

THE INDEPENDENT • SECTION A



## 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.

# Housing May Replace Offices

Tenants of two office parks housing small businesses in the South Livermore area have been notified there are plans in the works to change the zoning to allow for residential development on the sites.

The Sunset Office Plaza is comprised of ten buildings on 14 acres, totaling 78,750 square feet. The Plaza is sited at the corner of Holmes St. and Concanon Blvd.

The 2.2-acre Livermore

Financial Center is located on Catalina Court.

The letter announcing the proposed change was mailed to tenants. It was signed by Alexander Mehran of Sunset Development Company. Sunset owns the Office Plaza and Financial Center.

In it, he writes, "Recent events have caused Sunset Development Company to consider the long term future of the Livermore Financial Center and Sunset Office

Plaza. After a great deal of thought, we have decided to approach the City of Livermore with a request to change the use of the property from office/commercial to some type of residential use."

He notes that prior to approaching the city with a proposal, the company wanted to notify tenants of the plans. He met with tenants on January 9 to explain the situation. There are plans to meet with residential

neighbors on January 23.

Evonne Hopkins, owner of ImageSetters, is one of the tenants. She pointed out, "This plan would seem to eliminate virtually all office space for the small businesses that are currently in residence on the south end of Livermore. Where in the valley will anyone ever find a 300+ square foot office with amenities like the courtyards and ease of parking and sense of peace and quiet that these offices have

provided for small professional types of businesses for so many years?"

Hopkins attended the meeting with Sunset Development Company representatives. "They said nothing would happen for a year. Those with leases up in 2013 would be placed on a month-to-month basis. There would be 90-days notice given before there would be a need to relocate. I understand that the company is in the busi-

(See HOUSING, page 4)

## MTC Okays Funds for BART Extension EIR

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) approved an allocation of \$8.6 million in AB 1171 funds BART can use towards the completion of environmental documentation for an extension to Livermore.

No formal vote was taken; the decision was approved by consent.

The proposed project involves a 4.8 mile extension of the BART line from the existing Dublin/Pleasanton BART Station within the I-580 Corridor Freeway alignment to a station in the vicinity of the I-580/Isabel Avenue Interchange. It will incorporate a bus-to-BART transfer. A network of express bus services, linking inter-regional rail service, Priority Development Areas in Livermore, and proposed offsite parking facilities, is also part of the proposed project. Project alternatives, including a no project, express bus, and diesel multiple unit technology will also be considered.

BART and the City of Livermore are in the process of finalizing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to guide the Ridership Development Plan work. Pending completion of the MOU, the scope includes \$500,000 for the City of Livermore to prepare the ridership plans.

BART is in the process of assessing whether a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review would be appropriate. The current allocation only enables BART to conduct a CEQA review; if NEPA were required, MTC staff could return with a proposed allocation of additional funds to support NEPA-level analysis. BART staff will need to report a decision to MTC by June 1, 2013.

Commissioner Tom  
(See BART, page 2)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Pictured making plans are (from left) Ron Dueltgen, Lois Dueltgen, Amy Lighter, and Maria Elena Ventura.

## First Look at Vision for East Pleasanton

The Pleasanton City Council was presented with its first look at a vision statement for the East Pleasanton planning area.

A task force is in the process of preparing a specific plan for the 1000 acre area on the eastern edge of the city.

In another item related to the task force, its make-up was changed to reflect the fact that one of its members, Karla Brown, was elected to the council. The intent had been to have no councilmembers serve on the task force. That intent was upheld by a 3 to 1 vote, with Brown opposed. She wanted to remain on the task force.

The size of the task force was increased from 18 to 19, with Brown and the other new councilmember, Jerry Pentin, to make the appointments.

The draft vision statement builds around the idea of retaining the character of the area, as well as addresses constraints and opportunities that could impact development.

Constraints include the Livermore Airport Protection Area, the chain of lakes, the city's urban growth boundary, and land fill areas that

(See VISION, page 5)

## Partners to Assist 'Childhood Arrivals'

**By Carol Graham**  
Local partners in support of DACA, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, have joined together to offer qualifying individuals assistance in applying for the program.

East Bay Youth & Family Initiatives and Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore's (UUCiL) social action committee are hosting a meeting on January 24 to help undocumented

Tri-Valley residents complete the necessary steps to obtain valid Social Security numbers and work permits with a contingent promise of deferred action for deportation.

"We call those without legal status 'undocumented' because we don't believe human beings are 'illegal,'" said immigration attorney Amy Lighter who serves on the UUCiL committee.

Last June, President

Obama signed the DACA memorandum calling for deferred action for certain undocumented young people who came to the U.S. as children and have pursued education or military service here.

"These are young people who were not born here; they were brought here," said UUCiL member Ron Dueltgen. "They are here through no fault of their own."

Lighter said that the part-

nership aims to help those who qualify for DACA benefits. "The requirements are: people who were brought here under the age of 16, who have lived here for at least five years, and who are working toward or have earned a diploma. These are people who have been in the United States for a long time and are already a part of the community."

Following the January  
(See DACA, page 2)

## Pleasanton Hears Holocaust Story From Anne Frank's Step-sister

**By Ron McNicoll**  
The courage, hope and strength of a Holocaust survivor illuminated the stage of the Amador Theater as people listened intently and emotionally.

Eva Schloss, 83, survived the Nazi death camps. She told the story of her family to a sold-out audience of 590 people.

The audience was large, because many wanted to hear an eye-witness to history who had a very famous

relative. Schloss was the step-sister of Anne Frank. Frank's well-known memoir of living in hiding in Amsterdam during the Nazi occupation was an early word to the world about the horrors of the genocide of millions of Jews under Hitler's reign of fear and death.

The book, "The Diary of Anne Frank," resulted in a play, a film, and widespread education in schools throughout the United States

(See TALK, page 5)



Mony Nop, a survivor of the Cambodian killing fields, presents an American flag to Eva Schloss, survivor of the Holocaust. The flag was flown over the US Capitol Building in Mrs. Schloss's honor, courtesy of Congressman Eric Swalwell. Mrs. Schloss spoke at the Amador Theater in Pleasanton on Monday, January 14, to a sold-out audience of over 600. Photo - Amanda Simons

## Court Ruling Advances Retiree Healthcare Lawsuit

The legal case of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory retirees who are suing to regain University of California healthcare has been advanced by an appeals court ruling that overturns an earlier court rejection of their claims, allowing them to proceed to the next stage of the lawsuit.

The decision was unanimous.

The appeals court ruling was announced on the last day of December, confirming an informal judgment earlier in the month that a Superior Court judge had improperly denied the right of the retirees to pursue their case.

The Livermore Laboratory retirees were removed from the UC benefits system

(See LAWSUIT, page 4)



**BUNNIES AT PETSMART**  
My name is Nigel. I'm a gentle spirit. I'm a small, fun package of delicate and adventurous all in one. Meet Nigel and 12+ bunnies at a new location this Saturday from 12-3 pm at the Dublin PetSmart, 6960 Amador Plaza Rd. For more info, call 925-519-1723, or email ebrabbit@comcast.net. Visit [www.eastbayrabbit.petfinder.com](http://www.eastbayrabbit.petfinder.com) to see more pet profiles.

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### PETS OF THE WEEK

Click and Clack are two of the best kitties that will provide you a lifetime of happiness. They are mellow, enjoy lounging on cat trees, and communicating with their human friends. At about 5 years old, they aren't in that crazy kitten stage anymore; they are just looking for a friend who will provide them with a warm lap to curl up in, and a soothing voice to speak to them. Having been together since birth and having formed an inseparable bond, these two angels must go home together. They were surrendered in June of 2012 after their owners divorced and couldn't care for them any longer. For more information, call 426-8656 or go to [www.valleyhumane.org](http://www.valleyhumane.org) or [www.facebook.com/ValleyHumaneSociety](http://www.facebook.com/ValleyHumaneSociety) to see other adoptable dogs and cats. Valley Humane Society is located at 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton. Photo by Ken Jacoby

## Building Ban in Airport Zone Goes to Pleasanton Council

Pleasanton planning commissioners are recommending to the city council that Alameda County allow no special flexibility that would

permit Pleasanton to authorize residential development within the Livermore Airport Protection Area.

The city faces a March 29 deadline to respond to

the Alameda County Airport Land Use Planning Commission (ALUC). The ALUC approved an update of the Livermore Airport

Land Use Policy Plan on July 18, 2012.

Livermore did choose to modify its plan, says a Pleasanton planning staff report. The city wants flexibility to approve residential construction, in case it decides to approve transit-oriented development near the future Isabel Avenue BART station.

With that exception already in the airport plan, the Pleasanton planning staff suggested the same flexibility for Pleasanton, which the planning commission rejected.

Commissioners voted unanimously at their meeting Jan. 10. The council is expected to discuss the issue at a meeting in February.

In effect, it means that Pleasanton would consent to a residential building ban in the Airport Protection Zone,

which touches the eastern portion of the city's planning area. Commercial and industrial structures would not be affected.

Planning manager Janice Stern said that the commission recognizes the issues of safety and noise that are generally the reasons for a ban of residences within the protection zone around airports.

There is very limited potential for Pleasanton development within the southern and western edges of the zone, said Stern.

As shown on a map, the Airport Protection Area is a rectangle around the airport. Its boundary extends 5000 feet east and west beyond the ends of the two runways, the longer of which is 5253 feet long. The boundary also extends 5000 feet north and south of the outer edges of

the runways.

Once the ALUC adopts a plan, cities and the county planning agency can either modify their own general plans, or adopt specific findings and overrule the ALUC plan as guided by state law.

## Sandia Selects Vice President for Livermore Site

Sandia's Chief Technology Officer Steve Rottler will become vice president of Sandia's California laboratory on Feb. 1. He replaces Rick Stulen, who is retiring after 36 years at Sandia National Laboratories.

In his new role, Rottler will lead Sandia's Energy, Climate, and Infrastructure Security Strategic Management Unit. Rottler also is currently vice president of Sandia's Science and Technology Research Foundations Division.

"This management change will maintain continuity and operational stability during the pending contract competition and help ensure a leadership team that supports the workforce as we continue to deliver on our commitments," said Paul Hommert, Sandia president



Steve Rottler

and labs director. Hommert is headquartered in New Mexico.

Rottler has held a number of increasingly important leadership roles since he joined Sandia as a member of the technical staff in 1985, including vice president of Weapons Engineering and Product Realization and

chief engineer for Nuclear Weapons. He also led nuclear warhead system engineering, the integration and development of high performance electronic systems and organizations and programs responsible for the research, development and application of advanced computational and experimental techniques in the engineering sciences.

Rottler received his bachelor's, master's and doctorate, all in nuclear engineering, from Texas A&M University.

"Everyone at Sandia owes a tremendous debt of gratitude and appreciation to Rick Stulen for his significant contributions to the laboratories and the nation," Hommert said. "I wish him the very best in his retirement."

## DACA

(continued from page one)

meeting, the group hopes to hold monthly meetings assisting with filling out and submitting the numerous required forms, producing necessary documentation, and paying the \$465 application fee. The 24 people currently signed up for the January meeting were invited by the church, area teachers, and the East Bay Youth and Family Initiatives.

"It's a natural fit for us all to work together," said Aaron Ortiz, executive director of East Bay Youth & Family Initiatives. "We want to create a hub - to connect the dots for people."

The grant of deferred action does not grant legal status to an applicant, nor

does it erase applicants' previous periods of unlawful presence. "This status is not a path to citizenship or permanent residency," said Lighter. "All it is right now is a two-year promise not to deport someone. It provides them with a work permit and ability to obtain a driver's license. It's something they will have to renew in two years."

There are risks involved for those applying for deferred action. Those here unlawfully who do not meet the criteria for deferred action may be placed in removal proceedings. The status is completely discretionary and can be revoked in the future.

As of December 2012, Lighter said nearly 368,000 people had applied for deferred action status, 103,000 had been approved, and 12,000 had been rejected.

The January 24 meeting will be held at 5 p.m. in room 20 of the Livermore Adult Community Education campus at 1401 Almond Avenue, Livermore.

"There are people who care about this sector of the community," said Ortiz. "DACA will give that community a voice at the table."

For more information, phone East Bay Youth & Family Initiatives' main office at (925)961-8045, or email info@eastbayfi.org.

## Livermore Council Votes to End Environment and Energy Committee

The Livermore City Council voted to sunset the Environment and Energy Committee (EEC).

Judy Erlandson, Public Works Manager, told the council that the committee has made no recommendations on substantive issues in recent years due to the time involved in conducting the needed research on which to base a recommendation. Meetings have been canceled due to a lack of a quorum. There is a large turnover and recruitment of new members is difficult. The five member committee is down to one. There have been no applications submitted by residents wishing to serve on the committee.

The problems have been ongoing over the last two years, she stated.

Erlandson noted that the public is not engaged with the EEC. Residents do not attend meetings. If the com-

mittee were phased out, the public would still be able to comment on energy and environment issues at planning commission and city council meetings.

Laureen Turner commented that Stopwaste.org is in the process of developing a JPA to create an energy committee that would include community represen-

tatives. She suggested that represents a potential opportunity for the one remaining Livermore committee member.

Mayor John Marchand said, "The EEC seemed like a great idea. Members bogged down on land use issues and whether there was global warming and if so, was it man-made."

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## VALLEY ROUNDUP

### Filing Opens for Council Seat

The nomination period to fill a vacancy on the Pleasanton City Council closes on Friday, February 8, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. The vacancy was created when Jerry Thorne was elected to the office of Mayor in November 2012. The person elected to fill the vacancy will hold the office for the unexpired term ending November 2014. Pleasanton residents will vote to fill the vacancy at a Special Vote By Mail Election to be held on Tuesday, May 7, 2013. For more information, prospective candidates are encouraged to schedule an appointment with the City Clerk by calling (925) 931-5027.

### Energy Rebates Available

For a limited time, Alameda County homeowners looking to lower their utility bills and enhance home comfort, can qualify for \$1,500 in rebates for energy-saving home improvements through Flex Package. Rebates are available on a first-come, first-served basis to owners of single-family homes in Alameda County. They are offered through Energy Upgrade California.

To qualify for Flex Package, homeowners must install two or more qualifying measures with a combined point value of 100 or greater using an Energy Upgrade California Participating Contractor. More advanced improvements are worth more points.

Qualifying Flex Package energy efficiency measures include: replace heat pump (85 points); install wall insulation (70 points); install ENERGY STAR windows (60 points); replace central air conditioner (40 points); install programmable thermostat (5 points); wrap hot water heating pipes (5 points); install efficient lighting fixtures (5 points).

"For Alameda County homeowners considering home improvements in the new year, the Flex Package is a great reason to incorporate energy efficiency upgrades at the same time," said Wendy Sommer, Principal Program Manager at StopWaste.Org, the local government agency that is leading Energy Upgrade California in Alameda County. "Flex Package offers homeowners the flexibility to choose the energy improvements that make the most sense for their home and budget and to earn \$1,500 in rebates."

For more information about Flex Package and a list of Energy Upgrade California Participating Contractors, visit AlamedaFlex.Org.

### Flu Activity Not unexpected

Dr. Ron Chapman, director of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and state health officer, said while California is seeing an increase in flu activity, it is not an unexpected in-

crease, nor is it too late to get vaccinated against the flu.

While influenza activity varies from year to year and is unpredictable, California generally sees an increase in cases in late December or early January. The flu season often peaks in February or March. According to CDPH surveillance indicators, influenza activity in California is beginning to show a steady increase.

"The best defense against the flu is getting vaccinated. This year's vaccine is an excellent match against this year's influenza strains," Dr. Chapman says. "There is no shortage of vaccine in California and it is not too late to get vaccinated. Our flu season may not peak for several more weeks, so I encourage everyone to get vaccinated to protect not only themselves, but also those with whom they come into contact."

Dr. Chapman also notes that in addition to getting vaccinated, it's important to practice good hand washing and other good health habits. People who are ill should take actions to stop the spread of germs such as: While sick, limit contact with others; cover your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing; wash hands thoroughly with soap and water or use an alcohol-based rub; and avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.

Those at highest risk - the elderly, pregnant women, infants, or those with other health conditions - who show flu symptoms should contact their physician immediately in order to receive the most effective treatment. Symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headaches and fatigue.

### LARPD Board Actions

The Board of Directors for the Livermore Area Recreation and Park (LARPD) Board received a report from the Livermore Area Youth Advisory Commission on its activities and upcoming programs.

The Youth Commission is a joint effort of LARPD and the City of Livermore. Jared Rodgers, the Youth Commission's chairperson, talked about the annual essay contest for middle and high school students this winter/spring. Directors thanked the commission for its service.

In action taken by the board, changes to the Ranger/Naturalist Supervisor job description were approved. The changes included routine updates, better descriptions of duties performed and the addition of specific details for areas of expertise, such as history. The job includes oversight of historic buildings and sites.

Staff reported the LARPD Audited Financial Statement is now available online. General Manager Tim Barry noted that making the audit available is part of an effort to make local government more transparent.

## ValleyCare Cancer Program Receives Accreditation

ValleyCare Health System's Cancer Program has received a three-year accreditation by the Commission on Cancer (CoC) of the American College of Surgeons (ACoS).

