

# Pleasanton Wants SR 84 Improvements Included

The City of Pleasanton was unhappy with a vote last week by the Tri-Valley Triangle Traffic Study Policy Advisory Committee that removed State Route (SR) 84 improvements from the package of projects.

The Triangle Traffic Study was intended to evaluate and prioritize future regional traffic projects on I-580, I-680 and State Route 84. The Policy Advisory Committee was established to provide policy direction. Committee members include Livermore Mayor Marshall Kamena and Councilmember Marj Leider, Pleasanton Mayor Jennifer Hosterman and Councilmember Cindy McGovern, Dublin Mayor Janet Lock-

hart and Councilmember Kasie Hildenbrand, and Alameda County Supervisors Scott Haggerty and Nate Miley. The committee's decision is being sent to CMA for its consideration next week.

In a vote on March 26, the policy committee voted 6 to 2 to approve a package known as Hybrid 1 that does not include the State Route 84 improvements between Pigeon Pass and I-680 (Hybrid 1A). Pleasanton's representatives, Mayor Jennifer Hosterman and Councilmember Cindy McGovern were the dissenting votes.

At the heart of the matter is the Stoneridge Drive extension.

The Pleasanton City Council on Tuesday approved a letter to be sent to the Alameda County Congestion Management Agency (CMA) stating the city's concerns with the recommendation adopted by the committee. The letter asks that the CMA postpone any decision on the package of projects while members of the committee work to resolve the issue of 84.

The vote was unanimous to send the letter. There was no vote taken on whether to continue discussions with other committee members to try to come to a consensus. However, every member of the council expressed support for that direction.

At Tuesday's council meeting, McGovern told other councilmembers, when asked, that she believes the other committee members selected the option they did in an attempt to convince Pleasanton to approve the Stoneridge extension. "We had no way of saying we would or would not extend Stoneridge. I don't think the extension is part of the purview of the Triangle study," said McGovern.

One of the points made in the letter being sent to CMA is that Pleasanton will proceed with pending litigation regarding the I-680 northbound HOV lane project. The city believes the project will bring additional traffic to the I-680/I-

580 project and result in additional cut-through traffic in Pleasanton. In addition, Pleasanton would challenge every project in the future that did not include improvements along 84.

The city filed suit against Caltrans in 2005 asking that an environmental impact report be completed for the HOV project. City attorney Michael Roush said, "Processing of the lawsuit was stayed by agreement of the parties pending the conclusion of the Triangle Study."

In the letter, Pleasanton suggests that the purpose of the study was "to develop by consensus" a range of projects, not

(See TRIANGLE, page 4)

## JPA Underway To Aid Emergency Communication

Cities in Alameda and Contra Costa counties and the county governments are expected to sign on, perhaps as early as next week, to a new joint powers agreement (JPA) for a unified radio system for emergency communications.

Bill McCammon, the retired fire chief of Alameda County, is the project coordinator for the East Bay Regional Communications System (EBRCS), which is creating the JPA. Lawyers have already worked out the language. The EBRCS board is expected to approve a final draft for the JPA this week. Then the draft will go to the counties, 33 prospective member cities, and eventually some special districts that have expressed interest.

"It's crucial to get it all in place within two months, because a new federal fund totaling \$1 billion for Homeland Security projects will be available," said McCammon.

Cost of the EBRCS project is estimated at \$60 million. Most of the current radio towers will be used. However, new radios with digital capabilities will have to be added. Most or all of the expense ideally will be covered by grants, said McCammon.

There will also be an ongoing fee to members, based on the number of radios they have in the system. Overall, some 17,000 radios will be part of the system. Many of the existing ones will be part of that number. McCammon said he didn't have an exact figure.

Livermore and Pleasanton's police and fire services already have phones and a phone system that tie in with the Alameda

(See COMMUNICATION, page 4)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Ron White, Angelika Voss-Quinn and Peter Quinn check over gear they will use on the climb.

## 'Old Geezers' from Rotary to Climb Mt. Kilimanjaro

Seven members of Livermore Rotary, ranging in age from 50 to 70, plan to climb the great Mount Kilimanjaro in August to raise funds for the Wheelchair Foundation.

"We're just a group of guys with a sense of adventure," said Angelika Voss-Quinn, who at 50 is the youngest member of the group.

"We like to combine having fun with a greater purpose. Hey, we want to prove that old geezers

can make a difference!" she said.

Also in training for the climb are Paul Thompson, Millie Seibel, Ron White, Hagop Manuelian, Ken McCartney and Angelika's husband, Peter Quinn.

Although all have done their share of hiking, biking and exercising, they are far from being elite mountaineers. Kilimanjaro, the tallest mountain on the African continent, stands at 19,340 feet. Though an arduous climb,

it doesn't require technical skills and average people can do it if they're fit. The Rotary group is training hard. "It requires quite a bit of dedication, but the reward will be worthwhile," Voss-Quinn said.

The Rotarians plan to leave for Africa August 7 and return in three weeks. They've hired elite guides. It's anticipated the ascent will take 11 days.

The project has been in the

(See CLIMB, page 3)

## Future Of Entire Nuclear Complex Should Be Part Of Discussion On Warhead

Winning the Reliable Replacement Warhead (RRW) competition gives the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory a better chance of surviving what will likely be growing pressure in the coming years, as in the past decade, to continue to reduce government expenditures on national laboratories.

That is a viewpoint expressed by Tom Ramos, Associate Division Leader for Counterproliferation Analysis in the Laboratory's Q Division. In that position, he manages several other programs dealing with homeland defense and analyzing activities involving the production of weapons of mass destruction.

Hugh Gusterson in his most recent column in the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, "Understanding the Reliable Replacement Warhead," suggests that the future of the entire nuclear laboratory complex should be part of the debate when discussing the RRW. He writes, "We need, then, to debate Complex 2030 and the RRW as two sides of the same coin and to ask whether we want to go back to being a country that mass produces nuclear weapons with all the political, environmental, and health costs that entails."

Gusterson spent time in Livermore over a span of years researching information for his doctorate thesis. His research focused on the political culture of nuclear weapons scientists and anti-nuclear activists in the U.S. and the former Soviet Union. He is currently a professor, Cultural Studies Cultural Studies Program

at George Mason University. Complex 2030 is a plan to establish a smaller, more efficient Nuclear Weapons Complex with the idea that it would be able to respond to changing national and global security challenges.

The thinking behind the RRW is to develop a replacement warhead for the nuclear arsenal that improves manufacturing practices, lowers unit costs and increases performance margins while staying within the design parameters validated by past nuclear tests. If Congress moves forward with funding, this would be the first new nuclear warhead design in two decades.

In 2006, Congress authorized the two nuclear weapons labs, Los Alamos National Laboratory and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, to develop competing designs for an RRW that might replace the most common warhead in the current stockpile—the W76. This is the warhead that sits atop most U.S. submarine-based missiles. Congress stipulated that the RRW design should be safer and more reliable than the existing W76 design, that it should not confer new military capabilities, and that it should not require nuclear testing in order to be certified.

