



Find Out What's Happening
Check Out Section A
 Section A is filled with information about arts, people, entertainment and special events. There are education stories, a variety of features, and the arts and entertainment and bulletin board.

Livermore Council Agrees To Review Tesla Draft EIR

Livermore city staff will review the draft environmental impact report (DEIR) for the proposed off-road vehicle park on the Tesla property.

Tesla is owned by the Parks Department, whose Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division is expected "to acquire, develop, and operate state-owned vehicular recreation areas,"

according to its official literature.

In the late 1990s the State of California Parks Department purchased the 3,400 acres in the southeast corner of Alameda County along the Tesla-Corral Hollow Road. The intent of the purchase was to expand the existing adjacent Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA) off-highway

vehicle (OHV) park into the Tesla Park land. Last fall, State Parks officials unveiled the preferred concept for the 3,500-acre expansion of the Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area.

Under the preferred concept, Tesla would be developed for a wide range of off-road vehicle skill levels, from training routes for young and beginning

riders to advanced trails for the highly experienced. In addition, it would have new entrances, parking, classroom/meeting space, services areas and sites for camping and picnicking.

Park officials have twice tried and failed to complete environmental impact reports for the project. The DEIR is due out this spring. The city council directed

staff to review the DEIR when it is published, provide information to the council. Then if the council desires, the issue could be placed on an agenda for further discussion.

The directive came after pleas by representatives of many organizations asking the city to become involved in the process. The discussion (See TESLA, page 4)

Annual Breakfast Remembers King's Legacy

Tri-Valley YMCA to Host 14th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Fellowship Breakfast

On January 27, 2014 community leaders and members from the Tri-Valley area will come together to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The 14th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Fellowship Breakfast will be hosted by the Tri-Valley YMCA. The theme for this year's program will be, "Make Today Matter."

The inspirational keynote speaker will be Gary Xavier, from the organization, Think Kindness.

As part of the annual event, the Tri-Valley YMCA will be honoring three community members with the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Legacy Award. The Award recipients this year are John Sensiba, Managing Partner at Sensiba San Filippo, Gloria Gregory, the Executive Director of CityServe Tri-Valley and Sharon White, Community Activist and Volunteer.

The 14th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Fellowship Breakfast will be held from 7:30 am until 9:30 am at the Hilton Pleasanton at the Club. Tickets or information, email tvinfo@ymcaeastbay.org.

Pleasanton Replacing Lights with LED Fixtures

The City of Pleasanton's LED street light conversion project is on schedule to begin fixture replacement by the end of January, with anticipated completion in April 2014.

Over the next several months, the \$1.6 million project will begin to replace more than 5,400 High Pressure Sodium Vapor "cobra head" street light fixtures with new Light Emitting Diode (LED) energy efficient street light fixtures. LED lights have a longer operational life, are more energy efficient, emit zero UV emissions, and focus light more efficiently to a desired location.

The conversion is part of Pleasanton's Climate Action Plan, and offers both financial and environmental benefits—savings of up to 60% in maintenance and electricity costs are projected. The City anticipates annual savings of \$200,000 from the new program, which will be funded through a low interest loan from the California Energy Commission and a one-time \$350,000 conversion incentive rebate from PG&E.

The LED fixtures will (See LIGHTS, page 8)



Students look for countries on the globe.

Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Public Invited to Learn about International Baccalaureate Program

By Carol Graham

Last fall, a group of young learners wondered what was inside pumpkins. "After measuring a pumpkin's circumference, they cut it open to see the interior," stated Joe Michell School Principal Dr. Laura

Lembo. "They noticed all the seeds and wondered whether the seeds would grow if they filled the pumpkin with dirt and watered it. So they did the investigation, watching the whole process and having conversations about their observations. We

were following the students, instead of following our own agenda. It leads to genuine, authentic learning."

Joe Michell's students, from transitional kindergarten through 8th grade, are learning under a new program for the first time this

year: the International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme. The program was founded in 1968 for internationally mobile students, and is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

"The idea behind IB education (See SCHOOL, page 10)

TVLC Votes to Add San Diego Charter School

By Ron McNicoll

Tri-Valley Learning Corporation (TVLC) has voted to acquire Old Town Academy, a K-8 charter school with 255 students in San Diego.

The TVLC board unanimously approved the acquisition at a special meeting Jan. 9. It remains for the Old Town board to vote to finish the agreement.

Old Town executive director Tom Donahue told The Independent on Monday that he expects the Old Town board to make a decision later this month, or early in February. He is recommending that Old Town join TVLC. "The benefits to both will be huge," said Donahue.

TVLC CEO Bill Batchelor sees it the same way. He told the board that although Old Town may not have any measurable financial impact on TVLC at first, the programmatic gain would be great.

Donahue, who co-founded Old Town three years ago, is an experienced teacher who has written software for schools. Batchelor said that he sees definite program aid on the technology side (See CHARTER, page 5)

Former Pleasanton Mayor Ken Mercer Dies

Former Pleasanton Mayor Ken Mercer died of cancer on Jan. 14, 2014. Flags at municipal locations will be lowered to half-staff in his honor.

Pleasanton city manager Nelson Fialho praised the former councilmember and mayor. "I cannot under-

state the many contributions made by Ken Mercer during his tenure on the Pleasanton City Council and as a two-term mayor," said Fialho.

"He was one of the primary forces behind the Pleasanton that we have today. He created much of (See MERCER, page 9)

Brown's Budget Boosts Education, Debt Payment

California Gov. Jerry Brown's \$106 billion budget proposal for the coming fiscal year includes another \$10 billion for schools' Local Control Funding Formula.

The budget also will eliminate school deferrals, which has been the practice of keeping cash flow money

that districts use, until a later date.

The state used the deferral money to pay its costs, and later sent money to districts when more revenue was available. However, it meant that the districts, had to borrow short-term so that their own cash flow was not (See BUDGET, page 4)



Bubba was all dressed for her recent visit with the residents at Heritage Estates in Livermore. Bubba, with owner Barbara Boehme, visits senior care and living facilities, hospitals and special needs children and adults.

Photo - Doug Jorgensen

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PET OF THE WEEK

Wilbur is some dog! This 4-year-old boxer is looking for a companion who thinks he's terrific. Put a new spin on things with Wilbur in your life! Visit him today at VHS is located at 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton, is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am - 4 pm and Sunday from 11 am - 2 pm. For more information please call (925) 426-8656 or visit valleyhumane.org. Photo - Valley Humane Society/V. Kelly

Annual Lions Club Crab Feed to Help Raise Funds for Matthew Yount Scholarship Foundation

By Carol Graham

Twenty-year-old Matthew Yount loved life. He woke up with a smile on his face and went to bed with the same smile, says father Greg Yount.

"He loved his brother Adam, his friends, girls, any sport - especially golf," says Yount, adding that Matthew was a four-year varsity letter recipient for golf at Pleasanton's Foothill High School from which he graduated in 2011.

As a junior attending Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, Matthew's goal was to get into the business world, possibly finance. He went to Seville, Spain to study abroad hoping to understand how international events influence the U.S. economy. But on November 20th, Matthew drowned in the Guadalquivir river, leaving family, friends and schoolmates at home bereft.

"Matthew lived life as full as anyone that I have ever known," says Yount. "He was the kind of kid who was always there to help when someone needed it. That is why we at the Lions Club thought it would be appropriate to have a scholarship in his name. This way a young adult who might not have been able to attend college might be able to now, and Matthew's legacy can live on."

On Saturday, January 25th, the Pleasanton Lions Club will host its largest fundraiser of the year, the 26th Annual Crab Feed at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. A portion of the profits will go to the Matthew Yount Scholarship Foundation.

"This year is especially close to our hearts as our current president Greg Yount recently suffered the tragic loss of his son," says Lions Secretary Pam Grimes.

Tickets for the all-you-can-eat Crab Feed cost \$48 per person, with parking included. The no-host bar opens at 6 p.m., featuring cocktails, beer and Livermore's Mitchell Katz Cabernet Sauvignon and Chardonnay. Crab, pasta, shrimp salad and dinner rolls will be served at 7:30. The McCoustic Duo will provide dinner music, performing cover songs from the '50s to the present by artists that include Stevie Nicks, The Beatles, Oasis and Pink Floyd.

"Our Crab Feed was awarded Fundraiser of the Year 2013 in California from Lions International," says Grimes. "That was a great honor for our club. Event Chairman Steve Grimes has organized it for over 20 years, bringing it from a 300-person event to the more than 1,200 guests who currently attend each year."

More than 4,200 pounds of crab will be served, which equals about 3.5 lbs per guest, an amount that may make it difficult to boogie on the dance floor when the DJ starts spinning tunes, but shouldn't interfere with enjoying the casino games of Black Jack, Craps and Dessert Roulette.

"There will be two silent auction areas offering sports memorabilia and a variety of gift baskets to suit the tastes of just about everyone," says Grimes. "They include a weekend trip to Napa, a day of golf at the beautiful Callippe Golf Course in Pleasanton, and last year we added a gift basket for a full Crab Feed table (16 people) which included a personal server for the evening, bottles of wine, and for the table to be served dessert first. It was a huge hit!"

Lions Clubs International is the world's largest service club organization, with more than 1.3 million members in 46,000 clubs worldwide. The Pleasanton Lions, with 60 members currently, have been serving the community for more than 80 years. Dinner meetings are held twice monthly on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 6:30. They take place at the Regalia House, 4133 Regalia Avenue, Pleasanton.

"Our meetings are open to the public and we enthusiastically welcome and encourage anyone interested in learning about us to stop by for a visit," says Grimes. "We love to meet new people, and hope that we can create a community where making a difference by giving back becomes part of the joy of life."

To learn more or purchase tickets, visit pleasantonlionsclub.org, or contact Steve Grimes at 925-484-3524 or Greg Aynesworth at 925-336-6069.

County Says State Budget Falls Short In Funding Programs Cut to the Bone

Alameda County officials are expressing support for Governor Brown's latest budget proposal to restore some direct benefits for healthcare and other important services, but say the plan does not go far enough to reinstate support for other programs cut to the bone in recent years and raises unsettling questions about new burdens to local government under healthcare reform.

County officials say the Governor's January State Budget proposal reflects in many ways a return to responsible budgeting for the State of California. Rather than the annual deficits in excess of \$20 billion of a few years ago, the State of California anticipates a surplus of \$6 billion through the next fiscal year.

According to a press release, the County applauds the Governor for proposing to restore Medi-Cal benefits for mental health and substance abuse. The County also supports changes to the 2011 Public Safety Realignment to include measures designed to keep low-level offenders out of jails and more able to receive the services they need.

"These are investments in the right direction," says Keith Carson President of the Board of Supervisors and Chair of the County's Budget Workgroup. "However, there are still unmet needs in our communities as our residents experience incremental economic recovery. We continue to look to the State for leadership and support as we manage the recovery of programs that serve our vulnerable communities but have been damaged by years of cuts."

The Governor's Budget plan also shows a needed measure of caution: although the State's fiscal outlook is faring better than previous years, there are still reasons to be prudent.

County officials say the Governor's Budget proposal

raises some areas of deep concern, particularly with regards to health services for low-income residents. Under the Medi-Cal program that is expanding dramatically as part of federal healthcare reform, the State has proposed significant cuts in funding it provides local governments to help care for uninsured residents. According to the press release, it is believed that thousands of Alameda County residents will remain uninsured even after healthcare reform is fully enacted, creating a new strain on the County's limited resources as it looks for ways to care for these residents. Furthermore, the Governor is maintaining cuts to the reimbursement rates for healthcare providers under the expanded Medi-Cal program. Given that reimbursement rates in Alameda County are already far too low, these proposals raise alarming questions about where residents who qualify for expanded Medi-Cal services will receive care.

The County will continue to monitor carefully the full costs of the Public Safety realignment and the Affordable Care Act to ensure its residents receive quality services. "I am encouraged by the Governor's budget plan as there are no new significant program realignments, which can add real pressure on County resources," Carson said.

Meeting to Focus on Saving Energy

The City of Livermore's Live More Save More program and Solar Universe will present for 30 minutes each ideas on what actions can be taken to start saving on energy costs. The presentation will take place from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Thurs., Jan. 23 at the Livermore High School Theater. Hosting the event will be PTSA.

Those attending will learn about energy rewards, energy savings, how to access an energy report, how to have a free energy consultation, how solar saves and works to save money, how solar gives to schools, internship opportunities for students, and free field trips for students to learn more about solar energy.

Each presenter will also be giving away raffle items. The school is located at 600 Maple Street in Livermore. There is no admission charge.

"The County continues to work hard to implement the State's previous programmatic shifts, which have created significant new responsibilities for us with limited or at times no additional funding. We need a strong partnership with our State and federal governments, and we look forward to working directly with the Governor, his administration and State legislators as they continue to make major policy, legislative and financial changes that directly affect county and local government."

Alameda County has been working with community health partners to prepare for the State's Medi-Cal expansion under the Affordable Care Act, which will result in significant reductions in healthcare funding to counties. The Governor's budget has in place \$900 million in reductions for all counties in the 2014-15 fiscal year. A \$300 million reduction took place in 2013-14, which resulted in a \$10.9 million loss for Alameda County.

Alameda County will begin its budget development process for 2014-15 in the coming days. This process will include a close monitoring of the details of the Legislature's response to the Governor's Budget Plan, as well as any modifications in the Governor's May revise and final State budget.



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CHARTER

(continued from page one)

from Old Town.

"They use tech exceptionally well. When you visit the school, you see that students are happy because they are so engaged. There are very few behavior problems," said Batchelor.

Further, Old Town offers digital music and robotics programs, which Batchelor said that he would love to see at the existing TVLC schools.

Old Town teaches every student, beginning in kindergarten, to read and write music, said Batchelor. He said that Old Town's music program has paid off in higher math scores. (Educational researchers nationally have published papers showing a connection between the study of music and improvement in math.)

Old Town would become the fifth school to be operated by TVLC, which was founded in 2004, after Livermore parents started the Livermore Valley Charter School (LVCS), which grew into a k-8 school.

Other schools operated by TVLC include Livermore Valley Charter Preparatory (LVCP), which is a high school, and Acacia Charter Elementary and Middle schools in Stockton. All of the schools are tuition-free, supported by state tax revenue.

All have school councils comprised of parents who seek those positions. In addition, the two Livermore schools each have two seats on the TVLC board. The Stockton schools will have one seat each, after schools there make their selections. Batchelor said that is expected to occur in approximately 60 days.

There will be arrangements for the remote board members in Stockton and San Diego to attend TVLC meetings via Skype or some other electronic method. The public will be able to communicate with the board from those remote sites, said Batchelor.

The TVLC board voted after months of talks between a staff executive committee and Old Town, both in Livermore and in San Diego. This was the first time the board had seen the scoring by staff. At previous TVLC meetings, Batchelor worked with the board to develop the matrix for scoring how a potential candidate for acquisition or merger would stack up.

There were 19 questions in the matrix, with 290 the highest possible score. A matrix passed out with the board packet showed that Old Town scored 240 points. One place where Old Town fell short was its lack of longevity; another deficiency was noted in the lack of Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accreditation.

However, WASC accreditation is important only for high schools, said Batchelor. The process is an expensive one. A small school like Old Town does not want to tackle it, said Batchelor. He said eventually that Old Town might seek accreditation.

Two audience members commented to the board be-

fore the vote. Both said that the process for the board to make its decision could have been better.

Tristan Pico said that she was "shocked at seeing this tonight. Members of the board are seeing this for the first time."

"I don't doubt this is a fantastic school. I do have a concern. They are in their third year, and will come up for renewal. It's a big burden for TVLC to take on," said Pico.

Pico urged board members to "be pragmatic, and don't just go on the staff report. I urge you to take a breather."

Kathleen Schoening said that there was no written report to back up the matrix score that evaluated Old Town. There is no definition or commentary about leadership, only a line about leadership and how it is rated. (Weighted numbers ranged from 20 for excellent down to zero for not acceptable.)

Batchelor provided copies of the second quarterly review of TVLC by the Livermore school district, which took over supervision duties of TVLC July 1, after negotiations for that change from state supervision. The board will discuss the checklist at its next meeting.

