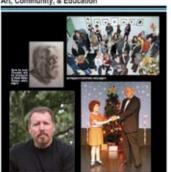


**VOLUME XLIX, NUMBER 2** 

Your Local News Source Since 1963 SERVING LIVERMORE • PLEASANTON • SUNOL

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2012



# **Find Out What's** Happening Check out the

### second section

Section II is filled with information about arts, entertainment and special events. There are education stories, a variety of features, and the arts and entertainment and bulletin board



### **Pleasanton Recognized for** Safety Upgrade

The Intelligent Transportation Society of America (ITS America) has recognized Pleasanton, for being one of the first cities in the country to procure and install a new traffic signal vehicle detection device that uses radar-like sensors to more easily detect bicycle traffic and make street crossings safer for cyclists and motorists.

The "Intersector" initiative was awarded ITS America's 'Smart Solution Spotlight' award for using innovative technology to create a safer, cleaner, more efficient and sustainable transportation system.

"We are honored to be the recipient of this award," noted City Manager Nelson Fialho. "Resident safety is paramount to us

# **Board denies Portola Academy petition**

By Patricia Koning

Trustees of the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District unanimously voted at its meeting on Tuesday to deny the Portola Academy Charter petition. The Tri-Valley Learning Corporation (TVLC), which oversees the Livermore Valley Charter School (LVCS) and Livermore Valley Charter Preparatory High School (LVCP), submitted the petition in November. Livermore School Superin-

tendent Kelly Bowers, in consultation with District staff and legal counsel, recommended that the Board deny the petition because it does not contain the required signatures; it fails to provide comprehensive descriptions of nine of the 16 legally required elements of the charter; and the petitioners are demonstrably unlikely to successfully implement the program described in the petition.

These are three of six legal

grounds on which a school board can deny a charter school petition. A board's decision must be based on factual findings as they relate to the petition.

According to chief business official Susan Kinder, Portola Academy would likely result in loss of \$1 million in revenue to the District. This is determined by the loss of 560 students, reducing by \$3 million Average Daily Attendance funding, offset by \$1.3 million saved from laying

off 20 teachers who would no longer be needed, \$500,000 by closing a school, and \$200,000 in oversight fees paid by Portola Academy. However, negative fiscal impact on a school district is not a valid reason to deny a petition.

Attorney Janet Mueller, serving as legal counsel to the District, presented the factual findings to the board. These findings are detailed in a 29-page report that is available in the agenda

for the Jan. 10, 2012 Regular School Board Meeting, located in the School Board section of the District web site (www.livermoreschools.com).

She stated that TVLC only submitted 196 signatures of intent to enroll that met legal requirements; the invalid signatures represented students not of the required age or already enrolled at other TVLC schools. TVLC chief operating officer Bill

(See PORTOLA, page 2)

Photo - Doug Jorgensen Ralph Newman applies details to the 1920 Seagrave pumper that will be on display at the Duarte Garage this Sunday. For the story and more photos, see page 6.

City to Serve as Successor Agency to RDA

## Pleasanton **Rezones Sites For High Density**

The Pleasanton City Council voted to rezone nine properties for high density housing. The council also approved a supplemental environmental impact report (SEIR) for the new housing element and climate action plan at a special meeting held on Wed., Jan. 4.

The 73 acres will accommodate affordable high density housing units in Pleasanton. In total, 2,326 units are planned. That is 238 units over the required 2088. A new extremely low income category was included. The city also committed to adopt a density bonus ordinance and standards for multifamily housing.

The rezoned properties were back on the council's consent calendar Tuesday night for final approval. At Tuesday's meeting, Councilmember Cindy McGovern suggested the creation of a subcommittee comprised of representatives from the school district, city and developers to discuss how to deal with the impact of the new housing on schools.

City Manager Nelson Filho commented at the earlier

and that was the first compelling feature of the Intersector, to keep cyclists and pedestrians safe."

This radar-style detection device can actually identify and differentiate different types of vehicles, including bicycles. When a cyclist approaches an intersection, the device can detect the bicycle and adjust the traffic signal timing (green time) (See AWARD, page 3)

### Art Walk and Talk, Dedication This Saturday

The Harringtons will lead Pleasanton Saturday Art Walks every third Saturday of the month, beginning this January 21. The walks will take place from January - April.

The 2-hour "Walk and Talk" begins at 9 a.m. at the Pleasanton Civic Center parking-lot off Old Bernal Ave. The Walk varies each time, but includes Downtown Pleasanton, Firehouse Art Center, and possibly the Library and Senior Center with Centennial Park.

Nancy and Gary Harrington, the Harrington Art Partnership, lead the walk, showing the existing Public art and providing information about the artists and anecdotes regarding their works. Participants will learn about possible future Public Arts (City Council approved), the Harrington Art Partnership, and how they can participate in bringing more art sooner to Pleasanton.

Walkers will receive a map of the Pleasanton Saturday Art Walks, with the location of the art, its name, the artist and year of installation.

Three new sculptures have been added Firehouse Crystal Bell, Special Friends, Joyful Play, are part of the walk.

At 11:15 a.m. at the front of the Firehouse Arts Center, 444 Railroad Avenue, the Harringtons will unveil Another H.A.P.P.Y sculpture, "Eternity," by Jim Hunolt.

The City of Livermore will become the successor agency for its Redevelopment Agency (RDA).

The city council unanimously approved the change at its meeting on Monday.

to keep on coming.

the Board.

At a special meeting last

week, the Board of Directors of

the Livermore Area Recreation

and Park District met to consider

applicants for the vacant seat on

Laureen Turner was elected to

the Livermore City Council in

November. A deadline was set

for Jan. 3 for the District to ac-

Seven residents have submit-

ted applications for the vacant

Livermore Valley Joint Unified

School District (LVJUSD) Board

of Education seat created when

Stewart Gary was elected to

the Livermore City Council in

November.

A vacancy was created when

The California Supreme Court ruled unanimously in favor of a state law passed last summer that abolished redevelopment agencies and voted 6 to 1 to strike down a companion measure that would have allowed the agencies

to continue if they shared their revenues. The Livermore RDA, and over 400 others around the state, will be dissolved on February 1. The RDA's non-housing funds and assets will then be turned over to the successor

agency, which is charged with winding up the affairs of the former RDA.

Councilmember Stewart Gary pointed out that there is a lot of impact on stakeholders with (See REDEVELOPMENT, page 5) meeting, "All of the actions are important. In some context or another, each has to do with the city's lawsuit settlement."

The city is required to rezone

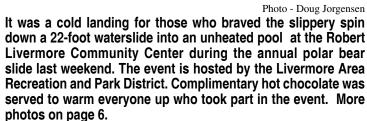
(See REZONINGS, page 4)

The applicants are Kathy Alexander, Jim Bennett, Susan Houghton, David Jonas, Belia Martinez, Barbara Morgan, and

Vicki Schellenberger. A deadline was set for January 4, 2012 for the District to accept applications from interested

candidates. The Board of Education announced the interview schedule at the January 10, 2012 Board meeting.

There will be a Board Candidate Information Night on January 17, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. (See SCHOOL BOARD, page 2)



#### PET OF THE WEEK

My name is Coral Belle, I am a beautiful Calico who is about 1 year old. I was never able to be a real kitten, so I still like to play; I am sweet, loving and quiet ... well until meal time, then really talk. I will need to warm up to you a bit, but once I trust you, I will purr for you and sit in your lap. I was a young mother, now spayed and ready for my forever home with you. Go online to www.valleyhumane.org or www.facebook.com/ ValleyHumaneSociety to see our other adoptable dogs and cats. Valley Humane Society is located at 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton. Hours are Tues.- Sat. from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Photo courtesy of Aaron Czeszynski

### Inside Art & Entertair **Bulletin Board** Classifieds.. Editorial ..... Mailbox.....

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4		



California Gov. Jerry Brown unveiled his \$92 billion state already accomplished in the curbudget proposal for fiscal year rent fiscal year took the state's (fv) 2012/13. The cuts in expenstructural debt down from \$20 ditures and services are expected billion to \$5 billion.

"The takeaway is that we Brown said in a speech on reduced the deficit. If we do noth-

open space and trails advocate;

Barbara K. Kraybill, who retired

from LARPD in 2007 after 30

years of service and who owns

Barbara's Hallmark; and Dale R.

Wilkins, managing attorney for

First Look at 2012 State Budget

Jan. 5 in Sacramento that cuts ing, we will still have a \$5 billion structural debt. The following year, it would be down to \$2.9 billion" said Brown.

However, California budgets must be balanced. His solution (See STATE BUDGET, page 5)

#### Three Finalists for LARPD Board Seat at a public meeting on Jan. 25. were Tom McLaughlin, former school board trustee; Robert Candidates who will be interviewed are Robert J. Coomber Nuddleman, a senior associate Jr., a loan adjustments manager for a law firm; and Jeff Passama, for a credit union and a long-time

medical and direct sales. The three selected applicants will be interviewed Jan. 25, with an opportunity for the public to speak. The Board will select the new director at the meeting.

The meeting will be held at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Avenue starting at 7 p.m.

#### cept applications from interested the legal division of an insurance candidates. The District received company and former National six applications. Directors select-Park Service park ranger. ed three applicants to interview The other three candidates

Seven Apply for Livermore School Board

# Don Miller, Jean King Commended by LCAC

The Livermore Cultural Arts Council (LCAC) recognized two of its long time members last week, Don Miller and Jean King.

They were awarded plaques for service to LCAC.

The awards read as follows: "In recognition of your many years of valuable service to the Livermore Cultural Arts Council, and for your contributions in promoting the arts in the Livermore area, we, the representatives of LCAC, wish to express our most grateful thanks. You have enthusiastically served the cultural arts community in an exceptional manner. We wish you the best in your future endeavors."

Miller declared, "It is wonderful for me to be honored by you, LCAC, the group I served on for almost 50 years. I have enjoyed every minute of it with every step along the way, even with the occasional uproar. I first came to LCAC as representative of the City, then from Cask and Mask (the original Valley amateur theater group), and then Del Valle Fine Arts."

He pointed out that LCAC actually started in the middle 60's with a debate over whether the city or LARPD would sponsor the organiztion. LARPD became the sponsor. It has been very successful for us all. LCAC was also involved very early on, again in the mid 60's, in the effort to gain a downtown theater, but that was the wrong time because bond issues couldn't pass at that time. Twenty years later, the Bankhead Theater is in operation. "I believe LCAC has been a community success because many of its cultural and political leaders had a vision of what they wanted our city to be 10, 20 and 30 years in the future and worked hard to gain support. I have lived my life with gusto, sometimes a little too much some of my political opponents believe. Now that my life is nearing its end, I feel so fortunate to have so many successes with you in cultural areas, as well as in my chemistry and ballistics careers.

"I don't really know how to express how very great this honor is for me. May LCAC continue with its cultural visions and be as successful in the future," he concluded.

King commented, "I recognized what great company I was joining when I heard the other who have received the award - Don Miller, Chuck Hartwig, Phil Dean, Evelyn Bankhead and Susan Mayall. Many of the LCAC members are involved in multiple LCAC organizations and are very much involved in Livermore cultural activities. I appreciate all that LCAC has done. I received more from working with the LCAC than I gave to

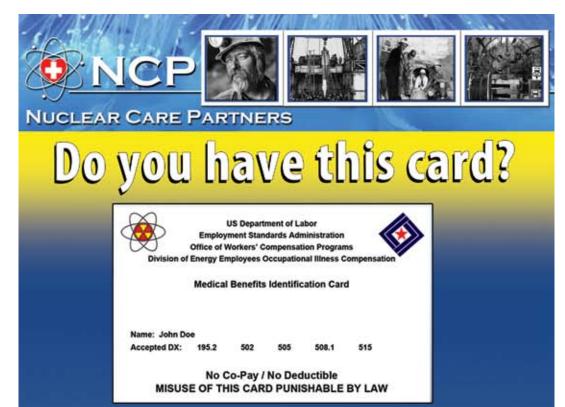
the the organization.'

# SCHOOL BOARD

(continued from page one)

where candidates will receive an overview of the District. In addition, there will be a Candidates Forum sponsored by the Parent Club Information Council (PCIC) on January 19, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. where candidates will be asked questions regarding their interests, experiences, and educational perspectives. Interviews will be conducted by the board in a special meeting on Saturday, January 21 between 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. The appointment will be decided at the conclusion of deliberations.

The successful candidate will be installed at the January 24, 2012 Board of Education meeting. All events and meetings will be held in the District Board Room, 685 East Jack London Blvd. They are open to the public.



# PORTOLA

(continued from page one)

Batchelor said that all 336 signatures submitted are valid.

According to Mueller, the petition failed to provide comprehensive descriptions of the educational program, measurable student outcomes, assessment methods, governance, employee qualifications, racial and ethnic balance, admission requirements, suspension and expulsion procedures, and retirement coverage.

"The operating plan is unrealistic in the area of administrative services," said Mueller, explaining why the petitioners are demonstrably unlikely to successful implement the program. "This petition does not present a sound or realistic plan. Special education is underfunded, the startup costs are undefined, and the budget does not support the described program. There are a lot of philosophical underpinnings without much definition."

Batchelor thanked the District staff for their thorough evaluation. "However," he added. "I am disappointed to find it filled with inaccuracies. The most troubling and ironic issue is the motivation you attribute to us – that we want to open this school because it will be financially beneficial to us and it will turn a profit in the first year."

He contrasted this with the criticism that the budget presented in the petition is unsound and unlikely to be implemented. "To say both of these things in the same report is very troubling," he ber of your constituents want to be in our schools and can't," he said. "Your constituents are asking for this school."

Batchelor plans to submit the Portola Academy petition – the same petition submitted to the District – to the Alameda County Office of Education by the end of the week. If the County denies the petition, he will submit it to the State Board of Education.

The petitions for both LVCS and LVCP were granted by the State after being denied by the Livermore School District and Alameda County. For more information on TVLC, visit www. trivalleylearning.org.

### Pleasanton Senior Center Is Closed for Work

The Pleasanton Senior Center will be closed for a short period this month for routine maintenance. The center will be closed through Monday, January 16, 2012 and will re-open on Tuesday, January 17, 2012 for regularly scheduled programs.

During the closure period, the Spectrum Community Services lunch program offered at the center will be closed. However, Open Heart Kitchen's Senior Meal Program at Ridgeview Commons will be open for dinner and seniors are encouraged to attend this program. The suggested donation is \$3 and reservations can be made by calling (925) 484-5131.

The senior center will be painted, receive a deep cleaning, have carpets cleaned, the lighting checked, and other routine age and older and those that are ADA certified). On a monthly basis the Center also offers free movies, a lecture series, a vision support group, an inter-generational reading program, a computer users group, a Day Trippers program, an armchair travel program, a Newcomer's Welcome, a dessert dance with a live band, and a lunch downtown.

The Pleasanton Senior Center also partners with agencies and business to provide services that include a weekday lunch program and Meals on Wheels (Spectrum Community Services), health screening and foot care (Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley), a Caregivers Support Group (Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley), free notary assistance (Lynne Stein Legal Documents), legal assistance for seniors, tax assistance (through AARP during tax season), AARP Mature Drive classes (offered quarterly), diabetes education (through Alameda County Health Department), a Parkinson's support group, a quarterly WHEELS transit counselor, and one-on-one

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> Feb 1, 2012 (Wed) - 10:00AM Tracy Civic Center Rm #203

added. "Neither is true. We have a sound petition and a sound fiscal plan."

He then told the Board that 1,130 students are currently enrolled in TVLC's two schools and another 1,251 are on the waiting list or have submitted intent to enroll forms. "A significant nummaintenance completed.

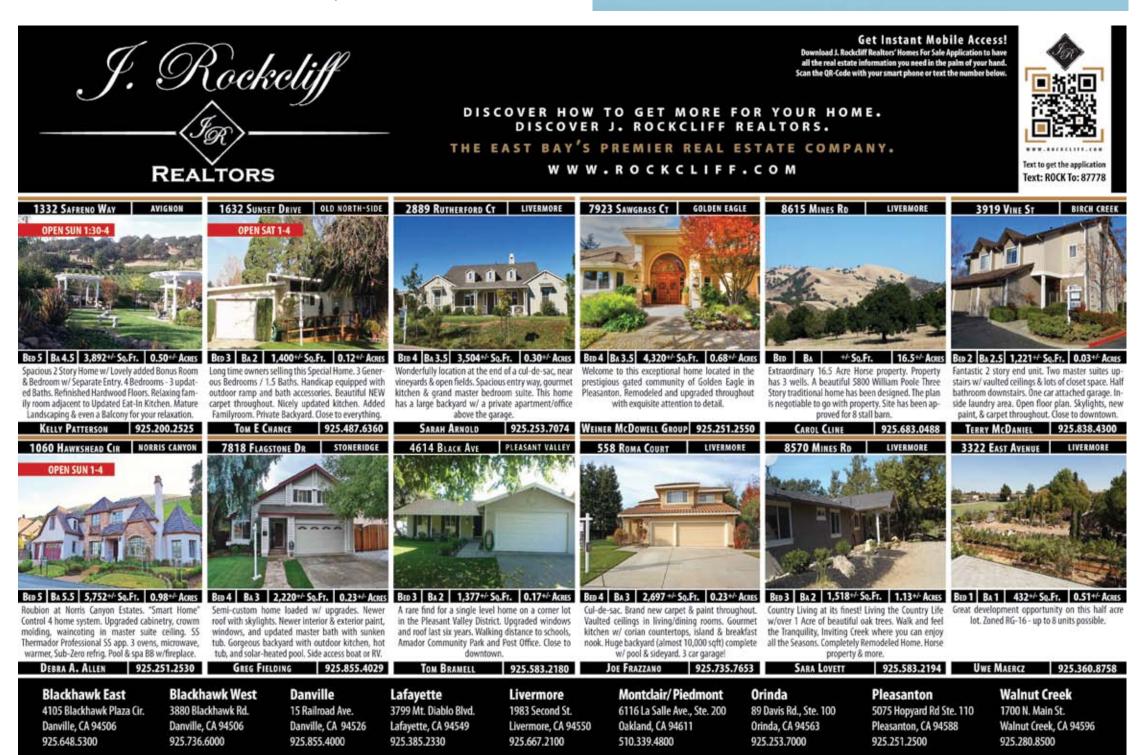
The Pleasanton Senior Center offers more than 25 classes each week, as well as the administration of the popular Pleasanton Paratransit Program, which provides door-to-door shared ride services for eligible Pleasanton and Sunol residents (60 years of

### 1-888-525-5111 www.NuclearCarePartners.com

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\*Upon Approval

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## **Bloomingdale's Outlet Signs Lease with Paragon**

Paragon Outlet Partners announced last week that Bloomingdale's Outlet will open an

lets Livermore Valley. Currently under construction, the center

anchor store at its Paragon Out- will celebrate its grand opening Valley, a 543,000 square foot in 2012. At Paragon Outlets Livermore

# VALLEY ROUNDUP

#### June Primary

The Presidential Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, June 5, 2012. Below is a list of important periods for candidates who plan to run for office.

Signatures-in-Lieu Period: December 30, 2011 – February 23, 2012: all voter-nominated candidates may obtain forms from county election officials for circulating petitions to secure signatures in lieu of all or part of the filing fee. Signatures may also be applied to the nomination signature requirements for office.

Nomination Period: February 13, 2012 - March 9, 2012: all candidates must file nomination documents and their declaration of candidacy for office.

For more information, contact the Registrar of Voters office at (510) 272-6933.

Local seats include Congressional District 15, represented by Pete Stark; State Senate District 7, represented by Mark DeSaulnier; and Assembly District 16, represented by Joan Buchanan. Three seats on the Zone 7 Water Board will be on the ballot with the terms of Sandy Figuers, Dick Quigley and Chris Moore expiring.

#### Increase in DUI Arrests

Final countywide DUI arrest figures are in for the 17-day Avoid the 21 DUI winter crackdown. They showed an 11 per cent rise with 849 compared with 763 last year. One person died in a DUI-related crash.

"We sent out hundreds of officers with their eyes peeled for DUI suspects," said Lt. Ava Garavatti of the Livermore police, who chairs the effort.

"While we would far rather educate people not to drink and drive in the first place, we're happy that we removed so many dangerous people from the street and highways. Every one of them could have been on the way to kill or injure someone," she remarked.

The crackdown began Dec. 16 and included a 200-officer team on opening night, a DUI action at an Oakland Raiders' game, a warrant sweep, sobriety checkpoints, maximum freeway enforcement by the CHP and in-city saturation patrols. Avoid the 21 will hit the streets again for Super

Bowl Sunday and again on St. Patrick's Day. The campaign is Alameda County's law

enforcement anti-DUI crackdown and is named after the number of police agencies in the county. The California Office of Traffic Safety funds it through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

#### SWAT Team Called Out

Officers from the Livermore Police Department discovered a stolen vehicle on January 8 in the driveway of 375 Elizabeth Court. Officers watched the vehicle while conducting a follow up investigation. During that investigation, officers learned that a wanted parolee, Eric Ontiveros (24), was possibly at the residence. Ontiveros was listed as armed and dangerous. He reportedly previously made statements concerning shooting it out with police.

Livermore Police officers surrounded the residence and called out the occupants. The call out was conducted in order to proceed with a probation search of two of the occupants. Ten persons exited the residence and were detained. During the call out, Ontiveros was seen by perimeter officers attempting to flee through the backyard. Upon being confronted, Ontiveros fled back inside the residence.

Officers asked for cooperation of the occupants to learn if Ontiveros were armed. They were uncooperative and refused to admit he was there at all. All ten occupants were later released.

The Livermore Police Department requested the assistance of the East Bay Regional Parks Police helicopter, "Eagle." Eagle arrived on scene and provided up to date intelligence to officers on the ground. After several attempts by both ground units and Eagle to call Ontiveros out of the residence with negative results, the East County (Livermore/Pleasanton) Tactical Team (SWAT) was activated. The East County Tactical Team began arriving at about 2:00 p.m. The Union City Police Department and the Newark Police Department also responded with special equipment to elevate officer and suspect safety.

Ultimately, through negotiations with CNT and the assistance of Ontiveros' mother, he agreed to surrender to officers. Ontiveros was taken into custody at about 4:20 p.m. He was booked at Santa Rita Jail under a parole hold with additional charges pending.

shopping destination serving the greater San Francisco area, Bloomingdale's Outlet will occupy a 25,000 square foot anchor location. It will join a collection of more than 120 top designer and name brands such as Barney's New York Outlet, Brooks Brothers Factory Store, Dooney & Bourke Factory Outlet, Elie Tahari, Etro, J.Crew, Michael Stars, Neiman Marcus Last Call, Saks Fifth Avenue OFF 5TH and St. John, among many more, when the outlet center opens in November.

"We are delighted Bloomingdale's Outlet has chosen to open new outlet stores with Paragon Outlet Partners," stated Principal Nicholas King. "We work to create well-tenanted shopping destinations where consumers have access to a world-class, robust mix of iconic brands. Welcoming our first set of Bloomingdale's Outlet stores into our tenant roster is a true testament to our ongoing mission."

For more information about Paragon Outlets properties, please contact Kelvin Antill with development inquiries and Nicholas King with leasing inquiries at 410.856.1818.



to allow sufficient time for the bicycle to clear. The new device is impervious to various weather conditions that can sometimes affect other traditionally used vehicle detection technologies.

The Intersector provides better service for bicyclists at intersections, without impacting service to motorized vehicle traffic. Intersectors have been installed at seven busy traffic intersections throughout Pleasanton and this improved alternative is now being considered for other locations in the city.

For additional information, including a video on how the Intersector operates, please visit www.pleasantontraffic.com.



Livermore Police Department recognized a community member with a "Saved By The Belt" award. On December 14, 2011, at 11:04 a.m., the Livermore Police Department was advised of an injury collision on Las Positas Road in front of the Target department store. When officers arrived on scene, they found a gray Ford Escape had rolled over and come to rest on its roof. The driver, Anne Quick of San Ramon, was still restrained in the car, hanging from her seatbelt. Mrs. Quick had been driving westbound on Las Positas Road when an errant driver pulled out in front of her from the Target driveway. The force of the two cars colliding sent Mrs. Quick's car spinning and rolling over. As a result of this collision, Mrs. Quick sustained lacerations and a fractured arm, but escaped major injury because she was using her lap and shoulder belt properly. Had Mrs. Quick not been wearing her seatbelt, she most likely would have been partially or fully ejected and would have sustained major or fatal injuries. On January 10, 2012, Livermore Police Chief Steve Sweeney recognized Anne Quick with the "Saved By The Belt" award for properly wearing her seatbelt and as a result, avoiding serious injury or death. During this presentation, Anne mentioned that she had been "Saved by the Belt" 13 years earlier when she was a passenger in a van that was hit head-on by a drunk driver. She is a strong proponent of wearing seat belts. Pictured are Officer Dave Boyes, Anne Quick and Police Chief Steve Sweeney.

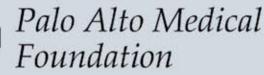


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# **EDITORIAL**

### Creating a Lasting Legacy

Don Miller, who is well known as a feisty defender of the environment, is also passionate about the arts. Jean King has been in the forefront of both environmental

preservation and promotion of the arts. It is hard to imagine what Livermore and the Valley would have become had it not been for the two of them.

Jean King served on the boards of the League of Women Voters, AAUW, Friends of the Vineyards; Del Valle Fine Arts, Livermore-Amador Symphony Association; and on the boards of Tri-Valley Conservancy, Livermore Commission for the Arts, and Livermore Cultural Arts Council. She was named Woman of the Year (2009) for the 15th Assembly District, for her leadership role in the arts and the environment. She was engaged in all of Livermore's battles to protect open space and the environment.