Ramos contends that the RRW program is needed by the country. "The nuclear stockpile is getting smaller. At the same time it's becoming more aged. At a time when individual warheads become relatively more important components of our strategic deterrence, they also become less reliable."

(See DISCUSSION, page 4)

## Livermore Building Department, Official Receive Awards

The City of Livermore has been selected the California Building Officials Building Department of the Year.

In addition to the Building Department award, the city's building official, Stephan Kiefer, was recognized as this year's Building Official of the Year — marking the first time that both awards have been presented to the same city.

The award recognizes the community whose building department has contributed the most in four key categories: education, state affairs, community involvement and innovation. This year's finalists included the cities of Newport Beach, Lincoln, Simi Valley, Temecula, and the County of Imperial.

"This is a well-deserved honor for our exceptional staff.

It's really nice that their dedication and commitment to service has statewide recognition. It makes us all very proud," said Livermore Mayor Marshall Kamena.

Livermore was recognized for its regional and statewide leadership in: Code development, legislative advocacy, industry partnerships, educational presentations on subjects such as land development, emergency management, Green Building Resource Center development, weekend information booths at local building supply stores, Saturday morning neighborhood clean-up and housing rehabilitation programs, and unique community services such as in field permit issuance, and evening inspection services.

(See AWARDS, page 4)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Pleasanton Seahawks played host to the Far Western Championships last week at the Delores Bengsten Aquatic Center. There were 1400 swimmers on hand for the competition. For the Seahawk results, see page 8. Pictured is a preliminary heat in the 100 butterfly.

## '08 Campaign Is Already Starting For McNerney

Seated for barely more than three months in Congress, Rep. Jerry McNerney of Pleasanton is starting the campaign for 2008 by phoning last year's election donors to build up his campaign chest.

Republicans are already out to win back the 11th Congressional District seat, which McNerney won from seven-term Republican Richard Pombo in November. The ex-congressman is now an employee of a landowners' rights, pro-business natural resources lobbying firm.

The Republican National Congressional Committee (NRCC) has talked to Assemblyman Guy Houston about the possibility of a run for the office. Houston was in Ireland this week on an economic mission for the Legislature, and was unavailable for comment.

Houston's district director, Matthew Del Carlo, said that Houston still has young children, and would not like the separation from family that serving in Washington would entail. If term limits laws are changed next year, as is being discussed in Sacramento, Houston would have the chance to run again after 2008 for the Assembly. He would prefer that, said Del Carlo. If Houston were elected to Congress, it would be a natural step up to a higher level, said Del Carlo.

Houston has been focused on transportation and education issues in Sacramento. The federal government has opportunities to bear on those topics for the dis-

(See CAMPAIGN, page 5)

## Pleasanton Schools Will Appoint Haugen Successor

The Pleasanton school board will again appoint a new trustee, this time succeeding Juanita Haugen, who died last month.

This will be the third time in one year that the board will have made an appointment. Jim Ott was appointed last May to succeed Gloria Fredette, who resigned for personal reasons. Chris Grant was appointed in February to replace Steve Pulido, who was appointed a juvenile court judge.

Pulido was the last school board member to be elected, in November 2003. Kris Weaver is the only current trustee who came on the board as the result of an election.

The board will make the appointment April 24 at a meeting

that will include public interviews of the candidates. The appointee would serve until the next regular election, November 2008, when the term expires. Applications are due to the district by 4:30 p.m. April 16.

There will be an orientation meeting for the candidates April 18 to acquaint with the workings of the district. Application packets are available at the superintendent's office, 4665 Bernal Ave. between 8 am. and 4:30 p.m. They may also be downloaded from the board's web site, www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us. More information is available from Carol Fernandez, administrative assistant to the superintendent, at 426-4333.

As with the past two appointments to the board, trustees deliberated whether they should go for a special election in November, 2007, which would leave the seat vacant until then, or make the appointment. The board discussed the issue at its last meeting, March 27, and at the one previous, on March 13, when they also called for the public's feedback on the issue.

Board members said that an election has the advantage of empowering district residents to make the choice in a broader, democratic way than assigning it to the four trustees. They said the down side of a special election is the estimated cost of \$110,000 to \$150,000, which

they said could be better devoted to the district's general fund.

Teamwork was also mentioned. Trustee Pat Kernan, who is board clerk and chairs the meeting, said it was important to have someone on board soon, and have a team working through the year.

Several trustees said that the screening process for an appointment covers a lot of ground, and shows how much knowledge candidates have about the schools. At a previous meeting, Ott pointed out that he was appointed, but no one opposed him or Kernan when they were on the ballot last November.

One resident said earlier that some potential candidates may

not bother to file because they assume the incumbent has an advantage. However, Ott said March 23 that board incumbency can work against a candidate if voters don't like his or her record.

The board also discussed a half-way position. Members would appoint a candidate who agreed to serve out the remainder of the term, and not run in the regular election in November 2008. That would put the board at full strength, but also eliminate any perceived advantage an incumbent might have in running for the office.

The board left the idea of a temporary appointment open, stating that anyone applying for

(See APPOINT, page 4)

## Do You Remember?

By Anne Homan



### Kinder Methods of Treatment

After Dr. John W. Robertson graduated from UC Berkeley in 1877, he continued there at the medical school and received his M.D. in 1880. By 1894 when he came to Livermore, he had become an internationally known psychiatrist. He bought the Livermore Collegiate Institute building on College Avenue from Professor James D. Smith in 1894 and later the neighboring mansion and grounds belonging to William M. Mendenhall. Robertson founded a sanitarium, a private 120-bed psychiatric hospital, at the site. He added many buildings in the area; the College Avenue entryway to the complex, lined with palm trees, led to an oval driveway with the Mendenhall house at the back. Robertson's large shingled Victorian home was built on the southwest corner of College and South L Street in 1903.

In 1902 he also acquired property to the east, and several years later he erected a large Grecian-style hydrotherapy building. The "hydro," as it was called, took the place of the old college building, which Robertson sold to John McGlinchey. A columned cement structure, 135 by 250 feet, the hydro was built around an inner courtyard. Besides the water therapy rooms, the interior included doctors' offices, business offices, reception rooms, a billiard room, and a library as well as 75 rooms for patients. An annex attached to the south contained the dining room and kitchen and rooms for the attendants and other employees. The annex burned in 1909 but was quickly rebuilt.

The hydro was for patients who required only general nursing and were "capable of properly conducting themselves," people who had dyspepsia, nervous exhaustion, alcoholism, or addiction to drugs such as morphine. On the west side of L Street in the Mendenhall mansion and in various cottages, the more severely mentally ill and the nursing staff were housed. In 1896 prices for care varied from \$75 to \$200 per month. Sometimes early film stars stayed here incognito—the privacy of all patients was protected.