DEMOGRAPHICS DRAW TRUSTEE'S ATTENTION

Meanwhile, talking about the checklist, Livermore school trustee Anne White made comments at the school board meeting Jan. 7 that indicated she believes that TVLC can do better in serving the community's demographics that include low-income, Hispanic students and English Language Learners.

TVLC outreach to Latinos and low-income students is not working, said White. TVLC has had years to align better with the demographics of the Livermore district, which she said is required of charter schools, according to the state education code.

There is a waiting list of 600 students for LVCS, its elementary school. Batchelor said in the past that it's only through new kindergarten students that TVLC can align the enrollment to better reflect community demographics. It's slow, but TVLC is working at it by reaching out to the Hispanic community and also publicizing the school to lower income families, he said.

White said the problem is that once a family enrolls a student in the school, then there is preference in the lottery to bring in siblings. She called this a legacy system.

"The more I ponder it, the more I think we should consider that, not for lack of effort by charter school people, but maybe because of their practices in accepting legacy students, there are so few openings for diverse students. Without modifying their legacy student provisions, they'll never get there," said White.

"I think we need to decide as a board, how seriously we want to approach this, because if you can't get there from here, either give up on this goal, which is in

charter school law, or insist that changes be made elsewhere in their governance model to see that they do meet the law," said White.

Batchelor told The Independent that Livermore itself uses a legacy system for its neighborhood schools. If there is a sibling at a school, the other sibling is given priority to attend the school.

More important, the Livermore district already signed off on the TVLC approach of outreach to help recruit more Hispanic students, English Language learners, and lower income students, said Batchelor.

TRVLC has five years to carry out that plan, said Batchelor. He noted that White is only one member of a five-member board. Other Livermore board members did not pick up on White's remarks. Board president Kate Runyon was absent.

TVLC PUBLISHES SALARY SCHEDULE

The meeting also saw the unveiling of a published salary schedule for TVLC for the first time in its nearly 10-year history. It was one of the requirements set by the Livermore school district, when it took over supervision.

In the past, The Independent's questions to Batchelor about the salary schedule drew the statement that the TVLC salary schedule is comparable to the Livermore district's.

A look at the two schedules shows similarities, with Livermore teachers receiving slightly more pay at the beginning. TVLC pays \$45,500 to an entry level teacher with a credential. Livermore school district would pay that same person \$46,814. However, if that person earned 75 college credits beyond a bachelors degree, the pay rises to \$49,225.

Short of 75 credits past the bachelor's degree, the pay goes up only a dollar or two, until the Livermore district teachers arrive at the level of five years' experience. Then they go up about \$2500 per step at bachelor's plus 15, 30, 45, 60, and 75 credits beyond a bachelor's degree.

A fifth year credentialed teacher at TVLC makes \$50,100, and one without a credential earns \$43,000. It's the last point on the TVLC pay scale for uncredentialed teachers. The assumption is the teacher will have a credential after five years.

In comparison, a Livermore district teacher after five years receives \$46,827. That is without any union-negotiated contract adjustments in any given school year.

TVLC teachers receive 100 percent payment of their medical plan for themselves in the Kaiser plan provided by TVLC. Dependents of teachers receive 25 percent of the bill paid, up to a cap of \$4000 annually. The cap and percentages move up every five years to a maximum of 90 percent of dependent's insurance with a \$15,000 cap after 20 years.

In Livermore, employees are given a flat \$10,500 and pay their choice of medical

out of that. Various plans are available, including a bronze level, which aligns with the new Affordable Care Act.

At the top of the pay scales, Batchelor is paid \$185,000 annually. TVLC has an enrollment of 1800 students. By comparison, Livermore school superintendent Kelly Bowers signed a contract in 2010 to earn \$221,000, with annual raises of 3.5 percent. Currently she makes \$244,000. Bowers

also agreed to donate \$5500 of her annual compensation to charities that benefit Livermore schoolchildren. Livermore district enrollment is over 12,000.

Before the TVLC board went into closed session over real property negotiations and pending litigation, Schoening asked the board about a real estate firm called ACRE, which is based in Pleasanton. ACRE's web page until early this week

said that the firm took over LVCS in July 2013. It also listed the Livermore and Stockton Schools and the Old Town Academy as acquisitions.

Schoening received no answer from the board. Batchelor later told The Independent that the information on the web was erroneous. There has been no acquisition of any TVLC schools by ACRE. However, there have been talks concerning the idea, he added.

Hope Hospice to Screen Consider the Conversation Documentary

While many people avoid end-of-life discussions, taking proactive steps can help keep you and your loved ones from being blindsided when a medical emergency may occur. The key is having these conversations when you are healthy enough to have them – not when you are experiencing a health crisis.

To help community members start the conversation, Hope Hospice is sponsoring a film screening of the documentary, Consider the Conversation, followed by a panel discussion by medical and communication experts.

This free, thought-provoking event will be held on Wednesday, January 29, 2014, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Livermore Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave., Livermore. To make a reservation, call (925) 829-8770, extension 281.

Consider the Conversation highlights the American struggle with communication and preparation for the end of life. "This film inspires and empowers people to make their wishes known," says Victoria Emmons, Hope Hospice CEO. "Hope Hospice is actively participating in The Conversation Project, a nationwide

effort that is dedicated to helping people talk about their wishes for end-of-life care. This screening is one of several events we are devoting to this important project."

According to the California HealthCare Foundation, 82 percent of Californians surveyed said it is important to put their wishes in writing – only 23 percent have actually done it.

Advance directives give individuals control over the health care they receive and the ability to name an "agent" to speak for them if they cannot speak for themselves. "It is our hope that the community will take to heart the message of this film and speak to their loved ones about their wishes for end-of-life care and complete

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SPORTS NOTES



Amador Valley High School scored a second half goal to defeat Granada in EBAL varsity soccer play last week. Intense action highlighted the match.

Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Livermore to Host Half Marathon in March

Event producer Project Sport announced the creation of its next race property, the Livermore Half Marathon, running through the Livermore community. The event will run on March 29, 2014.

Livermore boasts California's oldest wine region, which will host most of the race's miles. "Runners will pass through our downtown, into our vineyards and past a world class golf course," described Rachael Snedecor, executive director of Livermore Downtown. "Then they'll experience some amazing trails before returning to downtown for an epic after party"

Project Sport president Ryan Dawkins stated, "As our flagship US Half Marathon run has grown in San Francisco, we've sought other dynamic cities to recreate that blueprint. We wanted a location that could offer a gorgeous course, but also a vibrant post-race experience

and a built-in community of active and spirited runners. Livermore exemplifies that perfectly."

The course will finish on First Street in the heart of the Livermore downtown, which has become a dining, shopping and entertainment destination center while the town has flourished into a hub of science and technology in recent years.

"Of all the events and activities we put on year-round, I'm excited about what is in store for us with the Livermore Half Marathon!" said Ivy Faught, president of the Livermore Downtown Board of Directors.

Local leaders have been working with Project Sport to conceptualize a spring-time event mixing fitness with entertainment, showcasing the city's evolution into both a business and cultural destination center. The result will be the 13.1 mile

run followed by a downtown festival of local wineries, craft beer, artisan chefs, specialty boutique shopping and live music.

"Downtown has a very eclectic selection of restaurants that are locally owned and globally inspired," said Faught. "We look forward to sharing our downtown, wine country and community with runners as they discover all of the brilliance we have to offer."

Registration for the Livermore Half Marathon is now open after a successful launch selling over 1500 registrations in 30 days. The launch was promoted via a \$49 entry fee for the first 149 registrants and \$59 for the next 159. Entry fee will approach its full price of \$89 as race day nears. Register at runlivermore.com. To discuss local sponsorship opportunities, contact Livermore Downtown at events@livermoredowntown.com



Amador Valley High School's Ariah Mack (23) netted 41 points to lead the varsity girls' basketball team to a 64 to 51 win over Livermore High. Amador nailed down the EBAL victory with 20 fourth quarter points.

Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Scorekeeper Remembered

U.S. Representative Eric Swalwell (CA-15) honored legendary Livermore High School scorekeeper Pete Andersen on the House Floor. Mr. Andersen passed away on December 29, 2013 at the age of 91.

Swalwell said, "After immigrating from Denmark to the United States in 1922, Pete went to high school in Pleasanton and served in the U.S. Army during World War II. Upon returning home from the war, Pete began keeping score at Livermore High School's sporting events."

"Pete had an impressive 60-year, 3,513-game tenure and built a reputation for dedication, knowledge, and a passion for sports. It's because of his dedication to our community that Pete was inducted into the first class of the Livermore High School Sports Hall of Fame in 2009."

"I would like to express my deepest condolences to Pete's wife, Margaret, his family, and friends. In talking about his sacrifice for 60 years to keep score for young

athletes, he said: "It was a nice place to go on a Friday night." Well, Friday nights in Livermore won't be the same without Pete."

High School Basketball

For the third year, Tri-Valley TV30 will televise high school basketball. TV30 will broadcast a record five basketball games this season. The games will be tape delayed and may be viewed on Comcast TV Channel 30 and AT&T U-verse via Channel 99 as well as streaming on the TV30 website at www.tv30.org.

"Viewers have asked us to increase our high school sports coverage," said Melissa Tench-Stevens, Executive Director of Tri-Valley TV. "All together TV30 will broadcast over ten sporting events this academic year. Additionally, we are happy to announce that we will be highlighting two girls basketball games this season. None of this programming is possible without the financial support of the community and the TV30 Foundation. We are thankful to those who help us support high school sports in this manner."

Play by play and color announcing will be provided by TV30 sports personalities Ian Bartholomew, George Dr. "B" Baljevich, and Tim Sbranti. Interviews during the game will include coaches, principals, players, students, and more. Matchups scheduled to be broadcast are: Amador Valley @ Foothill H.S. - Boys; Redwood Christian @ Valley Christian - Girls;

Alhambra @ Dublin - Girls; Alhambra @ Dublin - Boys; and Granada @ Livermore - Boys.

Games will air multiple times including every Saturday night at 7 p.m. starting February 1st. For complete air dates and times visit the Tri-Valley TV website at www.tv30.org or watch when it's convenient by going to tv30.org and use our free Video on Demand service. DVDs of the games may also be purchased by going to the website.

CYO Basketball

In CYO Basketball action, the boys' 7th grade SM/SC (St. Michael/St. Charles) 715, aka Spartans, were defeated by St. Isidore #713 (32-18) but not before giving fans an exciting game and showing dedication, skill and sportsmanship. Spartans' top scorers included Jacob Blaha, Hadi Zeid and Aden Cavalcanti. Defensive standouts included Jacob "JP" Peterson, Max Bauer, and Gabriel Parrish. Top scorers for St. Isidore were Grant and Jackson.

Track and Field

Athenian Athletics Track Club invites athletes ages 7-18 to participate in fall and winter practice sessions to prepare for the 2013-2014 Track and Field season as well as training for the upcoming Winter season series of competitions at Cal Berkeley and Los Gatos High School.

Practices will be held on a voluntary/drop-in basis Monday through Friday. Club participants will have



Granada Little League tryouts were held on January 11. In the photo, 14 year olds are showing their pitching skills. The tryouts are used to select teams for the season, which begins with opening day on March 1. The Intermediate Little League World Series will be held at the Granada Little League facilities in Max Baer Park in Livermore July 29 to Aug. 4. Photo - Bill Nale



Livermore Phantom Lacrosse held its first practice on Saturday. Pictured are some of the U15s in full force. There is still space available in all age level sections. Please go to www.phantomlacrosse.org for more information.



The U9 West Coast Krew ended their season on a high, finished third in the White Bracket of NorCal State Cup. Along with individual development during the year, the Krew had quite a bit of team success with winning brackets during NorCal Playdates, and winning the Davis Legacy Classico tournament. Krew also finished second in the DFC Halloween Kick or Treat Tournament, losing on PKs. Pictured, the Krew take the pitch sporting their team Delaney shirts.



The U9 West Coast Wild Katz finished a great season under Coach Sara Giroto. During the 2012 season, Wild Katz were a young U8 team playing up an age group, going up against girls who were bigger and stronger than them. In State Cup, the Wild Katz finished 3rd out of several teams in the White bracket, narrowly missing the semi-finals. At the start of the 2013 season, pre-season NorCal rankings had them as number one. Throughout the season the girls got better technically and even more comfortable with the ball, which is what we want for little ones at this age. Each player learned fifteen different moves through the course of the season. Now, as a team the Wild Katz shared success finishing 3rd in League play, and winning the Ajax Summer Invitational, Pleasanton Rage Junior Showcase, DFC Halloween Kick or Treat, and the Mustang 6v6 Tournament. Pictured are Wild Katz with their tournament medals.



West Coast Soccer Fury concluded a remarkable season. The Fury team is a founding team for West Coast Soccer. 2013 was another year of individual and team growth for the players. First year head coach Ray Canevari guided Fury to a 8-1-1 spring season and entered the Nor Cal Cross Regional playoffs as the #6 seed. By the time the playoffs were over, Fury was able to best all the top teams in Northern California to claim the title of #1 in Northern California. The season also included a record of 42-7-5. The team entered the State Cup Championship as the number one team in Northern California (NORCAL). The Fury appeared in the final of every tournament they played in except one. In July, Fury traveled to San Diego to take part in the prestigious Albion Cup. The Albion Cup is one of the nation's top tournaments where teams from all over the United States come to prove they are the best. Fury players represented Northern California reaching the finals. The team roster includes Alyssa Garza, Celina Garcia, Gracie Alfonso, Angie Alfonso, Bella Romero, Jamie Conklin, Jennifer Barron, Cassidy Brackett, Kate Zeck, Kelena Brongiel, Kelsey Hoopes, Kourtney Kessler, Laura Gonzales and Trinity Sandridge. Pictured are Fury players with another trophy.

SHORT NOTES

Winter Wander

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District ranger staff will lead a Winter Wander on Sun., Jan. 19. Meet Ranger Amy Wolitzer at 2 p.m. at the Sycamore Grove Park nature area entrance.

Wander through the woodland watching for winter's wonders. This wander is appropriate for all ages, however it will be on dirt trails so strollers are not recommended. Wear clothes and shoes that can get muddy, as the group may wander off the beaten path. Please call 925-960-2400 if you need directions to the Nature Area Entrance. Brave wanderers are welcome even if rain is falling.

There is a \$5 per vehicle

parking fee at either entrance to Sycamore Grove Park. A \$2 donation is requested to help support the programs unless other fees are specified. Participants may call 925-960-2400 for more information.

Doors to the Future

The Pleasanton Library will present a mini-series, "Doors to the Future," that will focus on services and benefits for individuals with developmental disabilities.

The programs will take place from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Library, 400 Old Bernal Avenue.

The schedule is as follows:

1/21/14 - Limited Conservatorships: Establish certain rights to care for

your adult child with a developmental disability, with Stephen Dale from The Dale Law Firm.

5/7/14 - SSI, Benefits, and Affordable Care Act, with Bryon MacDonald from World Institute on Disability

10/1/14 - Local Day Programs, with local program representatives.

For information contact Jessica Reaber at jreaber@cityofpleasantonca.gov or (925) 931-5373.

Souper Bowl

Fran and Lanny Replogle, of Fenestra Winery, invite the public to enjoy a weekend of special soups, breads, and Fenestra wines, Saturday & Sunday, January 25 and 26, 2014, from noon to 5:00 pm, at their own "Souper Bowl."

Take a new look at making delicious, nourishing soups (made with Fenestra wine, of course) and assorted breads. Guest chefs, from local restaurants, will present soups of assorted kinds for your enjoyment.

The public is invited to sample the soups and breads, taste award winning wine, and enjoy an afternoon in the historic winery building. The \$15.00 entry fee

includes a logo wine glass, buffet plate, soup samples, and recipes. Event charge for Wine Club "Fanatics" and non-drinkers is \$5.00.

Fenestra Winery is located in an historic winery building built in 1889 near Hwy 84, 6 miles east of 680. The winery is open for tasting and sales every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from noon to 5pm. For information, phone 925-447-5246 or email info@fenestrawinery.com

Blood Drive

In response to the American Red Cross' recent report of blood shortages nationwide, the City of Dublin will host a blood drive on Saturday, January 18, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, in the Sunday School Barn at Dublin's Heritage Park.