King was employed at Sandia Labs as a computer programmer and is an adjunct instructor at Las Positas College teaching mathematics.

It has been said that the Tri-Valley environmental movement was born in Miller's living room in the early 1960's. After helping to elect several like-minded citizens to Livermore's city council in 1972, he was instrumental in launching the SAVE initiative in Livermore, a measure that blocked development unless adequate services were identified. His efforts, and those of others, culminated in the adoption of the Alameda County urban growth boundary (UGB) in 2000 and the Livermore UGB two years later. The first threat to the UGB was rebuffed in 2005, when Miller and his allies defeated the Pardee Homes plan for 12,500 homes with the overwhelming support of 72 percent of Livermore voters.

Miller is the father of Livermore's efforts to protect the area's heritage with a ring of open space that surrounds the city. Thanks to him the rolling hills and valleys are home to vineyards, working ranches and wildlife.

He served as a city councilmember for eight years and mayor for one. Whether in office or out, his passion inspired others.

În the realm of the arts, Miller's role was extensive. He belonged to Cask and Mask, the original theater group in Livermore, and the board of Del Valle Fine Arts, which presents concerts featuring internationally known musicians. He is an accomplished pianist. He composed Centennial Rag, a ragtime piano tune, in celebration of Livermore's Centennial. He, along with a few others founded the Livermore Cultural Arts Council in the 1960's, which recognized him and King for their service at a ceremony last week.

As a Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory Ph.D. scientist from 1956 to retirement, he became known worldwide for his work in various aspects of thermodynamics and related fields.

Miller and King have created a legacy that will bless this Valley for generations.

### **Retirees Need Funds To Continue Lawsuit**

the University of California, is running short of money to pay its attorneys. It may not be able to proceed unless it raises another \$35,000 by March 1. To Joe Requa, who founded, organized and still leads the grass roots Retiree Group, having to end the nearly two-year legal effort would be a bitter pill to swallow so soon after encouraging legal news from a parallel lawsuit by Orange County retirees.

The Livermore Laboratory that began in 1952 and ended at Retiree Group, which is suing to the beginning of 2008, when a regain medical coverage through for-profit contractor took over Laboratory management. The new contractor, Lawrence Livermore National Security, offers medical insurance that is consistent with industrial standards, which the retirees say they find more complicated and less attuned to retiree interests and needs than the university system used to be for them – and still is for retirees from UC campuses. Many Laboratory retirees also fear they may be vulnerable to future cuts by an indifferent management if the Lab's contract changes again.

# Changes Big and Small May Be **Ahead for Developer School Fees**

#### By Ron McNicoll

Developer fees for new school construction continue to be in the news.

On the micro scale of things, the Pleasanton school district will be billing two new homeowners for a shortfall in their payments because of an apparent staff error in collecting the fees.

They paid only \$2.97, the statewide minimum capped payment at level 1 school fees, instead of the \$8.62 the previous developer gift fee, which was lowered Dec. 13 to \$6.74 by unanimous board action.

That fee of \$2.97 was a strong contrast to others building homes in the Serenity Terrace development, who were charged the \$8.62. Those two homeowners, David De Bonis and Sushil Shah, have received refunds. Both voiced their opinions at the school board meeting Dec. 13. They said they feel they should pay \$2.97. They claim the state statutes don't support charging

any amount over that.

On the macro scale, the new budget proposal from Gov. Jerry Brown would eliminate all level 3 fees that districts are allowed to charge developers to mitigate impacts that may require the construction of new schools.

The state allows three levels of school fees. Level 1 is capped at \$2.97, level 2 is capped at \$4.91 cents. Level 3 has no cap.

If Brown has his way, the highest fee a district could charge would be \$4.91. The reasoning behind Brown's thinking is that he wants to developers to support the next statewide school construction bond drive, said Ron Bennett, president of School Services of California, which gives state budget information to the Pleasanton district and many other clients in the state.

Pleasanton implement a gift fee agreement in 2001, when five developers signed it. Since then, the district has raised the fee regularly, in relation to the

#### projected need.

However, the fee, which basically is an amount tacked on above the \$2.97 level 1 fee, is a gift. It's voluntary, said assistant superintendent Luz Cázares.

Cázares view of the fee is consistent with the district's position since 2001, which was before she came to the district.

It's not clear where Pleasanton would stand if Brown succeeds in capping the fee at \$4.91. The district has never called the fee a level 3 fee, but has always called it a gift fee. However, the fact there has been no ceiling on level 3 apparently supports the \$6.74 that the district now is charging.

The fee justification study is based on simple math. A demographer charts projected population. The necessary school square footage is determined based on the projection, as is the size of home construction. The fee is based on square footage of homes constructed.

Pleasanton's gift fee agree- over the gift fee agreement.

ment has been charged to small developers as well as larger one. The district has said the small developers bought lots from earlier signatories of the fee agreement.

In De Bonis's issue with the school district, Cázares sent an e-mail to DeBonis on April 29, 2011. It said that TTK, an earlier developer in Serenity Terrace, accepted a condition which called for the gift fee. That lot went to De Bonis, so he has the obligation to pay the gift fee, said Cázares.

De Bonis maintained to the Independent that without seeing any document that TTK signed, he is not convinced that there is an obligation.

Although De Bonis and Shah paid the \$8.62, they did so only to obtain building permits, they said. They still believe they are owed the difference down to \$2.97.

There has never been a suit

#### REZONINGS (continued from page one)

property for housing to accommodate all income levels as part of a litigation settlement with Urban Habitat and the State of California.

Urban Habitat had sued the city and won in regard to its complaints that Pleasanton's 29,000 housing cap prevented Pleasanton from providing its share of the area's affordable housing. The courts agreed with Urban Habitat and ordered Pleasanton to remove the cap. The state's lawsuit claimed that lack of affordable housing contributed to greenhouse gases, because workers had to commute to jobs in Pleasanton.

Under the settlement, the final Housing Element must be approved by February 13. It would then be sent to California Housing and Community Development (HCD) for certification.

Although the city, itself, will not build any housing, the rezoning will enable developers to have an easier time in obtaining permits for multi-family, twoand three-story developments.

Director of Community Development Brian Dolan explained fied.

regarding mitigation of water and traffic. Development would be subject to growth management to ensure the development is consistent with existing infrastructure. Councilmember Cheryl Cook-

Kallio objected to the proposed mitigation to deal with loss of historic resources. She said that taking a photograph, "doesn't do it for me." She wanted to add a provision that historic buildings could be moved.

Fialho said that wording could be added indicating that mitigation would reflect the recommendations of the Historic Task Force. The task force has just begun its work to develop guidelines for historic preservation in the city.

The extension of El Charro to Stanley Boulevard and I-580 was included as a mitigation for regional road impacts.

One of the major concerns was the impact on schools. Staff was directed to add wording that stated that the city recognized the significance of the impacts and would work with the school

ordinance is a big issue. She suggested that inclusionary requirements be raised above 15 percent. "Without that change, there is no way the city could meet its low income numbers without approving thousands and thousands of units." Dennis also noted that if infrastructure constraints were to be used as a growth management tool, there is a need to identify how the city would meet its infrastructure needs to accommodate growth.

Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce executive director Scott Raty called the housing plan "thoughtful and comprehensive. It is a body of work that will meet the need for workforce housing in the city." He supported adding the extra housing in the plan. He said that rezoning does not guarantee construction. There is a review process that assures that Pleasanton will retain control.

Stacey Borsody, a member of the Housing Element Task Force, did not support rezoning for a surplus of units. "I understand the risk of sites being rejected by the state." However, she wondered what the impact would be on

The new housing elements would be due in 2014.

Fialho said that the 18 month timeline proposed by the planning commission to complete the eastside plan is too short a time, given other work the staff is undertaking. He suggested that it would be appropriate for the council to discuss a process. "We will look at expediting the process given all the variables and staff workload."

In discussing the final housing element, each councilmember said that while it had been a good process, they weren't necessarily pleased with the results.

Sullivan said, "I'm not 100 percent happy with any of this. There are sites that should not be listed, some have too many units, some too few, some sites should have been kept. However, at the end, it was a good process and I can support the plan.'

Jerry Thorne said he believes there is a general misunderstanding of the process. "It has nothing to do with local land use planning. The state and ABAG determine the number of units and income levels and where housing

Wording was added to the EIR

In the Orange County case, the California Supreme Court ruled two months ago that an implied contract may exist requiring a public agency to continue providing benefits to its retirees even without a written contract.

The existence of an enforceable implied contract was a big part of what the Lab retirees were trying to prove in their legal effort to make UC take them back into its medical programs.

Because of the Orange County ruling, Requa wrote in an email last week, he is "much more optimistic about winning our appeal" of a decision by Superior Court Judge Frank Roesch to deny the retiree demands.

However, it won't happen for free, he said. Attorneys for the UC Livermore Retiree Group are asking a "\$75,000 flat fee for the appeal and we have only \$40,000." Thus, the group needs to raise an additional \$35,000.

"Our attorneys have been generous and gracious in helping us. However, they are professionals running a business and we have to pay them," Requa added.

Lawrence Livermore National Lab employees and retirees received UC group health coverage under a succession of contracts

At the time of the contract change, another retiree organization already existed, the LLNL Retiree Association.

The Retiree Association was forbidden to engage in legal or political action. So Requa and other retirees formed their own loose group to try to restore retired Lab employees to University medical programs.

When their first, informal efforts were rebuffed, they created the UC Livermore Retiree Group and a legal defense fund, raised tens of thousand of dollars, hired attorneys and filed suit.

Now, facing the possibility of running out of money, Requa said the group's attorneys may have other legal options such as filing a class action suit to collect damages, but that these may not be as beneficial to us and may be unacceptable.

He believes the suit should proceed and hopes the money will be available to do so.

Those who wish to contribute may send checks to the UCLRG Legal Defense Fund at 1144 Xavier Way, Livermore 94550.

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that approving more housing than required provides a cushion if HCD were to raise concerns about any of the sites selected for rezoning. The city's inclusionary regulation would mean that some of the units would have price restrictions.

Originally, a task force had recommended a list of properties totaling 111 acres. Some of the criteria used to select the final fifteen sites were geographic distribution, concentration of previous high density housing, existing utility and street access, access to transit, a freeway, or a job center. Two sites on the eastside were removed from the list with the idea they would be considered for development once a new eastside specific plan were in place.

The SEIR identified impacts that could arise as a result of the new development numbers. Among them were the potential to change adversely historic resources, Traffic, schools and water were other issues identidistrict to resolve the issues. For instance, the city could deal with potential sites for a new elementary school.

School board member Valerie Arkin, speaking for herself, said that the district is moving forward with a new demographic report. The schools are overcrowded. The loss of the housing cap, and adding additional units will impact the schools significantly.

Dolan pointed out that the city is prohibited by state law from using school overcrowding to delay development.

Most of the comments about rezoning were about development on the eastside. Two property owners in the area, who had their lands removed from consideration for rezoning, asked that the council approve a planning commission recommendation that the eastside specific plan be completed by the second quarter of 2013.

Becky Dennis, speaking for Citizens for a Caring Community, said that the inclusionary the community. "The housing may not be built right away. But it could be approved before the infrastructure is in place to support the growth."

Councilmembers added their comments to the eastside future. Cook-Kallo said that it was imperative to look at the planning commission recommendation regarding the eastside specific plan, which calls for completion of the plan by the third quarter of 2013. It would allow the city to control the destiny of the land. She said that she wanted to avoid a situation in which the city would be presented with deadlines by outside agencies.

Mayor Jennifer Hosterman suggested that staff come back with a timeline for the eastside specific plan, as well as a proposed make-up of a task force.

Councilmember Matt Sullivan said he did not want to move ahead with any rezonings before the new regional housing numbers for the city were assigned by ABAG.

should be built. There is little local land use planning ability left." He suggested residents complain to state representatives about the loss of local control.

Cook-Kallio wanted to reassure people who have sent in comments complaining about low income people moving into the housing. She explained that income levels are based on a percentage of the average income of this community. A resident will be a senior on a fixed income, a single retail clerk, or a secretary who is a single mom with two kids. "There is not one of us who didn't live in an apartment such as those proposed when we got out of college and went to work," Cook-Kallio stated.

Hosterman declared, "It's not a perfect plan. But it moves us into the position of being in compliance with our housing element. It has been a crazy, crazy exercise unlike one any other city in California has gone through. Staff has kept us to a timeline. The result is one we can live with."

# 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. Abusive letters may be rejected or edited. Frequent letter writers may have publication of their letters delayed. Letters should be submitted by e-mail to editmail@compuserve.com.)

#### **Help for Seniors Jack Dove**

Pleasanton

For all retired citizens, there are many things that have changed in our lives. We see more doctors, change our diets, have difficulty

driving and, in many ways, need help from others.

All of us forget sometimes to acknowledge the help we get from others. Here in Pleasanton we are blessed to have a Senior Center and a Senior Support Program, which are staffed by unusually dedicated staffs and a large number of volunteers.

Wheels buses serve us very well, but they are not organized to attend to the many needs of individuals. (This is not meant as criticism of Wheels, which does very well what they are chartered to do.)

Pam Deaton, manager of the Senior Center, has organized the Downtown Route, which provides rides to seniors to hospitals, supermarkets, the mall

and large number of other places requested by seniors. All of this is for \$1.50 per day. In addition to this service, there are specially equipped paratransit vans that take seniors to dialysis, doctors' offices, etc.

I would hope your readers would make themselves aware of how they can use these excellent services. Those seeking schedules or more information can stop by the Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., or call 931-5376.

#### Congress Eric Swalwell **Dublin City Council**

A commuter rides BART to Livermore Station at the end of the workday, looking out the window at vineyards along I-580.

A family sits down for a show at the Regional Performance Arts Theater. A young college graduate takes her first job in the Green Valley for an established renewable energy firm. And a hiker stands atop the Pleasanton Ridge and looks out at Livermore and Dublin and sees an abundance of open space.

Have I lost my mind or sense of reality? No. This is my vision for the Tri-Valley. It can happen, but it will require leadership and engagement from the Tri-Valley's next Member of Congress.

The Tri-Valley, just like the times, is a changin'. Fortunately, most of the changes can be for the benefit of all. How do we make this vision a reality? We must

### STATE BUDGET (continued from page one)

for balancing in FY2012/13 is a combination of more cuts and revenue from increased taxes, which he would put before the voters in November.

If the tax increases are not approved, then more cuts will come, said Brown. Some \$1.5 billion of cutting, by far the most, would occur in k-12 eduction.

Brown is leaving the choice on taxation up to voters.

Brown's budget is only a proposal. He will be revising it in May, after the Legislature's members indicate what they want to see in it, and the public has given its comments. The Legislature has until June 30 to pass its version of the budget. That actually happened last year. In recent years, the budget had been late.

There was a range of reaction in the Valley to Brown's announced budget. A proposed cut in Medi-Cal of about \$842 million came as a big surprise to Axis Community Health, said CEO Sue Compton.

The crucial part of it for AXIS and other community health centers is reimbursement dollars from the state and federal governments.

Community health centers have more expenses with Medi-Cal patients than do private physicians, said Compton. "We undertake case management, translation services, enroll people in the system and apply for MediCal, so we receive some level of compensation above (that for a doctor's office).'

Brown is proposing to replace the current system with a "bundled payment model," which could translate into less money for each patient.

Compton is not able to compute any numbers now, because of the lack of information. In general, the clinics would be receiving less money per patient. Further, the tough economic times are sending more people to the clinic, adding more economic squeeze to AXIS.

The state would need federal permission to make changes in Medi-Cal, something that Brown acknowledged in his speech.

Health clinics around the state will also be trying hard to ensure that kids don't lose out in another Brown proposal. The governor wants to shift coverage away from the Healthy Families insurance program to Medi-Cal. Clinics want to make sure that no clients would be lost, if that were to happen.

#### **SCHOOL OFFICIALS OFFER COMMENTS**

School district officials in Pleasanton and Livermore have not had much time yet to analyze the budget, but they had some comments.

Pleasanton assistant superintendent Luz Cázares said that the budget for the current year "was irresponsible when it came to triggers, and next year's is just worse." The triggers are the points where cuts are automatically triggered if not enough revenue comes to the state.

"They need to figure out the budget, and give us numbers to work with. Whether they are trying to scare taxpayers, or motivate them, it's not a good way for the state to function," said Cázares.

The district doesn't provide the state direct input, but speaks through professional organizations at the state level, said Cázares.

In Livermore, chief business official Susan Kinder said it's too early to tell what impact the budget would have on the district.

One important change in the budget involves the creation of block grants that would offer local districts more flexibility on spending.

On k-3 class size reduction, districts have been paying a penalty in recent years. The more children above the 20:1 ratio, at certain incremental levels, the less state subsidy money they receive.

Under Brown's budget, the district "just receives the money, no matter how many students you have (in a class)", said Kinder. The key there is how big the block grant would be. If it were enough to support 25:1, which is a shade over Livermore's current ratio, then the district can stick

with that. If it's more money, the ratio can go down, and if it were less money, the number of students per class would go up.

The state budget does not have much effect on LARPD, said district finance manager Don Humphrey. Changes could have some effect on a couple of programs,

including child care. However, Humphrey isn't concerned about the state budget until the May revision, when the LARPD budget numbers are better known.

What most concerns Humphrey on fiscal planning is learning how much money will come

from property taxes. So far the news is good, in that there has not been any dip in assessed valuation from July through December.

As for recreation programs, the district has been able to pay for them with user fees.

entertainment also attracts em-

ployers. With the State Legis-

# MAILBOX

#### (continued from page 4)

approach this vision comprehensively, not in silos. First, we must strive to be the region that researches and develops "free green electrons." To achieve this, the next Member of Congress must find federal dollars to support I-GATE (the Green Advanced Transportation Excellence), a project whose hub is in Livermore. If successful, I-GATE will provide over 5,000 new green jobs in solar and renewable energy in five years. We must also continue to support energy projects at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, like the National Ignition Facility's atomic fusion project. With more federal funding and support, we can transform the Livermore Valley into the Green Valley, an international capital of green energy technology.

How do we attract scientists and good-paying jobs? Employers go to destination points. Destination points offer culture and tourism opportunities. Expanding the wine region beyond Livermore and into Dublin is a real opportunity to grow the region. As a councilman in Dublin, I suggested and my colleagues voted to create a Wine Connectivity Committee to find opportunities to bring vineyards to our Eastern Hills, where we can have more grapes and less growth. I will encourage the use of federal small business loans and local incentives to entice winemakers to Dublin and will work toward the day that I-580 in Dublin is lined with vineyards, a natural gateway to Livermore Valley Wine Country.

Offering cultural arts and

lature stealing redevelopment money away from local agencies to support their own wasteful spending, projects like Regional Performance Arts Theater will have to look elsewhere for funding dollars. The next Member of Congress in this area must actively help projects like the theater become a reality. Funding a regional theater is more than an investment in arts and culture - it spurs development in the area and attracts employers who create jobs. Finally, we need a cham-

pion in Congress for BART to Livermore. Although much of the funding will come from the Alameda County Transportation Commission, federal funds will be needed if this long-promised project is going to happen. The next Member of Congress cannot be a passive participant in this endeavor. We need a leader who will fight every day at the federal level to find funding for this project.

This vision is within reach. But it will not happen with an absentee Member of Congress who doesn't understand the issues. To understand this area's needs and fulfill this vision, the next Member of Congress for the Tri-Valley must be deeply rooted here and ready to roll up their sleeves and get to work.



33 Mohr Ave., #E, Pleasanton (925) 417-88

**Council Told Livermore Finances Are on the Upswing** The Livermore City Council tures in the coming fiscal year. \$4 million for two subsequent

received a report on the status of the city's finances during its meeting on Monday.

City Manager Marc Roberts told the council, "The great news is things have stopped getting worse. Most major revenue areas are not dropping, although property taxes are projected to drop some. Overall, revenues over the next year will stabilize and go up slightly. The bad news is that costs will go up faster."

Roberts said he expected the city's income to match expendiThat would be contingent on plans, such as the construction of the Paragon Outlet Center, moving forward as predicted.

Roberts added that if the council wants to spend more in one area, it will need to offset that by reducing spending in another.

He believes that the city is in a very strong position, because of its reserves, which are about \$14 million.

Over the past several years, the city has had to dip into its reserves, \$5 million the first year, years, and last year \$1 million. That was possible because reserves had been built up in previous years, including the establishment of a fund to deal with economic downturns.

New councilmember Laureen Turner commented, "It was a great report, down and dirty, easy to understand.'

Councilmember Bob Woerner, who was sworn in earlier in the evening, added that the report shows there has been good management of city finances.

Woerner and Turner both suggested placing the report on-line for the public to view. Woener asked if remarks made by Roberts and Assistant City Manager Troy Brown could be included.

The report notes that 2008 to 2010 ranks as one of the most challenging financial periods in memory for California cities. The effect of the recession cut deeply into Livermore's ability to fund services. The budget decreased by 15 percent, from \$81.6 million to \$69.7 million. The city reduced spending, services levels, offered

an employee separation program and instituted layoffs. Roberts noted that every employee group stepped forward to help the city reduce its costs. He explained that they did not have to do so, as there were negotiated, signed contracts in place.

While no core services were cut, services were reduced. The city dipped into its reserves to help maintain a balanced budget.

It also underfunded long term liabilities, including reduced contributions to operating reserves, retiree benefits, fleet replacement, and facilities maintenance and replacement. The cuts are not sustainable. Roberts said that that practice cannot continue. "The council will have to continue to take tough steps to create a sustainable position.'

# REDEVELOPMENT

(continued from page one)

owntown businesses, housing

a trust fund. Pomidor said that there is a six month window to wind down the activities. During that time, there is the potential for relief through the legislature. City Manager Marc Roberts added that the city would not want to move forward too quickly in taking actions that diminish the public value of assets. That could happen with the legislation that dissolved the agency. Councilmember Doug Horner commented that he did not want to expedite the process of dissolving the RDA. "We should dig in our heels and hold onto every dollar we can. It took years to assemble land and financing and to find a developer to build affordable housing. Projects were close to fruition. I hope we can find relief and be able to build projects in the downtown." Earlier in the council meeting, Gary discussed a two year report on the past activities of the RDA, stating, "We all forget the breadth of projects brought to the downtown for economic revitalization." He suggested placing the information online.

the loss of RDA. These include entity, and a former redevelop- obligations will be made out of were the regional theater and Livermore Village Housing proj ect. Entitlements were approved and a building permit issued for the 2000 seat regional theater. A project to be built in conjunction with the regional theater is the Livermore Village, which calls for 200 units of residential housing. The city received a \$2.5 million grant from MTC to construct roadway and utility improvements for the Livermore Village site.

advocates, and the city's economic plans.

There is a January 13 deadline to name a successor agency. If Livermore had not chosen to take on the role, another taxing agency could have presented Alameda County with a resolution asking to take over the agency's taxes and assets.

City Attorney John Pomidor noted, "The city as the successor agency will be able to protect the city's interests as completely and prudently as possible.'

The successor agency will be responsible for paying off existing debts by disposing of the former RDA's properties and assets or using tax increment funds until debts are paid off. Revenues will also be paid to local government entities that receive property taxes.

The affordable housing assets, other than the existing housing fund balance, will be turned over to the successor agency, which will continue to perform affordable housing activities. The housing fund balance will be used to repay existing housing fund debts and/or given to the county auditor/controller for distribution to other taxing entities.

A board will be appointed to oversee the activities of the successor agency. It will be comprised of seven members appointed by and representing the County Board of Supervisors (2 members), and one member each for the mayor, county superintendent of education, Chancellor of California Community Colleges, the largest special district taxing

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ment agency employ ee appointed by the mayor/board of supervisors.

Taking over the role of successor agency does not expose the city's general fund to liability in discharging the obligations of the former RDA. Subject to approval of the oversight board and if other funds were available for administration, the successor agency can receive an annual operating budget to defray its administrative costs of up to five percent of the property tax allocated to the successor agency the first year and up to three percent of the property tax for each succeeding fiscal year. The annual amount available for administrative costs would be a minimum of \$250,000.

Pomidor said that many questions are still to be answered concerning the impact of state legislation. He said that one thing that is clear is the loss of practical control over the city's affordable housing program.

There are several more steps ahead in winding down the RDA. On March 1, enforceable obligations for commitments made prior to the legislation will be submitted to the oversight board, which will determine which projects qualify to receive future tax increment funds. On July 1, there will be an audit of the dissolved RDA. Payments for approved

The report covers the period from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011. The state's legislation to eliminate redevelopment agencies took place after the timeframe covered by the report.

Projects that moved forward



The RDA purchased a 2.5 acre site on Chestnut Street with the purpose of redeveloping it for affordable housing in conjunction with a contiguous 2-acre parcel under the city's control through an inclusionary housing agreement with O'Brien Homes.

The inventory of low and moderate income housing financed through redevelopment includes five projects that total 234 units of rental, assisted living, and ownership housing.



Ladies Night @ Casbah Café Wednesday, January 18 • 5-8 PM Champagne 1/2 Price, Music & Dancing Join us for a FREE belly dancing lesson & raffle drawing. Reservation Required.



1770 First St. Livermore, CA 94550 (925) 243-1477 Next to Vine Theater www.casbahexotic.com



The City of Livermore invites applications for membership on the

#### PLANNING COMMISSION

The Planning Commission advises the City Council on the adoption and on-going review of the General Plan for the physical growth of the City. The Plan, in conjunction with the Development Code, guides the general location of future public facilities, private buildings and improvements.

The Commission has specific responsibilities in the administration of the Development Code, including decisions or recommendations on subdivision of lands and other development projects. The Commission is also responsible for ensuring development projects meet the City's Design Standards and Guidelines.

In addition, the Commission promotes public interest in planning and encourages citizen participation in the formulation of land use policies. The members also acquaint the public with problems and solutions relating to the local physical environment.

