

Art, Community, & Education



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 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.

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.

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 Fialho commented at the earlier 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)

City to Serve as Successor Agency to RDA

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.

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)

First Look at 2012 State Budget

California Gov. Jerry Brown unveiled his \$92 billion state budget proposal for fiscal year (fy) 2012/13. The cuts in expenditures and services are expected to keep on coming.

Brown said in a speech on

Jan. 5 in Sacramento that cuts already accomplished in the current fiscal year took the state's structural debt down from \$20 billion to \$5 billion.

"The takeaway is that we reduced the deficit. If we do nothing, 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 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 the Board.

A vacancy was created when Lauren Turner was elected to the Livermore City Council in November. A deadline was set for Jan. 3 for the District to accept applications from interested candidates. The District received six applications. Directors selected three applicants to interview

at a public meeting on Jan. 25.

Candidates who will be interviewed are Robert J. Coomber Jr., a loan adjustments manager for a credit union and a long-time 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 the legal division of an insurance company and former National Park Service park ranger.

The other three candidates

were Tom McLaughlin, former school board trustee; Robert Nuddleman, a senior associate for a law firm; and Jeff Passama, 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.

Seven Apply for Livermore School Board

Seven residents have submitted 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.

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)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

It was a cold landing for those who braved the slippery spin down a 22-foot waterslide into an unheated pool at the Robert Livermore Community Center during the annual polar bear slide last weekend. The event is hosted by the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District. Complimentary hot chocolate was served to warm everyone up who took part in the event. More photos on page 6.

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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 I 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

Bloomingtondale's Outlet Signs Lease with Paragon

Paragon Outlet Partners announced last week that Bloomingtondale's Outlet will open an anchor store at its Paragon Outlets Livermore Valley. Currently under construction, the center will celebrate its grand opening in 2012. At Paragon Outlets Livermore

Valley, a 543,000 square foot shopping destination serving the greater San Francisco area, Bloomingtondale'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 Bloomingtondale'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 Bloomingtondale'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.



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.

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.

AWARD

(continued from page one)

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.



Free Pruning Classes

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Photo - Doug Jorgensen
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.

Restored Seagrave Featured at Duarte Garage Open House



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 non-profit 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.

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-hour

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.

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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).



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

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.



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 5th 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).

CYO Basketball

The St. Michael/St. Charles (SM/SC) 6th grade Warriors were looking forward to getting back on the court against Catholic 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 2nd quarter, and tied the score 10-10 going into the half. In the 3rd 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 4th quarter, with the defense allowing CCOP 6 more points, while the Warriors offense kept up 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

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

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 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 the ball hits the rim and bounces straight

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 Shezif, 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 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)

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LIVERMORE
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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 two-year term and must be a Livermore resident. Qualified 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**.

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Las Positas Offers 'Budgeting Basics' Workshop for Nonprofits

The Las Positas College Foundation Center Cooperative 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

<http://grantspace.org/Classroom/Training-Calendar/San-Francisco/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 bud-

get 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.

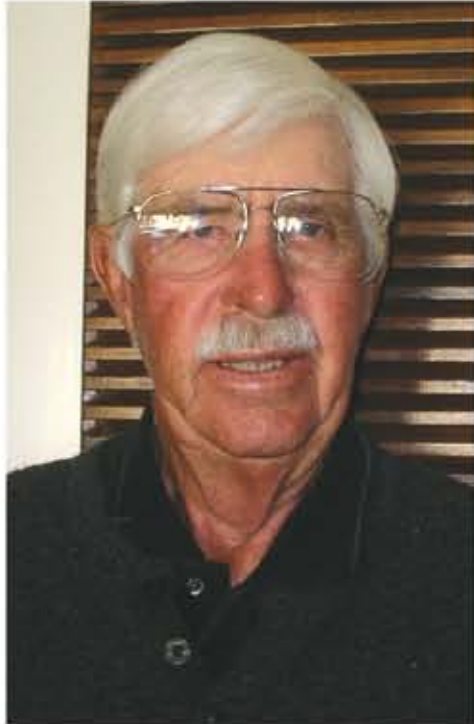
Through the Foundation Center

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...



Resident of Livermore

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

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 459004
The following person(s) doing business as: Lala's Cheer Boutique, 741 South I Street, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): (1) Nancy Knab, 741 South I 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 ficti-

itious 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

The following person(s) doing business as: Pro-Tech Maintenance and Repair, 7921 Firebrand Dr., Dublin, CA 94568, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): David C. Turk, 7921 Firebrand Dr., Dublin, CA 94568
This business is conducted by an Individual
The registrant began to transact 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.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 458458
The following person(s) doing business as: US Legal Hotline, 1067 Serpentine Ln, Pleasanton, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): LMA Productions LLC, 1067 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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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 place, 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 Combitis (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 extra-curricular middle school program to promote math achievement. Teachers, parents, and community 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 MATHCOUNTS because it teaches you



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.

Each school can send one team and four additional students (seventh and eighth grade only)

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 MATHCOUNTS 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 Combitis (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 Combitis, Pranav Raja, Nick Sobrepena, Amber Tang).

Team, grade 6: 1. Mendenhall (Shannon Yan, 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).

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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.

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.



Livermore Mayor John Marchand congratulates 6th grade winner, Shannon Yan.