Residents may drop in anytime during the day to donate blood, or can schedule an appointment at www.redcrossblood.org, entering the sponsor code, "Dublin-Community," to schedule a time to donate.

Joe Michell Open House

The public is invited to attend an open house at Joe Michell K-8 School

International Baccalaureate Candidate, 6 to 8 p.m. Jan. 22, 1001 Elaine Ave., Livermore.

During this Open House attendees learn about the International Baccalaureate (IB) program founded in Geneva, Switzerland in 1968, how it translates to global learning at Joe Michell in every grade level, and tour the school to see how critical and reflective thinking, risk-taking, and inquiry-based learning translates in the classroom. http://joemichell.schoolloop.com/jms_ib_info

Clean Air Race

The Great Race for Clean Air is a friendly competition between Bay Area employers to determine who will reign as the company with the best Bay Area Commuters. The competition encourages employees to use commute alternatives

such as transit, carpooling, vanpooling, walking and bicycling – anything but driving alone to work.

The next Great Race runs from March 1 through April 30, 2014.

The Great Race for Clean Air is conducted in partnership with 511 Rideshare, the Peninsula Traffic Congestion Relief Alliance, 511 Contra Costa, and the San Francisco Department of the Environment.

(continued on page 9)

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SPORTS NOTES



In 2013, West Coast Soccer Club established two new boys soccer teams. The U10/U11 West Coast Wizards started the year with boys and families who were looking to have a fun, educational, and competitive soccer experience. The boys had a successful spring season, which moved them up a level. In the fall, the Wizards were quite competitive while finishing undefeated in state cup play in September-November. In the semi-finals of the state tournament, they ran into the eventual champions. Plans are underway for the 2014 season. Tryouts will be Sunday, January 26th from 10:30am-12:00pm at Robertson Park in Livermore. Please register at www.westcoastsoccerclub.com.



A new team for West Coast Soccer in 2013 was the U13 Premier Team West Coast Warriors. The Warriors started the year going undefeated in Nor Cal Spring League capturing a championship. The Warriors participated in the 3 tournaments placing second in two of them. They took on powerhouse Athletico Santa Rosa and played to two ties with the always tough Santa Clara Sporting. In State Cup, they advanced out of their bracket as a high seed and played in the Red flight comprised of the top 64 teams in the state. In group play, they tied California Odyssey and will continue to move forward with games in January vs Marin FC and Palo Alto. The team is coached by Dave Mahabali. The Warriors have been tuning up for the remainder of State Cup play with matches versus the CCSL Champions San Jose FC and San Jose Earthquakes Academy. The U13 Warriors will play in the state cup on January 25-26. Tryouts will be held February 16 12:30pm-2:00pm at Granada High School.

the option of competing for either (or both) AAU and USATF Track and Field events. For practice time and location, please visit facebook page, and group under Athenian Athletics. Any questions please feel free to contact Coach Rik Richardson at 925-518-9356 or e-mail athenian-track@hotmail.com.

Bocce Kits for Rent

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District is making bocce ball kits available for rent to the public.

Bocce ball kits can be checked out for a week at a time from the Robert Livermore Community Center. The kits are available at the front counter from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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

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

Outlaws 13U Baseball

The Livermore Outlaws Baseball Club is currently holding team tryouts for the Spring season travel team. Practices and evaluations are

now being held in Livermore. The Outlaws are in their fourth year of operations and the coaching staff has over 40 years of combined baseball coaching experience. All competitive players from the Tri-Valley area are welcome to attend an open practice. Please contact the Outlaws to schedule an evaluation at Outlawstravelball@yahoo.com.

Mavericks FastPitch

The Mavericks FastPitch 12U Livermore team is still looking for a few more girls to round out its roster for 2014. The focus for this coming year is player development, play time and growth as an A-team. The coaching staff is committed to applying their positive coaching philosophies to foster a safe and ideal growing environment. To schedule a private tryout or to learn more about the Mavericks organization please contact us at MavericksFastPitch@hotmail.com or visit www.mavericksfastpitch.com.

West Coast Tryouts

The West Coast Soccer Club will be holding competitive youth soccer tryouts for the upcoming 2014 season. Boys and girls at all ages and skill levels are welcome. Tryouts begin January 26 for the younger players and continue through April 13 for those in older age groups. Please visit website for age group dates and to pre-register. <http://westcoastsoccerclub.com/team-news/register-now-for-west-coast-tryouts/>

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Garden club members were busy preparing the garden for the spring blooming season.

Garden Club Spruces Up Rose Garden

In the last few weeks, the Livermore-Amador Valley Garden Club (LAVGC), has undertaken a lot of gardening at Livermore's Hansen Park at the intersection of Holmes and First Street. LAVGC assists the city in maintaining the Park's approximately 460 roses, and has been busy planting new roses and pruning the older ones.

A dozen club members planted 82 roses, 75 of which were donated to the park by Star Roses. The goals of the planting were to replace aging roses, add roses found in the original 1960's garden, fill in gaps where roses were missing, and add a planting bed dedicated to roses hybridized by Walter Lammerts, a famous hybridizer of roses (e.g. Queen Elizabeth, Bewitched, and Chrysler Imperial) who lived in Livermore in the early 1960's.

The garden club has been assisting the city with the

park since October 2012. During the first year, LAVGC clocked over 400 hours of volunteer time in the park, deadheading, pruning, and fertilizing the roses. In addition to the donation of the 75 roses from Star Roses, Kellogg Garden Products donated 650 pounds of their Natural & Organic Rose and Flower Fertilizer; Sanctuary Soil, of Vernalis, CA, donated 2000 pounds of their Buckaroo Brand Natural and Organic Worm Castings; and Livermore Feed and Farm Supply provided, at reduced price, 500 pounds of alfalfa pellets.

The roses will be blooming this spring. The public is invited to stop by the Park and take a look.

Those interested in joining the Garden Club, meeting other gardeners and learning many new things about gardening, visit www.lavgc.org and look under "contact."

Livermore School Board Ratifies LEA Contract

The Livermore School Board of Trustees last week ratified a contract with the Livermore Education Association (LEA) for the 2013-14 school year.

The district also announced the start of negotiations with the Service Employees International Union, Local 1021 (SEIU).

The agreement with LEA, which was ratified by the union in December, includes a 1.08% temporary base salary increase retroactive to July 2013. The cost to the district will be approximately \$530,750.

Chris Van Schaack, Assistant Superintendent, stated that the temporary increase recognizes the extra work needed to implement the common core program.

Since 2010, 45 states have adopted the same standards for English and math. These standards are called the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). The idea is that providing the same standards helps all students receive a good education, even if they change schools or move to a different state.

Both the board vote and LEA ratification for the contract were unanimous.

Trustee Anne White commented, "The negotiations have gone delightfully smoothly."

Trustee Bill Dunlop added, "It is a good agreement. I hope both groups will be happy with the contract."

Van Schaack reported that changes in the contract include added language to allow non-classroom teach-

ers to have their work year or work day modified by mutual agreement. He explained that both the district and the union saw the need to provide flexibility so that psychologists, nurses, counselors, Teachers on Special Assignment (TSAs), etc. can work days in the summer when needed or modify their daily schedule on occasion to work.

Wording was added that states that in order for activities to qualify for the flexible professional development hours, they must be pre-approved and occur outside the work day.

A category for Teachers on Special Assignment (TSAs) includes language that ensures that teachers who take TSA positions can return to their former position if the TSA job is for one year; that a TSA can return to a job within the District if the position is for more than one year; and that the positions are posted with details about the project and have a defined length.

As for the SEIU talks, Van Schaack told the board that basically, the union has asked that the entire contract be open for negotiations.

The district is proposing to negotiate work day and work week, leaves, pay and allowances and health and welfare.

The current SEIU agreement expires June 30, 2014.

The Board will take a look at SEIU's and the district's options at its January 21 meeting.

Lab Physicist Miguel Morales selected for Presidential Early Career Award for Science and Engineering

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory physicist Miguel Morales has been selected for a 2014 Presidential Early Career Award for Science and Engineering (PECASE) for his leading edge research in condensed matter physics.

Using advanced computational techniques such as density functional theory and quantum Monte Carlo, Morales studies materials at extreme pressure and temperature on some of the world's most powerful supercomputers. His work is important to Stockpile Stewardship, the National Nuclear Security Administration's (NNSA) program to ensure the safety, security and reliability of the nation's nuclear deterrent without underground testing. In addition, this research also provides planetary scientists with a better understanding of planet formation.

"I'm very happy and honored to receive this



Miguel Morales in his office where he does research in condensed matter physics. Photo - Don Johnston, LLNL

award," said Morales, who joined LLNL's Condensed Matter Physics and Materials Division as a staff scientist in 2010.

The early career presidential awards are the highest honor bestowed by

the United States government on science and engineering professionals in the early stages of their independent research careers. Established by President Clinton in 1996, the awards are coordinated by the Office of Science and Technology Policy within the Executive Office of the President. Awardees are selected for their pursuit of innovative science and technology and their commitment to community service as demonstrated through scientific leadership, public education or community outreach.

Morales was one of 13 US Department of Energy and 102 recipients overall. Awardees will be honored in a ceremony later this year. The award comes with a stipend distributed over five years. Past recipients have received up to \$50,000 a

year. "The impressive achievements of these early-stage scientists and engineers are promising indicators of even greater successes ahead," President Obama said in a press release. "We are grateful for their commitment to generating the scientific and technical advancements that will ensure America's global leadership for many years to come."

A native of Puerto Rico, Morales completed

a double bachelor of science degree in theoretical physics and mathematics from the University of Puerto Rico in Mayaguez (2004). He earned his Ph.D from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in 2009, where he studied under David Ceperley, a former Livermore scientist. Before being hired at Livermore, Morales was a postdoctoral researcher at Rice University.

Morales discovered his aptitude and passion for science as a 16-year-old in the wake of one of the hurricanes that periodically devastate Puerto Rico. As he waited for life on the island to return to normal, he picked up a science book.

"After the hurricane we spent a month without

electricity and water. I started reading about Isaac Newton and Albert Einstein in an encyclopedia of science," Morales recalls. "I had no exposure to science before that and I was fascinated. I started buying and reading books about science and I became obsessed with math as well. I knew then that I would devote my life to science."

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LIGHTS

(continued from page one)

also translate to an annual reduction in carbon dioxide gas emission equivalent to approximately 85,000 gallons of gasoline. The new LED light bulbs are expected to last at least five times longer than the existing bulbs. The major physical difference between the LED light fixtures and the HPSV light fixtures is the color of the light produced. The existing fixtures produce a yellowish amber color while LED fixtures will produce a white light.

The replacement of approximately 5,400 light fixtures along residential

neighborhood street will occur during the day between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. The contractor is allowed to work on arterial roadways as early as 6:00 a.m. and as late as 10:00 p.m.

Throughout the replacement process, residents and businesses will have access to their driveways, but may encounter occasional obstruction while equipment is operating directly in front of their residences/establishments.

For additional information, please contact Lorenzo King at (925) 931-5661.

LIVERMORE CINEMAS		2490 FIRST STREET 443-SHOW	
JACK RYAN: SHADOW RECRUIT (PG13) DLP-CC	12:50	3:50	6:50 9:25
THE NUT JOB (PG) DLP-CC	12:10	2:20	4:25 6:40 9:00
RIDE ALONG (PG13) DLP	12:00	2:25	4:50 7:15 9:50
DEVILS DUE (R) DLP	12:40	2:50	5:10 7:30 9:45
LOVE SURVIVOR (R) DLP		12:30	3:35 6:40 9:45
FROZEN (PG) DLP	12:00	2:40	5:20 8:00
AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY (R) DLP	12:35	3:15	6:25 9:35
AMERICAN HUSTLE (R) DLP	1:00	4:00	7:00 9:50
SAVING MR. BANKS (PG13) DLP	12:05	3:10	6:20 9:20
THE LEGEND OF HERCULES (PG13) DLP	1:25	4:25	7:15
THE LEGEND OF HERCULES (PG13) DLP-3D			9:55
ANCHORMAN 2: THE LEGEND CONTINUES (PG13) DLP	12:40	3:55	6:45 9:35
THE WOLF OF WALL STREET (R) DLP	12:00	3:45	7:30
NER (R) DLP	12:10	3:25	6:35 9:50
PREVIEW, JANUARY 23: I, FRANKENSTEIN (PG13) 3D			10PM

NFL Championship Game - 49ers vs. Seahawks - Sun @ 3:30

NEBRASKA

Fri - Sat: 1:20 4:20 7:00 9:10

PHILOMENA

Fri - Sat: 1:00 6:45

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1722 First Street - Livermore www.VineCinema.com

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NEBRASKA

Fri - Sat: 1:20 4:20 7:00 9:10

Golden Globe WINNER for Best Picture - Drama

12 YEARS A SLAVE

Fri - Sat: 4:00 8:45

PHILOMENA

Fri - Sat: 1:00 6:45

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Visitors from countries around the world visit a classroom at Joe Michell. Pictured are (left) Alma Haxhimali from Albania and (right) Mary Walker from Kenya. Photos - Doug Jorgensen

SCHOOL

(continued from page one)

education is that we're preparing students to thrive in the global 21st century," said Joe Michell's IB Coordinator Amie Hauselt. "We're developing students who know how to learn. They know not only how to embrace their own identity and culture, but how to communicate with people from other cultures. They'll have the skills and knowledge to do so effectively."

On Wednesday, January 22nd, Joe Michell School in Livermore will be holding an open house for all members of the community to visit the campus and learn more about the IB program.

"We open our doors at 6 p.m. with a short presentation at 6:30. Classrooms will be open for about an hour at 7 so people can talk to teachers and see what it's like to be a student at an IB school," said Lembo.

The school is currently in the second year of a three-year accreditation process. The consideration phase began last year, the implementation phase is taking place

this year, and application to become an official IB World School will occur next year.

"Our world has changed. We need to think much more globally," said Lembo. "So many jobs now require that we work with a variety of different people from different countries. We need to respect each other and know that we can collaborate and create something unique and wonderful."

Hauselt agreed. "Technology has opened up the world. The students have technology in their hands. We don't want to restrict that; we want to help them find ways to go out there and be part of that world. With IB, the students are driving their own learning. It's inquiry based."

Livermore resident Mary Mele said she was fortunate to have her children educated for a time at an IB school in Berlin in 1999. "It's the most amazing approach to

teaching and learning I've ever seen," said Mele. "For example, let's say students are learning about cherries. The teacher would start out asking what the students know about cherries. Then they'd be asked what they don't know. And finally, what they want to know: Are there parts of the world that don't have cherries? Can they be used for medicine? For colorings? What foods use cherries? Instead of all students doing the same report on cherries, each would explore an area of interest to them. The topics of manufacturing, medicine, geography, economics, science, etc. can be interwoven into the simple subject of cherries."

Students then share what they've learned so that classmates are introduced to a wealth of knowledge, concepts and ideas. In fact, large exhibitions are organized for 5th graders completing their primary school

education and 8th graders completing their middle school education.

"The IB program encourages students to learn deeply. They're learning inquiry and research skills," said Lembo. "They're learning what they need to become lifelong learners."

Because of the IB program's rigor, it complements the Common Core Standards. In addition to learning English, mathematics, history and science, the IB program encourages critical thinking and problem solving, inquiry and open-mindedness, along with communication and collaboration.

"We also develop the character traits we look for in an internationally minded person," said Hauselt. For instance, helping students become inquirers, thinkers, communicators, knowledgeable, principled, open-

minded, caring, risk takers, balanced and reflective.

"As a parent, you think, 'Doesn't every school do that?'" said Mele. "The difference is that with IB there's an intentionality. It's more than just fostering the feeling that character counts. It's an intentional movement by the school, the staff, the teachers, everybody. It's actually part of the curriculum."

Currently, Joe Michell is the only school in the Tri-Valley offering the IB program, and one of only 36 in California. The nearest are located in Oakland, Berkeley and Los Gatos. Worldwide, there are 3,584 IB schools in 144 countries.