Prior to appointment to the Planning Commission, applicants are required to have attended at least one meeting of the Planning Commission. The next meeting of the Planning Commission will be January 17, 2012 at 7:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, 3575 Pacific Avenue, Livermore. Applicants must be a resident of the City of Livermore.

Applications can be obtained at the City Clerk's Office, 1052 S. Livermore Avenue, downloaded from www.cityoflivermore.net or by calling 960-4200 (TDD 960-4014).

> Applications are due to the City Clerk's Office no later than Friday, January 20, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.

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### **Restored Seagrave Featured at Duarte Garage Open House**





Both adults and children took part in the annual polar bear slide

last week at the Robert Livermore Community Center. The event

is hosted by the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District

each January.

Ralph Newman applies details to the 1920 Seagrave pumper. Details are shown in the two small photos.

Photos - Doug Jorgensen



The 1915 Duarte Garage on the Lincoln Highway located at the corner of North L St. & Portola Ave, will be open this Sunday, January 15 from 10 am - 2 pm. The museum is operated by the Livermore Heritage Guild.

Featured this month is Livermore's first commercial fire engine, a 1920 Seagrave pumper, which is rapidly nearing completion after 10,000 hours of restoration work. Photos show Ralph Newman, www.realralph.com, from Boulder Creek, CA, applying 'details' to the fire engine's brilliant red paint that was donated by Livermore Tri-Valley Auto Body. The intricate filigree designs were created by Randy Jennings who very closely duplicated the original artwork which was on the fire engine when it was first delivered to Livermore, from Columbus, Ohio.

The entire restoration was sponsored by the Livermore Heritage Guild with in-kind donations of over \$25,000 from local businesses and individuals. A volunteer staff of 14 working and retired engineers, technologists, and antique car enthusiasts have done a magnificent job of bringing this Livermore treasure back to life.



# **Fund-Raiser for Autism Team**

CAST, a Livermore nonprofit organization that helps autistic children and their families, will benefit from a crab feed and fund-raiser at Livermore's Shrine Event Center on Friday, January 20.

The event is White Crane Winery's 10th annual crab feed. A portion of sales will go to CAST.

Photo - Doug Jorgensen

The Shrine Center is located at 170 Lindbergh Avenue. The fund-raiser will include dinner, live music and dancing. Dinner will be from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. followed by a half-bour auction, with music and dancing until 11.

Tickets, available at www. whitecranewinery.com, cost \$45 plus tax and tip. There will also be a cash bar.

CAST, for Creative Autism Solutions Team, was established in Livermore to help families raising autistic children as well as the children themselves. It is developing a guide to Bay Area autism resources and a mentoring program for newly diagnosed autism families. When possible, it tries to consolidate activities and resources so that parents don't have to drive all over the Bay Area to find them.

Its programs and classes have emphasized the developmental benefits of mixing autistic with "neurotypical" children so that all the children grow in a more complete, tolerant and supportive environment.

More information about CAST is available at 925-784-1537.

White Crane Winery, which is sponsoring the fund-raiser, is located at 5405 Greenville Road, Livermore. Tasting room hours are noon to 4:30, Thursday through Monday.



See The Tri-Valley's Most Complete Online Interactive Calendar To See What's Happening In Your Community.



For 48 years, *The Independent* has received and printed the most arts and community events notices of any newspaper. Now you can see them online. *The Independent's* Online Events Calendars help you know all of the *Community* and *Cultural Arts* events going on this week, this month and this year. You can even submit and update your events, too! In addition, calendars have links to 41 cultural arts and 179 community websites from the movies and performing arts sites, to local governments, wineries and churches all within reach of your fingertips.

See what's happening in your community at www.independentnews.com

# SPORTS NOTES

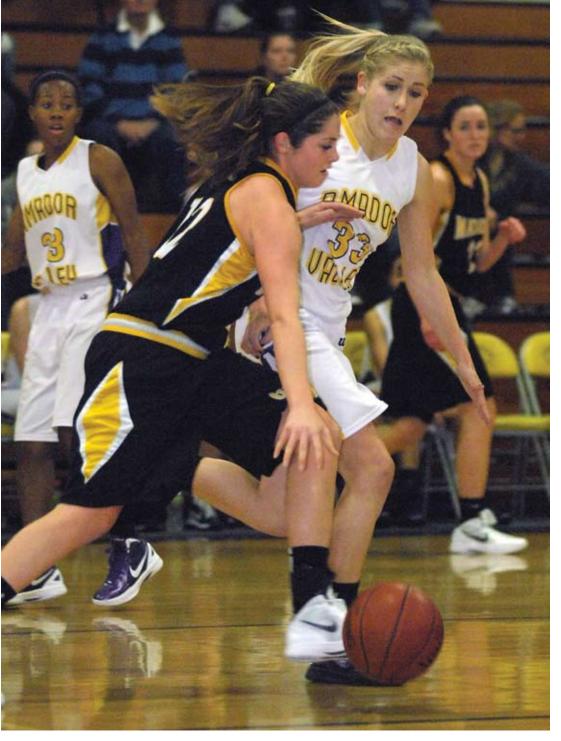


#### Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Granada High School men's varsity basketball team defeated Amador Valley 58 to 57 in overtime. The win improved Granada's record to 10-3 for the season. Going up for the rebound are Amador's Robert Lewis (33) and Granada's Devin DeBrum (23), while watching the action are Zac Liu (25) and Kory Kiviharju (42).



The Headfirst Gamers 13U baseball team wrapped up the Fall Season by going undefeated in their final tournament of 2011 at Twin Creeks. With three wins and a tie the Gamers were the number one seed going into the Championship game. The Championship game against the East Bay Rays was a battle into the 5<sup>th</sup> inning when Russell Stevenson hit a two-run RBI single into right field giving the Gamers a 4-3 lead. From there, the Gamers continued to add to their lead winning the Championship game by a final score of 10-3. Russell Stevenson was named the MVP of the tournament. For the Fall season the Gamers 13U team entered eight tournaments of which they won five championships and placed second in two others. Pictured are (back row, left to right): Matt Barazza, James Cowick, Manager -George Athan, Justin Seever, Michael Koidal; (middle row, left to right): Lucas Botto, Russell Stevenson, Chase Godi, Andrew Cabral (front row, left to right): Cole Torquemada, Blake Staniford (not in picture: Tanner Wright).

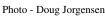


up and out into Taylor's hands. As Taylor releases the ball, the buzzer blasts through the air, the ball taps the rim....and falls in this time. STOMP! team beat St. Joan, 18-17. Taylor scored half of the team's points, but as every single basket had to count, STOMP! wouldn't have won if everyone didn't contribute. Rounding out the victory were Chloe and Haley King, Lexi Shezifi, LeRhae Sanders, and Angelina Mouser for a basket each. LeRhae's defensive efforts put a huge cramp in St. Joan's offense. LeRhae's game landed her in the record books. She had a the best game of her rookie season with 7 steals, 3 assists and brought the fouls down to zero. The defense and hustle put forth by Jessica Stahl and Robyn Kammeier were too much for St. Joan to penetrate as they combined for 10 rebounds and multiple blocked shots. Chloe and Haley also pulled down 5 rebounds and 3 steals, while, Forward, Shannon Meyer, came out of nowhere and shut down all shooting at the post position to help secure the win.

On Saturday, SM/SC CYO 5th grade boys, the Gladiators, were outscored by St. Isidore 20-14. Scoring for St. Isidore were Nathan Garcia with eight points and Gabriel Wood with four. Defensive standouts were Caden Stewart and Nathan Garcia. For the Gladiators, Logan Finch scored six points and Connor Livingston four points. Colton Morlan and Ian Partridge led the Gladiators defensively with excellent rebounding. On Sunday, SM/SC CYO, the Gladi-

On Sunday, SM/SC CYO, the Gladiators, in a nail-biter of a game, were defeated by St. Joan of Arc, 31-24. For St. Joan, Braine Sales was lead scorer with 14 points, and Jacob Swiersta scored seven. For the Gladiators, Logan Finch, Connor (continued on page 9)





Amador Valley High School's Kathleen Wagner (33) and Blair Guilfoile (3) attempt to block a Granada High player's drive to the basket during last week's EBAL matchup. Granada came away with a 42 to 43 win, with 26 of the points scored at the foul line.

#### CYO Basketball

The St. Michael/St. Charles (SM/SC) 6th grade Warriors were looking forward to getting back on the court against Catho-lic Community of Pleasanton (CCOP) after the two-week holiday break from CYO basketball. The Warriors scored 4 quick points after the tipoff. By the end of the first quarter, they were ahead 8-5. However, CCOP penetrated the Warrior defense under the basket in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. and tied the score 10-10 going into the half. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, the Warriors' perimeter shooting came alive, and they were more active with rebounding on both ends of the court. As a result, the Warriors were up 19-13 at the half. All aspects of their game came together in the  $4^{th}$  quarter, with the defense allowing CCOP 6 more nts, while the Warriors offense kept the intensity. The final score was 25-19, giving the Warriors their second win of the season. Riley Van Trease netted 10 points and collected 7 rebounds. Tyler Langowski contributed 6 points

38% of her shots, grabbing 5 rebounds, 3 steals, 3 blocks and sinking 6 points. Right on Kate's heels, power forward Aliyah Barone recorded 13 attempts, 6 points, 8 rebounds, a steal and an assist in keeping the Flyers ahead of their opponents the entire game. Point guards, Big and Little Maddy, scored a basket each and combined for 6 steals. Katherine Gomez dropped in the final 5 points as the Flyers continued to climb the ladder looking for a playoff berth for the second straight year.

The 7th grade girls STOMP! team fought hard for every point against a very evenly matched St. Joan team. A 1 point game in the 1st quarter, turned in to a 3 point lead for STOMP! at the half. They bumped it up to a 4 point spread at the end



The City of Livermore is currently accepting applications for the position of

#### **CITY HISTORIAN**

The role of the City Historian is to increase public awareness of the history of the City and community of Livermore. The duties may include:

- · Making presentations to organizations and social groups
- Developing an education program for schools, including history walks
- Preparing and teaching adult education courses in local and regional history
- Providing articles on local history topics for publication in local media
- Assisting and providing resources to the City's Historic Preservation Commission
- · Supporting the endeavors of the local historical society

The person appointed to this volunteer position will serve a

The SM/SC 6th grade Flyers faced a tough battle under the hoop against St. Isidore but in the end prevailed, 19-12. Center, Kate Marcel, was on fire sinking

of the 3rd before St. Joan took over in the 4th and led by 1 with only 3 minutes left. STOMP down by 1 couldn't seem to find the rim as the seconds tick away. They were left with 11.4 seconds to move the ball 96' and make it count. The full-court press is on as LeRhae Sanders passes to Shannon Meyer. Shannon drives the ball hard down the floor and finds center, Taylor Peterson. Only 2.8 seconds left as ithe ball hits the rim and bounces straight applicants will have experience presenting local historical information to community groups, teaching courses in local and regional history to students at a school or community classes, or be affiliated with an organization associated with the advancement of the history of Livermore.

Applications can be obtained from the City Clerk's Office at 1052 South Livermore Avenue, downloaded from www.cityoflivermore.net, or by calling (925) 960-4200. The deadline to apply for this position is **January 20, 2012**.

(925) 525.0116  $\mathcal{A}$ MaxdeVries10@gmail.com CA DRE #01373199 .J. Rockeliff ries C d е o m Your Preferred Realtor® REALTORS **2012 IS HERE! READY TO SELL?** Just Contact Me, Max • Max is a Full-Time Resident and REALTOR<sup>®</sup> in Livermore. Max has Successfully Completed many Transactions in Livermore. Max Knows and Understands the Livermore Market like no other. Max will Present and Market Your Home to Buyers like no Other. Max Continues to Make Commitments to the Livermore Community.



### COMING SOON

Duet in North Livermore, walking distance to the Lab. Great opportunity for first time buyers or an investment property. 2 Bd/ 2 Ba with 1,000+/- sq ft and 2 Car Garage & Fireplace. CALL MAX FOR MORE INFORMATION.



### NEW PRICE

#### 3056 RIVERS BEND CIR ARROY

Large executive home, possible 5th bedroom. Property has a gourmet kitchen with granite counters, stainless steel appliances, upgraded kitchen cabinets. formal dining room, master suite with marble bathroom, plantation shutters throughout. full bed/bathroom downstairs. 4 Bd/ 3 Ba with 2,878+/- sq ft and 0.12+/- sq ft lot. CALL FOR PRICE AND APPOINTMENT TO PREVIEW.

# Salon Lifts Some of Poetry's **Mysterious Veil**

#### By Ron McNicoll

Carrie McAbee enjoyed reading poetry in The New Yorker. Although she liked the poems, she didn't always understand them.

So the Livermore resident found poetry teacher Jamie Dresser, who was leading groups in several Bay Area locations

McAbee enjoyed the experience so much that she formed a Livermore group for Dresser. It meets in McAbee's home on the second Saturday of every month.

"The group started here in September. We've read Emily Dickinson, Charles Baudelaire, Mary Oliver, a little bit of Billy Collins, and W.S. Merwin. It's a different way to look at the world. I really enjoy it," said McAbee.

Dresser said, "I am amazed that people who are not poets, not writing, just want to learn about poetry. People work hard. They want some contact with literature, and poetry especially. They want the poets of past historical knowledge, and to learn what makes something a poem."

Dresser focused on Edgar Allen Poe at one session. "He was not only a great musical poet, who wrote about spooky things, but his influence was international on the French, English, Russian and Latin American poets."

Poe's influence on Baudelaire led to the Symbolist movement in poetry in Europe and South America. The movement was a bridge between the 19th century Romantics and the modernists, who began in the early part of the 20th century in poetry, as well as painting and other arts.

Dresser will be talking about the Symbolists at the group's next meeting Jan. 14. From there, she will move on to recent American poets laureate such as Robert Pinsky, W.S. Merwin, and Kay Ryan, who lives in Marin County.

The list of names should not put anyone off. Poetry is more about the feelings than the mind. Anything can be the subject of a poem.

One of Dresser's favorite accomplishments was writing a poem about a case that involved the California Workers' Compensation Board's denial of insurance payment to the widow of a man who was killed in a crash on his way home. He was taking work home with him. Dresser didn't think it was fair that the board decided against him, since he was planning to work at home.

Dresser at the time was a member of the board's journal, which doesn't normally publish poems. However, the editor, who agreed with Dresser about the claim, liked the poem so much, he published it.

Dresser makes sure she has a day job so that she can conduct her poetry salons. It eliminates the need to charge tuition. The hat is passed, to offset her driving expenses from Crockett, and to pay for the incidentals that any class incurs.

Dresser is passing along her knowledge to others. It was good fortune that she was lucky enough to study with outstanding poets such as the current U.S. poet laureate, Philip Levine, at Fresno State, where she took her B.A. degree in English. Widely acclaimed author and poet Diana O'Hehir was her teacher at Mills College, where she earned her master's degree in English.

Dresser might not have advanced so far if she had taken seriously a comment from an advisor at Fresno City College in the early 1970s. He suggested that she change her major to business administration, because "English is too intellectual a pursuit for a woman.' I soldiered on, and found another, more enlightened teacher," who taught her to write well by asking her to imitate the style of poets she admired.

People at her salons are grateful for Dresser's intrepid plunge ahead in her career. One told Dresser that attending the salons is "like earning a master's degree without having to take out the student loans."

In Dresser's view, poetry is also an oasis for the purity of language. She quoted the 20th century American poet, William Carlos Williams, about the need for such purity of language and its implied inner meditation, which can offset the harshness of the daily world: "It is difficult to get the news from poems, but men die miserably every day for lack of what is found there.

# SHORT NOTES

#### Grants Available

The Hindu Community and Cultural Center, Inc., of Livermore has announced its annual Grant In Aid Program and invites applications from nonprofit agencies based both locally (Livermore and its surrounding areas) and overseas.

A total grant amount of \$25,000 will be distributed in the year 2012. Individual grants can vary depending on the needs and suitability of the nonprofit organizations. This Grant program, initiated in 1987, is one of several Human Services activities at the temple in addition to programs such as free health screening, bone-marrow donor registration, partnering with the Alameda County Community Food Bank for canned food drives, distributing personal articles and clothing to the Livermore veterans hospital and collaborating with local shelters to help the needy.

Human Services agencies that meet the needs of the elderly, abused women, and youth which are primarily funded by private donations, are encouraged to apply for these grants. Organizations should provide the following details along with their application: a mission statement, sample project(s), specific project for which the grant will be utilized, and any other information in support of the application. All applications must mailed to the following address by February 3, 2012.

Send to: Chairperson, Human Services, HCCC, Inc., 1232 Arrowhead Avenue, Livermore, CA 94551-6963

Applicants will be informed of the grant decisions. Representatives of the selected organizations will be invited to an Award Ceremony to be held at the temple in 2012.

Applications sent via email will not be accepted. For questions and clarifications, please email suman1218@yahoo.com.

#### Free Job Counseling

Free counseling on job search skills and resume writing are now available at the Pleasanton Public Library

The Pleasanton Public Library is offering free consultations with an experienced Employment Recruiter.

Sign up at the Reference Desk for a 20 minute consultation. Those signing up will receive help with resume writing, find employment web sites, learn how to search for a job on the web, and get help with on-line applications.

The Pleasanton Library has assist organizations in preparing extensive support material avail-

There is a \$5 per vehicle mission@acgov.org or phone at (510) 208-9646.

#### Scholarships

parking fee at either entrance

to Sycamore Grove Park. A \$2

donation is requested to help sup-

port the programs, unless other

fees are specified. Participants

may call 925-960-2400 for more

Forest Home Farms Historic

Park and the Glass House Mu-

seum present Fun on the Farm

from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the 2nd

Saturday of each month. On

these days visitors can step back

in time to explore the site, take

tours, and participate in a free

theme for the day's free activity

will be "Calling Cards." Com-

munication was very different in

the time before email, texts, and

cell phones. During the Victorian

area 'calling on' someone meant

stopping by in person. Visit the

Glass House Museum to make a

Victorian calling card and learn

about the history and traditions

Glass House Museum are held at

10 a.m., 11 a.m., 12 noon and 1

p.m.; and tours of Forest Home

Farms Historic Park, including

the tractor museum, are at  $1\overline{1}$ 

a.m. and 1 p.m. Each tour lasts

approximately 45 minutes, and

the fee is \$5 per person or \$8 for

both tours taken on the same day.

Tour tickets can be purchased in

the Gift Shoppe. Children ages 2

Forest Home Farms Historic Park

call (925) 973-3284 or visit www.

SanRamon.ca.gov. Forest Home

Farms Historic Park is located at

19953 San Ramon Valley Blvd.,

just south of Pine Valley Road in

The Alameda County Arts

Commission announces the re-

lease of the 2012 ARTSFUND

Grants Program Guidelines and

Application for Alameda Coun-

ty-based nonprofit organizations.

Information can be found at the

Arts Commission website www.

acgov.org/arts (click on "Pro-

grams"). Standard grants awards

are \$1,000 each. The application

The ARTSFUND Grants Pro-

gram supports all types of arts

programming such as dance,

literature, media arts, music,

theater, visual arts, and multidis-

ciplinary arts programs presented

in Alameda County by Alameda

County nonprofit organizations.

will host two free workshops to

The Arts Commission staff

deadline is March 1, 2012.

For more information about

and under are free.

San Ramon.

Art Grants

Tours of the restored Victorian

of this lost art.

On January 14, 2012 the

activity from days gone by.

information.

Fun on the Farm

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) announced that its Employee Resource Groups (ERGs) are accepting applications from aspiring college students for financial assistance through the groups' scholarship funds. The scholarships will provide at least 100 universitybound students up to \$3,000 each in aid for exemplary scholastic achievement and community leadership.

All college-bound students living within PG&E's Northern and Central California service area are welcome to apply. In 2011, the utility's employee resource groups awarded \$255,500 in scholarships to help 153 students with their college expenses.

To apply for a scholarship, students need to complete a basic and a supplemental application. Complete scholarship information, including award criteria and applications, are posted on the PG&E scholarship website at www.pge.com/about/community/scholarships/. Completed applications must be postmarked and mailed to PG&E by January 17, 2012.

#### 'Souper' Bowl

Fran and Lanny Replogle of Fenestra Winery invite the public to enjoy a weekend of special soups, breads, and Fenestra wines, Saturday and Sunday, January 28 and 29, 2012, from noon to 5:00 PM, at their own "Souper Bowl" - the 20th Annual Soup and Wine Weekend. This event will be held at Fenestra Winery, 83 Vallecitos Road, in Livermore.

Fenestra Winery will offer a new look at making delicious, nourishing soups (made with Fenestra wine, of course) and breads. Blue Sage Catering and guest chefs from the tasting room staff present a variety of memorable soups.

The public is invited to sample the soups and breads, taste the award winning wines of Fenestra, and enjoy an afternoon in the historic winery building. The \$12.50 event charge includes a logo wineglass and plate. Event charge for children and non-drinkers is \$5.00. There is no charge for children under 5 years old.

Established in 1976, Fenestra Winery has long been known for its wide array of award winning wines and its gracious hospitality. In 2011, Fenestra wines won more than 85 medals and awards.

Fenestra Winery is located six miles east of the Livermore Hwy 84 exit of Interstate 680. Turn right onto Vallecitos Road at the second stoplight, go about <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> mile, and the winery is on the left. From Interstate 580, take the Isabel Ave/Hwy 84 exit and go south. Turn left onto Vallecitos Rd at the sixth stoplight, go about 1/4 mile, and the winery is on the left.

The winery is open for tasting and sales every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from noon to 5:00 PM. For information, phone 925-447-5246, e-mail info@ fenestrawinery.com, or visit the website at www.fenestrawinery. com.

#### Literary Events

Events planned at Towne Center Books in Pleasanton include the following:

• Read It and Eat with Adrianne McDonnell, January 27: 11:30 social; 12:00 lunch. Her book, the Doctor and the Diva, is a turn of the century novel inspired by letters from her sons great, great grandmother. Reservations are required. \$20.00 for lunch and book. 846-8826 or orders@townecenterbooks \$15.00 for lunch only. The book alone is \$16.31 - so get the package! Learn more. The book is available at Towne Center now.

· Book launch party for Voices of the Valley: First Press is an anthology of the California Writers Club Tri-Valley Branch. It contains short stories, memoirs, and poetry. Refreshments and readings by the writers from 2-4 on Saturday January 28 at Towne Center Books. Free. Reservations are not necessary but always helpful. 925-846-8826 or orders@townecenterbooks.com.

 Acclaimed historian John Barry, author of the bestselling book, the Great Influenza and Rising Tide: Monday January 30 at 7:00. Reservations will be very helpful - but not mandatory. 925-846-8826.

Towne Center is located at 555 Main Street in downtown Pleasanton.

### Writers Club to Hold Reading Of Anthology: 'Voices of the Valley'

California Writers Club Tri- levels to learn about their craft at

For more information about the poetry salon, including location, email Dresser at janniedres@att.net.

#### POETRY READINGS THIS WEEKEND:

Celebrating African American Poetry, Sat., Jan. 14, 2 to 4 p.m. Dublin Heritage Park and Museums, Donlon Way, Dublin. Poetry from the early 1940s to 1970, and discussion on how poetry impacted a nation. Open Mic. Entry fee \$5 at the door which includes refreshments. Hosted by Jonnie McCoy-Howell, Dublin Poet Laureate; information at (925) 452-2105.

Ravenswood Poetry Reading, Brian Turner, a soldier-poet whose compelling work about his military experiences has won numerous national awards, will be the featured reader along with Modesto poet Gillian Wegener. The City of Livermore and Livermore poet laureate Cher Wollard host the literary event at Ravenswood Historic Site on Sunday, Jan. 15, at 2 p.m An open mic will follow the readings. Admission is \$5. Students with ID are admitted free. 2647 Arroyo Road, Livermore. For more information, contact Cher Wollard at cherw@livermorelit.com or 925 824-4824.

### Paws for Claws to Benefit **Animal Rescue Group**

The Tri-Valley Animal Rescue (TVAR) will host the Claws for Paws on Saturday, February 4th, 2012, from 6-10pm. This fundraising event will serve up all-you-can-eat Crab, Caesar Salad, Pasta, Rolls, Dessert and Coffee/Tea.

There will be a selection of raffle baskets to add to the fun. A no-host bar (beer and wine) will be available.

The event is being held at the Shrine Event Center, 170 Lindbergh Avenue, Livermore.

Tickets are \$45 each through Sunday, January 15, and \$50

thereafter until sold out. Order tickets online at www. tvar.org, or mail a check to TVAR, PO Box 11143, Pleasanton, CA 94588. Please include your e-mail address so we can send your ticket confirmation electronically to save on mailing costs.

For more information, please contact Susan Ruxton at itsmrsuz@aol.com or 925-337-4946.

able to assist those seeking a job.

For appointments call the Reference Desk at 925/931-3400, extension 7.

Library programs are free and open to all.

#### Winter Night Sky

Bright Winter Stars is the theme of the Sat., Jan. 14 Livermore Area Recreation and Park District ranger program. Meet Ranger Glen Florey at 6 p.m. at Sycamore Grove Park, 1051 Wetmore Road.