Robertson believed that peaceful surroundings could help the healing process, so he had his 160 acres beautifully landscaped. The hydro's site at South L Street and College Avenue, called by some the Green Corner, still has a landscaped lawn with many century-old palms and deodar cedars. By 1920 the grounds contained more than 17 buildings, including a gymnasium with a swimming pool, and the sanitarium employed about 300 people.

Granddaughter Lin Robertson Tobin remembered that the complex was almost completely self-sufficient, its own little city. The sanitarium "employed gardeners, cleaning personnel, painters, carpenters, electricians, floor waxers, laundry workers, food and kitchen help. ... There were occupational and physical therapists, nurses and attendants, and a staff of at least six or seven psychiatrists."

"Our own wells provided all the water needed," Tobin recalled. "A steam plant generated heat for the buildings, and a laundry complex washed, ironed and mended the myriad of sheets, tablecloths, uniforms, etc. There was even a greenhouse to provide annuals and perennials for landscaping the year-round. Dairy cattle, pigs and chickens were raised on the premises; and, in northern California, a Hereford cattle ranch provided beef for the Sanitarium. During World War II much of our work force joined the service or went to work in factories, but I don't think the patients were deprived."

In 1894 Dr. Robertson's theories were new in the treatment of mental health: "As the first step of a cure as well as for the protection of the public, they should be separated from their families, but kinder methods of treatment should prevail. They should be secluded in some quiet resort where pleasant associations with those at least no worse disordered should be secured. They should, above all, be isolated and carefully guarded against any appearance of restraint or any suggestion that they, in any way, differ from other people or are other than sick." After 17 years at the sanitarium, Dr. Robertson retired in 1912 and lived in San Francisco. He died in 1941, at age 84; his wife, Mary, had died in 1929. She enjoyed entertaining the "literary and artistic colony that congregated in San Francisco at the time."

Dr. John W. Robertson Jr. continued his father's work with the mentally ill when he returned to Livermore in 1926 after completing medical school and a period of psychiatric study in Vienna. In 1931 he built the house on South L Street in which his daughter and son-in-law live today. A major heart attack in 1954 forced him to retire. He moved to Carmel but came back in the summers to fill in for doctors on vacation. Lin and Don Tobin moved back to Livermore in 1958. Don took over the business management of the sanitarium.

The advent of new tranquilizing drugs, the opening of community-oriented treatment centers for outpatient care, and the establishment of psychiatric wards in general hospitals all contributed to the demise of this private hospital in 1964. The hydro building was razed in 1965. The rest of the complex to the west was torn down to make way for the Forest Glade development.

Robertson Park, Livermore's rodeo and sports complex, is named for Dr. John W. Robertson Sr., founder of the sanitarium. (Readers can reach me at am3homan@yahoo.com.)

## Marilyn Avenue Parents Get a Hands-on Cooking Lesson

By Patricia Koning

Forget the Food Channel—last week Marilyn Avenue Elementary School parents got a personal cooking lesson through Healthy Helpings program. Chef John Silva demonstrated how to prepare healthy mac n' cheese, French fries, chicken strips, sour cream dip, roasted spice almonds, and romaine salad with red onion and balsamic dressing.

"My kids love the recipes I learned in this class," says parent Rosa Suarez. "I was surprised at how good everything tastes. We're eating a lot more vegetables."

The Healthy Helpings program aims to teach strategies for healthy eating, with the long-term goal of reducing obesity and related diseases among school-age children. The best way to impact children is through their parents, says Barbara Lee, director of Campus Catering for the Livermore School District.

"We were frustrated with always talking about nutrition without really getting through to the kids," she says. "To make children believers you have to get it into their mouths."

Last year the Rincon Library branch offered a special story time, which was paired with an apple/mango/pear tasting. The program was very well-received and inspired librarian Donna Pontau, Lee, and District nurse Vicki Leary to pursue the concept of a health program centered around exposing children to new foods.

With the help of the City of Livermore and the Library, the District secured a \$20,000 grant through the Kaiser Permanente Community Benefits program. Pontau found a program in Or-

egon that was reaching families by offering cooking classes.

The partners found Silva through the Pacific Coast Farmers' Market Association (PCFMA), a non-profit organization that runs 47 Bay Area farmers' markets, including those in Livermore and Pleasanton. One of his roles for PCFMA is doing cooking demonstrations at farmers' markets.

One idea behind the classes is to introduce participants to new vegetables and demonstrate new uses for common vegetables. In an earlier class, Silva used carrots in every course—carrot salad, carrot soup, and braised carrots. Lee worried that the menu was too carrot-heavy, but to her surprise the participants loved the food.

Silva conducted two sessions of Healthy Helpings. The first was four classes and the second was three classes. At the first class of each session, he took suggestions from participants and incorporated those into subsequent classes.

At each class, participants watch a cooking demonstration while the children work on crafts

related to healthy eating. Once the food is ready, the children join their parents to sample the food.

After each class participants go home with a shopping list and grocery bag filled with the produced used. At the end of the session, they receive a \$20 Safeway gift card. Last week's cooking class concluded the second session of Healthy Helpings.

About 25 parents participated in the classes. Lee plans to hold a focus group with the parents to refine the program for next year and follow up with the children to see if they are living healthier.

Next year Lee hopes to offer the program at both Marilyn and Portola elementary schools. She'd also like to hold a farm stand event at Marilyn, which would bring the Livermore Farmers' Market to the school.

"It's a baby step," says Leary. "But I like the fact that we are trying to involve the community as a whole."

The final word, of course, is from the kids.

"Two thumbs up," declared eight-year-old Melanie Flores.

## LARPD Votes in Support of Cap on Property Tax Shift

The Board of Directors of the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) voted on Wednesday to approve a resolution supporting an effort to cap the property tax shift losses to no more than 25%. The District's current property tax shift loss is 48%, which translates to more than \$6 million this fiscal year.

In 1992 state legislators enacted the Education Reimbursement Augmentation Fund (ERAF) at a time when the state faced huge deficits. In effect, the legislature turned to local governments to shift property taxes to the schools in order to balance the state budget. Since then, LARPD has lost more than \$47.8 million through June of 2006.

By capping the property tax shift losses to no more than 25%, the District would be able to address a backlog of park and facility maintenance and improvements. It would also be able to implement programs that will contribute to the increased health and well being of the community, such as after-school programs and sports activities for youth and teens, and additional services for senior citizens.

"It is critical for the District to recapture some of the funds originally designated by the taxpayers for recreation and parks that have been redirected to the State's General Fund," according to Board President Dale Turner. The resolution will now be forwarded to state legislators to confirm the District's intentions on the matter and its advocacy for property tax relief.

In other action, the board approved requesting a grant with the Coastal Conservancy to restore a riparian corridor in Sycamore Grove Park. It released the ac-

companying CEQA document for public review and comment. The Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project is available for public review and comment for 20 days at the Robert Livermore Community Center, located at 4444 East Avenue in Livermore. The study analyzes the environmental impacts that the proposed project might have on the surrounding site, and possible mitigations to those impacts.