ValleyCare was granted the Three-Year Accreditation with Commendation following an on-site evaluation by a physician surveyor. ValleyCare demonstrated a Commendation level of compliance with one or more standards that represent the full scope of the cancer program (cancer committee leadership, cancer data management, clinical services, research, community outreach and quality improvement). ValleyCare's Cancer Program has been accredited since 1992 and continues to provide cancer patients throughout Northern and Central California with university-level care with a personalized touch.

Established in 1922 by the American College of Surgeons, the CoC is a consortium of professional organizations dedicated to improving survival rates and quality of life for cancer patients. This is achieved through standard-setting, prevention, research, education and the monitoring of comprehensive, quality care. Its membership includes Fellows of the American College of Surgeons and 49 national organizations that reflect the full spectrum of cancer care.

The American Cancer Society estimates that more than 1.6 million cases of cancer will be diagnosed in 2013. ValleyCare is one of 1500 CoC accredited cancer programs in the U.S. and Puerto Rico, representing nearly 30 percent of all hos-

pitals. Accreditation by the CoC is given only to those facilities that have voluntarily committed to providing the highest level of quality cancer care and that undergo a rigorous review process every three years.

Receiving care at a CoC accredited cancer program ensures that patients have access to: Comprehensive care, including state-of-the-art services and equipment; multi-specialty team approach to coordinate the best treatment options; information about ongoing clinical trials and new treatment options; access to cancer-related information, education and support; cancer registry that collects data on type, stages and treatment results offering lifelong patient followup; ongoing monitoring and improvement of care; and, quality care close to

home.

The Accreditation Program, a component of the CoC, sets quality-of-care standards for cancer programs and reviews the programs to ensure they conform to these standards.

"Since cancer touches each of us in some way, we at ValleyCare believe it is imperative to have this standard of high quality cancer care close to home," says Marcy Feit, CEO of ValleyCare Health System. "I am pleased we are able to offer this level of care to our community."

The ValleyCare Health Library and Ryan Comer Cancer Resource Center, along with the Women's Imaging Center and ValleyCare's Regional Cancer Center are located at 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd. in Pleasanton.



### January is Pruning Month

Learn the basic of pruning, caring for, fertilizing and dormant spray for your Roses, Citrus and Japanese Maple Trees!



**Rose Pruning Services Available!**

<p><b>Japanese Maple Pruning</b> Jan. 19 • 10am / Jan. 20 • 1pm Arborist Barry Hoffer, "The Maple Guy" \$5.00 Speaker Fee</p>	<p><b>Rose Pruning &amp; Tasting</b> Feb. 23 • 11am Free Class</p>
<p><b>Rose Pruning</b> Jan. 26 • 10am / Jan. 27 • 1pm "How to Prune, Fertilize and Keep Your Roses Disease Free." Free Class</p>	<p><b>Citrus Pruning &amp; Tasting</b> Feb. 23 • 11am Free Class</p>



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# EDITORIAL

## Towards a Sustainable Future

The Fertile GroundWork's Garden of Grace at Asbury Methodist Church may be small in size, but it aims to have a big impact.

The half-acre garden in Livermore provides fresh organic produce to Open Heart Kitchen and other local food pantries. It is also a teaching garden where volunteers can learn about agro-ecological principles, bio-intensive gardening skills, composting, and soil and water conservation.

The non-profit organization is now able to receive tax-deductible grants, endowments and donations from the community. The ability to raise funds will help Fertile GroundWorks ratchet up educational programs and provide resources for creating and sustaining new private and institutional community gardens ranging from kitchen gardens and windowsill containers to patio gardens and mini-farms.

"Growing food in urban and suburban residential spaces can reduce one's food spending while simultaneously increasing the nutritional value of the food consumed," said Bruce Campbell, who oversees the garden. "The more food grown and consumed locally, the lower the transportation requirements and associated fuel costs."

The stated goals of GroundWork are to motivate, educate and empower people and communities to transform local living places to produce nutritious food, create community cohesiveness and resilience, and develop a more sustainable future. These are goals that are worth pursuing.

## LAWSUIT

(continued from page one)

in 2008, when a for-profit consortium replaced the University in managing the laboratory. Several hundred of the retirees organized, established a legal fund and, in 2010, filed suit to force the University to restore the benefits.

They claimed that an implicit contract existed in which UC had repeatedly promised to continue their health benefits after retirement, and that they had made career decisions based on those promises.

The University moved to have the suit dismissed. In 2011, Alameda County Superior Court Judge Frank Roesch sided with the University, ruling in favor of dismissal. It was the appeal of this ruling that has led to the advance of the retiree case.

Because two of the three Appeals Court justices openly criticized UC attorneys for some of their arguments, the formal decision to permit the suit to continue came as no surprise to observers. For the retirees, the next level is normally the "discovery" phase, in which the University can be required to search its files and turn over records bearing on the provision of health benefits to retirees, according to retiree leader Joe Requa.

Immediately following the ruling, Requa advised re-

tirees by email that the only part of the group's appeal that had not been sustained was the claim that there was an explicit contract requiring the University to provide benefits - a claim that they themselves did not expect to succeed.

Otherwise, he said, the retirees got what they were hoping for, so the decision "reads as a win."

Nevertheless, the final outcome of the suit is far from clear. The retirees have only been given the okay to proceed. It is expected that the University will continue to contest the suit, arguing among other things that it is simply a contractor carrying out the wishes of the Laboratory's federal sponsor, the National Nuclear Security Administration, which is part of the US Department of Energy.

There is also the matter of raising funds to support the suit. Requa has made it clear that further donations will be required. The group has about \$20,000 in reserves, "which will not be enough to finish but should be enough to continue while we solicit additional funds," he told the grassroots retiree group in an email.

Donations can be made to UCLRg Legal Defense Fund, c/o Barbara Sokoloski, 1144 Xavier Way, Livermore 94550.

The list was provided by the City of Livermore. Truebridge said the goal is to listen to what residents think of various housing options. We will be holding several meetings to take input.

Truebridge anticipates submitting a preliminary plan to the city within the next four to six weeks. The approval process is likely to take over a year he said. None of the tenants will be asked to relocate in 2013. When and if the zoning change were approved, we would work to relocate those holding leases through 2014 or later on a case-by-case basis.

# Brown's Budget Helps Education, Health Care, State Debt Payoff

Gov. Jerry Brown's 2013-14 budget for California promises relief for schools, implements health care reform, and provides a major effort to pay down the state's "wall of debt."

Brown presented his budget message Jan. 10 in Sacramento.

In education, Brown proposes to give K-12 school districts more money per pupil. It is projected to be \$2700 more by 2016-17. Funding for K-12 and community colleges would increase by a total of \$2.7 billion next year, and \$19 billion by 2016-17.

However, the K-12 money won't be distributed on an equal basis. Brown wants to see a state formula where districts with more poverty-level students and English Language Learners would receive more money to bring their performance up to acceptable levels. Brown said that 40 percent of California students live in low-income families, and 20 percent of students do not speak English as a first language.

Brown announced no details of the formula. Suburban school districts, such as those in the Valley, have been worried that the formula will short-change them. Their thought has been that it's fine to come up with a new formula, but only if there is enough money for all of the state's districts to accomplish what is required.

Brown in his speech said that sending more money to districts with bigger challenges is justified. "Treating unequal people equally is not justice, said Aristotle. Children who grow up in Compton or Richmond are not like those in Piedmont or Beverly Hills. Sending (money) according to a formula is fair, right and just," said Brown.

Brown allocates more money for higher education, but wants to see the university system and state colleges "deploy teaching resources more efficiently." It is the only way to stop boosts in tuition, he said. He did not outline a method to attain the efficiency, but said that deriving that efficiency is something on which he will work.

Recalling that there was no tuition at the university in the eras when he and his mother attended, Brown said, "I want it to be affordable to both the state and the students."

In health care, the federal Affordable Care Act "presents a complex challenge." Brown will "cautiously work with the Legislature and the counties" to offer two options; one would be state-based, the other county-based. He provided no details.

"We are committed to bringing more people into the health care system, but we recognize that there are big costs out there and a big unknown. People do need decent health care. What President Obama did was historic and heroic. We will be a partner in making sure it works," said Brown.

In addressing the "wall of debt," Brown said that at the end of 2010-11, the state owed \$34.7 billion. At the end of 2012-13 it will be \$27.8 billion. By the end of 2016-17, "We hope we can reduce it to \$4.3 billion."

Despite the debt carried on the books for the coming year, the budget for 2013-14 is balanced, said Brown. The non-partisan legislative analyst, Mac Taylor, has said that there is a \$1.9 billion shortfall in the budget.

However, Director of Finance Ana Matasantos said at the budget news conference that Brown's budget takes certain things into account that differ from Taylor's estimate.

"We reassessed how much in special fund borrowing needs to be repaid. Less needs to be repaid this year. The legislative analyst reduced his forecast of how much he thought we would save from assets from the discontinued redevelopment agencies. We don't believe that funding erosion will occur," said Matasantos.

Further, Brown proposes to invest in community colleges and schools in part to help them manage growing utilities costs through energy efficiency installations. That will save schools money for use in their general funds.

Brown said that as a progressive, he is reluctant to

cut social programs, and noted they were among the reductions in the past, as he was trimming down the debt in his previous years.

With the prospect of more money, he advised that legislators be cautious about what they ask for in social program restorations.

"In America, the fruit of our prosperity was disproportionately channeled to capital and away from labor. This is causing a tremendous growth in inequality. That's why when you look at the top 1 percent of the population, this group is earning 22 percent of the total state income. Thirty years ago they were earning 10 percent," said Brown.

"We have more middle

class hollowed out. People at the bottom and slightly above the bottom want to find out how to compensate for that. There will be lots of legislative bills, but California already is out in front, with Cal Works. We spend more than any other state. But we have to live within our means; otherwise we'll go back in debt," said Brown.

Contact with local school and city officials early this week showed they had not had time to digest the budget implications for their districts and cities. School officials are scheduled to attend a meeting in Sacramento today (Thursday) to learn more specifics about what is proposed.

## TESTING

(continued from page one)

will help students advance even more than they have through traditional, long-term testing.

Educators' name for testing is "assessment." One type of assessment is the "summative" assessment, and the other is a "formative" one. The formative has been used to some extent in the past, for example, pop quizzes that teachers might give after three days on a segment of a unit in class.

With the emphasis now in education on bringing all students up to the level of competency in all subjects, there will be a more sophisticated approach to assessment. Computers' ability to track data on individual students and classes as a whole will assist this, said staff.

A look at the differences in assessment shows a contrast. The summative assessment provides a final measure of a student's learning to see whether learning goals have been met.

The formative assessments will provide feedback to students in shorter time than the long-term testing. That will help students go forward into the more independent, self-starting thinking that the new core curriculum will be requiring nationally in three years,

said staff members.

Traditionally, educators have administered summative tests. Parents, teachers and children are very familiar with them. They include such tests as the SAT, CST, the high school exit exam, and exams at the end of courses.

These measurements have shown what knowledge the student retains at the end of a long period of time.

Summative assessments tell others -- teachers, administrators, parents, colleges -- what the students know. Such assessments focus on standards.

By contrast, formative assessment is used to advance a student's learning. They tell students about themselves and inform teachers about the instructional process for the students. The focus is progress toward meeting the standards, instead of focusing on the standards, as do the summative assessments.

The student's role is different in the two kinds of tests. With the summative assessment, students study to meet standards. Their goal is to achieve the highest score, or avoid failure, said staff.

With formative assessment, students can meet the targets set for their progress.

## MAILBOX

(Opinions voiced in letters published in Mailbox are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Independent. Letter Policy: The Independent will not publish anonymous letters, nor will it publish letters without names. Abusive letters may be rejected or edited. Frequent letter writers may have publication of their letters delayed. Letters should be submitted by e-mail to edit-mail@compuserve.com.)

### Gun Control Alan Brooks Livermore

The problem with the argument that the best defense against a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun is that for every bad guy that gets shot with a private citizen good guy's gun literally thousands of other good guys get shot with good guy's guns, including their own children.

The probability of someone carrying a gun and actually needing it to defend themselves is so low that they would be better off carrying around a fire extinguisher. Their odds of dying in a fire are far greater. There are other reasons these people need to own and carry guns and until we identify those and bring them into the open we will remain in a stalemate.

### Nuclear Weapons Jo Ann Frisch Livermore

Deadly nuclear bomb cores (pits) are coming from Los Alamos, New Mexico to Livermore Lab. Diagnostic equipment will test the plutonium pits by shaking, baking and dropping them. Then the bomb cores will be hauled by truck back to Los Alamos Lab.

Livermore Lab is no longer authorized to handle or store bomb-usable quantities of plutonium, including pits, due to its reduced security status. Yet, the current plan sends bomb cores here.

Will this violate the law? I believe the answer is yes. "Shaking and baking" plutonium cores without the necessary security infrastructure has never been analyzed under the National Environmental Policy Act.

One alternative would be to move the diagnostic equipment to the pits, instead of moving pits each time to the diagnostics at Livermore Lab.

A small particle of plutonium, if inhaled, can cause cancer. The shipments will put millions of people at risk from a catastrophic accident, theft or release.

You can prevent this. Come to a Forum at the Livermore Library on Jan. 30 to learn how. Check www.trivalleycares.org for details.

### No Increased Density Felicia Ziomek Livermore

The owners of Ironwood Apartments (formerly Rhonewood) want to erect four 3-story apartment complexes on the currently open green area on Norma Way. This requires a General Plan amendment to increase the density from 14 units per acre to 14-18 units per acre. I believe this is detrimental to the quality of life in the neighborhood, and inappropriate for an established neighborhood. We already suffer the effects of density higher than that, at the East and West ends of the complex. Street parking is impossible at these two ends, and the middle section of Norma Way will follow suit if the expansion is approved. The residents in the middle section of Norma see the everyday challenges at the two ends and don't want that in their lives.

Residents don't experience 'average' density per acre; we endure what is directly outside our door. Outside my door is a density of 32 units in the 1 acre (my estimate) at the West end. And the middle section of Norma Way would endure a density of 52 units in the 1 acre outside their door. Garbage day is a traffic hazard with cans left toward the middle of the street after parked

cars drive away. Three foot gaps between cans is often impossible, so the garbage trucks sometimes don't empty those cans. Two informal traffic studies indicate that the majority of drivers on Norma travel over the 25 mph speed limit. There is a grade school nearby, and I worry about the safety of children walking to school (one was hit on Kathy Way in the past). Former Ironwood residents have mentioned 'drug dealing' in the parking lot of the Ironwood complex.

Surrounding streets have been resurfaced over the years, Norma Way is never resurfaced - where would all those cars who park on Norma park during the resurfacing project?! The street sweeper may just as well bypass Norma, since they can't ever get to the curb because of the preponderance of parked cars. Norma residents indicate it sometimes takes them 10 minutes to back out of their driveway. All of this points to already existing problems that would increase if the city approves the additional four 3-story apartment complexes. I encourage the Planning Commission and the City Council not to approve a zoning change to the Ironwood property.

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## TALK

(continued from page one)



Pleasanton Mayor Jerry Thorne reads a proclamation establishing the week of January 14 as Holocaust Education Day, in honor of Mrs. Eva Schloss. Mrs. Schloss, step-sister of Anne Frank, addressed a sold-out audience of over 600 at the Amador Theater in Pleasanton. Joining Mayor Thorne are Vice-Mayor Cheryl Cook-Kallio, Councilmember Jerry Pentin, and Councilmember Karla Brown. Rabbi Raleigh Resnick of Chabad of the Tri-Valley, which sponsored the event, is pictured to Mayor Thorne's right.

about the Holocaust. It triggered many more books from survivors, including two of Schloss's own -- "Eva's Story" and "The Promise: A Moving Story of A Family in the Holocaust."

Schloss has told audiences her survival story more than 1000 times since beginning a campaign in 1985 to try to curb prejudice and promote peace in the world.

It is very much like Anne Frank's story. Schloss, whose birth name was Eva Geiringer, started life in Vienna. She was 8 when the Nazis marched into Austria.

#### HARMONY BEFORE NAZIS TOOK OVER

Schloss's recollection of the early years was one of living in harmony with neighbors. Although there were non-Jewish people who may have harbored their own anti-Semitism, they kept it to themselves, said Schloss. After the Nazis took over, many Austrian neighbors refused to have anything to do with the family. "They were worse than the Germans," recalled Schloss.

The family moved to Belgium, and then Holland, where Schloss became friends with Frank. They would not become step-sisters until after Anne Frank died near the end of the war. Anne's mother died in the camps. Anne's father, Otto, survived and married

Schloss's mother in 1953.

Schloss recalled Anne Frank as a "wonderful little girl," who went to a Montessori school, and who liked writing stories and reading books.

Anne Frank was also very verbal. "She was a big chatterbox, who had to stay after class sometimes to write that she would not talk so much in class," said Schloss.

"Her nickname was 'Mrs. Quack Quack.' The mother of a friend of mine said that 'God knows everything, but Anne knows it better,'" said Schloss.

The Dutch people did not like the occupying Germans, and even tried a general strike in protest against the occupation. After the Dutch people were arrested on the street and threatened, the strike collapsed.

#### HAVING TO GO INTO HIDING

There were Dutch citizens who were willing to hide Jews. Some liked Jews, others did it because they hated the Germans, and still others did it for the money.

Eventually, the landlady who was hiding Eva and others in the family wanted more money. Eva's father retained some savings, but he reasoned that even if he met the new demands, they would just grow later, and eventually they would have to move.

So they looked around for a new family to hide them.

