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INSIDE

Vol. 1, Number 4 · November 21, 2008

www.trivalleyviews.com

Sbranti takes Dublin mayor's post Dec. 2

Focus to be on economic challenges, environment

BY MEGHAN NEAL

Dublin's Mayor-elect Tim Sbranti will be the first new mayor the city has had in eight years when he officially takes office Dec. 2, succeeding Mayor Janet Lockhart who is leaving office under the city's eight-year term limit ordinance.

"I'm excited about the opportunity to be mayor of my hometown," Sbranti said. "Knowing that the city put its trust and faith in your leadership, it's a very exciting feeling but also a feeling of responsibility, that we still have a lot of work to do."

A self-described optimist, Sbranti acknowledged that the widespread and current economic hardship in the U.S. has taken its toll on the city of Dublin, but

he chooses to focus on the positive. The financial slowdown can be an opportunity to pause after a period of enormous growth within the city and focus on what comes next, he said.



Tim Sbranti

"I think now we're moving into a phase in this city where we can kind of take a step back, and move forward a little slower, but also kind of feel out the areas of, 'all right, what do we need more of?'"

Sbranti said his top priority as mayor will be to place an aggressive focus on economic development, attracting more restaurants and retailers to the city, creating more high-paying jobs and boosting sales tax revenues that can be used to provide even better services to Dublin residents.

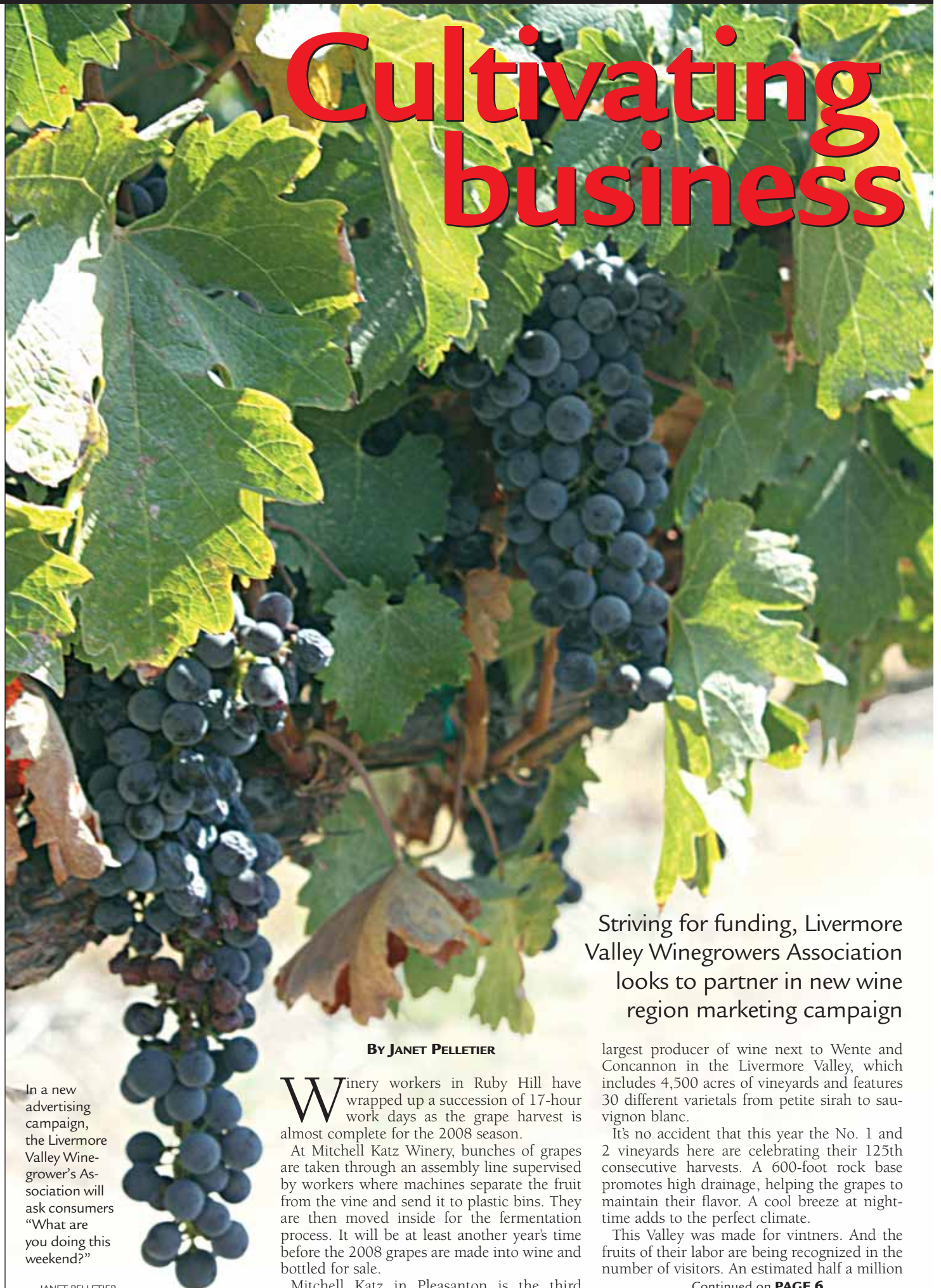
His plan is to recruit businesses by offering priority permitting, which would expedite the permit process and act as an incentive for businesses to set up shop in Dublin.