The upper portion of Sycamore Grove Park has been heavily grazed for more than three generations, impacting the riparian habitats of the area. A man-made stock pond in the drainage area is currently overgrown by cattails and is supporting several non-native species, such as green sunfish and bullfrogs. The stock pond's rehabilitation is considered key to maintaining the health of the drainage area as a complete riparian habitat that can support a stable population of the California Red-Legged Frog, California Tiger Salamander, and Western Pond Turtle, all threatened species protected by the Endangered Species Act.

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## VALLEY ROUNDUP

### More Reports of Mountain Lions

There were several more sightings of mountain lions in Pleasanton last week.

Calls to the Pleasanton Police Department reporting a mountain lion came from residents on Chadbourne Court and Grillo Court. Both streets are located near Vintage Hills Elementary School.

The school staff was immediately notified and implemented standard security procedures locking students inside the facility. Police and animal services officers monitored students arriving at the school and surrounded the home where the animal was last seen.

Another resident reported seeing a mountain lion trotting along a drainage ditch on Valenza Way in Ruby Hill.

Police officials says they are concerned about these sightings and will strive to address the issue as best they can to ensure both public safety and the welfare of any mountain lion.

The police department offers the following suggestions for a person encountering a mountain lion:

- Avoid hiking or jogging alone when in parklands or rural areas, particularly when lions are most active such as dawn, dusk and night.

- Keep a close watch on small children in areas where lions have been encountered or in neighborhoods adjacent to parklands.

- Never approach a mountain lion, do not run; instead face the animal and stand upright. Try to appear as large as possible, make noise and throw rocks or sticks in an effort to further scare the animal off. If small children are accompanying you, pick them up.

- If you are attacked by a lion, fight back. These animals prefer easy prey and usually will retreat from an aggressive response.

- If a mountain lion is sighted, immediately report it to local police.

An earlier sighting in the city occurred two weeks ago in Köttinger Park, which is adjacent to the area of these most recent sightings. No attacks of either people or pets have been reported.

Police say that residents of Pleasanton should not be afraid to enjoy the many parks and city amenities because of these sightings. Most of the time mountain lions avoid people and will retreat from the area.

Pleasanton Police have called in representatives from the Fish and Game Department to discuss how to respond to the situation. Information about mountain lions is available from the California Department of Fish & Game website at [www.dfg.ca.gov/keepmewild/lion.html](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/keepmewild/lion.html).

### State Math Grant

Alameda County Superintendent of Schools Sheila Jordan and Senator Pro Tem Don Perata announced the acquisition of a new state math grant that is part of an initiative to increase the number of well-prepared mathematics teachers and improve teacher retention at underperforming schools in the county.

Sen. Perata pushed for the \$1.8 million grant during the state budget negotiations last year, successfully securing the allotment. The Alameda County Office of Education worked

collaboratively with both the San Diego and Fresno County Offices of Education to respond to this very competitive grant process. Their successful proposal pooled expertise and proven resources among the three county offices.

"This one-year grant is a great opportunity," Jordan said. "The next logical step is to leverage this collaboration to identify additional funding that enables us to focus on retention of these new teachers during the critical first three to five years. Some 20 percent of all new hires leave the classroom within three years. This can be prevented with focused and meaningful support that has been proven to increase teacher retention."

Under the terms of the \$1.8 million award, Alameda County will receive \$600,000, San Diego County will get \$800,000 and Fresno County will be awarded \$400,000.

Jordan said ACOE will use its share of the funds by working closely with California State University, East Bay to identify upper division math majors for teaching careers. Once identified, these teacher candidates will receive assistance, including tuition reimbursement, to complete their credentials. Once they receive their credentials, they will receive additional tuition reimbursement incentives to work at low-performing schools in Alameda County.

A second component focuses on improving preparation of current math teachers. Qualifying teachers will receive stipends to attend focused professional development. Additionally, site math coaches will be trained to continue to provide direct one-on-one support to new math teachers.

### Housing Starts Decline

Total housing starts in California fell back once again in February, showing a modest 6 percent decrease from January, but a 42 percent drop when compared to February 2006, the California Building Industry Association announced last week.

In February, permits were pulled for 6,214 single-family homes statewide, down 9 percent from the previous month and 35 percent from February 2006, while multifamily housing starts - condos and apartments - totaled 3,111, down almost 1 percent from the previous month but down 53 percent from February 2006. Both February and March 2006 saw unusually large numbers of multifamily permits, however.

Overall for the month, builders pulled permits for 9,325 homes, condos and apartments, according to statistics compiled by the Burbank-based Construction Industry Research Board.

CBIA Chief Economist Alan Nevin attributes the continuing decline in total starts to the fact that builders have scaled back on production in order to concentrate on moving existing inventory.

In his 2007 Housing Forecast, Nevin projected that housing starts for single-family homes, condominiums and apartments should total between 155,000 and 170,000 in 2007, keeping pace with 2006.

CBIA President and CEO Robert Rivinius declared that the state needs to be building well over 200,000 new homes, condos and apartments a year to meet the need for housing.

## Pleasanton Taking Input on What To Study in Staples Ranch EIR

A scoping session for the environmental impact report being prepared for Staples Ranch will be held Wed., April 11 at 7 p.m. in the Pleasanton City Council Chambers, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

Staples Ranch is approximately 124 acres of undeveloped land belonging to the Alameda County Surplus Property Authority. There are plans to develop a portion of the property.

Hendrick Auto Group proposes to build an approximately 37-acre auto mall, with up to 331,000 square feet of buildings and up to 3,270 parking stalls.

Continuing Life is looking at a 45-acre senior continuing care community with about 1,400,000 square feet of build-

ings housing and approximately 800 assisted living units, nursing beds and common facilities;

In addition, there could be commercial development of up to 175,000 square feet of retail or up to 280,000 square feet of non-retail office and services uses on approximately 16 acres.

A 17-acre community park is included in the proposal. The park may include lighted sports fields, lighted tennis courts, a dog park, trails, a trail staging area, a pedestrian bridge connecting the north and south sides of the arroyo, a four-rink ice-skating facility on up to 8 acres, and similar park-related activities;

Preservation of the Stoneridge Drive extension right-of-way

through the project site and connecting to an improved El Charro Road is envisioned in the Specific Plan. Access to the auto mall and future commercial development would be from a new road off El Charro Road, with no through connection to Stoneridge Drive except for emergency vehicles and (potentially) buses.

Livermore is planning an upscale outlet center on the other side of El Charro Road.

For more information about this project see [www.staplesranch.org](http://www.staplesranch.org).

## CLIMB

(continued from page one)

making since last August when Paul Thompson made an announcement about it at a Rotary meeting and asked for volunteers.

The climbers are collecting sponsorships and hope to raise \$14,000 for the Wheelchair Foundation. The worldwide foundation provides wheelchairs to persons who cannot afford them.