It may be getting cold at night, but the cold clear air is perfect for astronomy. Come out to Sycamore Grove for a moderate walk into the park for some astronomical fun. Learn the stories behind some of winter's most stunning constellations, and watch satellites zip overhead. Please dress warmly and wear comfortable walking shoes. Canceled if raining. In the event of an overcast sky, there will be a night hike instead.

grown grapes

Hours: Tue-Fri 12-2pm,

(925) 447-8941

LIVERMORE CINEMAS		24	2490 FIRST STREET 443-SHOW		
BEAUTY AND THE BEAST 3D (G) DLP THX 12	05	2:20	4:35	6:45	9:00
CONTRABAND D-BOX (R) DLP		1:10	4:00	7:05	9:45
THE IRON LADY (PG13) DLP		1:20	4:25	7:15	9:40
JOYFUL NOISE (PG13) DLP		12:40	4:05	6:40	9:20
THE DEVIL INSIDE (R) DLP 12	25	2:40	4:45	6:55	9:35
WAR HORSE (PG13) DLP		12:00	3:10	6:20	9:30
WE BOUGHT A ZOO (PG) DLP		12:55	3:45	6:35	9:25
THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO (R) DLP			12:15	4:15	8:15
MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE GHOST PROTOCOL (PG13) DL	P	12:50	3:50	6:50	9:55
ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS: CHIPWRECKED (G) DLP 12.	30	2:45	4:55	7:05	9:15
SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS (PG13)	DLF	P 1:00	4:10	7:00	9.50
THE ADVENTURES OF TINTIN 3D (PG) DLP		1:35	4:05	6:40	9:10
MY WEEK WITH MARILYN (R) DLP 12:	00	2:30	4:50	7:10	9:35

date.

their grant applications. Reservations are required. Workshops will be held on Wednesday, January 18 from 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Fremont Main Library in Fremont and Wednesday, February 1 from 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Alameda County Lakeside Plaza Building in Oakland. Contact the Arts Commission at artscommission@acgov.org or phone (510) 208-9646 to RSVP anthology and others. to attend a workshop at least seven days prior to the workshop

Funding for the ARTSFUND Grants Program is provided by the County of Alameda, individual contributions submitted with County property tax payments, and donations to the Foundation

for the Arts in Alameda County. Further details are available within the ARTSFUND Grants Program Guidelines and Application available at the Arts Commission website www.acgov. org/arts (click on "Programs") or contact the Alameda County Arts Commission by email artscomValley branch, will present readings by its members in the first Tri-Valley Writers anthology, Voices of the Valley: First Press. Also featured will be members published in Oakland's Tapestries, an anthology of creative writings by seniors, as well as readings from Illuminating Echoes, the Las Positas College

There will be time to chat. have dessert and see if we can identify authors by their readings. Join us to relax, re-energize, and begin 2012 by celebrating our successes.

Tri-Valley branch invites writers of all genres and experience

its monthly meetings.

The meeting will be Saturday, January 21, 1:30 p.m. at Four Points by Sheraton, 5115 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, CA 94588 (south of I-580 between Owens Drive and Gibraltar Drive.)

The cost is \$10 for CWC members, \$15 non-members and includes coffee, tea, and dessert. Anyone interested in the program or the organization may attend with no obligation to join.

Reservations are required. For a seat, contact Annette Langer at reservations@trivalleywriters. org or (925) 484-5924 by Monday, January 16, 2012.







# SPORTS NOTES

#### (continued from page 7)

Livingston, and Eric Valdez each scored six points while Connor Livingston and Ian Partridge were fantastic on the boards, demonstrating great rebounding skills.

SM/SC's 3rd grade girls, Thunder and Lightening, hit the floor for the second time this season in a much tougher battle than the first meeting. Thunder struck first with 4 points in the first half. Lightening quickly returned the favor putting up 5 points in the third to make it a 1 point game. Then Thunder turned up the heat and scored 6 more before the buzzer, leaving the floor with a 10-5 victory. Allyah Anderson shot 50% from the field sinking points, snagging 5 rebounds, 3 steals, a blocked shot and caused 2 turnovers. Justine Locatelli put the finishing touches on a beautifully executed passing sequence from point guards, Olivia Turner and Erin Schrader, to score 2 of her own points for the Thunder. Adding to it she had 2 rebounds and a steal. Erin had 6 boards. 3 steals, 2 blocked shots and with Olivia snagging another 8 steals and 4 rebounds, it was their destiny for a win as both scored

#### a shot for the final 4 points.

#### Livermore Girls Softball

Livermore Girls Softball Association (LGSA) registration is still open for the 2012 Spring Season. Make-Up tryouts for 10U and Middle School will be held Saturday, January 14, at 9:00AM at Joe Michell. For more information go to www. livermoregirlssoftball.org.

#### Disc Golf Tourney

There is still time to register for a disc golf tournament to be held this Sat., Jan. 14 at the Ernie Rodrigues Softball Complex in Livermore.

The tournament, hosted by the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District, will take place from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Players can choose from four divisions: youth, age 10 to 15, all holes played as par 4; recreational, 15+ to adult, all holes played as par 3; women, 15+ to adult, all holes played as par 3; competitive, 15+ to adult, all holes played as par 3.

All players will participate in three

rounds of nine holes with the final nine holes played under the lights. Awards will be given to the top three players in each division.

Registration is through Fri., Jan. 13, call Dan Meewis at 373-5731. The fee is \$29 per player. More information is available at the

Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore.

#### Track & Field

St. Michael CYO Track & Field Team s holding sign ups for its Spring 2012 Season on Friday, 1/20 from 7-8 PM at the St. Michael Parish Hall on the corner of 3rd and Maple Streets. The program is open to boys and girls 3rd to 8th grades. Practice begins 2/6 at 4 PM on the Granada High School track. For more information go to www.smisctrack.org

#### Little League Registration

Livermore National Little League is still accepting registration for ages 5-18 at tryouts. Tryout date is Jan. 14. Visit the

website at eteamz.com/LNLL for details on tryouts and registration

#### Bocce Kits for Rent

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District is now making bocce ball kits available for rent to the public. Bocce ball kits can be checked out for a week at a time from the Robert Livermore Community Center. The kits are available at the front counter from 8 a.m. to 4:30

p.m. Monday through Friday. Rental for one week is \$20, plus a \$40 refundable deposit by credit card or cash - a total of \$60. The \$40 deposit is refundable if equipment is returned in good condition. Kits are rented on a first-come, first-served basis; reservations are not available in advance. Rental of a bocce ball kit does not guarantee a bocce ball court will be available.

The Robert Livermore Community Center is located at 4444 East Ave., Livermore. Bothwell Park is located at 2466 Eighth St., Livermore. For more information, call 925-373-5700.

PGSL Evaluations Pleasanton Girls Softball League

will hold evaluations Jan. 14 and 15 at the Amador Valley High School softball fields. The schedule follows:

All Girls 3rd-8th grade- Mandatory Placement Evaluations Jan. 14-15th, Amador Softball Fields

All divisions with Black/Teal/White sub-divisions, will place girls on teams using a draft. Not by requests. Every girl will be placed on a team.

Players must be on time for check in and evaluations. We are running a very tight schedule and things need to run on time to get 300 hundred girls evaluated in one day.

Please come when it is the assigned time, this has also been designed to make sure each group is equal.

Anyonewhocannotmaketryoutsplease contact the league Director: Minis- Rob Hildebrand-Rob@pleasantonsoftball.org

Minors-Tim Buteau-Tim.b@pleasantonsoftball.org; Majors- Mark Tanis- Mark. t@pleasantonsoftball.org

Majors (7th & 8th grade) - Saturday Jan. 14th (Morning): 7:00 Check in Last names beginning (A-F); 7:30-9:00 evaluations; 8:30 Check in (G-N); 9:00-10:30 evaluations; 10:00 Check in (O-Z); 10:30-12:00 evaluations

Minors (5th & 6th grade) - Saturday Jan. 14th (Afternoon): 12:00 Check in Last names beginning (A-G); 12:30-2:00 evaluations; 1:30 Check in H-O; 2:00-3:30 evaluations; 3:00 Check in P-Z; 3:30-5:00 evaluations

Minis (3rd & 4th grade) - Sunday Jan. 15th: 10:30 Check in last names beginning (A-F); 11:00-12:30 evaluations; 12:00 Check in (G-N); 12:30-2:00 evaluations; 1:30 Check in (O-Z); 2:00-3:30

The times and locations are published on the PGSL website www.pleasantonsoftball.org

# OBITUARIES

#### Clara Chakakis

May 18, 1923 - January 4, 2012 Clara Chakakis was born Kiriakoula Mazanakis on May 18, 1923 in Hanna, Wyoming

and, the eldest daughter of Athi-



father in a coal mining accident, Clara and her family moved to Rock Springs, Wyoming.

She grew up in Rock

Springs with her mother, her stepfather Chris Lamatis and her siblings Helen, Jenny and Jim. She graduated fiom Rock Springs High School in 1941, where she was a member of the Pep, Spanish, and Library Clubs and nicknamed "Mazie." In Rock Springs, Clara worked as a window dresser for J.J. Newbury. In her twenties, Clara and her family relocated to Modesto, California where she lived until 1954.

On January 24, 1954, Clara married Nicholas J. Chakakis, an electrical engineer whose career led them to settle in Livermore, California in 1956. There they raised their four daughters, Athena, Mary, Christine and Antonia. Clara, who was a homemaker, also worked in retail at J.C. Penney's in Livermore for over 20 years until her retirement in 1995 at the age of 72.

Clara loved sewing, crocheting, dancing, and going to Tahoe

of the Resurrection on January 11 in Castro Valley. In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations be made to the Greek Orthodox Church of the Resurrection, 20104 Center Street,

na and John Castro Valley, 94546. Arrangements by Callaghan After the Mortuary.

#### Helen G. Riordan

On the 4th of January, 2012, Helen G. Riordan passed away after a courageous battle with cancer. She was a Livermore resident.

Helen will be remembered for her wonderful crafts she made for her family and for her enthusiasm for garage sales and her Widows Club pot lucks.

Helen was preceeded in death by her husband John. She is survived by her two daughters Pamela and Diane, two grandchildren, and six greatgrandchildren. The family wishes to thank her caregivers Lattu and Gina, Hospice and Tim Weaver for compassionate care above and beyond.

Helen requested no services. In lieu of flowers please make a donation to your favorite char-

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

#### Mary J. Dum

Mary Joine Dum, a leading expert on the use of computers in real estate appraisal, died on December 15, 2011, in Brentwood, California, after suffering a series of strokes.

Her fascination with computing started in the 1970s when she worked as office manager of her husband's real estate appraisal company. In 1978, she bought her first computer. Mary's long career as a writer and editor began in 1981, when she helped found the Real Estate Analysts Northstar Users Group (REAMUG). She was editor of the REAMUG Journal until 2010, when REAMUG disbanded. She contributed product reviews to Mortgage Technology from the mid 1990s-2006. From 1987-1995, she was editor-in-chief of The Quarterly Byte, a newsletter published by the Appraisal Institute. In 1996, the Appraisal Institute published her book The Computerized Appraisal Office in 1996 and awarded her the George L. Schmutz Memorial Award. Mary also authored two other books, consulted nationally and internationally, and lectured and presented papers at appraisal meetings. Born in Columbus, Ohio, in 1931, Mary graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in medical technology from Ohio State University in 1953. She worked in the hospital laboratory. She married Thomas E. Dum, MAI, also of Ohio, in 1953. Mary is survived by her husband, her son Ed Dum, MAI, daughter-in-law Ann Dum, two grandchildren, and two greatgrandchildren. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, January 21, 2012, at 2:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 1893 North Vasco Road, Livermore, California. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the American Cancer

Society.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

#### Sabino Gabriel Martinez

Sabino G. Martinez was born on May 28, 1934 in Colorado. and went to be with the Lord on Thurs., Jan. 5, 2012 at the age of 77. He was a resident of Tracy.

Sabino worked for LARPD. He was the local business owner of SGM Janitorial, which took great care of several local banks and agencies. He started his day faithfully at The Donut Wheel in Livermore, sharing laughs over coffee with many dear friends.

He is survived by his loving wife, Christina, to whom he was married to for 58 years; brother to Emma Perea of Toole, Utah and Gayle Sandoval of Bakersfield, California; brother in law to Elias and Alice Sanchez of Del Norte, Colorado; father to Jim, Anita and Sandra;' grandfather of 13; papasito of 15. He will be dearly missed.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Thurs., Jan 12, 11 a.m. at St. Michael Catholic Church, 458 Maple St., Livermore. Final resting place will be at St. Michael Cemetery in Livermore.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

#### Don Salmi

Donald (Don) Eldon Salmi, 80, passed peacefully on December 16, 2011. He was born to Ansel and Edla Salmi on December 2, 1931. Don was born in Clatskanie, Oregon and raised in Woodson, Oregon where he met and married the love of his

worker, loves to shop, handsome, athletic, handyman, social.... Sounds like the perfect man right? We know nobody is perfect, but he really was as close as many of us have seen thus far. We were all lucky to have him in our lives.

A celebration of Don's life was held January 5th in Livermore.

Donations may be made in Don Salmi's name to East Bay SPCA, Development Dept., 8323 Baldwin St., Oakland, CA 94621.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

#### Helen Marie Lewis 12/6/1924 to 12/31/2011

Resident of Pleasanton

Helen passed of congestive heart failure in the presence of her family. A first generation American of Irish-born parents, Helen Queenan was born and raised in Philadelphia, PA, the youngest of six. She attended St. Barnabas Elementary and West Catholic High Schools . In 1944, at the Starlight Ballroom in Wildwood, N.J., she met Donald Lewis, a US Navy aviation radioman. They married on August 4, 1945 in her elementary school church. Their first son, Donald, was born and four years later they moved to the Lewis familial home in Oakland , CA . in 1950.

A year later, they moved to Harder Road, Hayward, and son, Dennis, was born the following year. The family then moved to Fairway Park in 1955. One year later, daughter, Vicki, was born. The family attended St. Clements Church, and while the younger children attended its school, Helen supported school activities. The transition from Philadelphia row house life to the sprawling, hilly suburbs of Alameda County, wasn't without its trials but Helen adapted to Callifornia life including learning to drive and tanning poolside every summer. Her flexibility was challenged again in 1973, when the family moved to "the ranch" in Pleasanton . Helen found herself transitioning from a suburban life to a country one. Achin' Back Acres became home to horses, dogs, cats, chickens, a donkey and a flock of peacocks who flew in one day and stayed. Dealing with first year "mud floods," occasional septic tank snafus and well-water shortages, Helen always maintained her Irish aplomb. She was fiercely proud of her Irish heritage. One lifetime highlight was in 1978, when she and her sisters traveled to Ireland . They located their father's cottage home in County Sligo, and 'dropped' in on their relatives still living there. They had a terrific time visiting family, pubs and kissing the Blarney Stone. Always friendly and blessed with the Irish 'gift of gab,' Helen was quick to make friends and help those in need. We will miss her smile, ever present sense of humor and fits of hysterical laughter. Helen was preceded in death by her beloved brothers, Jimmy, John and Joe; sisters, Anna and Margaret.

(Sandy), Dennis and daughter, Vicki (Diane Dunn); grandson, Michael, granddaughter, Kelly, (Ryan Lipsey); great grandchildren, Bella and Jack; numerous nieces, nephews and extended family.

The family thanks the exceptional staff at Serene Care. In lieu of flowers, they ask donations be made to the charity of your choice.

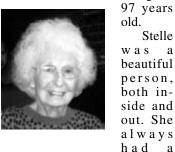
An In Memoriam Mass at St. Raymond's in Dublin, where Helen most recently attended, will be held on Saturday, February 25, at 5pm. A Celebration of Helen's life will be held on Saturday, January 14, at 1pm at Vicki and Diane's. Contact the family or Grissom's Mortuary at (510) 278-2800 for more information.

#### Estelle Marie Volponi

Lifetime resident of Livermore Estelle died peacefully at home with her family by her side on Saturday, January 7, 2012 at the age of

Stelle

a



kind word and compliment to give those around her. She loved life and most of all, her "boys" ranging from brother Dr. John Volponi to her 6 nephews: Joe, Jim, John, Tom, Jerry, Dan; and 4 great-nephews: Josh, Jake, Nick and Jack. After almost 83 years of waiting for a girl to arrive in the family, she finally got two great nieces: Jordan and Olivia. Her love and devotion extended to her boy's wives: Peggy, Maureen, Cathy, Sherry and Tracy. She also leaves her best friend and cousin, Catherine "Honey' Cate and her devoted friend and loving caretaker Hermie Roque,

skinny and wanted her to be able to come home for a home cooked lunch each day. She graduated from Livermore High in 1932.

Estelle was a very detailed person in everything she did from her bookkeeping, management, home decorating to her meticulous clothing and makeup. She absolutely loved to shop for clothes, especially in San Francisco with her Aunt Lala. Stelle worked at the Fuseworks in Livermore, now Hexcel Corp., as the President's executive secretary. She also did bookkeeping for the Gardella family businesses. Stelle retired in 1976 after having back surgery that plagued her for life.

During retirement, Stelle kept herself busy by volunteering for the Valley Memorial Auxiliary beginning when the hospital first opened and before the Auxiliary was officially formed. Stelle became one of its longest active volunteers for over 40 years and later kept up its newsletter. She prided herself for learning to use its computer system. She was a member and volunteer of the Symphony Guild and enjoyed attending operettas and musicals with her friends in San Francisco and locally. She was also a member of the YLI, Sirettes and lifetime parishioner of St. Michael's Church. She was a soloist for St. Michael's for over 25 years who took pride in hitting her highest notes while singing "Ave Maria" from the church balcony.

Stelle was the family's photographer and historian. She kept a vast library of memory albums of her family and friends, including an album of updates of all the Livermore boys drafted into WW2. She was also the family's "Worrier." She worried about everybody, all the time, which just proved how much she loved and cared for us all. Donations in her name can be made to St. Vincent de Paul Society or a favorite charity. Her family wishes to thank Hope Hospice for its wonderful support. Estelle's funeral will be at St. Michael's Church in Livermore at 1 pm on Thursday, January 12. Her final resting place will be in the family plot at St. Michael's Cemetery during a private ceremony.



to gamble. She especially liked playing bingo at the Elks Club in Springtown. Clara had a passion and flare for entertaining and always welcomed company. Her wonderful sense of humor and zeal for life was infectious. She loved to Greek dance with family and friends and often said, "She would rather dance than eat." Clara was proud of her Greek heritage and culture, which was highlighted in an article as a Valley Homemaker in the "Herald and News" newspaper in 197 1. She was an active member of the Greek Orthodox Church in Castro Valley for over 40 years. Her favorite flowers were hyacinths and roses.

Clara is survived by her husband of 58 years, Nick, her children and their families, Athena and Russ Adams of Camel, Indiana, Mary and Louis Evans of Livermore, California, Christine Chakakis and John McClain of Dublin, California, and Antonia and Glenn Lianos of Los Angeles, California. She is also survived by her seven grandchildren and their spouses, Christopher and Melissa Adams, Justin and Catherine Adams, Matthew Evans, Angela Evans, Julian Lianos, Kyra Lianos and Max Lianos, and one great-granddaughter, Harper Adams. Her sisters, and brother, as well as several nieces and nephews still reside in the Modesto area. Clara was a loving wife, mother, aunt, grandmother and great-grandmother and will be greatly missed.

A memorial service was held at Callaghan Mortuary on January 10. Funeral services were at the Greek Orthodox Church

life, Ann Westerberg. They were married for 53 years. The family moved to Livermore California in 1958 when Don was recruited to work at the Lawrence Livermore Lab as a Mechanical Engineer.

He is survived by his devoted daughters Karin Eavenson and Donna Stayton. He will be forever remembered by his sister Joyce Oliva, Rainer, OR, and brother Allen Salmi, Escalon, CA. He loved and treasured his grandchildren Jamie Matthews, Kelly Ward, Laurie Stayton, Brent Beecher and Cynthia Stayton and great grandchildren Max Ward and Gavin Ruggles. Of course we can't forget his beloved dogs, Daisy and Buddy, and countless other relatives and close friends whom were blessed to know him. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife Ann Salmi, his loving parents Ansel and Edla Salmi, brother Larry Salmi and his beloved dogs, Mutsey and Archie.

To all of you that have lost a loved one; you can take comfort that Don, "One of the Good Guys," will be with them spreading the joy that he did for all of us who knew him here on earth. He doted on his daughters and adored all his grand and great grandchildren. He was a devoted husband and loved spending time with his beautiful wife. Many will remember him for his trademark sense of humor, extensive antique collection, softball talents and amazing gift of gab. Don touched the lives of so many people with his tremendous generosity.

Witty, intelligent, generous, chivalrous, family man, hard

She is survived by her husband, Don, of 66 years, sons, Don

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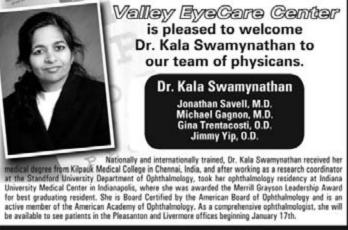
family and friends. Estelle was born to the late Louis and Margaret Volponi in her grandparents house in Livermore, CA. and lived her entire life in her parent's home next door.

along with numerous extended

She attended Fifth Street School instead of St. Michael's because her mother and grandmother thought she was too

> **Obituary/ Memorium Policies** Obituaries are published in The Independent at no charge. There is a small charge for photographs in the obituaries. Memorium ads can also be placed in The Independent when families want to honor the memories of their loved ones. There is a charge for memorium ads. based on the size of the ad. Please send an email to editmail@compuserve.com to receive information.





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# Las Positas Offers 'Budgeting Basics' Workshop for Nonprofits

Foundation Center Cooperative Training-Calendar/San-Francis-Collection will host a free workshop for nonprofit organizations, "Proposal Budgeting Basics," on Friday, Jan. 20, 10-11 a.m. in Building 2400, Room 2416. Online registration is required at the foundation center website

The Las Positas College http://grantspace.org/Classroom/ co/Proposal-Budgeting-Basics-2012-01-20-Livermore-CA.

Led by Scott Ullman of the San Francisco Foundation Center, the workshop provides an overview of the process of strategically thinking through the budget line items to be included in a grant proposal. The workshop is designed for organizations considering or currently seeking grants from foundations.

The following learning outcomes will be accomplished during the workshop: How to determine reasonable expen-

ditures; what to include under the personnel section and how to calculate it; what types of expenses are considered overhead; determining the level of detail to include for non-personnel expenses; and, financial documents to include in the proposal package.

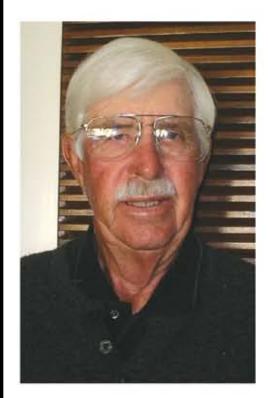
Through the Foundation Center

of New York's Cooperating Collection designation, Las Positas College has expanded its services to the community. Located in the Learning Resource Center on the Livermore campus, the Las Positas College Cooperative Collection Center is available to nonprofit organizations and

other grant seekers in the Tri-Valley area looking for funding sources. For additional information, contact Vicki Shipman at (925) 424-1355.

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

# What Our Readers Are Saying...



Barbara and I arrived in Livermore three months before the first edition of The Independent was published in 1963. I have always enjoyed The Independent's local coverage, which leaves no doubt as to where the newspaper stands on major issues facing our community. For example, it has stood strongly against rampant growth.

When we moved to Livermore, I joined Cask and Mask at the May School Theater. Since that theater closed in 1971 until now, I became involved with the LCAC, trying to bring a performance center to Livermore. Now we have the Bankhead, thanks to The Independent and other strong supporting residents.

### Les Edwards

Resident of Livermore

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#### **NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS** LEGAL

#### LEGAL NOTICES

FOR INFORMATION PLACING LEGAL NOTICES Call 925-243-8000

#### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 459004 The following person(s) doing business as: Lala's Cheer Bowtique, 741 South I Street, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): (1)Nancy Knab, 741 South 1 Street, Livermore, CA 94550 (2)Linda Montoya, 4708 Kimberly Commons, Livermore, CA 94550 This business is conducted by a General partnership The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 10/1/11. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Nancy Knab, Owner/ Partner This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 6, 2011. Expires December 6, 2016. The Independent Legal No 3143. Published December 22, 29, 2011, January 5, 12, 2012. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 458011 The following person(s) doing business as: (1)Ken Ball Design & Illustration (2)Figurehead Gallery, 2222 2nd St, Suite 21, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Whyte Ball LLC, 1224 Lillian

St, Livermore, CA 94550 This business is conducted by a Limited liability company The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 10/1/11. Signature of Registrants:s/: Ken Ball, Managing Member This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 3, 2011. Expires November 3, 2016. The Independent Legal No. 3145. Published December 22, 29, 2011, January 5, 12.2012 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS

#### NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 455301

The following person(s) doing business as: Jan Mor Svs, 5747 N. Vasco Rd., Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby

registered by the following owner(s): Janet Sue Moorehead. 5747 N. Vasco Rd., Livermore, CA 94551 This business is conducted by an Individual The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/04/2007. Signature of Registrants:s/: Janet Sue Moorehead This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 18, 2011. Expires August 18, 2016. The Independent Legal No. 3147. Published December 22, 29, 2011, January 5, 12, 2012 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 459062

act business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 8/8/1989. Signature of Registrants:s/: David C. Turk This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 7, 2011. Expires December 7, 2016. The Independent Legal No. 3148. Published December 22, 29, 2011, January 5, 12, 2012.

the following owner(s):

Dr., Dublin, CA 94568

an Individual

The following person(s) doing FICTITIOUS BUSINESS business as: Pro-Tech Main-NAME STATEMENT tenance and Repair. 7921 FILE NO. 458458 Firebrand Dr., Dublin, CA The following person(s) do-94568, is hereby registered by ing business as: US Legal Hotline, 1067 Serpentine David C. Turk, 7921 Firebrand Ln, Pleasanton, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the This business is conducted by following owner(s): LMA Productions LLC, 1067 The registrant began to trans-Serpentine Ln, Pleasanton. CA 94566 This business is conducted by a Limited liability company The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed

above on N/A. Signature of Registrants:s/: Doug Mann, Member This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 17, 2011, Expires November 17, 2016. The Independent Legal No.