"Economic development is like dominoes," he said. "Once you start getting a couple of successful projects, other projects will come forward."

One of the first meetings he will have as elected mayor is to look at the city budget prepared for fiscal year 2009-10 and prioritize expenditures. He said he will work with the City Council to make sure that the city's general fund is in line, and then take a look at the five-year capital budget. If needed, they will look at what can be deferred, or modified for cost savings, he said.

"Beefing up our marketing efforts is

Continued on **PAGE 3**



Cultivating business

Striving for funding, Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association looks to partner in new wine region marketing campaign

BY JANET PELLETIER

Winery workers in Ruby Hill have wrapped up a succession of 17-hour work days as the grape harvest is almost complete for the 2008 season.

At Mitchell Katz Winery, bunches of grapes are taken through an assembly line supervised by workers where machines separate the fruit from the vine and send it to plastic bins. They are then moved inside for the fermentation process. It will be at least another year's time before the 2008 grapes are made into wine and bottled for sale.

Mitchell Katz in Pleasanton is the third

largest producer of wine next to Wente and Concannon in the Livermore Valley, which includes 4,500 acres of vineyards and features 30 different varietals from petite sirah to sauvignon blanc.

It's no accident that this year the No. 1 and 2 vineyards here are celebrating their 125th consecutive harvests. A 600-foot rock base promotes high drainage, helping the grapes to maintain their flavor. A cool breeze at night-time adds to the perfect climate.

This Valley was made for vintners. And the fruits of their labor are being recognized in the number of visitors. An estimated half a million

Continued on **PAGE 6**

In a new advertising campaign, the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association will ask consumers "What are you doing this weekend?"

JANET PELLETIER

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Heritage holidays

Dublin sponsors family events that celebrate the season

'Tis the season to celebrate and the Dublin Heritage Center is full of events for families.

At 12:30 p.m. Nov. 30, Old Murray School will be aglow for the holidays. This holiday tea (activity No. 19265) includes a three-course luncheon with everything from scones to pastries. Harpist Dominique Piana will also be there to fill the air with holiday music. Tickets are \$20 or \$70 for a table of four. Expected to sell out, those wanting to attend should reserve a spot early by calling 556-4500.

It wouldn't be the same celebration without a visit from Santa (activity No. 19265). Old St. Nick will visit St. Raymond's church to hear from children and hand out old-fashioned treats from 2 to 4 p.m. Dec. 6. The cost is \$5 per seating.

Also during that time, Dublin hosts an Old Fashioned Holiday Workshop (activity

No. 19264). There children can create old-fashioned holiday decorations and gifts using oranges, spices, popcorn, gingerbread and pinecones. There will also be a holiday sing-a-long, cider and cookies. The cost is \$5 for children and free for adults with a child.

For the parents needing a break, drop the kids off for the Holiday Toon Fest from 2 to 4 p.m. Dec. 13. Kids ages 8 and up can enjoy old classic cartoons, movies and holiday refreshments while parents can finish up on holiday preparations. The cost is \$3.

All these events are held at the Dublin Heritage Center, 6600 Donlon Way. For more city-sponsored events, view a copy of the fall 2008 activity guide. A digital copy and registration are available at the city's website: www.ci.dublin.ca.us.

—Emily West



JEB BING

Outgoing Dublin Mayor Janet Lockhart shakes hands with her successor, Councilman Tim Sbranti, after he won three-person race for mayor with more than 80 percent of the votes cast.

SBRANTI

Continued from PAGE 1

another key thing that we have to do," Sbranti said. "We have a lot to offer. I mean, this is really an attractive place."

Sbranti grew up in Dublin and in 1993 graduated from Dublin High School, where he now teaches and coaches tennis and basketball. He served for six years on the Dublin City Council, the last year as Vice Mayor.

One goal that's near and dear to his heart is promoting a "green" Dublin, both environmentally and by creating more parks, sports fields and open space.

"I want to find ways that we can really

make enhancements and really have Dublin stand out within the region," he said. "When you think of Dublin, you think of the color green. That's our city color."

He also wants to assure that Dublin is a city of character by setting high architecture and design standards for future development projects.

"It helps with civic pride, it helps with aesthetics overall and I think it really enhances the quality of life," he said. "This is a great community. The one thing that hasn't changed is that the people in this community are very friendly, they're very involved. When I grew up here in Dublin, people had a sense of civic pride. I don't think Dublin has lost that and that's one of the things I really like about Dublin."