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Art, Community, & Education



Work by Josh Thurman will be displayed at Cuda Ridge Winery; story page 4.



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.

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

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."

Tickets are Adult: \$15, \$20 and \$25; Child: \$12 and Senior: \$20. Group discounts are available. Tickets may be purchased on-line at www.firehousearts.org up to three hours prior to the performance, 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 entrance to free parking is on Spring Street near First Street.

Them Boys



Nate Schwartz



Marty Varner



Max Schwartz



Alex Sharps

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 Ravenswood 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



Brian Turner

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 feature-length documentary film of the



Gillian Wegener

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*, *Packhouse 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

Franklin Roosevelt, and finds a 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,

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 Mesebring.

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.

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Big Bad Woodoo Daddy
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Annie
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Program in Dublin to Celebrate African American Poetry

The City of Dublin will be hosting a unique presentation of poetry and spoken word, "Celebrating African American Poetry" on Saturday, January 14, 2012, from 2:00 – 4:00 PM at the Heritage Park

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 McCoy-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.

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 long-time 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.

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/bfc-contest. 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 be 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 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/>



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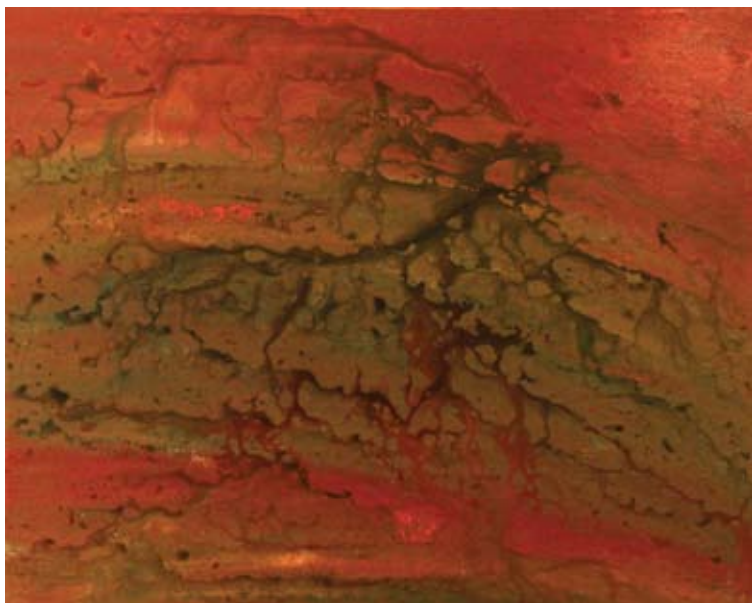
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Sample of work to be displayed include *Puertas Abiertas* (upper left), *Aftermath* (upper right) and *Pele Rising* (below).



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 Wolard at 925 824-4824 or cherw@cherw.com for information.



Below is pictured the opening of the Figurehead Art Gallery. It is just one location in Livermore that features works of art.

“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 6-month 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 longest-running 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.



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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 Wenté 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. Wenté 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, Wenté 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.

Wenté 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 Riseriva, 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.

Wenté To Be Honored with Wine Enthusiast Award

Wenté 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 mouth-wateringly 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, Wenté 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 Wenté 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 Wenté 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 Wenté tasting rooms will be marking the occasion during the week of January 30. January is certainly off to a fine start for Livermore.





The ABC Music Store & Academy Children's Choir caroled down First Street in late December. The choir sang 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 4th and 5th 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/


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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 L St., 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.charlesvineyards.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.charlesvineyards.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.charlesvineyards.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 Emilie, Petit Verdor, Vno 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 Vno 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 for Brahms - Brandenburg Concerto #6 for woodwinds, Mozart Serenade #12, Brahms Serenade #2. \$39/\$34/\$29 \$7 students. www.bankheadtheater.org

Ho'olaule'ao 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.

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. 3. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Gilbert & Sullivan's, The Gondoliers, Lamplighters Music Theatre production, Leshar 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 20th 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 jgault@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 4th 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

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.,

Livermore. LLNL Presents The Rae Dorough Speakers Series: Something in the Water? www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

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 reading from A Bell for Adano by readers from Shakespeare's Associates. Livermore Reads Together 2012 is sponsored by The Friends of the Livermore Library. For additional events check the library's website at www.livermorelibrary.net.

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 the scholar-in-residence of Congregation Beth Emek in Pleasanton. Kalifon, who immigrated to Israel as a young man, is trained as both a biblical scholar and an archaeologist.

It was on the grounds of Kibbutz 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 presence of tens of thousands of shards from small jars used in water purification rituals, and carvings on the cave walls.

According to New Testament scholars, John the Baptist was a distant maternal relative of Jesus and was known for his fiery sermons that focused on the importance of repentance. It is believed

that he was born on land in what is today Kibbutz Tzuba. The cave which bears his name was hidden inside a limestone hill on that property.

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 Lynwood 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 Lynwood United Methodist Church.

Do You Remember?



By Anne Homan

John Marsh's Stone House

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

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 twenty-five 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 state-

hood. 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.johnmarsh-house.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 Beasley, 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 Mitchell 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-McDuffie; and Ron Zeno, Executive Director of Safe Ex-

change, 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

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.

Community

