



Definitive Map Off Mt. Diablo Area Available

For the past two and a half years Save Mount Diablo's volunteer map committee has been working to produce the first regional trail map of the Diablo region. The effort was funded entirely with two grants from REI, Recreational Equipment Inc., totaling \$9,000.

The map, "Mount Diablo, Los Vaqueros & Surrounding Parks, Featuring the Diablo Trail," is now available to the public.

The new regional recreation map is full color, double-sided, waterproof and tearproof. It details nearly 90,000 acres of protected land throughout Central and Eastern Contra Costa County. The map, which includes hill shading, illustrates what has been accomplished and what private lands still need to be protected.

When SMD was formed in 1971 there was just one park on the mountain measuring 6,788 acres (about 10.5 square miles). Public and protected lands around Mt. Diablo State Park have increased significantly since that time; the map covers 250,000 acres (390 square miles), of which over 90,000 acres are public or protected (141 square miles versus 1971's 10.5 square miles). (See MAP, page 10)

CHP Officer Loses His Life in The Line of Duty

By Victoria Kamerzell

On November 16, California Highway Patrolman John Miller lost his life in the line of duty during a high-speed pursuit of an alleged drunk driver in Livermore. The highway patrol had received several phone calls around 9:00 PM that an intoxicated motorist was driving on North Livermore Avenue in Livermore.

Officer Miller was trying to locate the suspect on North Livermore Avenue when a report came in that a Livermore police officer had seen the suspect driving eastbound on I-580. The driver appeared to be so intoxicated that nearby drivers were frightened to pass him as his car swerved into the center median. The suspect, Luis Solano, 21, was soon apprehended on I-580 near Greenville Road. Solano was charged with evading police, driving without a license and suspicion of driving under the influence.

Around 9:15 PM, shortly after Solano was arrested, an unidentified Livermore man called the police about Officer Miller. The man and his wife had been driving on North Livermore Avenue when they saw a crashed black and white CHP vehicle. Officer Miller's car had veered

(See CHP OFFICER, page 2)



The cool nights have turned the leaves to colors of scarlet and gold.

Study Shows Greater Need for Livermore VA

The Veterans Administration needs to do more for the mental health recovery of returning war veterans. The Livermore VA campus is an ideal spot to help with the task, according to Rep. Jerry McNerney, (D-Pleasanton).

McNerney has written to VA acting secretary Gordon Mansfield stating that with the "nation's overseas engagements creating a new generation of veterans, we should be working to expand services to veterans. The Livermore VA Medical Center presents just such an opportunity. The peaceful, serene setting is ideal for a treatment clinic for

PTSD and other mental distress." McNerney made a similar pitch to the previous VA secretary, James Nicholson, who expressed some interest in it before he left office.

Nicholson was interested in considering a PTSD-focused treatment clinic on the Livermore campus "if such a need could be demonstrated," McNerney wrote Mansfield.

McNerney now has more information to back his call for using the campus for short-term mental health recovery periods for veterans. The congressman

cited an article in the Nov. 14 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association, which reported on follow-up screenings of returning combat veterans.

An abstract of the article on the internet said that by instituting follow-up screenings three to six months after initial screenings, higher numbers of veterans were found to have more problems with such things as alcohol misuse, major depression, and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). The combined two screenings found that 20 percent of active and 42 percent of re-

serve troops require mental health treatment.

"Soldiers frequently reported alcohol concerns, yet very few were referred to alcohol treatment. Concerns about interpersonal conflict increased fourfold. Most soldiers who used mental health services had not been referred, even though the majority accessed care within 30 days following the screening."

McNerney called the Livermore VA hospital "a perfect fit for the kinds of needed mental health services highlighted in the study."

The decision to close VA campus has already been made. However, that was before the new study was released, said McNerney. Not only would the atmosphere be good, but the Livermore campus is only 15 miles from Camp Parks, where more than 20,000 Army reserve and California National Guard soldiers train.

"Many of these soldiers and their families have settled in the region and would find accessing the Livermore campus a convenient and accessible location upon their return to civilian life," said McNerney.



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Cottage Preschool in Livermore has held a Thanksgiving Feast for the past 30 years. The tradition continued last week with the children learning Thanksgiving songs, making necklaces and headbands, and preparing all of the food for their parents, siblings and grandparents. The children make all of the decorations (centerpieces and table runners). Everyone sits down together and shares a Thanksgiving meal.

Forum Addresses Theater Issues

Financing, traffic, parking, and location were among the issues raised by those attending a forum on the regional theater proposed for downtown Livermore.

This was the second forum hosted by the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center (LVPAC) to provide information to the public regarding the theater.

In addition to responding to questions from members of the public, LVPAC provided an update on the status of the theater.

Len Alexander, LVPAC executive director, described the regional theater as the third leg in projects planned by the non-profit group. The first was the Bothwell Arts Center, designed to be a place where the visual and performing arts could grow. The second was the Bankhead Theater. During its first month and half of operation, the theater has played host to 10,000 people. "There's no guarantee people will come to the regional theater. However, the numbers are working very strongly for the Bankhead and underlying indicators all suggest a regional theater would have a good turnout."

The regional theater, said Alexander, is most important in what it can do for downtown Liv-

ermore. It would have an economic impact of up to \$20 million per year. By comparison, the Bankhead generates about \$5 million per year.

The projected completion of the regional theater is late 2010 or early 2011. "It's pretty much on schedule," stated Alexander, noting that the Livermore City Council will host a workshop on the theater at its December 10 meeting.

No decision would be made at that time.

FINANCING

Bob Gamble, LVPAC financial consultant, explained that the financing structure would be similar to that of the Bankhead Theater. The difference is that the city is being asked to contribute substantially more towards the regional theater, said Gamble. The city would contribute tax increment funds to help pay off bonds. In the early years, LVPAC would pay virtually all of the bond debt. The city would take over most of the payment of debt service in 2020 or 2021. At that time, it would have the ability to do so, because the tax increment would have grown, said Gamble.

In current dollars, LVPAC would be responsible for \$89.5

County Asks Public To Help Expand Mental Health Services

Alameda County is looking to expand its mental health services, and is inviting the public and non-profit providers to help design ways to do it.

Mental health officials will hold a dialogue with the public over a series of seven meetings to see what could be added or expanded to the existing programs. One of the meetings will be at 4 p.m. Dec. 4 in community room A at the Livermore Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave.

Prevention and early intervention are the themes for the services expansion, which will be financed by an additional \$11 million in annual revenue for the county from Proposition 63. That initiative imposed a 1 percent tax increase on personal income over \$1 million.

A wide range of people could be served by the program expansion. Among them are people with onset of serious psychiatric illness, children in stressed

families, trauma-exposed people, children at risk for school failure, and youths involved in the juvenile justice system.

After the mental health officials conduct their meetings, they will invite requests for proposal from any relevant non-profit, said Ann Bacon, a program assistant at the Health & Human Resource Education Center. A committee will decide who will be funded. "The committee (See SERVICES, page 4)

Pleasanton Graduates Give Their Preparation a B+

The Pleasanton school district received a B+ on its first major report card from students. The grade came from a survey of 284 graduates from the high school class of 2005.

The school board heard results of the survey at its meeting Nov. 9.

There was also a report about another study, taken last spring of all graduating seniors at that time. Some 78 percent of the graduates returned the survey, which overall spoke highly of their experiences in the district.

The survey of graduates from (See STUDIES, page 4)

Bike Stunt Course to Open

The new Sunken Gardens Bicycle Stunt Course will officially open on Sat., Dec. 1.

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District will host a dedication ceremony at 11 a.m.

The 6,500 sq. ft. course features a six-foot half-pipe, quarter-pipes, a street spine and a concrete barrier that can be used by all skill levels. The bike stunt course is adjacent to the existing skate park, 3800 Pacific Avenue in Livermore.

FOUNDATION

Randy Schlientz, president of the LARPD Foundation Board, reported a goal of raising \$1 million to establish an endowment.

He told the LARPD Board last week that the foundation is seeking 1000 donors of \$1000 each. All of the foundation board mem-

bers have joined the list. He asked that the LARPD board donate to the foundation. "In order to go out and ask the community for money, we think it is important that both boards need to show support."

The LARPD Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit foundation supporting Livermore area parks and community resources, nature programs, special events, Ravenswood Historical Site, and community beautification efforts.

It was established as part of the district's 60th anniversary celebration. Funds will be used for both programs and projects.

LARPD Board President Steve Goodman commented, "It's a worthwhile program. It will benefit us far into the future."

Long Time Resident Leaves Legacy to Benefit Students

Long time resident Mario Pedrozzi is leaving a legacy that will benefit Livermore students for many years.

In his last will and testament, he expressed a desire to share his wealth in support of the vision of paving the way to a brighter and

more secure future for the most deserving students from his community.

The Mario Pedrozzi Scholarship Foundation will be awarding hundreds of dollars in its first year to graduates of (See LEGACY, page 2)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Sergeant Erin Lillie meets Livermore Mayor Marshall Kamena in his office at city hall.

Sergeant Leaving for 2nd Deployment in Iraq

Marine Sergeant Erin Lillie of Livermore is headed to Iraq for her second deployment.

On Tuesday, Mayor Marshall

Kamena presented her with a number of items, "that will be meaningful to her." Among them were a Livermore lapel pin, a

mug with the new Livermore logo, a pen and a couple of little poems. Kamena added, "We also (See DEPLOY, page 7)

Inside

Anne Homan.....	7	Roundup.....	3
Art & Entertainment.....	9	Short Notes.....	7
Bulletin Board.....	8	Sports.....	6
Classifieds.....	10	Obituaries.....	8
Editorial.....	4	Open Homes.....	10
Mailbox.....	4		



PET OF THE WEEK

Daphne is a 3 year old female cat looking for a quiet home to curl up and relax. Her previous owners did not give her much attention, so she is ready to be loved! She enjoys getting head rubs and cuddling, but she can be a bit of a bully to other cats. She has never lived with dogs and would do best

in a home with older children. For more information on Daphne, call Valley Humane Society at 426-8656. Valley Humane Society, located at 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton, is open Wed-Sun from 11AM to 5PM. Adoptable dogs can be seen every Saturday at VHS from 11AM to 2PM.

LEGACY

(continued from page one)

Livermore's high schools and Alameda County high school graduates attending St. Patrick's Seminary and University.

"Mario would be thrilled, as am I," commented Gene Hale, board president and longtime friend and associate of Pedrozzi.

Pedrozzi was born in Switzerland in 1908. At age 18, he traveled by train and ship, eventually arriving at Ellis Island, New York. From there he crossed the United States by train, with Livermore becoming his final destination. For awhile, he lived in the Joesville Hotel while tending store for his relatives, Joe and Josephine Caratti. Mario learned the grocery business from the Carattis and saved his money. After a short stay in the Army as an MP, he established his own grocery store, Valley Food Center on First Street in Livermore. The Firestone Tire Store now occupies the site.

In 1955, Mario purchased the Livermore Hotel. He was known to open the doors of the hotel to those in need of housing.

In addition to the grocery business, Mario loved politics. He was one of the first people in Livermore to walk neighborhoods to meet constituents in the city. His goal was to inform voters of his positions and issues and find support for his run for city council. He was elected to serve on the council in April 1962 and continued his public service until September 1965. At the end of his tenure, he was vice mayor.