However, more Tri-Valley schools are likely to follow Joe Michell's lead. "We've reached out to Livermore and Granada High Schools because our sixth graders will be ready to

continue the program," said Lembo. "The high schools are in the consideration phase, where we were last year. They're researching the program and visiting schools. There's definitely interest."

Mele added, "It's exciting that we're part of a district that offers open enrollment and sees the benefit of having choices."

As for the young students studying pumpkins, they discovered that seeds can indeed grow inside, a lesson not many of the young learners are likely to forget.

"There is a different energy here at Joe Michell. It's just as invigorating for the staff as it is for the students," said Lembo. "There is just so much enthusiasm and excitement."

For more information, visit ibo.org, or email ahauselt@lvjUSD.k12.ca.us or llembo@lvjUSD.k12.ca.us.

HOSPICE

(continued from page 5)

their advance directives," adds Emmons.

A panel discussion and Q&As will follow the film screening. Panelists include:

Kuljeet Multani, MD - Board certified in Palliative Care and Internal Medicine. She is an associate medical director at Hope Hospice.

Chris Raymond, FNP-BC, RN, MSN, ONC - Board certified family nurse practitioner and oncology nurse. She has worked in the nursing field for more than 30 years and currently is the nurse practitioner at Hope Hospice.

Ann Felter, MSW, LCSW - Director of Social Work and Spiritual Care at Hope Hospice. In her work, she has guided many patients and families in discussions about end of life decisions.

Dara Burke, RN, CHPN - Certified hospice and palliative care nurse. She has worked in nursing for 35 years, 14 of which have been with Hope Hospice where she is a nurse case manager.

Advance directives material will be available during this event.

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Cultural Arts Calendar





Community Events Calendar





Visit Our Online Calendars

To see what's happening in the Tri-Valley or to submit your event, visit us online at www.independentnews.com

Livermore Middle School 'Mathletes' Display Their Skills in Annual Competition

By Carol Graham

When Meenakshi Singhal survived three one-on-one sudden death competitions against higher ranked opponents to take first place, she was immediately surrounded and hugged by her teammates.

"It was like having a wildcard team win the Super Bowl in the NFL," said Ted Perry, Ph. D.

It wasn't football, or any other sport, that had the crowd cheering for three hours on January 11. It was Livermore's MATHCOUNTS Competition held each January for the city's middle school students.

"I always hear from everyone who attends how exciting it is to see our MATHletes receive the same accolades, attention, and public recognition as traditional athletes in competition," said Livermore's Superintendent of Schools Kelly Bowers.

"What we value about the program is the individual as well as team competition, which mirrors other athletic events. There is definitely a lot of work and discipline that go into preparing, and the students enjoy showcasing their intellectual prowess."

For weeks, 6th, 7th and 8th grade students prepared for the competition by participating in the inclusive, extracurricular MATHCOUNTS enrichment program. At each school, teachers, parents and community members serve as coaches for the students.

"These students are pursuing math at a higher level at a younger age than their parents did," said Mendenhall coach Sue Ackerman. "MATHCOUNTS is fun for me as I attempt to remember back or learn completely new concepts that may not have sunk in the first time. The coaches help each other in a collaborative environment in the same way that the students do."

The competition took place at Granada High School with 102 students from six schools participating.



Meenakshi Singhal receives congratulations after finishing first in the Mathcounts Competition. Photo - Bob Bronzan

"It was tough. There are four rounds of the competition and students must stay focused the entire time," said John Mahlstedt, a Livermore Valley Charter School math teacher. "The students work incredibly hard to prepare themselves. Several spent many hours over the summer, on weekends, and even over winter break working on solving problems to make sure they were ready."

For the past two decades, the competition's problems have been provided by Perry, a physicist working in the nuclear weapons stockpile stewardship program, who holds a master's degree in mathematics, as well as a Princeton University doctorate degree in physics.

"In today's technological society, mathematics is the foundation for many important careers," noted Perry, who emceed the competition. "About 73% of students who participate in MATHCOUNTS go on to a career in science, technology, engineering or medicine. For the nation as a whole, only 25% of students go into these fields. Not being proficient in

mathematics makes going into some fields an impossibility."

Ackerman said, "Coaches work to keep interest level up and frustration down while making learning new concepts fun. It's always so exciting when a student has an 'aha' moment and everything comes together on how to solve a problem."

Livermore Mayor John Marchand was on hand to present the awards. Event sponsors included the Livermore Valley Education Foundation, Sandia National Laboratories, and Kohl's Department Store.

"The study of mathematics provides students with a powerful set of tools and strategies, and a way of thinking about the world including problem-solving, abstract thinking and logical reasoning," stated Bowers. "Children are natural mathematicians and eager to use whatever skills and knowledge they have to explore and gain understanding."

Mahlstedt agreed. "Math is everywhere. Almost everything in the world involves some type of math, and it's important for students to see those connections between what they're learning in school and the world around them."

It is a message not lost on the young students.

"I see MATHCOUNTS as an opportunity for improving myself in life," said Mendenhall 7th grader Aidan Ackerman. "The time and effort is worth it because there is no better way to improve math skills, and working in a

team is a fun way to solve problems."

Eighth-grade Mendenhall student Alejandro Gonzalez echoed that view. "It's important to learn math because it's used everywhere, for every job. My favorite memory of the competition is going there scared and coming out happy to have faced a challenge."

Yet it wasn't all seriousness at the competition. The LVCS team showed up in gold t-shirts emblazoned with

"23 ∑ π ... and it was delicious!"

"Every year we make team shirts that involve mathematical concepts or math jokes," said Mahlstedt. "This year the symbols translate to, 'I ate some pie.' It's a way for us to have some fun with math, and it also forces people to think mathematically when trying to figure out what our shirts say."

The MATHCOUNTS State Competitions are scheduled to take place in March, followed by the 2014 Raytheon MATHCOUNTS National Competition in Orlando, Florida from May 8 - 11.

"We are very fortunate to have the Livermore MATHCOUNTS Competition," stated Mahlstedt. "Most schools that par-

ticipate in the program only get to compete at the regional competition for which they can only bring 10 students at the most. However, every student in Livermore has the opportunity to compete at least once a year because of this competition."

Added Ackerman, "It really is an amazing program, but it isn't until you see the entire city come together like this that you realize the magnitude of the impact on so many students."

The winners of the

2014 Livermore MATHCOUNTS Competition are:

Individual, Grades 7 & 8: 1. Meenakshi Singhal (Mendenhall); 2. Andy Lau (LVCS); 3. Ivy Tang (LVCS); 4. Shannon Yan (Mendenhall); 5. Ashley Zhuang (LVCS); 6. Paul Chirica (East); 7. Andrew Divita (Mendenhall); 8. Weston Everett (Mendenhall); 9. Eustyn Trinh (Mendenhall); 10. Tegan Borg (Mendenhall).

Individual, Grade 6: 1. Theodore Dean (LVCS); 2. Kai Nelson (LVCS); 3. Timothy Blanton (Mendenhall); 4. Paula Leigh (Mendenhall); 5. Adithi Kumar (LVCS).

Teams, Grades 7 & 8: 1. Andy Lau, Ivy Tang, Adam Zhu and Ashley Zhuang (LVCS); 2. Andrew Divita, Weston Everett, Meenakshi Singhal and Shannon Yan (Mendenhall); 3. Paul Chirica, Kendall Hornbeck, Richard Jing and Kyle Lam (East).

Teams, Grade 6: 1. Theodore Dean, Seth Jeppson, Sandhya Murugavel and Kai Nelson (LVCS); 2. Timothy Blanton, Megan MacLean, Zachary Miller and Skylar Shapiro (Mendenhall); 3. Chris Johnson, Abby Rothe, Radha Sri-Tharan and Avni Vachhan (mixed team: Christensen and Mendenhall).

Number of students from each school: Mendenhall - 50, LVCS - 26, Christensen - 12, East Avenue - 8, Junction Avenue - 3, Joe Michell - 3.

Orientation Session to Provide Information on How Veterans Can Apply to Purchase a Home

Veterans can apply to purchase an affordable home in Livermore.

Habitat for Humanity East Bay/Silicon Valley, in cooperation with the City of Livermore, have available a 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom single family home.

An orientation will be held from 10 a.m. to noon on Sat., January 18 at the Veterans Memorial Building, 522 South L Street, Livermore. Those attending will learn about qualification requirements, pre-qualification analysis, and resources to assist in becoming a home owner such as budgeting, credit repair and counseling.

The selection preference will be given to those who live and/or work in Livermore.

No down payment is required. The mortgage will be through a nonprofit.

For more information call: (510) 803-3387 or (510) 803-3371, or email: homeowner@habitatebsv.org.

Qualifications include the following: First time home buyer or not have owned a home for the last 3 years; minimum household size of four (4) per-

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sons; meet income limits by household size (i.e., \$66,250 for a household size of 4); have funds available for closing costs; contribute 250 hours of "sweat equity;" and attend a Habitat program orientation.

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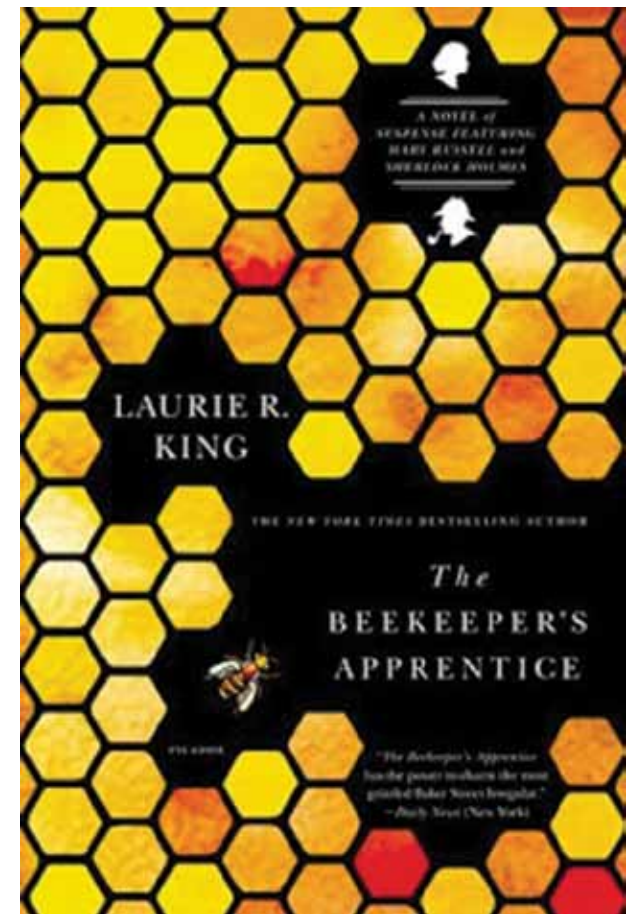
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Laurie R. King Kicks Off Livermore Reads Together 2014 at the Livermore Public Library



Laurie R. King - author to speak.



The Kick Off event for Livermore Reads Together 2014 will be held Sunday, January 26, 2014 at the Livermore Public Library starting at 2pm. The featured speaker is Laurie R. King, author of the mystery novel *The Beekeeper's Apprentice*.

Livermore Reads Together 2014 is a community reading program, featuring Laurie R. King's novel *The Beekeeper's Apprentice*. The community

of Livermore is invited to read *The Beekeeper's Apprentice* and join their neighbors by participating in events related to Sherlock Holmes, detectives, forensics, bees and more during the month of February 2014. Copies of books and event schedules will be available at all Livermore Public Library locations.

The Beekeeper's Apprentice is the story of 15-year-old Mary Russell, an American girl who

unexpectedly encounters Sherlock Holmes during a ramble through the English countryside. Ostensibly retired, Holmes studies beekeeping and is still involved in detective work. Despite differences in age, attitude and background, Russell and Holmes become friends and sleuthing partners. Together they work to solve the kidnapping of Jessica Simpson, daughter of a U.S. Senator. *The Beekeeper's Appren-*

tice is the first book in Laurie R. King's Mary Russell series, which now includes twelve novels. The most recent installment, *Garment of Shadows*, was published in 2012. According to King, the Mary Russell series touches upon many issues, including "politics, women's rights, religious expression, and governmental oppression."

Livermore Reads Together 2014 events include the following: and unless

noted, events are held at the Civic Center Library Storytime Room and are free to the public.

- Monday, February 3, 6-7:30pm (Rincon Branch Library): *Rescuers*, a Disney animated film

- Wednesday, February 5, 7pm (Civic Center Community Room): *Suave and Sophisticated: The English Detective in Film*, David Thomson, author and film critic

- Friday, February 7,

4-5:30pm: *Great Mouse Detective*, a Disney animated film

- Saturday, February 8, noon (The Vine Cinema in Livermore): *Classic Movie at the Vine: The Hound of the Baskervilles*, a free showing of the 1939 film starring Basil Rathbone as Sherlock Holmes and Nigel Bruce as Dr. Watson

- Sunday, February 9, 2pm: *From Sherlock Holmes to CSI*, Robin

(continued on page 4)

Building a Jazz Culture From the Ground Up

At 7:30 a.m., three mornings a week, 29 Mendenhall Middle School students begin warming up their instruments in preparation for a zero period session in Jazz with Matt Finders. This is not a mandatory course. In fact, Finders doesn't get paid for teaching it, or for writing the necessary jazz arrangements for instruments typically not found in jazz bands, such as French horns, violins, flutes and cellos. These early morning sessions all stem from a love of music, a desire to teach and learn, and Finders' goal of building a jazz culture in the region.

The teens may be motivated to participate from an understanding of the gift this accomplished pro is giving, but perhaps not. Finders is one of those rare types who doesn't wear his accomplishments on his sleeve. It takes digging to find out that he is no stranger to writing jazz arrangements - he wrote over 400 during his 17-year stint playing trombone on the Tonight Show with Jay Leno. His experience is extensive, from playing with Natalie Cole, Harry Connick Jr., Benny Goodman, Sting, Branford Marsalis and many more jazz greats and bands. He has traveled across the country as a clinician and guest artist, taught programs in many schools primarily in the Los Angeles region, started his JazzLabb program in L.A. in 2004, and brought the program to The Bothwell Arts Center in his hometown, for his first summer Livermore workshop in 2009.

Born and raised in Livermore, Finders started playing trombone at Fifth

Street Elementary when he was 9 years old. Because his brother already owned a trombone, the instrument of choice was first based on cost convenience, but it soon became a passion. He played in band at East Avenue Middle School, went on to join the Livermore High School jazz band (class of '78) and completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in Jazz Performance at San Jose State University. However, he cites as his biggest early influence, private instructor Bob Boring, a talented trombonist who taught out of Valley Music (now ABC Music Store & Academy) and may still be heard occasionally playing for private gigs. Boring opened musical doors for Finders.

Now, this is Finders' goal: To open those musical doors for others, and to help foster a local jazz community. Finders and his wife, Terilyn, moved back to Livermore late in 2013, to be near family and because he likes how Livermore has grown and the possibilities here. While he finds the music scene thriving, there is a deficit in the jazz culture. "Granada High has the only school jazz band around anymore" says Finders, "I just want to help build music education in my home town." And, due to the lack of funding for such programs, he is currently seeking help from charitable organizations to obtain funds for sheet music and the miscellaneous costs he has been underwriting himself. The first organization to step up to the plate is Livermore Cultural Arts Council (LCAC) with a mini grant.

Finders compares the summer JazzLabb program in L.A. to the one he teaches in Livermore



1978 Livermore High School Jazz Band with Matt Finders, middle row, second from right. He is shown today in the lower photo.

in the summer, and says that the main difference is that most of the L.A. kids have the advantage of early exposure to music education and private lessons. To this end, he teaches for free at Mendenhall to give the early teens that necessary exposure - even if what they play is not a traditional jazz instrument - and is now teaching regular weekly JazzLabb workshops at the Bothwell Arts Center. When asked directly why he is doing all of this, he doesn't hesitate. "Because they need it," Finders says.