They met an apparent Resistance worker who could steer them to a new hiding place. The woman turned out to be a Nazi double agent. They were turned over to the Gestapo, the Nazi secret police.

Schloss said, "They asked, 'Who helped out? Who got you ration cards?' I didn't say anything. They started to beat me, and said they would kill my mother. Luckily, I didn't betray anyone. They let me go."

The "letting go" was not freedom. There followed a trip on a railroad cattle car to a death camp. There she was judged by Josef Mengele, a doctor and SS official known as "The Angel of Death" for his experiments on children in death camps. He was hunted as a war criminal, but escaped to Brazil, and was not caught. He died in 1979.

"As I passed him, he told me to go to one side. Forty people were taken out to be gassed. We were taken to another camp," said Schloss.

Eventually, they were liberated by the Russians, who fed them, and took them to a secure area, when it looked as if the Germans would counterattack.

"The sad thing was that when people were given food, there was so much the body couldn't digest it. Some died because their bodies could not handle the food. We had to be careful

how much food we ate," said Schloss.

After the war, Schloss learned that although her mother survived, her father and brother had perished. Eventually, there was a reunion with Otto Frank, Anne's father. The wedding of Schloss and Frank occurred one year after Schloss married her husband, Zvi.

Schloss became a studio photographer after the war. In 1985, she began to talk to audiences and write her books about the Holocaust, because she believed that the world was finally ready to hear the story.

#### PROGRAM GENERATED IMMENSE DEMAND

Bringing Schloss to Pleasanton was quite a feat for Tri-Valley Chabad. David Jonas, a friend of Chabad Rabbi Raleigh Resnick, helped in the promotion. Jonas said that the event easily could have sold 1200

tickets, if there were a theater that could have handled the capacity.

Resnick told the audience that he received calls from all over the United States to try to have him send Schloss to them next. He did set up a series of appearances in California, but eventually Schloss was due to fly back to her home in Britain.

Such a major attraction was made possible by the generosity of some Chabad donors, as well as the ticket purchases. Jonas said that Tri-Valley Chabad hopes to offer similar major events at some time in the future. He said many in the audience were not Jewish, but showed a warm inter-faith reception of the program.

#### THORNE, CORBETT PRESENT HONORS

The Pleasanton City Council attended the talk. Mayor Jerry Thorne issued a proclamation designat-

ing "Holocaust Education Week" from Jan. 13-19. Congressman Eric Swalwell arranged to have an American flag that was flown over the national Capitol presented to Schloss.

State Senate Majority Leader Ellen Corbett made a personal presentation of a Senate certificate honoring Schloss. In her remarks, Corbett said that she read Frank's diary in middle school, and it inspired her to "enter a career in public service. I know many others were inspired, too."

Corbett praised Schloss, saying, "We honor your courage, strength and survival. Because of survivors like you, we ensure that future generations will never forget the horror of the Holocaust."

DVD copies of the program are available on-line at the URL [www.jewishtrivalley.com](http://www.jewishtrivalley.com).



Members of Operation: S.A.M. "Supporting All Military" will be hanging 200 yellow ribbons on the tree at the corner of First and South Livermore in Livermore. The ribbons contain the names of military personnel from Livermore. This year was made even a little more special with the help of a Mrs. Betando's third grade class at Jackson Avenue. The class members helped to tie the ribbons. For more information about Operation: S.A.M., visit [www.operationsam.org](http://www.operationsam.org), email [operationsam@comcast.net](mailto:operationsam@comcast.net) or call 925 443-7620.

## VISION

(continued from page one)

are not compacted enough to allow development. It is estimated that only about 400 acres would remain appropriate for development. The city's general plan recognizes that the urban growth boundary may have to be moved and allows for a minor adjustment without going to the voters.

The lakes are seen as an opportunity. One site between two of the lakes reportedly provides spectacular views of the surrounding hills. It is an area that staff singled out as a particular area of focus.

Director of Community Development Brian Dolan noted that the vision statement for the entire 1000 acres is a starting point to guide decision making in the future. The vision statement includes four areas: character, land use, open space and sustainability, and circulation.

The character component suggests that the look of development emerge from the open space setting. Dolan commented, "We have a unique situation with lakes and habitat, along with views that can be used to set the character of the planned area." There is a need to protect scenic views. Development should be oriented toward and take advantage of the lake environment.

Land use should benefit the entire community, not

just those who live and work in the specific plan area. Development should be a low intensity mix of uses arranged around a central community focus area. The cost of providing the infrastructure should not burden the rest of the community. A list of community comments included a desire for a 2-story height limit and visual openness. They did not want the development to look like Dublin without a center. The area should not be a dumping ground for the city's assigned housing numbers.

Potential land uses include open space, trails, a variety of housing types and densities, schools, commercial, retail and light industrial. Housing would need to take into account housing numbers assigned by ABAG.

There should be ample open space. Habitat and water quality should be protected. Parks could be both active and passive. Trails would provide connections within the area and to the rest of the city. Focus would be on sustainability with all of the development "green."

Circulation should minimize traffic congestion. Neighborhood streets would be tree lined and include bike paths.

Councilmembers voiced different opinions.

Jerry Pentin said he didn't disagree with anything in the vision statement. He would like to see a phasing plan and specific information about land uses and how the uses would impact the larger community.

Brown was interested in preserving the scenic views and retaining the lakes as a separation between Livermore and Pleasanton.

Cheryl Cook-Kallio was concerned about connecting El Charro Road to Stanley Blvd. wondering how it would be paid for. She mentioned that there would not likely be enough development in the area to pay for the extension. One potential use mentioned was an ACE station. She wondered if there might be funding available to help pay for the El Charro extension.

Mayor Jerry Thorne felt the vision statement was too long. "To me a vision statement should provide a mental picture of what the area should look like. The statement needs to be pared down and simplified." He suggested the introductory paragraph would be sufficient. The paragraph talks about the future character evolving from the existing open space. Thorne said that other information in the vision statement could be listed as bullet points to use to design the site.

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## Call Box Service Added Along Mines Road

Motorists and bicyclists can now expect an added measure of safety when traveling along a major inter-regional roadway connecting Alameda and Santa Clara counties. Mines Road is a 28-mile route between the cities of Livermore and Milpitas lined with cattle ranches and open space. Eight Call Boxes have been installed and are operational along its length.

A favorite of recreational motorists and bicyclists, the roadway is narrow and curving, much of which has no cell-phone signal. In the past years it has been used for the annual Amgen Bicycle Race. Stranded motorists have relied on the aid of passing motorists or residents for calls for assistance.

Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty, who serves on the regional Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), requested that MTC staff consider the remote road-

way for Call Box service. "Local residents are concerned about the safe use of this beautiful but remote roadway by those unfamiliar with its features," said Haggerty. "Call Box service gives some assurance that when the need arises, people can call for help and get a response for service."

In 2012, a review of the roadway by the MTC Service Authority for Freeways and Expressways (SAFE) program determined the justification for such service.

The 8 Call Boxes are spaced about 3.5 miles apart, between Tesla Road in Livermore to Mt Hamilton Road in Santa Clara County. It cost MTC SAFE \$8,000 to install and \$1200 per year to operate the Mines Road Call Box network.

Reports for maintenance and repair of the call boxes can be made by calling 800-544-4876. For more information about the MTC/SAFE Call Box program visit [http://mtc.ca.gov/services/call\\_boxes/](http://mtc.ca.gov/services/call_boxes/).

## Reusable Bags to Be Handed Out

Between January 22 and February 2, 2013, member agencies of the Clean Water Program will be holding reusable bag giveaway events, in support of the countywide reusable bag ordinance that went into effect on January 1. The ordinance prohibits stores that sell packaged food or alcohol from giving away single-use bags at checkout, and requires them to charge a minimum of 10 cents per paper or reusable bag, as an incentive for shoppers to bring their own reusable bags to the store.

The reusable bag give-

away is scheduled, while supplies last. The event is free and will be held in Dublin on Tues., Jan. 22 from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Dublin Library, 200 Civic Plaza.

"We want to raise awareness about the harm disposable plastic bags pose to the health of our local creeks and San Francisco Bay, and so we are encouraging residents to get into the habit of using reusable bags," explained Clean Water Program Manager Jim Scanlin. "Each year, the equivalent of 100,000 kitchen garbage bags worth of litter end up in our local waterways, including an estimated 1 million disposable plastic bags," he added. In Alameda County storm water does not pass through a water treatment plant. This means that litter and other pollutants carried into the storm drain system by wind and water flow directly into creeks and the Bay, where they harm fish, marine mammals and birds. Plastic bags and other lightweight plastic litter don't biodegrade and are particularly hazardous because they float, entangling and poisoning marine wildlife that mistakes the items for food.

In addition to its environmental impacts, litter is also an eyesore and puts a heavy financial burden on communities. Alameda County jurisdictions spend approximately \$24 million every year on litter and storm drain cleanup.

Under the Federal Clean Water Act, cities in the Bay Area are required to reduce or eliminate storm water pollution in order to comply with the Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit, issued by the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Board. Under the current permit, Alameda County must reduce trash discharge from storm drains by 40% by 2014, and by 70% by 2017. The ban is expected to go a long way toward reaching those goals.

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## Wish you could see even more photos of local events in our Valley?



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Fortunately, you can see many of these additional photos featured each week on our website [www.independentnews.com](http://www.independentnews.com).

Photo series rotate throughout the week, so you'll want to visit more than once each week to see all the expanded content!

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# Mendenhall Seventh and Eighth Graders Dominate City-wide Livermore MATHCOUNTS Tournament

By Patricia Koning

Middle school students from Christensen Middle School, East Avenue Middle School, Junction Avenue K-8, Livermore Valley Charter School (LVCS), and Mendenhall Middle School spent the morning of January 11 participating in competitive math. That's not a term you hear very often, but it's the perfect way to describe MATHCOUNTS, an extracurricular middle school program designed to promote math achievement.

At regular club meetings, students practice math problems that involve several concepts, making them more complex and difficult than what is taught in regular math classes. In the tournament, they put their knowledge to the test, literally.

The tournament consists of two individual written components: the sprint round, which tests speed and accuracy, and the target round of multi-step problems that engage mathematical reasoning and problem-solving processes. In the team round, groups of four students work together to solve ten problems in twenty minutes. Scores from both the individual and team components determine the winning teams. Awards are presented to the top three teams in 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade and 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

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

enth and eighth graders participate in the countdown round.

Even before the countdown round began last Saturday, it was clear that it was Mendenhall's day, at least in the 7/8 grade competition. Of the ten students in the countdown round, seven were from Mendenhall, with one from East and two from LVCS.

David Wang of Mendenhall was the first place winner, followed by Scott Plantenga in second, Weston Everett in third, and Shannon Yan in fourth. Meenakshi Singhal provided some excitement during the countdown round. She began in 8th place and beat the next three students to finish in fifth place overall. Jordan Combists and Ivy Tang of the LVCS took sixth and seventh place, followed by Lauren Stuart of Mendenhall, Ryan MacDonell of East, and Bo Cole of Mendenhall.

Not surprisingly, Mendenhall took both first and second place in the 7/8 team competition. The East team took third place.

LVCS produced a strong showing in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade competition. Andy Lau won first place, Ashley Zhuang took second, and Nathan Prisbrey took third. Paul Chirica of East finished second and Eustyn Trinh of Mendenhall finished in fourth. LVCS also won the 6<sup>th</sup> grade team competition, followed by East in second place, and Mendenhall in third.

In addition to the many students in the competition, a number of people came out to watch the "mathletes"



Middle school students gathered at Granada High School for the competition.



Photos - Doug Jorgensen

in action. This was the 17<sup>th</sup> annual citywide MATHCOUNTS competition. Livermore mayor John Marchand and Livermore school superintendent Kelly Bowers helped Livermore School Board president Bill Dunlop in presenting

the awards. Trustees Anne White and Chuck Rogge were also in attendance, along with assistant superintendent Cindy Alba and Amy Robbins, director of curriculum and special projects. LVCS principal Tara Aderman as well as Mendenhall

principal Susan Sambuceti and assistant principal Al Bernal were there to cheer on their teams. Each school can now send one four-person team and two additional students from sixth, seventh, and eighth grade to the Dia-

blo Chapter Competition in February. The top teams and additional top scoring competitors from the Chapter Competition will advance to the California State Competition on March 23 at Stanford University. The Raytheon MATHCOUNTS National Competition will be held in Washington, DC on May 9-12. For more information MATHCOUNTS, visit [www.mathcounts.org/](http://www.mathcounts.org/)

The winners of the 2012 Livermore Citywide MATHCOUNTS Tournament are:

Individual, grades 7/8: 1. David Wang (Mendenhall); 2. Scott Plantenga (Mendenhall); 3. Weston Everett (Mendenhall); 4. Shannon Yan (Mendenhall); 5. Meenakshi Singhal (Mendenhall); 6. Jordan Combists (LVCS); 7. Ivy Tang (LVCS); 8. Lauren Stuart (Mendenhall); 9. Ryan MacDonell (East); 10. Bo Cole (Mendenhall).

Individual, grade 6: 1. Andy Lau (LVCS); 2. Paul Chirica (East); 3. Ashley Zhuang (LVCS); 4. Eustyn Trinh (Mendenhall); 5. Nathan Prisbrey (LVCS).

Team, grade 7/8: 1. Mendenhall (Scott Plantenga, David Wang, Vicent DiNicola, Shannon Yan); 2. Mendenhall (Nico Macchioni, Meenakshi Singhal, Andrew Divita, Weston Everett); 3. East (Ryan MacDonell, Ryan Norstrand, Javan Pittsen-barger, Anchal Sinha).

Team, grade 6: 1. LVCS (Andy Lau, Ashley Zhuang, Shwena Kak, Aastha Ahuja); 2. East (Paul Chirica, Austin Gnecco, Kendall Hornbeck, Richard Jing); 3. Mendenhall (Anya Worley, Claire DiNicola, Eliana Eme, Lara Serban).

## SHORT NOTES

### Dublin Nominations

The deadline is near to submit nominations to the City of Dublin for the 2012 Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year and Organization of the Year.

The purpose of these awards is to recognize outstanding individuals and groups who have contributed to the quality of life in Dublin in 2012. The Young Citizen of the Year recognizes the volunteer service of Dublin's youth in 1st - 12th grade.

Nomination criteria for the awards are based on five established criteria: the Dublin Pride - Integrity in Action Program's 10 Characteristics (i.e. Responsibility, Respectfulness, Caring, Giving, Positive Attitude, Trustworthiness, Cooperation, Doing One's Best, Honesty, and Self-Discipline), originality and uniqueness of the activity/project, overall relevance and importance to the Community, time and effort spent, and challenge(s) in accomplishing the activity/project.

All nominees will be recognized at the Volunteer recognition event to be held at the Shannon Community Center on Wednesday, February 20, 2013, where the winners will be announced. The Organization of the Year will receive a \$500 cash prize, and a \$300 donation will be given to each of the Citizen and Youth Citizen of the Year's favorite nonprofit organization.

Nomination can be completed online, or by calling the City Clerk's Office at 833-6650. The nomination deadline is end of day on Thursday, January 24, 2013.

### Help Veterans

Bob and Deb Cilik of Re/Max Accord announce the kickoff of their 13th Annual Coat, Blanket & Sock Drive. The drive is in honor of veterans who have fallen on hard times.

Donations received will once again benefit Operation Dignity, the "last chance" homeless shelter in Oakland started by a homeless veteran, and operated by dedicated veterans and homeless volunteers. Donations received for women and children will be shared with our 'neighbors in need' at no charge, ever, to the recipients.

A warm coat, hats, gloves, a clean blanket, a new pillow or a new pair of socks can make a world of difference to someone who is used to going without. Donations can be dropped at the office of Bob & Deb Cilik of Re/Max Accord located at 5950 Stoneridge Drive in Pleasanton. For pick-up arrangements, please call (925) 487-8735 or e-mail bob.cilik@remax.net. Donations will be accepted throughout the end of March, 2013.

### Mushroom Madness

Mushroom Madness is the Sun., Jan. 20 program offered by the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District ranger staff. Meet Ranger Amy Wolitzer at 1 p.m. at the reserved picnic area in Sycamore Grove Park.

Ranger Amy and Debbie Viess of the Bay Area Mycological Society will lead the annual mushroom hunt. Crawl under trees, wander through meadows and look

at rotting logs to see how many different types of fungi can be found. Wear clothes that can get dirty. Please be aware mushrooms may not be removed from the park - you can take a plethora of photos, but the fungi need to remain in their habitat. Call 925-960-2400 for directions to the reserved picnic area. Mushroom madness occurs rain or shine.

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.

### Visitors Guide

Visit Tri-Valley, formerly the Tri-Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau, has published its 2013 Visitors Guide titled "California has a Secret..."

The 64-page magazine features colorful photos and highlights the history of the Tri-Valley region, with snapshots of the communities that make this a special place to live, work or visit: the town of Danville and the cities of Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton and San Ramon.

Other features include: what to do (wineries, attractions and restaurants), where to go, where to stay and what to see. Included is a calendar of events. Other features: listing of event venues, event and regional services and travel essentials.

To order a copy, call 925-846-8910.