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# LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

3149. Published December NOTICE OF INVITING BIDS 22, 29, 2011, January 5, Notice is hereby given that 12, 2012. sealed competitive bids will ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE be accepted in the office of the GSA-Purchasing Department FOR CHANGE OF NAME County of Alameda, 1401 Case No. HG11608881 Lakeside Drive, Suite 907 SUPERIOR COURT OF Oakland, CA 94612 NET-CALIFORNIA, WORKING/NORTH COUNTY COUNTY OF ALAMEDA **BIDDERS CONFERENCE** TO ALL INTERESTED RFP #900955 Inmate Com-PERSONS: missary, Tuesday, January 1 Petitioner: 24, 2012, 10:00 A.M. - Gen-Lauren Jessica Hamann filed eral Services Agency, 1401 a petition Lakeside Drive, Room 1107, 11th Floor, Oakland, CA NETwith this court for a decree changing names as follows: WORKING/SOUTH COUNTY Present Name: **BIDDERS CONFERENCE** Lauren Jessica Hamann RFP #900955 Inmate Proposed Name: Commissary, Wednesday Lauren Jessica Elmei January 25, 2012, 2:00 P.M 2.THE COURT ORDERS – Castro Valley Library, 3600 Norbridge Avenue, Chabot all persons interested in this Room, Castro Valley, CA Rematter appear before this sponses Due by 2:00 pm on February 23, 2012 County at the hearing indicated be-Contact: Ann Marie Romero (510) 208-9742 or via email: to show cause, if any, why annmarie.romero@acgov. org Attendance at Networking petition for change of name Conference is Non-mandashould not be granted. Any tory. Specifications and bid person objecting to the copies regarding the above may be obtained at the Alamchanges described above eda County GSA-Purchasing must file a written objection Department or the Current that includes the reasons for Contracting Opportunities the objection at least two Internet website at www acgov.org. days before the matter is 1/12/12 scheduled to be heard and CNS-2238811# must appear at the hear-THE INDEPENDENT Legal No. 3156 show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT written objection is timely FILE NO. 459503 the court may grant the peti-The following person(s) doing tion without a hearing. business as: Fire Stations 4 NOTICE OF HEARING Hire, 3147-A Independence a. Date: 02/03/2012 Drive, Livermore, CA 94551, Time: 8:45 AM Dept: is hereby registered by the 504 following owner(s): b. The address of the Wicktonville Fire Department Inc., 3147-A Independence court is: 24405 Amador Street, Drive, Livermore, CA 94551 Hayward, CA 94544 This business is conducted by Hayward Hall of Justice a Corporation 3.a. A copy of this Order To The registrant began to trans-Show Cause shall be pubact business under the fictilished at least once each tious business name(s) listed above on N/A. for four successive weeks Signature of Registrants:s/: Paul M. George, Senior Vice to the date set for hearing on President, Operations the petition in the following This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda newspaper of general circuon December 21, 2011. Exlation, printed in this county The Independent pires December 21, 2016. Dated: December 19, 2011 The Independent Legal No /s/: D. Clemons 3157. Published January 12, Deputy, Clerk of the Superior 19, 26, February 2, 2012. **FICTITIOUS BUSINESS** The Independent Legal No. NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 460015-16 Published December 29, 2011 The following person(s) do January 5, 12, 19, 2012. ing business as: (1) NDura Legal No. 3151 - Corp (2) Changiio.com, 3028 Gardella Plaza, Liver-FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT more, CA 94551, is hereby FILE NO. 459176 registered by the following The following person(s) doowner(s): ing business as: Jacketback NDura - Corp, 3028 Gardella Embroidery and Jackets, Plaza, Livermore, CA 94551 2456 Armstrong Street, Liver-more, CA 94551, is hereby This business is conducted by a Corporation registered by the following The registrant began to transowner(s): act business under the ficti-CMCG LLC, 671 Village Dr., tious business name(s) listed Galt, CA 95632 above on 1/9/2012. This business is conducted by Signature of Registrants:s/: a Limited liability company Carlos D. Aquilera - Presi-The registrant began to transdent This statement was filed with act business under the fictithe County Clerk of Alameda tious business name(s) listed

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160) BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY BE WARY of out of area companies. Check with the local Better Busi ness Bureau before you send money or fees. Read and understand any contracts before you sign. Shop around for rates TO PLACE A **CLASSIFIED AD** Call 243-800 MERCHANDISE YAMAHA PIANO (Disklavier) Walnut Finish Excellent Condition. Like new. Asking \$4,250. (925)875-0886 Fracisco Realty & Investments Residential • Commercial • Property Mgmt (925) 998-8131 (510) 390-0325 (925) 243-0900 Fabulous Dave & Fran Donna Cunningham Garrison (925) 202-6298 KELLER WILLIAMS MORTGAGE LOAN CONSULTANTS Specializing in VA, CalVet, FHA and Conventional Home Loans 🖌 Rent vs. Buy... CALL FOR A FREE CONSULTATION TODAY! **Barbara Duterte** Michelle Johnston on January 9, 2012. Expires

#### 127) LOST/ FOUND state in their advertisements that they are not licensed by the Contractors State License PLACE YOUR LOST CLASSIFIED ADS Red Poinsettia Clip Board." Earring Lost downt Livermore, Friday 12/16. **REAL ESTATE ONLINE/CALL IN** If found, please call Inland Valley Publishing (925)447-1762 Reach over Client Code:04126-00001 NOTICES/ANNOUNCEMENTS 33,000 homes by **Re: Legal Notice for** 155) NOTICES **Classified Ads** direct mail The Federal Fair Housing Act, "NOTICE TO READERS: Title VII of the Civil Rights to Livermore, California law requires that Act of 1964, and state law contractors taking jobs that to-tal \$500 or more (labor and/or prohibit advertisements for Pleasanton nousing and employment materials) be licensed by the & Sunol. that contain any preference, limitation or discrimination Contractors State License Board. State law also requires based on protected classes, Call that contractors include their including race, color, religion, license numbers on all adversex, handicap, familial status (925) 243-8000 tising. Check your contractor's or national origin. IVPC does status at www.cslb.ca.gov or 800-321-CSLB (2752). not knowingly accept any advertisements that are in Unlicensed persons taking violation of the law. jobs less than \$500 must **Professionals Choice** Real Estate Directory Local guide to the Valley's Leading **Real Estate Professionals & Services** VY LoGerfo WWW Livermore 925-998-5312 Foreclosures **RE/MAX** Accord Www.MikeFracisco.com Mike Fracisco DRE#01267853 .net homes@ivylogerfo.com GENE WILLIAMS Sandee Utterback (888) 823-8315 CINDY WILLIAMS WILLIAMS WWW.SANDEEU.COM Reprudential www.williamsteam.net alifornia Realty Specializing in Livermore's Finest Homes Over Three Decades of Experienc **Real Estate...** Gail Henderson A People Business (925) 980-5648 www.gailhenderson.com Experience, Honesty, Integrity J. Rockeliff Steve & Lorraine Mattos Properties Jeam 925.426.7978 J. Rockeliff Cunningham•Garrison•Schal Ð " Your Tri-Valley Home Selling Experts" www.rockcliff.com smattos@rockcliff.com DRE #003 SABRINA BASCOM Susan (925) 337-0194 Schall (925) 980-0273 (925) 519-8226 sabrina.bascom@bhghome.com DRE#01848451 Free home search at TREVALLEY 101 E. Vineyard Ave www.FabulousProperties.net #103, Livermore, CA

Tammy Yau & Steven Wang, CPA Short Sale/Foreclosure Specialist Property Management & Loans (925) 583-3086 / (408) 309-8920 CaGoldenProperties.com DRE#01260501 & DRE#01368485

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KEAL ESTATE NEWS AND NOTICES New Year Brings New Laws in Real Estate By Cher Wollard

New real-estate related regulations took effect in California on Jan. 1 that will impact buyers and sellers, property owners, landlords and tenants, and homeowner associations. **Buyers and Sellers** 

For example, state rules regarding disclosures sellers are mandated to provide to potential buyers have been augmented. In addition to items sellers already disclose, they must now tell potential buyers whether or not the home has water-conservation plumbing fixtures,

such as low-flow toilets, shower heads and faucets. To facilitate these changes, the standard Transfer Disclosure Statement that sellers typically fill out has been edited to include questions about plumbing fixtures.

Sellers must also disclose if the property is located within one mile of a mining operation, per maps drawn by the Office of Mine Reclamation.

Companies that provide Natural Hazard Disclosures have added this item to their disclosure packets. Sellers typically purchase these disclosure packets, which also have information about earthquake zones, radon zone, high fire danger and other potential natural hazards, from companies that specialize in such disclosures. The packets cost about \$100 per property.

California also amended its anti-discrimination laws, which apply to sellers, landlords, brokers and others, to forbid discrimination due to genetic information, such as race, gender or health conditions.

And the legislature broadened the definition of gender discrimination to include gender identity and gender-related appearance. This change bars discriminatory business practices against transsexual or transgender persons.

#### Property Owners

The ceiling for claims in small claims court in most instances has been increased from \$7,500 to \$10,000. This is a path homeowners often take to settle claims with contractors who fail to complete work that has been paid for, whose work is substandard, or who fail to pay subcontractors. And landlords sometimes use small claims court to force payment of back rent.

Other legal changes impacting property owners include:

• Senate Bill 425 gives prosecutors authority to seek seizure of property used for cockfighting.

· Owners of land in agricultural use under the Williamson Act can enter into solar-use easement contracts, if agreed to by the local government.

• Under the new Seismic Safety Finance Act, a local government can enter into voluntary contractual assessments with property owners to finance the installation of seismic strengthening fixtures.

• The Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act has been expanded to allow special taxes for financing property improvements to include energy efficiency, water conservation and renewable energy.

• The Department of Veterans Affairs has been authorized to assist veterans in refinancing existing mortgages, even if they were not acquired using VA financing.

• The total value of all real property in an estate that can be transferred using simplified petition procedures, rather than a formal probate administration, has been increased from \$20,000 to \$50,000.

In addition, a number of small changes and clarifications to state law regarding property taxes have been enacted.

 a provision that specifies a property is the surviving spouse of a military veteran's principal residence for purposes of tax exemption, even if that spouse is confined in a hospital or other care facility;

 enactment of a program that permits counties to defer property tax payments for senior and disabled citizens under certain circumstances. Alameda County has not yet signed on to this program;

Chester R. Gould - Managing Member This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 12, 2011. Ex-

Signature of Registrants:s/:

above on 11/28/2011.

pires December 12, 2016. The Independent Legal No. 3153. Published December 29, 2011, January 5, 12, 19, 2012.

NOTICE of INVITING BIDS Notice is hereby given that sealed competitive bids will be accepted at the Health Care Services Agency, 1000 San Leandro Blvd., Suite 300, San Leandro, CA, 94577 NON-MANDATORY NETWORK-**ING/NORTH COUNTY BID-**DERS CONFERENCE RFP No. 1-Web-Based Dashboard Reporting System, Wednesday, January 18, 2012, 9:30 AM - Alameda County Health Care Services Agency, 1000 San Leandro Blvd., Suite 300, San Leandro, CA NON-MANDATORY NETWORK-ING/NORTH COUNTY BID-DERS CONFERENCE RFP No. 1-Web-Based Dashboard Reporting System, Thursday January 19, 2012, 2:30 PM 1900 Embarcadero Cove, Suite 400, Oakland, CA Responses Due by 2:00 pm on February 8, 2012 County Contact: Jennifer Chan at (510) 618-2016 or via email: jennifer.chan@acgov.org Attendance at Networking Conference is Non-mandatory. Specifications regarding the above may be obtained at the Alameda County GSA Current Contracting Opportunities Internet website at www.acgov.org. 1/12/12 CNS-2236940# THE INDEPENDENT Legal No. 3154

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 459223

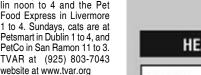
The following person(s) doing business as: At Ease, 764-C Hayes Ave, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Mary Elizabeth Binder, 764-C Hayes Ave, Livermore, CA 94550 This business is conducted by an Individual The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 7/26/1995. Signature of Registrants:s/: Mary Elizabeth Binder This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 13, 2011, Expires December 13, 2016. The Independent Legal No. 3155. Published January 12, 19, 26, February 2, 2012.

The Independent Legal No 3158. Published January 12, 19, 26, February 2, 2012. ANIMALS 2) CATS/ DOGS

January 9, 2017.

ADOPT A DOG OR CAT, for adoption information contact Valley Humane Society at 925 426-8656. Adopt a new best friend: TVAR, the Tri-Valley Animal Rescue, offers animals for adoption every Saturday and Sunday, excluding most holi days. Saturdays from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm, dogs and cats are available atthe Pleasanton Farmers Market at W





#### EMPLOYMENT

65) HELP WANTED **JANITOR / FLOOR TECH** Evening Shift. Must have own transportation and clean driving record. (925)245-0595 Restaurant seeks DISH-

WASHER / KITCHEN HELP. Weekends. Room to grow and learn kitchen/ restaurant business. Musi be 21 or older. \$8 per hour starting wage. Call (925)705-1464.

56) ADULT CARE Independent Contractors Wanted, Senior Home Health Care. Must have experience. Senior Solutions. Inc 925-443-3101

EMPLOYMENT ADS Reach over 33,000 homes by direct mail

to Livermore, Pleasanton & Sunol.

Call (925) 243-8000





CLASSIFIED ADS ONLINE/CALL IN

Reach over 33,000 homes by direct mail in Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin & Sunol. Call (925) 243-8000 www.independentnews.com

regulations on advertising by those offering to help homeowners file for a reduction in property tax assessment. Service providers are prohibited from using misleading business names, which may imply they are affiliated with the assessor's office or any other government entity, or that imply homeowners cannot file such applications on their own.

#### Landlords and Tenants

Several state laws affecting rental properties took effect the first of this year.

For example, landlords can now ban smoking in or around any residential unit, so long as this provision is part of the written lease agreement. For existing tenants, landlords must provide at least 30 days' notice - depending on the rental agreement - before modifying terms.

Landlords can evict tenants with only three-days' notice for committing or permitting dogfighting or cockfighting on the premises.

And, in a decision relevant to this election cycle, Senate Bill 337 says residential landlords must allow tenants to display political signs related to elections, legislative votes and other timely public matters. Landlords can make reasonable restrictions as to size, location and duration of display.

Additionally, victims of domestic violence who wish to terminate a lease agreement must now give notice to their landlord within 180 days after the issuance of a restraining order or filing of a police report.

And residents of elder-care facilities and their legal representatives must be given written notice within two days if the property is under a notice of default, an unlawful detainer action, a written notice of default of rent payment, notice from a utility company of intent to terminate services, or if the property owner files bankruptcy. Notice must also be given to the State Department of Social Services and the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman.

Homeowner's Associations

A number of important new laws deal with homeowner's associations (HOAs). Among them:

· Homeowners associations can only charge the actual cost to procure, prepare, reproduce and deliver HOA disclosures and governing documents when a home is being sold. In the past, some HOAs have tacked on hundreds of dollars in "junk" fees. The new law requires that HOAs provide estimates of their fees up front. The HOA also cannot charge extra fees for electronic delivery if the HOA maintains the information that way.

• A unit owner in a common interest development is exempt from any prohibition against renting or leasing the unit, unless that prohibition was in effect before the owner acquired title to the unit. For sales transactions, an HOA must disclose any prohibition in the governing documents against renting or lease. This law does not apply to rental prohibitions in effect before 2012. But, condo owners must provide the HOA proof of purchase date and contact information for any tenants.

• HOAs cannot prevent the installation or use of electric vehicle charging stations, although they may impose "reasonable" restrictions, according to Senate Bill 209.

 Notice of an executive session meeting of an HOA board of directors (other than emergencies) must be given to unit owners at least two days before the meeting.

For more information about real estate, contact your local Realtor.

> Cher Wollard is a Realtor with Prudential California Realty, Livermore.

# Ethan Epperly of Christensen Wins MATHCOUNTS Competition

#### **By Patricia Koning**

Ethan Epperly, an eighth grader at Christensen Middle School, won top honors at Saturday's 16th annual citywide MATHCOUNTS competition. This was Ethan's third year in the competition; in 2010, he was the top sixth grader and in 2011, he placed fifth and was the only 7th grader in the top ten for 7th/8th grade.

"Winning is pretty exciting," said Ethan. "I went into the tournament expecting to finish in third or fourth place, but when I went into the countdown round in first place, I knew I had a chance. The countdown round was really nerve racking."

Livermore Mayor John Marchand presented the awards. "Congratulations to all of you for being here and competing today. The fact that you are here shows that you have the initiative to excel," he said.

Kathy Coyle, an independent Internet consultant and designer, helped with the award presentation. She represents the National Society of Professional Engineers (NPSE) Livermore Auxiliary, which each year provides awards for the winners.

Ethan's teammate Joshua Hart finished in second placed, followed by Jeremy Anninos from Mendenhall Middle School in third, Roopjote Atwal (Mendenhall) in fourth, and Nick Sobrepena of the Livermore Valley Charter School (LVCS) in fifth place.

Only two seventh graders finished in the top ten: Scott Plantemga (Mendenhall) in eighth place and in ninth place Jordan Combitsis (LVCS), who won the sixth grade competition last year.

The Mendenhall team of Nathan Barney, Jeremy Anninos, Joseph Chatterjee, and Roopjote Atwa won the 7th/8th team competition. Mendenhall also dominated the sixth grade competition, making a clean sweep of both the individual and team awards. Shannon Yan took first place, followed by Andrew Divita in second, and Dillon Pedro in third. Teams from Mendenhall took first and third place and a combined East Avenue Middle School and Mendenhall team took second.

MATHCOUNTS is an extracurricular middle school program to promote math achievement. Teachers, parents, and communi-



Ethan Epperly and Joshua Hart. 8th graders at Christensen, are pictured with school board member Bill Dunlop, who is also a coach for the Christensen MATHCOUNTS team.

to look at math a different way," says Ethan.

The tournament consists of two individual written components: the sprint round which tests speed and accuracy, and the target round of multi-step problems that engage mathematical reasoning and problem-solving processes. In the team round, groups of four students work together to solve ten problems in twenty minutes. Scores from both the individual and team components determine the winning teams.

The final piece is the countdown round, in which the top ten individuals, based on scores from the sprint and target rounds, compete against each other and the clock to determine final placement. Only seventh and eighth graders participate in the countdown round.

to the Diablo Chapter Competition next month. The California State Competition will take place in March in northern and southern California. The Raytheon MATHCOUNTS National Competition will be held in Orlando, Florida on May 11. For more information MATHCOUNTS, visit http://www.mathcounts.org/.

The winners of the 2012 Livermore Citywide MATH-COUNTS Tournament are:

Individual grades, 7/8: 1. Ethan Epperly (Christensen); 2. Joshua Hart (Christensen); 3. Jeremy Anninos (Mendenhall); 4. Roopjote Atwal (Mendenhall); 5. Nick Sobrepena (LVCS); 6. Emma Kristovich (East); 7. Joseph Chatterjee (Mendenhall); 8. Scott Plantemga (Mendenhall): 9. Jordan Combitsis (LVCS); 10. Nathan Barney (Mendenhall).

#### Individual, grade 6: 1. Shannon Yan (Mendenhall); 2. Andrew Divita (Mendenhall); 3. Dillon Pedro (Mendenhall); 4. Sarah Morgan (Mendenhall); 5. Nicolas Macchioni (Mendenhall).

Team, grades 7/8: 1. Mendenhall (Nathan Barney, Jeremy Anninos, Joseph Chatterjee, Roopjote Atwa); 2. Christensen (Ethan Epperly, Joshua Hart, Chloe McGlynn, Jessica Munoz);

3. LVCS (Jordan Combitsis, Pranav Raja, Nick Sobrepena, Amber Tang).

Team, grade 6: 1. Mendenhall (Shannon Yen, Andrew Divita, Nicholas Macchioni, Sarah Morgan); 2. Christensen/Mendenhall combined (Ariel Kenfack, Cory Houck, Rhea Park, Matthew Cheng); 3. Mendenhall (Kaitlyn Martinez, Raenelli Orlino, Robert Pinkston, Chris Kilday).



# LIVERMORE

#### Volunteer and Make a Difference

Volunteer Advisory Bodies are the perfect place to get involved and make a difference in your community. The City of Livermore is actively recruiting for the following advisory bodies:

#### Beautification Committee

Committed to preserving the natural beauty and habitat of our city, Committee members make recommendations on parks, roadsides, medians, city gateways, and landscape maintenance standards and lead public outreach programs.

#### Livermore Area Youth Advisory Commission

Giving youth a voice in Livermore, the Commission is committed to providing social and recreational opportunities for young people. The Commission also addresses responsibility for the health, safety, welfare and education of Livermore's youth.

#### Library Board of Trustees

The Library Board helps to set goals and objectives for the broad variety of services and programs the Library provides, and recommends policy modification to City Council.

#### Human Services Commission

Provides a forum for discussion of community social needs, monitors the expenditure of housing and human services funds, assists local agencies in procuring grants, and submits an annual report to City Council on the status of social conditions and progress towards achieving solutions to the community's human needs.

ty members volunteer as coaches at the individual school sites.

At regular club meetings, students practice math problems that involve several concepts, making them more complex and difficult than what is taught in regular math classes. "I like MATH-COUNTS because it teaches you

Each school can send one team and four additional students (seventh and eighth grade only) Applicants are required to attend at least one meeting of the Advisory Body applied for prior to the interview. For an application, meeting schedule or more information, contact the City Clerk's Office at 925-960-4200 or online at www.cityoflivermore.net.

> Applications are due in the City Clerk's Office no later than Friday, January 27, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.







### THE INDEPENDENT • SECTION II

# Art, Community, & Education





Art Happens in Livermore; story page 5.



Brian Turner reads his poetry at Ravenswood; story page 2.



"Annie" opens at the Bankhead Theater; story page 3.

complex, innovative instrumentals

that they sometimes write on the

spur of the moment. Their goal is

'To emulate our influences while

at the same time pushing bluegrass

and American acoustic music into previously uncharted territory."

and \$25; Child: \$12 and Senior: \$20. Group discounts are avail-

able. Tickets may be purchased

on-line at www.firehousearts.org

up to three hours prior to the per-

formance, by phone at (925) 931-

4848, or in person at the Firehouse Arts Center Box Office. Box Office

hours are Wednesday-Friday, 12

noon-6:00 p.m., Saturday 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., and for two hours

prior to the performance. The en-

trance to free parking is on Spring

Street near First Street.

Tickets are Adult: \$15, \$20

# **Them Boys Opening for Special Consensus**

Pleasanton's Firehouse Arts Center will host a midweek evening of bluegrass music with headliner, Special Consensus and local opening act, Them Boys, on Wednesday, January 25, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.

The Firehouse Arts Center is located at 4444 Railroad Avenue in downtown Pleasanton.

Special Consensus, a "traditional, yet modern" bluegrass band has toured nationally and internationally to Britain, Canada and South America since 1979 and has performed at the Grand Ole Opry, on cable television and National Public Radio. In a review of their album, "35," which was released in 2010 to mark the band's 35th anniversary, Mark S. Tucker calls the band "a superb bluegrass outfit in a classic vein but with more than enough modern sensibilities to attract every ear in this now pleasantly fractionating genre. The vocals are spotless, the playing as shiny as a newly minted penny, and music like this is the reason people come to love bluegrass."

Local group Them Boys will open for Special Consensus, making their first professional appearance under their new name. The group is comprised of four teenagers, Nate Schwartz (17) and



Special Consensus

Max Schwartz (14) of Walnut Creek, Marty Varner (16) of Boulder Creek, and Alex Sharps (18) of Rio Vista. They have performed individually for several years with other bands and the California Bluegrass Association's "Kids on Bluegrass" program. The quartet is known to play the traditional, driving bluegrass of their mentors as well as





# Soldier-Poet, Modest Poet Featured at Ravenswood

The City of Livermore and Livermore poet laureate Cher Wollard invite the public to attend a special literary event at Raven-swood Historic Site on Sunday, Jan. 15, at 2 p.m.

Brian Turner, a soldier-poet whose compelling work about his military experiences has won numerous national awards, will be the featured reader along with Modesto poet Gillian Wegener.

An open mic will follow the readings. Admission is \$5. Students with ID are admitted free.

Turner's debut book of poems, Here, Bullet, won the 2005 Beatrice Hawley Award, the New York Times Editor's Choice selection, the 2006 Pen Center USA Best in the West award, and the 2007 Poets Prize, among others.

His second book, Phantom Noise, (Alice James, 2010), describes what happens to a person and a culture when a soldier brings the war home with him. It was short-listed for the 2010 T.S. Eliot Prize in Poetry.

Turner served seven years in the US Army, including one year as an infantry team leader in Iraq with



the 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division. Prior to that, he was deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1999-2000 with the 10th Mountain Division.

His poetry has been published in "Poetry Daily," "The Georgia

Review," and other prestigious literary journals. His poems were also featured in the "Voices in Wartime" anthology published in conjunction with the featurelength documentary film of the

same name.

Turner was also featured in Operation Homecoming,' 'a unique documentary that explores the firsthand accounts of American servicemen and women through

their own words. He earned an MFA from the University of Oregon and has lived abroad in South Korea. In 2009, Turner was selected as one of 50 United States Artists Fellows.

Wegener has had poetry published or forthcoming in In Posse, Sow's Ear Review, Packinghouse Review, Snail Mail Review and Spillway. Her chapbook, Lifting One Foot, Lifting the Other, was published by In the Grove Press in 2001, and her first full-length collection of poetry, The Opposite of Clairvoyance, was published in 2008 by Sixteen Rivers Press.

