



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.

Dublin Initiative Would Set Urban Limit Line on Eastside

A group of Dublin residents has filed a notice of intent to circulate an initiative that would establish an urban growth line on the eastern edge of the city. It would also make the western urban growth line permanent.

The stated intent of the Dublin Open Space Initiative is to protect the agricultural land and other open spaces of

Doolan and Collier Canyons and the Dublin Western Extended Planning Area from "harmful development." If the initiative qualifies for the ballot and is approved by voters, the new urban limit line could only be changed by Dublin voters.

David Bewley and Morgan King signed the notice of intent filed with the Dub-

lin city clerk on January 16.

Both Bewley and King are attorneys. They were the authors of Measure M, approved by Dublin residents in 2000, which established an urban limit line along the western city limits to protect the West Dublin hills. The 30-year limit on the effective period of Measure M, adopted November 7, 2000,

would be repealed by the new initiative.

Bewley said the goal is to place the initiative on the November 2014 ballot. There would be 2400 signatures required to do so. Bewley stated, "We expect to gather many more." He said that people in Dublin are concerned about traffic and development in sensi-

tive open space areas.

The Dublin Open Space Initiative follows the model of what was established in Livermore and Alameda County. "We have been working on this since last May to make sure it is balanced with the Dublin general plan. It also includes a provision to ensure that

(See INITIATIVE, page 5)

Dublin Energy Challenge Helps Friends of the Library

Dublin residents can conduct a free check-up of the energy efficiency of their homes, and make some money for Friends of the Dublin Library at the same time.

Another reward in the contest is that all signers will be eligible for a drawing for a \$25 gift certificate at major Dublin hardware stores.

So far, some 107 residents have signed up in the challenge. The city's goal is to register an additional 43 residents by the Jan. 31 deadline. The contest began in October.

The 107 sign-ups so far will bring a reward of \$150 for Friends of the Dublin Library. If another 43 people sign up, bringing the total to 150, the total donation to the library group will rise to \$500.

The Home Energy Analyzer uses PG&E smart meter data to evaluate energy usage. By pinpointing where energy is being used – and wasted – residents can determine the right energy-saving actions and improvements to suit their needs.

The Home Energy Analyzer provides customized energy-saving recommendations including conservation behaviors and do-it-yourself improvements.

Homeowners looking to complete more comprehensive energy-efficient home improvements may be eli-

(See ENERGY, page 12)



Dublin housing built on the eastside. Doolan Canyon is just beyond the front ridge.

Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Zone 7, DSRSD Responding to Brown's Call for Water Conservation

Two Valley water utilities are responding quickly to Gov. Jerry Brown's declaration of a drought emergency.

Zone 7 Water Agency board will hold a special meeting at 7 p.m. Jan. 29 at the board's meeting room at 100 North Canyons Parkway, Livermore.

The Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD) board of directors will have the drought topic on its agenda when it holds its regular meeting Feb. 4 at its board room, 7051 Dublin Blvd., Dublin.

Zone 7 will assess the current situation, and consider a strategy for worst-case scenarios. General manager Jill Duerig said that Zone 7 is confident of its water reserves in the underground basin and off-site storage in the Central Valley. However, this is the third year of drought. The State Water Project's early forecast is for its agencies, including Zone 7, to receive only 5 percent of its potential allotment. That would have an effect on Zone 7's ability to bring in new water for its reserves.

Zone 7 has encouraged conservation for years, through such things as incentives for water-saving plumbing and encouraging dry-weather landscaping. The agency is asking customers to save at least 20 percent or more on their

(See WATER, page 4)

Expert Joins LVPAC Leadership Team

The Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center (LVPAC) has appointed David Hyslop as Consulting Theater Manager effective immediately.

Hyslop will be working with LVPAC for a minimum of six to nine months, helping to assess the present situation and establish a cohesive and achievable plan for the future based on the current economic realities.

According to Phil Wente, LVPAC Chairman, Hyslop was selected for the position based on his strong background in developing strategic business plans and managing arts organizations in times of uncertainty and significant change. Wente states, "I am looking forward to the opportunity of working with David Hyslop. His qualifications and experience in managing

world class performing arts programs are outstanding and LVPAC should benefit immensely from his direction. I join the board in welcoming him to the Livermore Valley."

As is the case with nearly 400 other cities in the state of California, Livermore lost significant funding when the state government eliminated all redevelopment agencies in 2011. Hyslop

noted, "Without the funding LVPAC had anticipated would be available to help grow the organization, plans will need to be modified to create a stable future for the existing facilities – the Bankhead Theater and Bothwell Arts Center."

Hyslop has already begun the evaluation process. He is actively seeking input from a range of constituencies,

(See LVPAC, page 5)

Pleasanton Schools To Add New Classes

Six new classes will be added to the Pleasanton School District's curriculum. The school board approved the additions unanimously at its Jan. 14 meeting.

Three of the classes relate to music: an Advanced Placement class in Music Theory, and classes in String Orchestra and Symphony Orchestra. There will also be a class in College and Career Readiness.

The other two courses -- Digital Electronics and Human Body Systems -- are additions to the special segment of the science curriculum known as Project Lead the Way (PLTW).

PLTW, a national curriculum, provides special training for district teachers. The aim is to teach science more effectively, especially with a project-based approach, which is a foreshadowing of the coming Core Curriculum adopted by 47 states, including California.

The board's motion also approved the start of an Engineering Academy at Foothill High School, a career pathway already open at Amador Valley High School. The board gave a nod to the expansion of the Gateway to

(See SCHOOL, page 6)

Google Self-Driving Car Subject of Talk

By Carol Graham

It's not difficult to imagine what people thought a century ago: "It doesn't make sense. It won't work. There are too many challenges. It will never catch on."

Yet while Victorians were known to be intensely curious about and enthralled with new inventions, many were hesitant to embrace an incomprehensible thing called a horseless carriage. It was an amusing contraption, to be sure, but it just did not make any sense - to most people. It did not work - well. There were far too many obstacles - it terrified horses and quickly outstripped laws. It would never catch on - until it did.

More than a century later, here we go again.

Google's Mike Montemerlo will be speaking at the Bankhead Theater on Tuesday, January 28 about something likely to cause many to once again say it's impossible; it's not safe; and there are too many hitches. Montemerlo will be talking about driverless cars.

Google self-driving cars use software called Google Chauffeur. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Google_driverless_car - cite_note-2 Development is currently being led by Google engineer Sebastian Thrun, director of the Stanford Artificial Intelligence Laboratory and co-inventor of Google Street View. Thrun's team, including Software Lead Montemerlo, created the robotic vehicle

(See TALK, page 12)



Mike Montemerlo

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PET OF THE WEEK

Let Roxy dance her way into your heart! A lively 3-year-old, Roxy's wearing her slinkiest LBD and is ready to kick up her heels celebrating life at home with you. Boogie down to Valley Humane Society (VHS) and partner with Roxy today. Located at 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton, VHS is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm and Sunday from 11 am – 2 pm. For more information please call (925) 426-8656 or visit valleyhumane.org. Photo - Valley Humane Society/J. Xia

SHORT NOTES

Educators' Scholarship Application Deadline

Up to six scholarships, each worth \$2,000, are offered by the Tri-Valley Retired Educators Scholarship Foundation. The awards are offered to high-school graduating seniors and college/university students. All applicants must be planning a career in education.

Requirements are: a) applicants must be residents of the Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin, Sunol area; b) high school applicants must be seniors planning to attend a four-year college in fall, 2014; c) community college applicants must be qualified to transfer as juniors to a four-year institution in fall, 2014; and, d) 4-year college applicants must be sophomores who will continue as juniors in fall, 2014.

Application packets for the scholarships can be downloaded at the retired educators' website www.div85.calrta.org/

Questions about the scholarship should be sent to greegno@comcast.net or call 925-443-6097.

Tournament Postponed

The Benefits for Fallen Heroes 1st annual Poker Tournament has been postponed to sometime in March.

The date and time will be announced.

The event included prizes and gift cards along with catering and non-alcoholic drinks.

For information, go to bffheroes.com or send an email to info@bffheroes.com.

Backyard Bird Count

From Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, bird watchers from more than 100 countries are expected to participate in the 17th annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), February 14-17, 2014. Anyone anywhere in the world can count birds for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the count and enter sightings at www.BirdCount.org.

The information gathered by tens of thousands of volunteers helps track the health of bird populations at a scale that would not otherwise be possible.

The GBBC is a joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society with partner Bird Studies Canada.

In North America, GBBC participants will add their data to help define the magnitude of a dramatic irruption of magnificent Snowy Owls. Bird watchers will also be on the lookout for the invasive Eurasian Collared-Dove to see if it has expanded its range again. GBBC observations may help show whether or not numbers of American Crows will continue to rebound after being hit hard by the West Nile virus and whether more insect-eating species are showing up in new areas, possibly because of changing climate.

Last year's Great Backyard Bird Count shattered records after going global for the first time, thanks to integration with the eBird online checklist program launched in 2002 by the Cornell Lab and Audubon. Participants reported their bird sightings from all 7 continents, including 111 countries and independent territories. More than 34.5 million birds and 3,610 species were recorded—nearly one-third of the world's total bird species documented in just four days.

Wheels Announces Minor Service Changes

The Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority, operator of the Wheels bus system is making minor changes to two of its school based routes. Effective Saturday January 25, 2014, routes 501 and 604 will be implemented as follows:

Route 501: This route serves East Dublin to Dublin High School. The morning departure that begins at Fallon Road and Gleason Drive will now start at Fallon Road and Antone Way.

Route 604: This route serves Fairlands Drive to Foothill High School. All morning departure times will leave 5 minutes earlier than previously scheduled.