"Each sponsorship will actually be triple its amount, as the Wheelchair Foundation and Rotary International will match what we raise," said Voss-Quinn.

The climbers from Rotary are keeping their endeavor in perspective.

"Training for and completing this climb will be a challenge, but nothing in comparison to the daily challenges of disabled people who cannot use their legs and whose only means of forward motion is using their arms to crawl," Voss-Quinn said.

"Could you envision just for a minute not being able to use your legs and not having a wheelchair? How would you function? Cook, clean, shop, eat or work? It is unimaginable!"

She said millions of people throughout the world need a wheelchair but can't afford it. She said a donation of \$75 covers the price of a wheelchair and it's a

gift that transforms the recipient's life. "A wheelchair means hope, mobility and freedom," Voss-Quinn said.

Sponsor forms are available by writing to her at: Angelika Voss-Quinn, 1080 Concannon Boulevard, Livermore CA 94550. She may be called at (925) 606-7353.

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**Good Friday  
Easter Egg Hunt  
at Cooleykatz Toys!**

**April 6th at 10 a.m.**

1959 Second Street  
Downtown Livermore  
(across from Casa Orozco)  
(925) 245-1035

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## "Last year over 570,000 people died from the same cause"

Yet nobody built them a monument...

Dear friend,

It's hard to believe, I know, but it's true. Last year, prescription drugs killed more Americans than guns, AIDS, suicides and terrorists combined, but we'll get to that in a minute.

Let me start by explaining the photo in this letter. You know, when I meet people in town they usually say, "Oh, yeah, I know you, you're Dr. C, the Chiropractor on East Avenue." Well that's me. I'm also that lucky guy in this photo with my beautiful sons.

Years ago something happened to me that changed my life forever. Let me tell you my story.

"I was just driving home from a family party and bam! I was involved in a horrible head-on car accident. After being released from the hospital, I was left with severe problems in my neck and upper back. I started to lose feeling on the whole left side of my neck and shoulder area. It was so bad that when I tried to use my shoulder. I had no strength and the pain was unbearable. I stopped weight lifting and playing sports because I tried to use my left arm as little as I could due to the pain. At the age of 19, school and sports were my life. Being a young man, I figured that I could deal with the pain. But, after some time, it didn't seem to be getting any better. And that's not all.

The Medical doctor gave me some powerful drugs, but nothing was helping. I started to get pretty scared. Here I was, this young guy, losing muscle strength and in pain everyday. Would I have to live like this forever? But, there's more.

A friend of mine convinced me to give his doctor a try. This new doctor did an exam, ran a few tests (which didn't hurt), and then 'adjusted' my spine. The adjustment didn't hurt; it actually felt good. I got relief, and my muscle strength started to come back, again. Oh, did I mention that this doctor was a chiropractor? It worked so well for me, and I was so impressed with the other 'miracles' I saw in his office, that I finished up my undergraduate school and headed off to chiropractic school myself. And that's how it happened!"

Mateo, the older boy in the photo, is my first son. He is 2 1/2 years old and gets adjusted on a regular basis. He has only had 3 colds his entire life and has never been on antibiotics. Dominic my other son who is 10 months and also gets adjusted regularly. Both of my kids love getting adjusted, because it doesn't hurt. I have to say that *chiropractic has been a blessing in our family.*

A healthy family does NOT rely on medication to make

them well. My family does not take medication to seek health and we don't have a "medicine chest" in our home. Due to years of advertising saturation from the pharmaceutical companies, most Americans seek health from outside in and most families have a medicine chest filled with an average of 16 different medications.



In an average year, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported over 1.5 million hospitalizations due to medication. Last year, the WHO also reported 570,000 deaths due to medications people took and 160,000 of these deaths occurred when the drugs were prescribed correctly. More people died last year from medications than at Pearl Harbor and Vietnam. Amazing, huh?

If drugs make people well, then those who take the most should be the healthiest, but this simply isn't the case.

Many people are beginning to understand that health comes from within. This is why chiropractic helps so many people. You see, God created a body that can heal itself. Your body doesn't need any help;

it just can't have any interference. With chiropractic, we don't add anything to the body, or take anything from it. We find interference in the nervous system and remove it, thus enhancing the healing capabilities of the body. We get tremendous results; it really is as simple as that. Here's what some of our patients have to say:

"I was having horrible migraines and headaches, but since I started seeing Dr. C I no longer have these problems."  
- (Gloria Fulford - Livermore)

"I am living a better life now, since seeing Dr. C."  
- (A. Scott Tibbets - Livermore)

Being a chiropractor can be tough because there's a host of so-called experts out there. They tell people a lot of things that are just plain ridiculous about our profession. Usually it's "My neighbor's sister's friend said..." Let me ask you, do you make your health care decisions based on honest facts or biased opinions? Interesting question, isn't it?

**You Can Benefit from an Amazing Offer** - When you bring in or mention this article, you will receive my entire new patient exam for \$17.

That's a consultation, exam, paraspinal thermal imaging... the whole ball of wax. This exam could cost you \$350 elsewhere. But, please call right away- because this offer expires on April 21, 2007. You see I'm not trying to seduce you to come see me with this low start up fee, then to only make it up with high fees after that. By law, this offer excludes Medicare/Medi-caid patients.

**Great care at a great fee...** Please, I hope that there's no misunderstanding about **quality of care** just because I have a lower exam fee. You'll get great care at a great fee.

My assistant is Cindi and she is a really great person. Our office is both friendly and warm and we try our best to make you feel at home. We have a wonderful service, at an exceptional fee.

Our office is called **CONTRERAS CHIROPRACTIC** and it is at 4200 East Avenue. Our phone number is (925) 606-5490. Call Cindi or me today for an appointment. We can help you. Thank you.

-Gerardo Contreras, D.C.

**\*P.S. Call today for your FREE personal chiropractic information packet or join us for a FREE Staying Healthy Seminar.**







# RELIGION NEWS

**Easter Concert**, The Temple Hill Choral Singers will perform "I Walked Today Where Jesus Walked" April 6 at the Pleasanton Chapel of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 6100 Paseo Santa Cruz. This will be the opening night concert before the singers perform in Oakland and Fremont. The 32-member mixed choir will be celebrating the life and mission of Christ. Admission is free and open to the public. The concert will begin at 8 p.m. in the chapel.

**Tri-Valley Unity Church** joins with Unity Church of Castro Valley to hold a special Good Friday service, April 6th, 7:00 p.m. at the Castro Valley church, 20121 Santa Maria Ave. All are welcome. (925) 829-2733 or www.trivalleyunity.com.

**Tri-Valley Unity Church** celebrates Easter Sunday, April 8th at 10 a.m. with a very special service. The Tri-Valley Unity choir will perform, and the age-old mystery of that first Easter morning will be explored in the message "As It Began to Dawn." All are welcome. Rev. Mary Anne Harris, minister. Call (925) 829-2733 or visit www.trivalleyunity.com

**Our Savior Lutheran Ministries**, 1385 S. Livermore Ave., Livermore, Maundy Thursday, April 5, 7 p.m. service; Good Friday, 7 p.m.; Easter Sunday, April 8, 9 a.m. Information 447-1246.