She was awarded top honors in the 2006 and 2007 Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Prize. A resident of Modesto, she coordinates and hosts the Second Tuesday Reading Series, and this year co-edited the anthology More Than Soil, More Than Sky: The Modesto Poets (Quercus Review Press).

Ravenswood is located at 2647 Arroyo Road, Livermore. For more information, contact Cher Wollard at cherw@livermorelit.com or 925 824-4824.

# **Musical Opening at Bankhead Tells the** Story of the Lovable Orphan 'Annie'

The Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre production of the musical, "Annie," opens Sat., Jan. 21 at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore.

Performances will be weekends through Feb. 5. Curtain time is 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. on Sundays. (There is no Friday performance on opening weekend.)

The play, based on the Tribune

Media Service Comic Strip: Little Orphan Annie, is about a spunky Depression-era orphan determined to find her parents who abandoned her years ago on the doorstep of a New York City orphanage. The orphanage is run by the cruel, embittered Miss Hannigan.

In adventure after adventure, Annie foils Miss Hannigan's evil machinations, befriends President

new family with billionaire Oliver Warbucks, his personal secretary Grace Ferrell and a lovable mutt named Sandy.

Producer is Kathleen Breedveld, Director John Maio, Choreographer Christina Lazo, Vocal Director Min Kahng, and Musical Director is Jo Anne Fosselman. The cast includes: Jordyn Foley,

Franklin Roosevelt, and finds a Julia Etzel, Jess Martinez, Sarah Schori, Erik Scanlon, Pamela Ballin, Kendall Tieck, Emily Johnson, Rachel Probst, Emma Thvedt, Emily Joy Kessel, Isabella Palmer-Ahrens, Grace Mesenbring.

> Supporting roles are performed by Tim Ackerman, Tom Farris, John Rinaldi, Scott Stewart, Jeffrey Sanchez, Dylan Spooner, Noelle Boero, Elizabeth Dimits, Sultana Gardizi, Britt Jensky, Emily Jones, Martha McDowell, Martie Muldoon, Hanna Pryfogle,

Brianna Reynolds, Judy Sanders, Zoe Larkin, Christine Curulla, Alexandra Baldacci, Sophia Delucchi.

The Bankhead Theater is located at 2400 First Street in downtown Livermore. Tickets may be purchased at www.livermoreperformingarts.org, by phone 925-373-6800, or in person at the ticket window at 2400 1st Street, Livermore.

Used with Permission Music Theater International



Daddy Warbucks (right) is played by Jess Martinez, Annie by Jordyn Foley.



### Art & Entertainment

### **Program in Dublin to Celebrate African American Poetry**

The City of Dublin will be hosting a unique presentation of poetry and spoken word, "Celebrating – 4:

African American Poetry" on Saturday, January 14, 2012, from 2:00 – 4:00 PM at the Heritage Park

### **Chinese New Year's Festivities Set**

In celebration of Chinese New Year, Gu-Zheng soloist Linda Yu and her students will perform traditional Chinese music and dance at the Pleasanton Public Library on Saturday, January 21 at 2:00 p.m.

The performance will showcase soloists as well as duets and quintets of music performed on the Gu-Zheng (a 21-stringed musical instrument), violin, the di-zi (Chinese flute) and the Yangquin (Chinese dulcimer). Also featured will be Dublin High School senior Cathy Yuan, a longtime student of traditional Chinese folk dance. Following the program, audience members will be offered a taste of traditional Chinese New Year foods.

Linda Yu graduated from the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing, China. She has dedicated her life to performing and teaching the Gu-Zheng, an instrument with over 2,000 years of performance history.

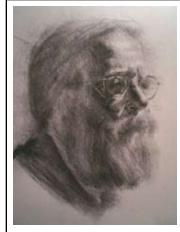
The program will be held in the library meeting room at 400 Old Bernal Avenue. No registration is required. For information on this and other library events, please visit the library's website at www. ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/library, or call the Children's Desk at (925) 931-3400 ext. 8.



Sunday School Barn, located at 6600 Donlon Way in Dublin.

Special guest poets and storytellers will deliver a performance as they take the audience on a stroll down memory lane to the Civil Rights Era of poetry. The performance will include works that impacted a nation from the early 1940's through the 1970's. Following the presentation, there will be an Open Mic event where audience members may share their own poems. The event will be hosted by Dublin's poet laureate, Jonnie Mc-Coy-Howell. Ms. Howell draws most of her influence from social and economic pressures in life that often reflect stories of endurance and perseverance. She believes that a writer has a great responsibility to influence, inspire and provoke thought towards change in others.

Admission is \$5 per person and payable at the door. For more information call (925) 556-4500.



Sample of his work.

#### Josh Thurman Debuts Art at Cuda Ridge Wines

Josh Thurman is a young, inspiring, artist displaying his first art exhibit at Cuda Ridge Wines through March. An artist reception will be held at Cuda Ridge Wines, 5385 East Avenue Livermore, on Saturday, January 21 from 1:00 - 4:00 PM. Complimentary Cuda Ridge wine tasting, and appetizers by Smokey's Kitchen, will be served at the reception. Josh will have some of his favorite paintings and illustrations on display for viewing. His works are also available for purchase at the winery, or contact Josh directly by email at joshthurman91@yahoo.com

Josh started practicing art at a very young age, and has been filling sketchbooks and canvas' ever since. He is now pursuing his Bachelors of Fine Arts (BFA) at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco. While Josh is enthusiastically working towards his degree in illustration, he also enjoys taking fine art painting classes and hopes to become a gallery painter, as well as a successful freelance illustrator. Josh is working to become fluent in all mediums, but prefers working in oil, watercolor, and digital painting mediums. He enjoys concentrating on every detail to bring a sense of realism to each object and character. Josh has commissioned work for other Livermore wineries and for various other private patrons.

The Cuda Ridge exhibit includes charcoal illustrations, oil canvas paintings, and water color paintings. Josh's attention to detail is exhibited in the charcoal drawings of The Mad Hatter and Jeff Bridges. Also, the oil painting of the clothed woman in front of the Ferry Building in SF is a must see. More of Josh's work can be seen at http://thurmanart. blogspot.com/

# See local photos of our Valley only at www.independentnews.com









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AND

### Artwork Sought for 2012 Amgen Rider Jersey

AEG, presenter of the Amgen Tour of California, is seeking original artwork submissions for the design of the 2012 Amgen Breakaway from Cancer® Most Courageous Rider Jersey. This jersey is awarded daily to the cyclist who best exemplifies the character of those engaged in the fight against cancer – courage, sacrifice, inspiration, determination, and perseverance.

Many of the world's elite cyclists will compete for the Amgen Breakaway from Cancer® Most Courageous Rider Jersey during America's largest and most pres-

tigious professional road cycling stage race, the seventh consecutive edition of the 2012 Amgen Tour of California which will travel more than 750 miles from May 13 - 20, 2012. Livermore is a host city.

From now until January 31, 2012, original artwork submissions will be accepted online at www. amgentourofcalifornia.com/bfccontest. The winning artwork will be used in connection with the 2012 Amgen Breakaway from Cancer® Most Courageous Rider Jersey. Hincapie Sportswear will produce this specially designed jersey.

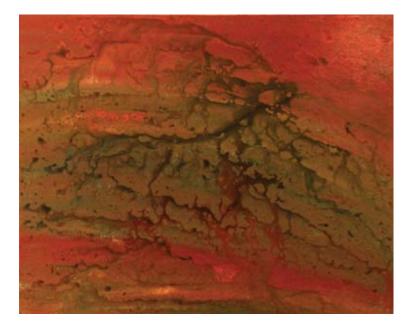
One grand prize package will be awarded to the person who designs the winning artwork. The prize package includes a trip for the winner and one guest to one Stage of the 2012 Amgen Tour of California, including round trip airfare, hotel accommodations, two VIP Hospitality passes to the respective stage of the race, an Amgen Tour of California merchandise package, and the opportunity to present the official jersey to the Most Courageous Rider winner of the Stage during the awards ceremony.

The winning submission will be determined by the following criteria: creativity (50 percent), use of colors and elements (25 percent), and choice of theme (25 percent). A panel of judges will review all eligible entries. All artwork must submitted as a .jpg, .eps, .gif, .pdf or .psd file, no more than 3 MB in size. Official contest rules can be found at www.amgentourofcalifornia.com/bfc-contest.





Sample of work to be displayed include Puertas Abiertas (upper left), Aftermath (upper right) and Pele Rising (below).



### **Artist's Reception at Prudential California Realty**

A collection of works by expressionist painter Marco Rosales Shaw are on display at Prudential California Realty through March 15.

The public is invited to attend a reception for the artist on Saturday, Jan. 15, 5-7 p.m. Local wines and hors d'oeuvres will enhance this free event.

Rosales Shaw, of Walnut Creek, has been a craftsman for years, bringing houses to life with a soft brush. But it was when he received a gift of canvas and acrylics that his talent truly found expression. He did not so much start to paint, as explode.

He creates his vibrant work by literally coating the canvas in veils of paint, and then cutting, scraping and slicing it away – much as an archaeologist carves through the earth's secrets to get at what lies beneath. Sometimes the paint is removed down to the grainy canvas, and its fabric becomes part of the piece.

His works take the viewer on a journey of discovery. Several of his pieces have been the inspiration for poems by prominent Bay Area writers.

Prudential California Realty, a sponsor of Livermore's cultural arts community, is located at 1790 First Street, Livermore.

The show is open for viewing during regular business hours or by appointment. Contact Cher Wollard at 925 824-4824 or cherw@ cherw.com for information.



# "Art Happens" Launches in **Downtown Livermore**

Beginning on January 12 and reoccurring every 2nd Thursday of each month from 5:30-8:00 p.m., several downtown locations will open their doors for an evening of art exploration. Locations will range from open studios and art exhibitions to introductions to ceramics painting to make-it and take-it sessions. This new monthly event is coordinated by the Bothwell Arts Center, with help from the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center (LVPAC) and local photographer, Jennie McGregor.

A full calendar and map of 6 months of art offerings will be available at many locations downtown and through the visitor's bureau in early January. This 6month Art Happens calendar will also include a listing of other places to see art in downtown Livermore and will be downloadable from the Bothwell's updated website when it goes live in mid-January.

For a sample, on January 12, Art Happens lineup gives an idea of what the future will hold:

Artistic Edge at Blacksmith Square, 21 So. Livermore Ave., Explore the Edge, the Art of Livermore

Art Glass Studios, 174 So. L St., Make It and Take It Thursday Nights, with guest artists and demonstrations.

The Firehouse Art Studios, upstairs in the Old Firehouse building at 1st and McLeod Streets, will

hold Open Studios in the longestrunning art studios in downtown. Works range from colorful contemporary to realism.

Bothwell's Downtown Art Studios, 62 So. L St., Open Studios and Featured Artist Exhibition "Genesis — Birth by way of Death" by Arthur Barinque, and a special "Wake Up: A Social Justice Project" exhibition by the Livermore Valley Charter Preparatory High School

Cafe Art, 1764 First St., "Bubbles" Ceramics Painting Technique, first of special Thursday technique nights Figurehead Gallery, 2222 2nd St., Stes. 20-21, Gallery Viewings, Meet the Artists Night

Wild Vine Wine Bar & Lounge, 2187 First St., 6-7:30 p.m. Bothwell Studio Artist Exhibition Reception, with works from both the main Bothwell Center artists and the new Downtown Art Studios.

Dates and themes for the first six months at the downtown Bothwell Downtown Art Studios are as follows:

January 12: Arthur Barinque, "Genesis," a show about birth by way of death, plus an exhibition of work by the Livermore Valley Charter Preparatory High School, "Wake UP - A Social Justice Project.'

February 9: Joanna Crawshaw, "The Journey.

March 8: Linda Ryan, a demonstration in figurative abstraction and acrylic tips.

April 12: Emilee Dunlop, creative ArtWorks in textile.

May 10: Nova Starling, vibrant abstract paintings of local vineyards.

June 14: Kathy Hill, cowgirl art with horse painting demonstration.



# McGrail's '08 Livermore Cabernet Reserve Scores "Best Red" In Sweepstakes at Chronicle Competition

#### by Laura Ness

Livermore Cabernet has bested the lot of 'em to take Best Red bragging rights at the just completed San Francisco Chronicle Competition. Kudos to winemaker Mark Clarin for this outstanding achievement, and one of which every Livermore Cabernet lover can be proud. The 2008 Livermore Valley Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve (\$36.00) outscored its way to the top through a thick field of Cabernets, including submissions by a dozen other Livermore wineries, and strong competition from big Napa names, like Black Stallion, Sequoia Grove, B.R. Cohn and Judds Hill.

Among other local heroes bringing home the bacon for Cabernet were Fenestra, who scored Gold for its 07 Cabernet from Thatcher Bay in the \$20 to \$24.99 category, where Page Mill, Red Feather and Wente scored Silvers. Bent Creek won Best of Class for its 09 Cabernet in the \$25 to \$29 category, and Cuda Ridge scored Best of Class for its 09 Merlot in the \$20 to \$24.99 category. Wente scored Gold for its 07 Merlot in the over \$40 category, and scored Best of Class for Syrah in the over \$40 for the 09 Livermore Valley under the nth Degree label. Thomas Coyne, too, brought home Best of Class for its "Quest" Rhone blend, at \$24, a steal compared to some of the others in that class.

Darcie Kent scored Double Gold for her 2010 De Mayo Chardonnay in the \$30 to \$35 category, while McGrail took home Silver for its Livermore Valley Chard. In the \$20 to \$25 Chardonnay category, it was pretty much heigh ho Silver for Livermore, with medals for Charles R, Stony Ridge and Wood Family, and Bronzes for Darcie Kent, Crooked Vine, Retzlaff and Ruby Hill. In the \$25 to \$30 slot, Nottingham bagged Silver.

Concannon did not disappoint in the realm of Petite Sirah, bringing home Gold for the 2008 Livermore Valley Captain Joe's Reserve in the \$20.00 and over category. The winery scored Silver for its \$60 2007 Heritage Petite, as did Bent Creek, Fenestra, Crooked Vine and Mitchell Katz, for both Falling Star and Clarks Corner. Livermore showed up multiple times in the Bronze category for Petite, with medals for Charles R, Concannon, Darcie Kent and Las Positas.

Page Mill took home a Gold for the 2011 Sauvignon Blanc from Ghielmetti, and Darcie Kent earned a Gold for her Sauv Blanc from Rava Black Jack in Monterey. Murietta's Well scored Bronze for its Semillon-Chardonnay blend. For Pinot Grigio, Eagle Ridge and Fenestra both scored Bronze.

Csaba Szakal of En Garde again struck Gold for his Cabernet Sauvignon from Diamond Mountain (\$60 and up). Both 3 Steves (more on them next time) and Longevity scored Bronze for Livermore Valley Cabs (08 and 09 respectively) in the \$25 to \$29 category.

Cuda Ridge and Nottingham scored Silver for 09 Livermore Valley Cabs in the \$30 to \$35 category, and the 08 Steven Kent Livermore Valley Cabernet scored Silver in the \$40 to \$49 category. In the over \$60 category, Wente brought home Silver for its 09 Livermore Valley Cab, and so did Concannon, for its 2007 Heritage series Livermore Valley Cab. Rigg Estate scored Bronze for its 2006 Cab, which is priced at \$65, as did En Garde's 07 Cab Reserve, Diamond Mountain, at \$88.

Wente scored Silver for 09 Cabernet Franc, while Crooked Vine took Silver for its Del Arroyo Franc. For Petit Verdot, Thomas Coyne received a Gold for the wine from Lodi, while Fenestra and Murietta's Well took home Silver for Livermore versions, both 2009. Crooked Vine and Cuda Ridge both took home Bronzes for 2009s.

In Bordeaux Blends, Murietta's Well scored Silver for "The Spur" in the \$20 to \$24.99 category, while Crooked Vine scored Gold for its 09 "Moxie" blend in the \$30 to \$39 class, with Retzlaff tagging a Bronze onto its 2005 Cab/Merlot blend. The 09 "Conjugation" from Fenestra, scored Silver in the \$40 to \$49 category.

In other Reds and blends, Concannon scored Silver for Crimson & Clover, Tamas Estates appropriately received a Double Gold for its Double Decker, Bent Creek scored Silver for its 2009 Red on Red, Fenestra picked up Silver for its Graciano and Ruby Hill was awarded a Bronze for the 09 Grapeful Red. Fenestra's 2008 Mourvedre scored Bronze.

In the Zin category, Charles R came away with Gold in the \$25 to \$30 category, while Wood scored Bronze for its Hansen Zin. Darcie Kent took Silver for the 2008 De Mayo Zin in the \$30 to \$34.99 slot. In the \$20 to \$24.99 category, Fenestra scored Silver, and Bent Creek, Mitchell Katz and Page Mill all scored Bronze.

Tamas Estates scored Gold for their 09 Sangiovese Riserva, while Mitchell Katz took Silver for the 09 Crackerbox. Both Fenestra and Longevity scored Silver for Tempranillo. A very respectable showing all around.

(The San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition Public Tasting will be held at Fort Mason Center in San Francisco on February 18, 2012, 2 to 5 p.m. Tickets are \$65 when purchased in advance from www. winejudging.com.)

#### Nottingham Notches Two More 90-Point Scores

If you need more proof that Livermore is truly on the edge of greatness, check out this news. Wine Enthusiast has once again awarded winemaker Collin Cranor's efforts with two 90-point scores, this time for the 2009 Micro-Lot Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon, and the other for the 2009 Vineyard Designate Cabernet Sauvignon (VDCS) from Casa De Vinas. Both entries also earned a Cellar Selections notation, the magazine's nod to wines built for longer aging. Nottingham Cellars also picked up scores of 89 points for the 2010 Chardonnay and the 2009 VDCS Cabernet from Wisner Vineyard, followed by 88 Points for the VDCS Del Arroyo Vineyard, and 86 Points for the Livermore Valley Cabernet Sauvignon. The VDCS Cabs are available for presale to club members only and will become available after Feb 24. The 2010 Chardonnay will be available in April.

#### Wente To Be Honored with Wine Enthusiast Award

Wente Family Estates was named 2011 American Winery of the Year by Wine Enthusiast magazine, a high honor, indeed. This winery never ceases to innovate, while maintaining a faithful tie to its family roots. Among the many achievements over the past year was its successful launching of the entwine brand, a project that taps a relationship with the Food Network to reach consumers with a fresh perspective on food and wine pairings.

There are four wines in the program: Chardonnay, Cabernet, Pinot Grigio and Merlot, all of which are widely available in the broader market, and can be found locally at Safeway stores. The website, entwine-wine.com provides many delicious recipes for pairing with the wines. The entire approach, especially the mouthwateringly good photography, is very fresh, inviting and appealing. The maple



glazed flank steak with roasted endive, paired with the Cabernet, sounds particularly wonderful.

Associate marketing manager, Heather Everett, says the basic idea is to engage consumers in a relaxed and conversational manner, removing all pretense, and really providing them with an inside view of the entire process. To that aim, Wente will be holding entwine tours at the Tesla property, the third week of each month, with two tours daily, at noon and 4pm. For \$25, each participant will receive a one and a half hour tour of the historic Wente operation, concluding with a tableside tasting of all four entwine varietals with delicious, simple food pairings, set atop white linen tablecloths. Tours must be booked in advance and begin the third week of January. Tours are twice daily, Monday - Thursday, at 12:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m., and at 2pm on Saturdays.

Meanwhile, we wish the Wente family a fabulous time in New York City, where Carolyn and Karl will accept the award in a private ceremony at the New York Public Library on January 30, 2012. We can apparently join in the fun locally as well, as all the Wente tasting rooms will be marking the occasion during the week of January 30. January is certainly off to a fine start for Livermore.

### Community



The ABC Music Store & Academy Children's Choir caroled down First Street in late December. The choir sand a variety of carols and "debuted" its very own song: "Christmastime in Livermore!" In addition to caroling down First Street, the singers were invited by Linda Ryan and Duane Gordon from valleysingout. com to perform at Panama Red where they ended the evening. A link to the children performing "Christmastime in Livermore" is http://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=Cc\_afzyZiYI. The carolers are Gianna Sansoni, Casey Sansoni, Shreya Shetti, JD Cerruti, Daelyn Cerruti, Jade Overton, Lauren Allen, Ariel Van Buuren, Katie Cuellar and Amanda Hoffmann.

### Interfaith Presentation on Islamic Faith Planned in Livermore

An Interfaith presentation on Islamic Faith will be held on January 22 at First Presbyterian Church in Livermore.

Dr. Abdul Awwal, an engineer associated with the National Ignition Facility (NIF) of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory since 2002, will be presenting a talk on "Islam and Muslims: What do a Billion Muslims Believe?"

The presentation will include a quick overview of the basic tenets of the Muslim faith and address some topics of current interest, followed by time for questions and answers. Resources for further study will be available for those interested. The public is invited to this fascinating presentation.

The free presentation will be given in Fellowship Hall (accessed through the courtyard from K Street between 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> streets) at 7:00 p.m., Sunday, January 22. For more information call the church office at 447-2078 or check out the church's website at http://www.fpcl. us/adults.html

### **Restaurant Week on Calendar**

Taste of Tri-Valley Restaurant Week will be held January 21-29, 2012. Tri-Valley is one of more than 25 destinations throughout the state hosting a restaurant week during January, which has been designated as California Restaurant Month.

More than 30 restaurants from Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin, San Ramon and Danville will participate in Taste of Tri-Valley with exclusive pre fixe lunches for \$15 and dinners for \$20-30.

There will also be a kick-off party for Taste of Tri-Valley at Underdog Wine Bar, located on the grounds at Concannon Vineyard on Friday, January 20, 2012.

A complete list of participating restaurants is available at www.trivalleycvb.com/tasteoftrivalley/



# What Are You Doing This Week?



The Independent's online Cultural Arts and Community Events Calendars have events this week, this month and this year. PLUS Websites for 32 cultural organizations and 183 other community, government, recreation, service and business organizations, churches and wineries....

> See what's happening in The Valley. Go online to the calendars at www.independentnews.com

# **ART & ENTERTAINMENT**



From January 20 through 30, during store hours, Thomasville of Dublin (7460 Dublin Boulevard, Dublin; 925-479-9630) will host the "Art Is The HeART of the Home II" exhibition. Artists from the nonprofit organizations, EkowArt/Say Thanks, the Livermore Art Association (LAA), the Mexican Heritage Center and Gallery of Stockton, and the Pleasanton Art League (PAL) will exhibit their artworks throughout the Thomasville showroom. Most artworks are for sale. The event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. For more information call Jaclyn Zoccoli at 209-839-0889. Pictured is "Branching Out," a painting by Linda Jeffery Sailors that will be on display.

#### **ART/PHOTO EXHIBITS**

Livermore Art Association Gallery, located in the Carnegie Building, offers art classes, unusual gifts, painting rentals, art exhibits and information pertaining to the art field, 2155 Third St., Livermore. The gallery has been open since 1974 and is run as a co-op by local artists. Hours are Wed.-Sun. 11:30-4 p.m. For information call 449-9927.

- Blue Bay Press: Eloquence in Printmaking, Harrington Gallery, Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. January 19 - February 18, 2012. Opening reception Thursday, January 19, 6:30 - 8:30 pm. Free and open to the public. Exhibit will include several styles of printmaking —etching, monotype, chine colle, and woodblock, on handmade paper, canvas, and other surfaces, for example. It will also include a small collection of marble sculptures made by Maj-Britt Hilstrom. www.firehousearts.org.
- Livermore Art Association Winter Show, January 4-31, Robert Livermore Community Center at 4444 East Avenue is hosting an art exhibit by Livermore Art Association (LAA) artists during the month of January. Located on first floor, the show will include various mediums such as watercolor, acrylics, and photography. The community center is open 8-6M-Th, 8-5 Friday, and 9-noon Saturday.

Judy Rice Exhibit, January & February

2012, Garre Winery Restaurant, 7986 Tesla Rd., Livermore. Watercolor landscape and flower paintings at this exhibit. The restaurant is open Monday through Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and for some dinners. 925-371-8200.

#### MEETINGS/CLASSES

- Livermore Art Association, Pleasanton Art League, meeting Mon., Jan. 16, 6:30 p.m. Cultural Arts Building, 4455 Black Ave., Pleasanton. Program will be "travel sketching" presented by David Savellan.
- Everything Poetry (in two parts), Second Saturday Soup-workshops 2nd Saturday of every month, 10am-12noon Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton; Third Tuesday Trope- poetry critiques 3rd Tuesday of every month, 7pm-9pm Towne Center Books, 555 Main Street, Pleasanton. Contact Cynthia Bryant at PleasantonPoetry@ ci.pleasanton.ca.us.
- Figure Drawing Workshop, every Friday 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Artists bring their own materials and easels. Open to all artists. Professional artist models (nude). No instructor. Students under 18 need written parental permission to attend. Cost \$20 per session. At the Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 8th St., Livermore. Coffee, tea and

refreshments are available. Call or email Barbara Stanton for more info about the workshop, 925-373-9638 - microangelo@ earthlink.net.