Wheels bus books will have a fluorescent yellow label asking riders to visit www.wheelsbus.com for updated schedule and route information for routes 501 and 604. Information will be available January 15, 2014 on the website, www.wheelsbus.com. For more information, call the Wheels Customer Service line at (925) 455-7500.

Waterfowl Retreat

Waterfowl's Winter Retreat is the topic of the Sat., Jan. 25 Livermore Area Recreation and Park District ranger program. Meet Ranger Patti Cole at 8:30 a.m. at Sycamore Grove Park, 1051 Wetmore Rd.

Associated with the Pacific Flyway, Sycamore Grove Park oftentimes is visited by winter waterfowl. Some are quite tolerant of humans, such as mallards and coots, while others seek out the quiet, hidden areas of the Arroyo Del Valle in the park. This program will go in search of the more elusive waterfowl that are seasonal park visitors. This will be a two-mile hike on single-track, dirt or muddy trails. Canceled if raining.

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.

Hikes Offered

Save Mount Diablo is offering the following hikes:

Walking Tour of the Pittsburg Projects: This is a rare opportunity to visit the spectacular Wayne Thomas Ranch near Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve in Pittsburg, a moderate 3.5 to 4.5 mile walking tour. The Ranch would be destroyed by the proposed 1.7 mile James Donlon Extension (aka the Buchanan Bypass), which would extend from Somersville Road and one Seeno development project, to Kirker Pass Road and the currently proposed Seeno Montreux project. 9:30a to 1:30p, Saturday, January 25th. RSVP required. www.savemountdiablo.org

Explore Mangini Ranch: 208-acre property includes the headwaters of Galindo Creek with rolling grasslands, oaks, buckeyes, and a rare desert olive grove. Visit a secret spring and keep your eyes out for bobcats and coyotes looking for breakfast, plus burrowing owls, quail, and many other feathered friends. Sat, Jan 25th, 9 to 11 a.m. RSVP required. www.savemountdiablo.org

What: Do you love hiking? Do you enjoy bringing people to your favorite places around the mountain? Are you interested in becoming a Save Mount Diablo Hike Leader? Join us at our office to learn about leading hikes in the parks on and around Mount Diablo. No experience necessary. Thurs., Feb. 6, 6 to 8 p.m. RSVP required. www.savemountdiablo.org

Foothill DECA

Members of Foothill High School's DECA chapter headed to the Northern California Career Development Conference to compete against other Northern California schools. The Conference was held in the San Ramon Marriott Hotel over the weekend of January 17- January 19.

Foothill's chapter has been put through rigorous training and countless hours of preparation leading up to this conference. Foothill DECA competed in events regarding business, management, hospitality, finance, etc. Members competed against each other in different events through role play and written events. Role play consists of a live simulation of a business experience that tests an individual's quick

thinking skills. Written projects are proposals, which members rehearse and present to judges. Foothill went against schools such as Amador Valley, Monte Vista, Washington, Dougherty Valley, and others.

DECA is a student-run business organization that helps prepare emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in careers such as marketing, finance, hospitality, and management in high schools and colleges around the globe. DECA is designed to train and prepare students for real-world business situations and give them access to more knowledge. DECA consists of an on-campus club, along with courses taught at Foothill centered on business-oriented curriculum.

Relay for Life

The Livermore Relay For Life 2014 Kick-Off celebration will be held at 6 p.m. on Thurs., Jan. 23 at Cattlemen's Restaurant in Livermore.

For more information go to the Facebook page Relay For Life of Livermore Facebook page or

http://main.acevents.org/site/TR/RelayForLife/RFLCY14CA?pg=entry&fr_id=57211.

This year's event will be held Saturday, June 21, 2014 at 9am at Livermore High School.

The Relay for Life, a fundraiser for cancer, features teams of people camped out at a local high school, park, or fairground. Team members take turns walking or running around a track or path. Each team is asked to have a representative on the track at all times during the event. Relays are 24 hours in length; representing the reality that cancer never sleeps.

Blood Drive Benefit

Team KC, a foundation dedicated to assisting pediatric cancer patients and their families, will be hosting a blood drive Friday, Jan. 24 from noon to 6 p.m. at Mendenhall Middle School, 1701 El Padro Dr., Livermore. To make an appointment, please go to www.redcrossblood.org, click on "Enter a Sponsor Code" in the box with the header "Find A Blood Drive Near You," and type in TeamKC (no spaces), or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

LARPD Board

The Board of Directors for the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District received committee appointments for the coming year.

Following the presentations to outgoing Board President Maryalice Faltings and incoming President David Hutchinson, the new president announced his appointments for 2014. They are Vice President Bob Coomber and Director Faltings for the Budget Committee; Directors Faltings and Steve Goodman for the Facilities Committee; President Hutchinson and Vice President Coomber for the Intergovernmental Committee; Director Wilson and Vice President Coomber for the Personnel Committee; and Directors Goodman and Wilson for the Program Committee.

The Board members also regularly attend community outreach meetings as liaisons to other organizations, and those appointments for 2014 were made, as well: Director Faltings will serve as the Alameda County Special Districts Association

liaison; Director Wilson liaison to the Community Gardens committee and the Livermore Cultural Arts Council; Vice President Coomber liaison to the ESS Parent Advisory Committee and the Ravenswood Progress League; and Director Goodman the Livermore Downtown liaison.

Volunteer Don Meeker shared a presentation with the Board on the history of the Bothwell Recreation Center, which is owned by the District. Meeker has been volunteering with LARPD to preserve information on the District's

history. The Bothwell building, located at 2466 Eighth St., was built in 1950, with additions made in 1965 and 1979. It was on the site of the city's original high school, and also its first park—still Bothwell Park today. Samuel Bothwell, who was a local contractor and City Councilman, was appointed to supervise park construction, which was primarily from donated materials and labor. Bothwell died in 1951, and in 1953 the building was dedicated in his name. Over the years, LARPD has used the building as a District office, recreation center, teen

center, senior services center and general meeting site. The building is currently leased to the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center, in a partnership with LARPD.

In other announcements at the meeting, General Manager Tim Barry talked about the drought and its yellowing effect on District parks. LARPD has a limited budget for watering each year, and the lack of rain affects the look of parks. The District asks for the public's understanding of the current conditions, with a hope for improvement soon.

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Lab Partnership Works to Convert Natural Gas to Liquid Fuel

In an effort to put to good use natural gas (methane) that might otherwise become pollution, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory is collaborating with start-up company Calysta Energy on a new technology to convert natural gas to liquid fuel.

The process involves taking natural gas from oil and gas operations, and converting it to methanol that can be used as a fuel or converted to other useful chemicals. Often small amounts of natural gas produced at oil and gas operations are flared

off or vented into the environment when the amount does not justify a pipeline to transport the gas.

"With this technology, we would have a small portable reactor that would convert natural gas to a liquid fuel," said Joshua Stolaroff, the lead Lawrence Livermore scientist on the project. "The liquid is much more valuable, and transportable, than natural gas in its gaseous form. If the technology works well, it could give the United States a new option for using our large reserves of natural gas."



Lawrence Livermore chemist Sarah Baker and engineer Josh Stolaroff examine an enzyme that they plan to use as a catalyst to convert methane to liquid fuel. Photo by Julie Russell/LLNL

VALLEY ROUNDUP

Tauscher, Buchanan Endorse DeSaulnier

State Senator Mark DeSaulnier continues to pick up endorsements in his bid to fill Congressman George Miller's 11th Congressional District seat.

On Monday, he announced that former Congresswoman and former Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Affairs Ellen O. Tauscher is supporting him.

Prior to the 2012 redistricting, Tauscher represented California's old 10th Congressional district. Roughly 50% of the communities in Tauscher's old district are now included in the new 11th Congressional district.

"Mark DeSaulnier has always been a brave, forward-thinking, and passionate fighter for the people he represents," said former Congresswoman Tauscher. "Mark is deeply connected to the communities in the 11th district, and I'm confident he'll be a bold and progressive voice for them in Washington."

On Tuesday, DeSaulnier picked up a significant endorsement from California Assemblywoman Joan Buchanan.

Buchanan's 16th Assembly district has substantial overlap with several communities in Contra Costa County.

"I'm pleased to support Mark DeSaulnier for Congress," said Buchanan. "Mark and I share a common goal of improving California's schools and making our K-12, community colleges, and universities the best in the nation. I'm confident that Mark will be a strong advocate for our students and families in Congress."

DeSaulnier currently represents the 7th State Senate District, which includes Livermore, Dublin and portions of Pleasanton.

The 7th State Senate district covers 70% of California's 11th Congressional district.

In addition to State Superintendent of Schools Tom Torlakson, endorsements have come from Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia and Northern California Congressman Jared Huffman. Huffman represents California's 2nd district, which neighbors the 11th district.

Walk to Remember Ilene Misheloff Set

On January 30, 1989, Ilene Misheloff was kidnapped while walking home from Wells Middle School. Ilene's family, friends, and members of the community meet each year to remember Ilene and follow the path she was taking to ensure that she is always remembered. The investigation into Ilene's disappearance continues in an effort to return Ilene safely to her parents.

Everyone is invited to join Ilene's family and friends in the annual Candlelight Walk and Ecumenical Prayer Service in honor of Ilene Misheloff. The walk will be held on January 30, 2014, at 7:00 P.M. beginning at Wells Middle School (6800 Penn Drive, Dublin) and ending at Saint Raymond's Church (11555 Shannon Avenue, Dublin).