Finders lives in Livermore with his wife, Terilyn, who works for a public education law firm, and has two daughters, Beth (25) and Hannah (21). This year he was blessed with his first grandchild. More information about his performance can be found at



www.jazzlabb.com.

The Bothwell Arts Center, located at 2466 Eighth Street in Livermore, serves as an arts incubator, offering affordable and rentable classroom, rehearsal,

performance, event, and studio rental space for artists, musicians, theatrical, acting, choral, and other individuals, groups or events with a cultural arts focus. The Bothwell

also opened a second site for working visual artists called the Downtown Art Studios. For more information visit www.livermoreperformingarts.org or call 925-447-ARTS.

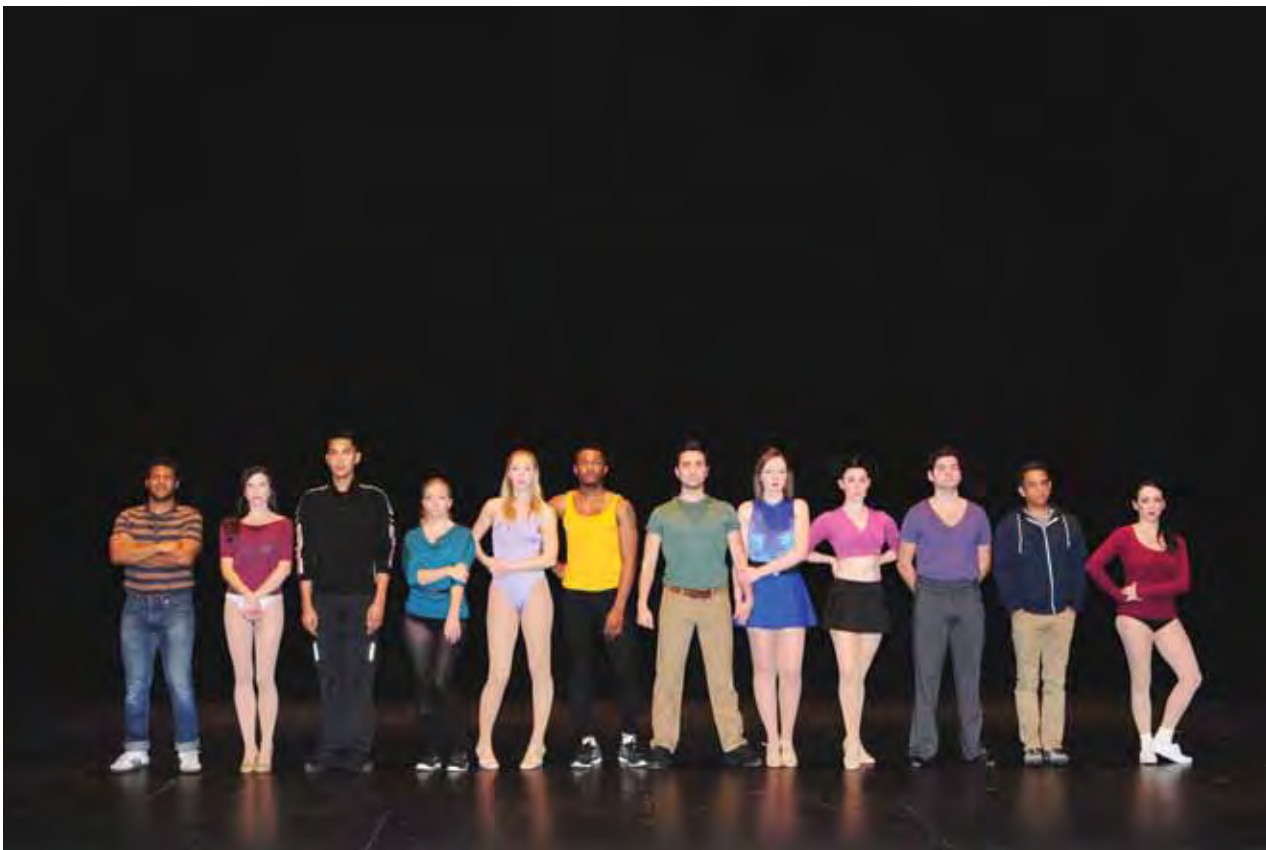


Photo - Wally Allert Photography

A Chorus Line: Iconic Theater-About-Theater Musical Plays at the Firehouse

Pacific Coast Repertory Company presents A Chorus Line, directed and choreographed by Broadway stage veteran Lois Grandi, and starring TV, film, and Broadway actor Meredith Patterson in the role of Cassie. The production will also co-star Pleasanton favorite Lauren Bratton-Kearns returning from New York. Musical direction is by PCRT co-artistic director Pat Parr.

The show opens Friday, January 24, and plays Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m., and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. through February 9 at the Firehouse Arts Center. Reserved seat tickets are \$17-\$38, and youth, senior, and group discounts are

available.

Centered around seventeen dancers auditioning for spots on a chorus line, the story opens on the bare stage of a Broadway theater in the middle of auditions for an upcoming Broadway production. The formidable director and his assistant choreographer put the dancers through their paces. Every dancer is desperate for work (“I Hope I Get It”). The director asks the dancers to introduce themselves, and with reluctance, they reveal their pasts and share about their journeys. A Chorus Line provides a glimpse into the personalities of the performers and the choreographer as they describe

the events that have shaped their lives and their decisions to become dancers.

With music by Marvin Hamlisch and lyrics by Edward Kleban, numbers include “The Music and the Mirror” sung by Cassie, “At the Ballet,” “What I Did for Love,” and the musical theater anthem “One” performed by the entire company.

Nominated for 12 Tony Awards, the show won an amazing nine, including Best Musical, Best Score, and Best Choreography. In addition, the show actually won the 1976 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, one of the few musicals ever to receive this honor, and also won the New York Drama

Critics’ Circle Award for Best Play. A Chorus Line was the longest-running Broadway musical originally produced in the US, until surpassed in 2011 by Chicago.

Pacific Coast Repertory Theatre’s A Chorus Line: Lois Grandi is back again after numerous accolades for her direction and choreography in PCRT’s sizzling Chicago and the heart-warming She Loves Me. Ms. Grandi was the Founder and Artistic Director of Playhouse West, the highly successful small professional SF Bay Area theatre company, which enjoyed an impressive, award-winning 13-year

(continued on page 4)

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Exchange students are invited to travel to Mexico as the Pleasanton-Tulancingo Sister City Association 2014 delegation. High school students can learn about participating in the Pleasanton/Tulancingo Sister City Association Youth Cultural Exchange Program at Foothill High School during lunch time, 12:11 pm, on Friday, January 31st in room B23. The Foothill parent/student meeting is on Monday February 3rd at 7pm C6. The Amador High School student meeting is during lunch time, 12:20, on Thursday, January 30th in Q201. The Amador parent/student meeting is on Tuesday February 4th, in Q201 at 7:00pm. Wednesday, February 12th 8-9 PM is a Parent/Student meeting at the Pleasanton Library To participate in the program, a student needs to be entering his or her sophomore –senior Year in high school in the fall and have completed a second year of Spanish by the end of this school year. The cultural exchange can apply as community service graduation requirements in most instances and is an excellent experience to enhance any potential college entrance portfolio as well. Teens and their parents are invited to attend the informational sessions to learn more. The application and selection process will be explained. More information about the exchange program can be found on Pleasanton Tulancingo Sister City Association's website at ptsca.org. If there are additional questions or if someone would like to recommend a student, please email annangst@sbcglobal.net or call at 925 600-7941. In the photo, visitors attended an A's game.

LIVERMORE READS TOGETHER

(continued from front page)

Burcell, crime writer/investigator/forensic artist
 • Saturday, February 15, 2pm: Jer Johnson's Bee Basics: Bees, Beekeeping and More
 • Sunday, February 16, 2pm: The Dashiell Hammett Tour of San Francisco with author Don Herron
 • Thursday, February 20, 7pm: Readers' Theater: The Beekeeper's Apprentice, Shakespeare's

Associates
 • Friday, February 21, 4-5:30: Tale of a Dragon's Tail, The Puppet Art Theater Company
 • Saturday, February 22, 7-9:30pm: Murder in the Library: Dewey Decimated!, a very special mystery event, staged by Murder on the Menu®, for adults 21 and over, light refreshments and wine (with ID), \$10 tickets available at the

Friends Bookstore January 15
 • Sunday, February 23, 2pm: Introducing Mr. Sherlock Holmes, author Leslie Klinger
 In addition, several activities will be taking place throughout the month of February 2014. The Civic Center Library Art Gallery will feature the display Watching The Detectives: A Movie Poster Exhibit,

A CHORUS LINE

(continued from page 3)

run. Prior to that, she had numerous roles both On- and Off-Broadway in New York City as well as National tours, and has also had TV and commercial roles. In addition, she is a well-known Bay Area chanteuse and a prominent acting coach.

Grandi has a very personal connection to A Chorus Line, having danced with Michael Bennett, the creator of A Chorus Line, when she was herself a young dancer living in New York City. She plans to bring all the style and depth to the PCRT production that Mr. Bennett did those years ago.

Broadway and television star Meredith Patterson will be playing the lead role of Cassie. She is familiar to theater-goers for her Broadway performances in The Boy Friend and White Christmas among others, as well as from television work on such shows as Boston Legal, The Good Wife, Person of Interest, Law & Order, and film appearances in The Princess Diaries 2, Broken Flowers, and Company Man to name a few. Ms. Patterson was a young dance protégé of Ms. Grandi, and they will now team up once again in this Bay Area

production.

Along with Grandi, Patterson boasts a very personal connection to the original Broadway production, having herself performed recently with Donna McKenchnie, the original Cassie on Broadway. McKenchnie encouraged Patterson at that time to one day take on the role of Cassie if it presented itself, as she saw Patterson as a perfect fit, just as it was for her those many years before.

Co-starring and also joining the cast from New York is Lauren Bratton-Kearns. Bratton-Kearns was last seen in PCRT's productions of Beauty and the Beast and She Loves Me. A Pleasanton native, Bratton-Kearns attended Contra Costa Ballet Centre for eight years before graduating in dance from UC Irvine. She went on to study at the famed Alvin Ailey Company in New York City for two years, and has since performed with several New York City dance companies. The audiences will be delighted by her performance in this production as Val singing the hilarious tune "Dance

10, Looks 3."

• January 26 Special Event: A free pre-show "Audience Participation Open House" from noon-1:00 p.m. Guests will be able to learn part of the opening dance combination and a song performed in the production. Contact the Firehouse Arts Center Box Office for further information.

• January 26 Special Event: An "Inside the Show" discussion with the principal actors and director Grandi will take place after the Sunday matinee performance only on January 26. Admission is free with a ticket to the performance.

Tickets may be purchased online at www.firehousearts.org up to two hours prior to the performance, by phone at (925) 931-4848, or in person at the Firehouse Arts Center Box Office, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. 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.

Murder on the Menu at Library

Murder on the Menu® presents "Murder in the Library: Dewey Decimated!" at the Livermore Library on February 22 starting at 7 p.m.

This Livermore Reads Together event is for adults 21 and over. Tickets are available for \$10 per person at the Friends of the Library Bookstore located in the Civic Center Library. Light refreshments and wine (with ID) will be served.

Dewey has been found "decimated" at the Livermore Public Library. Help

is needed to uncover the killer – interview suspects and collaborate with fellow detectives to solve the crime. Transform yourself into an amateur sleuth, and wrestle with clues in an unforgettable whodunit.

This interactive murder mystery event is part of Livermore Reads Together 2014, a community-wide reading program sponsored by The Friends of the Livermore Library. Tickets are available starting on January 15. For more information, call 373-5505.

Livermore Valley Rules Again At the Cabernet Challenge and San Francisco Chronicle Competition

by Laura Ness

Congratulations to the guys named Steve at 3 Steves Winery for winning best red at the 2014 San Francisco Chronicle competition for their 2011 Cienega Zinfandel! Wow, that's the second Best of Show in the last three years for a Livermore wine. Two years ago, it was McGrail sweeping it for their Livermore Valley Cabernet.

Steve Burman of 3 Steves says they found out about the honor in a rather unusual way: "Amazing how we found out. Collin (Cranor) from Nottingham Cellars shows up yesterday while Zig and I are pouring in our winery tasting room. Brings in a bottle of champagne and plops it on the bar. Says it's time to celebrate our award and tells us what we won. What a great guy. Humble and killer good wines. Doesn't even tell us he won three golds and a silver medal himself for the four wines he entered! Big potential for our region I think. Proud to be a part of this community."

Incidentally, the 3 Steves also scored Silvers for their 2012 Livermore Valley Chardonnay and their 2011 Cabernet Franc, which also made it to the finals at the upcoming Cabernet Challenge. The Steves will be appearing on a terroir panel this Saturday, at The Old Mint, in San Francisco. Steven Mirassou will also represent Steven Kent Portfolio on the same panel. Seminars begin at noon. See below

for more info.

Here are additional SF Chronicle results for Livermore wineries:

Concannon Vineyard won Best of Class for its excellent 2012 Assemblage Blanc, a tongue teasing tango of Semillon and Chardonnay, while Occasio Winery won Best of Class for its elegant Livermore Valley Cabernet Sauvignon in the \$40 - \$49.99 category. Murietta's Well captured Best of Class for its 2011 Los Tesoros Petit Verdot.

Nice to see Livermore capturing BoC for two varieties that do exceedingly well here.

Bent Creek Wines put on a solid show with a Gold for its 2011 Livermore Valley Syrah, and Silvers for 2011 Zin, Petite Sirah, Cab and Cab Franc, all from the Livermore Valley. They also picked up a Bronze for a Chard and Port.

New wine brand, Caddis, won Double Gold for its 2011 Livermore Valley Tempranillo, a Gold for a 2010 Livermore Valley Syrah and Bronze for a "Better Together" Livermore blend.

Charles R Vineyards scored Silvers for the 2008 Livermore Valley Syrah, 2009 Livermore Valley Petite Sirah, and 2008 Livermore Valley Cabernet Sauvignon.

Concannon Vineyard really stepped up to receive some well-deserved medals with a Best of Class for the outstanding 2012 Livermore Valley Reserve

Assemblage Blanc, which is probably my favorite white wine of 2013. Then, it was Double Gold for the 2010 Reserve Petite Sirah, followed by Silvers for the 2011 Conservancy Cab Sauv, the 2010 Reserve Captain Joe's Petite Sirah, the 2010 Reserve Nina's Cuvee Petite Sirah, the 2009 Reserve Polo Field Petite Sirah, the 2010 Mother Vine Cabernet Sauvignon, the 2011 Conservancy Chardonnay, and Bronze for the 2010 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon and the 2011 Reserve Stampmaker's Red. All wines were from the Livermore Valley. Well done, Julian Halasz!

It was all Silver and Bronze for Larry Dino's all Livermore Valley wines at Cuda Ridge this year. Honored with Silver were the 2011 Petit Verdot, the 2010 Black Label Cabernet Sauvignon, the 2011 Livermore Valley Cabernet, and Bronze for the 2011 Cabernet Franc and 2011 Merlot.

Darcie Kent Vineyards came out of the gate with a Gold for the 2011 Monterey appellation Riva Blackjack Vineyard Gruner Veltliner and Silvers for the 2012 Demayo Vineyard Chardonnay, the 2011 Pinot Noir from Monterey, and the 2010 Livermore Valley Crown Block Red Wine.

Fenestra Winery will have many more medals to pin to its already crowded walls, with Golds going to both the 2008 Livermore Valley Thatcher Bay Vine-

yard Cabernet Sauvignon and the 2010 Livermore Valley Estate Grenache. It was a flood of Silver for these wines: 2010 Ghielmetti Vineyard Petite Sirah, 2009 Livermore Valley Estate Syrah, 2010 Lodi Silvaspoons Vineyard Tourvannillo, 2010 Livermore Valley Estate "Infrared" blend, the 2008 Livermore Valley Thatcher Bay Vineyard Merlo, the 2011 Lodi Silvaspoons Vineyard Malbec, 2011 Lodi Graciano, and 2009 Livermore Valley Estate Mourvedre. And, many Bronzes, too.