Mario was known as a private man who embraced a strong work ethic, valued frugality and loved the food business. He was an avid gardener. He lived into his 90s and died in Livermore on Oct. 30, 2002.

According to the Foundation,

"As a Swiss immigrant, he embodied the American dream. Overcoming humble beginnings and limited formal education, he achieved financial success and a full life. He envisioned that his wealth could provide a means for students of all ages to achieve their educational and career goals."

The foundation will be awarding annual and multiple year scholarships of up to \$5000 per year to eligible students of all ages whose higher education goals may range from technical and vocational certification to upper graduate degrees. Scholarships of up to \$10,000 per year will be awarded to those attending St. Patrick's.

Information regarding scholarship types, eligibility, selection criteria and application details is available at the Foundation's website at www.pedrozzifoundation.org. Applications will be available after Jan. 7, 2008 and will be due back no later than March 7, 2008.



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CHP OFFICER

(continued from page one)

into a tree about one mile north of I-580 on North Livermore Avenue. While trying to make his way to I-580 in pursuit of Solano, Miller had lost control of his car on a sharp curve.

The passerby tried to find a pulse on Miller but couldn't locate one. Officer Miller was pronounced dead in Livermore. He was thirty-two years old. Officer Miller lived with his family in Lodi. Miller is survived by his wife Stephanie and their two-year old daughter Reese and their four-year old son Chandler.

Miller was born in Stockton. He graduated from Linden High School in 1994. In his spare time Miller played softball for the Linden-Peters Fire District Station. On Saturday the fire station flew their flag at half-staff in honor of Officer Miller.

On Saturday Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger released a written statement regarding Officer Miller's death: "Maria and I join all Californians in mourning the loss of Officer Miller who gave his life in the line of duty while

honorably protecting his fellow citizens. California's law enforcement officers protect our communities day in and day out and words cannot adequately express how grateful we are for their service and sacrifice. Our thoughts and prayers are with Officer Miller's loved ones as they mourn the loss of a son, father, friend and fellow officer."

On Monday a bell-ringing ceremony was held for Officer Miller at the California Highway Patrol Academy in West Sacramento. Miller graduated from the academy last March. His first assignment with the California Highway Patrol began in April.

Miller's co-workers, family and friends gathered at the Academy early Monday morning. A bell-ringing ceremony takes place for a fallen officer after the first business day of the officer's death. The tradition began after the death of California Highway Patrolman Brent Clearman on August 6 2006. Clearman, 32, was investigating an accident on I-880 near 66th Avenue in Oakland when a car hit him. The

driver later plead guilty to a felony hit-and-run charge. Clearman was a highly decorated sharpshooter in the U.S. Marines.

Since the beginning of 2007 two other California Highway patrolmen have died in the line of duty. Officer Robert Franklin Dickey died in an automobile accident on June 10th in Imperial County. A tire on his patrol car blew out, he lost control of the car and it flipped over multiple times. He was thirty-seven years old. He was survived by his wife and young son.

On July 31 2007 Officer Douglas Scott Russell died while setting up a spike stripe to avert a car that was fleeing the police at the time. After the suspect hit Russell he continued driving until the police were eventually able to apprehend him. Russell was airlifted to the University of California Davis Medical center where he later died. Miller, 46, had been a patrolman for twenty-two years. He was raised in Pleasanton.

On a national website dedicated to fallen law enforcement

officers Douglas Scott Russell's widow, Lynn Russell, left a message on Officer Miller's memorial page: "Your dedication and ultimate sacrifice will never be forgotten, thank you for protecting us. My heart and thoughts are with your wife and children."

Officer Miller's accident occurred in the same area where in 2000 a 34-year-old woman was driving with her six children when she also lost control of her car on a sharp curve. The accident in 2000 had no survivors.

The Livermore Police Department website lists the twelve intersections with the most collisions in 2006. North Livermore Avenue is listed three times on this list. The three intersections with the most accidents in Livermore are Kitty Hawk and Airway Boulevard; Stanley Boulevard and Murrieta Boulevard; and Las Positas Road and North Livermore Avenue.

To learn about Officer John Miller's funeral arrangement or donate to a survivor benefit fund, contact the California Highway Patrol at (916) 657-7261.

Welcome to Pleasanton's Newest Park



Photos by Becky Dennis. Taken as hikers walk south from the future staging area in the park at Oak Grove, a park TWICE the size of Augustin Bernal.

Let's Not Give It BACK!

The new park at Oak Grove is 496 acres of oak woodland habitat with 12,000 oak trees.

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We support the public's right to use our open space.
Don't Sign the Petitions! www.KeepOurPark.org

Jennifer Hosterman, Pleasanton's Mayor
Cheryl Cook-Kallio, City Council member
Matt Sullivan, City Council member
Jerry Thome, City Council member
Becky Dennis, former City Council member
Sharnell Michelotti, former City Council member
Bob & Orley Philcos, former Mayor
Tom Pico, former Mayor
Pete McCloskey, former Congressman
Kathy Narum, Planning Commissioner
Arne Olson, Planning Commissioner
Jennifer Pearce, Planning Commissioner
Larry Lindsey, former Planning Commissioner
Trish Maas, former Planning Commissioner
Jim DiBiase, Parks and Recreation Commissioner
Ted Kinzer, Parks and Recreation Commissioner
Kurt Kummer, Parks and Recreation Commissioner
Howard Neady, former Parks & Rec Commissioner
Jerry Pentin, Parks and Recreation Commissioner

Herb Ritter, Parks and Recreation Commissioner
Joe Jones, Housing Commissioner, Trails Ad Hoc
David Stark, Housing Commissioner
Pat & Marcia Kernan, PUSD School Board Trustees
Jim Ott, PUSD School Board Trustees
Dolores Bengston, former Parks & Rec Dept director
Joselyn Combs, former EBRPD director
Christine Steiner, Alameda Co Housing Commr
Jeff Durban, Trails Ad Hoc Committee
Ralph Rajs, Trails Ad Hoc Committee (pending)
Joe Streng, Trails Ad Hoc Committee (pending)
Deb Wolf, Trails Ad Hoc Committee
Tony Rivera, Civic Arts Commissioner
Jan Batcheller, Pleasanton resident
Dik Quigley, Zone 7 Director
Jan Batcheller, Pleasanton resident
Ward Balding, Pleasanton resident
Jack & Flo Bras, Pleasanton residents
Mary Jane & Tom Casper, Vintage Hills residents
Rich Cimino, Audubon Society

Catherine Consolino, Park advocate
Dan Faustina, Pleasanton resident
Tom & Sue Fox, Kottlinger Ranch residents
Troy Grooms, Pleasanton resident
Kathleen & Bronco Hinek, Kottlinger Ranch residents
Skip Hinsley, local business owner
Ron Hyde, retired Superior Court Judge
Pete MacDonald, Pleasanton resident
Otis Nestrand, Pleasanton resident & business owner
Kristen Ondeck, Vintage Hills resident
Carl Palowitch, Economic Vitality Committee
Janice Phalen, Pleasanton resident
Eric Schumacher, Vintage Hills resident
John Sensiba, Pleasanton resident
John Shurtliff, Pleasanton resident
Keith & Lisa Symons, Kottlinger Ranch residents
Sandi Thorne, Pleasanton resident
Robert Tucknott, Pleasanton resident
James Van Dyke, Vintage Hills resident

Affiliations listed for identification purposes only, and do not necessarily indicate official agency positions.

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<p>'07 DODGE CHARGER RT</p> <p>HEAT, AT, PWRWINDOWS, LEATHER, PLOORS, CD, TILT, CRUISE, & MORE</p> <p>MSRP \$33,060 DISC \$8,072 NET COST</p> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">\$24,988</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">VIN #8025</p>	<p>'07 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE</p> <p>AC, AT, PWRWINDOWS, PLOORS, CD, TILT, CRUISE, & MORE</p> <p>MSRP \$28,715 DISC \$7,727 NET COST</p> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">\$20,988</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">VIN #4077</p>	<p>'07 DODGE CALIBER SE</p> <p>AUTO, AC WITH CHILL ZONE, CD, CARGO COVER, & MORE</p> <p>MSRP \$16,990 DISC \$2,572 NET COST</p> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">\$13,988</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">VIN 137261</p>	<p>'07 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY</p> <p>V4, AT, AC, PWRWINDOWS, PLOORS, TILT, CRUISE, CD & MORE</p> <p>MSRP \$22,340 DISC \$7,352 NET COST</p> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">\$14,988</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">VIN 12305</p>

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VALLEY ROUNDUP

Prize for Work

A team of scientists from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and IBM earned the 2007 Gordon Bell Prize for a first-of-a-kind simulation of Kelvin-Helmholtz instability in molten metals on BlueGene/L, the world's fastest supercomputer.

By performing extremely large-scale molecular dynamics simulations, the team was able to study, for the first time, how a Kelvin-Helmholtz instability develops from atomic scale fluctuations into micron-scale vortices.

"This has never been done before. We were able to observe this atom by atom. There was no time scale or length scale we couldn't see," said Jim Glosli, lead author on the winning entry titled "Extending Stability Beyond CPU Millennium: A Micron-Scale Simulation of Kelvin-Helmholtz Instability." Other team members were: Kyle Caspersen, David Richards, Robert Rudd and project leader Fred Streitz of LLNL; and John Gunnels of IBM.

The Kelvin-Helmholtz instability arises at the interface of fluids in shear flow and results in the formation of waves and vortices. Waves formed by Kelvin-Helmholtz (KH) instability are found in all manner of natural phenomena, such as waves on a windblown ocean, sand dunes and swirling cloud billows. While Kelvin-Helmholtz instability has been thoroughly studied for years and its behavior is well understood at the macro-scale, scientists did not clearly understand how it evolves at the atomic scale until now.

The insights gained through simulation of this phenomenon are of interest to the National Nuclear Security Administration's (NNSA) Stockpile Stewardship Program, the effort to ensure the safety security and reliability of the nation's nuclear deterrent without nuclear testing.

Understanding how matter transitions from a continuous medium at macroscopic length scales to a discrete atomistic medium at the nanoscale has important implications for such Laboratory research efforts as National Ignition Facility (NIF) laser fusion experiments and developing applications for nanotube technology.

Fair Board Adds Directors

Three new Directors have been selected to serve on the Board of the Alameda County Agricultural Fair Association. The Fair Association's twenty-six board members oversee the operations of the Alameda County Fairgrounds. James Knudsen, Bill McCammon and Bonnie Sabraw, were selected to fill three vacancies on the Fair Board.

Hayward's James Knudsen worked in the County of Alameda Sheriff's Office from 1972 to 2006. He served as the Sheriff's Public Information Officer and managed the Sheriff's Office contract with the Fair for the past 26 years. Knudsen is a life long resident of Alameda

County. He is a Director of the Greater Hayward Area Recreation and Park District Foundation. In addition, Knudsen is a Director of the Martin C. Kauffman 100 Club of Alameda County, which helps spouses and dependents of police and firefighters who lose their lives in the line of duty.

Pleasanton resident Bill McCammon served as Fire Chief for the Alameda County Fire Department from 1993 to 2007. He has served over 30 years in fire service in Alameda County and has experience managing a \$60 million budget with extensive experience in labor relations, budget and finance. Bill serves as the Treasurer of the Las Positas College Foundation and as a Board member of RotaCare Bay Area, which provides free medical care through 9 clinics in 6 counties.