**St. Clare's Episcopal Church**, 3350 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton, Maundy Thursday, April 5, 7:30 p.m. Good Friday, April 6, noon Stations of the Cross; 7:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross and Good Friday Liturgy. Information 462-4802.

**CrossWinds Church**, 6444 Sierra Court, Dublin, East Sunday services at 7:30, 9 and 10:30 a.m. and 12 noon. Information at 560-3800.

**St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church**, 1215 Lomitas Ave., Livermore. Holy Thursday, April 5, 7:30 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper and Adoration of the Eucharist. Good Friday, April 6, 1:30 p.m. Liturgy of the Lord's Passion; 7:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross. Holy Saturday, 8:30 p.m. Great Easter Vigil; Easter Sunday Masses at 7:30, 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. Information, 447-4549.

**Holy Cross Lutheran Church**, 1020 Mocho St., Livermore. Palm Sunday wor-

ship at 8:30 and 11 a.m. Passover Sunday School Seder meal at 9:45 a.m. Maundy Thursday 7 p.m. service; Good Friday, 7 p.m. features Drama "Re: Remember Me." Saturday Easter Vigil at 7 p.m. Imaging the Word. On Easter Sunday, worship celebrations at 8:30 and 11 a.m. 447-8840.

**St. Elizabeth Seton**, 4001 Stoneridge Dr., Pleasanton, Holy Thursday, April 5, Mass of the Lord's Supper 8 p.m. Good Friday, April 6, Liturgy of the Lord's Passion and Communion 8 p.m., Easter Vigil at 8 p.m. Easter Sunday, April 8, Mass at 9 and 11 a.m. and 4 and 6:30 p.m. 484-5020.

**St. Augustine Catholic Church**, 3999 Bernal Ave., Pleasanton, Good Friday, April 6, meditation noon to 3 p.m.; Stations of the Cross 12:30 p.m. Cross walk start 4:30 p.m. Easter Sunday, April 8, Mass at 8 and 10 a.m. and 12 noon also at 10:05 a.m. in the Grotto. 846-4489

**United Christian Church**, 1886 College Ave. (at So. M. St.) April 5, Maundy Thursday, Soup supper at 6:30 pm and worship at 7pm. Easter Sunday breakfast goodies served from 9:30-10:30am. Worship at 10:30. Children welcome; Easter Egg Hunt after worship. For information call 925-449-6820.

**Unitarian Universalist**, 1893 N. Vasco Rd., Livermore. Service at 10:30 a.m. April 8, Easter inter-generational service; "The Three R's of Easter: Rabbits, Resurrection and Rebirth." Rev. Eric Meter and Sonya Sukalski, ministerial intern, speaking. Child care provided for youngest. Information 447-8747.

**Boundaries Workshop: Insight into ourselves and our relationships**, two Thursdays, April 7, 7 to 9:30 p.m. and April 26, 6:30 to 9 p.m. George Papageorge, MFT, presents this 5-hour workshop based on the popular book "Boundaries" by Dr. Cloud and Townsend. The fee is \$40; refreshments are provided. Childcare is available if reserved by 4/12/07 for children under 12 years at \$5.00 per child per night. No refunds after 4/13/07. Contact Claudia if you have questions at 925-560-3826 or

csiglin@crosswindschurch.org. Go to www.crosswindschurch.org/workshops for more information or to register.

**Jewish Culture and History Series**, California State University, East Bay (CSUEB) Jewish Culture and History Series "The Shoah: A Survivor's Testimony," Wednesday, May 2, 2007 2:40-4:30 p.m. Studio Theatre, 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., Hayward. Free, reception will follow http://class.csueastbay.edu/jewishculture, 510-885-3179. Parking in lots F, G, H, and K on the eastside of the Cal State East Bay campus in Hayward will be available for \$1.50 per vehicle. Permits can be purchased at any labeled dispenser in those lots.

**WINGS** is a weekly gathering of Christian women that encourages spiritual growth through inspiring speakers, small group discussions, prayer, Scripture study, catechesis, life sharing and community. Meetings on Thursdays, at the Catholic Community of St. Charles Borromeo, 1315 Lomitas Avenue, Livermore, from 9:15 AM to 11:15 AM. Theme is Spirituality. Childcare provided for a nominal fee. Registration fee to join \$25/year; includes materials. Contact Mary Fair at 925-447-4549 or bob.mary.venter@comcast.net.

**Catholic Community of Pleasanton**, bereavement support ministry meetings on 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.

**Pathway Community Church**, 3470 Fostoria Way, Suite D, San Ramon, east of Costco and the Iron Horse Trail. Contemporary Sunday Worship Service meets at 10:30 am. Nursery and Programs for elementary, middle, and high school ages. Adult, College, Career and Small Groups. Brian Owyong, Senior Pastor. www.pathwaycommunitychurch.org (925)850-4PCC (4722).

**Solutions** meets Wednesday nights at 7 p.m. at Tri-Valley Church of Christ, 4481 East Ave., Livermore. The new series called, "It's Not My Fault!" is currently being held. For more information call Greg Brown at 925-447-4333 or visit www.trivalleychurch.org.

## Easter Sunrise Service at Shadow Cliffs

On Easter Sunday, April 8, there will be an Easter Sunrise Service at Shadow Cliffs Regional Park located on Stanley Blvd. in Pleasanton. The entrance will be open at 5:30 a.m. The Sunrise Service will begin at 6 a.m. sharp. The program will be over just after the sun comes up, which will be before 7 a.m.

Each year Pleasanton Presbyterian Church is the primary sponsor of this traditional service. This year a number of pastors will be assisting with the program:

They are Pastor Mike Barris of PPC, Youth Pastor, Geoff Haskell of PPC, Worship Ministry, Rob Bryceson of PPC, and Senior Pastor Doctor Jim Meek of Trinity Baptist in Livermore.

Coffee and donuts will be available after the service. Flashlights are recommended because our lighting this year will be powered by a generator.

As a public service, the Regional Park Board will not be charging for parking, unless

people decide to remain at the park for fishing and picnics.

In case of rain, the Sunrise Service will be held at the Pleasanton Presbyterian Church at 4300 Mirador Drive. Maps will be given out at the gate on Stanley Blvd.

For further information about the program please contact, Pastor Mike Barris at 846-4436. Other information can be obtained from Howard Neely, Chairman at 462 3346.

## Cross Walk Focus on Migrant Issue

On April 6, everyone is invited to take part in a walk from one end of Pleasanton to the other in the eighth annual Pleasanton Cross Walk.

The annual event remembers the passion of Jesus and focuses on some social justice theme. This year the walk will be from the perspective of the migrant Jesus.