TriValley VIEWS

TriValley Views and TriValleyViews.com are products of Embarcadero Publishing's East Bay Division, which publishes Pleasanton Weekly and Danville Weekly.

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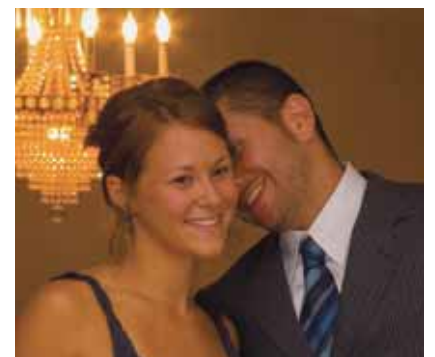
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“Perhaps a smaller company might be interested and might be able to run a golf course and turn a profit. So we’re going to go out in the market and see if that’s the case.”

Dan McIntyre, Livermore public works director



ESMERALDA ESCOVEDO-FLORES

Andy Toledo, left, David Iwamoto and Serafin Mariano play at the Springtown Golf Course this month.

Livermore City Council decides to stay the course

By MEGHAN NEAL

The Livermore City Council voted unanimously this month to look for an independent operator to run the much-loved Springtown Golf Course.

The council hopes to find a company that would lease the course on a long-term basis at no cost to the city. The private operator would keep any profits and absorb any losses generated by the course.

Now the trick is finding a company willing to take on the risk.

“It seems like it’s difficult—that there are some challenges ahead,” said Livermore Public Works Director Dan McIntyre. “Perhaps a smaller company might be interested and might be able to run a golf course and turn a profit. So we’re going to go out in the market and see if that’s the case.”

In recent years the city has lost hundreds of thousands of dollars on the golf course as the cost of upkeep continues to outweigh de-

Council votes to look for operator of cash-strapped Springtown Golf Course

ing revenues. The course is projected to lose \$215,000 by the end of this fiscal year.

The loss prompted the city to look at alternative options such as establishing a landscape maintenance district to fund the operation of the course, redeveloping the land or reverting it back to open space. But residents are adamant that the course stay as it is.

“The golf course is really well-loved as a golf course—it creates a perception of additional value around the area,” said David Early of the planning firm, Design, Community & Environment.

In a victory for residents, the council voted unanimously to try and keep the course afloat despite the financial liability.

If the council cannot secure a suitable contract however, they will consider an LMD to bring in extra tax dollars from residents of neighborhoods closest to the course.

Households located close to the course would pay a larger annual fee into the LMD than those further away. For the closest homes that fee could be as high as several hundred dollars per parcel, McIntyre said. A majority vote is needed, and the ballots would be weighted accordingly.

Though the Springtown course may not boast the same luxuries or aesthetic appeal as others in the area, it has a local charm that keeps it near and dear to residents’ hearts. In fact, some of its regulars have been playing there since the early 1970s, said McIntyre.

“It does have its niche,” he said. “It’s the one municipal golf course that’s a neighborhood golf course.” And it’s less expensive than other courses, giving it an economic niche, he added.

But part of the reason the course is losing money is that less and less people are playing golf. The 1990s saw a boom in the sport and many new courses sprouted up around the Bay Area. By the end of the decade, popularity dropped off and we were left with a large number of courses with less golfers playing on them, said McIntyre.

Springtown Golf Course saw a 34 percent decrease in rounds of golf played over the past six years, down from 41,000 rounds in fiscal year 2001-02 to 27,000 rounds this year.

“The question here is, can a new operator market it more effectively to bring revenues up, and can they control costs more effectively, to bridge the gap?” McIntyre said.

The current contracts, one for the maintenance of the course and another for the pro shop, expire in 2011. The hope is to have a new contract in place by then. The city will release requests for proposals early next year to dozens of companies, varying from large and familiar companies to smaller ones, McIntyre said.

After talking to potential golf course operators to feel out the market, Early said, “We saw a fair amount of interest. I think it’s very likely that they (city staff) will get some interest when they issue the RFPs.”

“We have people who are concerned who are speculating that it might not work,” McIntyre said. “Until you actually go out and invite people to bid, you never know.”

WINE

Continued from PAGE 1

people come to the Tri-Valley area every year, drawn in by the wine country, and they spend about \$17 million annually.

But, either surprisingly or not so surprisingly, as Concannon estate manager Jim Ryan tells it, the average overnight visitor spends about \$268 per visit, much lower than those who flock to Napa. When he gave a recent talk to Charles Schwab executives at Stoneridge Shopping Center, he asked all 77 how many of them had been to Napa versus Livermore. The answer? Sixty-six had been to Napa, but only 11 had been to Livermore. Don't get him wrong—the Livermore Valley is not trying to be Napa 2.0—but it wouldn't hurt local vineyards to get a somewhat proportionate piece of the pie.