Harris Tesla scored Silver for the 2009 Livermore Valley Harris Tesla Estate Cabernet Sauvignon, and Bronze for the 2006, which is really tasting great right now with some bottle age, so they must be after fruitier Cabs at the Chron these days. Seriously, for \$24 a bottle, these are some of Livermore's best values for really well made 100% Cabernets.

Unsurprisingly, La Rochelle Winery scored a Double Gold for its phenomenal 2012 Russian River Valley Saralee's Vineyard Pinot Meunier. Get some before it's all gone.

Former winemaker, Charlie Kidd's efforts paid off big time for Las Positas Vineyards with Gold for the 2011 Livermore Valley Estate Syrah, and Silvers for the 2010 Meritage and 2011 Estate Petite Sirah. We know current winemaker, Brent Amos, will rock it next year with the

2012s he finished off and the 2013s he's about to bottle.

Longevity Wines posted some solid Silvers with the 2010 California Phil-osophy and the 2010 Lodi Petite Sirah, plus a raft of Bronze winners as well.

McGrail Vineyards & Winery scored Gold for the lovely 2012 Livermore Valley Chardonnay, and Silvers for both the 2009 Livermore Valley Merlot and the 2010 James Vincent Cabernet Sauvignon.

Murrieta's Well, in addition to the BoC for the 2011 Petit Verdot, brought home Gold for the 2012 Whip, and Silvers for the 2011 Livermore Valley Los Tesoros Touriga Nacional, the 2011 Spur, and the 2012 Los Tesoros Semillon Chardonnay blend. The latter is something more wineries need to explore. The marriage in Livermore of these two white grapes is magic.

No doubt about it, Collin Cranor of Nottingham Cellars is one of Livermore's hottest young winemakers, and there's no sign of him letting up anytime soon. He scored a whopping three out of four Golds, with the following brilliant wines getting the Golden nod: 2012 Livermore Valley Fraser Howard Chardonnay, 2010 Livermore Valley Supremacy Bordeaux Blend and 2012 Livermore



Valley Marina Ranch Grenache, followed by a Silver for the 2010 Livermore Valley Casa de Vinas & Ghielmetti Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon. Smart entries!

In addition to Occasio Winery's Best of Class for its 2011 Livermore Valley Cabernet Sauvignon, significant for the fact that the \$40.00 pricepoint is the sweetspot for premium Cabs, their Double Gold for the awesome Telos blend speaks volumes, not just for the brilliance of the wine, but for the ability of a well-crafted blend to find common ground among a disparate group of critics. If you haven't tried it, you owe it to yourself. The 2011 Livermore Valley Del Arroyo Vineyard Petite Sirah also took Gold. Three more Silver medals went to the 2012 Livermore Valley Del Arroyo Vineyard Chardonnay, the 2011 Livermore Valley Telos and the 2011 Livermore Valley Thatcher Bay Vineyard Merlot. Nicely done!

Page Mill Winery won a well-deserved Gold for the 2010 Livermore Valley

(continued on page 6)

LIVERMORE VALLEY WINES

(continued from page 5)

GPS, a blend of Grenache and Petite Sirah, plus a Silver for the 2012 Livermore Valley Chandler Vineyard Chardonnay, and Bronzes for the 2010 Livermore Valley Estate Vineyard Petite Sirah and the 2013 Livermore Valley Ghilmetti Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc.

Stony Ridge Winery scored Silvers for both its 2010 Livermore Valley Zinfandel and Petite Sirah.

Wente's stalwart wine-making team scored Gold for the truly delicious 2012 Arroyo Seco-Monterey Riverbank Riesling, followed by a sleigh filled with Silvers for these efforts: 2011 Livermore Valley Charles Wetmore Cabernet Sauvignon, 2012 Livermore Valley Morning Fog Chardonnay (Safeway's number one selling Chardonnay in Northern California), 2011 Livermore Valley The Nth Degree Merlot, 2012 Livermore Valley The Nth Degree Chardonnay, 2012 Livermore Valley Louis Mel Sauvignon Blanc (a

killer SB at \$15.00), 2011 Livermore Valley Sandstone Merlot and a Bronze for the 2011 Livermore Valley Southern Hills Cabernet Sauvignon.

Rhonda Wood posted another great result from one of her signature Zins, this time a Double Gold for her 2011 Livermore Valley "Big Wood" Zinfandel, rounded out by a Bronze for the 2008 Livermore Valley Merlot, as well as for the 2012 Livermore Valley "Para Mas Amigas" Chardonnay.

Congratulations to all the winners! I didn't list all the Bronze medalists, of which there were quite a few, so please accept congrats even if your name wasn't listed here. There's no doubt about it, Livermore is a hot property right now.

LIVERMORE CABS FEATURED IN CABERNET CHALLENGE

If you want to taste a good number of Livermore

Cabernets that made it to the Cabernet Challenge finals, along with a slew of other great Cabs from artisan producers, get tickets for this fabulous event in San Francisco this Saturday, from noon til 4pm. Take part in a blind tasting where you can vote for your favorites, attend seminars where you can taste and learn from the best out there, and take home new discoveries. 3 Steves, Auburn James, Enoteca Five, En Garde and Steven Kent are among the Livermore wineries that entered the Challenge and will compete for top honors in the blind tasting.

Other wineries participating include Artiste Winery, Bonneau, Calistoga Cellars, Cameron Hughes, Deerfield Ranch, Ecluse, Estate 1856, Four Sisters, Guglielmo Winery, J.Rickards, Lucas and Lewellen, Pendleton Estate, Penman Springs, Rocca Family, Sol Rouge, Timark and The Winery SF.

Best ticket deals here:
<http://wine.coop/Events.php>

CALL FOR ENTRIES FOR LIVERMORE UNCORKED!

The Tri-Valley Conservancy has announced the dates for the 5th annual Livermore Uncorked Wine Competition. Submissions will be accepted beginning now through 5pm, February 28th. This year, you'll need to submit four bottles of each wine you want to enter. All submissions need to be delivered to the Tri Valley Conservancy at 1457 First Street in Livermore.

The judging by a group of winemakers, wine writers, sommeliers and wine buyers will take place on March 12. The results will be announced the following day.

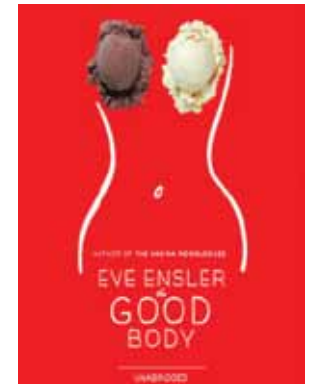
Please see the official rules and entry forms at trivalleyconservancy.org

Questions: Call 925-449-8706 or email lvuncorked@trivalleyconservancy.org

Tri-Valley Haven to Benefit 'The Good Body' Performance

Tri-Valley Haven presents "The Good Body" on Friday, February 7 at 8 pm, Saturday, February 8th at 8 pm, and Sunday, February 9th at 2 pm at the Las Positas Mertes Theater in Livermore. Tickets are on sale now: <http://thegoodbody.brownpapertickets.com>

In "The Good Body," Eve Ensler, author of "The Vagina Monologues," examines the female form in a hilarious, revealing, and compassionate way. Whether undergoing Botox injections or living beneath burqas, women of all cultures and backgrounds feel compelled to change the way they look in order to fit it. "The Good Body" merges



cross-cultural explorations with Eve Ensler's personal journey.

Directed by local favorite, Eleisa Cambra, all proceeds from this production go to Tri-Valley Haven to end violence against women and girls.

Sup, Sip, and Save in Dublin during Tri-Valley Restaurant Month

In celebration of its distinctive and diverse eateries, the City of Dublin encourages its residents to partake in Visit Tri-Valley's 4th Annual Tri-Valley Restaurant Month. Throughout January, patrons can visit any of the participating restaurants in the Tri-Valley and take advantage of great deals and free food simply by mentioning "Restaurant Month" to their server.

For photo-happy foodies, Visit Tri-Valley is conduct-

ing an online photo contest – diners simply snap a picture of their Restaurant Month meal in January, and publicly post it to Instagram or Facebook with the hashtag #eattrivalley to be entered into a weekly drawing for restaurant gift cards.

More than 35 Tri-Valley restaurants have joined the month-long promotion. Dublin eateries participating in Restaurant Month are listed on the City's Restaurant Month webpage, www.dublin.ca.gov/eat, including:

Ballybunion Bar and Grille (inside the Holiday Inn)

BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse

Caps & Taps

Casa Orozco

Coldstone Creamery / Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory

Dublin Fish & Chips

Fuddrucker's

Johnny Garlic's

Vito's Express Pizza

Visit Tri-Valley's Restau-

rant Month webpage, www.eattrivalley.com, contains a complete list of participating Tri-Valley restaurants and their Restaurant Month offers.

As Dublin restaurants continue to sign up, they will be announced on the "Discover Dublin" Facebook page, www.facebook.com/discoverdublin. Dublin restaurants interested in joining Restaurant Month should contact Erin Steffen with the City of Dublin at (925) 833-6610.



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Rehearsals are underway for this weekend's opening.

'The Matchmaker' on Stage

Role Players Ensemble presents "The Matchmaker" by Thornton Wilder.

In the play, the crafty scheming of Dolly Levi turns the world of Horace Vandergelder's Hay and Feed store upside down in this wild farce. Full of opening and closing doors, ridiculous disguises and mistaken identities, this comedy served as the inspiration for Hello Dolly.

Performances are January 17 to February 8 at the Village Theatre, 233 Front Street, Danville. Curtain time is 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday.

Tickets may be purchased on-line at www.roleplayersensemble.com or by calling 314-3400

County High School Students Invited to Participate in Poetry Out Loud Competition

The 4th Annual Alameda County Poetry Out Loud Competition has been scheduled

Poetry Out Loud, an annual program, celebrates youth and poetry. Recitation and performance are current trends in poetry.

There has been a resurgence of poetry as an oral art form, as seen in the slam poetry movement and the immense popularity of hip-hop music.

California Poetry Out Loud builds on that momentum by inviting the dynamic aspects of slam poetry, spoken word, and theater into California classrooms. All Alameda County High School students, grades 9-12, are invited to enter Alameda County's Poetry

Out Loud.

School winners advance to the County competition held on February 19 in Oakland. The County winner advances to the State competition at the State Capitol in Sacramento, in late March, and ultimately to the National Finals in late April.

County level participants will receive prizes: 1st place winner prize is \$200; 2nd place winner prize is \$100; All other participants will receive \$25. Also, \$100 will be awarded to 1st place County winner's school department that facilitated the student's participation.

The winner at the State level will receive \$200 and an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington D.C. to compete

Studio Seven Arts Presents "Small Works" Winter Art Exhibition

Studio Seven Arts has announced its Winter 2014 art exhibition, "Small Works," dedicated to diverse paintings by leading local artists. The exhibition runs now until February 6th at the gallery located in downtown Pleasanton on Main Street.

The Small Works exhibition is comprised of new and original paintings in petite sizes, ranging in styles from classic landscapes to contemporary works, to delicate watercolors, to bold abstracts.

"Our Small Works ex-



Shown is some of the work in the show.

hibition shows off a superb array of paintings depicting natural wonders and breathtaking landscapes. The pieces are small yet make colorful and bold statements,"

said Dirk Christiansen, owner of Studio Seven Arts. Artists included in the Small Works show are Susan Hoehn, Debbie Wardrope, Floy Zittin, Tyler Abshier,

Karen White, Corey West, Thom Cory, Diane Pruett, Beth Sautter, Ron Peterson, Karen Neely, and Shukuko Heinzen.

Livermore Native Elected to Leadership Role

On Monday, January 6th, the American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) announced that Jennifer Geiger has been elected by their membership to the Board of Directors as President-Elect.

She will serve 2 years each as President-Elect, President and Past President. The American Music Therapy Association is a non-profit organization located in the Washington DC area. AMTA "promotes awareness of the benefits of music therapy . . . and evidence-based use of music to achieve individual goals" for people of all ages and abilities.

Jennifer grew up in the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District. She learned to play the flute with Jerry Stasko at Sunset Elementary, switched to the tuba at Mendenhall Middle School with Randy Watson, traveled to Expo '86 with Dan Dooha-Chambers and played in award-winning ensembles at Granada with Tom Jones. More recently, she has been a featured vocalist with the Jim Martinez Jazz Quartet and in POPS concerts with the Livermore-Amador Symphony. She also performs as alto in the First Presbyterian Church choir.

Jennifer is a graduate in the field of Music Therapy from Willamette University (BM, 1993) and the University of the Pacific (MA, COM, 1998). Her music therapy internship



Jennifer Geiger

was completed at Philhaven Hospital in Mt. Gretna, PA. She was Board Certified by the Certification Board for Music Therapists (CBMT) in 1995. She has served in many volunteer and leadership roles locally, regionally and nationally. She is sole proprietor of Geiger Consulting Music Therapy Services, a private practice providing quality, interactive music therapy services

to older adults in the Tri-Valley. In addition to regular presentations at regional and national conferences, Jennifer is a fieldwork supervisor and guest lecturer at the University of the Pacific.

Jennifer is the daughter of Karen and Dennis Vied. She and her husband have two daughters. They enjoy attending Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre productions at the Bankhead Theater.

ART & ENTERTAINMENT

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.

Pollock-style action painting on canvas at Bothwell Arts Center, Jan. 21, at 2466 8th Street, Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org.

Just Add Water – Black on White: The Harrington Gallery at the Firehouse Arts Center presents two new concurrent exhibitions. The large gallery will host "Just Add Water," featuring four prominent Bay Area watercolorists and two ceramic sculptors: Melanie Lacki, Claire Schroeven Verbiest, Anne F. Fallin, David Savellano painters, and Mark Goudy and Liza Riddle ceramicists. In contrast, the adjacent Old Engine Bay Gallery will exhibit "Black on White," with artists Cary Bailey, Holly Wach, and Rebecca Fox and works in ink, charcoal, and welded steel respectively. Open January 22 through February 22 at the Harrington Gallery in the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton. Free reception with artists Wednesday, January 22, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Regular gallery hours: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday from 12:00-5:00 p.m.; Saturday 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. Donations always appreciated.

"Multiply by Six Million: Portraits and Stories of Holocaust Survivors," an exhibition showcasing photographer Evvy Eisen's 15-year-long project to create portraits of Holocaust survivors living in California and to collect their personal histories. Museum on Main, Jan. 8-Feb. 28. The Museum on Main is located at 603 Main Street in historic downtown Pleasanton. It is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sunday from 1:00-4:00 p.m. For more information about current exhibits and programs, visit the Museum's web site at www.museumonmain.org or call (925)462-2776.

To the Point, an exhibition by local colored pencil artists, will explore the vibrant and versatile art created by artist Maryann Kot and her students. The show will be

on view for theater patrons from January 8th to March 5th, 2014, with a reception for the artists on January 16th from 6:00-7:30pm. The reception is free and open to the public. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org.

New Show at the Livermore Art Association Gallery, Winter: "Waiting for Spring" opens on Sat., Jan 11th. Artwork will be displayed to make the viewer feel warm and cozy, think about vacationing in the snow or traveling to warmer climates. Of Winter here in the area will be a major focus on the walls of the Gallery at the Carnegie Building, 2155 Third Street, Livermore.

MEETINGS/CLASSES

Classes at the Figurehead Gallery: Figure Open Studio: Long Pose, on the Third Saturday of the month 1/18, 2/15, 3/15, 4/19, 5/17, 6/21 with Jacob Hankinson, Ozell Hudson, or Carolyn Lord. 9 am-1 pm. \$30. Introduction to Figure Drawing, Level 1, Instructor: Carolyn Lord, Mon., 1/20-3/31, 7-9 pm, (10 Lessons), No Prerequisite, Fee: \$250. Introduction to Figure Drawing, Level 2, Instructor: Carolyn Lord, Mon., 1/20-3/31, 9-11 am (10 Lessons), Prerequisite Level 1, Fee: \$250. Intro to Perspective Drawing, Level 1, Instructor: Carolyn Lord, Fri., 1/24-4/4, 7-9 pm (10 Lessons) No Prerequisite, Fee: \$250. Intro to Perspective Drawing, Level 2, Instructor: Carolyn Lord, Fri., 1/24-4/4, 9-11 am (10 Lessons) Prerequisite Level 1, Fee: \$250. Clothed Figure Drawing, Instructor: Ozell Hudson Jr., Tues., 1/14-2/11, 7-9 pm, (5 Lessons), Fee: \$125. Composition, Instructor: Ozell Hudson Jr., Wed., 1/15-2/12, 7-9 pm, (5 Lessons), Fee: \$125. Please register at www.figureheadgallery.com/classes.html or call Ken Ball at 925-353-0419.