Hit and Run Driver Found

The Livermore Police Department has located and arrested the driver of the Toyota Tacoma pickup involved in an injury accident. The driver, Bert Rosenthal, a 53 year old San Jose resident was charged by the Alameda County District

Attorney's Office with two felony counts of hit and run.

Livermore Police Officers arrested Rosenthal at his home. He was transported to Santa Rita Jail, where he is being held on \$100,000 bail.

The accident occurred January 6 on State Route 84.

Plan Bay Area Document

Plan Bay Area, adopted by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), lays out a 25-year vision for transportation and housing to sustain our communities, environment and economy. The plan is now available online. To request a printed copy, please email library@mtc.ca.gov or call (510) 817-5836.

The long-range plan, which includes \$292 billion in transportation investments through the year 2040, was developed over three years in collaboration with thousands of Bay Area residents and local government partners, as well as with a range of interested stakeholder organizations. Plan Bay Area is the nine-county region's first Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) to meet the requirements of California's landmark 2008 Senate Bill 375, which calls on each of the state's 18 metropolitan areas to include in the RTP a Sustainable Communities Strategy to accommodate future population growth and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from cars and light trucks. Working in collaboration with cities and counties, Plan Bay Area advances initiatives to expand housing and transportation choices, create healthier communities and build a stronger regional economy.

The plan has drawn strong opposition from those who believe it takes away local land use planning. Others have called it social engineering.

Corrections

A story in the Jan. 9 Independent mentioned a possible ban on camcorders at meetings of the Tri-valley Learning Corporation (TVLC) meetings. CEO Bill Batchelor had issued a clarification of his remarks after the meeting. He stated that TVLC will permit recording of meetings, unless such activity is disruptive to the meeting. The story did not say it was a clarification, but that Batchelor had changed his mind.

A story in the Jan. 16 issue said that the Livermore school district supervises TVLC. The only TVLC school supervised by the Livermore school district is the Livermore Valley Charter School (LVCS), which is a K-8 school in Livermore.

The Livermore Valley Charter Preparatory (LVCP), a high school, is supervised by the state Department of Education. The Acacia Elementary and Middle schools in Stockton are sponsored by the New Jerusalem Elementary School District near Tracy.

A story in last week's Independent about the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program stated, "Currently, Joe Mitchell is the only school in the Tri-Valley offering the IB program, and one of only 36 in California." That is incorrect. The Quarry Lane School in Dublin began offering the program five years ago.

The article in last week's Independent about Tesla Park stated that Stephanie Floyd spoke on behalf of the Ohlone Audubon Society. That is incorrect. Stephanie Reitter Byous was the speaker.

Biologically engineered enzymes, produced by Calysta, would be used as the catalyst for the conversion to liquid fuel. Enzymes have been used for years in the pharmaceutical industry. However, Stolaroff said their use in the energy sector has been limited.

Josh Silverman, chief scientific officer and founder of Calysta Energy, stated, "Calysta is seeing strong interest from a number of groups in this technology. Our main focus is the biological conversion of methane as a route to extracting the most value from one of our most abundant domestic energy resources. We see a unique opportunity in partnering with LLNL to develop game-changing technology to advance the underlying biology."

Silverman said Calysta is interested in the partnership because of LLNL's technical capabilities in nanostructures, reactor technology and 3D printing of substrates in which the enzymes would

lie on top.

Most chemical reactions of interest for a better clean energy economy are already routinely carried out in nature. These reactions include the conversion of sunlight to chemical energy, the transfer of carbon dioxide into and out of solution, the selective oxidation of hydrocarbons (including methane to methanol), the formation of carbon-carbon bonds (including methane to ethylene), and the formation and dissolution of silicon-oxygen bonds (including enhanced mineral weathering).

Conventional industrial approaches to mimic those natural processes require catalysts that will work in industrial conditions. Certain enzymes have been identified that carry out each of these reactions with high selectivity under mild conditions – a specialty of Calysta Energy.

"This presents an opportunity for industrial biocatalysis and biomimetics to fill the gap between current

technology and natural capabilities," Stolaroff said. "We identified methane-to-methanol technologies as having an exciting market and environmental opportunity."

Stolaroff said natural gas mitigation strategies are also needed for a variety of sources, including oil and gas operations, coal mines, agriculture and organic waste, with a range of concentrations and characteristics. The only catalysts available to convert natural gas to other hydrocarbons at ambient temperature and pressure or from low-concentration streams are enzymes in certain type of bacteria.

"Harnessing these enzymes could greatly expand the range of methane sources that would be economic to mitigate and could have additional industrial applications," he said.

The project is funded by the LLNL Laboratory Directed Research and Development (LDRD) program.

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EDITORIALS

Read and Have Fun

The kick off event for Livermore Reads Together 2014 will be held this Sunday, January 26, at the Livermore Public Library. The featured speaker is Laurie R. King, author of this year's book, the mystery novel "The Beekeeper's Apprentice."

Livermore Reads Together is both educational and fun. It invites the entire community to read a book, then participate in a variety of activities throughout February. Events related to Sherlock Holmes, detectives, forensics, bees, movies and more are scheduled.

Examples include the Dashiell Hammett Tour of San Francisco with author Don Herron; Murder in the Library, a staged mystery event; and screening of movies such as The Hound of the Baskervilles and the Great Mouse Detective.

In addition, the Civic Center Library Art Gallery will feature the display, Watching The Detectives: A Movie Poster Exhibit. Children can participate in the Get a Clue!: A Children's Mystery Reading Program by reading mystery books to win prizes.

A complete list of activities can be found on the City's website.

We urge residents to join in the fun.

Recognition for Wines

Livermore Valley wines brought home some prestigious awards from the 2014 San Francisco Chronicle competition, including the best of show red. That honor went to 3 Steves Winery for its 2011 Cienega Zinfandel. It's the second best of show in the last three years for a Livermore wine. Two years ago, it was McGrail sweeping with its Livermore Valley Cabernet.

Other Livermore wineries captured Best of Class in the 2014 competition, including Concannon Vineyard for its 2012 Assemblage Blanc, and Occasio Winery for its Livermore Valley Cabernet Sauvignon in the \$40-\$49.99 category. Murietta's Well captured Best of Class for its 2011 Los Tesoros Petit Verdot.

Many other wines from the Livermore Valley captured double gold medals and golds, plus a plethora of silver medals.

It is good to see all of the hard work put into winemaking by Livermore Valley wineries receiving the recognition it deserves.

WATER

(continued from page one)

water consumption, in line with Brown's call for conservation.

DSRSD, which serves water to Dublin and the eastern portion of San Ramon, will consider the possibility of invoking a water conservation measure that involves higher rates to customers.

The board could declare any one of four water stages, ranging from a 10 percent water use reduction in Stage 1 to 40 percent or greater in Stage 4.

When the DSRSD declares a water shortage, potable water rates would increase in stages to encourage conservation. Recycled water rates would remain constant. A spokesperson for DSRSD said that customers who cut their water use by the requested percent will see lower water bills, despite the higher rates, because of the conservation.

In Brown's drought emergency declared on Jan. 17, he urged Californians to cut their water consumption voluntarily by 20 percent. The emergency status also enables Brown to use his executive powers to move water to places that are in desperate need. The emergency declaration can also turn on the spigot for federal assistance.

Alameda County is one of 27 counties in the state to qualify for federal agricultural assistance.

STATE OFFICIAL TO SPEAK ON WATER PLAN

Also in the wake of Gov. Jerry Brown's drought emergency declaration, the Valley will be able to take a close look at the state water picture for the long run when California Natural Resources Agency Sec. John Laird speaks on Jan. 30 in Dublin.

The talk is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. in the Dublin City Council chamber, 100 Civic Plaza. It is being sponsored by Zone 7, the Valley's water retailers, and the cities they serve.

Laird will talk about the California Water Action Plan. Highlights of the plan include making water con-

servation a "California way of life," increasing regional self-reliance, protecting and restoring important ecosystems, managing water to meet dry-period demand, and expanding water storage capacity.

The goal is to achieve a workable plan to deal with California water demands in 2050, when the state's population is expected to be 50 million, and climate change is expected to change rain and snow patterns.

Although not announced as included in Laird's speech, the Bay-Delta Twin Tunnels conveyance and other aspects of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan are likely to be addressed by Laird as part of the overall plan.

The drought was mentioned at the Zone 7 board meeting Jan. 15. Director Sandy Figueroa held out a little hope for some rain relief in March, when he said that his study of the snow pack in the Tahoe Basin in the years since 1970 shows that precipitation is low every six to eight years. However, "March Miracles," which deposit much moisture, "are much more common than you think," said Figueroa.

Zone 7 general manager Jill Duerig said that the potential of March rains is the reason that the State Water Project does not make its final estimate about how much water agencies will get until after the April snow measurement.

VOTER PAMPHLET FEE INCREASES

On another item, Zone 7 directors voted unanimously to change a draft figure of \$1740 for the fee for a candidate's statement in the June 3 election to \$3093. At the time of the earlier estimate, it was the board's best estimate of the actual cost for the ballot statement.

The registrar of voters office, which figures the costs, did not determine the expense until two days after the Zone 7 meeting. A spokesperson for the registrar's office said the figure will be \$3617.

The \$3093 was the figure

paid by candidates in the 2012 election. The growth came because there are more registered voters now in the Zone 7 territory. In 2012, there were 108,780 voters. Now the figure is 114,553.

Looking back at the 2012 election, director Sandy Figueroa said the cost then was too high. He declined to place a statement in the voters' guide. Only three candidates filed by the deadline for three seats, so there was no election.

Practically speaking, any estimate by Zone 7 would

Pickers Point to Issues with Lab Management

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) employees and union representatives picketed the LLNL site and also the Lab's downtown Livermore headquarters to call attention to issues they see over their contract renewal.

