (510) 337-7070.

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Noel Madden Invites Livermore to Be Well at New Yoga Studio

By Patricia Koning

Two years ago, while on vacation in Hawaii, Noel Madden had an epiphany. She took a yoga class and felt great afterwards.

"I just fell in love with it," she says. "I've been an athlete forever. I've been in one competition after another, but never achieved the sense of peace I gain from yoga."

Yoga is best described as a form of alternative medicine and exercise—a combination of breathing exercises, physical postures, and meditation that have been practiced for over 5,000 years. B.K.S. Iyengar says yoga helps integrate the mental and physical planes and offers a sense of inner and outer balance, or alignment. Iyengar is one of the foremost yoga teachers in the world and the founder of Iyengar Yoga.

Yoga has been shown to increase flexibility and strength while reducing stress. Studies have shown that practicing yoga helps with depression, insomnia, asthma, high blood pressure, and chronic pain, among other ailments.

Madden was an avid runner and tennis player. However, she kept getting hurt. She'd suffered a shoulder injury playing tennis, broke her foot running in a triathlon two months after the birth of her second child, and hurt her hip training for a half marathon.

"I pretty much gave up competitive sports for yoga. That's not for everyone, but it is for me," she says. "Yoga is about the present moment, not the next step. That is really important."

Madden began seeking out yoga classes and studios all over the Bay Area. This led to her to want a community of yoga in her backyard. Being new to yoga, she wasn't sure where to begin.

Kelli Barnett was one of her first and favorite instructors. Barnett, who is also a masseuse, took her first yoga class right after 9-11 when she noticed her friends who practiced yoga seemed to be more grounded and optimistic. Within two weeks she was training to become an instructor.

"Kelli has all the things I don't have," says Madden. "She's a yoga teacher, a masseuse, and full



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

The three partners in Be Well demonstrate some of the yoga stances with the help of their children. Pictured are (back, from left) Jesse Madden, Noel Madden, Laurie Gallagher, and Drew Gallagher; (front, from left) Jack Madden, Branden Gallagher, Kaeran Gallagher, and Kelli Barnett.

of love and spirit. She needed a home base to work from."

During this time Madden also met another yoga instructor, Laurie Gallagher, who was looking at properties with the idea of starting a full service, holistic yoga studio. Gallagher was particularly interested in Forester's Hall, located on J Street between First and Second Streets in Livermore.

Coincidentally, Madden's husband Mike owns Forester's Hall through his Red Bear Property Management company.

The three women formed a partnership; Madden had the space and the vision, Barnett would imbue the spirit by designing the yoga curriculum and other offerings, and Gallagher would manage the business. The new yoga center, called Be Well, will open on January 9.

the Great Yoga Wall, which features slings and ropes for extra support in poses. This is ideal for participants with back and shoulder problems and for anyone who wants to deepen his or her understanding of postures.

Carol Atkinson and Tricia Moore, in addition to Barnett and Gallagher, will be among the instructors at Be Well. Atkinson, who also teaches for LARPD and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, will teach the light class. Moore, a 40-year yoga veteran who has studied under Iyengar, will teach the introductory series. Farcia Medearas, a native of Liberia, will teach a special Neuromuscular Integrative Action class, which blends together yoga, martial arts, and dance.

Be Well also offers Prenatal Yoga and Mommy Postpartum Yoga, in which the newborns also participate. In partnership with ValleyCare Health System, Be Well will host breastfeeding support groups with a lactation consultant.

If you think yoga is a solo sport, think again. Bring a partner to Be Well for Date Night Yoga, and enjoy a discounted meal at Bruno's Italian Cuisine after the class. Be Well is embarking on other partnerships with downtown businesses, such as Friday Night Candlelight Flo Yoga with discounted wine tasting at the First Street Wine Company, and Yoga and Toes with a discounted pedicure at Diamond Nails.

In addition to yoga classes, Be Well's spa will offer massage, ionic foot cleanse, and hypnotherapy. Barnett will lead the Weight Release program, which includes a workout routine, nutrition consultation, hypnotherapy, and massage. The program is aimed at women more than 30 pounds overweight.

"I call it weight release, rather

than weight loss, because the idea is that you release the weight and it never comes back," says Barnett. "We tackle both the mental and physical side of weight loss."

Another important aspect of Be Well is childcare, which is free to participants who purchase a class package. There is a small fee for drop-in participants. The childcare staff is trained in yoga and will hold impromptu children's yoga classes.

"A big pitfall for most women is what to do with the kids," says Gallagher. "This takes care of that problem."

Too busy to get to the studio? Be Well also comes to the office with all the necessary equipment. All that is required is an empty room and willing bodies.

By prearrangement, Be Well also offers specialized tennis and golf yoga classes, taught at a clubhouse or outside if the weather permits. Be Well hosts baby showers, complete with birth visualization from a licensed hypnotherapist, and birthday parties for children ages 3 to 8. The parties feature a 20-minute yoga class, freeform movement to music, story time, and a special tribute to the birthday child.

In an effort to give back to the community, Be Well is offering a 25% discount to teachers, police, firefighters, and City of Livermore workers. On Feb. 10, Be Well is holding a Valentine's Yoga Fundraiser. Fifty couples will enjoy yoga, dinner, and wine, with all proceeds benefiting the Taylor Family Foundation.

For more information, see <http://www.bewellyoga.net/>, call 925-454-0422, or visit the studio at Foresters Hall, 171 South J Street (between First and Second Streets).



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 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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