- Art in Public Places, join a local group of artists and paint on selected Friday mornings around town. ACC/Art Critique & Coffee invites artists to express themselves in watercolor, acrylic, oil For more details check out the website for Poetry On Canvas Pleasanton or contact Claudette at PoetryOnCanvas@ Mac.Com ~ ACC Meets each Friday at various locations.
- Tuesday Afternoon Art Classes for Grades K - 5 in Livermore, includes introduction to history of art. Tuesdays, 3:30-4:30/5 p.m. Some materials included in fee. Ongoing. thomasin\_d@hotmail. com ; (925) 216-7231; http://childrensartclassesprojects.blogspot.com
- Art Classes for teens and adults, Livermore Saturdays 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and Mondays 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Some materials included. Please email instructor a materials list to purchase supplies. Watercolor, oil paints, charcoal, pastel, colored pencil, collage, printmaking. Classes also introduce the History of Art to students. thomasin\_d@hotmail.com ; (925) 216-7231; http://childrensartclassesprojects. blogspot.com.
- LARPD Friday morning Art Classes for Homeschoolers 4–10 years, Livermore, Fridays 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Some materials included. Please email instructor for a materials list to purchase supplies. thomasin\_d@hotmail.com ; (925) 216-7231; http://childrensartclassesprojects. blogspot.com/.
- Girls Night Out Classes, Make family memories by attending a class together. Painting, jewelry making & paper art are now available to experience locally. Classes led by artist Claudette McDermott. For more information e-mail or call to sign up for classes 510 543-4776 PoetryOnCanvas@Mac.Com ~ Individual and group classes available.

Beginning Stained Glass, start and finish a small stained glass window (14" x 14") using cutting and manufacturing skills. Learn how to use basic glass tools. Limited to 8 students. Additional studio hours are available at a daily, weekly or monthly rate. Tools and supplies are \$174. Does not include glass. 5 week class, 2.5 hours each. Wed. 10-7, Thurs.-Sat. 10-9, Sun 10-4. Classes are ongoing. Art Glass Studio, 174 South LSt., Livermore. For more information contact Roberta Jones at: 925-447-1962 www.artglassstudio.weebly.com

#### WINERY EVENTS

- Charles R Vineyards 3rd Annual "Cab-Stravaganza" Saturday, January 21, Noon to 4:30pm. Lots of Cab-fun - special tastings, opportunities to purchase library wines, warm-your-belly food and much more. 8195 Crane Ridge Rd., Livermore. (925)454-3040, www.charlesrvineyards. com.
- Charles R Pays a Visit to Swirl, Thursday, January 26, 6-8pm. Swirl on the Square, Downtown Livermore exclusive pouring event at Blacksmith Square in downtown Livermore. There is a nominal charge to taste. Swirl is located at 21 S. Livermore Avenue in downtown Livermore at Blacksmith Square. (925)454-3040, www.charlesrvineyards.com.
- Valentine Port & Chocolate Affaire at Charles R Vineyards, Saturday, February 11, noon to 4:30pm. Old-fashioned

Valentine Day with Bonnie's Port Fudge and Decadent Chocolate Cake. Pairing the chocolate treats with Vino de Amor (Port), chilled and room temperature, and a Dad's special port tasting for Club Members. Ask how to become a Club Member. 8195 Crane Ridge Rd., Livermore. 454-3040. www.charlesrvineyards.com.

- Amor de Les Chenes, Sat., Feb. 11 and Sun., Feb. 12, noon to 4:30 p.m. Les Chenes Estate Vineyards, 5562 Victoria Lane, Livermore. Famous Jacqueline Kennedy Chocolate Souffle paired with our new Petite Sirah Port. \$5 fee. www. leschenesvine.com
- Chocolate Fondue paired with McGrail Cabernet Sauvignon, Sun., Feb. 12, noon to 4 p.m. Taste award winning Cabernet Sauvignons with delicate desserts dipped in chocolate fondue. McGrail Vineyards and Winery, 5600 Greenville Road, Livermore. \$25. www.mcgrailvineyards.com Romance Wine & Chocolate, Feb. 12, 1
- p.m. and 4 p.m. sessions, Wente Vineyards. Five decadent chocolate dessert and wine pairings, learn fun facts and trivia about the Valentine's Day Holiday, love and romance. Wine Club and Nth Degree Club Members \$30, all other guests, \$35. Call the Vineyard Tasting Room at 925-456-2405 to purchase tickets.
- Thomas Coyne Winery Winter Open House, Feb. 18, 19 and 20, noon to 5 p.m. at the historical tasting room at 51 E. Vallecitos Road Livermore. Four new wines will be released: Reserve Quest, Sweet Emillie, Petit Verdot, Vino Tinto Reserva. A selection of fine fruits and cheeses will be served. Bring a picnic and enjoy sweeping views of the Livermore Valley. "Bottle Your Own Wine," selling Vino Tinto Barato at the open house. Bring a clean bottle, we will fill, cork and label it for \$6.00 per bottle. Use our bottle for \$6.50; or may bottle, label and cork it yourself. Available only on Feb 18. Limit of six bottles per person.

#### MUSIC/CONCERTS

- **Music every Saturday** in the tasting room from 12 to 4; open every day if the gate is open and for sure on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays 11 to 5. Red Feather Winery, 5700 Greenville Rd., Livermore. Information at 449-1871 or www.redfeatherwinery.com
- Tri-Valley Medieval & Renaissance Collegium playing session for amateur musicians, Peter Maund, director. Mondays 7:30–9:30 p.m. 7600 Dublin Blvd., suite 370, Dublin. \$25. Information collegium2011@gmail.com or 925-424-1209 or 925-984-4395
- **Chris Bradley's Jazz Band**, plays at the Sunol Jazz Cafe (In the Center of Sunol) the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month 7:30-9:30 p.m. The band features real Jazz from the 1920's, 30's,
- George Winston, jazz, Jan. 13, 8 p.m. LVPAC Presents, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.
- **David Lanz Jazz Pianist**, 8 p.m. Sat., Jan. 14, Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts. org.
- Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, Jan. 14, 8 p.m. LVPAC Presents, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.
- International Guitar Night, Jan. 24, 7:30 p.m. LVPAC Presents, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

- The Special Consensus, 7:30 p.m. Wed., Jan. 25, Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.
- Patsy Cline Tribute with Joni Morris, 2 p.m. Sat., Feb. 5. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www. firehousearts.org.
- **Celtic Nights,** Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m. LVPAC Presents, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater. org or 373-6800.
- Led Zeppelin Experience starring "Heartbreaker," Friday, February 10, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.
- Saxophonist Andre Barton, Feb. 11, 8 p.m. eclectic mix of neo soul, jazz, funk and R&B. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www. firehousearts.org.
- Livermore Amador Symphony, concert Sat., Feb. 11, 8 p.m. featuring two winners of the annual Competition for Young Musicians. Program features Something for Everyone. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater. org or 373-6800.
- Tribute to Glenn Miller, Feb. 12, 2 p.m. LVPAC Presents, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.
- Cypress String Quartet, 3 p.m. Feb. 12, Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts. org.
- **Music of ABBA**, winter gala, Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m. LVPAC Presents, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www. bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.
- Hanson and Glover Piano Duet (four hands, one piano), Feb. 18, 8 p.m. Del Valle Fine Arts Concert, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www. bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.
- An Evening in Roma with Naresh Michael, Feb. 18, 8 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.
- **Don't Fence Me In,** country and western, Feb. 23, 7:30 p.m. LVPAC Presents, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.
- Dan Hicks and the Hot Licks, Feb. 24, 8 p.m. LVPAC Presents, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.
- San Ramon Symphonic Band, Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m. "Latin Spirit," Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, 10550 Albion Rd., San Ramon. www.sanramon. ca.gov
- Pacific Chamber Symphony, a professional symphony orchestra, concert 8 p.m. Feb. 25, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Program: Bach to Brahms - Brandenburg Concerto #6 for woodwinds, Mozart Serenade #12, Brahms Serenade #2. \$39/\$34/\$29 \$7 students. www.bankheadtheater.org
- Ho'olaule'a o Mana'olana: A Celebration of Hope, Feb. 25, 7 p.m. Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center. 10550 Albion Rd., San Ramon. www.sanramon. ca.gov
- Salute to the Rat Pack, Sun, Feb. 26, 2 p.m. A Swingin' Tribute to Frank, Dean, Sammy & The Legends of Las Vegas. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater. org or 373-6800.

Livermore. LLNL Presents The Rae

Dorough Speakers Series: Something

in the Water? www.bankheadtheater.org

Livermore Reads Together, A Bell for

Adano, events (Civic Center Library,

1188 So. Livermore unless indicated

otherwise): Jan. 22, 2 p.m. kick off event

featuring speaker Michael Krasny; Feb. 3,

7 to 9 p.m. The Barn, 3131 Pacific Ave.,

USO Dance, Music of the 1940s by the

Royal Society Jazz Orchestra; Jan. 4,

10:30 .m. The Joy of Handbells featuring

the Alleluia Ringers; Feb. 7, 7 p.m. Viola

Buitoni presents program on the Italian

Heart of a California Cook; Feb. 9, 1:30

p.m. Armchair Travelers: Sicily and the

Amalfi Coast with Dale Schauer; Feb. 9,7

p.m. National Park history Stephen Haller

will discuss the legacy of World War II

in the Bay Area; Feb. 11, 10:30 p.m.,

children's program sing, ring, listen and

paint; Feb. 11, noon, Vine Cinema, 1722

First St., screening of movie, The Secret

of Santa Vittoria; Feb. 12, 2 p.m. panel of

veterans will provide their perspectives on

war, moderated by Jim Ott, veterans are

John Shirley, John Sarboraria, Doug Bell

and Joe Cook. Feb, 14, 7 p.m. Sicily Now

and Then: A traveler's journey presented

by Jo and George Caporaso; Feb. 16, 7

p.m. The Swingin' Blue Stars of the USS

Hornet sings music of the 1940s; Feb.

23, 7 p.m. everyday life and everyday

resistance in Southern Italy during WWII

presented by Laura Ruberto; Feb. 26,

2 p.m. dramatic ready from A Bell for

Adano by readers from Shakespeare's

Associates. Livermore Reads Together

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morelibrary.net.

or 373-6800.

# **ART & ENTERTAINMENT**

#### ON THE STAGE

- Laura by Vera Caspary and George Sklar, January 13 - February 4, Role Players Ensemble, 8 p.m. Th., Fri., Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Village Theatre, 233 Front St. Danville, www.ci.danville.ca.us
- The Last Five Years, Jan. 20, 21, 27, 28 8 p.m., Jan. 22, 29 2 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.
- Annie, Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre production, weekends Jan. 21 to Feb.
  Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.
- Gilbert & Sullivan's, The Gondoliers, Lamplighters Music Theatre production, Lesher Center for the Arts, Walnut Creek, Fri., Jan. 27 and 28 at 8 p.m. and Jan. 28 and 29 at 2 p.m. www.lamplighters.org.
- Love Letters Valentines Production, Friday to Sunday, Feb. 3 to 5 and 10 to 12, 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Dublin Heritage Park and Museums, Donlon Way, Dublin. First theatrical production in the new Kolb Barn Theatre by Tri-Valley Performers, Love Letters by A. R. Gurney, for two consecutive weekends. www.ci.dublin.ca.us.
- Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, Civic Arts Stage Company, Feb. 24, 25 and March 2 and 3 at 7:30 p.m.; Feb. 25 and 26 and March 3 and 4 at 2 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.

#### COMEDY

- **Creatures of Impulse Improv Face-Off**, Feb. 2, 3 and 4, 7:30 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.
- **Comedy @ Firehouse Arts with Andrew Norelli**, Thurs., Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.

#### DANCE

Moscow Festival Ballet Presents Sleeping Beauty, Feb. 19, 4 p.m. Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, 10550 Albion Rd., San Ramon. www.sanramon. ca.gov

#### AUDITIONS/COMPETITIONS

- Auditions Shout! the Mod Musical, Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre production directed by Min Kahng. Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m. with callbacks Wed., Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m. 1048 Serpentine Lane, #309, Pleasanton. Co-Creator Phillip George and David Lowenstein, Continuity Peter Charles Morris Rated PG. Please bring 32 bars up tempo 60's Pop. Accompanist provided. No a capella or tapes allowed. Be dressed for and prepared to dance. All roles open, ages 18 and older, no pay. Rehearsals begin on February 27. Information at www.trivalleyrep.org.
- Auditions, The Odd Couple, San Ramon Community Theater production, auditions February 7, 2012 at 7pm with call-backs on February 9, 2012 at 7PM. 6 men and 2 women from ages 20 to 60. Rehearsals begin in February with performances for 3 weekends beginning April 27, 2012. Auditions and call-backs are at the Front Row Theater in San Ramon, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Rd., San Ramon (located inside the Dougherty Station Community Center). www.sanramoncommunitytheater.org or call (925) 389-7529
- Cantabella Spring Registration, the award winning Cantabella Children's Chorus celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of develop-

ing singing in children and youth from kindergarten through high school. New singers are invited to inquire about registration in one of the choirs. Rehearsals begin on January 17 in Dublin, on January 18 in Livermore, and on January 19 in Pleasanton. The spring program includes learning a brand new piece written just for Cantabella and meeting and working with the composer, participating in the World Choir Games in Cincinnati in the summer, and lots of fun with experienced, highly qualified instructors. Visit cantabella. org and call 925-292-2663 for more information.

Acoustic Night, San Ramon Parks and Community Services Department is hosting Acoustic Night for high school students on Friday, March 30 at the Loft, in the Dougherty Station Community Center (17011 Bollinger Canyon Road). The event starts at 7:30 pm and costs \$5 to attend. The Department is looking for talented musicians to perform during this event. The Acoustic Night is open to all high school students. Interested performers should contact Jennifer Gault at 973-3375 or email jegault@sanramon. ca.gov. Visit www.SRTeen.org for more information.

#### CHORAL

Foothill Winter Choral Concert, featuring Concert Choir, Jazz Singers, Women's Choir, Men's Ensemble, Chamber Singers. Thurs., Jan. 12, 7:30 p.m. Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton. Tickets, \$7 general/\$5 students & seniors.

#### MOVIES

Classic films at the Pleasanton Library, Las Positas College and the Pleasanton Public Library present the series. Theme this year is 'Three Great Directors." Admission is free. The series is hosted by Candace Klaschus, Professor of Media Studies at Las Positas College. Klaschus offers a brief talk about each film prior to the screening. The three great film directors featured in this year's series are Howard Hawkes, John Ford and Alfred Hitchcock. Refreshments are served. A complete list of the 'Three Great Directors" films is available at the Pleasanton Public Library. Movies will be shown the first Thursday of each month through June 7, 2012. No registration required. The library is located at 400 Old Bernal Ave., Pleasanton. For more information, call Penny Johnson, 931-3405.

#### **OPERA**

20th Anniversary Season Celebration, Livermore Valley Opera, Sat., Jan. 28, Duo of Divas: Mezzo-soprano Zheng Cao and LVO Advisory Council member Erie Mills. Ruby Hill Golf Club, Pleasanton. www.livermorevalleyopera.com

**Broadcast from the Met**, Dublin Regal Hacienda Cinema. Enchanted Island, Jan. 21; Gotterdammerung, Feb. 11; Ernani, Feb. 25 and March 14; Manon, April 7 and 25; Turandot, April 14, May 2. First date is a morning showing, second date afternoon. Check for exact curtain time. 560-0900.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

Political Issues Book Club meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month, and reads books about issues and trends that are driving current affairs in both the national and international arenas. Topics that have been covered include politics, governance, economics, military affairs, history, sociology, science, the climate, and religion. Contact Rich at 872-7923, for further questions

- We're Talkin' Books! Club is a member-centered book group led by a small group of book club veterans, with reading selections based on member recommendations and consensus. No homework required-share your insights or just listen in! Contact Susan at 337-1282 regarding the We're Talkin' Books! Club.
- Celebrating African American Poetry, Sat., Jan. 14, 2 to 4 p.m. Dublin Heritage Park and Museums, Donlon Way, Dublin. Poetry from the early 1940s to 1970, and discuss how Poetry impacted a nation. Special Guest Poets, Folk and Storytellers. Open Mic. Entry fee \$5 at the door which includes refreshments. Hosted by Jonnie McCoy-Howell, Dublin Poet Laureate, at (925) 452-2105 or email poet. laureate@dublin.ca.gov for more detailed information.
- Museum on Main, preschool pre-literacy program, M.o.M.'s Reading Time. For ages 2 to 5 and families, free reading program, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Reading at 10 a.m. with theme crafts following. Donations appreciated. No reservations required. Large groups or playgroups please phone in advance: 925.462.2766 or email: education@museumonmain.org. 2012 M.o.M.'s Reading Time Dates and Themes: February 8, The Day it Rained Hearts; March 14, The End of the Rainbow; April 11, Art Smart; May 9, Please & Thank You; June 13, Flag Day; July 11, We All Scream for Ice Cream; August 8, It's A Circus; September 12, Fiesta; October 10, Creepy Critters; November 14, Thank You, Veterans; and, December 12, Light Up the Seasons. The Museum

the scholar-in-residence of Con-

gregation Beth Emek in Pleasan-

ton. Kalifon, who immigrated to

Israel as a young man, is trained

as both a biblical scholar and an

butz Tzuba, located in the Judean

Hills just outside of Jerusalem,

where he discovered what has

become to be called "The Cave of

John the Baptist." The association

of this cave with this well-known

Biblical figure is based on the pres-

ence of tens of thousands of shards

from small jars used in water puri-

fication rituals, and carvings on the

scholars, John the Baptist was a

distant maternal relative of Jesus

and was known for his fiery ser-

mons that focused on the impor-

tance of repentance. It is believed

According to New Testament

It was on the grounds of Kib-

archaeologist.

cave walls.

on Main is located at 603 Main Street in historic downtown Pleasanton. Science on Saturday, Feb. 4, 9:30 and 11:15

- a.m, The Gamma-Ray Spectrometer at Mercury: A Seven Year Journey to the Innermost Planet; Presenter: Morgan Burks, Teacher: Dan Burns. Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's lecture series for middle and high school students, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. No admission charge. www. bankheadtheater.org
- Ed Kinney Lecture Series, 7 p.m. An Evening with President Roosevelt, Tues., Feb. 7. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. \$10 General Admission, \$5 Members & Seniors, \$3 Students/Teachers with ID. All tickets are paid at the door. All tickets are open seating. Information www.museumonmain. org or (925) 462-2766.
- Science on Saturday, February 11, 9:30 and 11:45 a.m, Sleuthing Seismic Signals: Understanding Earthquake Hazard and Monitoring Nuclear Explosions; Presenter: Sean Ford, Teacher: Ken Wedel. Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's lecture series for middle and high school students, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. No admission charge. www.bankheadtheater.org
- Science on Saturday, February 18, 9:30 and 11:45 a.m, Space Junk: Traffic Cops in Space; Presenter: John Henderson, Teacher: Tom Shefler. Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's lecture series for middle and high school students, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. No admission charge. www. bankheadtheater.org
- **Paul Alan Cox**, Director of the Institute for EthnoMedicine, Wed., Feb. 22, 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St.,

### Archaeologist to be Scholar-in-Residence in Pleasanton

American-born archaeologist and scholar Reuven Kalifon will discuss his excavation of "The Cave of John the Baptist" and other subjects during his stint as

Kalifon, an ardent spelunker, discovered the cave by accident. He had crawled through the cave's slit-like opening and came upon thick layers of sediment and mud. Returning with an archaeologist friend, they moved aside several large rocks only to discover an ancient carving of a head. The subsequent full archaeological excavation unearthed niches carved into the walls that archaeologists believe were used for holding clothes as well as a stone bearing a size 11 foot-shaped indentation. Crude drawings that outlined John's life were revealed near the cave's ceiling.

"During my talk on the John the Baptist Cave," explains Kalifon, "I will stress that this cave apparently was also a holy site in the time of the First Temple, and was also frequented by the masses during the time of Jesus. This is an important example of an interesting phenomenon in which a holy site of a newer religion has its roots in the holiness attributed to the same by the former religious civilization."

Kalifon will speak on "Judaism in the Time of Jesus" at Lynnewood United Methodist Church, 444 Black Avenue in Pleasanton, on Sunday, January 29 at 7:00 pm. His other lectures, including "What Archaeology Reveals about the Bible" and "The Revival of Hebrew as a Native Tongue," will take place on January 26, January 28, January 28, and January 29 at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court in Pleasanton.

For more information, go to www.bethemek.org or call 925.931.1055. The Scholar-in-Residence program is presented by Congregation Beth Emek and the Jewish Federation of the East Bay in partnership with Lynnewood United Methodist Church.

In December 1837 John Marsh bought Los Meganos, a rancho north of Robert Livermore's Rancho Las Positas, from its original grantee, José Noriega, for \$500. Alta California's Mexican Governor José Castro had granted the four-league (about 20,846 acres) rancho to Noriega in 1835. Marsh's rancho included part of the Arroyo de los Poblados (now Marsh Creek) watershed, and Marsh could not take possession of his land until late April 1838 because of heavy winter rains. At that time, Robert Livermore was his closest neighbor. The modern city of Brentwood lies at the northeastern edge of the rancho and Antioch to the north.

John Marsh was born in Danvers, Massachusetts in 1800; he graduated from Harvard in 1823. When he came overland to Los Angeles in 1836, some scholars say that he misrepresented his Harvard diploma as a medical degree. He had taken a course in anatomy and worked as a Boston doctor's assistant in his senior year. He also studied for two years with an army surgeon in Wisconsin. In many states such experiences in those times would have qualified him to practice medicine. The Los Angeles city council had the diploma's Latin translated to their satisfaction by the Franciscan brothers at Mission San Gabriel and granted Dr. John Marsh a license to practice medicine. According to Irving Stone's Men to Match My Mountains, Marsh weighed



### John Marsh's Stone House

218 pounds, stood six feet two, and was bronzed and powerfully built.

Marsh was now the only medical doctor in California. His biographer, George Lyman, suggested that he use a deserted adobe on the Los Angeles Plaza for his office. He worked hard and was paid with cowhides, each worth about two dollars, tallow, or furs. He had a supply of quinine and thus could treat malaria. He vaccinated against smallpox, and he helped with difficult childbirths. Soon he complained that his adobe looked more like a warehouse than the office of a physician. Eventually, he sold his earnings to a Boston trading ship and headed north.

In San Jose he met José Noriega, who wanted to sell his rancho. After baptism at the mission, a requirement for Alta California land ownership, Marsh bought Los Meganos. In order to furnish cattle for his rancho, Marsh charged high prices for his work: twenty-five cows for a professional visit and fifty cows for an overnight stay. One angry customer, after washing two of Marsh's shirts, deducted twentyfive cows for doing the laundry from Dr. Marsh's original bill for 150 cows. Soon, Marsh had a



thriving herd that grazed on his unfenced property.

He was still the only doctor around; Antonio Suñol sent a rider with a letter for Marsh: "My wife is very ill. ... Come to San Jose and take horses, as the case is quite urgent." The U.S. Consul at Monterey sent for Marsh when his daughter came down with smallpox. Dr. Marsh traveled by horseback many miles to tend the ill.

Marsh wrote letters to friends and newspapers back east, persuading people to come to California. He was involved with the political shenanigans that eventually resulted in California statehood. When gold was discovered in California, Marsh traveled to Park's Bar, north of Marysville, where he struck it rich. He had also brought goods with him to trade for gold from other miners. In only a few months, he had accumulated \$40,000. After returning to Los Meganos, he grew richer by supplying the gold camps with wheat, fruit, beef, and pork. In 1851 his grape crop alone brought in \$4,000.

At Los Meganos near the creek, with the help of local Indians, Marsh built an adobe with four rooms plus an attic, not far from a large Miwok Indian village. The floor was dirt; the roof was thatched. One room had a fireplace-not for warmth, but so that the doctor could read at night. In June 1851 he married Abby Tuck, a schoolteacher, and she came to live with him in the adobe. She was delighted with the nearby vineyard, orchard, and gardens. A daughter, Alice, was born the following April.

Marsh decided to build a house worthy of his happy little family. The site, selected by Abby, was near the old adobe. The house is three stories, built of brick and ornamented on the exterior with pinkish-brown sandstone quarried on the rancho. A tower added a fourth floor. The building has 7,000 square feet. There was a veranda on three sides of the first floor, and the veranda's roof was accessible from the second floor. When Alice was four years old, Abby died of tuberculosis in August 1855. In early September 1856 Marsh moved his belongings into the new house. Two weeks later, Marsh was stabbed to death by three vaqueros who stopped his buggy and robbed him when he was on his way to Martinez.

If you travel north on Lone Tree Way from Marsh Creek Road, you can see the Marsh house to the west.

The Trust for Public Land raised \$13 million to buy 4,000 acres, including the house, and turned the property over to the state park system. Indian artifacts dating back 9,000 years have been found on the property. The house was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1971. For many years, local fans have fought to preserve the building. In 2006 the area was chosen for a state park. However, little actual restoration has been accomplished on the old building. With the recent cut-backs in state spending, that progress will probably slow down even more.

For current information, see the web site www.johnmarshhouse.com.

Readers can reach me at *am50homan@yahoo.com*.

### **AAUW Program to Feature News Anchor Juliette Goodrich**

Emmy Award winning TV news anchor and reporter, Bay Area native Juliette Goodrich, will be the featured speaker at the Saturday, January 21, meeting of the Livermore-Pleasanton-Dublin Branch of the American Association of University Women. The meeting, which is free and open to the public, will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Lynnewood United Methodist Church, 4444 Black Avenue, Pleasanton.

Juliette Goodrich graduated

U.C. Davis with a degree in Communications and was awarded the Kelly Broadcasting Scholarship her senior year. She started her career in broadcasting in the early 90's as a reporter for Channel 30 in Pleasanton. Ms. Goodrich gained additional local and national experience reporting and anchoring for news stations in the Redding, Chico and Sacramento television markets.

In 2005, Goodrich was named

Reporter of the Year by The Women of Radio and TV Association. In 2006 and 2008 she received an Emmy for Best Anchor and in 2007 she was awarded an Emmy for Best Newscast for the 5:00 p.m. news on CBS 5. In 2009, Goodrich won another Emmy for Best Daytime Newscast for the noon show she anchors on weekdays.

After Goodrich emceed for the one hundredth birthday celebration of the Centennial Light, the world's longest burning light bulb, at Fire Station 6 in Livermore, she was inspired to write a children's book, The Little Light Shines Bright. Proceeds from the book benefit local reading and writing programs and the Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation.