Chief steward Jim Wolford of the University Professional and Technical Employees (UPTe) union said the picketing on Jan. 15 drew 76 people walking the picket line for two hours. They passed out eaflets to Lab employees who were exiting the parking lot late in the afternoon.

Wolford said that a smaller number picketed at Lawrence Livermore National Security (LLNS), the Lab's management consortium, which is located in an office building near the Bankhead Theater.

The leaflets say that since LLNL privatized in 2007, there has been a nearly 50 percent reduction in maintenance workers, and a "run-to-fail, and then maintain" attitude which is intended to save maintenance money. However, that costs more in the long run in terms of expensive replacement work, and an increase in plant danger while equipment runs down, according to the leaflet.

"We want to end the

relentless push to do more with less. We have deep pride of ownership of the equipment and facilities that we maintain. Management sometimes exploits that pride to get things done 'on a shoestring.' As a result some of us are overworked," says the leaflet.

Seats up for election this year are held by John Greci, A.J. Machaevich, Sarah Palmer and Bill Stevens. The filing period opens Feb. 10 and closes March 7, unless an incumbent does not file. Then the period will be extended to March 12.

Job categories among the union members include locksmiths, boiler mechanics, carpenters, electricians, air conditioning mechanics, and welders.

The union's contract expired Jan. 1, 2013. Negotiations for a new one began July 1.

Wolford said that wages in the various categories are lower than the prevailing wage for the area. "Depending on how we classify our workers, (on average) they make 10 percent less than prevailing wages." The prevailing wage is found through a survey of an area by the Department of Labor.

Looking at all of the job categories, the lag ranges from 1 percent to 24 percent, depending on which specific category it is, said Wolford.

Linda Seaver, the Lab's manager of media and communications, said that it would "not be appropriate to comment" on the picketing or the labor issues because contract negotiations are underway.

MAILBOX

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

A Real Visionary Robert W. Byrd Pleasanton

I'm truly saddened by the passing of former Pleasanton Mayor Ken Mercer. Most Pleasanton citizens today didn't even live in Pleasanton during Ken's 16 years of public service (1976-1992), but those who did know that Ken's accomplishments are the major reasons why we all live in and love Pleasanton today. Many politicians use words like visionary to describe themselves only to have those words ring hollow once elected. Ken used deeds rather than words and will be greatly missed by those who knew him.

Bankhead Theater Beth Wilson Livermore

Statement to city council: I'd like to speak to the

Council this evening about the Bankhead Theater and its importance to the community. Some of you know I'm a musician, that I attend many concerts at the Bankhead, and that I've been privileged to perform on stage and in the pit with other members of the Livermore Amador Symphony.

Of course those of us who are arts fanatics love the Bankhead and are extremely concerned with its success. But I'd like to look with you at the theater's importance to the entire community. It is not only the core of our wonderful downtown; it draws people from throughout the Bay Area to its varied programs. And those people often patronize other businesses in the area, bringing more tax dollars to Livermore. As Livermore becomes more of an arts destination, people are coming to visit wineries, shop, have dinner, and attend a performance at the Bankhead.

The theater currently is in some financial difficulty. On behalf of the people of Livermore and the arts community, I urge all of you to support the Bankhead by doing whatever you can to keep it open. Letting it close for even one night would have severe repercussions for the future

of the theater and the reputation of the community.

It is my understanding that most community theaters are owned and operated primarily by their cities. Please help keep this much-loved jewel in our community alive.

Thank You Heather Stratton and Family Livermore

Dear Lioness Club of Livermore, The Independent and the Valley Times.

To those who do not know of us: we are a blended family of five with two disabled boys in our house. Being blended as well as the disabilities, you could only imagine the difficulties we face daily. One of our biggest difficulties is that we have been saving to buy a house for a year now, which forces us to stay in a two bedroom condo with all three boys in one room. Due to this, we have not spent any money on electronic tables, which would help tremendously with our autistic sons.

Laurie Hubbard, a family member of ours and a member of the Lioness Club in Livermore, recommended our family to the Lionesses a few weeks before Thanksgiving as a family in need during the holidays.

Within a few weeks, we had been given a gift card to Safeway and a turkey for Thanksgiving. Shortly after that, they also set up a bank account for us where others in the community could donate. Come Christmas time, the ladies delivered a huge box of presents for the boys and us to open on Christmas day, which included many new outfits, new shoes, costumes, remote control cars and many other toys. They also delivered a \$100 gift card

to Safeway, another turkey, and a member donated her own iPad.

Their generosity provided my family great assistance during the holiday season of 2013. Their gifts were profoundly appreciated by everyone in our household.

The gifts also helped our dream for a new house become closer by raising \$750 for tablets to help aid in communicating with our sons easier. Your gifts are appreciated from the depth of my heart. Thank you, very much.

We also want to thank both newspapers for running the article that helped raise money for our family and to anyone else who was involved in aiding this amazing, thoughtful support.

Tesla Property Olive Egan Greene Livermore

Hearing and reading about the Carnegie Park and Tesla Property issue motivated me to drive on Tesla Road to reacquire myself with the area. My husband and I had not been on that part of Tesla Road for many years.

Being aware that the Tesla Property is west of Carnegie Park we kept a close eye on the terrain to our right as we got closer to Carnegie. The area is a series of hills ranging in height and form from gentle to steep slopes with valleys here and there.

We recalled reading about the coal mining and brick building industry in the area as well as the thriving village. Sadly, the hills were at our traditional 'golden' state rather than the green of our "rainy season," but nonetheless beautiful, tranquil and inviting.

Seeing the contrast as we arrived at Carnegie Park was a great shock, but understandable given the focus of the vehicular recreation. Carnegie has an extensive area for people to park, picnic, and enjoy their off road vehicles.

It is my belief that the Tesla Property should become a welcoming area for all who want to relax, camp, hike, and enjoy the beauty of nature with no off road vehicles allowed.

The two parks could be good neighbors, each respecting the focus of the other.

No 50m Pool William Beirger Livermore

I can't believe that the schools did not know that a 50m lap pool was needed years ago. The schools should have worked with LARPD to put a 50m pool at the Robert Livermore facility. In the same way, LARPD should have looked into this before the Robert Livermore Swim facility was built.

If parents want their children to train in a 50m pool, they can pay the schools in the surrounding towns for their children to use their pools. Children who train for gymnastics travel to areas long distances for training; the same can be done for swimming.

This is the same problem that the performing arts center has. They should have built the large center and closed the upper seats off when they needed the facility for smaller productions, and, not expect people to pay for two centers.

Government and groups that get their money from

the taxpayers better learn that the days of big money are a thing of the past.

I say no 50m pool.

Responsibility Lex Manwill Livermore

Last Friday, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Surgeon General's first report on health hazards of cigarette smoking, his office released a report linking smoking to several new chronic diseases. These include diabetes, erectile dysfunction, cancer of the colon and liver, and stroke, in addition to the well-known links to lung and oral cancer, high blood pressure, and heart disease.

The parallels between cigarette smoking and meat consumption are uncanny:

- The chronic diseases linked to both activities and costs of associated medical care and lost productivity are very similar
- The first government reports warning consumers about health hazards of cigarette smoking and meat consumption were issued in 1964 (by Surgeon General) and in 1977 (by Senate Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs), respectively
- The first warning labels on cigarette and meat packaging were required in 1966 and 1994, respectively
- Both activities are discouraged by health advocates and both are declining

But there is one important difference: the meat industry impacts more state economies with a stronger Congressional clout than the tobacco industry. A Surgeon General's report on the hazards of meat consumption is most unlikely.

Our health remains our personal responsibility.

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LVPAC

(continued from page one)

including staff, board, resident companies and donors, as well as city and county officials. He is also working closely with LVPAC staff as they move forward on booking a wide variety of world-class artists and performing arts events for the upcoming 2014-2015 season. Staff have just returned from the annual New York booking session.

"In any situation where significant change has occurred and plans are evolving, there are many people involved and each may have a different, yet equally valuable, perspective," said Hyslop. "It will be essential for me and for our staff to put a renewed emphasis on listening and open com-

munication throughout this process. I feel confident that the community will get behind our goal to create a secure and vibrant future for the Bankhead Theater and Bothwell Arts Center. But for everyone to benefit from that, everyone needs to be involved and put something into the process now," he added. "While the economic situation is unpredictable and plans must evolve to accommodate them, change also presents new opportunities and I believe LVPAC will be in a good position to take advantage of them."

Hyslop brings a 49-year career in arts management to the post, including 33 years as Chief Executive Officer for four of the nation's top

symphony orchestras. He has also spearheaded numerous consulting projects for performing arts groups around the country and most recently served as interim CEO of the Louisville Orchestra. During Hyslop's long tenures with the Minnesota Orchestra and the St. Louis Symphony, he oversaw both the arts organization and management of their dedicated performance facilities, Orchestra Hall in Minnesota and Powell Hall in St. Louis.

The Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center offers wide-ranging programs that provide access to the arts for the Tri-Valley community and beyond. LVPAC Presents offers a variety of



David Hyslop looks over the set of "The Drowsy Chaperone," now playing at the Bankhead Theater.

world-class music, dance and theatrical performances at the Bankhead Theater

each year. The Bankhead Theater and the Bothwell Arts Center are home to nine resident performing arts companies and over 40 studio artists and cultural arts instructors. Between them, they offer more than 500 public activities each year, from classes and workshops, to concerts and performances, as well as Guitar Fest LIVE!, ArtWalk and extensive educational arts outreach. A list of upcoming performances at the Bankhead Theater, as well

as activities at the Bothwell Arts Center, is available online at www.mylvpac.com

INITIATIVE

(continued from page one)

Dublin follows state law concerning housing," added Bewley.