Castro Valley resident Bonnie Sabraw has served Alameda County as a Judge since 1988. She attended San Francisco Law School and earned her State Bar License in 1979. Sabraw is also a member of the California Judges Association, Alameda County Bar Association, Women Lawyers of Alameda County and the Shack Riders located at the Stanford Campus. Sabraw plans to use her 27 years of experience in her law career that focused on land use, environmental law business interests, agriculture, government, labor, and insurance issues, to contribute to the community and the goals of the Fair Board.

In addition to managing more than 300 event days this year, the Fair Association is preparing for the 2008 Alameda County Fair, June 20th - July 6th celebrating 150 years of Horse Racing. The Fairgrounds is home to the oldest one mile Race Track in America dating back to 1858.

Torrico Perfect on Two Issues

Assemblymember Alberto Torrico (D-Newark) racked up perfect scores on two score cards analyzing legislators' votes on key environmental and consumer protection issues. The score cards were developed by the California League of Conservation Voters and the Consumer Federation of California.

The League of Conservation Voters score card examined legislators' votes on issues such as clean car discounts, investing in alternative fuels and clean air, solar hot water heaters, advancing renewable energy and reducing e-waste.

The Consumer Federation of California Score card for State Lawmakers rated Assembly members and Senators on a range of issues, including financial privacy, health care reform, cell phone customer rights, food safety, truth in advertising, and consumer product safety standards.

For more information and a complete look at the Consumer Federation's score card, go to www.consumercal.org. The California League of Conservation Voters score card can be found at www.ecovote.org.

THEATER

(continued from page one)

million over thirty years, which includes operation of both theaters; the city \$61.4 million. No general fund monies would be used, noted Gamble. He added that tax increment funds generated in the redevelopment area must be used in the area.

One audience member asked what if the tax increment falls short of prediction. Where does the money come from to pay off the bonds?

Marc Roberts, Director of Community Development, answered, "We are looking at whether the numbers predicted are realistic now and over the long run. Shortfalls are part of the negotiations between the city and LVPAC."

Roberts noted that, with the Bankhead Theater, dollars from the Altamont Landfill settlement are being used to help pay off the bond. If the dollars are not as expected, the city is not responsible to make up the shortfall.

Another individual asked whether it was fair to have redevelopment dollars concentrated in one area of the downtown.

Roberts pointed out that the bulk of the early tax increment money went to ValleyCare for its senior housing. That project created additional tax increment monies. He stated that there are other projects in the redevelopment area that will need some help from the agency. The allocation of tax increment money is among the questions the city is working on.

Rob White, Economic Development Director, explained that a percentage of redevelopment money is required to go to housing. He mentioned the Livermore Village and Groth Bros. as significant projects that include housing and are in the works. He added, "A lot of attention has been paid to other areas." Examples he provided were the city's help in bringing in Trader Joe's and its work in revitalizing the Safeway Center.

One concern was that the approval process was moving too slowly to make it possible for LVPAC to raise its share of the funds.

Alexander agreed, "It is holding us back. We can't say directly to donors this is the site plan. LVPAC is spending \$500,000 on

a schematic design with no guarantee that the theater will be built. There is a need for \$30 to \$35 million to be raised for the regional theater. Most of the money will come through corporate donors. There has been \$3 million spent upfront to develop a dream. Once the city says go ahead, that allows LVPAC to go out and tell a positive story. That is stronger than saying we have a dream."

Alexander pointed out that LVPAC has demonstrated that it has the ability to raise money. Bankhead Theater goal is \$15 million. LVPAC is approaching the \$14 million mark.

PARKING AND TRAFFIC

Roberts said that the city's Downtown Specific Plan had anticipated the movie theater, the 500-seat theater and a regional theater of up to 1500 seats, along with new shops, office uses and restaurants. The environmental impact report studied parking and traffic impacts based on that plan. The regional theater, as proposed, will require a supplemental environmental impact report to look at impacts on traffic and parking. The original EIR looked at the impacts of a 1500 seat theater. LVPAC is now proposing up to 1960 seats.

Roberts stated that the city council made a policy decision that traffic in the downtown would not be required to meet the city's level of service criteria. The trade-off, the council felt, is that a far more pedestrian area would be created. First Street was narrowed. "The changes did what they were supposed to do. Cars drive more slowly. The traffic volume on First Street has dropped off. Traffic is coming to downtown for a purpose, not driving through it. In the past, 95 percent of the traffic had no destination in the downtown. That level has dropped to 50 percent," stated Roberts.

Roberts commented that in measuring predicted traffic and parking against actual, the city has been pretty accurate. "That gives us a lot of comfort that we have a pretty good idea of what the parking demand is in the downtown."

One question from the audience related to trucks delivering scenery to the theater, and the impact on traffic going to the post office. Hutch Meridian of MacCracken Architects explained that trucks would not be on Second Street, rather on the theater property, while making deliveries.

Alexander added that most deliveries would occur around 4 a.m. The trucks would be gone before there could be an impact on the Second Street traffic.

LOCATION

Asked whether the selected site at the corner of First and South Livermore is the best, Alexander responded, "It's a great place, because it is in the middle of things. LVPAC is wary about having the theater pushed to the edge of the downtown. It

does not enhance downtown."

The supplemental environmental document requires the city to look at alternative locations. The city hasn't finished work on that aspect, added White.

Roberts noted that the downside of selecting a new location is a need to redesign the facility. The master developer (LVPAC) may be unwilling to develop at another site. The positive is that perhaps there would be a friendlier acquisition of the land.

REVIEW PROCESS

There was concern that the process was moving too quickly and that the public needs more information.

White said that the city is conducting its own review of the LVPAC regional theater proposal. Consultants are looking at other theaters, what they look like and how they work. A master reviewer will look at all of the studies that have been conducted and provide an opinion as to their accuracy.

Alexander pointed out that LVPAC is required to submit five year business and operating plans. They will be peer reviewed line-by-line. Some numbers will be adjusted after the review.

All of the city's reports and findings will be available on the city's website prior to the Dec. 10 city council meeting.

Roberts said that the final approval would likely come later next year. "Are you going to have more shots at this and chances to ask more questions? Yes you are," he declared.

COMPETITION

Alexander responded to a question about the ability to fill the regional theater and competition from other theaters. He stated that the theater could draw from a market of 750,000 people. Studies show that 10 percent of the population is predisposed to attend cultural events. If a popular attraction were available, the numbers increase to 15 to 20 percent. "You will be able to see the Little Mermaid on stage and be home in ten minutes," said Alexander.

Alexander said that in comparing the regional theater to the Leshner Theater, the Walnut Creek complex contains three venues in one building. The largest is 800 seats. It's too small; therefore it can't earn enough money to pay for itself. The theater complex belongs to the city, which is responsible for its operations. A city finds it very difficult to go out and raise money.

Las Positas College is building a 500 seat theater. Alexander said that the forecast is that 80 percent of the usage will be by the college itself.

Alexander said it is his hope that there are times when all of the theaters could work together to create weekend events. Theaters that could participate include the Amador, Las Positas, regional theater in Livermore, Bankhead Theater, and the amphitheater in front of the Bankhead.

CAMPAIGN NEWS

Dole Honorary Chairman:

Judy Lloyd announced the addition of former 1996 Republican Presidential Nominee Bob Dole to her campaign team in her run for the 15th Assembly District. Dole will serve as an Honorary Chairman of Lloyd's campaign.

"I have known and worked with Judy Lloyd for more than two decades. Working with me in the U.S. Senate, Judy was a tireless advocate for taxpayers and fiscally responsible budgets," said the former 1996 Republican Presidential Nominee.

"I wholeheartedly endorse Judy Lloyd and am pleased to serve as her Honorary Campaign Chairman. The people of Cali-

fornia will be well served with Judy Lloyd in the state legislature," said Dole.

"Bob Dole's distinguished record of public service has had a tremendous positive impact on taxpayers and future generations. His story of courage, perseverance, and sacrifice is one all Republicans admire. I have been honored to have worked with him and am so proud to have his support," said Lloyd.

Dole was the 1996 Republican Presidential Nominee and served as the U.S. Senate Majority Leader. In recent years, he chaired the National World War II Memorial Commission which honored the heroes of his gen-

eration and helped enshrine a legacy of sacrifice and freedom.

In 2007, he served as the co-chair of the President's Commission on Care for America's Returning Wounded Warriors and put forth recommendations to improve delivery of health services for returning wounded service members.

Robert Rao endorsed: Stockton City Councilman Clem Lee has announced his support for Republican businessman Robert Rao in the open 15th Assembly District.

"The legislature is full of former staffers and people who

haven't really built a business or had to live under the heavy regulations that California places on businesses," said Councilman Lee. "That's why we need self-made business people like Robert Rao in the Assembly."

Robert currently lives on Rao Ranch in Livermore with his wife Linda and his two children, Tori and Cole, who are students at Valley Christian in Dublin. For more information, or to contribute to Robert's campaign, visit www.RobertRao.com.

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AT ONE OF OUR COMMUNITY INPUT MEETINGS

Tuesday, November 27, 2007 (4pm - 6pm)
Eastmont Branch Library (in Eastmont Town Center)
7200 Bancroft Ave., Suite 211 (Oakland, CA)

Wednesday, November 28, 2007 (4pm - 6pm)
Taylor Memorial Church - Harris Hall
1188-12th Street (Oakland, CA)

Thursday, November 29, 2007 (4pm - 6pm)
Odd Fellows Hall - Banquet Room
1349 Hays Street (San Leandro, CA)

Monday, December 3, 2007 (4pm - 6pm)
Alameda County Conference Center
Oakland Room
125-12th Street, Suite 400 (Oakland, CA)

Tuesday, December 4, 2007 (4pm - 6pm)
Livermore Public Library - Community Rooms A & B
1188 South Livermore Avenue (Livermore, CA)

Wednesday, December 5, 2007 (4pm - 6pm)
Fremont Family Resource Center - Pacific Room
39155 Liberty Street (Fremont, CA)

Thursday, December 6, 2007 (4-6pm)
Alameda County Community Development Agency
224 Winton Avenue - Room 160 (Hayward, CA)

SYSTEM PARTNERS MEETING for County and other Public Service Agency Employees
Monday, December 10, 2007 (2-4pm)
Behavioral Health Care Services - Alameda Room
2000 Embarcadero Cove, Suite 400 (Oakland, CA)



AT A SMALLER FOCUS GROUP MEETING
Contact us at 510-567-8133 if your or your organization would like to attend or host a Focus Group of twenty people or less.

Come to these meetings to learn about the state PEI guidelines and give input on what our local priorities should be.

YOUR IDEAS ONLINE

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For more information contact: info@acbhcs.org

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For more information on the PEI guidelines visit:

www.dhrf.ca.gov/peia/

A Department of Alameda County Health Care Services Agency



EDITORIALS

Financing A Grand Park

Pleasanton's 300-acre Bernal Park will be completed some 13 years sooner than originally estimated as the result of a funding plan recently approved by the City Council.

The plan — okayed unanimously by the council — will use a mix of existing funds and new monies to finance the park. The latter include bond measures and an increase in the hotel room occupancy tax.

It had been thought that it would take 30 or so years to build the park. The new monies will enable the project to be completed in 17 years.