“(Concannon is) one of the busiest tasting rooms in the Livermore Valley and we'll see about 40,000-45,000 visitors per year,” Ryan said. “The Mondavi visitor's center in Napa sees 1.2 million, just to put things into perspective.”

“You can't compare us to them,” he continued. “We don't want to be Napa. We want to be attractive to people who don't like Napa anymore because it's too expensive.”

Ryan, along with Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association treasurer Mark Triska, recently gave a presentation to the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce detailing how the association plans to attract more visitors and more tourism dollars. The LVWA will roll out a new marketing plan next year across the Bay Area, with the catchphrase “What are you doing this weekend?”

It's a common question that co-workers, spouses and friends ask each other towards the end of the week and the best way to get people talking about the local wine country, Triska said.

“We already have funding for our radio and print campaign, and that will start at the end of this year and run through 2009,” Ryan added.

Part of the reason that visitors aren't spending much money is because there aren't many overnight visitors to begin with.

“They don't stay at Motel 6,” Ryan said of the typical wine country tourist. “They're looking for a little more value, like a bed and breakfast. We had our (Concannon) partners in from Spain last month and we housed them at the Rose Hotel. They look for these types of communities with the nice restaurants, Main Street, where they can walk from their hotel out the door and visit a nice restaurant.”

Livermore has one bed and breakfast, the Purple Orchid. There have been plans for a boutique-style hotel across from Livermore's Blacksmith Square, a consortium of wineries, but no businesses have come forward with proposals. Pleasanton had a bed and breakfast in a restored Victorian on West Angela Street downtown. The Plum Tree Inn was owned by Joan and Bob Cordtz, but they closed it in 2003 when business declined after 9/11. Another popular bed and breakfast was Evergreen Bed and Breakfast, located on Longview Drive near the foot of Augustin-Bernal Park. Owners Jane and Clay



Grapes spend their last few days on the vine in the Ruby Hill vineyards before they are harvested for the season.

PHOTOS BY JANET PELLETIER



Petite sirah grapes are processed through an assembly line at Mitchell Katz Winery in Pleasanton, the third largest producer of wine in the Livermore Valley.

Cameron put the home up for sale in 2004 so they could spend more time with their family.

One challenge has been possible locations for boutique hotels and bed and breakfasts because the South Livermore Valley Plan limits where development is allowed.

Triska, who owns Triska Crane Ridge Vineyards in Livermore and

is a commercial real estate broker for Colliers, said the winegrowers association's objective is to get all the cities in the Tri-Valley on board with the winegrowers association's campaign as an opportunity to drum up more tourism.

Chris Chandler, executive director of the association, said the aim is to reach consumers within a two-

“We don't want to be Napa. We want to be attractive to people who don't like Napa anymore because it's too expensive.”

Jim Ryan, Concannon estate manager

hour radius of the wine country region, which includes Livermore, Pleasanton, Sunol, Dublin, Castro Valley, San Ramon and Danville.

“On KKIQ and KKDV, we started in September with “What are you doing Labor Day weekend?” which was a soft launch for us,” Chandler said. “The campaign is not meant to start until 2009. We're doing all the preparation and figuring it all out right now.”

Chandler said the association will soon prepare proposals to bring to the wine region cities, requesting some form of funding, but how much has yet to be determined. The winegrowers association is a nonprofit and receives its funding from membership dues, the Labor Day weekend Harvest Wine Celebration and from a few other fundraisers held throughout the year. But the money is just not enough to cover marketing costs, Chandler said. So, instead of going it alone, the association believes that partnerships—between cities, the Tri-Valley Convention & Visitor's Bureau and businesses—will help create the region as a destination, which Napa has done so successfully.

“Look at our cousin to the north. Napa has these charming cities—Yountville, St. Helena, Calistoga, Rutherford—that are all within the Napa (Valley),” Chandler said. “And they do a good job of mar-

keting their own hometown, but they are in a designated American Viticulture Area or wine region. We have such charming downtowns, look at Pleasanton and Danville and Livermore.”

Chandler acknowledges that most of the wineries are in Livermore, two are in Pleasanton, two in Sunol and one in Castro Valley, but added that there are wine boutiques in Danville. There are also a number of upscale restaurants in the Tri-Valley region, which pair nicely with the wineries. There are also other amenities in the region that would attract those who enjoy wine tasting, such as golf courses, bocce ball, spa retreats and hiking and biking trails, Chandler said.

“We should not limit ourselves because there is so much to do in this region that makes it a destination,” she said. “We just need to communicate what those things are because people have different interests.”

The transit occupancy tax charged by cities on hotel stays could be an avenue for the winegrowers association. It currently doesn't receive any TOT funding.

Pleasanton City Manager Nelson Fialho said the city is open to hearing a proposal for funding the association.

“We're willing to pay. We just want them to demonstrate that they're going to market the whole area,” he said.