"The idea behind the initiative is to have some balance in the growth process. An urban limit line is a well used mechanism to achieve that goal." Of particular interest is Doolan Canyon. Bewley described it as the last remaining open space between Livermore and Dublin. Any development in the area should be seriously considered. An urban limit line allows for that to happen. Rather than three people on a council making the decision, people would decide the merits of any development, said Bewley.

He pointed out that Dublin is the only city in the area that does not have an urban limit line. Alameda County, the City of Livermore and the City of Pleasanton have established urban growth boundaries that require a vote of the people to allow the boundary to be moved. Setting an urban limit line in Dublin equalizes the situation. "It sets a new paradigm for developers. They know they will have to go to a vote of the people in any jurisdiction."

Bewley noted that Dublin is one of the fastest growing cities in California. It has tripled in population since 1982. "Much of the open space and historical character has been lost," according to Bewley. "Development is not bad. Dublin has reached the point where open space should be considered," he added.

Over 6,000 dwelling units have been built in recent years and many more are under construction or approved for future development. As a consequence, much of the natural, open space qualities of the area have been lost, and much of what remains is in jeopardy. Establishing an urban growth limit will protect the open space lands adjacent to Dublin from urban sprawl.

Bewley pointed out that a lot of growth will happen anyway in Dublin. The initiative won't stop growth in the city. It will continue up to the edge of Doolan Canyon, the current city limit on the eastside. Orderly development is important. So is preservation of open space and agriculture, stated Bewley.

The Alameda County East County Area Plan, as amended by Measure D in 2000, now controls development in the area. It imposes a 100-acre minimum parcel size, bars most nonagricultural uses, and applies strict limits to the mass and visibility of development. The County Plan would no longer safeguard areas, however, if they were annexed to Dublin. This initiative is designed to cover that contingency.

Both Dublin and Livermore have applied to the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) to be given authority over Doolan Canyon. LAFCO is a state mandated local agency that oversees boundary changes to cities and special districts, the formation of new agen-

cies including incorporation of new cities, and the consolidation of existing agencies. The broad goals of the agency are to ensure the orderly formation of local government agencies, to preserve agricultural and open space lands, and to discourage urban sprawl.

Dublin has been working with a developer on a proposal to build a senior housing project of up to 1900 units in Doolan Canyon. Livermore views the area as an open space buffer between the two cities. LAFCO has told Livermore and Dublin to work out an agreement.

Bewley said there are serious fundamental problems with the proposed development in Doolan Canyon. How would water and other services be provided to the area?

The proposed development is under study. With an urban growth limit in place, when the proposal becomes a project, people could weigh in on it.

Residents interested in working to gather signatures for the initiative can email Bewley at davidbewley@comcast.net. For additional information, visit the website http://morganking.com/save_doolan_canyon.htm

According to the initiative, the areas that would be protected by the initiative are undeveloped rural lands adjacent to Dublin. Historically, these lands have been used for agriculture and outdoor recreation. "They include rolling, untrammelled hills, stream corridors and scenic views. They provide critical habitat for rare and endangered species. Initiative supporters note, They are a peaceful, beautiful contrast to the extensive urban development in the Dublin area. Development in those areas would destroy and impair agriculture, riparian corridors, and scenic vistas. Critical habitat for wildlife would be lost irremediably."

The initiative notes that other issues include air pollution and sprawl. Auto-dependent development would make traffic congestion worse. It would exacerbate air pollution, which now frequently violates Federal and State health standards. Sprawling developments would be costly for Dublin taxpayers, to extend public facilities and services to relatively distant areas not now served.

Dublin would still be able to meet its fair share of housing. In the city, 6,700 housing units have recently been completed in the City; 550 are under construction (550); 1300 are approved for construction and 2300 units are under review for future construction.

Land outside the urban growth line could be put to agriculture uses (including but not limited to grazing, arboriculture, horticulture, and rearing, care and use of ruminants, pigs and poultry). Vineyards, feed lots, dairy farms, pig farms, poultry ranches, Christmas tree farms and nurseries are permitted only if they are small and do not cause substantial

environmental harm. Small-scale rearing, care, training or use of animals, provided that the use does not cause substantial environmental harm are among the permitted agriculture uses.

Other allowed uses include low-intensity outdoor recreation and pastimes predominately for active participants, not spectators, and subordinate auxiliary uses (including campgrounds, picnicking facilities, provision of food and drink, and safety and sanitary services); these permissible uses do not include, among other uses, amusement or theme parks, golf courses, stadiums or arenas (except equestrian riding rings), motor vehicle tracks, courses or off-road facilities, or recreational vehicle parking for more than 7 days in a month.

All buildings on a parcel must be located within a contiguous area, as compact as reasonably practicable, not to exceed two acres, except for buildings that the council finds reasonably must be located outside this area for permitted agricul-

tural use, security needs, the processing, packaging or storage of agricultural produce or plants, rearing, care, training or use of animals, or government or public utility use.

An arterial road connecting Dublin Boulevard and North Canyons Parkway could be built, but could not exceed four lanes plus bike-ways and sidewalks.

Ten years after the effective date of the ordinance, the initiative directs the Dublin City Council to study commercial development along the extension of Dublin Boulevard to North Canyons Parkway within up to 1,200 feet north of Interstate Highway 580. The council would consider, among other matters, whether commercial development is needed to fund the construction or maintenance of the extension, and if water supply and wastewater service is assured for any development. The council may put a measure on the ballot to authorize development in the designated area.

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SCHOOL

(continued from page one)

Technology at Hart Middle School.

Trustees heard a summary report from Sarah Fiehler of Christy White Accounting about the firm's audit of the school district's books, as required by the state education code.

Fiehler said the report shows that the district has received an "unmodified opinion, which is the most favorable opinion" available in an audit. Fiehler mentioned minor items about several deposits into student activity funds, which can and should be corrected in the future by educating the appropriate school officials about the procedures.

A report on the results of a 2013 staff survey of 35 of 55 staff members involved in summer school last year showed that some 89 percent felt summer school met student needs.

Some 37 percent felt that the use of technology in the program needs to improve. Assistant Superintendent Odie Douglas pointed out the statistic, stating, "We are working on that."

Summer school in 2014 will resemble last year's program. It will include programs such as a virtual

learning academy, a pre-kindergarten program financed by a California First 5 grant, and academic intervention in ELA and math.

The board voted unanimously to approve the curriculum and the schedule.

The board also voted to accept initial bargaining proposals from the CSEA, which represents classified workers, and from the district administration. There are no numbers, just topics for discussion in future negotiations.

At the board's next meeting Jan. 28, there will be a public hearing on the initiation of negotiations. Figures won't be determined at that time, since the negotiation process is just beginning.

The district wants to reopen virtually all contract items, from hours and leaves of absence, to wages and health benefits.

The union listed a wide scope, too, including some of the same items as management, such as wages, hours, leaves of absence, and benefits. The bargaining unit also wants to talk about labor that is contracted to outsiders and grievance procedures.



With the latest reports on the prevalence and intensity of the flu in Alameda and surrounding counties, getting a flu shot now is very important. Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty and his son Sean Haggerty came to Axis Community Health this week where Sean, age 16, received his. Pictured, from left, are Supervisor Haggerty, Sean, and Lin Cho, RN. Supervisor Haggerty and Axis Community Health encourage everyone to protect themselves, their families and our community by minimizing their risk with an easy and quick injection. Flu shots at Axis cost \$20. They are available on a walk-in basis at both medical clinics: 3311 Pacific Ave., Livermore and 4361 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. Or call 462-1755 for an appointment. For more information, call Axis or contact your health care provider.

Kaiser Permanente Employees Take On Project to Celebrate Life of Dr. King



To celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., more than 45 Kaiser Permanente employees, physicians and staff gathered at the Arroyo Mocho Creek in Livermore to volunteer their time and make January 20, 2014 a day of service in the community.

Volunteers helped maintain and restore the creek by removing invasive species, planting new oak trees and watering/building habitat areas for new trees to thrive.

"The work that our volunteers did with Urban Creeks will make a difference in Livermore," said Jaina French, public affairs representative for Kaiser Permanente Diablo Area and organizer of the event. "This project involved planting oak trees along Arroyo Mo-

cho Creek, digging holes, creating wire cages to protect the seedlings, planting acorns and putting down protective mesh to eliminate weeds. It was quite the job and our volunteers completed it all!"

Ronald Oania from Kaiser Permanente in Pleasanton has volunteered for the last several MLK Day community service events. On Monday, he brought his young son out to volunteer. "I want to show him how important it is to volunteer, to help others and to show him that there are people in greater need than us that need our help."

For Annemarie Engelhardt in Kaiser Permanente's National Compliance Office, volunteering was a simple choice. "When I saw

this project here in Livermore, I wanted to participate because it is in my own backyard and I am happy to work on beautifying my community."

Kaiser Permanente's Diablo Service Area has participated in community service projects for Martin Luther King Jr. Day over the past several years. Past project sites include: Mocho Arroyo Trail in Livermore, Mt. Diablo High School in Concord, El Monte Elementary School in Concord, Community Access Program in Concord, Shelter Inc. in Bay Point, George Miller Center for Disabled Persons in Martinez, The Boys & Girls Club of Concord, and Habitat for Humanity in Livermore.



Workers pause for a group photo in the top picture; they are planting and cleaning in the other two photos.

Don't Miss Out on the News in 2014 . . .