Phase I will commence in January. At buildout, the park will feature a glorious 250-acre open space area with a great meadow, woodlands, streams and trails. There will also be lighted ballfields, a youth center, a community center, an arts center, and other facilities.

City officials are hopeful that once the park begins taking shape and people are using it, the voters will look with favor on the ballot measures that will be necessary to obtain the new monies.

We believe that, too. Bernal Park is going to be a gem, much in the grand park tradition of San Francisco's Golden Gate Park and New York's Central Park. It won't be hard to sell Bernal Park to the public when that time comes.

"Never in my wildest dreams did I think you would come up with a plan to build this park in 17 years," Mayor Jennifer Hosterman exclaimed to the committee that developed the finance plan.

Committee members were Councilmembers Cindy McGovern and Jerry Thorne, City Manager Nelson Fialho, City Attorney Michael Roush and other staff.

A job well done!

Immigration Forum

The League of Women Voters, including the Livermore-Amador Valley chapter, has launched a nationwide examination of immigration, with the goal of addressing the breadth and depth of the issue.

The Livermore-Amador Valley chapter has been studying immigration since last year and has now begun holding public meetings, with an eye toward adopting some positions.

The economics and family reunification aspects of the issue were discussed at the first set of meetings, held last week in Pleasanton and Livermore.

Legal status and border control questions will be addressed at the next set, slated next Wednesday from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Livermore Library and Thursday from 9 to noon at Pleasanton Gardens, 251 Kottlinger Drive.

Immigration is one of the hottest of the hot-button issues of our time. It touches almost everyone in the country in both direct and indirect ways. We applaud the League of Women Voters. In promoting local involvement, and in striving to bring a rational, informative approach to the nationwide debate, the League is performing a real public service.

SERVICES

(continued from page one)

will look at the needs, at what parts of the county have strong needs for services, and whether proposals given to us will fill those gaps.

"The county will be conducting focus groups with providers. However, we want to hear from people who use mental health services, or from those who have used them, and came out on the other side," said Bacon.

Asked whether school districts are eligible for any of the money for counseling or other intervention, Bacon said that she isn't sure whether direct application for it is barred. However, there are "creative ways to complement programs at the

school level, without giving the money to the school district."

She cited a wellness clinic, which operates its services on an Oakland school campus. It uses county funds and some grants. "It is not necessarily fully funded by the school."

Two focus groups of parents that met with Bacon about mental health Nov. 13 at the Almond Education center in Livermore showed that "people really want to talk about this stuff. There is such a heavy stigma around mental health. You can't stand around at a burger joint, and talk to Mrs. Smith about it. It is private, and involves denial, shame and guilt."

Kamena Still Pitching For Altamont Bullet Train

Livermore Mayor Marshall Kamena has not given up on trying to land the Bay Area spur of the San Diego-Sacramento bullet train that may be in the state's future.

Kamena said late last week that he will attend the California High Speed Rail Authority's meeting Dec. 19 to make another pitch for the Altamont route. Many Tri-Valley and Eastbay officials back the Altamont spur from the Central Valley main line as a way of helping to ease future commute traffic from the Central Valley.

The authority's staff recommended last week that the spur to San Francisco instead should travel through the Pacheco Pass and up through San Jose and the Peninsula. The staff recognized the value of East Bay commuting relief by recommending a separate kind of train that would travel fast, but not at bullet train speeds of up to 140 mph or more.

The staff backed its Pacheco Pass recommendation by saying that an Eastbay approach would require construction of a new Bay Bridge or tunnel. It would

also be more expensive to operate the train system, with service split to San Jose, Oakland and San Francisco. There could also be construction in sensitive wetlands, and the possible taking of housing through property condemnation.

Kamena spoke previously to the authority commission, but was limited, like all speakers, to only two or three minutes. Although he also provided commissioners written material, sometimes officials get the picture better from oral and visual presentations, said Kamena. He hopes to cover points he didn't have time to enunciate last time.

"What it says to me is that I need to make a little stronger case before the decision is made. We'll do the best job we can. I'm still optimistic," said Kamena.

No funding exists for the bullet train. The entire project is estimated to cost \$40 billion. An initiative for \$10 billion of funding may be on the state ballot in November 2008. However, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger wants to see it pushed back to 2010 or 2012.

Despite Ruffled Feathers, Pleasanton May Discuss High School Overcrowding

Early in the Pleasanton school board meeting there was apparently strained relations between parent Julie Testa and school superintendent John Casey. It ended with enough agreement to bring about a promise of a future meeting regarding Testa's and others' concern about campuses' overcrowding.

Testa appeared at her second consecutive school board meeting Nov. 13 to talk about campus overcrowding. She said at the board's previous meeting Oct. 23 that Amador Valley High School is overcrowded by 151 percent, and elementary schools at 150 percent or more, with one being 175 percent. Testa based her percentages on what she said were suggested state limits, as published on the state education department's web page.

Casey in the past has agreed that the two campuses' dimensions were too small for the enrollment, as proclaimed by state guidelines. This is especially true of Amador, which was sited and partially built early in the 20th century. However, Casey has contended that the district has worked to establish a small-school feeling in the classrooms, with class size reduction for some classes, and career academies that cluster students by their vocational interests.

Testa has said that many students dislike the campus atmosphere, with long lines to restrooms and cafeteria steam tables, crowded school libraries, and more competition to win a spot on athletic teams. She has cited statistics that show small schools provide a greater sense of involvement and participation in decision making, and a greater sense of belonging.

Testa has conducted her own research on-line at the California Department of Education's web page, and found two money sources that would help Pleasanton build a 500-student magnet school. A few years ago, she was an advocate for a full, comprehensive high school. The school board at the time killed that idea. Testa now favors building a 500-student magnet school to remove some of the pressure on the two large high schools.

Testa spoke at the meetings of Oct. 23 and Nov. 9 about two funding sources that would enable the district to build a magnet school. One funding source is Career Technology Education (CTE), which makes up to \$3 million available to build new facilities that will enable career programs. If existing facilities were used, the subsidy drops to about \$1.5 million, said Testa.

The other source is a state program to help fund construction of smaller schools. Both CTE and the small-schools program have millions of dollars available statewide from passage of Proposition 1D.

STUDIES

(continued from page one)

2005 was conducted by Applied Survey Research. The sampling included 140 Amador Valley graduates, 132 were from Foothill, 11 from Village High school and one from Horizon. The gender split was 50-50 in the survey. The racial composition was 72 percent Caucasian, 15 percent Asian, 7 percent Latino, and 4 percent multi-racial. There was no listing for African American. Some 42 percent of the parents of the students had graduate degrees, with 48 percent of Foothill parents in that category, and 35 percent at Amador.

Of the graduates interviewed, 91 percent are in college, 7 percent dropped out or didn't enroll, and about 1 percent finished a program in two years. Some 37 percent in college are in the UC system, another 34 percent of them are in the California State University system, 19 percent went to private schools in and out of state, and 9 percent attend public schools out of state.

Asked about their current status, 93 percent said they were satisfied, 6 percent said they were not, and 1 percent "didn't know." Some 90 percent gave their high school an A or a B grade. The remaining 10 percent gave it a C or D.

In a breakdown of specific skills, a sampling shows that a lack of preparation about entering data into computers and producing spreadsheets and analyzing data received the lowest mark, a C+. The highest grade, an A-, was given to basic math.

Many of the others skills needed for college success were rated at B+. They included, but were not limited to, personal skills such as resolving conflicts and expressing differences of opinions. In social sciences, understanding current events and historical facts received B+, as did English and communication, writing academic papers and comprehending complex materials.

Some 97 percent said they were given enough help from teachers. Tutors were sought by

TESTA CLAIMS DISTRICT MISSED THE BOAT

Testa told the board at both meetings that Pleasanton failed to keep abreast of both potential funding sources. While Livermore was applying for \$3 million from the CTE funding for a new agricultural and environmental education facility, and San Ramon sought four grants for an engineering and design program at Dougherty Valley High School, Pleasanton did nothing, she said. Combining CTE money with the small-schools funding could go a long way in funding a magnet school, she said.

Testa said at the Oct. 23 meeting that she is on the state mailing list that will notify her about any future funding opportunities. "I don't understand why others in the district, who are paid to do this, are not on the list," she said.

After Testa spoke, Casey told the board, "The speaker painted a pretty dismal picture of the district board and district staff. We have consultants who work closely with staff. We take a close look at all these grants, so for someone to come up and paint such a dismal picture of the district as incompetent and not staying abreast of what is out there, is disappointing."

Casey praised his staff in regard to good stewardship regarding money. He cited the leveraging of Measure B funds, approved by Pleasanton voters in the 1990s, to get the district far more school renovation improvements than were available through the measure's funds alone. The staff and consultants keep abreast of available money, and do not waste it, he said. "To come up and belittle us is ridiculous," said Casey.

Referring to Pleasanton as a community of character, Casey said, "We are belittled and criticized. Just talk to us about it. Most of the time, we are not a target population for grants."

TESTA CALLS RESPONSE 'UNPROFESSIONAL'

At the meeting Nov. 13, Testa returned to the audience portion of the agenda. She said that Casey's response to her comments at the meeting Oct. 23 "were unprofessional and disappointing." She read from the state education code a passage that says the board "shall not prohibit public criticism of its policies, procedures, actions or omissions."

Testa went on to say that the passage "specifically says 'criticism.' It's wonderful to see all the awards that staff receives, but these meetings aren't just for self-congratulations. It is an opportunity for the public to bring our concerns forward."

"The public's role is that of watchdog, perhaps a badger at times. Since the last board meeting, I received lots of calls and e-

mails. A great portion of the district shares my concern (about overcrowding). They don't know where to voice it, or how."

Then Testa read an education code passage that says that people can put matters "on the agenda that are directly related to school district business, at a governing board meeting." She then requested having the overcrowding topic on a future agenda.

Casey told Testa, "Sometimes we react emotionally to things that come our way. One thing I react to emotionally is when I perceive my staff has been criticized." Criticism of elected officials is different. It's part of the job, but "if it goes to staff, it will get a reaction out of me."

Casey also said, "Certain things fell off our radar screen." A consultant said that the district would not qualify for the CTE money, he said.

It's not too late to apply by Feb. 1 for the second round of funding that remains in the CTE fund, said Testa. If the district had applied in the first round, it may have had the chance of obtaining more dollars than in the second round, she said. That was based on conversations with state officials, she later told The Independent.

Casey acknowledged that the staff would be trying to apply in the second round. However, he disagreed with Testa that the district wouldn't be doing that if she had not brought it up Oct. 23.

Testa told the Independent on Tuesday that no one has called her yet about setting up a meeting with administrative staff. She also noted that subsequent research on the internet showed that school boards are supposed to schedule a public-requested agenda item at the next regular meeting, provided that at least 72 hours have passed to meet Brown Act meeting notification requirements.

MAILBOX

(Opinions voiced in letters published in Mailbox are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Independent. Letter Policy: The Independent will not publish anonymous letters, nor will it publish letters without names. Frequent letter writers may have publication of their letters delayed.)

Separate Cities Sal De La Torre Livermore

Pleasanton may file suit against Livermore on the so called expansion of the Livermore Airport. Expansion will be when Pleasanton expands into the Staples Ranch and builds a large senior complex and homes in a direct line of the flight pat-

tern. It is the same wisdom of those politicians that allowed homes to be built over earthquake faults or flood zones.