### Book Events

Towne Center Books in Pleasanton will host the following events:

- Greg Bardsley, author of Cash Out, 7 p.m. Fri., Jan. 25. Bardsley, an Amador High School Graduate, has worked as a Silicon Valley speechwriter, a newspaper reporter, and a weekly columnist. His ghostwriting for high-profile business executives has appeared in Newsweek, USA Today, and the Financial Times. His short fiction has appeared in numerous journals and anthologies, including 3: AM magazine, Plots with Guns, Uncage Me, and Sex, Thugs, and Rock & Roll. He lives in the San Francisco Bay Area. Refreshments, book talk, autographing. The book is in stock now.
- Coffee and Conversation with Sonja Lyubomirsky, 11 a.m. Tues., Jan. 29, newest book, The Myths of Happiness: What Should Make You Happy. Lyubomirsky, is a professor of psychology at the University of California, Riverside.
- Meghan Laslocky and the Little Book of Heartbreak, 7 p.m. Wed., Jan. 30. Featuring anecdotes from history, literature, culture, art and music, The Little Book of Heartbreak shares the entertaining, empowering and occasionally absurd things that happen when love is on its last legs. Laslocky is a freelance journalist and producer for KQED public broadcasting. Reservations are always helpful.

Towne Center is located at 555 Main Street in downtown Pleasanton, [www.townecenterbooks.com](http://www.townecenterbooks.com), (925) 846-8826.

### Lime Ridge Hike

Lime Ridge Audible Guide Hike & Manzanita Forayhike2 is planned for Sat., Jan. 26, 9 a.m. to noon

A century ago, Lime Ridge supplied some of the lime and sand needed for California's industrial expansion. Today, surrounded by homes in Concord and Walnut Creek, the area is easy to dismiss as a drive by experience. The place is actually a reservoir of rare plants and animals, a laboratory for restoration and the setting of a triumphant chapter in local conservation history. Join us for this 4 mile hike with 700 ft. elevation gain as we trace the route outlined in the new Audible Guide for Lime Ridge.

Leader: Expert Botanist Heath Bartosh; R.S.V.P. required (925) 947-3535. Visit the Hike Calendar for more information.

### Heartburn Seminar

San Ramon Regional Medical Center is presenting a free community seminar, "Got heartburn? Learn about minimally invasive treatments for GERD," Wednesday, January 30, 2013, from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The seminar will be held in San Ramon Regional Medical Center's South Building in the South Conference Room, 7777 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon.

Mrudula Kumar, M.D., gastroenterologist, and Wilson Tsai, M.D., thoracic surgeon, will discuss the

risks, signs and symptoms of GERD (gastroesophageal reflux disease), and advanced medical and minimally invasive surgical treatments.

Heartburn is a symptom of GERD caused by gastric acid flowing from the stomach into the esophagus. The condition can interrupt sleep and restrict diet. Left untreated, GERD can damage the esophagus, and may increase the risk for esophageal cancer. Learn about the importance of diagnosis and treatment of this uncomfortable condition.

Space is limited. Reservations are required. Please call 800.284.2878 or go to Find an Event on [www.OurSanRamonHospital.com](http://www.OurSanRamonHospital.com).

### Pre-School to College

On Sunday, January 27th, 2013, from 10:15 a.m. to noon, Congregation Beth Emek will host an expert panel discussion "From Pre-School to College: Helping Families Deal with Today's Academic, Social and Sports Pressures."

The panel of experts include a local pediatrician, family therapist, Parent Coach Alliance (PCA) speaker, and a college admissions recruiter. The panel is designed to help families reach that balance between the gentle push kids sometimes need to succeed and the demanding shove that leads to too much pressure and stress.

Beth Emek is located at 400 Nevada Street in Pleasanton.

**RETZLAFF Estate Wines**  
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Mon-Closed  
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**GONE WITH THE WIND - THURSDAY JAN. 24 @ 6:30**  
**49ers vs. Falcons in the NFC TITLE GAME**  
**Sunday @ Noon - Free Admission**  
**Coming Soon: Lincoln, Les Miserables & Silver Linings Playbook**  
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**THE IMPOSSIBLE**  
Academy Award Nominee for Best Actress - Naomi Watts  
Fri - Sat: 12:10 2:20 4:40 7:00 9:10  
**RUST & BONE**  
Fri - Sat: 4:15 8:45  
**HYDE PARK ON HUDSON**  
Fri - Sat: 12:00 2:00 6:45  
Call for Sun - Thurs Show Times

LIVERMORE CINEMAS		2490 FIRST STREET 443-SHOW	
MAMA (PG13) DLP	12:00 2:25 4:55 7:30 9:50		
THE LAST STAND (R) DLP D-BOX	12:30 3:30 6:30 9:30		
BROKEN CITY (R) DLP	1:10 4:15 6:55 9:55		
ZERO DARK THIRTY (R) DLP	1:00 4:30 8:00		
GANGSTER SQUAD (R) DLP	12:30 3:30 6:30 9:30		
A HAUNTED HOUSE (R) DLP	12:00 2:20 4:45 7:15 9:45		
DJANGO UNCHAINED (R) DLP	11:45 3:05 6:20 9:40		
LES MISERABLES (PG13) DLP	11:45 3:00 6:15 9:40		
JACK REACHER (PG13) DLP	3:10 9:30		
ARGO (R) DLP	12:00 6:40		
THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY (PG13) DLP	12:15 4:00 7:45		
PARENTAL GUIDANCE (PG) DLP	12:10 2:35 5:00 7:25 9:45		
LINCOLN (PG13) DLP	12:30 4:05 7:25		
SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK (R) DLP	12:45 3:45 6:45 9:30		
THUR, JAN 24: HANSEL & GRETEL: WITCH HUNTER 3D (R) DLP	10:00PM		





# OBITUARIES

(continued from page 9)

January 24 at 12:30 p.m. at the San Joaquin National Cemetery located at 32053 West McCabe Road, Santa Nella, CA 95322.

In remembrance of Richard, contributions can be made to the National Kidney Foundation.

Arrangements are by Callaghan Mortuary.

## Gordon K. (Van) Van Gundia

1-26-1925 to 1-14-2013

Van passed away after a battle with lung cancer. He is survived by his two daughters Cheryl (Richard) Perkins and Carol (Steve) Neely; his



eight grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren. He was born in Chambersburg, PA. In 1942 he graduated from high school in Vincennes, IN. After graduation Van joined the USMC.

Van was a paratrooper who saw WWII combat in the South Pacific. After his military discharge in

1945, he enrolled at Purdue University where he earned a degree in mechanical engineering. While attending Purdue he married Reba Jean Hardy and the twins, Cheryl and Carol, were born.

For nine years Van was employed as a compressor designer with Frigidaire in Dayton, OH. The family moved to Livermore, CA, 1959 after accepting a position as a mechanical design engineer at Sandia National Laboratories. Van retired at age 55 to Lake Tulloch in Copperopolis, CA, living there for over 30 years with his wife, who predeceased him in 2011.

Van had much to be proud of in his lifetime, but his biggest joy was being a loving and kind husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather.

A memorial service will be held on January 19, 2013 at Callaghan Mortuary, Livermore at 1:30pm. A reception will take place following the service at the Recreation Center of Heritage Park, 1089 Bluebell Drive in Livermore.

The Van Gundia family is indebted to the "angels" who helped take care of him—especially his caregivers Angela Cannon and Judy Jones, along with Dara

Burke and Socorro Garcia of Hospice. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating in Van's memory: Hope Hospice at 6377 Clark Avenue, Dublin, CA 94568.

## Luella Grace Orth

Resident of Pleasanton

Luella was born on Sept. 27, 1922 in South Dakota and passed away on Wed., Jan. 9, 2013 in Pleasanton, Ca. She was 90 years old.

Lou worked at Davidson's Pharmacy in Livermore for 25 years, retiring in 1987.

She is preceded in death by her husband Clarence in 1993. She is survived by her

children Janet Vahlensieck and Dennis (Sandi) Orth; grandchildren Jay and Lee Vahlensieck, Daniel, David, Dammon, Guy and Stacie Orth, and eight great grandchildren.

A Visitation will be held on Thurs., Jan. 17, 5-8PM, Rosary at 7 p.m. at Callaghan Mortuary, 3833 East Ave., Livermore, Ca. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Fri., Jan. 18 at 10 a.m. at St. Michael Catholic Church, 458 Maple St., Livermore. Burial will follow at San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery, Santa Nella, Ca.

## Shiva-Vishnu Temple Invites Applications for Grants

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

A total grant amount of \$25,000 will be distributed in the year 2013. Individual grants can vary depending on the needs and suitability of the nonprofit organizations. This Grant program, initiated in 1987, is one of several Human Services activities at the temple in addition to programs such as free health screening, bone-marrow donor registration, partnering with the Alameda County Community Food Bank for canned food drives, distributing personal articles and clothing to the Livermore veterans hospital and collaborating with local shelters to help the needy.

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

All applications must be mailed to the following address by 3rd February 2013: Chairperson, Human Services, HCCC, Inc., 1232 Arrowhead Avenue, Livermore, CA 94551-6963.

Applicants will be informed of the grant decisions. Representatives of the selected organizations will be invited to an Award Ceremony to be held at the temple in 2013.

Applications sent via email will not be accepted. For questions and clarifications, please email [suman1218@yahoo.com](mailto:suman1218@yahoo.com).



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



For 50 years, *The Independent* has received and printed the most arts and community events notices of any newspaper. Now you can see them online. *The Independent's* Online Events Calendars help you know all of the *Community* and *Cultural Arts* events going on this week, this month and this year. You can even submit and update your events, too! In addition, calendars have links to 41 cultural arts and 179 community websites from the movies and performing arts sites, to local governments, wineries and churches all within reach of your fingertips.

See what's happening in your community at [www.independentnews.com](http://www.independentnews.com)

## LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

[www.independentnews.com](http://www.independentnews.com)

**LEGAL NOTICES**  
FOR INFORMATION  
PLACING LEGAL NOTICES  
Call 925-243-8000

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 472549-53

The following person(s) doing business as: 1)Tri-Valley Moto 2)KTM of Tri-Valley 3)Triumph of Tri-Valley 4)BMW of Tri-Valley 5)Calmoto Livermore, 952 North Canyons Pkwy, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Michael Meissner, 827 Elmira Drive, Sunnyvale, CA 94087 This business is conducted by a Corporation The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 12/27/2007. Signature of Registrants :s/: Michael Meissner, Owner/President This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 6, 2012. Expires December 6, 2017. The Independent Legal No.

3368. Published December 27, 2012, January 3, 10, 17, 2013

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 472495

The following person(s) doing business as: Super Nail & Designs, 983 East Stanley Blvd, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Giang T. Pham, 27635 Seminole Way, Hayward, CA 94544 This business is conducted by an Individual The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 12/20/2012. Signature of Registrants :s/: Giang T. Pham This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 27, 2012. Expires December 27, 2017. The Independent Legal No. 3370. Published January 3, 10, 17, 24, 2013

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 472607

The following person(s) doing

business as: JMA Builders, 1516 Juniper St., Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jacob Aro, 1516 Juniper St., Livermore, CA 94551 This business is conducted by an Individual The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 11/20/2012. Signature of Registrants :s/: Jacob Aro, Owner This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 7, 2012. Expires December 7, 2017. The Independent Legal No. 3371. Published January 3, 10, 17, 24, 2013

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 472483

The following person(s) doing business as: AAA Plant Brokers, 38801 Cherry Street, Newark, CA 94560, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): New Earth Plant Brokers, Inc, 1141 Catalina Dr. #267, Livermore, CA 94550

This business is conducted by a Corporation The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrants :s/: Robin Oberg, CEO This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 5, 2012. Expires December 5, 2017. The Independent Legal No. 3372. Published January 3, 10, 17, 24, 2013

### NOTICE OF INVITING BIDS

Notice is hereby given that sealed competitive bids will be accepted at the Health Care Services Agency, 1000 San Leandro Blvd., Suite 300, San Leandro, CA, 94577 **NETWORKING BIDDERS CONFERENCE FOR RFP #900393 Children's Museum/Play Space Provider Non-Mandatory**—Thursday, January 24, 2013, 1:00 PM at General Services Agency, Room 1107, 1401 Lakeside Drive, Oakland, CA and **Mandatory Site Visit**—Wednesday, January 23, 2013 at 1:00 PM **OR** Thursday, January 24, 2013 at 11:00 AM **Re-**

sponses Due by 2:00 pm on February 11, 2013 **County Contact: Kristel Acacio at (510) 618-1910, Kristel.acacio@acgov.org** Attendance at one site visit is Mandatory. Specifications regarding the above may be obtained at the Alameda County GSA Current Contracting Opportunities Internet website at [www.acgov.org](http://www.acgov.org). CNS-2430334# THE INDEPENDENT Legal No. 3376

### NOTICE OF INVITING BIDS

Notice is hereby given that sealed competitive bids will be accepted in the office of the GSA-Purchasing Department, County of Alameda, 1401 Lakeside Drive, Suite 907, Oakland, CA 94612 **NETWORKING BIDDERS CONFERENCE FOR RFQ #910161 Patrol Vehicle Outfitting Equipment North County** – Friday, January 25, 2013, 2:00 PM at General Services Agency, Room 1107, 11th Floor, 1401 Lakeside Drive, Oakland, CA **South County** – Monday,

January 28, 2013, 10:00 AM at Castro Valley Library, Canyon Room, 3600 Norbridge Avenue, Castro Valley, CA **Responses Due by 2:00 pm on February 22, 2013 County Contact: Abby Fard (510) 208-9623 or via email: abby.fard@acgov.org** Attendance at Networking Conference is Non-mandatory. Specifications regarding the above may be obtained at the Alameda County GSA Current Contracting Opportunities Internet website at [www.acgov.org](http://www.acgov.org). 1/17/13 CNS-2430604# THE INDEPENDENT Legal No. 3377

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 473323

The following person(s) doing business as: Cove Creek Equestrian, 809 Nightingale St, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Laurel Glass, 809 Nightingale St, Livermore, CA 94551 This business is conducted by an Individual

The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrants :s/: Laurel Glass

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 2, 2013. Expires January 2, 2018. The Independent Legal No. 3378. Published January 17, 24, 31, February 7, 2013.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 472249

The following person(s) doing business as: Klickcar.com, 1412 Portola Ave., Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Martin Hernandez, 1737 First St, Livermore, CA 94550 This business is conducted by an Individual The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on February 14, 2007. Signature of Registrants :s/: Martin Hernandez This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda

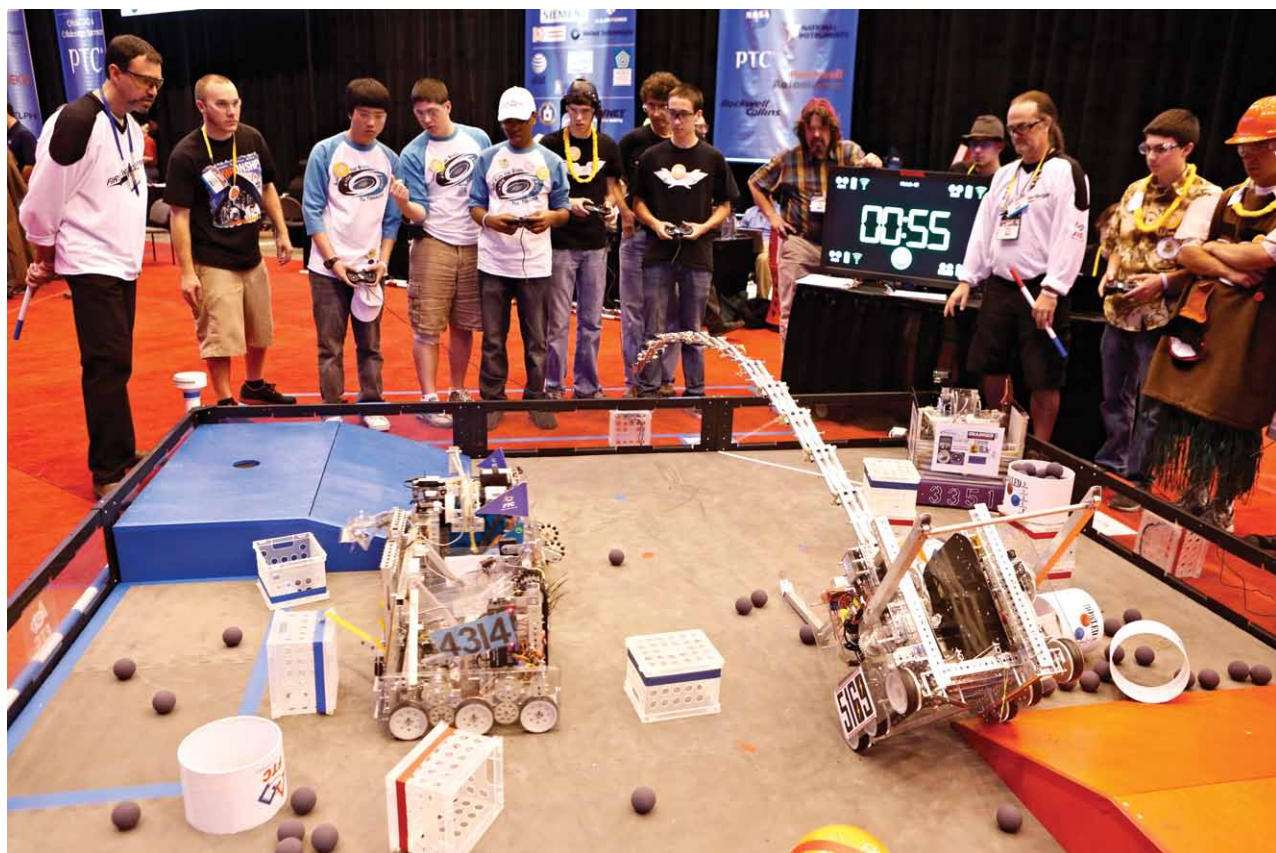
on November 28, 2012. Expires November 28, 2017. The Independent Legal No. 3379. Published January 17, 24, 31, February 7, 2013.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Celco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to build an 80-foot Monopole Communications Tower. Anticipated lighting application is medium intensity dual red/white strobes. The Site location is 3663 Pacific Ave, Livermore, Alameda County, CA 94550, Latitude 37 40' 31.3"N, Longitude 121 45' 12.8"W. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Antenna Structure Registration (ASR, Form 854) filing number is A0809300. ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS – Interested persons may review the application ([www.fcc.gov/asr/applications](http://www.fcc.gov/asr/applications)) by entering the filing number. Environmental concerns may be raised by filing a Request for Environmental Review ([www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest](http://www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest)) and



# Robot Garden @ i-GATE to host FIRST Tech Challenge competition



The photo is from a 2010 FIRST Tech Challenge competition. Photo - Adriana M. Groisman.