Burnin' up

CBS 5 anchor Juliette Goodrich pens children's book about Livermore's centennial light bulb

By JANET PELLETIER

Believe it or not, there's a light bulb that's been burning in Livermore long before the invention of the automobile, before the Wright brothers took their first solo flight and before America put a man on the moon.

If you haven't heard by now, Fire Station No. 6 on East Avenue is home to the world's longest burning light bulb at 107 years old.

With its age comes notoriety. The famous hand-blown luminary was featured on all the major news networks such as ABC, NBC, FOX, CBS and CNN when it turned the milestone age of 100 in 2001.

Livermore resident Dick Jones remembers it well. Barry Schrader, a Tri-Valley historian and president of the Livermore Heritage Guild, told Jones of the impending birthday and suggested holding a celebration to commemorate it. So, Jones called a friend, Steve Bunn, and four days later, they put up a website, www.centennialbulb.org. They called the local newspapers and the local CBS station got wind of it and aired a story on it. Then, things got a little crazy.

"At 3:30 in the morning, the (morning of) the party, I got a call from the fire station," Jones said. "They said FOX, CNN, ABC, CBS, all of them are parked out back and they're going to do live feeds to New York with Peter Jennings and Katie Couric. We scrambled and called the fire chief and whoever we could think of and sent them down there."

So much for a small celebration. The roughly 200 people volunteers had been

expecting turned out to be 800 people.

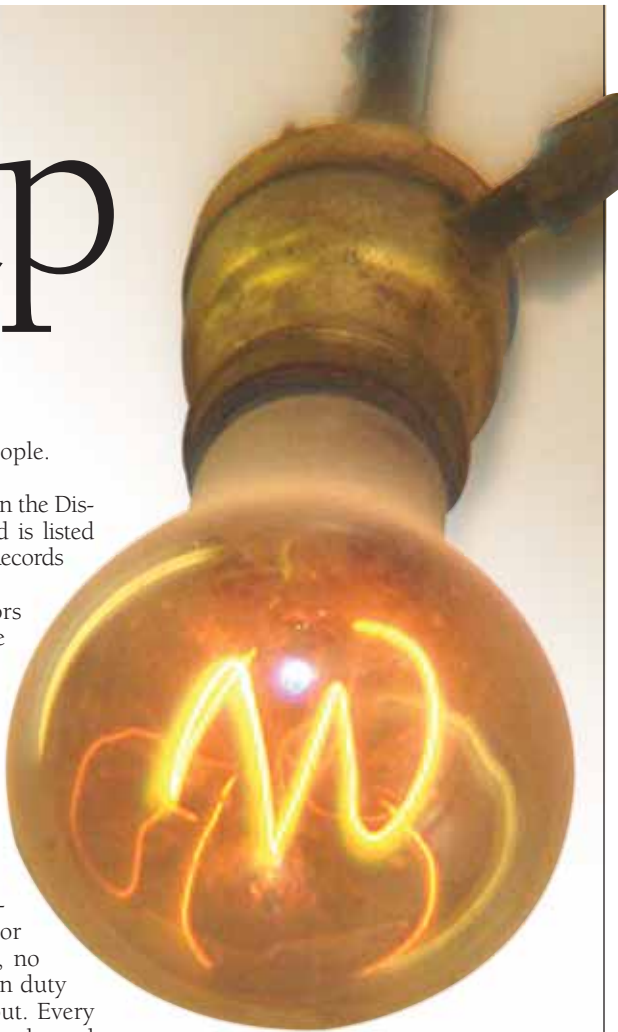
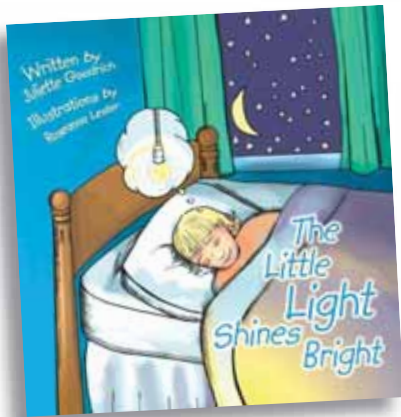
"It was a lot of fun," Jones said. Since then, it's also been featured on the Discovery Channel's "Mythbusters" and is listed in the Guinness Book of World Records and Ripley's Believe It or Not.

Juliette Goodrich, who anchors the CBS 5 news at noon, was the emcee for the celebration. Having grown up in Pleasanton, she was familiar with the folklore of the centennial bulb, but had never seen it with her own eyes and was intrigued.

"It was my first introduction to the light," she said. "I just thought how amazing it was to have this piece of history in Livermore in our own backyard. For these firefighters who work there, no one wants to be on duty if the light goes out. Every morning, they look and take a peek at it and it's their little comfort."

Made by Shelby Electric Co. of Shelby, Ohio, it is a 4-watt carbide filament bulb. It was first installed at the fire department hose cart house on L Street in 1901. Shortly after, it was moved to a main firehouse on Second Street. In 1903, the bulb was moved to the new Fire Station No. 1 on First and McLeod streets.