There are those who say there are enough parks and open space in Pleasanton. They desire growth, a larger city with amenities provided by developers. A developer or land speculator takes a gamble as to whether his property is sold or not. With developers propaganda one can only image how powerful they are in changing city policy and swaying the people. Politicians can be removed by a vote of the people.

From a distant view we see how ugly Ruby Hill looks. There are no open spaces or greenbelts between home after home. It is

Board president Jim Ott said at the meeting Nov. 9 that the district had looked into the CTA grant. "We are happy to have a dialogue," said Ott.

Assistant Superintendent Sandra Lepley said at the meeting that the district has not pursued the state money in regard to small campus construction because the past board made a decision to not build a small high school campus.

Testa told that Independent that Lepley's remark is at the crux of her concern. The staff will do things only at the board's direction, as is appropriate. However, the "board doesn't understand yet" that it can take a whole new look at starting a small high school, because new funding sources are available that were not available when previous school boards were sitting.

Local matching money for a technology high school could come from the \$6 million that the district has been using as principal for funding technology in the classrooms, said Testa. The money came from the sale of the former Sycamore Road high school site.

Testa noted that board member Pat Kernan had suggested at a previous school board meeting that there are no sacred cows in funding, and that the Sycamore fund could be tapped for other things, although he was not talking about a magnet school.

Casey said that the district will keep a close eye on the city's general plan revisions. If the city were to grow to more than 29,000 units, then the district would have to accommodate new plans for housing students, possibly including a third high school.

Kernan said that new facilities aren't the only way to address overcrowding of campuses. A year-round school calendar can remove any crush from facilities, although he would not necessarily favor taking that step himself.

(See MAILBOX, page 4)

the lowest grade for the district was in technology education. He said he wants to revisit how the district is spending money in that area. "Are we getting the most bang for the buck," he asked.

Board president Jim Ott said the district "floated the idea of a parcel tax. Part of the idea was to obtain funds to go to tech. There's a need here, identified both by the (district's) excellence committee, and the students who have gone through out district."

Another consultant who worked on the survey told the board that it was clear that students want computers to part of the curriculum.

MEASURING STUDENTS' PARTICIPATION

The High School Survey of Student Engagement was the second study presented to the board. It was given nationally to 120 participating school districts. Cupertino was the only district in the Bay Area besides Pleasanton to administer the survey, said Pleasanton schools staffer Jim Rallis.

It was given to seniors during their last two weeks of school last spring. The profile found that 33 percent of the 78 percent who responded want to go on to obtain a master's degree, and 16 percent have a Ph.D. in their sights. Some 42 percent said they spend two to five hours each week on written homework, while only 19 percent said six to 10 hours, which is the district's suggested amount of work. Some 23 percent said they spend only one hour a week on homework.

Superintendent John Casey said that the homework data were puzzling, since some parents have been complaining about kids being assigned too much homework, which they said puts stress on them. However, "reading and studying for class," a category that would appear to be related to homework, shows that 37 percent do those activities from two to five hours a week, and 39 percent for one hour each week. Adding the two figures together would bring the aggregate statistic closer to the concept of

what parents might be complaining about.

"Hanging out" definitely outsourced homework as an activity. Some 37 percent said they hung out more than 10 hours weekly; 29 percent said they did it for five to 10 hours; and 28 percent for two to five hours each week. Watching TV or playing video games, and exercising had many devotees — at least one third of respondents — in the two to five hour range. So did talking on the phone, including cell phones.

Overall 92 percent of students agreed with the statement that they feel good about school. That compared to 80 percent of the national average. Some 95 percent said they feel safe at school, compared to 77 percent nationally. Some 94 percent of Pleasanton students said they feel supported by their teachers. Nationally the figure was 81 percent.

Noting the 94 percent statistic, board president Jim Ott said, "If overcrowding is an issue (in the district,) it's not in the area of teaching."

However, one of the ASR consultants said that the survey also showed that 16 percent of students say there are too many students in their classes.

Trustee Steve Brozosky suggested that the next time the survey is conducted, other questions could be asked students about their perception of overcrowding. He said, "Are there enough sports opportunities? Are there long lines at lunch? Is there enough time to eat?"

The board had a long discussion on the overcrowding topic earlier in the meeting. It prompted Ott to reply to Brozosky, "Enough on overcrowded schools. I want to know specific downsides."

Brozosky said he guessed it would be traffic congestion, lunch period length. He noted, "Our classes are all the same size, but we have more of them."

Getting back to the survey, Grant credited teachers for the high opinions given by students on the involvement survey.

MAILBOX

(continued from page 4)

an example of how money and power that count. It is a disaster in a beautiful part of the valley.

Pleasanton and Livermore are unique in that their is land separating the cities. In Staples Ranch there should be open space and a buffer zone between the cities. The ideal would be to build another Golden Gate Park between the cities. In time the park would become known throughout Calif.

Our future is with us. Let's not build another Dublin, LA or San Jose.

Oak Grove Park Janice Phalen Pleasanton

What a gift to Pleasanton! Over 475 acres of dedicated park that we don't have to build or finance! The City Council voted 4-1 for this compromise of 51 homes (not the 98 that the entitlement is for on the property), for all this acreage of built park. It has gone through an extensive review process, fully open to the public, if we chose to participate.

The City and Council are working hard to finance the Bernal property, an unnecessary step for this park. The project provides trails, open space, a boundary between Pleasanton and Livermore, such positive benefits! All these homes will have to go through an extensive planning and permitting process with the City. You can bet these will be highly scrutinized homes so that they don't look like the ones jutting from the cliffs in Oakland, however built in a style like Mayor Hosterman likes - timeless, "green", and elegant.

Pleasanton voters, see the good in this park, don't sign the referendum being passed around town. Better yet! Ask how we got to this when the City Council voted 4-1 to approve this. Pleasanton voters, graciously accept this gift!

Keep Largest Park Eric "Otis" Nostrand Pleasanton

Pleasanton voters, beware! A group of disgruntled residents are out gathering signatures to subvert years of public planning for Pleasanton's newly approved 496 acre Oak Grove park. Don't be fooled, separate fact from fiction before signing any petitions.

Fact: If referended, the city will have to give back the 496 acre park. There will be no public access, no multiuse trails and no regional link connecting Shadow Cliffs with Callippe Preserve.

Fact: We lose the permanent open space along our southern border that Oak Grove affords. With no easement permanently protecting this open space, the door opens for future development and traffic, and puts more oak trees and streambeds back at risk.

Fact: Instead of 51 homes, the property reverts back to the 98 homes for which it's zoned.

Fact: We've got control of the home design process. In spite of the doctored photos you may have seen, no homes have yet been approved! In fact, the review process is similar to that of the homes at Kottinger Ranch, with the opportunity for public input on all 51 homes.

Fact: Four out of five City Council members, the majority of our Planning Commission, almost

all of our Parks and Recreation Commission, several of our School Board members and many of our Housing commissioners and Trails ad hoc committee members all strongly support this project. Why? Because it's an extraordinary deal for Pleasanton!

Please make an informed decision- decline to sign the petitions. If you've already signed and would like to remove your name, visit www.keepourpark.org.

Support Oak Grove Herb Ritter Pleasanton

I support the Oak Grove ordinance adopted by the Pleasanton City Council on November 6, 2007. My comments are expressed as an individual citizen and businessman in Pleasanton. I am a past member of the Pleasanton Trails Ad Hoc Committee and a current alternate on the Parks and Recreation Commission.

I had the opportunity to hike the Oak Grove trails with interested citizens, commissioners, and city leaders. I feel that every detail was exchanged between all of the groups to come up with the ordinance that supports the residents of Pleasanton. The public will be getting 496 acres of open space that will have trails that tie into the general plan and the development will be limited to only 51 homes (Originally 98 homes). Oak Grove Park is twice the size of Augustin Bernal and will be open to the public.

There is a small group of residents who are trying to reverse the council's decision by collecting signatures from people who may not have spent the time doing the research as many of the supporters of the Oak Grove ordinance have done over the past 10 years.

If this referendum succeeds, it will force our City to return the 496 acres and the park will have an uncertain fate. Please review the attached link www.keepourpark.org for more information and to see some of the supporters that have endorsed the city council's decision. Please join in our support. Also for more facts, review the Oak Grove Project website www.oakgrovepleasanton.com.

Important Legacy Jennifer Hosterman Pleasanton Mayor Matt Sullivan Pleasanton City Councilmember

We had planned to stay out of the debate over the Oak Grove referendum; however misinformation about the project and confusion in the public about our support considering our history of slow growth, environmental advocacy, and support for neighborhoods, compels us to provide this clarification.

Over three years ago, the property owner started work on a 98 unit plan, which was opposed by the adjacent Kottinger Ranch neighborhood. We have both campaigned against development in the hills and in support of affected neighborhoods. But instead of entering into yet another endless land-use battle, we thought there might be a better way: a collaborative process with the neighbors, the developer, and the city to see if agreement could be reached and these outcomes avoided. Our goals were threefold: Empower the neighborhood

to help shape the project, provide "finality" from future development, and create a model for the acquisition of public open space for the remaining developable properties in the Southeast Hills.

The result has been a resounding success! A consensus plan was facilitated by the City for a 51 unit project - half the size of the original - with the addition of \$1 million in traffic mitigation fees for the neighborhood, and the dedication of a 497 acre public Open Space Park. The plan then went through the normal Commission and City Council public review process, input was sought throughout, additional issues identified, and adjustments were made. Regulatory agencies will evaluate habitat and mandate mitigation measures, or prohibit building on environmentally sensitive areas. No taxpayer monies will go to fund the Open Space Park - the developer will deed the property to the City, will construct the trails and a staging area, pay the endowment to the easement-holder Tri-Valley Conservancy, and the future HOA will be responsible for ongoing maintenance costs. For the units potentially most visible from the valley floor, one story limits, reduction in size, strict design guidelines, and plant and earth berm screening have been mandated. Finally, not one single house has been approved for this project - each will submit detailed plans and visual simulations to both the HOA Design Committee and the City for approval. The Planning Commission can choose to bring each to a public hearing, and any house can be appealed to the City Council for final decision. With these requirements and processes in place, the images presented by some project opponents of two and three story 12,000 square foot white glowing "mega-mansions" sitting on barren hilltops are simply false.

Similar to what the City achieved with the Bernal Property, Oak Grove provides nearly 500 acres of public open space in exchange for minimal development within the context of a collaborative neighborhood process and the support of four out of five Councilmembers. With this success, the Council has taken the first step in achieving a Vision for a magnificent 2,000 acre natural park completely accessible to the public stretching from Shadow Cliffs to the Callippe Preserve Golf Course - forever protecting these hills from development. This is an important legacy that this generation can leave to future Pleasantonians.

Wolf in Sheep's Clothing Michelle LaMarche PUSD Environmental Awareness Committee Member

Please sign the Initiative to Save the Hills and Protect the Housing Cap, and the Referendum to overturn the 51 Megamansions of the Oak Grove development. Pleasanton voters should have the right to decide on any development that will affect our surrounding hills.