In just nine days, robots will be fighting it out in Livermore. Imagine the 2011 movie *Real Steel*, but the robots are the size of a shoebox rather than life-size and instead of boxing to knock off each other's arms, they are battling to outscore their opponents.

On Saturday, Jan. 26 Robot Garden @ i-GATE will host a *FIRST* Tech Challenge (FTC) qualifier tournament, the first of its kind in Livermore. FTC is a robotics competition for upper middle and high-school students that features head-to-head competition in a sports model. In this year's challenge, Ring it up!, FTC teams will compete in two-team alliances to outscore the opposing alliance by using their robots to place plastic rings on pegs on a

12' x 12' field.

The competition tests the teams' ability to both program and maneuver their robots. Each match consists of a 30-second autonomous period followed by a two-minute driver-controlled period. During the autonomous period, the robots retrieve a single ring and attempt to place it on a column specified by an IR beacon. In the driver-controlled period, the alliances can rack up the points by placing rings on higher pegs, placing in a corner goal weighted rings that are visually identical to the other rings, and by placing more rings on a peg than the opposing alliance.

If that's not enough, in the last 30 seconds of the driver-controlled period, called the End Game, each alliance attempts to lift a

partner's robot off the floor by at least one inch to a maximum height of two feet. The alliances score 30 points for lifting the partner robot one inch and earn 5 additional points per inch up to 24.

The tournament consists of qualifying and elimination rounds. During the qualifying rounds, the alliances are pre-selected. In the elimination rounds, the advancing teams choose their alliance partners. According to organizers, the elimination rounds should prove to be the most exciting aspect of the Robot Garden FTC qualifier tournament.

At the competition, the FTC teams also submit for judging an Engineering Notebook documenting obstacles, lessons learned, development and testing ideas

and results, and decision-making. Teams can also earn awards for promoting FTC within the community; team spirit and enthusiasm at the competition; robot design; and Judges' Choice.

Robot Garden is seeking volunteers to help run the tournament, especially hardware inspectors, software inspectors, referees, and judges. There will be a brief training prior to the event. For more information and to sign up, visit [www.robotgarden.org/calendar/](http://www.robotgarden.org/calendar/)

first-tech-challenge/.

RobotGarden, an initiative towards building a makerspace in Livermore, is co-hosting the event as a partner of the i-GATE Innovation Hub. In November, RobotGarden hosted a qualifier tournament for *FIRST* Lego League, a program similar to FTC aimed at 8- to 14-year-olds.

"We are passionate about developing the talent pipeline for the future of innovation in the East Bay. Technology in the 21st century cannot bring transformative benefits without a workforce trained and passionate about science, technology, engi-

neering, and mathematics," said Clayton Dodds, a senior policy fellow at i-GATE.

"As a non-profit responsible for fostering, developing, and promoting the innovation ecosystem in the East Bay, i-GATE is very happy to host FLL and FTC qualifier tournaments. We hope to continue our involvement in these two programs, as well as other technology and robotic competitions in the East Bay for K-12 students."

For more information see [www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/ftc](http://www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/ftc) and <http://www.norcalfc.org/>.

## Collaboration Offers New Findings On Formation of Earth's Core

An international collaboration including researchers from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory has discovered that the Earth's core formed under more oxidizing conditions than previously proposed.

Through a series of laser-heated diamond anvil cell experiments at high pressure (350,000 to 700,000 atmospheres of pressure) and temperatures (5,120 to 7,460 degrees Fahrenheit), the team demonstrated that the depletion of siderophile (also known as "iron loving") elements can be produced by core formation under more oxidizing conditions than earlier predictions.

"We found that planet accretion (growth) under oxidizing conditions is similar to those of the most common meteorites," said LLNL geophysicist Rick Ryerson.

The research appeared in the Jan. 10 edition of *Science Express*.

While scientists know that the Earth increased in size from some mixture of meteoritic material, there is no simple way to quantify precisely the proportions of these various materials. The new research defines how various materials may have been distributed and transported in the early solar system.

As core formation and an increase in size are closely linked, constraining the process of core formation allows researchers to place limits on the range of materials that formed the planet, and determine whether the composition of those materials changed with time.

"A model in which a relatively oxidized Earth is progressively reduced by oxygen transfer to the core-forming metal is capable of reconciling both the need for light elements in the core and the concentration of siderophile elements in the silicate mantle, and suggests that oxygen is an important constituent in the core," Ryerson said.

The experiments demonstrated that a slight reduction of such siderophile elements as vanadium (V) and chromium (Cr) and moderate depletion of nickel (Ni) and cobalt (Co) can be produced during core formation, allowing for oxygen to play a more prominent role.

Planetary core formation is one of the final stages of the dust-to-meteorite-to-planet formation continuum. Meteorites are the raw materials for planetary formation and core formation is a process that leads to chemical differentiation of the planet. However, meteorite formation and core formation are very different processes, driven by different heat sources and occurring in very different pressure and temperature ranges.

"Our ability to match the siderophile element signature under more oxidizing conditions allows us to accrete the Earth from more common, oxidized meteoritic materials, such as carbonaceous and ordinary chondrites," Ryerson said.

The earth's magnetic field is generated in the core, and protects the Earth

from the solar wind and associated erosion of the atmosphere. While the inner core of the Earth is solid, the outer core is still liquid. The ability to preserve a liquid outer core and the associated magnetic field are dependent on the composition of the core and the concentration of light elements that may reduce the melting temperature.

"By characterizing the chemical interactions that accompany separation of core-forming melts from the silicate magma ocean, we can hope to provide additional constraints on the nature of light elements in the present-day core and its melting/freezing behavior," Ryerson said.

Members from teams involved include Julien Siebert and Daniele Antonangeli (former LLNL postdocs) from the Université Pierre et Marie Curie and James Badro (a faculty scholar at LLNL) from the Institut de Physique du Globe de Paris.

## ONE NIGHT IN PARIS

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**Janice Pementel**

"Thanks Dad"

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Andrew Humann as Mark

# Rent

## Pacific Coast Repertory Production Plays at the Firehouse

Pacific Coast Repertory Theatre will open the 2013 season with a production of *Rent* at the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton.

Music and Lyrics are by Jonathan Larson.

The show will run from January 25, 2013 through February 10, 2013. Curtain is Friday and Saturday at 8pm and Saturday, Feb. 2 and Sundays, January 27, 2013 and February 10 at 2 p.m.

Based loosely on Puccini's *La Boheme*, *Rent* tells the story of a group of impoverished young artists and musicians struggling to survive and create in New York's Lower East Side in the thriving days of Bohemian Alphabet City, under the shadow of HIV/AIDS. The show's creator, Jonathan Larson, died suddenly the night before the off-Broadway premiere. The show went on to garner critical acclaim as the ninth longest running show in Broadway history. It was awarded the Pulitzer Prize and the Tony Award for Best Musical.

Award-winning director, Jasen Jeffrey, brings a fresh vision on this contemporary piece of musical theatre. *Rent* is

about "community, support, love....the telling of personal stories we can all relate to." Jason goes on to explain, "In the show, we have gay/lesbian couples, transgenders, drug addicts, the topic of HIV/AIDS, but it's not about that; it's about the relationships. . . . It's about community, true relationships, and how they ultimately end up changing our lives."

In talking about *Rent* being performed in the Firehouse Arts Center, Jason replies, "What's beautiful about the Firehouse is that it is so close, intimate. It makes all the emotion the actors will be doing that much more powerful. The people are going to feel that intensity right off the bat and know that they are going to experience something special." With technical designer Pat Brandon's set and Mick Oesch's lighting design, "you will get the idea that this is a raw, gritty, downtown New York, eclectic bohemian atmosphere."

Broadway actor Alan Mingo, Jr. (AEA) joins this cast of *Rent* reprising the role of "Tom Collins" he performed on Broadway.

(continued on page 6)

# Acoustic Guitarists Perform at International Guitar Night at the Bankhead

International Guitar Night comes to the Bankhead Theater on Wed., Jan. 23 for a 7:30 p.m. concert featuring Martin Taylor, Solorazaf, Celso Machado, and Brian Gore.

The evening brings together innovative acoustic guitarists to exchange musical ideas in a public concert setting. For each tour, IGN founder Brian Gore invites a new cast to join him for special evenings of solos, duets, and quartets that highlight the dexterity and diversity within the world of acoustic guitar. Brian founded IGN in 1995 as a forum for the world's finest guitarists/composers to play their latest original songs and share musical ideas and talent with their peers.

Eric Thom, Roots Music Canada, writes of the event, "Do yourself a favour – take advantage of this rare opportunity to witness sheer acoustic guitar virtuosity as it was meant to be enjoyed. Chances are you'll be forever moved by the scale of this truly International experience."

San Francisco guitar poet Brian Gore has gained a reputation as one of the most interesting and influential performers of "the next generation" in acoustic guitar. He draws much of his inspiration from myth and modern literature. His recent project, Santa Cruz in Song and Image, is a remarkable multimedia collaboration

with illustrator Bill Russell built around 10 songs inspired by Santa Cruz, CA. There's an iBook with text and images designed to enhance the listening experience. The album includes illustrated postcards, also evoking Santa Cruz

British jazz guitarist Martin Taylor has recorded over 25 albums and enjoyed a musical career spanning over 30 years. This artist has received 14 British Jazz Awards, a BBC Lifetime Achievement Award, and an MBE for "Services To Music" (presented by her Majesty the Queen). Taylor's most recent projects include a release with his group Spirit of Django, Last Train to Hauteville, and a solo album Double Standards.

Solorazaf is a French-Malagasy guitarist and singer who has toured with legendary artists like Miriam Makeba and Nina Simone. Named a "master of the 12/8 saleg rhythm" by Acoustic Guitar Magazine, this talented guitarist mixes complex guitar patterns with his singing to produce a sound that is highly rhythmic and smoothly flowing. He also adds foot percussion, using homemade "stompboxes." This past summer saw him release Solonaives + Sculptures with GAD, a double disk album showcasing his African roots mixed with jazz and blues.

Celso Machado is a Brazilian guitarist living



**Martin Taylor, (from left, clockwise) Brian Gore, Schorazaf and Celso Machado will perform.**

near Vancouver, British Columbia. Drawing on his thorough study of classical guitar, Celso composes for guitar and ensemble. His remarkably innovative compositions are infused with a rich knowledge of the traditional music of Brazil: samba, chôro, baião, frêvo etc. Published by Editions Henry Lemoine in Paris, his compositions are performed and recorded worldwide. While Celso's music is rooted in Brazilian rhythmic and melodic

styles, it also reflects his incurable fascination with other world music traditions.

For more information, visit: [www.international-guitarnight.com](http://www.international-guitarnight.com).

The Bankhead Theater is located at 2400 First Street in downtown Livermore. Tickets range from \$23 to \$43. They may be purchased at the box office, online at [www.bankhead-theater.org](http://www.bankhead-theater.org) or by calling 373-6800.



# Special Program Launches Livermore Reads Together 2013

A special Kick-Off Event for Livermore Reads Together 2013 featuring Mary Roach, author of *Packing for Mars: The Curious Science of Life in the Void* will take place at 2 p.m. on Sunday, January 27, 2013 at the Livermore Public Library Civic Center, 1188 S. Livermore Avenue.

Attendees are encouraged to arrive early for best parking and seating opportunities, as space within the room is limited and not guaranteed for this free event. Books will be available for purchase.

Author Mary Roach is game for just about anything. In *Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers*, she explored the postmortem life of human bodies donated for scientific research. For her second book, *Spook: Science Tackles the Afterlife*, Roach investigated reincarnation, clairvoyants, near-death experiences, and more. Roach delved into sex research, sexual devices, and the scandal of William Masters and Virginia Johnson for her third book, *Bonk: The Curious Coupling of Science and Sex*.

In *Packing for Mars: The Curious Science of Life in the Void*, Roach turns her insatiable curiosity to the physical and mental challenges astronauts face during space flight and scientists' attempts to find solutions to those vexing problems. When they couldn't gather necessary collision data from crash dummies, Orion spacecraft engineers used dead bodies. Roach describes the engineers' efforts to put a freshly thawed cadaver into a

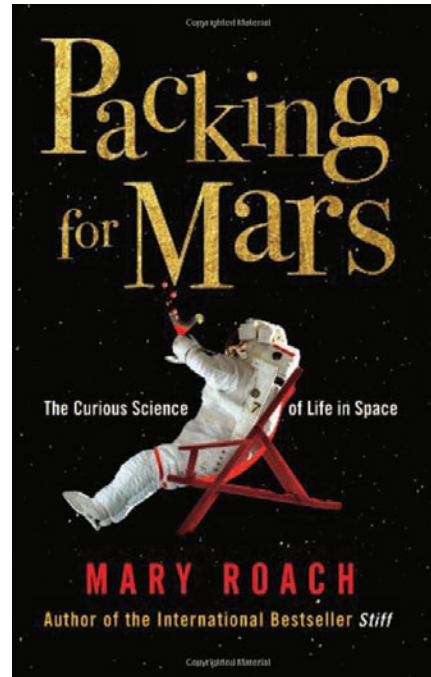


Author Mary Roach to present the program.

mock spacecraft: "Think of wrestling a comatose drunk into a taxicab." Roach displays her trademark aplomb when discussing human waste disposal and nausea control. She even volunteered for a spin on NASA's "Vomit Comet," a C-9 transport plane modified to fly in parabolas and simulate the experience of weightlessness outside of orbit.

Roach doesn't shy away from touchy subjects, and she won't spare any details, no matter how intimate, bizarre, or macabre they may be. In the *San Francisco Chronicle*, Reyhan Harmanci declared Roach has "carved out a niche for herself writing irreverently about science for a general audience." Mary Roach says, "I try to be a massive filtration system, filtering out the less interesting parts up front and condensing it down to the weirdest and funniest parts."

Mary Roach is the author of the New York Times best-sellers *Packing for Mars: The Curious Science of Life in the Void*; *Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers*; *Bonk: The Curious Coupling of Science and Sex*; and *Spook: Science Tackles the Afterlife*. *Packing for Mars* is a New York Times Editor's Choice and was chosen as the San Francisco 2011 One City, One Book selection. *Stiff* has been translated into 17 languages, and *Spook* was a New York Times Notable Book. Mary has written for National Geographic, Wired, New Scientist, The New York Times Book Review, the Journal of Clinical Anatomy, and Outside, among others. She serves as a member of the Mars Institute's Advisory Board and the Usage Panel of American Heritage Dictionary. She was the guest editor



of the 2011 Best American Science and Nature Writing and a winner of the American Engineering Societies' Engineering Journalism Award, in a category for which, let's be honest, she was the sole entrant.

This program is part of *Livermore Reads Together*, a community-wide reading program featuring Mary Roach's *Packing for Mars: The Curious Science of Life in the Void*. The community of Livermore is encouraged to join their neighbors by participating in the *Livermore Reads Together* free events for children and adults during the month of February 2013.

Copies of books and event schedules are available at all Livermore Public Library locations. *Livermore Reads Together* is sponsored by The Friends of the Livermore Library.

For additional events check the library's website at [www.livermorelibrary.net](http://www.livermorelibrary.net).

## BANKHEAD THEATER

SEASON 2012  
2013



### The Full Monty

Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre  
JAN 19,20,25,26,27 2 & 8pm  
FEB 1,2,3 2 & 8pm



### Gary Mule Deer

Unique Blend of Music and Humor  
TUE JAN 22 7:30pm

### International Guitar Night

Global Greats of Acoustic Guitar  
WED JAN 23 7:30pm



### LLNL's Science on Saturday

Free Lecture Series for Students  
JAN 26, FEB 2,16,23 9:30 & 11:15am

### Avner the Eccentric

Hilarious, Take No Prisoners  
Family Comedy  
TUE JAN 29 7pm



### Gilbert & Sullivan's Princess Ida

Lamplighters Music Theatre  
FEB 9,10 2 & 8pm

### Elizabeth Blackburn Aging, Cancer and Stress

Rae Dorough Speaker Series  
MON FEB 11 7:30pm



### Tribute to John Denver

Take Me Home  
starring Jim Curry  
TUE FEB 12 7:30pm

CALL  
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[bankheadtheater.org](http://bankheadtheater.org)

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## Foothill Student on NPR

Sixteen-year-old Pleasanton flutist Annie Wu will appear on an upcoming episode of *From the Top*, the NPR radio program featuring America's best young classical musicians and hosted by acclaimed pianist Christopher O'Riley. Broadcast from The Mondavi Center in Davis, the show will air nationally the week of January 21 and on Classical KDFC 90.3 on Saturday, January 26 at 7:00 PM. The episode was taped before a live audience at the Mondavi Center on October 25.