Show and Tell, Artists are invited to a monthly function at the Bothwell Arts Center, called "Show & Tell." 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 Eighth St., Livermore. Artists bring finished or unfinished work to show and if desired, receive a critique from the group. Refreshments are brought by the artists, and a donation of \$5.00 is desired although not mandatory. Contact for this event is D'Anne Miller at danne_miller@att.net, or Linda Ryan at LRyan@Livermoreperformingarts.org

ACC / Art Critique & Coffee meet-

ings now at New Leaf in Pleasanton's Vintage Shopping Center on Bernal & Vineyard. Brings together professional, local and emerging artists meetings each Friday at 10:30 a.m. to share latest work, fine tune each piece with gentle critiques and share tips, techniques and opportunities. Join the mailing list and receive the latest news on when and where the next meeting will be held. PoetryOnCanvas@Mac.Com

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. Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 8th St., Livermore. Coffee, tea and refreshments are available. Call or e-mail Barbara Stanton for more info about the workshop, 925-373-9638 - microangelo@earthlink.net.

Preschool Art classes: Thursday mornings 9:45-10:45. Children aged 3-5 are welcome to join this class. Classes cover drawing, painting, print-making, sculpture and ceramics. For further information please contact Thomasin Dewhurst at (925) 216-7231 or thomasin_d@hotmail.com or visit http://childrensartclassesprojects.blogspot.com/

Art Classes, For children, teens and adults. Beginner to advanced. Drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture and ceramics taught by highly experienced artist and art instructor, Thomasin Dewhurst. Weekday and weekend classes, Homeschool classes, Special classes during school breaks offered. Please phone (925) 216-7231 or email thomasin_d@hotmail.com for further info.

Piano and keyboard lessons, For children to adult. Beginner to early intermediate level. Half-hour private classes or small group classes offered. Twice-yearly recitals. Please phone (925) 216-7231 or email thomasin_d@hotmail.com for further info.

PPL/Pleasanton Poetry League, now meeting the 1st Thursday and 3rd Wednesday of each month 7:00 at The Corner Bakery Cafe in Pleasanton. Join us as we challenge ourselves to poetically relay our thoughts, emotions and experiences through poetry. Become a member & share your work - Contact PoetryOnCanvas@Mac.Com for more info on Theme Challenges, Membership & Op-

portunities.

Ukulele Circle, Meetings held the 2nd and last Saturday from 12 noon-1 p.m. at Galina's Music Studio located at 2222 Second St., Suite 2, Livermore. Please confirm participation by calling (925) 960-1194 or via the website at www.GalinasMusicStudio.com. Beginners are welcome. Bring some music to share with the group. Ukuleles are available for purchase. Small \$5 fee to cover meeting costs.

Nature Photography Hike along the Callippe Preserve Trail on Saturday, January 11, 2014 from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. Hosted by Community Services Department of the City of Pleasanton. Participants must be 18 and older. Learn more and register at www.pleasanton-fun.com

New Art Workshop: Fun-Tangles. Instructor Maryann Kot. One day Workshop - Sat., Jan. 18th 10 am to 3 pm. Fee \$45. Fun-Tangles incorporates pen and ink drawing in repetitive patterns with colored media to enhance the design. Workshop will be held at the Bothwell Arts Center 2466 8th Street, Livermore. Sign up at Way Up Art and Frame, Livermore 925-443-3388.

WINERY EVENTS

Wine Wednesdays, Livermore Valley wineries will be hosting "Wine Wednesdays" each Wednesday through October. One featured winery will be open from 5 to 8 p.m. to help guests "wine-down" from the work week or just grab a taste of wine before going out to dinner in the Tri-Valley. Check for the winery listings at www.lvwine.org.

The Winemaker's Pour House, Live music: Jan. 16, 6:30-9:30 p.m., Natalia Sings; Jan. 18, 6:30-9:30 p.m., Chris Lebel; Jan. 21, 6-9 p.m., Glenn Osur at the Piano; Jan. 23, 6:30-9:30 p.m., Natalia Sings; Jan. 24, 7-10 p.m., Tumbledown House; Jan. 25, 8-9:30 p.m., Comedy Show; Jan. 26, 4-7 p.m., Steve Kritzer & Friends; Jan. 28, 6-9 p.m., Glenn Osur at the Piano; Jan. 30, 6:30-9:30 p.m., Natalia Sings; Feb. 4, 6-9 p.m., Glenn Osur at the Piano; Feb. 6, 6:30-9:30 p.m., Natalia Sings. 2241 First St., Livermore. www.winemakerspour-house.com or 215-2656.

Evening with the Winemaker with one of Livermore's newest wineries, The Winemaker's Pour House, 2241 First St., Livermore; 925 215-2656. Thursday, January 16, 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Dante Robere Vineyards Winemaker Dan

Rosenberg will be pouring three of his fine wines.

Las Positas Vineyards special events: Join Winemaker Brent Amos for a private tasting & tour of the winery and vineyards. Tasting will begin in the private room and will feature a special flight selected by the winemaker along with cheese, crackers and chocolate. \$20 for wine club members and \$30 for non-members. January 24 by appointment only. Contact us at 925-449-9463 or info@laspositasvineyards.com. Free movie night, Jan. 17, Visit www.laspositasvineyards.com for featured movies and more details. Pizza, wine and beer available for purchase. Space is limited. Call or email to reserve your seats today. 925-449-9463 or info@laspositasvineyards.com. Wine Wednesday's! January 29th our tasting room will be open from 5-8pm. Classic flight is \$5 and Reserve flight is \$10. Inquires please contact us at 925-449-9463 or email curt@laspositasvineyards.com. 1828 Wetmore Rd, Livermore.

McGrail Vineyards and Winery, Cabernet Reserve Vertical Tasting Thursday, January 23rd, 6:30-8:30PM. Opportunity to purchase the 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009 Reserves. Light appetizers will be served. Advanced reservations are required. \$35/wine club member, \$50/guests of wine club member. 5600 Greenville Road, Livermore. www.mcgrailvineyards.com

Cabstravangaza, Charles R Vineyards, 8195 Crane Ridge Road (At the end of Greenville), Livermore. www.CharlesRVineyards.com. 4th Annual Cabstravangaza - Great Cabs and Library Wines on Saturday, January 25, 11-4:30 p.m. There will be an auction for wines, like our 2007 Primitivo and 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon (Walker Ranch).

Live, LAUGH, Love Wine Comedy Night; Saturday, February 1, 7:00pm \$10. Bunjo's Comedy All Star Show featuring comedians from the Bay Area and beyond. Hosted by Jim Kruder with Anthony Hill, Ben Feldman, Bob Lieberman, Brendan Lynch, John DeKoven and Nina G. Limited seating. Wine and food for purchase. Purchase tickets at 925-264-4413 info@bunjocomedy.com. The Winemaker's Pour House, 2241 First St., Livermore; 925 215-2656.

Presidents Day Weekend Barrel Tasting, Retzlaff Vineyards, 1356 So. Livermore Ave. Feb. 15-17, noon; \$5. retzlaffwinery.com.

Come dressed as your favorite President or First Lady and the barrel tasting is on us!

Barrel Tasting Weekend Sat., March 29 and Sun., March 20. noon and 4:30 p.m. Taste wines right out of the barrel, meet winemakers, and more. Each winery will host a unique experience during barrel tasting weekend including at least 1 barrel sample for each ticket holder. Tickets are \$40 advance/\$45 day of the event. This is a fundraiser for the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association. www.lvwine.org.

MUSIC/CONCERTS

Blacksmith Square, music every Saturday 3 to 6 p.m. in the courtyard, 21 South Livermore Ave., Livermore.

Chris Bradley's Jazz Band appears regularly at: The Castle Rock Restaurant in Livermore/ on Portola Avenue-- the 2nd and 4th Tuesday each month from 7:30-9:30--Dance floor, full bar, small cover.

California Symphony presents "Anniversaries and Tributes." Tomasz Golka conducts the California Symphony with soloist Robert Ward Sunday, January 19, 2013 at 4pm at Leshler Center for the Arts, Walnut Creek. For Tickets or information call the Leshler Center Box Office at 925-943-7469.

International Guitar Night, Wed., Jan. 22, 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Upright Citizens Brigade Touring Company, Jan. 31, 8 p.m. Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, 10550 Albion Rd., San Ramon. www.sanramonperformingarts.com or 973-3343.

Celtic Nights, Tues., Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Some Enchanted Evening, sounds of Broadway. Fri., Feb. 14, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Valentine's Day With the Incomparable Clairdee, Feb. 14, 8 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org or 931-4848.

Del Valle Concert Series, 8 p.m., February 15, Euclid String Quartet: a top prize winner at Osaka International Chamber Music Competition. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

ART & ENTERTAINMENT

In The Mood, music of Glenn Miller, The Andrews Sisters, Dorsey, Shaw, Goodman and Sinatra in a nostalgic, patriotic, upbeat swing-era musical revue. Big Band plus six singer/dancers including some high flying boogie woogie with authentic music arrangements, costumes and choreography. Feb. 19 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Pink Floyd Concert Experience: An Evening of Pink Floyd starring House of Floyd. Fri., Feb. 21, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Livermore-Amador Symphony, American Idols, Copland, Hanson, Schubert, winners of Competition for Young Musicians. Feb. 22, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Guitar Passions, evening of Latin inspired jazz. Wed., Feb. 26, 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Richard Marx, Grammy Award winning songwriter. Thurs., Feb. 27, 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Under the Streetlamp, Feb. 28, 8 p.m. Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, 10550 Albion Rd., San Ramon. www.sanramonperformingarts.com or 973-3343.

ON THE STAGE

The Matchmaker, Role Players Ensemble, Jan. 17-Feb. 8. Village Theatre, 233 Front St., Danville. <http://roleplayersensemble.com/>

The Drowsy Chaperone, Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Jan. 18, 19, 24, 25, 26, 31; and Feb. 1, 2014. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

A Chorus Line: Pacific Coast Repertory Theatre presents a new production of the musical theater classic. Directed and choreographed by Broadway veteran Lois Grandi, with Broadway star Meredith Patterson head-lining in lead role of Cassie. Pleasanton favorite Lauren Bratton-Kearns returns from New York to co-star. The theater-about-theater show centers around seventeen Broadway dancers auditioning for spots on a chorus line. Shows are Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m., and Sundays at 2:00 p.m., January 24 through February 9 at the Firehouse Arts Center. Reserved seat tickets are \$17-\$38, and youth, senior, and group discounts are available. Purchase online at www.firehousearts.org, 925-931-4848, or at the center Box Office, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton.

Mercy Watson to the Rescue, Bay Area Children's Theatre, Feb. 22 and 23, March 1 and 2 at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Front Row Theater, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Rd., San Ramon. www.sanramonperformingarts.com or 973-3343.

Civic Arts Stage Company Presents The Secret Garden, Feb. 28-March 9. Fri. 7:30 p.m., Sat. 2 and 7 p.m., Sun. 2 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org or 931-4848.

COMEDY

Made-to-Order Fairytales:

Creatures of Impulse, the City of Pleasanton's award winning teen improv troupe, and the Pleasanton Public Library present 5 completely different interactive programs for children ages 5-10. **Creatures of Impulse** will take suggestions from children to create fifteen to twenty minute improvised fairytales. Programs: Saturday, January 25,

2012, 2:00-2:30 p.m., 3:00-3:30 p.m., and 4:00-4:30 p.m. All programs are free, and no tickets required. Free parking. Library is located at 400 Old Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton.

Colin Quinn, 'Unconstitutional,'

Popular stand-up comedian (and Emmy nominated TV/film actor, writer, and producer) brings his new one-man show to the Bay Area. Quinn returns to the stage to tackle 226 years of American history in 70 minutes, from predator drones to the Kardashians, pulling no punches in asking "is this what the founding fathers planned?" Friday, January 17, 8:00 p.m. Reserved seat tickets are \$30-\$40. Tickets online at www.firehousearts.org, (925) 931-4848, or in person at the Firehouse Arts Center Box Office, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. Box Office hours are Wednesday-Friday, 12 noon-6:00 p.m.; Saturday 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Live, LAUGH, Love Wine Comedy Night, Saturday, February 1, 7:00pm \$10. Bunjo's Comedy All Star Show featuring comedians from the Bay Area and beyond. Hosted by Jim Kruder with Anthony Hill, Ben Feldman, Bob Lieberman, Brendan Lynch, John DeKoven and Nina G. Limited seating. Wine and food for purchase. Purchase tickets at 925-264-4413 info@bunjocosmedy.com. The Wine-maker's Pour House, 2241 First St., Livermore; 925 215-2656.

Second City, comedy, Sun., Feb. 23, 7 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

MOVIES

"Over Troubled Waters: The Fate of California is In Your Hands," a 45 minute documentary about the Delta & the conveyance narrated by Ed Begley Jr, will be shown on Sat., Jan. 25 at 7 PM at the IBEW

Hall; 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin. A guest speaker from Restore the Delta will conduct a Q & A discussion after the film. Meet & greet potluck begins at 6:30 PM, the film begins at 7:00 PM, and is followed by a Q & A discussion. This event is open to public, free (\$3.00 donations accepted), and is wheelchair accessible. For more information, call 925-462-3459.

Classic Films at the Pleasanton Library, 7 p.m. first Thursday of each month through June 5, 2014. Las Positas College and the Pleasanton Public Library present "Make 'em Laugh" Series" Hosted by Candy Klaschus, film historian and Coordinator of the Humanities Program at Las Positas College. A brief talk about each film is presented prior to the screening. Refreshments are served. For more information, call Penny Johnson, 925-931-3405. Admission is free. 400 Old Bernal Ave., Pleasanton.

DANCE

Friday Evening Group Dance! Learn how to dance with great instructors from It's All About Dancing, new dance every week from Salsa, Tango, Swing and more. Group lesson starts at 7:30, followed by open dance until 9:45 in our new location at the Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 8th St., Livermore; 925-449-9292. \$15.

OPERA

22nd Anniversary Celebration, Livermore Valley Opera, January 25, 5 p.m. Ruby Hill Golf Club, Pleasanton. Formal concert followed by dinner and an auction. Black-tie optional. www.livermorevalleyopera.com or 960-9210.

Die Fledermaus, Lamplighters Music Theatre production. Feb. 8, 8 p.m. and Feb. 9, 2 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

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*.

Storied Nights: An Evening of Spoken Word. 2nd Thursday of each month. Features local authors reading their work 7:30 to 9 p.m. at Peet's Coffee and Tea, 152 So. Livermore Ave., Livermore. Sponsored by LVPAC and Peet's. Information go to <http://facebook.com/StoriedNights>

Livermore Reads Together Kick-off Event, Jan. 26, 2 p.m. Civic Center Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave. afternoon with Laurie R. King, author of The Beekeeper's Apprentice. Chosen as one of the 100 Favorite Mysteries of the 20th Century, The Beekeeper's Apprentice presents Mary Russell, a fifteen-year-old American orphan, who meets Sherlock Holmes in 1915 in Sussex Downs. Holmes, who spends his quiet days studying beekeeping and dabbling in detective work, takes the spirited Russell on as an apprentice. In her, Holmes finds his perfect partner in detection. www.cityoflivermore.net or 373-5500.