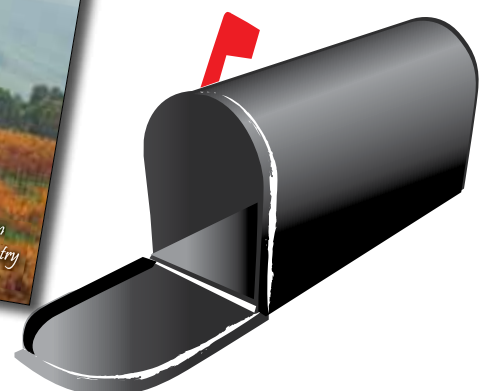
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SPORTS NOTES



Photo - Doug Jorgensen
Dublin High School battled to a 1 to 1 tie with Dougherty Valley High School in girls varsity soccer action.

Dayak Selected As Coach of the Year

Coach Troy Dayak, a Livermore soccer icon, was named youth soccer coach of the year by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) for his accomplishments in the development of youth soccer opportunities and his commitment to the development of players at all levels.

“Coach Dayak was chosen from more than 40 top candidates from across the U.S.,” said Louis Waxler, National Chairman of the NSCAA. “Coach Dayak exemplifies what the NSCAA embodies, given his experience as a player and his creation of the club that is focused on giving back to the kids, both boys and girls. Although Coach Dayak’s winning record is impressive, this award is much more about his commitment to the sport and the development of the players.”

Coach Dayak has spent the last three years building a Livermore-based soccer club that offers both recreational and competitive soccer programs for boys and girls. His organization, West Coast Soccer Club, started in 2011 with eight teams. In three short years, the club has grown to 18 competitive teams ranging in ages from U9 to U18. In 2012, the club expanded to include a recreational program and a program for special needs players. West Coast is also home to the West Coast Wildkat, a Women’s Premier Soccer League (WPSL) team.

In West Coast Soccer Club’s first year, Coach Dayak led his U15 girls’ team, the Kryptonite, to a U.S. Club National Championship title. The Kryptonite returned two additional times to the national championship match. Coach Dayak has also successfully coached another team, the Wild, to two national championship matches. In total, Coach Dayak has led teams to five trips to national championship matches.

In addition, Dayak has coached 4 teams to State Cup titles in 2013 and in two different associations. Dayak currently coaches the Norcal National Premier League level girls’ teams and the WPSL team at West Coast Soccer. His U17



Coach Troy Dayak leads his West Coast Kryptonite girls’ soccer team during a practice in 2011. The Kryptonite went on to win league and state cup championship, several tournament championships, and a prestigious U.S. Club national championship title.

Kryptonite, U16 Wild, U15 Wonder, and U14 Wildfire each won their prospected State Cup divisions in 2013. No other soccer club or coach in the country has accomplished this much in so little time. “Building a brand new soccer club, while also developing top ranked teams is an incredibly challenging feat. There is a lot more work that goes into this than meets the eye,” said Dayak. “You don’t do it for recognition, but when an organization like the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) recognizes your hard work and that you are doing good things for the sport ... it’s really nice to have an organization like this recognize your efforts.”

Coast teams have been invited to some of the most prestigious college showcase tournaments in the country. This exposure to college recruiters puts West Coast on par competitively with big soccer powerhouses like Surf, Blues, Crossfire Premier, etc. These clubs have 10 times more players to select from and can easily field 50 to 100 teams in a season.

In 2012, Coach Dayak started a collegiate preparation program for his players. The program includes player resumes, college visits, premier recruiter events, and an opportunity to play in some of the top college showcases

in the country. With Coach Dayak’s guidance, 10 players from his Kryptonite team are moving on to play women’s soccer at the collegiate level.

Coach Dayak was presented with the coach of the year award during the NSCAA’s 2014 national convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The NSCAA convention is the largest soccer gathering in the world. It is primarily dedicated to seminars on coaching skills and philosophies d where leagues hold. It is also where the Major League Soccer (MLS) holds its Super Draft and the National Women’s Soccer League conducts its draft.

Dayak began his soccer career in Livermore. He played soccer for the Livermore High School Cowboys. He went on to play in the 1992 U.S. Olympic men’s soccer team that played in Barcelona, Spain. He also overcame catastrophic injuries to lead the San Jose Earthquake to two Major League Soccer titles in 2001 and 2003 and was inducted into their Hall of Fame in 2011.

Today, in addition to running West Coast Soccer, he is a Regional Director for the San Jose Earthquakes Youth Academy. He is also a broadcaster of live college games in the Western College Conference (WCC)

at 2466 Eighth St., Livermore. For more information, call 925-373-5700.

Livermore Half Marathon

The new Livermore Half Marathon will run on March 29, 2014, according to event producer Project Sport.

Runners will pass through downtown, into the vineyards and finish on First Street.

The 13.1 mile run will be followed by a downtown festival of local wineries, craft beer, artisan chefs, specialty boutique shopping and live music.

Registration for the Livermore Half Marathon is underway. Entry will approach its full price of \$89 as race day nears. Register at runlivermore.com.

Outlaws 13U Baseball

The Livermore Outlaws Baseball Club is currently holding team tryouts for the Spring season travel team. Practices and evaluations are now being held in Livermore. The Outlaws are in their fourth year of operations and the coaching staff has over 40 years of combined baseball coaching experience. All competitive players from the Tri-Valley area are welcome to attend an open practice. Please contact the Outlaws to schedule an evaluation at Outlawstravelball@yahoo.com.

Mavericks FastPitch

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

West Coast Tryouts

The West Coast Soccer Club will be holding competitive youth soccer

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

Register for U14 Spring Water Polo

The Livermore LAZERS, a USA Water Polo (USWP) club presented by the Livermore Area Parks and Recreation District that encourages high standards of play and good sportsmanship, is accepting sign-ups for the Spring Session, which runs from Feb. 24-May 16. All experience levels are welcome; new boys and girls will be asked to complete a swim test and must be able to swim two laps (50 yards) without stopping. As a USWP club team, all practices and tournaments will be sanctioned, requiring all participants to be registered with USWP. For more information on sign-ups, call LARP at 925-373-5700, or visit www.larpd.dst.ca.us. For more information about the LAZERS, visit <http://lazerswaterpolo.weebly.com> or e-mail lazerswp@gmail.com



U13G West Coast Wrath battled Livermore U13 Fusion SC Gold in State Cup play.

Martial Arts

Taylor’s Martial Arts, of Livermore, sent six students to compete at The League Victory Games in San Jose, CA, on January 18, 2014. The following students competed and placed:

- Kata:**
Caitlyn Macias – 1st Place in 6-7 yr old First Timers Kata and 2nd Place in 6-7 yr old Novice Kenpo/Kajukenbo Kata
Helena Macias – 1st Place 8-9 yr old Intermediate Kenpo/Kajukenbo Kata and Grand Champion
Mayalanni Erediano – 4th Place 8-9 yr old Intermediate Kenpo/Kajukenbo Kata
- Sparring**
Mayalanni Erediano – 2nd Place 8-9 yr old Girls Intermediate Sparring
Alexis Aying – 1st Place 8-9 yr old Girls Advanced/Black Belt Sparring
Andrei Carpo – 1st Place 18+ Men’s Novice Sparring
Vincent Aying – 2nd Place 35+ Men’s Heavy Weight Black Belt Sparring

West Coast Soccer

Over the past 3 years, Professional Coach, Paul Giamona has coached the U13G West Coast Wrath and led them to two league championships, four tournament championships (Dublin Shamrock Tournament, Santa Cruz Beach, Albion Cup, and Mission Bell), several semi-finalists’ medals (2012 & 2013 Magic Cup, Juventus Coppa d’Oro, Coppa Classica) and a state cup final.

Saturday, the Wrath continued their most recent quest towards winning the Red 2 NorCal State Cup, as they took on hometown rival, U13 Fusion SC Gold. The two teams have run into each other 6 times over the past few years (in league and state cup), with the West Coast Wrath holding a record of 4 wins and 2 ties. Both teams came to the pitch with pure determination. Fusion scored 2 goals in the first half. Down 2-0 at the half, Coach Paul made some critical adjustments. Brianne Radliff took the field and worked hard in the middle. Steffanie Angelo played goalkeeper for most of the second half and was able to hold Fusion scoreless, with the assistance of defenders Aryanna Shokoor, Kaylie Lawson, Regan Mah, Francesca Hyde and Kylie Karter.

West Coast Wrath came back in dramatic fashion, with their first goal coming off a header from Leila Anzo, crossed by Savannah Seals. The two teams continued to battle as the Wrath tied up the game with another goal from Leila. As the game headed into its first 5 minutes of overtime, Wrath midfielders Kate Wallace, Allyssa George, Tyler Enderlein, Janessa Sanchez and Lindsey Philips worked to control possession. After a second scoreless overtime period, the game went to PK’s. West Coast Wrath connected on 3 out of 5 shots by Francesca Hyde, Savannah Seals and Leila Anzo. Fusion matched the 3 shots, sending it into extra PK’s. In the 6th round, Wrath goalie, Brianne Radliff made an excellent save, setting up the opportunity for Wrath to win it. Kate Wallace found the back of the net with a beautiful strike, clinching the victory and sending the Wrath to the State Cup semi-finals (placing them among the Top 48 teams in NorCal).

Tournament Recap

The Livermore LAZERS hosted the second of its three Winter Session water polo tournaments on Saturday, Jan. 11, at the Robert Livermore Community Center Pool. Eighteen teams representing nine Tri-Valley area clubs gamely played through the cold and light rain.