The stations are based on "El Via Crucis de Jesús Migrante - The Way of the Cross of the Migrant Jesus," Gioacchino Campese, CS., published by Libros Liguori in 2006.

This year, with so much interest in immigration reform, the organizers from the Catholic Community of Pleasanton chose to base the text and reflections

on the Good Friday cross walks celebrated in front of the Cathedral of Tijuana (Baja California) since 1999. The walk is intended to express through prayer the suffering and hope of the undocumented and the deported.

At 4:30 pm, those planning to walk will gather at St. Augustine Catholic Church, 3999 Bernal Avenue, in Pleasanton. Numerous small crosses, prayer cards, and picket signs will be passed out.

The Cross Walk will follow a path northwards for about 3.3 miles to end up at St. Elizabeth Seton church, 4001 Stoneridge Drive around 7:15 pm.

At each of fourteen stations, the Cross Walk will stop for a

short reading about what happened to Jesus and a short reflection on what is happening to migrants today.

Rain does not cancel the Cross Walk.

At the end of the Cross Walk, carpools will be formed to the starting point. After the Cross Walk ends, all are invited to the Good Friday service at St. Elizabeth Seton at 8:00 pm.

For additional information, please contact Gustavo Nystrom, GANystrom@sigmaxi.net home or 829-9554. He is the local leader of Pax Christi (the Catholic Peace and Justice Movement sponsoring the Cross Walk). He is also an active member of the Catholic Community of

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A Christian Community—Rooted in Grace,  
Growing in Faith, Serving with Joy

Invites you to worship with us:

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
April 5, 7 p.m.

**GOOD FRIDAY**  
April 6, 7 p.m.

**EASTER SUNDAY**  
April 8, 9 a.m.

(Join us in the gym for Easter brunch immediately following the service.)

**Aleluia! He is alive!**

1385 S. Livermore Avenue  
Livermore, California 94550  
(925) 447-1246 www.oslm.net

# SERVICES TO CELEBRATE THE SEASON

**St. Clare's Episcopal Church**  
3350 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton • 925-462-4802

**PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 1**  
8:00 am & 10:00 am - Holy Eucharist & Procession of the Palms

**MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 5**  
7:30 pm - Holy Eucharist & foot washing, stripping of the altar and watch through the night

**GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 6**  
Noon - Stations of the Cross  
7:30 pm - Stations of the Cross & Good Friday Liturgy

**EASTER DAY, APRIL 8**  
8:00 am & 10:00am - Holy Eucharist  
www.stclarespleasanton.org

**The Rock**  
Tri Valley  
Foursquare Church

Join us Easter Sunday at 10 a.m.  
522 South L Street, Livermore  
Easter Egg Hunt & Fun For All  
More Info. (925) 292-0955  
www.therocktvfc.org



**United Christian Church**  
1886 College Ave. (at So. M Street), Livermore  
Sunday Worship - 10:30 a.m.

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4th Street at South L Street  
Livermore, CA  
(925) 447-2078  
www.fpc-livermore.org

**MAUNDY THURSDAY** April 5, 2007  
Soup Supper 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall  
Service at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary

**GOOD FRIDAY** April 6, 2007 - 7:30 p.m.  
Vigil service at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary

**GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER** April 7, 2007  
7-8 p.m. activities for children, youth and adults  
Come walk the labyrinth!

**EASTER SUNDAY** April 8, 2007 - 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.  
(A&I, interpreting at 11 a.m.)  
Resurrection Celebration  
Fellowship time 10-11 a.m.  
Egg hunt for children (age 3-10) at 10:20 a.m., courtyard

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An Invitation to Join Us For Easter Season Events at Discovery

**DISCOVERY CHURCH**

- **Sunday, April 1, 10am:** Palm Sunday Service
- **Thursday, April 5, 7pm:** Maundy Thursday Communion Service
- **Friday, April 6, 7pm:** Good Friday Service, The Day God Cried
- **Sunday, April 8, 9am:** Easter morning Brunch (all are welcome)
- **Sunday, April 8, 10am:** Worship Celebration with special guest Jay Kent
- **Sunday, April 8, 11:30am:** Youth Mexico Mission Send-Off

**The Catholic Community of St. Charles Borromeo**  
1315 Lomitas Avenue, Livermore • (925) 447-4549  
near the corner of Holmes and Concannon

**Holy Thursday, April 5**  
7:30 PM Mass of the Lord's Supper & Adoration of the Eucharist

**Good Friday, April 6**  
1:30 PM Liturgy of the Lord's Passion  
7:30 PM Stations of the Cross presented by Youth Ministry

**Holy Saturday, April 7**  
8:30 PM Great Vigil of Easter

**Easter Sunday, April 8**  
7:30 AM, 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM

**Holy Week**  
at  
**Holy Cross Lutheran Church**  
1020 Mocho Street 925- 447-8840  
www.holycrosslivermore.org

**Maundy Thursday** April 5 at 7:00 pm  
First Communion Celebration

**Good Friday** April 6 at 7:00 pm  
Drama: "Re: Remember Me"

**Saturday Vigil of Easter** April 7 at 7:00 pm  
Imaging the Word

**Easter** April 8 - Worship Celebrations 8:30 & 11:00 am  
Breakfast served by youth between services  
9:45 Children's event

**Adult Discipleship Series Kick-Off:**  
"If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat"

**EASTER at CrossWinds**

**A LIGHT IN THE DARK**

What really happened on Easter Sunday? The Easter story is about emerging from a tomb of despair into the LIGHT of hope. It is about leaving the darkness of the old life and coming into the light of a new LIFE. This Easter at CrossWinds Church, we will experience the Light of Jesus Christ overcoming darkness and gloom! WE INVITE YOU to join us in this resurrection celebration!

**CrossWinds Church**  
6444 Sierra Court  
Dublin, CA 94568  
(925) 560-3800

**Easter Sunday Service Times:**  
7:30, 9:00, 10:30am, 12pm

Childcare will be provided during the 9:00, 10:30am and 12pm services only.

www.crosswindschurch.org

















Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Winner Omar Uresti hits the ball out of the rough on the 7th hole in Sunday's final round.

## Uresti Holds on to Win Livermore Valley Wine Country Championship

In what will be remembered as one of the toughest tournaments in Nationwide Tour history, Omar Uresti was the last man standing at the \$625,000 Livermore Valley Wine Country Championship.

He finished with an even-par 288 -- two strokes in front of Skip Kendall (74) and Aron Price (73).

After beginning the day with a four-shot lead, Uresti (76) stumbled early with bogeys on three of the first seven holes. He finished with 10 straight pars before a double bogey on the par-4 finishing hole.

Sunday's victory -- worth

\$112,500 -- moves Uresti into second place on the money list and on course to return to the PGA TOUR.

Fast, firm and windy conditions at the picturesque Course at Wente Vineyards this week resulted in the cumulative scoring average soaring to 75.235 -- the highest on Tour since a 75.421 average at the 2002 Monterey Peninsula Classic (Bayonet Course). Should that average hold the remainder of the season, it would represent the second straight year the course has ranked as the Tour's toughest layout.