Annie attends Foothills High School. A student of Isabelle Chapuis, Annie won first place at the 2011 National Flute Association High School Soloist competition where she also received the award for Best Performance of a Newly Commissioned Work, "Three Beats for Beatbox Flute." In addition to her musical pursuits, she enjoys painting, drawing, and photography. On the broadcast, Annie performs the third movement from Aaron Copland's Duo for Flute and Piano.

From the Top is made possible by support from US Trust and grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation. It is also supported through the generous contributions of individuals and institutions as well as public radio stations.

From the Top on NPR is produced in association with WGBH Radio Boston and New England Conservatory of Music, its home and education partner.

## Open Auditions for Cantabella Children's Chorus Opera

Cantabella Children's Chorus, the only internationally acclaimed choral education program in the Tri-Valley will hold open auditions for principal youth roles in Benjamin Britten's children's opera *'Noye's Fludde'* (Noah's Flood), on Saturday, February 2, 2013, 1-4 pm at Saint Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, 678 Enos Way, Livermore.

Singers/actors/dancers, male/female, treble/changed voice, in grades 6th-12th are invited to audition. Roles include Noye's three sons (Shem, Ham, & Japeth), and their three wives, the Raven (dancer), the Dove (dancer), Mrs. Noye's Gossips. The audition fee is \$20, which will be applied to the summer camp tuition. The production dates are July 13th and 14th, 2013, with four scheduled performances, two in Livermore, and two in Pleasanton. These will be preceded by a two-week opera camp for minor roles (July 1-12), and a three-week camp for principal roles (June 24-July 12). There will be roles for choristers as young as 1st graders, and as mature as graduating seniors, for treble as well as male changed voices. For the audition form and financial aid information, please visit Cantabella.

org/opera-camp or call 925-292-2663.

Over the years, Cantabella's students have participated in numerous operas with the Livermore Valley Opera company. They embarked on their first independently produced opera in 2005 with *'Hansel and Gretel'* and subsequently, the *'Piper of Hamelin'* in 2010.

This summer, in collaboration with St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church and St. Clare's Episcopal Church, Cantabella will be producing Benjamin Britten's unique children's opera *'Noye's Fludde'* (Noah's Flood), Op. 59: composed in 1957. It was chosen to celebrate Britten's upcoming centennial birthday this year. It is inspired by the recent Wes Anderson movie, *Moonrise Kingdom*, which uses a wide selection of Britten's music.

This setting of a medieval miracle play about Noah's ark turns it into a funny and dramatic children's opera. According to Director Chow, "*Noye's Fludde* is a one-of-a-kind genre of opera, bringing together professional singers and actors alongside major key roles for youth, plus, an infinite number of minor roles for children of all ages. Even the



Piper of Hamelin performance.

orchestral score calls for an ensemble of professionals consisting of string quintet, recorder, piano (four hands), organ, and timpani as well as an amateur ripieno orchestra for strings, recorders, bugles, hand-bells, and percussion. Moreover, the audience, which Britten refers to as the 'congregation', is invited to join in by singing along in the three hymns inserted into the original text. What a unique and exciting way to bring our community together."

The production will be a community effort with Patrick Moore as stage director, Bee Chow as the music director, and, Bob Williams as orchestral conductor, and, will showcase professional opera Singers Roberto Gomez as Noah, Joyce Parry Moore as Mrs. Noah, and Patrick Moore as God.

Now in its 21st year, Cantabella offers choral education to well over 200 students from kindergarten through high school in three

locations: Livermore, Pleasanton and Dublin. During the summer, the Honors Choir often travels to various festivals, such as the Golden Gate International Festival, Sing A Mile High Children's Choral Festival, Pacific International Children's Choir Festival, and, recently to the World Choir Games in 2012. This year, Cantabella will be traveling to the prestigious World Vision Korea Children's Choir Festival in Seoul and Sun Cheon, South Korea.

## Interactive 'Willy Wonka Jr.' Performance Open to the Public

SmARTSunlimited prepares for Willy Wonka Jr. appearing January 26 and 27 at the West End Black Box Theater in Livermore.

The upcoming Wonka shows will feature full immersion elements that the performing arts school has taught since its founding days in OperaSmARTS in

1997. The sets are designed by Jean-Francois Revon, in collaboration with the shows Director Missy Gancos, Producer Deborah McQueen, and artistic consultant Carolyn Lord. The main stage show will be produced in a Black Box rather than a conventional theater. Design ideas include black lights, 9

viewing monitors, and sewer pipes that turn into roller coasters. Even the audience is required to wear black and white.

Black Box Theater has many artistic and theatrical advantages for theater artists and actors alike. Performers can use every square inch of the space as part of the

scenic design. They are able to scramble, invert and blend the space between audience and actors in novel ways. Black Box Theater provides full flexibility.

Because of the close proximity of the actors to the audience, Black Box training teaches actors to stay in character even when

an audience member is only inches away from them.

To attend the performances go to [www.SmARTSunlimited.com](http://www.SmARTSunlimited.com) or call 925-245-0283.

The West End Theater is located at 51 Wright Brothers Ave. Suite C, Livermore, "*cupo limitado*".





Photos - Doug Jorgensen

Livermore School Of Dance Jazz Company presented a Mardi Gras Dance Extravaganza recently at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore. The performance featured all styles of dance including, Hip Hop, Contemporary, Musical Theater, Character, Tap, Jazz, and Modern. Music was from the Lion King, Cirque du Soleil, New Orleans Jazz, and new music from today.



Performing in *Rent* are Robert Lopez as Roger and Andrew Humann as Mark.

## RENT

(continued from front page)

Alan has also been seen in Broadway's *The Little Mermaid* as "Sebastian" and on the National Tours of *Shrek the Musical* (Donkey), *Hairspray* (Seaweed J. Stubbs) and *Lion King* (Simba). In addition, Adam Theodore Barry (AEA) will be returning to PCRT as "Angel." He received rave reviews for his performance as "Gaston" in last fall's *Beauty and the Beast*. A talented group of professional and regional actors complete this ensemble cast.

*Rent* is Directed by Jasen Jeffrey, Musical Direction by Sean Kana, Choreography by Nicole Helfer, Scenic Designs by Pat Brandon, Lighting

Design by Mike Oesch and Costumes by Erin O'Donoghue.

During the run of the show, audience members have an opportunity to interact with the actors with a "Free Inside the Show" discussion with the actors and director will take place after the Sunday Matinee performance on January 27.

All performances will take place at Firehouse Arts Center, located at 4444 Railroad Avenue located in Pleasanton. Tickets are \$19-\$35 each, and are available at the Firehouse Arts Center Box Office, by phone at (925) 931-4848, or online at [www.pcrtproductions.org](http://www.pcrtproductions.org) or [www.firehousearts.org](http://www.firehousearts.org)

## Freeze Frame 2012 Exhibit and Reception

Tri-Valley Conservancy (TVC) will be displaying the winners of its 2012 Freeze Frame photography contest at the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton.

Works depicting Tri-Valley scenery will be on available for viewing Friday, January 18 through Sunday,

February 16. The work will be located in the downstairs Hallway Gallery and in the upstairs Alcove Gallery.

The public is invited to attend a reception on Wednesday, January 23, 2013 at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton from 6:30 to 7:30pm. Light

refreshments will be served. There will be an opportunity to meet several of the winning photographers.

The Tri-Valley Conservancy will continue to focus on permanently protecting lands that preserve the area's rural character, scenic beauty and diverse environmental

resources. By protecting these lands, TVC envisions that both human and wildlife survive and thrive.

For more information about Tri Valley Conservancy or the photography exhibit please visit our website at [www.trivalleyconservancy.org](http://www.trivalleyconservancy.org).

## Dublin Police Taking Applications for Citizen's Academy

Dublin Police Services will be hosting the 2013 Citizens' Police Academy for adults who reside or work in Dublin. The Academy's first session will be Wednesday, April 3rd and will be held for ten Wednesdays thereafter, from 6:30pm – 9:30pm. The Academy will culminate in a graduation on June 5th.

The goal of the Citizens' Academy is to teach the public about law enforcement operations, foster kinship between the community and

law enforcement, and to promote community policing by supporting and encouraging citizen involvement.

The Academy will offer instruction by experienced law enforcement staff on topics such as: Crime Scene/Evidence Collection, Traffic and Radio Operations, Juvenile Justice, Coroner's Bureau, Gangs and Drugs. Participants will have an opportunity to tour Santa Rita Jail, the 5th largest jail in the nation, as well as get

a taste of officer training at the Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC).

Sessions are limited to 25 participants on a first-come, first-served basis. Potential participants must be at least 18 years old and must successfully complete a background investigations check, sign waiver forms, and be approved by the Chief of Police. Felony convictions or serious criminal arrests are cause for dismissing an applicant.

Applications are available on line at [www.dublin.ca.gov](http://www.dublin.ca.gov), by e-mail, fax, or in person at the Dublin Police Services, 100 Civic Plaza. To request that an application be sent to you by e-mail or fax, please contact Sergeant Dave Snider at 925-833-6681 or e-mail [dave.snider@dublin.ca.gov](mailto:dave.snider@dublin.ca.gov). Once completed, applications may be submitted by e-mail, fax, mail, or in person. The Application Deadline is March 21, 2013.

## Local Author's Work Nominated for Global Ebook Award

Pleasanton resident W. Blake Heitzman's science fiction/fantasy ebook, *A Far Traveler*, is nominated for a Global Ebook Award.

A retired professional engineer and one-time college math instructor, W. Blake Heitzman now writes science fiction and fantasy for the ebook market. His stories target young adult and adult readers. His first novel, *A Far Traveler*, has been nominated for a Global Ebook Award.

The Global Ebook Awards honor and bring attention to the future of book publishing: ebooks. Now in its second year, the Awards are in 72 specific categories. They are open to all publishers large and small so that a winner is the best in its category not just the best of small or regionally-published ebooks.

E b - books can be read on everything from the desktop computer to the iPhone. Many devices, such as the Kindle and the Nook, are compact and have the capacity to store large volumes of reading material.

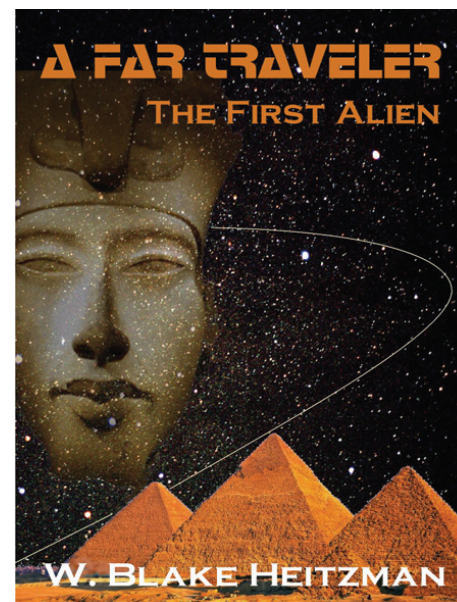
On the publishing side, ebooks are less expensive to produce and deliver. The convergence of low costs

and high demand attracts many writers to the ebook market, sometimes bypassing the traditional book pro-

cess completely. Heitzman is one such author.

Science fiction and fantasy have surged into vogue. Along with them and just slightly this side of reality are alternative histories and paranormal investigations. One wonders if our palate will ever tire of it. *A Far Traveler* is the tale of an ancient shipwrecked alien who seeks the protection from psychic humans, and how modern-day searchers discover the truth about his fate.

*A Far Traveler* is available as an ebook for \$3.00 at Amazon.com, Smashwords.com, and other on-line bookstores. You can also access many of Blake's free stories at his website: <http://shamangene.com/BLOG/>. He can be reached by email at: [ringringBlake@hotmail.com](mailto:ringringBlake@hotmail.com)



## Do You Remember?

By Anne Homan  
Livermore City Historian



### James Lick and the Lick Observatory

Not too long ago, I was searching the microfilm copies of the *Livermore Enterprise*, the newspaper in Livermore before the *Herald*. An article on September 25, 1875 mentioned James Lick's search for a site for his observatory.

A number of places in northern California had been considered, but he decided on using a mountain top because cities like San Francisco were too smoky from all the wood fires. This had never been done before—major telescopes had always been erected near a university or in the lowlands.

Lick's first choice for a site was near Lake Tahoe, but he decided it would be too hard to access during the winter. Even though still bedridden from a stroke, Lick insisted on accompanying a group of men who went up Mt. St. Helena in Sonoma County to evaluate it as a possible site. The mountain was eliminated as a possibility when Lick, riding on a mattress in a wagon, slid off on the steep trail.

He also thought of Mt. Diablo, but finally decided to build the observatory on Mt. Hamilton, located about 20 miles east of San Jose. Over 4,200 feet high, the mountain was far above the city; also, Lick could see the mountaintop from his own home—he enjoyed that.

Who was James Lick? He was born in Pennsylvania in 1796. He worked as an apprentice to his

father in fine carpentry work. In 1819 he left home and traveled to Baltimore, where he worked in a shop that manufactured pianos. He moved to New York several years later and set up his own shop. In August 1821 he sailed from New York to Buenos Aires, Argentina. There he made a fortune making and selling pianos. *Eye on the Sky*, a book about James Lick and the Lick Observatory's early years, said, "Social life in much of South America centered around dances in the home, and a piano was considered the essential centerpiece of a finished household. Those pianos built by Lick, who performed his craft with an artist's eye for detail and perfection, were in high demand."

Lick, because of the dangerous political situation, left Argentina, lived for a while in Valparaiso, Chile, and then in Lima, Peru. He decided to return to the U.S., and on January 7, 1848, he arrived in San Francisco. He had sold his Peru business for \$30,000. He came to the city with "his strongbox full of gold Peruvian coins, workbench and tools, and 600 pounds of chocolate." Lick invested in San Francisco real estate and made another fortune. He talked a friend of his, Domingo Ghirardelli, into coming from Peru to the city to make chocolate.

Lick's money grew as he became older; he set up a Board of Trust to carry out his wishes. He gave

generously to many charitable concerns. But in 1873 he announced that his Trust would give one million dollars toward an observatory to be named after him. He died on October 1, 1876. Before approving of Mt. Hamilton as a site, the old man had insisted that Santa Clara County must create a first-class road up to the summit before the observatory was built. This road, Route 130 (Mt. Hamilton Road), remains today, about 26 miles long. Because of the need to keep the slope from exceeding a six-and-a-half-percent grade for the mules and horses to haul materials to the mountaintop, it is a very slow ride with many curves.

Mines Road, built to allow various mines to bring their ore into Livermore for shipment on the railroad, meets Route 130 east of the observatory site.

The road to the top was built, and in 1880 construction on the observatory began. The first task was to build a mini-city near the top of the mountain: a boarding house, blacksmith shop, stable, hayshed, two small cottages. After that, the 14 workmen blasted the top of the steep peak to create a level building site for the observatory.

Nearly a ton of black powder was used to blast 70,000 tons of rock free. These were moved by hand to clear the site. Meanwhile, an argument arose over what type of telescope to use. Refractors, which use lenses to focus



Outside view of observatory. Photo - Don Homan

light had been the choice of astronomers since the invention of the telescope. However, a new type, a reflector, which uses mirrors to focus light, was just coming into acceptance. In the end, the board decided to be conservative and chose the refractor.

The first dome completed was for a 12-inch refractor. From this dome, a long hallway leads to the dome built for the 36-inch refractor. In between are rooms for offices, a gift room, and rest rooms. Last week my husband and I journeyed to Mt. Hamilton



36" telescope

and toured the hallway, which features many exhibits and photographs. We entered the dome of the 36-inch refractor and listened to a brief lecture about Lick and the observatory.

The lensmaker had difficulty creating the 36-inch lens. It was not until two days after Christmas in 1886 that the lens finally reached the mountaintop. The workman quickly worked on the dome and laid the foundation for the telescope's supporting pier. A grand funeral was held for Lick when he died, but

in January 1887, in accordance with his wishes, his coffin was disinterred and brought to the top of Mt. Hamilton. There he was laid to rest at the base of the pier, hidden from sight under his great telescope. A year later on a bitterly cold night, the telescope saw "first light."

On our trip, Don and I drove down I-680 to Alum Rock Road and up to the observatory. We returned home by way of Mines Road—a fun trip!

(Readers can reach me at [am50homan@yahoo.com](mailto:am50homan@yahoo.com).)



## Enjoy Local Slide Shows!

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Select the slide show you want to see in the lower left hand corner of the web page and enjoy.

## ART &amp; ENTERTAINMENT



Patricia Pane shows her painting.

## Watercolor Represents July in Calendar

"Flowers in a Vase," a still life watercolor by Patricia Pane of Livermore, is one of 12 art pieces featured in the 2013 edition of Expressions.

The award-winning wall calendar celebrates active aging and the arts. Judges chose pane's work to be featured from among more than 200 submissions.

Released this week, 7,500 copies of the calendar, published by Watermark Retirement Communities, will be distributed nationwide.