The story has played out over and over in surrounding cities: Developers spending tens of thousands of dollars on 4-color mailers and marketing phone calls thinly disguised as "surveys" to convince regular citizens that our hills can be bought. Pleasanton was just given 1500 acres of park land near the Pleasanton Ridge with no strings at-

tached. Why should the southeast hills have to be scarred with hillside homes? An initiative passed by voters in the early 90's protected our Western Ridge and this one can similarly protect the rest of the hills around our city.

1) The Initiative will actually protect against the developer revisiting this property, unless the 10 home limit and less than 25% slope conditions are met. 2) These ballot measures will not give away parkland. They will actually protect our views without paying the price of development on the hills. 3) Voters in Livermore successfully kept 1200 Livermore Trails homes off their hills by a 72% margin. Aren't the voters of Pleasanton just as wise? 4) Why would anyone be afraid of the people's vote? Who is paying for the glossy ads and the expensive signage against voter input...Charter Properties! (A wolf in sheep's clothing.)

Historic Home Darryl L. West Livermore

The November 8, 2007 Independent editorial continues a case of disturbing misinformation that began with a front page article on the same topic.

The issue is a historic home located at 292 North L, which is scheduled to be demolished as part of a nine unit housing project.

Not once, either in the news item or the editorial, did The Independent give credit to the process that takes place in making decisions regarding historic buildings throughout the City. Such structures on proposed development sites are reviewed by: The Historic Preservation Commission; the Design Review Committee; the Planning Commission; and the City Council.

The Independent did not give credit to the developer, city staff or the various reviewing bodies regarding their efforts to preserve the building. In fact, city planning staff have had ongoing discussions with the developer in an attempt to save the building.

The need to find a site to accept the relocation of the structure is but one sticking point. The Planning Commission questioned the developer and staff as to why it is so difficult and expensive to relocate such a building. One important point that has been lost in the current public discussion/reporting is the extremely expensive effort it takes to bring such a building up to

code, once it is moved. The developer was willing to move the structure; but who is to pay for the new site and code upgrades? The City?

Contrary to what Deborah Fields believes (and The Independent reported) there are extensive protections in place to protect our historic resources; and rather than taking yet another bite out of our precious downtown redevelopment funds (as John Stein suggested) if our citizens took part earlier in the process rather than making it a Council political football, perhaps a successful solution might become available through private contacts and means.

Don't deride the process if you are uninformed, or don't take part in it until far too late.

Sign Petitions Lou Astbury Pleasanton

The Pleasanton Planning Commission disapproved the Oak Grove project and deemed the Environmental Impact Report to be inadequate. Then in a split vote the City Council ignored the normal development approval protocol and approved the project.

The initiative and referendum simply allows the citizens to decide what is right for Pleasanton in an open and democratic process via the ballot. The "Pleasanton Weekly" newspaper in an editorial dated Feb. 2, 2007 stated: "Spirit of Open Meetings Fades with Oak Grove." A lot of the so called compromise in this project was worked out behind closed doors. Our Mayor Hosterman and City Councilmember Matt Sullivan say the project is a result of a collaborative process. If so, why are these elected officials actively opposed to allowing the citizens of Pleasanton to get informed and make their own choices at the polls?

Let there be an open forum. Please sign the initiative and referendum or at least please do not harass those who are trying to allow our democracy to work as is the right of all Americans.

Livermore Election Susan Steinberg Livermore

Bravo, Livermore! This reviewer applauds your brilliant performance.

You have persevered in the long-held dream of a world class concert hall and succeeded beyond expectation.

Your re-imagined downtown is now a welcoming place for strolling, browsing, wining, and dining.

Handsome new infill buildings are providing a cohesion to the city core and a population to support it.

Finally, you have stood as a shining example of civic determination in defining an acceptable Urban Growth Boundary and defending it against corporate developers' big-money blandishments.

Now you have elected a full slate of city leaders dedicated to the "wise growth" policies that have made Livermore unique among Bay Area communities, large and small.

A class act if I ever saw one. Bravo, Livermore, and encore!

Another Petition Christine Steiner Pleasanton

Lucky you! Today you have the opportunity to sign yet another petition. This one designed to deny you Oak Grove Park. How they love to frighten you with visions of 51 large scary houses. Forget the fact that the citizens of the valley will get a gift of 496 acres for a park to be enjoyed by young and old forever. Forget that this compromise was discussed and fought for by many community groups after the landowner was denied 89 houses and a golf course that would have carved up the land (a proposal I did not support). Forget that many in the immediate neighborhood who initially cried foul, already perch on hillsides in above average sized homes. But now they accept it.

Do not forget that we live in this beautiful city because a developer built a house for us. Our business parks/retail center provide us substantial revenue to give us the amenities and jobs our families enjoy. Yet, despite our wealth, the chances of us voting for increased tax assessment to fund the acquisition of hundreds of acres of open space is small.

Pleasantonites, what has happened to our ability to look beyond our own neighborhoods and see what is best for the community. Maybe it's time to build a wall and moat around Pleasanton and pull up the drawbridge. On no! That would create more petitions for us to sign. Please - before you sign, get the facts at keepourpark.org or just say "no."



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Pianist Presents Varied Concert Program

Del Valle Fine Arts presents the American pianist Jon Nakamatsu in recital on Saturday, December 8 at 8 p.m. The performance takes place at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First Street, Livermore.

The program includes Haydn's "Piano Sonata No. 33 in C Minor, Hob.XVI:20;" Beethoven's "Piano Sonata No. 15 in D Major, Op. 28;" Chopin's "Andante spianato & Grande Polonaise Loris;" Tjcknavorian's "Dances Fantastiques, Op. 2b (1958);" Liszt's "Impromptu for Princess Gortschakoff Valse-Impromptu" and "Après une lecture du Dante: Fantasia quasi sonata."

Tickets are \$18-\$28. They are available by calling 925-373-6800 or at the Bankhead Theater box office.

Nakamatsu continues to draw unanimous praise as a true aristocrat of the keyboard, whose playing combines elegance, clarity, and electrifying power. Increasingly, critics Nakamatsu for the way his lyrical and unmannered musicianship is supported by a blistering technical command.

These qualities were cited by senior New York Times critic Bernard Holland in reviewing Nakamatsu's sovereign performances of Liszt during a recent recital at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall in New York City: "Liszt's piano music is something between a mirror and a lie detector. Think flashy and self-serving as you play it, and so it responds. Think better thoughts and the music transforms itself. John Nakamatsu, playing three Liszt pieces at the end of his recital at Alice Tully Hall on Wednesday, reminded us that there are gradations in between. This young American pianist has stunning technical control and can do anything at the piano he wants; in *Après une lecture de Dante* there was octave playing as clean and as fast as any I have



Jon Nakamatsu

ever heard. But I think Mr. Nakamatsu has more of a wish for elegance. The *Valse Impromptu* and the *Impromptu for Princess Gortschakoff* distanced themselves from the virtuoso noise surrounding them on the program and offered refinement of detail at relatively quiet levels. Mr. Nakamatsu's languid, sighing and yet tasteful sense of phrase fit Liszt well." (March 16, 2007)

A native of California, Jon Nakamatsu came to international attention in 1997 when he was named Gold Medalist of the Tenth Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, the only American to have achieved this distinction since 1981. Nakamatsu, who at the time was a high school German language teacher without formal conservatory training, seized the Van Cliburn jurors and audiences with the polish, musicality, and technical brilliance of his playing—the result of many years of private piano study starting at the age of six.

Nakamatsu has been profiled by "CBS Sunday Morning" and Reader's Digest magazine, and is featured in "Playing with Fire," a documentary about the Tenth Van Cliburn

Plaid Tidings Offers Humor with the Music of the Holidays

"Forever Plaid: Plaid Tidings," a special holiday offering by Pleasanton Playhouse, runs November 30 through December 9 at the Studio Theatre in Pleasanton.

This musical is filled with holiday standards that have all been "Plaid-erized." The Plaids: Penn Brimberry as Frankie, Jesse Garcia as Jinx, Chris LaCour as Sparky, and Sean Fenton as Smudge, are back to do perform a Christmas Special.

At first they aren't sure why they've returned. However, a phone call from the heavenly Rosemary Clooney lets them know that they're needed to put

a little harmony into a discordant world.

Sprinkled among the offerings are audience favorites like a riotous three minute and eleven second version of "The Ed Sullivan Show," this time featuring the Rockettes, the Chipmunks and the Vienna Boys Choir, and a Plaid Caribbean Christmas which puts the "Day-O" in Excelsis!

The book is written by: Stuart Ross with vocal and musical arrangement by James Raitt, Brad Ellis, Raymond Berg, David Snyder.

"Forever Plaid: Plaid Tidings" is used with permission by



Music Theatre International. The show is produced by Susan Hovey, directed and choreographed by Derrick Silva with musical direction by Greg Zema.

Performances are at 8pm Fridays and Saturdays and 2pm on Sundays November 30 through December 9, at the Pleasanton Playhouse Studio Theatre, 1048 Serpentine Lane, Suite 309 in Pleasanton.

The show is presented as a fund-raiser for Pleasanton Playhouse with a suggested donation of \$20 each.

To reserve seats, call 925-462-2121 or order online at www.pleasantonplayhouse.com.

Las Positas Talk Hawks Come Home with Numerous Trophies

The Las Positas College (LPC) forensics team recently competed in the last intercollegiate tournament of the fall semester at the Paul Winters Invitational Speech Tournament at the University of Pacific in Stockton. With nine competitors and fifteen events, the LPC "Talk Hawks" forensics team took home fifteen awards.

Out of 13 universities and colleges participating, the LPC Talk Hawks finished in second place overall, edging out such schools as University of the Pacific, San Francisco State University, Chico State University,

Ohlone College, San Joaquin Delta College, Northern Arizona University, and Western Kentucky University.

"This tournament was a wonderful way to finish up an already wildly successful season for the Talk Hawks. Our small yet mighty team is building a reputation as one of the teams to beat, noted LPC Speech Coach Tim Heisler.

In addition to the 2nd Place Team Sweepstakes Award, the following students earned individual awards:

Jenna Jones, Dublin 2nd Place - Open Dramatic Interpretation 1st Place - Novice Dra-

matic Interpretation; Adam Shamouel, Pleasanton 2nd Place - Novice Informative Speaking 2nd Place - Novice Impromptu Speaking; Lyndsay Parkman, Pleasanton Finalist - Open Prose Interpretation 1st Place - Open Oral Interpretation; Jacquie de Fremery, Pleasanton 1st Place - Novice Informative Speaking;

Tiffany Lee, Pleasanton 3rd Place - Novice Informative Speaking Finalist - Novice Persuasive Speaking; Jessie Padula, Pleasanton Finalist - Open Prose Interpretation; Stacy Shaw, Castro Valley and Lauren Hochman, Pleasanton 3rd Place

- Open Duo Interpretation 1st Place - Novice Duo Interpretation; and Lauren Hochman, Pleasanton 3rd Place - Novice Persuasive Speaking 3rd Place - Novice Prose Interpretation.

Las Positas College is a member of the Northern California Forensics Association (NCFA), a collection of California junior colleges and universities that have formed a league for intercollegiate competition in the areas of public speaking, interpretation of literature and debate.

Las Positas College is located at 3000 Campus Hill Drive in Livermore.