Mike Montemerlo, Rae Dorough Speaker Series, 7:30 p.m. Tues., Jan. 28: Google Self-Driving Car Project - A Glimpse of the Future. Mike Montemerlo is a Staff Software Engineer at Google working on self-driving cars. He received his B.S. and M.S. in Electrical/Computer Engineering and PhD in Robotics from Carnegie Mellon University. \$30, \$15 for students 21 and under. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

An Evening with Hugh Liang: Eyewitness to the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake & Fire, Feb. 4, 7 p.m. Museum on Main 2014 Ed Kinney Speakers Series, Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. Tickets are \$10 general admission, \$7 seniors, \$5 members, and \$3 students/teachers with ID. Tickets may be purchased at Museum on Main during regular operating hours or by phoning the museum at (925) 462-2766. Tickets purchased by phone will be available for pick up at Will Call in the lobby of the Firehouse Arts Center on the evening of the event. Tickets may be available at the event subject to availability.

Kissin' the Chocolate Blues, a live celebration of Black History Month with Faith Alpher as Dr. Maya Angelou with musical entertainment by Pleasanton's Debra Knox. Tues., Feb. 11, Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org or 931-4848.

Monte Carlo and Auction Evening, Feb. 21, 7 to 11 p.m. Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. Fund-raiser for Safe and Sober Grad Nights for Livermore and Granada high schools. \$45 in advance, \$50 at the door. www.granadagraddnight.com or www.lhsgradnight.org.



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This is the 11th year yellow ribbons have been tied on the tree at the corner of First and South Livermore Ave. This year, 245 yellow ribbons have been placed on the tree in honor of troops. In the top photo is Mrs. Yearby's 4th grade class from Jackson Avenue School in Livermore, which helped with the ribbons this year. The project is overseen by Operation S.A.M. Pictured in the lower photo after having placed the ribbons on the tree are Rudy DePeralta, Pedro Valdez, Raul Guererro and Kristin Ekvall.



Benefit to Raise Funds to Add Skate Facility

Street Science Skate Shop in Livermore is trying to build a new skate park for the community. The addition will be built in the back of their existing shop. A benefit show will be

held January 18. Performing will be Eliquate (Santa Cruz); Multiple Organisms (Livermore/Fremont); Sol-Ganix (Oakland); The Animated Series (Livermore); and Social Stereo (Fremont).

The show begins at 7 p.m. at the shop, 2321 First Street Livermore.

Cost to attend the show is \$5. All proceeds go to help build the new park.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

Tri-Valley Democratic Club, meeting 7 p.m. Mon., Jan. 20 at IBEW 595 Hall, 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin. Secretary of State Democratic Candidates Forum with Senator Leland Yee and representatives of Senator Alex Padillo & Derek Cressman campaigns. The forum includes candidate remarks then Q&A. Also election of 2014 club officers. Refreshments, public invited.

GNON (Girls Night Out Networking) at Pans on Fire; shop for the latest and greatest kitchenware, 5 p.m. Wed., Feb. 5. Pans on Fire, 3059 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. Prepay and RSVP by Feb. 3 to attend, \$10 member, \$15 non member. Visit <http://gnon.org/rsvp.htm>. Website: www.gnon.org

Paws In Need Valentine Crab Feed, Saturday, February 8, 2014: dinner, raffle and silent auction will take place from 6-10 pm at the Shannon Center, 11600 Shannon Ave. in Dublin. Menu includes cracked crab, pasta, Caesar salad, bread, dessert, and coffee or tea. A no-host bar offering beer, wine, and nonalcoholic beverages will be available. All proceeds will benefit local animals. The Spay/Neuter and Just Like New programs rely solely on public donations and contributions from the community to provide financial assistance for veterinary medical needs to prevent unnecessary euthanasia of animals in the Tri-Valley area. Dinner tickets are \$48 per person when purchased by January 18, and \$53 thereafter. Tickets are available online at www.Paws-In-Need.org, or by mail; please send checks to Paws In Need, P.O. Box 3436, San Ramon, CA 94583. Please contact event coordinator Cindy Ferrin at cferrin@pacbell.net or 925-323-8517 for more information.

Valley Spokesmen Bicycle Touring Club, Sat., Jan. 18, 25-38 miles Feather Pedals conditioning ride for Cinderella Classic, meet 10 a.m. at Park & Ride lot on Sycamore Ave., Rebecca Wood, 577-3842. Wed., Jan. 22, 43 miles Livermore loop from San Ramon Central Park, meet 10 a.m., Alberto Lanzas, 510-825-9581. Anyone planning to go on a ride is asked to contact the leader for details on where to meet and what to bring.

Livermore Library, board meeting, 7 p.m. Thurs., Jan. 23 at the Civic Center Library, 1188 So, Livermore Ave. An agenda will be posted at the library 72 hours prior to the meeting.

2014 White Elephant Preview Sale, Sunday, January 26, 2014, 10 am-4 pm, 333 Lancaster St. (at Glascock), in Oakland, near the Fruitvale BART. \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Purchase advance tickets with mail-in form (available at WhiteElephantSale.org) or at the Oakland Museum of California's OMCA Store during Museum hours. Children under 12 are admitted free but must be accompanied by an adult at all times. For complete details, visit the White Elephant Sale website at WhiteElephantSale.org or call 510-536-6800.

Crab Feed, The Livermore Fraternal Order of Eagle's Aerie #609 hold its Annual Crab Feed on Saturday, February 8th

at 6:00 p.m. The cost is \$35.00 per person. Dinner includes "All-U-Can-Eat Crab" along with pasta, garden salad, and bread. Tickets must be purchased by February 1st. Stop by the Eagle's Hall at 527 N. Livermore Ave. to purchase tickets. Any questions call 925-449-6281.

Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society will have a presentation on "Researching Your Old House" on Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2014 at 7:30. Loretta Kasky will share her research on local homes in Livermore. She has served on the Historic Preservation Commission and now serves on the Livermore City's Planning Commission. All are welcome, no charge at the Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton.

Tri-Valley CAREs, meets 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 16 at the Livermore Library in community room A, 1188 So. Livermore Ave., Livermore. Tri-Valley CAREs works to strengthen global security by stopping the development of new nuclear weapons in the US and promoting the elimination of nuclear weapons globally. New and long-time members welcome.

59th annual Crab Feed, Livermore Rotary Club, Friday, January 31, 2014 at 6:00 PM at the Aahmes Shrine Event Center, 170 Lindbergh Avenue, Livermore. The event features a crab dinner and dancing to live music by the Gabe Duffin Band. Tickets \$45 per person. Please call for special pricing for groups of 8 to 10 people. To order tickets call Debbie Peck (925) 447-4300.

Pleasantonians 4 Peace, A Peaceful War Protest will be held on the fourth Wednesday of the month, January 22 between 5 - 6 at the corners of First and Neal Streets. Call Cathe Norman at (925) 462-7495; Matt Sullivan at mjs7882@gmail.com; or kdowning@pacbell.net. www.Pleasantonians4Peace.org

Beginner internet and e-mail classes, Free classes for absolute beginners who have never clicked a mouse, used e-mail, or surfed the net. Learn the basics in a non-judgmental atmosphere. Pleasanton Library, Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Four one-hour classes in each series. Registration is required, as space is limited. Ask at the Reference Desk or call 925-931-3400, extension 4. Library programs are free and open to everyone. An ongoing program. Call Merry Luskin at 925/931-3400 ext. 4 for information. 400 Old Bernal Ave., Pleasanton.

Free Diabetes Self-Management Classes, 7 week series teaches how to manage diabetes with exercise, healthy eating and medications, and answer all questions about living with diabetes. Saturdays through February 22, 9:30-11:30, Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd. Class is open to adults of all ages (not just Seniors) with pre diabetes or type 2 diabetes. Please call the Alameda County Diabetes Program at 510-383-5185 to register. Space is limited.

Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek Branch of AAUW will have Mary Knox, a Deputy District Attorney for Contra Costa County speak about Homicides, Drugs and Gangs on Thursday, January 30 at Diablo Country Club, 1700 Clubhouse Rd. Diablo at 11 AM. A three course lunch will be served. The public is invited. Mail checks in the amount of \$29 to DAW-AAUW, PO Box 996, Alamo, CA, 94507. For more information email daw.aauw@gmail.com.

ClutterLess (CL), ClutterLess is a nonprofit, peer-based, self-help, support group for people with difficulty discarding unwanted possessions. Meeting 7 p.m. Regular meetings Mondays at the St. Mary & St. John Coptic Orthodox Church, Room 7, 4300 Mirador Drive, Pleasanton. Just come or call a volunteer at 925-525-3992 or 925-200-1943 or visit www.ClutterLess.org. No meetings on holidays. Meeting free, optional \$2 to \$5 appreciated.

Widowed Men and Women of Northern CA., Lunch in Pleasanton, Jan. 19, 12:30 p.m. RSVP by Jan. 17 to David, 833-7647. Lunch in San Ramon, Jan. 25, RSVP by Jan. 22 to Bette, 510-357-7873.

Birthright of Livermore needs volunteers: Office is open M-Tu-W-F, 10 am-2 pm and Th. eve. 6-9 pm. To discuss a variety of volunteer opportunities please call John M. Kupski evenings at 606-8230 (or Thursday evenings 6-9 pm at Birthright office 449-5887). Birthright offers free pregnancy tests, guidance, adoption and medical referrals, baby and maternity clothing, and more. Those in need of services, please visit the Livermore office at 1520 Catalina Ct., or call (925) 449-5887 during business hours. The 1-800-550-4900 Hotline number is staffed 24 hours a day. Please see our website at www.birthright.org for more information. All Birthright services are free and confidential.

Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA) Pleasanton, meets Wednesdays 7:15 to 8:45 p.m. St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton (not affiliated with the church. Information at www.dbsalliance.org/pleasanton or contact chapter leader, Al Pereira, 462-6415.

Crab Feed, benefit for St. Michael's/St. Charles CYO basketball. Sat., Jan. 25, Shrine Event Center, 170 Lindbergh Ave., Livermore, 6 p.m. to midnight. All you can eat crab or chicken, pasta, salad, bread. Raffle prizes. Tickets \$40. at www.smsccyo.org. Additional information at njfromindy@yahoo.com or 216-2519.

Shepherd's Gate Thrift Store, 1362 Railroad Avenue, Livermore. Open Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Last Friday of every month 50% off most of the store sale. For more information visit www.shepagate.org/holiday

Josefa Higuera Livermore Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, meets the first Saturday of the month through May at 9:30 a.m. in the chapel of Asbury United Methodist Church, Livermore. Members are descendants of patriots of the American Revolution. DAR is dedicated to preserving American history, promoting patriotism and securing America's future through patriotism and better education. For information contact jhlchapter@yahoo.com or 784-1935.

Arthritis/Chronic Pain Support Group, Wednesdays, 4 to 5 p.m. Asbury Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., Livermore. Information, contact Barbara 503-449-3861, or email bltrey@gmail.com. Free will donations accepted toward room rent.

Pleasanton Library's Project Read needs volunteer tutors to help adults with English skills. Project Read provides the workbooks and study guides as well as teaching volunteers how to develop teaching skills, craft curriculum, and gain experience. Volunteers should be at least 18 years old, and fluent in American English

Milestones

Community

ProctorU Has Added Jobs at Livermore Location

ProctorU is kicking off the new year with a new hiring push in 2014. The California-based online proctoring company continues to regularly bring jobs to the Bay Area and is moving to a larger office in Livermore, Calif.

In 2011, ProctorU had 11 employees, a small office in Hoover, Ala. and the Livermore, office was just opening its doors. Since then ProctorU has grown more than ten-fold, now employing over 250 people around the country, 100 in the Livermore office and 50 in the Folsom office.

This week the Livermore office moved from a facility less than 3,500 square feet, to an office measuring 12,000 square feet. As a result, the two offices are looking to hire over 80 people in the next two months. As the company continues to ink agreements with institutions, management must constantly expand its workforce to keep up with the

demand. Those interested in becoming proctors are encouraged to apply at <http://proclife.com>.

"The rate of growth we've seen this year has been staggering. We continue to grow at this incredible rate because the industry and our partnership institutions demand it," said ProctorU's Executive Vice President Jarrod Morgan. "As more and more schools begin to understand the need for our service, we have to continue expanding to keep up with the demand."

The company has proctored over 500,000 exams since being founded in 2008 and is averaging tens of thousands of tests every month. The company currently works with over 450 partner institutions including San Jose State University, the University of California, Irvine and the University of Nevada, Reno.

Jersey Mike's Subs Now Open in Pleasanton; Opening Raises Funds for PPIE

Jersey Mike's Subs opened in Pleasanton on January 15. Friends and business partners, David, Cody, and Bennett Ball; and Michael and Beverly Mills, will hold a grand opening and free sub fundraiser through Sunday, January 19 to support the Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) Foundation.

The new restaurant, located at 6654 Koll Center Parkway, is circulating 10,000 coupons throughout the community offering a free regular sub for a minimum \$1 contribution to the Pleasanton Partnerships in Education Foundation. Customers must have a coupon to be eligible.

"This is our third Jersey Mike's location. I have come to find just how rewarding it is to open our doors and support the community," said Bennett Ball. "The Pleasanton Partnerships in Education Foundation is regarded as such an integral aspect to the local education system and we couldn't think of a better grand opening partnership. We feel so lucky to be welcomed with open arms here in Pleasanton and we are grateful for this opportunity to bring the Jersey Mike's brand and culture to this community."

She added, "We hire so many local high school students to be on our team and we find that supporting the education system is just another way to give back to our valued crew members. Opening a Jersey Mike's location is a lot like opening the doors to our own home and we look forward to creating new and lasting relationships here."

Since 2010, Jersey Mike's locations throughout the country have raised nearly \$7.5 million for worthy local

charities and have distributed more than 600,000 free sub sandwiches to help numerous causes. Subs str made Mike's Way® with onions, lettuce, tomatoes and a signature olive oil blend, vinegar and spices. The company uses only private labeled meats and cheeses, sliced fresh for each sub sandwich and piled high on in-store baked bread.

The restaurant's hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., seven days a week. For information, call (925) 425-0865.

Education

The following students graduated from Azusa Pacific University on Sat., Dec. 14, 2013. They joined nearly 800 graduates at the winter commencement ceremonies. They are Jordan Adelman, Justin McPherson and Caitlyn Tyler, all of Livermore.

Mackinna Hart, of Livermore, qualified for the Fall 2013 Dean's List at Belmont University. Eligibility is based on a minimum course load of 12 hours and a quality grade point average of 3.5 with no grade below a C. Approximately 30 percent of Belmont's more than 6,900 students qualified for the Fall 2013 Dean's List.

Tara Cayton, the daughter of Thomas Cayton and Marcia Ikeda of Pleasanton, California has been named to the Dean's List of Macalester College for academic achievement during the fall semester of the 2013-2014 school year. A graduate of Amador Valley High School, Cayton was a junior at Macalester last fall.

Family Asks People to Remember Janet Forey

Janet Forey lived in Livermore for 65 years where she operated a tax service business.

After suffering a stroke, the family moved her to Fresno where they could care for her. She will be celebrating her 90th Birthday on January 29th.

The family is asking friends neighbors and prior clients to send her a Birthday card to help mark this big birthday and to let her know people still remember and care about her.

Cards can be sent to Janet Forey, 2214 East Warner Ave., Fresno, CA 93710.

Her daughter Nancy Cicolani writes, "We are celebrating her while she is alive and hope others can help us to do so."

Military

Navy Seaman Tyler J. Abercrombie, son of Richard D. Abercrombie of Pleasant Hill and Elizabeth A. Roberts of Livermore, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, ILL.

During the eight-week program, Abercrombie completed a variety of training, which included classroom study and practical instruction on naval customs, first aid, firefighting, water safety and survival, and shipboard and aircraft safety. An emphasis was also placed on physical fitness.

The capstone event of boot camp is "Battle Stations." This exercise gives recruits the skills and confidence they need to succeed in the fleet. "Battle Stations" is designed to galvanize the basic warrior attributes of sacrifice, dedication, teamwork and endurance in each recruit through the practical application of basic Navy skills and the core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment.

Abercrombie is a 2013 graduate of College Park High School, Pleasant Hill.



Air Force Airman Gregory K. Churlik (pictured above) graduated from basic military training on November 1, 2013 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Churlik is the son of David Churlik and Stephanie King of Livermore. He is a graduate of Orinda Academy, Orinda, CA.