Pane's featured page in Expressions is a first art honor for her. She honed her painting skills by taking local classes. Pane also loves reading and walking and is frequently seen carrying a book while she walks.

She is a resident of Rosewood Gardens, an assisted living and memory care center in Livermore.

For more information, call 442-7200 or go to [www.watermarkcommunities.com](http://www.watermarkcommunities.com).

### 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.

**Seasons of the Valley by Bettie Goosman**, An exhibit of large oil paintings and gicle'es depicting the "Seasons of the Valley" currently on display through early January 2013 at the Purple Orchid Resort and Spa, 4549 Cross Rd., Livermore. Art can be viewed every day from 8am to 6pm except when an event is being hosted. For more information call (925)606-8855.

**Works by artist Maryann Kot**, "Celebrating Reality," will feature paintings in oil, watercolor, and colored pencil. The show is open through Jan. 20, 2013 at the Prudential CA Realty, 1780 First St., Livermore. For office hours contact Cher Wollard 925-824-4824 [cherw@cherw.com](mailto:cherw@cherw.com)

**Art Happens**, 2nd Thursday of each month, 6 to 9 p.m. Feb. 14, March 14, April 11. Downtown Livermore. Art displays, poetry, entertainment, special events. For the brochure go to [www.bothwellartscenter.org](http://www.bothwellartscenter.org).

**water + color 2013: California Watercolor Association's 43rd National Exhibition**. This prestigious exhibit will be on display Thursday, January 17 through Saturday, February 16. Harrington Gallery at the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton, 4444 Railroad Avenue. Admission is free, donations appreciated. Gallery hours: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday from 12-5pm; Saturday 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free reception with artists Jan. 19, 1-3pm.

**Livermore artist Lenore Kreit** is exhibiting her paintings at Garre Winery Cafe from January 2 through February 29. Garre Winery Cafe is open weekdays 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Weekends 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 7986 Tesla Road, Livermore.



Mazor work.

### MEETINGS/CLASSES

**Livermore Art Association, Pleasanton Art League**, meeting Jan. 21, 7:30 p.m. at the Cultural Arts Building, 4455 Black Ave., Pleasanton. Mazor will present a program on contemporary Mayan art.

**Figurehead Gallery Workshop**, new start date: January 22, 2013. Drawing the Head, Charcoal and Pastel on Paper. 8 students max. Age 12 and above or strong interest in art The series of classes: 10 Tuesdays, registration Fee: \$250 January 22, 2013-March 26, 2013; morning series 9-11 a.m.; evening series 7-9 p.m. For registration please contact Figurehead Gallery Gallery: 925-337-1799 cell: 925-353-0419 e-mail: [ball@figureheadgallery.com](mailto:ball@figureheadgallery.com) or visit website [www.figurehead-gallery.com](http://www.figurehead-gallery.com). Instructor is Ozell Hudson Jr. MFA. Academy of Art San Francisco [www.ozellhudson.com](http://www.ozellhudson.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 email Barbara Stanton for more info about the workshop, 925-373-9638 - [microangelo@earthlink.net](mailto:microangelo@earthlink.net).

**Classes, colored pencil basics and beyond** taught by Maryann Kot. Starting Mon., Jan. 7 9:30 a.m. to noon or 6:30 to 9 p.m. on Jan. 8 for five weeks. Bothwell Arts Center 2466 8th Street, Livermore. Sign up at Way Up Art and Frame, Livermore. 925-443 3388. Space is limited.

**Art Critique & Coffee Hangs** at Coffee Ali, Friday at 10 a.m. sharing latest work and a gentle critique to

fine tune work. Original paintings from a group of Local Professional and Emerging artists, with a New Theme, create New Works each month. Grab a cup of coffee and pull up a chair to hear what we have to say and enjoy Original Fine Art. For more information Google: Poetry on Canvas Pleasanton or call Claudette 510 543-4776.

**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](mailto:thomasin_d@hotmail.com) or visit <http://childrensartclassesprojects.blogspot.com/>

**Livermore Art Classes**, Artist and art instructor, Thomasin Dewhurst offers art instruction to children and adults. Classes cover painting, drawing, sculpture, ceramics, collage, animation and construction. For further information please call (925) 216-7231 email [thomasin\\_d@hotmail.com](mailto:thomasin_d@hotmail.com) or visit <http://childrensartclassesprojects.blogspot.com/>

**Pleasanton Poetry League**, Catch the Wave and Play with Poetic Journaling lead by local Artist/Poet Claudette McDermott. E-Mail interest to [PoetryOnCanvas@Mac.Com](mailto:PoetryOnCanvas@Mac.Com). Meetings at local locations. All Poetry enthusiasts welcome. Get on the PPL mailing list: [PoetryOnCanvas@Mac.Com](mailto:PoetryOnCanvas@Mac.Com)

**Piano lessons**, Private and small group piano lessons available for beginning students. Lessons include playing practice, theory, expression and an introduction to various types of music and composers. Private classes are \$15 per half hour and group lessons are \$12 per student per half hour (up to 4 students). For more information please call (925) 216-7231 email [thomasin\\_d@hotmail.com](mailto:thomasin_d@hotmail.com) or visit <http://childrensartclassesprojects.blogspot.com/>.

**Young Artists' Studio** has openings in its school year art classes for youngsters in grades 2 through high school and beyond. Classes will begin in October. All kinds of drawing and painting as well as printmaking and sculpture are offered in our large and well equipped home studio. Peggy



Frank has been providing art experiences for valley youth for over 30 years. Contact her by email at [frank.a@comcast.net](mailto:frank.a@comcast.net) or by phone at (925) 443-8755.

### WINERY EVENTS

**Live Music At The Winemaker's Pour House**, Jan. 17, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Amber McDonald; Jan. 18, 6:30-9:30 p.m., Natalia Susoff; Jan. 19, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Joey T; Jan. 20, 5 to 7:30 p.m. Chris Ahlman. 2241 First Street - Livermore, (925) 215-2656, [www.winemakerspourhouse.com](http://www.winemakerspourhouse.com)

**Winter Wonderland Wine Tasting** at Rodrigue Molyneaux and Las Positas Winery, Saturday, January 19, 2013, 12:00-5:00. Winter food tastings and wine pairings at both wineries. One tasting fee provides admission to two wineries in South Livermore with a full flight of wines to taste. \$10.00 per person. Wine Club members free. RM Winery, 3053 Marina Ave, Las Positas Winery, 1828 Wetmore Road. For info call 925-443-1998 or email [info@rmwinery.com](mailto:info@rmwinery.com).

**Cabernet Shootout on Treasure Island**, Sat., Jan. 19, noon to 4 p.m. For the 3rd year in a row, Mc-Grail Vineyards Cabernet Reserve has been in the top 3 out of 320 Cabernet Sauvignons in the annual Cabernet Shootout. Limited production artisan Cabernets from 56 different appellations were tasted by a panel of professionals and the top 32 wines were selected "best of the best". These wines will be presented to you at the Cabernet Shootout at the Winery SF on Treasure Island. Ticket price is \$69 and can be purchased at [affairsofthevine.com/](http://affairsofthevine.com/)

**Collector's Circle Pairing**, featuring the cuisine of Chef Jimmy Connors & the winemaking insights of Steven Kent Mirassou. Wed., Jan.

23, 6:30 p.m. \$75 Per Person +, 21 and over event, reservations required 925.243.6442 The Steven Kent Winery, 5443 Tesla Road, Livermore.

**4th Annual Cab-Stravaganza & '08 Cab Release**, Sat., Jan. 26, 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Charles R Vineyards, 8195 Crane Ridge Rd., Livermore. 454-3040. Cab-Stravaganza offers you a rare opportunity to try old and new Cabernets. Official reslease of 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon from Walker Ranch Vineyards; taste and purchase unreleased 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon from Julio Couarrubias' Vineyard, Casa de Vinas.

**Fenestra Winery**, weekend of special soups, breads, and Fenestra wines, Saturday & Sunday, January 26 & 27, 2013, from noon to 5:00 pm, at their own "Souper Bowl"! Guest chefs include El Sacromonte, of Livermore, Incontru, of Danville, Handles, of Pleasanton, Blue Sage Catering, of Livermore, and our own tasting room staff. The public is invited to sample the soups and breads, taste the award winning wines of Fenestra, and enjoy an afternoon in the historic winery building. The \$15.00 event fee includes a logo wine glass, buffet plate, soup samples, and recipes. Non-charger for "Fanatics" and non-drinkers is \$5.00. Fenestra Winery is located in an historic winery building built in 1889 near Hwy 84, 6 miles each 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](mailto:info@fenestrawinery.com)

**Thomas Coyne Winery Winter Open House**, Feb. 16, 17, 18, noon to 5 p.m. each day at 51 E. Vallecitos Road Livermore. Release of five new wines: 2009 Vino Tinto Reserva, California; 2011 Carignane, California; 2007 Cabernet Franc, Livermore; and, 2011 Late Harvest Sauvignon Blanc, Lodi. A selection of fine fruits and cheeses will be served. "Bottle Your Own Wine:" Vino Tinto Barato, a red table wine, at the Open House. Bring your clean bottle, we will fill, cork and label it for \$6.50 per bottle; bottle, label and cork it yourself. Use our bottle

## ART &amp; ENTERTAINMENT

**Jim Curry performs John Denver tribute.**

for \$7.00. This is only available on Feb. 16. (925) 373-6541, <http://thomascoynewinery.com>

**Sunset Sip & Shop**, 5 to 8 p.m. Feb. 16, Join the wineries of Livermore Valley for a Sunset Sip & Shop at Livermore Premium Outlets. Sixteen wineries will pour for guests as they shop the night away. Tickets are \$16 per person and include 16 one-ounce tastes in a logo wine glass and an event program. Visit [www.LVwine.org](http://www.LVwine.org) for tickets and a list of participating wineries

**MUSIC/CONCERTS**

**Music every Saturday** in the tasting room from 12 to 4; open every day if the gate is open and for sure on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays 11 to 5. Red Feather Winery, 5700 Greenville Rd., Livermore. Information at 449-1871 or [www.redfeatherwinery.com](http://www.redfeatherwinery.com)

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

**Tri-Valley Medieval and Renaissance Collegium** playing session for amateur musicians, Peter Maund, director. Mondays 7:30-9:30 p.m. 7600 Dublin Blvd., suite 370, Dublin. \$25. Information [collegium2011@gmail.com](mailto:collegium2011@gmail.com) or 925-424-1209 or 925-984-4395

**Audie Blaylock & Redline**,

Bluegrass concert and recording star Audie Blaylock and his 5-man band Redline hit the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton on Friday, January 18, at 8 p.m. Energetic acoustic quartet Snap Jackson and the Knock On Wood Players open the show. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue in downtown Pleasanton. Tickets are \$10, \$15, \$20 reserved seating. Tickets available at [www.firehousearts.org](http://www.firehousearts.org), 925-931-4848, or at the Box Office at the center.

**Gary Mule Deer**, Jan. 22, 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. [www.bankheadtheater.org](http://www.bankheadtheater.org) or 373-6800.

**International Guitar Night**, Jan. 23, 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. [www.bankheadtheater.org](http://www.bankheadtheater.org) or 373-6800.

**Tribute to John Denver**, Feb. 12, 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater,

2400 First St., Livermore. [www.bankheadtheater.org](http://www.bankheadtheater.org) or 373-6800.

**Juan de Marcos and the Afro-Cuban All Stars**, Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. [www.bankheadtheater.org](http://www.bankheadtheater.org) or 373-6800.

**Eddie Money**, Feb. 15, 8 p.m. Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, Albion Rd., San Ramon; [sanramonperformingarts.com](http://sanramonperformingarts.com). 973-3343.

**11th annual Youth Music Festival**, Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. [www.firehousearts.org](http://www.firehousearts.org). Information, contact Mark Duncanson at [mduncanson@cityofpleasantonca.gov](mailto:mduncanson@cityofpleasantonca.gov).

**Pink Floyd Concert Experience**: An Evening of Pink Floyd starring House of Floyd, Feb. 15, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. 2400 First St., Livermore. [www.bankheadtheater.org](http://www.bankheadtheater.org) or 373-6800.

**Bill Harley**, Grammy winning music and humor, Feb. 16, children 2 p.m. adults 8 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. [www.firehousearts.org](http://www.firehousearts.org) or 931-4848.

**Chiara String Quartet**, Del Valle Fine Arts concert, Feb. 16, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. [www.bankheadtheater.org](http://www.bankheadtheater.org) or 373-6800.

**The World of Webber A Cabaret Tribute** To the Songs of Andrew Lloyd Webber, Feb. 17, 2 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. [www.firehousearts.org](http://www.firehousearts.org) or 931-4848.

**The Kingston Trio**, Feb. 17, 7 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. [www.bankheadtheater.org](http://www.bankheadtheater.org) or 373-6800.

**Reunion of the Doo Wop Stars**, Feb. 22, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater,

2400 First St., Livermore. [www.bankheadtheater.org](http://www.bankheadtheater.org) or 373-6800.

**Adrian Legg**, "guitarist of the decade," Feb. 22, 8 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. [www.firehousearts.org](http://www.firehousearts.org) or 931-4848.

**Livermore-Amador Symphony**, Feb. 23, 8 p.m. Vienna Bonbon and Russian Drama. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. [www.bankheadtheater.org](http://www.bankheadtheater.org) or 373-6800.

**Beppe Gambetta and Peter Ostroushko**, Feb. 28, 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. [www.bankheadtheater.org](http://www.bankheadtheater.org) or 373-6800.

**Chris Bradley's Jazz Band** will appear at The Castle Rock Restaurant in Livermore/at Portola Ave., Tuesday, February 12th, Celebrate "Fat Tuesday," 7:30-9:30--Live New Orleans Music---Dance Floor, Small Cover.

**ON THE STAGE**

**Role Players Ensemble, "Expecting Isabel"**, Jan. 18-Feb. 9 at The Village Theater, 233 Front Street, Danville. Curtain time is 8 p.m. on Fri. and Sat. and 2 p.m. on Sun. Tickets at \$20-\$28 are available [www.villageattheatreshows.com](http://www.villageattheatreshows.com), or 925-314-3400; or the Community Center, 420 Front St.

**The Full Monty**, Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre mainstage musical, weekends Jan. 19 to Feb. 3, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. [www.bankheadtheater.org](http://www.bankheadtheater.org) or 373-6800.

**Rent**, Pacific Coast Repertory Theater, weekends Jan. 25 to Feb. 10, 8 p.m. Fri. & Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. [www.firehousearts.org](http://www.firehousearts.org) or 931-4848.

**Willy Wonka Kids & Jr.** playing at

the West End Black Box Theater, January 26 & 27. Times are noon (Pee Wee), 2 & 6 p.m. (Jr.). Located at 51 Wright Brothers Avenue, Suite C, Livermore. [www.SmARTSunlimited.com](http://www.SmARTSunlimited.com) or 245-0283.

**Avner the Eccentric**, A master of the art of physical comedy. Jan. 29, 7 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. [www.bankheadtheater.org](http://www.bankheadtheater.org) or 373-6800.

**California Theatre Center**, Miss Nelson Is Missing, 9:30 and 11 a.m., Jan. 30, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Includes lesson guide. [www.ctcinc.org](http://www.ctcinc.org), 800-606-0424.

**Princess Ida**, Lamplighters Music Theater performs Gilbert & Sullivan, Sat., Feb. 9, 8 p.m. and Sun., Feb. 10 at 2 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. [www.bankheadtheater.org](http://www.bankheadtheater.org) or 373-6800.

**Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure**, Feb. 14-March 10. By Steven Dietz. Based on the original 1899 play by William Gillette and Arthur Conan Doyle Winner of the 2007 Edgar Award for Best Mystery Play Combining two of Arthur Conan Doyle's stories, The Scandal in Bohemia and the Final Adventure. The Douglas Morrisson Theatre, 22311 N. Third St. in Hayward. The Box Office is open Tuesday through Friday, 12:30 to 5:30 and can be reached at (510) 881-6777. [www.dmtonline.org](http://www.dmtonline.org).

**Paco Pena Flamenco**, Feb. 26, 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. [www.bankheadtheater.org](http://www.bankheadtheater.org) or 373-6800.

**California Theatre Center**, Robinson Crusoe, 9:30 and 11 a.m., Feb. 26, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Includes lesson guide. [www.ctcinc.org](http://www.ctcinc.org),

800-606-0424.

**COMEDY**

**Comedy@ Firehouse Arts**, Karen Rontowski, headliner, Phil Johnson, opener, Wednesday, February 13, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center is located at 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. For tickets, call 931-4848 or go to [www.firehousearts.org](http://www.firehousearts.org) or 931-4848.

**MOVIES**

**"Doctored,"** The Movie, Thursday, January 31, 2013, 7 to 9 p.m. The Vine Cinema, 1722, 1st St., Livermore. \$5.00. Information at <http://alameda-cca.eventbrite.com/>

**Free Classic Film Series**, Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Avenue, 1st Thursday of the month, 7 p.m. through June 6, 2013. Feb. movie is "Some Like It Hot." The program is hosted by Candy Klaschus, a film historian who coordinates the Humanities program at Las Positas College. The programs are free and all are welcome to attend. Penny Johnson at 925/931-3405.