ART & ENTERTAINMENT

Melodrama auditions. Sunol Repertory Theater. "Wagon Wheels a Rollin". Try-outs are Thurs., Dec. 6 at 7 p.m. at Sunol Glen School, 11601 Main St. Performances are weekends in March. Information at www.sunol.net/srt or call 862-9006.

Auditions. Iron Curtain at Las Positas College. Dec. 3 and 4 from 7 to 10 p.m. Musical comedy takes place in the 1950s and is about a pair of New York songwriters who are kidnapped and taken to Moscow to help the Soviets create a propagandist musical. Bring a prepared song with sheet music. Be prepared to move. There will also be readings from the script. Auditions in the theater, room 800. Show directed and produced by Ken Ross. College at 3033 Collier Canyon Rd., Livermore. Information email kross@laspositascollege.edu or call 424-1166.

Contra Costa Wind Symphony. Duane Carroll conducts. Includes audience sing-along of familiar carols. Featuring harpist Shannon Polley and actor Ken Baggett narrating "The Night Before Christmas." 7:30 p.m. Dec. 17. Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Dr., Lafayette. Free. www.ccwindsymphony.org.

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

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

The Livermore Art Association Gallery. located at the Carnegie Building, 2155 Third Street, Livermore, is presenting an art show with the theme, "Wine and Dine Me." The show runs through November 29th. The dates and hours are Wednesday through Sunday 11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. There is no admission charge.

Painted Porcelain by Eugenia Zobel. Wentz Vineyards Estate Winery Tasting Room. The exhibit will be on display throughout the month of November. October 31 to November 29, 11:00am to 4:30pm. For more information please call 456-2305.

Holidays with "Voices in Harmony," Northern California's Premier Men's A Cappella Chorus, with special guests UC Men's Choral from Berkeley, as well as an award winning cappella quartet. Sun., Dec. 2 at 7 p.m. at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. \$25. 373-6800.

Where the Wild Things Are, exhibit at The Main ARTery Gallery 453 West J Street Benicia, October 27th-January 19th. Exhibiting Artists: Livermore's Joanna Crawshaw will exhibit along with Aisyah Ang, Carol Berrett, Vanessa Barrett, Nicole

Cameron, Mike Cincotta, Guy Colwell, Kristen Cumings, Cedric Geogel, Brian Giambastini, Brittany Heskett, Lorri-Marie Jenkin, Rob Jenkins, John Jonas, Marty Moriarty, Amorette Rich, Bob Russell, Anna Seven, Jill Therrien, Richard Toronty, John Tullis, Cindy Williamson, Jenna Yandell. For more information call Lorri-Marie The Main ARTery Gallery 707-745-2768 www.themainARTerygallery.com; gallery hours Friday-Sunday 10-5 (usually).

Livermore School of Dance. Nov. 24, "The Dream of the Snow Queen," performances at 2 and 7 p.m. Holiday production showcasing both classical and modern ballet with pointe work, as well as jazz, lyrical, hip-hop, and Broadway style numbers. The performance offers a variety of music from such classics as Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker, to contemporary pieces from The Polar Express and other popular music of today. Tickets are \$24, \$18, and \$158 for adults, and \$108 for children 12 and under and seniors over 65. Tickets may be purchased at the door before each performance. Both performances are reserved seating. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., in downtown Livermore. www.livermoreperformingarts.org.

Las Positas College Dance Performance. Friday & Saturday, November 30, December 1 at 8 pm and Sunday, December 2 at 4 pm. Las Positas College Theater and are \$10 general admission and \$7 for students and seniors. 3033 Collier Canyon Rd., Livermore. For further information call the Performing Arts Events Line at 925-424-1100 or call Cindy Rosefield at 925-424-1119.

ArtSpace Gallery. 133 S. Livermore Avenue in Livermore There will be an art show and two receptions featuring Pat Katz, "New Works Exhibit." The first will be on Thurs., Nov. 29 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The second reception will be Sat., Dec. 1 from 1 to 4 p.m. Katz is known for elegant and eclectic assemblage work, framed to evoke a sophisticated aura. Meet Pat and see her latest work at this gallery event. For more information, call Nan Rachlin at 925-371-2500.

Contra Costa Ballet. Story of the Nutcracker, hour-long production of the holiday classic. Guest artists David Fonnegra of Diabolo Ballet, and Jenna Maule of Company C Contemporary Ballet will be featured in the roles of the Nutcracker Cavalier and the Sugar Plum Fairy. Now in our seventeenth year of production. Thursday, November 29 7:30 PM Friday, November 30 4:30 and 7:30 PM Saturday, December 1, 2:00, 4:30 and 7:30 PM. Leshner Center for the Arts, Hofmann Theatre 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Tickets: Center Box Office or call (925) 943-SHOW (7469). Adults \$28; Children and Seniors: \$23.

Art Fundraisers. Sue Evans of Sue Evans Photography and Design is sponsoring a holiday fundraiser to support the Arts in Pleasanton and Livermore. She has created two dif-

ferent holiday cards for each community. The Pleasanton design includes the Pleasanton Arch, museum and Christmas tree, while the Livermore design features Ravenswood. Both cards are available in a colored photograph version and a black and white sketch with red highlights. A portion of her wholesale and retail sales will be donated to the Pleasanton Firehouse Project and the Livermore Performing Arts Center. Evans is a member of the Tri-Valley Visitor and Convention Bureau, the Livermore Chamber of Commerce and ABWA Express to Success. Sue can be reached at (925) 989-4113 or SueEvansPhotography@comcast.net for further details and to order cards.

Pleasanton Art League Public Art Circuit has installed its fall/winter exhibits. The public is invited to view and purchase work by local artists at the following locations in Pleasanton: Main Street: Lynda Briggs and Erika Richert at Bank of America (337); Bruce Ruark, Mahesh Baishya, and Dee Haag at Keller Williams Realty (459) and Towne Center Books (555). Exhibits on Hopyard Road: Annette Mack, B.J. Shaw, and Elaine Szymanska at R E Realty Express (4555); Sharon Lanham, Pat Smith, and Tricia Poulos-Leonard at Sallmann, Yang, and Alameda C.P.A.s (4900, #183). Artists Bonnie Krichbaum, Sally Haig, and Antonia Wennik are showing their work at Me and Mai Friend's Cafe at 4713 First Street. Photography by Lisa Davis, Lisa Rigge, and Karen Hanner is on display at the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce at 777 Peters Street. A solo show of abstract acrylics by Sally Haig is on display at Vogue Hair Studio at 5410-4 Sunol Blvd. Artists who would like to join the circuit can call Lisa Davis at 925-518-4436 for more information.

Razzle Dazzle. The Livermore Art Association Gallery presents the theme "Razzle Dazzle!" Dec. 1 to Jan. 31. Holiday Sparkles, wearable art, dress-up with fine and costume jewelry, hats, scarves and fancy bags. Dress up your home with new art and holiday decorations which include handmade ornaments by our gallery members. Gallery Hours: 11:30a.m. - 4:00p.m., Wednesday through Sunday at Carnegie Bldg., 2155 Third Street, Livermore. For more information call: (925) 449-9927.

Holiday Open House. The public is invited to the Livermore Art Association Gallery's annual holiday reception on Dec. 1st from 1:00 - 3:30p.m. This year the Livermore Heritage Guild will have its Open House simultaneously with the LAA Gallery. Meet the LAA Gallery Members and

get some holiday gift shopping done while you are at it. Free admission. Refreshments will be served. Carnegie Bldg., 2155 Third Street, Livermore. For more information call: (925) 449-9927.

The Wonder of Christmas: A Concert. Featuring original compositions by Clayton J. Foor along with seasonal favorites. With the East Bay Festival Chorus, Flutes Con Moto, and soloists Gayle Staehle, Diane Hardy, Joan Davis, and Kelly Callahan. 4 p.m. Dec. 2, Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. Tickets: \$15 advance; \$20 at the door; for families: \$40 advance; \$35 at the door. Call (925) 783-3965 for tickets. www.claytonjfoor.com.

Mark Mertens, a local artist, will be having a one-person show at the Center for the Arts, 20440 Redwood Road, in Castro Valley, November 23rd through December 24th. The title of the show is "An Artist Takes the Long View," featuring recent pastel landscapes by Mark Mertens. The show will be open during performances.

Pagbabalik, a multidisciplinary Theatre Production written/produced by Aimee Suzara. December 8, 2007. 8pm. Las Positas College Theatre, 800 Building, 3033 Collier Canyon Rd., Livermore. Pagbabalik is a multidisciplinary theatre work fusing spoken word and theatre, Filipino and modern dance, and indigenous Filipino and contemporary music for an unforgettable journey through history, language and memory. For more info www.aimeesuzara.net.

Ohlone Community Choral. Saturday, December 1, 2007, 3pm under the direction of Darryl Guzman. Centerville Presbyterian Church, 4360 Central Ave., Fremont. Tickets \$15 adults, \$10 seniors/staff/students, \$8 youth. (510) 659-6031 www.smithcenterpresents.com.

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CONSECRATION OF THE HOUSE
Livermore Amador Symphony
Dec. 1 • 8 pm • Adult \$21, \$26, \$31, Seniors \$18, \$22, \$26

HOLIDAYS WITH VOICES IN HARMONY
Northern California's Premier Men's A Cappella Chorus
December 2 • 7 pm • \$20, \$25, \$35

THE NUTCRACKER
Bay Area Dance
December 7 • 7:30 pm • \$6, \$11, \$14, \$19, \$24

JON NAKAMATSU
Del Valle Fine Arts
December 8 • 8 pm • \$19, \$24, \$29

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LIVERMORE CINEMAS		2490 First Street 443-SHOW		
THE MIST (R) DLP	12:45	3:50	7:00	9:55
HITMAN (R) DLP	12:00	2:20	4:45	7:05
AUGUST RUSH (PG) DLP	11:10*	1:50	4:25	6:55
NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) DLP	12:05	3:15	8:45	9:50
BEOWULF 3D (PG-13) DLP	11:05*	1:40	4:10	6:50
BEOWULF (PG-13) DLP	11:40*	2:10	4:50	7:20
MR. MAGORUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM (R) DLP	12:20	2:35	4:55	7:10
FRED CLAUSS (PG) DLP	11:15*	1:40	4:35	7:20
BEE MOVIE (PG) DLP	11:00*	12:10	1:20	2:40
LIONS FOR LAMBS (R) DLP				6:55 9:25
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) DLP				12:30 4:15 7:30
DAN IN REAL LIFE (PG-13) DLP	12:30	2:35	4:55	7:05 9:35
THIS CHRISTMAS (PG-13) DLP	1:30	4:30	7:10	9:45

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Benefits the Tri-Valley Haven Food Pantry
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MAP

(continued from page one)
miles).

A hundred trail heads and staging areas are shown (vs. 2 in 1971). Public trails cover 520 miles. Trail segment mileages and trail intersection elevations are included. The map was GPS'd and GIS'd. Volunteers walked hundreds of miles of trail with GPS units and other trails were

digitized from and the map corrected with over 400 aerial photos to create the most accurate Diablo map ever produced.

Generally, recreational users are most familiar with Mt. Diablo's west side and the upper elevations of Mt. Diablo State Park, where acquisition began in 1931. However, most preserved land is actually east of Diablo's

summit, acquired over the past two decades. The map brings these new areas to the public's attention.

Mt. Diablo's two biggest public parks are Mt. Diablo State Park and the Los Vaqueros watershed, located diagonally from each other across Riggs Canyon, Highland and Morgan Territory Ridges.