Juliette Goodrich and Dick Jones combined their talents to produce a wonderful children's book, The Train of Lights, about the annual Niles Canyon Train Event in Sunol, CA. She was inspired to write the story after riding on the train with her children. Juliette and her husband live in the East Bay with their three children. A native of the Tri-Valley, Ms. Goodrich enjoys writing children's books about local landmarks.

Refreshments will be served following the presentation. For further information regarding the January 21 AAUW meeting, call 484-3321.

# Milestones Education

# Mike Waltz, Regina Brinker Receive Excellence in Teaching Awards from Sandia

Sandia National Laboratories presented two teachers with Excellence in Teaching Awards at the regular meeting of the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District's Board of Education on Dec. 13. Mike Waltz, an engineering teacher at Livermore High School (LHS), and Regina Brinker, a science and technology teacher at Christensen Middle School (CMS), each received a \$500 award.

"The purpose of the Excellence in Teaching Award is to recognize teachers who foster a love of math, science, and technology in their students," says Stephanie Beasly, Community Relations Officer for Sandia/California. "The STEM subjects—science, technology, engineering and math—are vital to Sandia's mission and our nation as a whole."

In his nomination form, Waltz is described as "a spectacular engineering instructor who encourages students to learn and enjoy all topics of engineering." He worked in the engineering profession prior to becoming a teacher. At LHS, Waltz is the lead teacher of the Green Engineering Academy,



which has a special focus on at-risk youth. He also organized the LHS robotics team, which has competed in and won Robofest. In addition, he is advisor to the Engineering Club.

"Mike Waltz is the ideal combination of a practical engineer and enthusiastic teacher – exactly what students need to inspire them to participate in engineering careers," says Sue Johnston, chair of the LHS math department.

Brinker started the STEM Exploration program at CMS,



Regina Brinker (left) and Mike Waltz received awards from Sandia for their teaching work.

which feeds into the LHS Green Engineering Academy. She was selected in the top 10% of educators from across the country to participate in the Fulbright Japan program, won a Briner Prudential Award for teaching excellence, has

brought in grants totaling \$12,000, and was CMS teacher of the year.

CMS principal Amy Robbins describes Brinker as "an amazing person, an educational leader, local community member, and dynamic educator." She adds that "she is the utmost professional and always looks for ways to develop content, curriculum, and instructional strategies."

In 2007 Sandia established an endowment with the Livermore Valley Education Foundation (LVEF) to fund the Excellence in Teaching Award, given to two outstanding teachers in December of each year. Principals and staff members can nominate teachers for the award. Parents and students are encouraged to submit suggestions to site principals. Selection is made by a committee that includes representatives from LVEF, the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District, and Sandia.

Previous recipients are: Stefanie Erlwein, East Avenue Middle School; Nelson Fong, Livermore High School; Susan Johnston, Livermore High School; Elizabeth Lopez, Granada High School; Ravi Prabhala, East Avenue; Jennifer Profumo, Joe Michell K-8; Mary Martha Swanson, Rancho Las Positas; and the team of Wendy Otvos, Sharon Abri, Erika Johnston and Kerry Barger, Marylin Avenue Elementary School.

## **Five Directors Added to Fair Board**

Five new Directors have been selected to serve on the Board of the Alameda County Agricultural Fair Association. As one of the largest non-profit organizations in Northern California, the Fair Association's twenty-six Board Members oversee the operations of the Alameda County Fairgrounds with over three million visitors each year. New board members are Dawna Dowdell of Alameda, a successful banker; Michael Mahoney of Hayward, President and CEO of St. Rose Hospital; Robert Sherratt of Alameda, a retired educator of Alameda Unified School District; John Smith of Fremont, a successful business leader with Mason-McDufie; and Ron Zeno, Executive Director of Safe Exchange, a local non-profit agency, each bring to the Board.

President of the Fair Board Patrick O'Brien states, "The proven management experience and community leadership skills of these five new board members will be a true asset to the Fair Board."

Alameda's Dawna Dowdell has been a personal banking officer with Bank of America since 1999. Dowdell's experience in banking and finance will be a valuable asset to the Fair Board. She is involved in a variety of community organizations including the Alameda Kiwanis, Meals on Wheels and as a long-time volunteer for the City of Alameda Police Department.

Hayward resident Michael Mahoney has served over 20 years as President and CEO of St. Rose Hospital. With these many years of experience, he brings a wealth of knowledge in the development of public policy and community programs that operate on sound business principles while serving those within Alameda County. Mahoney has served on a variety of state, regional and local trade association Boards in addition to his involvement with the Hayward Chamber of Commerce and Rotary Club.

Alameda's Don Sherratt has over 40 years in education as a teacher and site administrator. After retiring in 2001 from the Alameda Unified School District, Sherratt continued to serve as their Chief of Personnel Officer

# Community

for many years. Currently, he is a professor at Alliant International University.

Fremont resident John Smith is currently a realtor in Hayward and has many years of business experience with Levi Strauss & Company. At Levi he had a successful merchandising career serving in many capacities from product management to brand market development.

Oakland's Ron Zeno is Executive Director of Safe Exchange, a non-profit agency that oversees court-ordered supervised visitation. He has additional experience as a teacher and counselor for at-risk kids in Richmond. Zeno has been actively involved in his community serving on a variety of Boards including Children's Fairyland and volunteering with Boy Scouts and the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory.

The Fairgrounds is home to the oldest one mile Race Track in America dating back to 1858. The Fair Association is well underway preparing for the 2012 Alameda County Fair to be held June 20 through July 8, closed Mondays. The Alameda County Fair is ranked as one of the top 50 fairs in the United States and has won numerous awards both nationally and internationally. The Fairgrounds also hosts more than 300 events annually. Visit the Fair's website at www.AlamedaCountyFair.com or call 925-426-7600 for more information.

# **BULLETIN BOARD**

(Organizations wishing to run notices in Bulletin Board, send information to PO Box 1198, Livermore, CA 94551, in care of Bulletin Board or email information to editmail@compuserve.com. Include name of organization, meeting date, time, place and theme or subject. Phone number and contact person should also be included. Deadline is 5 p.m. Friday.)

Become a volunteer literacy tutor and make a real difference in someone's life. Over 75 people are waiting for help. A free tutor training workshop will be held at the Livermore Library on Saturday, January 21, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.. Once trained, a volunteer can tutor any day or any time. To register, or for more information, call 373-5507. The READ Project is a service of the Livermore Public Library.

The Pedrozzi Scholarship Foundation has opened their its application for graduates of accredited Livermore schools. The Pedrozzi Scholarship Foundation will award thousands of dollars this year for continuing education to four year college, community college, graduate schools, technical and vocational schools. The Pedrozzi Scholarship Foundation uses an electronic application that requires all applicants online. No other application will be to apply accepted. Learn more about the eligibility requirements, selection criteria and how to apply by selecting the details for the scholarship type by going to www.pedrozzifoundation.org. In addition to the online application, the required official transcripts must be postmarked or hand delivered to our office on or before March 1, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. Crab Feed: The Knights of Columbus

**Crab Feed:** The Knights of Columbus Council 6043, 43rd annual Crab Feed 5 p.m. to midnight, Saturday, January 21, 2012. In addition to spectacular crab, pasta and salad, the Knights will sponsor a silent auction beginning at 5:00 PM. Tickets are \$40 per person and must be purchased by Saturday January 15, 2012 either by emailing: crabfeed@ comcast.net or calling Brad Schieferstein @ 925-846-7181. Credit cards are accepted and proceeds will benefit local charities Alameda County Food Bank, Open Heart Kitchen, Tri-Valley Haven, Hope Hospice, to name a few. St. Augustine Church Hall, 3999 Bernal Ave., Pleasanton.

International Association of Administrative Professionals, Las Positas Chapter, meeting Jan. 18, Registration 5:45 p.m., Dinner at 6 p.m., Presentation 7 p.m. – 8 p.m. Four Point by Sheraton, 5115 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton. Topic is Get C.L.E.A.R. - 5 Ways to Increase Trust & Communication in the Workplace. All are welcome, dinner and program \$20 and program only \$10. Colleen, at Programs@IAAP-LasPositas.org

Free Electronic Waste Recycling Fundraiser, Sat., Jan. 28, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Granada High School - Parking Lot, 400 Wall Street, Livermore. Benefit for Granada High School Safe & Sober Grad Night. Raising money so that the Granada Class of 2012 can have "the time of their lives" without risking their lives. By providing a Safe and Sober Grad Night, the risk of harm to graduates, and the community at large on a night when the risk is unusually high can be greatly reduced. Information, Yvonne Herbeck 925-352-4622.

Creating A Happier, Healthier You, series of free seminars at the Pleasanton Library presented by Dr. Christine Dickson. They are held on the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. Topics include: Jan. 19, free yourself from emotional eating: Feb. 16, dress yourself in love; March 15, go on a low information diet; April 19, build your emotional intelligence; May 17, move beyond your mind; June 21 become an optimist. Dickson holds a Dual Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology and Industrial-Organizational Psychology, and received her training at the National Naval Medical Center's Department of Internal Medicine where she specialized in preventive medicine and chronic disease. Library programs are free and open to everyone. Call Penny Johnson at 925/931-3405 for information. 400 Old Bernal Ave., Pleas

Tri-Valley Communities Against a Radioactive Environment (Tri-Valley CAREs) was founded in 1983 in Livermore, California by concerned neighbors living around the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, one of two locations where all US nuclear weapons are designed. Tri-Valley CAREs monitors nuclear weapons and environmental clean-up activities throughout the US nuclear weapons complex, with a special focus on Livermore Lab and the surrounding communities. Monthly meeting at the Livermore Civic Center Library Thursday, January 19 from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. For more information call Tri-Valley CAREs at (925) 443-7148 or visit our website at http://trivalleycares.org

Valley Špokesmen Bicycle Touring Club, Sat., Jan. 14, 22 miles Cinderella conditioning ride, meet 9 a.m. at Blackhawk Plaza, Danville, Karin Ball, 408-406-2286 or Rebecca Wood, 577-3842. Sun., Jan. 15, 30 miles loop ride from Val Vista Park in Pleasanton to Livermore and back, meet 10 a.m., Judie Hampton, 510-685-7103. Wed., Jan. 18, 25 miles, Chilly, Hilly Chili ride, meet 10 a.m. in Benecia, Barbara Wood, 7-7-745-6353. Anyone planning to go on a ride is asked to call the leader for details on where to meet and what to bring.

Annual Crab Feed, Elks Lodge #2117. Sat., Jan. 21, cocktails 6 p.m., dinner 7 p.m. Tickets \$35 per person advance sale only, reservations required by Jan. 16, 455-8820. 940 Larkspur Dr., Livermore.

German classes, Livermore Adult Education, 1401 Almond Ave., Livermore. Conversational German for intermediate students 1/10/12 to 2/13/12 Tuesdays, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.. Tuition is \$140 for ten sessions. Although this is an ongoing class, new students welcome. Conversational German for advanced students 1/11/12 to 2/14/12 Wednesdays, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Ongoing class with new theme each session, new students welcome. Tuition is \$140 for ten sessions. For information or to register call (925) 606-4722. Online registration at: www.livermoreadulted.org

**Prairie Giant**, the film will be shown 7 p.m. Sat., Jan. 14 at the IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin. This film is a dramatization based on the man voted the "Greatest Canadian Ever," Rev. Tommy Douglas. This is the story of the founding and creation of most of the freedoms that Canadians now enjoy. Meet and greet potluck begins at 6:30 PM, while a short discussion follows the film. For more information, call 925-462-3459.

It's a New Year...Make it a New You! WIGS (Women In GNON Seminars). Deanna Hinkins, owner of Hairlights Salon, and her team will talk about how to achieve a new look. Mon., Jan. 30, 5:30 p.m. Hairlights Salon (4307 Valley Ave., #F, Pleasanton). RSVP to gnoners@gmail.com by January 27. Free to GNON members, \$10 for non-members.

Livermore Historymobile, Artifacts needed. The Heritage Guild is in the process of updating the Livermore Historymobile, which is used to teach local history to Livermore third graders and also is a resource for the community. If you should happen to have any Livermore artifacts you might be willing to donate, please call and I'll be happy to pick them up. This would include any items referring to local Native Americans, early Spaniards and missionaries, ranchers, early days at LLNL, wineries, etc. If you have any questions or would like to donate, contact Nancy Mulligan, 925-443-3076.

Tri-Valley Democratic Club, meeting, Mon., Jan. 16, 7:30 p.m. IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Pkwy, Dublin. Election of 2012 Club Officers. Joe Tuman Political Analyst at CBS, Chair of Communication Studies at SF State and author will be speaking about politics and communications. Q&A, discussion, refreshments.

Writing Club for Young Adults, ages 12-21, are invited to join The Writing Club at the Livermore Public Library, Civic Center. The Writing Club will meet once a month on Thursdays, January 26, February 23, March 29, and April 26, 2012, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m, for a fun-filled evening of writing with author J.L. Powers. This free event will take place in the Storytime Room of the Civic Center Library, 1188 South Livermore Avenue, Livermore. Learn about publishing your works and how to expand writing horizons. Write and edit each other's work. For more information, please visit TEEN SPACE on the library's website: www.livermorelibrary.net, or contact Sandy at 925-373-5500, extension 5583.

Match Key Mixer, Single professionals of all ages are invited to meet new friends, Friday, January 27, 2012, 8pm-Midnight, at the Marriott Hotel, 11950 Dublin Canyon Rd., Pleasanton. The cost of the party is \$20 at the door, which includes the Match Your Key Mixer, plus dancing to your favorite hits. This event is co-sponsored by The Society of Single Professionals, the world's largest non-profit singles organization; and by MatchYourKey.com. Anyone wishing more information about this and many other singles parties may call 415/507-9962 or visit www. ThePartyHotline.com.

**Crab** Feed, Sat., Feb. 11, Aahmes Event Center, Livermore. 6 p.m. doors open, 7 p.m. dinner, 8 p.m. dancing to "Country Flavor Band." Menu of crab and prime rib, pasta, salad, French bread and dessert. No host bar. Silent auction. Fund-raising for Shrine nonprofit. Tickets \$40 per person, table of ten \$375. Contact the Shrine Event Center Office at 373-4880 for tickets and/or information.

The Pedrozzi Scholarship Foundation applications for graduates of accredited Livermore schools who wish to continue their education at four year colleges, community colleges, graduate schools and technical/vocational institutions are available online at www.pedrozzifoundation.org. The deadline for all applications and sealed official transcripts is March 1, 2012 at 5:00pm. The Pedrozzi Scholarship Foundation has awarded over \$1.2 million to graduates of Livermore schools.

Widowed Men and Women of Northern CA., Lunch in Pleasanton, Jan. 18, 11:30 a.m. RSVP by Jan. 16 to Janet, 443-3317. Happy hour in Pleasanton, Jan. 19, 5 p.m., RSVP by Jan. 17 to Kathy, 398-8005. Crab feed dinner in Livermore, Jan. 21, 5 p.m., RSVP by Jan. 4 to Hilda, 398-8808. Lunch in downtown Danville, Jan. 26, 11:30 a.m., RSVP by Jan. 22 to Marsha, 830-8483. Brunch/lunch in Pleasanton, Jan. 29, 11:30 a.m., RSVP by Jan. 26 to Ruby, 462-9636.

Livermore Adult Community Education is celebrating 88 years serving the Livermore Valley's Adult Learners. The following classes coming up: Microsoft Office 2010, Quick-Books, English as a Second Language, Adult High School Diploma, GED, Yoga and Art. Call 925-606-4722 or visit www.livermoreadulted. org for information.

Annual Crab Feed for Forest Home Farms Historic Park, 6 p.m. Sat., Jan. 28 at the Dougherty Station Community Center, 170011 Bollinger Canyon Road, San Ramon. Price is \$42 per person. Contact Carol Lopez at 925-828-0586 or any Board Member of the San Ramon Historic Foundation. No host social hour 6 p.m. with complimentary hors d'oeuvres; wine and beer for sale; dinner served at 7 p.m. Fun cake auction planned. All proceeds are used to provide programs, special events on the farm and maintenance for Forest Home Farms Historic Park and the Glass House.

Beginners Internet classes at the Pleasanton Library, monthly four-class series to learn to surf the Internet and send emails. Absolute beginners are welcome. Classes are held at 9:00 am with a choice of Tuesday or Thursday sections. Registration is required. Reserve a spot at the Reference Desk, or call 925/931-3400, extension 7. Library programs are free and open to everyone. Call Merry Luskin at 925/931-3400 for information. 400 Old Bernal Ave., Pleasanton.

**Crab Feed**, Friday, January 20, starting at 6:30 p.m. at the Shrine Event Center located in Livermore. It will be a benefit for CAST -the charity that helps children with autism. White Crane Winery is hosting the event. Cost is \$41 for wine club members, \$45 for nonmembers, plus tax and gratuity. Dinner includes: Crab, Garlic Bread, Ceasar Salad, Pasta, and Dessert. A wine and beer bar will be available for purchases. Dance to the "The Gabe Duffin Band" playing songs from the 70's, 80's & 90's. Reservations can be made at www whitecranewinery com

at www.whitecranewinery.com. **Operation: S.A.M.** "Supporting All Military" is a 501(c)3 non profit military support organization based in Livermore. S.A.M. has been in operation since January 2004. It is dedicated to the continued support of deployed troops. Preparation of comfort packages takes place every other week - all year long. Providing morale support for those deployed. All information provided is confidential and is not shared for security purposes. To submit a name and address, inquire about donations or helping, please visit www.operationsam. org, email operationsam@comcast.net or call 925 443-7620 for more information and the calendar of events. San Ramon Valley Newcomers Club

San Ramon Valley Newcomers Club invites new and long-time residents to its January luncheon on Jan. 19 at Forbes Mill Restaurant, 200 Sycamore Valley Rd. W., Danville. 11:30 am to 2 p.m., cost is \$19. Speaker will Hypnotherapist Gerri Levitas. Call Grace, 925-828-8554, for information

#### and reservations.

Free Diabetes Self-Management Classes, 6 to 7 week series will teach you how to manage your diabetes with exercise, health eating (including the foods you love) and medications, and answer all your questions about living with diabetes. Saturdays January 14 through February 25 at the Dublin Senior Center. Thursdays, February 23 through April 5 at the Pleasanton Senior Center. Class is open to adults of all ages (not just Seniors) with pre-diabetes or type 2 diabetes. Please call the Alameda County Diabetes Program at 510-383-5185 to register. Space is limited.

Sew Fest, Dress a Girl Around the World. Sat., Jan. 14, 9a.m. to 3 p.m. St. Michael Parish Hall, 300 block of Maple Street, Livermore. Goal is to make 100 cute dresses in one day for little girls in developing countries. For more information, please contact Suzanne Slupesky at suzanneslu@yahoo.com or 352-8447. Information about the program can be found at www.dressagirlaroundtheworld.com or www. hope4kidsinternational.org/h4wi.

<sup>1</sup> Community Resources for Independent Living (CRIL) offers services to help people with disabilities and supports them to live independently and participate in their community for as long as they are willing and able to do so. CRIL maintains offices in Hayward, Fremont and Livermore to provide information and referrals and provide community education at senior centers and affordable housing complexes to residents of Southern Alameda County. The Tri-Valley office is located at 3311 Pacific Avenue, Livermore 94550 and can be reached by phone at (925) 371-1531, by FAX at (925) 373-5034 or by e-mail at abril.tamayo@ cril-online.org. All services are free.

#### RELIGION

**St. Matthew's Baptist Church**, 1239 North Livermore Ave., Livermore. Services on Sunday at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Adult Sunday school 9:30 a.m., Children's Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. Prayer each Wednesday at 7 p.m. followed by Bible study at 7:30 p.m. 449-3824.

United Christian Church, celebrating 50 years in the Tri-Valley. 1886 College Ave. at M St., Livermore; worships on Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. Children's program on Sunday morning and first Fridays. The community is welcome. United CC is an Open and Affirming ministry. Call 449-6820 for more information.

Faith Chapel Assembly of God, 6656 Alisal St., Pleasanton, Sunday School for all ages 9:15 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m., Children's Church 11:15 a.m. Women's Bible study Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Intercessory prayer 1st and 3rd Wednesdays. Please call office at 846-8650 for weekly programs.

Trinity, 557 Olivina Ave., Livermore. Sunday worship at 8:30 and 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday school or Bible study for all ages at 9:45 a.m. Awana is Sunday at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday nights there is adult Bible study at 6:45 and NRG and Re.Gen for youth, and children's choir for kids. Child care during all events. 447-1848, www.trinitylivermore.org. St. Charles Borromeo, 1315 Lomitas

**St. Charles Borromeo**, 1315 Lomitas Ave., Livermore. Meditation groups following the John Main tradition, every Monday 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. For details, contact Claire La Scola at 447-9800.

Stepping Stones on Grief Journey workshop, bimonthly event. St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Dr., Pleasanton. 2nd and 4th Thursday at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 12 & 26, 2012 Feb. 9 & 23, 2012 and March 8 & 22, 2012. No preregistration is necessary. These sessions are open to all, regardless of religious affiliation. Please call Mary Hagerty at 925-846-5377 for more information.

**Catholicism**, St. Michael Catholic Church in Livermore will screen all ten episodes of Father Robert Barron's groundbreaking "Catholicism" series, followed by a question and answer session led by Suzanne Slupesky, Catholic theology scholar. One episode will be featured per night for 10 consecutive Mondays through March 12, 2012, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in St. Michael Parish Hall located on the 300 Block of Maple Street, Livermore, California. Admission is free. Learn what Catholics believe and why. Discover the full meaning of the faith. For additional information on Father Barron's series visit www.catholicismseries.com. St. Michael Parish, 458 Maple Street, Livermore, 925-447-1585.

Centerpointe Church, 3410 Cornerstone

Court, Pleasanton. Services: 9 a.m. blendedstyle with choir and band, family worship. 10:30 a.m. contemporary led by band, Sunday School for children and middle-schoolers. www.centerpointechurch.org; 925-846-4436. Comedy Show. Nazareth USA, Proud

**Comedy Show. Nazareth USA**, Proud 2 B American, Friday, January 20, 7:00-8:30 p.m.. Aninety-minute family-friendly comedy show with internationally-known comedian Nazareth, who will entertain and encourage the audience. CrossWinds Church, 6444 Sierra Court in Dublin. \$10 per person (free seating for local active service men and women). Ticket price includes show, dessert, and gourmet coffee. For information on registering, contact Samantha Leggat, 925-560-3822 or email sleggat@crosswindschurch.org. Internet Safety: Keeping our Children

Internet Safety: Keeping our Children Safe, Wednesday, January 18 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in Borromeo Hall, St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Community at 1315 Lomitas Ave., Livermore. This is an information session for adult and teens presented by the FBI on the safe use of the internet. This session is to provide information to adults and teens on how to use the internet safely. For more information about this event contact Julie at 925-447-4549 ext 114 or at upcatholic@aol.com.

**St. Charles/St. Michael's Bible Study**, beginning Monday, January 9 and running though February 20, St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Community at 1315 Lomitas Ave., Livermore; 7:30-9:00 p.m. in the Pope Room. The topic for this session is Jesus and the Gospels. All are welcome, beginners to the experienced. For more information about this even contact Julie at 925-447-4549 ext 114 or at upcatholic@aol.com.

**St. Innocent Orthodox Church**, 1040 Florence Rd., Livermore. Sunday service at 10am. For details please see our website at www.stinnocent.net or call Fr. LeoArrowsmith at 456-0845.

The Infidel is the featured movie for Tri-Valley Cultural Jews' movie night and havdalah, Saturday, January 14 at 4 p.m. A separate movie for kids will also be shown. The movies are followed by a short non-religious ceremony and a potluck dinner. The event is held in a private home in San Ramon. For more information. please call 510-444-1808.

Eckankar, "How to Survive Spiritually in Our Times" is the theme of the next ECK Worship Service, Sunday, January 15 at 11:00 a.m. The ECK Worship service is held once a month on the third Sunday at the Four Points Sheraton, 5115 Hopyard Road (about 2 blocks south of the I-580 Hopyard exit). For further information, contact http://eck-ca.org/ by computer.

**Join in conversation about "The Shack"** Wednesday evenings at 7:30 starting January 11 and Thursday mornings at 10:30 starting January 12 Pastor Chuck Johnstone will be hosting a discussion group on the most impactful Christian writing of our time. "The Shack" has sold over 15 million copies and tackles questions about God's role in human tragedy and how guilt, shame and issues of God's judgment shape views about God. Drop-in participants welcome. Location: 4743 East Avenue, Livermore, for more information contact the church at 925- 447-1950. Copies of the book available at the class. Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Avenue in Livermore.

Night Watch in the Cathedral, January 15-16, 2012, Grace Cathedral, San Francisco. Stand up, stand out, speak up and speak out; live the convictions of your heart, of the gospel of Jesus, of the reign of God; play, pray and maybe even sleep a bit: be a part of Nightwatch 2012. On the Sunday of Martin Luther King Jr. weekend (January 15-16), and designed by St. Clare's Episcopal Church, join middle and high school youth from around the Diocese of California (and their adult sponsors) for an overnight immersion in the mysteries of Grace Cathedral and the lessons of the Civil Rights Movement. For more information contact the church office 925-462-4802 or www.stclarespleasanton.org or www.diocal.org.

pleasanton.org or www.diocal.org. **St. Clare's Episcopal Church**, 3350 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, adult inquirer's class, Sunday mornings January and February beginning January 15. Learn about the Episcopalian faith. Rev. Carol Cook will be the guide. For more information call the church office 925-462-4802. Sign up on the church kiosk or on the web site: www. stclarespleasanton.org