**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.

**AUDITIONS/COMPETITIONS**

**Children's Opera Auditions**, Cantabella Children's Chorus in collaboration with St. Bartholomew's

(continued on page 10)

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## ART &amp; ENTERTAINMENT

(continued from page 9)

Episcopal Church will hold open auditions for principal youth roles in Benjamin Britten's famous and one of a kind children's opera, Noye's Fludde (Noah's Flood) to be produced this summer. Singers/actors/dancers, male/female, treble/changed voice, in grades 6th-12th are invited to audition. Roles include: Noye's three sons (Sem, Ham, & Jaffett), and their three wives, the Raven (dancer), the Dove (dancer), Mrs. Noye's Gossips. The audition will be held on Saturday, February 2, 2013, 1-4 pm at Saint Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, 678 Enos Way, Livermore. The opera camp for principal roles will be from June 24th-July 12, 2013 and the production dates are July 13 and 14, 2013. Audition fee, \$20. For audition packets and financial aid information, visit [Cantabella.org/operacamp](http://Cantabella.org/operacamp) or call 925-292-2663.

**Auditions, Cinderella**, (Prince Street Players Version), Mon., Feb. 11, 7:30 p.m. The show opens on April 19 and runs for 3 weekends through May 5. San Ramon Community Theater production. Front Row Theater, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Rd., San Ramon. Prepare a song with sheet music and/or audio accompaniment for the audition. Arrive early as it is a first come basis on February 11 at 7:30pm. Call-backs are Wednesday February 13, 2013 at 7:30PM at the Front Row Theater. [www.sanramoncommunitytheater.org](http://www.sanramoncommunitytheater.org) or 925-389-7529.

**Cantabella Registration**, Spring registration for Cantabella Children's Chorus is now open to new students. Classes in Livermore, Pleasanton and Dublin, and registration will close January 21st. This international award-winning chorus has been providing a quality music education for children ages 5-18 for over 20 years. Join our group of over 200 singers developing healthy vocal production and music literacy through the great choral literature of the world. To register for the training choirs or to schedule an audition for the performing choirs, or for more information, visit [Cantabella.org/register](http://Cantabella.org/register) or call 925-292-2663.

**Valley Concert Chorale**, auditions by appointment for their April and May concerts on Mon., Feb. 4 and

open rehearsal Mon., Feb. 11. Auditions and rehearsals will be held at the First Presbyterian Church of Livermore. The church is located at 2020 Fifth Street. Rehearsals will begin February 4, at 7pm. The Chorale, now in its 49th season, will perform Durufle's Requiem and Lauridsen's Lux Aeterna in April, and Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with the Livermore Amador Symphony at the Bankhead Theater in May. The Chorale is seeking experienced singers with sight-reading skills who enjoy singing exciting and challenging music. The Chorale performs a wide variety of music ranging from classical to contemporary, and folk to jazz. To schedule an appointment, call (925) 462-4205. More information about the Valley Concert Chorale is available at <http://www.valleyconcertchorale.org/> or by calling the general information line at (925) 866-4003.

**2013 Livermore Valley Wine Country Photo Contest**, enter for a chance to win a one-year membership to Livermore Valley Wine Country (that means complimentary tastings for two at more than 40 wineries!), 2 tickets to Barrel Tasting Weekend (March 23 & 24, 2013) with a one-night stay at Hawthorn Suites (March 23, 2013). For entry information and entry form, go to the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association website at [www.lvwine.org](http://www.lvwine.org)

**OPERA**

**An Intimate Musical Evening**, Livermore Valley Opera Soiree Series, Jan. 26, 4:30-7 p.m. Hosted in a Frank Lloyd Wright, Robie-style home in Pleasanton. Featuring some of the Bay Area's most talented opera singers performing beloved arias. Attendance limited to 90 people at \$85-\$100 per person. [www.livermorevalleyopera.com](http://www.livermorevalleyopera.com)

**Opera San José Giuseppe Verdi's Il trovatore**. Set in 15th-century Spain, Verdi's classic has it all: vengeance, war, jealousy, and passion with an emotional, heart-stopping score including one of the most famous choral melodies ever written, the "Anvil Chorus." Il trovatore will be sung in Italian with English superlittles. Eight performances are scheduled from February 9 through 24 at the California Theatre, 345 South

First Street in downtown San José. Tickets are on sale at the Opera San José Box Office, by phone at (408) 437-4450 or online at [www.operasj.org](http://www.operasj.org). Il trovatore is made possible, in part, by a Cultural Affairs Grant from the City of San José.

**Metropolitan Opera Schedule**, screening at Regal Hacienda Cinema in Dublin: Les Troyens, Jan. 23, 6:30 p.m.; Maria Stuarda, Jan. 19, 9:55 a.m., Feb. 6, 6:30 p.m.; Rigoletto, Feb. 16, 9:55 a.m., March 6, 6:30 p.m.; Parsifal, March 2, 9 a.m., March 20, 6:30 p.m.; Francesca da Rimini, March 16, 9 a.m., April 3, 6:30 p.m.; Giulio Cesare, April 27, 9 a.m., May 15, 6:30 p.m.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**Science on Saturdays**, 9:30 and 11:15 a.m. Jan 26, Detecting Pathogen DNA: Making Medical Diagnostics Fast, Accurate, and Cheap; Feb. 2, The Extreme X-ray Universe: Discovery Science with NASA's NuSTAR Mission; Feb. 16, Medical Radar: The next generation of life saving medical diagnostic devices; Feb. 23, Biofuels: The new use of microbes to produce energy. Seating on first come basis. Free admission. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Presented by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

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

**We're Talkin' Books! Club** is a member-centered book group led by a small group of book club veterans, with reading selections based on member recommendations and consensus. No homework required—share your insights or just listen in! Contact Susan at 337-1282 regarding the *We're Talkin' Books! Club*.

**Livermore Reads Together Kick-Off** with Author Mary Roach, Jan. 27, 2 p.m. Author of Packing for Mars: The Curious Science of Life in the Void. Livermore Reads To-

gether is sponsored by The Friends of the Livermore Library. There is no admission charge. Information at 373-5505.

**13th annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Fellowship Breakfast**, hosted by the Tri-Valley YMCA 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. on January 28 at the Hilton Pleasanton at the Club. Keynote speaker will be Pleasanton Police Chief Dave Spillar. All proceeds benefit leadership programs for Tri-Valley teens. For more information, or tickets contact Kelly O'Lague Dulka at [kdulka@ymcaeastbay.org](mailto:kdulka@ymcaeastbay.org) or 263-4444. The Hilton is located at 7050 Johnson Drive in Pleasanton.

**Science on Saturdays**, Feb. 2, 16, 23, 9:30 and 11:15 a.m. Free series for students presented by the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. [www.bankheadtheater.org](http://www.bankheadtheater.org) or 373-6800.

**New Orleans Bash at the Bothwell**, the Center's signature Mardi Gras costume party and jazz music event, Friday, February 8, 2013. Bothwell Arts Center, 8th and H Streets, Livermore. [www.bankheadtheater.org](http://www.bankheadtheater.org).

**Wine and Valentines**, Sat. Feb. 9, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Museum on Main fund-raiser. Evening of wine and love. [www.museumonmain.org](http://www.museumonmain.org)

**Elizabeth Blackburn, Nobel Laureate**, investigates the roles of telomeres, the specialized ends of chromosomes, and of telomerase, the enzyme that repairs telomeres. Rae Dorrough Speaker Series. 7:30 p.m. Mon., Feb. 11, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. [www.bankheadtheater.org](http://www.bankheadtheater.org) or 373-6800.

**An Evening from A Grandmother's Perspective**, Tues., Feb. 12, 7 p.m. Museum on Main Ed Kinney Lecture series. In recognition of Black History Month, Ann Collins takes the stage to examine the Civil War through World War II including perspectives of African American women during those trying years. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. [www.firehousearts.org](http://www.firehousearts.org).

**Sunset Sip and Shop**, Saturday, February 16 and Saturday, February 17. Livermore Valley wineries featured. Livermore Valley Premium Outlets, 2774 Paragon Outlets Dr, Livermore. [www.lvwine.org](http://www.lvwine.org).

## 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](mailto: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.)

**Martin Van Buren High School Reunion murder mystery dinner**, hosted by Livermore-Pleasanton-Dublin Branch of the American Association of University Women. Vic's All Star Kitchen, 201 Main Street, Pleasanton, from 5:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 26. A buffet dinner, featuring tri-tips, pasta, and more, will be served by Vic's, with no host beer and wine. A silent auction will be held for a chance to win dessert for your table. There will be a 50/50 raffle. Proceeds from the dinner will go to support AAUW's Educational Foundation. Tickets are \$40, paid in advance, \$15 of which is tax deductible. Seating is limited. Reservations must be made by Saturday, January 19. Call Vicki-Dawn at 484-3321 to make your reservations or for further information.

**Inauguration Party**, watch the Presidential inauguration and party with fellow Democrats 7 p.m. Mon., Jan. 21. After dinner pot luck - bring appetizers and desserts. See the Presidents speech starting at 7:30 p.m. IBEW 595 Hall, 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin.

**Friday Night Bingo**, new games, new management, more prizes. Proceeds to benefit Buenas Vidas Youth Ranch. Doors open at 4 p.m., games start at 7 p.m. Livermore Bingo Ranch, 3070 Pacific Avenue, Livermore, [www.bingoranch.com](http://www.bingoranch.com), 925-606-7777.

**Valley Spokesmen Bicycle Touring Club**, Sat., Jan. 19, 35 miles over Altamont Pass back by Patterson Pass, meet 9 a.m. at old Nob Hill parking lot in Livermore, Brahim Satoutah, 963-7024. Sun., Jan. 20, 50 miles from Livermore to the Central Valley and Bethany Reservoir, meet 9:30 a.m. at old PW Market, Rob Delfosse, 216-4823. Mon., Jan. 21, 25-45 miles from San Ramon's Central Park, meet 9:30 a.m. Alberto Lanzas, 510-825-9581. Wed., Jan. 23, 27 miles to Concord, Port Chicago and Martinez, meet 9 a.m. at Heather Farm, Dick Ward, 389-6738. Anyone planning to go on a ride is asked to call the leader for details on where to meet and what to bring.

**Ragin Cajun Mardi Gras Gala** hosted by the Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation on March 8, 2013 at the Palm Center in Pleasanton. The event includes dinner, music, dancing as well as silent and live auctions. The proceeds benefit cancer patients living in the Tri-Valley by providing healing therapies that help offset the side-effects of radiation and chemotherapy and are not covered by insurance. Information and tickets, contact the Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation at 866-862-7270 or visit the website at [www.healingtherapiesfoundation.org](http://www.healingtherapiesfoundation.org)

**"Doctored," The Movie**, looks at how food, medicine and healthcare have been doctored, a film by Bobby Sheehan. Screens Thursday, January 31, 2013, 7 to 9 p.m. The Vine Cinema, 1722, 1st St., Livermore. \$5.00. Information at <http://alameda-cca.eventbrite.com/>

**Robot Garden @ i-GATE**, a new community workspace, will host a FIRST

Tech Challenge (FTC) qualifier tournament on Jan. 26. FTC is a robotics competition for upper middle and high-school students that features head-to-head competition in a sports model. For more information see [www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/ftc](http://www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/ftc) or [www.norcalftc.org/](http://www.norcalftc.org/).

**Beeb's Team Trivia is Back**, every Wednesday 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Teams of 1 to 6 players. Beeb's Sports Bar & Grill, 915 Clubhouse Dr., Livermore. 455-7070. [www.beebsatlaspositas.com](http://www.beebsatlaspositas.com)

**Robot Garden** is seeking volunteers to help run the tournament, especially hardware inspectors, software inspectors, referees, and judges. There will be a brief training prior to the event. For more information and to sign up, visit [www.robotgarden.org/calendar/first-tech-challenge/](http://www.robotgarden.org/calendar/first-tech-challenge/) or [www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0948AAA82FA64-2013](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0948AAA82FA64-2013)

**The Climate Reality Project**, a slideshow and conversation developed by Nobel Prize Laureate Al Gore, will be presented at the IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin, beginning at 7 p.m. on Sat., Jan. 19. This one hour slideshow presented by Erica Stephan, a climate activist and former climate change policy advisor to the British Embassy in Washington DC, explains how climate change increases the frequency and intensity of "dirty weather" across the globe and how fossil fuel companies have deliberately sown doubt in the public mind. The slideshow will be followed by a period of discussion about technological and citizen solutions to the climate crisis and how to become involved. At 6:30 p.m., set up and also a potluck that everyone is welcome to enjoy. This event is free/\$3.00 donations accepted, open to the public, wheelchair accessible. For more information, call 925-462-3459.

**Dress a Girl Around the World**, meet once a month, next Sew-Fest is Saturday, January 19 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Michael's Hall (Corner of 3rd and Maple Streets in Livermore). All kinds of help needed, such as sewing, ironing, cutting. Please bring a bag lunch if planning to stay all day. There are a lot of fabric and pillowcases, so there are many kits ready to sew. Those who cannot make the Sew-Fest but would like to sew, please contact us for kits that can be sewn at home. Questions? Suzanne Beck, 925-352-8447 or [suzbeck@yahoo.com](mailto:suzbeck@yahoo.com)

**Writing Club for Young Adults**, open to all skill levels, taught by published Young Adult author J.L. Powers at the Livermore Public Library. The Club will meet from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. on Thursdays, January 17, February 21, March, 21, and April 18, 2013 in the Storytime Room at the Civic Center Library, 1188 South Livermore Avenue, Livermore. The event is free and no registration is required. For more information, please visit TEEN SPACE on the library's website: [www.livermorelibrary.net](http://www.livermorelibrary.net), or contact Jennifer at 925-373-5500, extension 5576.

**Tri-Valley Communities Against a Radioactive Environment** (Tri-Valley CAREs), monitors nuclear weapons and environmental clean-up activities throughout the US nuclear weapons complex, with a special focus on Livermore Lab and the surrounding communities. All are welcome at the monthly meeting at the Livermore Civic Center Library Thursday, January 17 from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. For more information call Tri-Valley CAREs at (925) 443-7148 or visit our website at <http://trivalleycares.org>



# Milestones

## Community

### Amador Valley Marches Home with Trophies from Fiesta Bowl



The Amador Valley marching band competed in parade and field competitions.

Amador Valley High School Band Scores High at Fiesta Bowl Parade and Band Competition

The Amador Valley High School Band took 1st place in Class A in the 41st Annual Fiesta Bowl Parade

presented by Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation on Saturday, December 29, 2012.

Eleven Championship Bands from Delaware, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Illinois, Ohio, California and Arizona competed in

this year's Parade, which is held annually in Central Phoenix. The Amador Valley Marching Band was also awarded 2nd Place in Music Performance, 2nd Place in General Effects and 2nd Place in Auxiliary.

This group of the nation's elite high school marching bands also competed on

Sunday, December 30th in the Fiesta Bowl National Band Championship at University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, AZ. Each band performed a 10-minute field presentation and was judged for musical and visual performance, auxiliary, percussion, drum majors and general overall effect. Amador Valley was a finalist and finished in 2nd place with an overall score of 92.80. Amador Valley also received awards in the

following categories: Music Performance, 2nd Place; General Effects, 2nd Place; and Percussion, 1st Place

"The stunning performances given by the bands today really made the judges' decision difficult," Fiesta Bowl Board of Directors member Dick Stemple said. "There is so much dedication and talent among the students that the audience was left in awe. The presentations were just breathtaking."

Jonathon Grantham, Amador Valley Band Director, stated, "The Fiesta Bowl is one of the most prestigious high school marching band competitions in the nation. We were delighted with our showing as it was the first time we have competed on a national level like this. We were proud to represent Pleasanton and are thankful for the tireless support of the community who helped make this trip possible."

### New General Counsel Hired

American Baptist Homes of the West (ABHOW) has hired Louise Rankin as its new general counsel. In her role as senior vice president and general counsel, she will be responsible for acquisitions, mergers and alliances, all legal matters, risk management and corporate compliance.

Rankin comes to ABHOW with more than 30 years of legal experience and nearly a decade working with ABHOW's senior officers on bond financings. Since 1985 she has accumulated extensive experience serving as counsel to underwriters, borrowers, and bond issuers or as bond counsel in the realm of health care and long-term health care provider finance.

Rankin will replace David Grant, senior vice president and general counsel. Grant, who has been a member of the ABHOW family since 1998, is retiring after serving 14 years as chief counsel.

James Fitzgerald, Vice President of MarketOne Builders, has been named the 2013 Chair for the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) Northern California Chapter. In his role, Fitzgerald is responsible for all chapter activities to further merit-based construction throughout

### Homebuilders Select Northern California Chapter Chair

Northern California. He will lead the organization and its approximately 500 member companies representing thousands of construction industry professionals.

Fitzgerald joins 12 additional Directors including: Dina Kimble, Royal Electric Company (Chair-Elect) Craig Brueckner (Secre-

tary), Brueckner Insurance & Financial Services; Steve McCutcheon (Treasurer), Cook Brown, LLP; John Stump, Flintco Pacific Inc.; George Luther, Santa Maria & Company Risk Insurance; Rick Russell, United Rentals; Ronald Hicks, Soltek Pacific Construction; Mark Kirkes, MK Electric & De-

sign, Inc.; Greg Schniegenberg, Helix Electric, Inc.; Brian Sullivan, Filice Insurance Company; Josh Ward, Sausal Corporation.

Board members will be sworn in at the Annual Board Installation and Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on Friday, March 8, 2013.