The LAZERS’ Level I standouts included cousins Luke and Brady Scanlon, who provided offensive highlights; all-around threat Camden Kieman; Ethan Fovel, who played well at both ends of the pool and had some spectacular moments in goal; defensive standout Rylee Mora; and Jackie Urban, who scored a goal and assisted two in the tightest game of the day.

Playing as part of an 8th-grade-and-under girls’ team, Emily McElroy did a great job as goalie. Madison Weiglein was the scoring standout. Kelsey Mahurin led the defense with a strong overall effort.

For the LAZERS’ Level II boys, Noah Pettit was the offensive star, Na-

than Williams played well defensively and Coach Scott Ragatz earned praise from head coach Matt Croghan as an “absolute monster in the cage.”

CYO Basketball

In their last home CYO basketball game in Livermore, the Spartans (Boys’ 7th Grade SMSC (St. Michael’s/St. Charles) 715) were outscored by CCOP (Catholic Community of Pleasanton) after putting forth great effort and showing teamwork as usual. Spartans’ top scorers included Hadi Zeid, Jacob Blaha, and Jacob “JP” Peterson. Defensive stars were Max Bauer, Aden Cavalcanti, and Gabriel Parrish.

Track and Field

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

Practices will be held on a voluntary/drop-in basis Monday through Friday. Club participants will have the option of competing for either (or both) AAU and USATF Track and Field events. For practice time and location, please visit facebook page, and group under Athenian Athletics. Any questions please feel free to contact Coach Rik Richardson at 925-518-9356 or e-mail atheniantrack@hotmail.com.

Bocce Kits for Rent

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

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

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

The Robert Livermore Community Center is located at 4444 East Ave., Livermore. Bothwell Park is located



Pictured from Taylor’s Martial Arts are (back row) Andrei Carpo, Vince Aying; (front row) Caitlyn Macias, Helena Macias, Mayalanni Erediano, and Alexis Aying.

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Call Us a Livermore Valley Cab, Please!

by Laura Ness

A continued shout-out goes to all the Livermore Valley wineries that submitted entries to the 2014 SF Chronicle Competition and brought home medals to prove their mettle. Apologies to Thomas Coyne and Steven Kent, who were inadvertently omitted from the article in last week's paper. The venerable Thomas Coyne label, which recently moved from the longtime digs on Vallecitos Road to the present location on Research Drive, in fact was four for four at the Competition, bringing home a Double Gold for their 2009 Petite Sirah from El Dorado, and Silver medals for the 2011 Quest Rhone Blend, 2009 Grenache and 2010 Quest Reserve. Congratulations to Tom and Emilie.

Steven Kent Winery also raked in a solid Gold for the lovely 2010 Livermore Valley Cabernet Sauvignon and a Silver for its 2010 Home Ranch Cabernet. Well done.

Prestigious Best of Class for Livermore Cabernet Sauvignon

Achieving Best of Class in the SF Chronicle competition is a high honor, especially for Cabernet in the \$40 to \$50 category. Occasio's John Kinney did just that with the 2011 Occasio Livermore Valley Cabernet. It went head-to-head with plenty of premium Cabs from you know where, so it really does go to show that the Livermore Valley can arm wrestle with the 800 lb. gorilla and score a victory.

This 100% Cabernet Sauvignon was sourced from the Del Arroyo and Thatcher Bay vineyards here in Livermore. It is sleek as a greyhound, with velour-like tannins and a captivating floral nose that carries over to the palate with a finesse that cannot be overstated. All the things we love about Cabernet are present and accounted for here, including cassis, leather, lavender, pepper and an exciting herbaceousness that keeps it lively from entry to brilliant coffee-coated finish. John remarks that he has read accounts about Livermore Valley wines from the 19th century suggesting they were sufficiently perfumey as to be a substitute for perfume. Not necessarily recommended, but if a drop of this Cab were to spill upon one's bosom, it would not be a waste. At the very reasonable price of \$40, you can enjoy some superbly crafted Cabernet from one of Livermore Valley's "Livermore Only" wineries making everything in their cellar from 100% Livermore Valley fruit.

Occasio's Double Gold winning 2010 TELOS blend, of which about 100 cases remain, is a really fascinating combination of equal parts of Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah, with 20% Tempranillo and about 1% Malbec. Kinney points out it was a Gold medal winning Syrah from the Friedandahl Vineyard, that went into this blend, along with a Double Gold Tempranillo, both bottled under the Caddis label, which is Occasio's assistant winemaker, Chris Sorensen's new winery project. John didn't want to bottle 50 cases of Syrah, so he crafted this blend, a surefire winner, instead.

There's lots going on here: aromas of leather, cigar, baking spice, cherry and earth then start spinning into the layer upon layer of flavors that slowly

unfurl and keep turning back into one another. Anise, cranberry, blueberry, sage, roasted meat, soy, basil: the list goes on and so does the beat. Chris's Dad, Bob, describes the wine as "busy." It's the kind of wine you can drink with friends who like word games, coming up with new ways to describe it. Pairing it with a cassoulet would be a good idea.

CABERNET SHOOT-OUT CHALLENGE

Livermore Valley also was prominent in the 8th annual Cabernet Shootout, with Michael Chalkley from Enoteca Five taking 2nd place in the men's voting for his 2011 Silvaspoons Cabernet Franc, while Csaba Szakal of En Garde (recently relocated to Sonoma after parting ways with Tenuta), scored Golds for all three of his entries, including the En Garde 2009 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon, Diamond Mountain District, Napa Valley, the 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon, Diamond Mountain District, Napa Valley, and the En Garde 2011 Ghilmetti Vineyard Cabernet Franc, Livermore Valley. Also scoring Golds were 3 Steves for its 2011 Cienega Valley Cabernet Franc, Auburn James for the Cabs from Coombsville and Calistoga, the North Coast 2011 Cab Franc and Meritage wines from Napa. Gold also went to McGrail Vineyards for its 2010 Reserve McGrail Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon, and to Steven Kent for the 2010 Home Ranch and Livermore Valley Cabernets, with Silver for the 2010 Folkend. Wente scored Golds for its 2011 Small Lot Cabernet Franc, their 2011 nth Degree Cabernet and their Southern Hills Cabernet, all from the Livermore Valley.

INSIDE THE BARRELS OF ENOTECA FIVE

Michael Shakley recently moved his small wine operation from Rockwall Wine in Alameda to Tenuta on Kalthoff Common, where he holds tastings by appointment (925-852-1861; enoteca5.com). Shakley, a musician (singer), at the tender age of seven was part of a children's choir that sang backup for The Carpenters on their hit song, "Sing!" He has a particular fondness for Cabernet Franc, saying he first fell in love with the varietal in Napa back in 1997. He also admits to having fallen in love with Karen Carpenter back in the day.

Fast forward to now, and his love of winemaking is apparent, beginning with the delicious 2013 Rosé of Cab Sauv, Cab Franc, Merlot and Petit Verdot he calls "Judy," in honor of his late Mom. This cranberry-raspberry cinnamon-apple beauty will be bottled this spring in time for Easter and Mother's Day. We barrel-tasted a 2011 Reserve Cab Franc from Silvaspoons, rich meaty and dense, followed by a 2012 Malbec from Aguirre Vineyard, zippy with sour cherry, pomegranate and sandy tannins, and a 2012 Silvaspoons Franc, brimming with chocolate and coffee and superbly impressive in texture from the twice daily pumpovers employed during fermentation. Also noteworthy is the 2012 Petit Verdot from the Ripken Vineyards, also in Lodi, with its massive nose of cigars and black raspberry jam. The finish is exquisite. It's available for futures purchase at \$36/bottle, \$42 on release.

The cream of the crop, though, is the 2013 Petit Verdot, again from Ripken, intriguingly filled with white pepper, juniper and incense, so spicy, soft and elegant, amazing in its youth. We all wanted Michael to bottle it then and there. He's looking for a local tasting room, so hopefully more Franc and PV lovers will have access to these lovely wines.

POSADA: THE NEW LOCAL RESTAURANT

Executive Chef Eduardo Posada and his wife Blanco, along with their amazing staff and family, warmly invited 40-some lucky diners to experience the inaugural wine-maker's dinner featuring Cuda Ridge wines at their newly opened restaurant on Murietta Boulevard last week. The atmosphere is as jovial, warm, spicy and friendly as is the southwest fare, which included brilliantly executed mussels in saffron and chile pepper-spiced broth, served with the 2011 Cuda Ridge Merlot. A crowd-pleaser was the pot roast over kale and root vegetables with spicy chile pepper gravy, perfectly paired with the 2011 Cab Franc, which is Eduardo and Blanco's favorite wine. It was a treat to enjoy such a well-thought out and efficiently executed meal. Our tablemates explained that the regular menu here is absolutely amazing, which is why they signed up for the dinner. The Posada's are committed to carrying only local Livermore Valley wines, which is an admirable policy. They should have no trouble finding wines on par with their sensationally tasty cuisine. We wish them much success.

TAKING IT TO THE STREETS

Remember that Doobie Brothers tune, "Takin' It To The Streets?" Well, that just might be a good theme song for Livermore Valley wineries going forward.

There's little doubt that the Livermore Valley has come a long way, baby, and yet, as John Kinney of Occasio is quick to point out, this region has long been recognized as a premium grape-growing area, from the time Charles Wetmore won America's first Gold Medal for wine at the 1889 Paris Exposition for a Livermore Valley dry Sauvignon Blanc.

When Wetmore was asked to speak to a group of wineries invited to attend the Chicago Exposition coming up in 1893, he used the occasion to rally his winemaking cohorts saying that the goal is not to win medals. Instead, he said, we should go to Chicago and not leave until every restaurant in town carried a California wine.