## Close to 300 Students Competed in Science Fair

Nearly 300 local students in grades 7 through 12 from Danville, Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton and San Ramon competed for cash and other prizes at the 11th annual Tri-Valley Science and Engineering Fair (TVSEF) hosted by the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Judging took place on Wednesday, March 28, at the Robert Livermore Community Center in Livermore. Awards were distributed during a ceremony there that evening.

More than 100 local scientists, engineers and science teachers, served as fair judges, deliberating over this year's 230 project entries. The majority of judges represented the Livermore Laboratory. A total of 216 special and project awards were presented. Science projects were judged on a wide range of criteria that represent standards of research held by the scientific community.

Sweepstakes winners in the Senior Division are: Richard Li, an 11th grade student from Monte Vista High School in Danville for "A Novel Approach to Rapid Diagnosis of Cancer," and Yuyang John Mei, an 11th grade student from Monte Vista High School for "A Novel Pathway for PTEN Chemo Sensitization."

Winners in the Junior Division are: Nitya Furtado, an eighth grade student from Pine Valley Middle School in San Ramon for "Magnetic Magic!" and Alison Burklund, an eighth grade student from Valley Montessori School in Livermore for "Hazardous Waste: What Soil Fits Its Taste?"

Senior Division Sweepstakes winners will go on to compete in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, May 13-19, in Albuquerque, N.M. Junior Division winners are eligible to compete at the State Science Fair.

Research categories for fair projects covered a wide spectrum

of science such as behavioral and bioscience, biochemistry, botany, chemistry, computer science, earth and space science, engineering, environmental science, gerontology, mathematics, medicine and health, microbiology, physics and zoology.

The goals of the annual fair are to motivate students to apply creativity and critical thought to the solution of science, engineering and math problems; to encourage the exchange of knowledge and ideas; and to recognize student achievement.

In addition to the Laboratory, a key sponsor of the fair and supporter for 11 years since the fair's inception is the Tri-Valley Business Council. Additional supporters for 2007 include: Galaxy Press; Kaiser Permanente; Pacific Gas and Electric; Sandia National Laboratories; The Valley Times; Tri-Valley Community Foundation; Uncle Credit Union; Applied Biosystems Corporation; Foresters of America; Court of Livermore #77; Sybase; Topcon Positioning Systems; ValleyCare Health System; AT&T; Berlogar Geotechnical Consultants; Leisure Sports, Inc.; San Ramon Regional Medical Center; Union Bank/Tanner Insurance Brokers; Valent USA Corporation; Black Tie Transportation; M. Weldon Moreland, CPA; Signature Properties; and Wente Vineyards.

The fair is affiliated with the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (Intel ISEF), the world's largest pre-college celebration of science. Held annually in May, the Intel ISEF brings together more than 1,400 students from more than 40 nations to compete for scholarships, tuition grants, internships, scientific field trips, and the grand prize: a \$50,000 college scholarship.

For more information about this year's Tri-Valley Science and Engineering Fair, go to the web at <http://tvsef.llnl.gov/>.



**PET OF THE WEEK:**  
Leah's owner died and the family that took her in was too allergic to her to keep her. This 8-year old Calico loves attention and lots of

love and cuddles, and misses her family terribly. She can't wait to find a forever home. She is gentle and mellow, and very social. She likes children as long as they are gentle with her. She likes other cats, but has never been with dogs. She was declawed when she was a kitten, and therefore must be an indoor-only cat. For more information on Leah, ID# 6411, call Valley Humane Society at 925-426-8656. Valley Humane Society holds mobile pet adoptions for dogs and cats at Pet Extreme in Livermore every Saturday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

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"Thanks Dad"

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## Professional Football Comes to Pleasanton

The Tri-Valley Ranchers, a professional football team playing in the National Indoor Football League (NIFL), will play its home games in Pleasanton.

The home season will be played in the Amador Pavilion at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. The season will run from April 21 to August.

Coaching the team is Michael Greer. He talked about the team and league during an interview.

Greer called the style of play in the NIFL the "closest thing to real football. Unlike other indoor leagues, the NIFL includes both running and passes with about 60 percent of the plays passing. There are limitless formations available. When people see the game, they will love it."

The offense can come out in an "I," a shotgun, have two backs in motion, line up two tight ends, and so on. Unlike its bigger brother, the NFL, three players can go in motion at one time. A linebacker must mirror the quarterback at all times. "It is a much more exciting, quicker game," Greer said.

Greer quotes former Dallas Cowboy coach Jimmy Jones as saying the NIFL style of play "is the purest form of football there is at the indoor level. It stays true to the game."

There are eight men on each side with each team having a 22-man roster. Linemen are three-on-three. Greer's line would match up with any pro team for size, with five or so tipping the scales at 300 pounds and over. Doug Sams (6'3", 380 pounds) played for the Buffalo Bills in the NFL.

Play is on a 50 yard field with two end zones. The area is 28 to 32 yards wide, depending on where the games are played.

The league is in its seventh year. With 24 teams it is the largest indoor league. This year there are seventeen start-up teams with much more expansion to come, said Greer. There are four other California teams, three in Los Angeles and one in San Diego.

"I believe the league will be competitive with a high calibre of play," said Greer. He bases that on the fact that there are a large number of college football players who will not be going to the NFL, yet are very good players. He points out that while there are 200,000 kids coming out of college every year who play football, there are only 32 teams in the NFL. The NIFL gives them an opportunity to play and to aim for a spot on an NFL roster.

"I owe it to them to prepare them for the NFL. If one of our players is offered a chance to play at a higher level, we will release that player from his contract," ex-

plained Greer.

There is one local player on the roster, Henry Fraser, who lives in Pleasanton. He is a wide receiver with professional experience in the arena leagues.

And, there is a real rancher, Frank Borba from Stockton. A couple of the other players are from the Stockton area, the remainder from San Francisco and Oakland. They come from all walks of life from ranching to a pit boss at a local casino to a loan broker and several realtors.

"The players are excited at having the opportunity to play at home," Greer commented.

Greer has a strong background in football. He worked as VP of football operations for the Pro Football Institute, served as head scout for an arena team, vice president of player personnel for the NIFL, and president of football operations for the North American Indoor Football League. He has coached at every level from Pop Warner to the NFL.

He said when a franchise opened in California, "I was the first one to get one."

As for his plans for how the Ranchers will play, "I want to put up 68 points a game. We will use the run as the element of surprise, with about 20 plays a game. We will not carry a kicker. The quarterback will kick-off. I am not interested in kicking. There will be no field goals for us."

For additional information or tickets, go to [www.trivalleyranchers.com](http://www.trivalleyranchers.com) or [www.NIFLfootball.com](http://www.NIFLfootball.com).



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Coach Michael Greer and wide receiver Nick Iano stand in front of a banner promoting the Ranchers.

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