In 1976, accompanied by a full police and fire truck escort, it was moved to Fire Station No. 6 on East Avenue, where it resides today. At the time, a city electrician screwed the bulb in place, but it didn't turn on. After wiggling the switch, the bulb illuminated to its dim shade, and everyone breathed a collective sigh



DICK JONES

This 4-watt carbide filament bulb that hangs from the ceiling in Fire Station No. 6 was made by Shelby Electric Co. and is 107 years old.

of relief. The light has been on continuously, except for the times it's been relocated.

Goodrich's interest in the bulb drew her to write a children's book on the subject, called "The Little Light Shines Bright." The mother of three, who lives in Dublin, decided to take on her goal during maternity leave after her third child was born two years ago.

"I decided to self-publish so I could have more control over the content and ideas," she said.

She set out by hiring an illustrator and used photos taken by Jones, who has an aerial photography business. In the book, a little boy who has an uncanny resemblance to her 2-year-old son, visits Fire Station No. 6 and along the way learns how long it's been burning in terms of the historical events that have happened along the way.

"It shows what's happened in the history of the light being on—trains, planes, the automobile, radio, Disneyland opened, the first heart transplant—so kids can see what's happened over the years," she said.

Armed with input from her children, she also read a draft of the book to a couple of local classrooms to see what they thought of it. The children were most interested in how much energy the bulb wasted, but Goodrich assured them that the 4-watt bulb wasn't a big energy hog.

"I think I've been more excited to see my work in print than I've ever been to see my work on TV," she said.

Goodrich will hold a book signing from 2 to 4 p.m. Nov. 29 at the Dublin Barnes & Noble bookstore, 4972 Dublin Blvd., where the book will be on sale for \$11.95. Proceeds from the signing will go to Dublin Elementary School. Other proceeds from the book will go to the Alisa Ann Rush Burn Foundation which helps burn survivors and advocates for burn prevention. The book can be purchased at www.authorhouse.com.

Jones said anyone who's interested can visit the light bulb, which is hangs by a wire from the ceiling, depending on the availability of the firefighters on duty. The fire station is located at 4550 East Ave. and the phone number there is 454-2361.

Chowchilla kidnapper found suitable for parole

Richard Schoenfeld, 54, isn't expected to be released anytime soon, however

A two-person panel has found one of the three men who kidnapped a busload of Chowchilla schoolchildren in 1976 and buried them in a quarry in Livermore to be suitable for parole.

But Richard Schoenfeld, 54, won't be released from prison anytime soon because the panel's ruling at a hearing earlier this month is only "the first step in a rather long process," state Board of Parole Hearings spokesman Bill Sessa said.

The hearing was held Nov. 5 at the California Men's Colony in San Luis Obispo, where Schoenfeld is serving a life prison term for his crime.

Schoenfeld, his brother, James Schoenfeld, and Frederick Woods were in their early- to mid-20s when they ambushed a busload of school children July 15, 1976, from Dairyland Union School in Chowchilla, a small farm community about 35 miles south of Fresno in Madera County. The men left the bus camouflaged in a creek bed and drove the children and bus driver, Ed Ray, to the California Rock and Gravel Quarry in Livermore. The kidnappers sealed their victims in a large van that had been buried in a cave at the quarry and fitted out to keep the children and driver hostage.

The kidnapers, all from wealthy families in the Peninsula communities of Atherton and Portola Valley, then demanded a \$5 million ransom for the return of the 26 children and driver. The hostages escaped from the buried van more than 24 hours after they were first kidnapped when Ray and the two oldest children piled mattresses to the top of the van and forced their way out.

The Pleasanton Weekly did an extensive story on the kidnappings in August 2006, revisiting the case 30 years later. To see that story, visit www.pleasantonweekly.com/story.php?story_id=994.

The three men received life sentences after pleading guilty in 1977 to 27 counts of kidnapping for ransom. Richard Schoenfeld had been denied parole 20 times before the panel decided he was suitable for parole.

Alameda County Deputy District Attorney Jill Klinge and Madera County District Attorney Ernest LiCalsi told the panel they still believe Schoenfeld is unsuitable for parole.

But a ruling by the California Supreme Court in August made it more difficult for the panel to find Schoenfeld unsuitable for parole. Now the parole board must find an additional factor showing the inmate could be dangerous in order to deny parole repeatedly. On April 28, James Schoenfeld was denied parole for two years. It was the 16th time he had been denied parole. Woods has a parole hearing scheduled for Jan. 5. He has been denied parole 11 times.

Sessa said the decision by the two-person panel will now be subjected to an administrative review by the Board of Parole Hearings. The review can take up to four months. If the decision that Richard Schoenfeld is suitable for parole stands, the review also will calculate a date at which he could be released, according to Sessa.