The map is the first to show all of the parks and preserves

around Mt. Diablo, including for the first time, Los Meganos State Historic Park, the 18,500-acre Los Vaqueros watershed in detail, and Vasco Caves Regional Preserve.

This map presents the 30-mile Diablo Trail to the public for the first time, including an elevation profile. Save Mount Diablo wanted to create a map that specifically details the Diablo Trail as it winds through six different

open spaces - Shell Ridge Open Space, Diablo Foothills Regional Park, Mt. Diablo State Park, Morgan Territory Regional Preserve, the Los Vaqueros watershed, and Round Valley Regional Preserve. The inclusion of the trail demonstrates more clearly the connections of parks across Mount Diablo from Walnut Creek to Brentwood and Livermore. The map also shows the proposed route of the 60-mile Di-

ablo Grand Loop, which can be completed if just two small gaps were secured.

"Mount Diablo, Los Vaqueros & Surrounding Parks, Featuring the Diablo Trail" is available at the SMD office or at www.savemountdiablo.org for \$9.95 plus tax, or by mail for an additional \$3.55 in tax, postage and handling (total \$13.50). 1901 Olympic Blvd. Suite 220, Walnut Creek, CA 94596, 925-947-3535.

CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 402496

The following person (s) doing business as TruKid, 129 Filbert Street, Oakland CA 94607 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Tree Star Group, Inc., 129 Filbert Street, Oakland CA 94607. This business is conducted by a corporation.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on August 2, 2007. Signature of Registrant: /s/ Jennifer Adams. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on October 22, 2007. Expires October 22, 2012. The Independent Legal No. 2243. Publish November 1, 8, 15, 22, 2007.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 402244

The following person (s) doing business as Artisan Marshmallows, 714 Canterbury Avenue, Livermore CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Kim Elaine Faulkner, 714 Canterbury Avenue, Livermore CA 94550. This business is conducted by husband and wife.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on October 10, 2007.

Signature of Registrant: /s/ Kim E. Faulkner and John Faulkner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on October 15, 2007. Expires October 15, 2012. The Independent Legal No. 2244. Publish November 1, 8, 15, 22, 2007.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 402041

The following person (s) doing business as Pro Interiors, 266 Nadine Street, Livermore CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Donald Scott Simpson, 266 Nadine Street, Livermore CA 94550.

This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on October 9, 2007.

Signature of Registrant: /s/ Donald Simpson. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on October 10, 2007. Expires October 10, 2012. The Independent Legal No. 2245. Publish November 1, 8, 15, 22, 2007.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME FILE NO. 392121

The following person (s) has (have) Abandoned the use of the Fictitious Business Name Specialty Inspections, 4417 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton CA 94566.

The fictitious business name referred to above was filed on February 23, 2007, in the County of Alameda. Specialty Home Inspections, Inc., 4417 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton CA 94566.

This business was conducted by a corporation. Signature of Registrant: /s/ Mark J. Keams. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on October 29, 2007.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 402808

The following person (s) doing business as Specialty Inspections, 4417 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Edward Margherio, 1728 Almond Ave., Walnut Creek CA 94596.

This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on October 5, 2007.

Signature of Registrant: /s/ Edward Margherio. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on October 24, 2007. Expires October 23, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 403061

The following person (s) doing business as Alliance 1 Staffing, 43170 Christy Street, Fremont CA 94538 is hereby registered by the following owner (s): Edward K. Bernal, 7412 Flagstone Dr., Pleasanton CA 94566.

This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on November 1, 2007.

Signature of Registrant: /s/ Mark A. Giudici. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on November 13, 2007. Expires November 13, 2012.

The following person (s) doing business as: 1) The Kind Company 2) The Kind Realtor, 3120-C Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner (s):

Edward Margherio, 1728 Almond Ave., Walnut Creek CA 94596.

This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on October 5, 2007.

Signature of Registrant: /s/ Edward Margherio. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on October 24, 2007. Expires October 23, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 403412

The following person (s) doing business as: Absolutely Sharp, 4849 Mohr Avenue, Pleasanton CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner (s):

Mark A. Giudici, 4849 Mohr Avenue, Pleasanton CA 94566.

This business is conducted by husband and wife. The registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above.

Signature of Registrant: /s/ Tracy A. Chesney. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on November 13, 2007. Expires November 13, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 403061

The following person (s) doing business as: Alliance 1 Staffing, 43170 Christy Street, Fremont CA 94538 is hereby registered by the following owner (s):

Edward K. Bernal, 7412 Flagstone Dr., Pleasanton CA 94566.

This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on November 1, 2007.

Signature of Registrant: /s/ Mark A. Giudici. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on November 13, 2007. Expires November 13, 2012.

/s/ Edward K. Bernal. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on November 2, 2012.

Expires November 2, 2012. The Independent Legal No. 2250. Publish November 8, 15, 22, 29, 2007.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 402970

The following person (s) doing business as: Artisan Salon, 1837 Holmes Street, Livermore CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner (s):

Hair I.D. Inc., 76 Tourmaline Avenue, 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/ Georgina Taylor. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on October 26, 2007. Expires October 26, 2012.

The Independent Legal No. 2256. Publish November 22, 29, December 6, 13, 2007.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 403403

The following person (s) doing business as: Holistic Bodywork For Women, 1080 Concannon Blvd., Ste 180, Livermore CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner (s):

Tracy Ann Chesney, 2653 St. Helena Ct., 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/ Tracy A. Chesney. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on November 13, 2007. Expires November 13, 2012.

The Independent Legal No. 2257. Publish November 22, 29, December 6, 13, 2007.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 402684-402687

The following person (s) doing business as: 1) Bitmore Horses, 2) Bitmore Horses, 3) Beachrides, 4) Horseparks, 1286 Genevieve Ct., Livermore CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner (s):

Bitmore Horse Services, LLC, 1286 Genevieve Ct., Livermore CA 94551.

This business is conducted by limited liability company. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.

Signature of Registrant: /s/ Brian Bogie. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on October 24, 2007. Expires October 24, 2012.

The Independent Legal No. 2258. Publish November 22, 29, December 6, 13, 2007.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 403660

The following person (s) doing business as: Wild Smiles, 4200 East Ave., #100, Livermore CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner (s):

Klifford T. Kapus, 1476 Maplewood Dr., Livermore CA 94551.

Renee J. Kapus, 1476 Maplewood Dr., Livermore CA 94551.

This business is conducted by husband and wife. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on May 1, 2007.

Signature of Registrant: /s/ Klifford Kapus and Renee J. Kapus. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on November 19, 2007. Expires November 19, 2012.

The Independent Legal No. 2259. Publish November 22, 29, December 6, 13, 2007.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: DOROTHY MARGARET CHAPPELL, AKA DOROTHY M. CHAPPELL, DOROTHY M. CHAPPELL & MRS. ORTON K. CHAPPELL

Case No. VP07353612

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of:

DOROTHY MARGARET CHAPPELL, AKA DOROTHY CHAPPELL, DOROTHY M. CHAPPELL & MRS. ORTON K. CHAPPELL.

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by: BEVERLY Y. PITCHER & JAN A. HOFER in the Superior Court of California, County of ALAMEDA.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that BEVERLY Y. PITCHER & JAN A. HOFER 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 any actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, 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 in this court as follows:

JANUARY 7, 2008 at 1:30PM in DEPT. 707 at SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF ALAMEDA, 5672 STONERIDGE DR. PLEASANTON, CA 94588

GALE/SCHEUNER HALL OF JUSTICE

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 a 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 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner: DONALD R. TRAVERS LAW OFFICES OF DONALD R. TRAVERS

529 PEARSON ROAD, PARADISE, CA 95969-5113

The Independent Legal #2252. Publish NOVEMBER 15, 22, 29, 2007

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice is hereby given that on October 19 2007 the Regents of the University of California filed an application with the Federal Communications Commission in Washington, D.C., for a construction permit for a new noncommercial educational FM Station on Channel 210 at Livermore, CA. The proposed Class A Station will operate with effective radiated power of 200 Watts and antenna height of 36.9 meters above ground from a transmitter located .1 mile south of E. Grant Avenue on Research Drive lot 33 in Livermore, Alameda County, California.

The main studio for the proposed station will be located at 14 Lower Freeborn Hall UC Davis, Davis, CA 95616.

The officers and members of the governing board of the applicant are Arnold Schwarzenegger, John Moores, Peter Preuss, Charles Robinson, Dianne Griffiths, Marie N. Berggren, John Garamendi, Fabian Nunez, Jack O'Connell, Jefferson

Coombs, Stephen Schreiner, Robert Dunces, Richard C. Blum, Judith Hopkinson, Odessa Johnson, Joanne Kozberg, Sherry Lansing, Russell Gould, Monica Lozano, Benjamin Allen, Gerald Parsky, Norman Pattiz, Leslie Tang Schilling, George Marcus, Eddie Island, Frederick Ruiz, Paul Wachtler, Bruce Varner, and William De La Pena.

A copy of the application and related materials are on file for public inspection during normal business hours at 14 Lower Freeborn Hall UC Davis, Davis, CA 95616. The Independent Legal No. 2253. Publish November 15, 22, 29, December 6, 2007.

NOTICE

On October 18, 2007, Les Seraphim tendered for filing with the Federal Communications Commission an application for a permit to construct a new noncommercial Class A FM station on Channel 210 at Livermore, California. The station will operate at .1 kilowatt of power, using an antenna - 84 meters above average terrain, from a transmitter location with the coordinates 37-39-24 N, 121-41-42 W (NAD 27); station studios will be located at a site to be determined in Livermore. Officers and directors of, and individuals voting a 10% or greater interest in, the applicant include Damon Ferreira, Ebony Ferreira, Anita Blake, and Mi Hyon Lim. A copy of the application and related material is available for local public inspection at the Livermore Chamber of Commerce, 2157 1st Street, Livermore, CA 94550.

The Independent Legal No. 2254. Publish November 15, 22, 29, 2007

ANIMALS/PESTS

1) CATS/DOGS

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

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

5) FOUND

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			cross streets Fallon Rd - Bent Tree - Twin Eagles - Royal Pines
			Help-U-Sell Tr-Valley Scott Miller
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			cross streets E. London - Hagemann - Garden Crm
			Alain Pinel Realtors Jo Ann Luisi
			925-292-0437
\$499,000	3BD/2BA	SUN 1-5PM	5903 Crestmont Ave
			cross streets Vasco Rd North - It - Crestmont
			Owner Chris Hollis
			650-504-6590
\$524,950	3BD/2BA	SUN 1-4PM	5075 Erika Wy
			Keller Williams Dave & Sue Flashberger
			925-463-0436
\$569,000	4BD/2.5BA	SUN 1-4PM	6608 Tiffany Crm
			cross streets N. Vasco - Garaventa
			Hometown GMAC Real Estate Micyo Krause
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130)MISC. FOR SALE
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Photo - Doug Jorgensen
Tish Fletcher, dressed as a turkey, and Vickie Branco (top photo) were among shoppers dressed up to take part in downtown Livermore's Earlier Than the Bird event last week. In the lower photo, windows at GourmetWorks were decked out for the holidays in downtown Pleasanton as shoppers were on hand for a Magical Holiday Evening.

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