If the administrative review upholds the decision that Schoenfeld is suitable for parole, the case then will go to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger for his review. Schwarzenegger can then refer the decision to the full 12-person parole board for more review, Sessa said.

—Bay City News



DICK JONES

Pleasanton native Juliette Goodrich, who anchors the CBS 5 news at noon, recently completed a children's book about the centennial light bulb and will sign copies Nov. 29 at the Barnes & Noble in the Hacienda Crossings center. Here she is with son Cameron.



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Charlene McKenney

FINANCIAL REPRESENTATIVE

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She is a graduate of SJSU with two beautiful grown children. She is an active member of Cornerstone Fellowship in Livermore.

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AROUND THE TRI-VALLEY



By JEB BING



JEB BING

Wheels bus executive Joseph Rye, right, briefs Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton) aboard the rapid transit route that will provide express service between BART stations in Dublin and the Livermore National Laboratory.

Riding the bus with our congressman

When I boarded the Wheels No. 10 bus at Stoneridge Shopping Center the other day and found Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton) sitting next to me, I knew this would be a different type of bus trip than I'm used to. I was right. McNerney, along with Livermore Councilwoman Marj Leider, and several others from Dublin and McNerney's staff, were also on board. We were there to test this first-time new rapid transit bus route that will soon connect the Livermore Lab and points in between with BART's two stations—Dublin/Pleasanton East, already in operation, and the new West station, which will open next year.

As we traveled, Wheels executives Paul Matsuoka and Joseph Rye briefed us on new developments and the changing landscape we saw in Pleasanton, Dublin and Livermore. Our trip was also special because this new Wheels' rapid transit bus line is being funded by a \$3-million grant specifically arranged by McNerney to provide faster service between BART stations and the Livermore Lab. By connecting this major regional employment center to BART, along with many other office and residential neighborhoods along the way, commuters will have a viable, quick, easy-to-use option to relieve some of the traffic congestion on Interstate-580.

Starting at Stoneridge, we rode past the new BART parking garage nearing completion on Stoneridge Mall Road, next to Safeway's corporate headquarters, and also past the 350-unit Windstar apartment project next door, both leading from the Pleasanton side to the new West Dublin/Pleasanton BART station. With major commercial and residential developments on both sides of the new station in the middle of I-580, the Wheels rapid transit bus line should have plenty of riders.

Moving east on Dublin Boulevard, we saw first-hand evidence of the economic downturn. Crown Chevrolet is shutting down; across the street, Mervyn's is also closing; and down the street, the Circuit City store is also going out of business. Even so, Rye talked about major retail office and housing developments that will be built near the new West Dublin station, including a 10-story hotel and apartment complex with retail shopping on the lower floors. Farther east, he pointed out the acres of empty space that will soon be home to a major retail center and Whole Foods supermar-

ket across from Hacienda Crossings. Then we traveled on to Grafton Place, another high-density, high-rise (10 stories or more) development that's awaiting final approvals by the city of Dublin. It will include a new fully-enclosed community aquatic center and athletic fields, which will all be within easy walking distance of the new Wheels bus route.

Other improvements we saw in the making included a new four-lane overpass at 580 for the once seldom used El Charro Road on the Livermore-Pleasanton side and Fallon Road that heads north into eastern Dublin, where hundreds of apartments and condos are now under construction. The overpass, being built in record time, could open before the end of the year.

There's not much at El Charro and I-580 now, but by this time next year it should be bustling with construction activity, possibly even some grand openings. At the southwest corner, the 126-acre Staples Ranch is being planned with a major auto row by the Hendrick automotive team that now has several high-end car dealerships next to the Santa Rita-I-580 interchange. Staples will also house a new ice rink being planned by a subsidiary of the San Jose Sharks, plus a retail center, all accessible from the El Charro Road interchange.

Across El Charro, Livermore has just given the green light to developers of a 200-store outlet mall and, just south of I-580, approval to extend Jack London Boulevard to El Charro. Litigation over both projects has now been resolved, Councilwoman Leider told us. Jack London is designed to link with Stoneridge Drive, once it's extended through Staples, a project expected to be approved by a majority on the Pleasanton City Council next year.

McNerney, who lives in Pleasanton's Val Vista neighborhood and makes frequent trips when he's back on home turf to all three cities and beyond, knows how badly I-580 is congested in the morning and evening rush hours, and often in between. A strong advocate of expanding public transportation in the Tri-Valley, he helped arrange federal funds to mesh with local and regional allocations to add carpool lanes to eastbound 580, which is happening now. He's also looking forward—along with all of us—to Wheels' ambitious plan for more and faster bus service to help reduce traffic congestion both on the freeway and local streets. The \$3 million in federal assistance will go a long way in making alternative travel better and more attractive for everyone who lives and works in the Tri-Valley.

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Family	45 to 49.....	\$310
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Goings On

a calendar of TriValley events worth a look

Nov. 21

MAGICAL HOLIDAY EVENING

Pleasanton Downtown will hold its Magical Holiday Evening from 6 to 9 p.m. Nov. 21. Santa Claus will be at Kids Savvy Seconds, 327 St. Mary Street, Ste. A. Musical entertainment will be provided by Harmony Fusion Chorus from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Museum on Main, 603 Main Street; Valley Concert Chorale, from 7 to 9 p.m. strolling throughout downtown; an Silver Wind Flutes. The annual event is sponsored by the Pleasanton Downtown Association. For information call 484-2199 or visit www.pleasantondowntown.org.

Nov. 21 to 23

THE SEAGULL

The Seagull, Anton Chekhov's masterpiece of tragic-comedy, will be performed at 8 p.m. Nov. 21; 2 and 8 p.m. Nov. 22; and 7 p.m. Nov. 23 at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Sponsored by the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center, tickets are \$30 to \$45. Call 373-6800.

Nov. 22

EARLIER THAN THE BIRD

Get a head start on holiday shopping during the "Earlier Than the Bird" event from 7 to 10 a.m. Nov. 22 in downtown Livermore. Gift shops and boutiques will be open with special deals, offers and treats. Special prizes given to those still wearing their pajamas. For more information call Livermore Downtown Inc. at 373-1795.

Nov. 30

HOLIDAY TEA

Dublin Heritage Holiday Tea will be held at 12:30 p.m. Nov. 30 at the Heritage Center, 6600 Donlon Way, Dublin. The menu will include scones with lemon curd, strawberries and Devonshire cream; petit salad with cranberries, pecans and gorgonzola; assorted tea sandwiches; pastries and fruit; and, of course, tea. Tickets are \$20 per person or four for \$70. Discounted tickets must be purchased in person at the Dublin Library P&CS Annex Office. For information, call the Dublin Parks and Community Services Department, 556-4500.

Dec. 4

DUBLIN TREE LIGHTING

The 25th annual Dublin Holiday Tree Lighting will be held from 7 to 8 p.m. Dec. 4 at the Civic Center, 100 Civic Plaza, Dublin. For information, call the Dublin Parks and Community Services Department, 556-4500.

Dec. 6

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS HOLIDAY SIGHTS & SOUNDS PARADE

Visitors to downtown Livermore can enjoy

free horse drawn carriage rides, holiday performances at the Flag Pole Plaza and snow in Lizzie Fountain during the Home for the Holidays celebration from noon to 4 p.m. Dec. 6 in downtown Livermore. The Holiday Sights and Sounds Parade will be at 6 p.m. with the parade route from M Street to McLeod Street. The lighting of "Bruce Sprucetree" will be at the corner of First Street and South Livermore Avenue following the parade. Santa Claus will be on hand. For more information call Livermore Downtown Inc. at 373-1795.



HOLIDAY FAMILY WORKSHOP

The City of Dublin's Holiday Family Workshop from 2 to 4 p.m. Dec. 6 at the Heritage Center, 6600 Donlon Way, Dublin, will feature holiday music, cookies and hot cider. Participants can make orange pomanders, gingerbread men, spiced pinecones and decorations from Victorian scrap. Fee is \$5. Sign up in advance at www.DublinRecGuide.com, Activity #19264.

Dec. 6 & 7

HOLIDAYS IN THE VINEYARDS

This annual wine country tradition celebrates the season with a weekend full of holiday cheer. All of the Livermore Valley wineries present special wines, music, arts and crafts and gifts. Award-winning wines are offered along with gourmet foods, unique gift boxes and holiday treats. This free event is from noon to 5 p.m. at participating wineries in the Livermore Valley wine country. Guests are encouraged to bring toys to their favorite wineries. All toys will be donated to the Toys for Tots Foundation after the event. For information, visit www.lwine.org.

Dec. 14

BAY BELLS

The City of Dublin will present Bay Bells in two performances at 3 and at 4:30 p.m. Dec. 14 at the Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin. Bay Bells is one of the nation's longest-running community hand-bell ensembles. Each show will be approximately 40 minutes. Sign up in advance by calling 556-4500 or at www.DublinRecGuide.com.

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Killed on Collier Canyon Road Tuesday night around 9:30 pm.

Shot at close range. Ballistics indicates that the weapon might be a .223 rifle.

Companion horse was a rescue horse saved early this year and restored to perfect health.

He was shot twice in stomach and died after running across pasture.

**There is a candlelight Vigil being held to raise awareness about the crime on
Nov. 22nd at robertson Park in Livermore from 6-8pm. Please join us.**

IMPORTANT DETAILS (as of 11/4):

- 1) Cow was shot on Manning Rd and the horses were shot on Collier Canyon that evening with the same weapon.
- 2) Believed that the crime occurred at 9:30pm Tuesday night (Oct. 21) based on a witness that heard gunfire (3 shots) and the autopsy report from UC Davis.

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