The same strategy applies today. Fresh off the excellent results from one of the most recognized competitions in the world, if all the Livermore Valley wineries took a page out of Wetmore's notebook and banded together to visit first San Francisco, then Los Angeles and San Diego, followed by Denver, Chicago, Omaha, Austin, Washington DC, New York and Boston, the message of the Livermore Valley's unique combination of longevity, history and top-quality winemaking would be spread loud and clear.

Another thing the Livermore Valley has going for it is the obvious camaraderie and pride that the wineries take in keeping their visitor experiences humble, authentic and down to earth. It's a charm that cannot be purchased, imitated or quantified.

Livermore Council Seeks to Improve Communications

One of the Livermore City Council's announced top goals is to enhance communications and citizen engagement.

In order to implement the goals, the city hired Tripepi Smith to provide a communications assessment and possible ongoing support services. The assessment documented and then assessed the current communication efforts of the city.

The city council received a report at its January 13 meeting.

Ryder Todd Smith, president of Tripepi, stated that the review found that communications were highly decentralized. Livermore has promoted a federated approach to communications, where each department is charged with executing community outreach, communicating initiatives, and responding to questions from residents. As a result, various staff members in each department have the part-time responsibility of executing communications for their respective departments.

For example, the police department has a team that writes releases. As a result, most releases issued by the city come from the police department. In general, 58 percent of the media coverage relates to crime stories, he stated. Adding that about only 3 percent pertain to issues.

Smith noted that this federated approach yields strengths and weaknesses. It puts the experts closer to the communications and reduces bureaucracy. However, it also results in communication silos that can inhibit a cohesive message and effective branding for the city.

Smith noted there is not a lot of guidance around news, nor is there a lot of planned cooperation among departments. At the same time, the review found that outside parties indicate that the city does an acceptable job of communicating with its constituents. "Fundamentally changing the communications process would be ill-advised," according to the report.

He pointed out that Livermore is unique in the number of highly active voters, 14,986 out of 45,519 registered voters and a population of 83,547.

The library home page is the most popular, which Smith described as "a huge portal for the city." Another area of high public interest is the premium outlet center. Much of the national media focus is on science at the national laboratories.

Smith added that one of the challenges faced by Livermore is that the city does not have a parks and recreation department. "In many communities, it is the

entry to communication."

Smith said that staff is doing a fair job or better than good with what it is asked to do. The website is not fulfilling its potential. The city does not track or measure the impact of its communication efforts.

The conclusion of the report was that the existing structure should be retained and enhanced by establishing consistent processes across departments and offering more support to individuals charged with executing communications.

Councilmember Bob Woerner commented, "The report is a good start." He wondered what message the city wants to communicate and to whom. He said that he has seen an evolution of how Livermore is perceived. It is now seen as a place to come. "We should reinforce that view on the website and through cooperation with Downtown Livermore."

Assistant City Manager Troy Brown said, "We are not measuring much at all." He said that staff would be developing metrics on how to measure the impact of its communication efforts.

Councilmember Stewart Gary said he is concerned that the information gleaned and proposed changes will sit on a shelf. He wanted to see a process that is sustainable with goals that can be accomplished and the results measured. He suggested that at budget time, staff tell the council how to get out the message about all that's great about Livermore.

Mayor John Marchand said, "People don't know what's happening if the city doesn't tell them. It's frustrating to put information in people's hands and have them chose not to read it." He referenced information sent to residents by mail only to have people say they never heard of a subject.

Among the recommendations in the report were the following:

Establish a communications team to meet twice a month to review the city's current message focus, upcoming major events, current city issues and initiatives, review measurements and metrics, learn new skills, share experiences and review results.

Assign a resource that is responsible for hosting monthly meetings of the communications team, preparing meeting materials and follow up action items and notes.

Assign a resource to seek cooperation and collaboration with sister agencies where appropriate and consistent with Council policy.

Assign a resource to identify organization-wide stories via observation of leadership meetings and other city meetings.

Identify stories for press releases well in advance. Issue additional press releases summarizing events after they take place.

Position press material to facilitate the media's coverage of city events. This includes assembling an event timeline, providing photos, pre-assembling approved quotes, and sharing staff contact information.

Assign a resource to routinely meet with the media and facilitate informal communications.

Assign a resource to produce a weekly media review report focusing on city media mentions. Distribute media review report to the communications team and leadership.

Leverage a graphic art resource to create a test version of the newsletter incorporating different formats and graphic layouts.

Integrate QR codes, social media accounts and links to the city website to drive readers back to the website.

Measure and track metrics of all city social media accounts.

Work to drive engagement on city social media platforms by posting more pictures of the community, feature local businesses, mention citizens, and run a Facebook Ad campaign.

Evaluate the capabilities of the website and determine how existing functions and capabilities can be best utilized.

Develop standards for the website. As part of these standards, define a consistent process for content review and define editorial standards and objectives. Those who maintain areas of the website should be trained in these standards.

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I, FRANKENSTEIN (PG13) 3D-DBOX	12:45	3:25	6:05 8:45
I, FRANKENSTEIN (PG13) BIG SCREEN-CC	12:00	2:25	4:50 7:15 9:45
RIDE ALONG (PG13) DLP-BIG SCREEN-CC	12:00	2:25	4:50 7:15 9:50
FROZEN (PG) DLP	12:00	2:40	5:20 8:00
THE NUT JOB (PG) DLP	12:10	2:20	4:25 6:40 9:00
LONE SURVIVOR (R) DLP	12:30	3:35	6:40 9:45
JACK RYAN: SHADOW RECRUIT (PG13) DLP	12:50	3:50	6:50 9:25
AMERICAN HUSTLE (R) DLP	1:00	4:00	7:00 9:50
SAVING MR. BANKS (PG13) DLP	12:05	3:10	6:20 9:20
AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY (R) DLP	12:35	3:15	6:25 9:35
THE WOLF OF WALL STREET (R) DLP	12:00	3:45	7:30
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OBITUARIES



Memorial Service to Celebrate the Life of Former Pleasanton Mayor Ken Mercer

A memorial service celebrating the life of Pleasanton's first directly elected mayor, Kenneth R. Mercer, will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25, 2014, at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Boulevard.

Mr. Mercer, 71, died on Jan. 14 at ValleyCare Medical Center in Pleasanton after battling pancreatic cancer.

Friends remembered him as a warm and personable man who was a natural leader and organizer. More importantly, he was a dedicated father and grandfather to his two adult children and five grandkids.

Mr. Mercer was elected to the Pleasanton City Council in 1976 after serving as a parks and recreation commissioner. He served for the next 16 years, winning direct election three times as mayor. During his tenure, the city approved Hacienda Business Park, Stoneridge Regional Shopping Center, other major business developments and many residential projects (both higher density apartments and single-family).

The decisions made by Mercer and his council colleagues aligned with the city's general plan that had been completed a few years before and resulted in the Pleasanton that so many residents and other people enjoy today. He was particularly proud of the Pleasanton Sports Park and the opportunities it offered for children and adults alike. He enjoyed playing lob ball for many years.

City Council colleague and former mayor Bob Butler wrote, "We often commented to each other that the hard work of planning had been done by those who put the first general plans together long before we were involved. Our job was to review projects in the light of that planning, and Ken excelled at doing that."

Former City Councilwoman Becky Dennis and Butler both noted Mercer's commitment to the residents. She wrote, "Ken should also be remembered for encouraging resident involvement. Looking back, it seems to me that Ken valued civic debate, and created many citizen forums for thoughtful examination of controversial issues. He set a standard for community participation, consideration of diverse opinion, and stakeholder inclusion that persists to this day."

His good friend, Brad Hirst, wrote, "Ken was a true All-Star. He made Pleasanton a better place to live, work, and do business. More importantly he made everyone around him a better person. He was obviously a very skilled and competent leader of people. Ken was the most organized person I ever met. He was a master delegator."

Mercer's political impact extended well beyond the Pleasanton city limits. He served on regional boards at the county level and beyond. Although a registered Democrat, he was appointed to the Bay Area Regional Water Quality Control Board by then-Governor Pete Wilson, a Republican.

Professionally, he started his career with Pacific Bell at 18 and worked his way through San Francisco State University, graduating in 1964. He worked for "the phone company" as a manager in government and external affairs until he retired in his 40s. During that time Pac Bell encouraged its employees to participate in

community affairs and Ken was a natural.

He took a break from Pac Bell to serve on the staff for late state Senator Carlos Bee. The Sacramento experience led to his first run for elected office on the City Council.

After retiring from Pac Bell, he worked in the title insurance industry for two different firms before joining Valley Care Health System as president of its foundation and vice-president for marketing and government affairs. The foundation had raised \$402,000 the year before Ken came on board. During this 10-year tenure, more than \$1 million was raised annually and the total for his time was \$15 million.

That helped fund the completion of the west wing of ValleyCare Medical Center in Pleasanton as well as refurbishing the existing Valley Memorial facilities in Livermore and building new ones; expanding the emergency room in Pleasanton; building the neonatal intensive care unit and the pediatric unit in Pleasanton.

In addition to his elected office, he was active in the valley chambers of commerce, leading Livermore as its president in the 1970s. He also served on the executive board of the East Bay Economic Development Alliance, a consortium that brought together government, labor and non-profit leaders to encourage economic growth. He also encouraged leaders of many non-profit organizations.

Jim Krause, co-founder of both Children's Theater Workshop and the Tri-Valley Community Foundation, wrote, "Mr. Mercer was one of the few politicians I have known who never lost his idealism. He remained true to his belief that he was a servant of the people. He actually knew what the term 'public servant' meant. I once thanked Ken for his leadership style. His response was, 'The higher up the social/political hierarchy you are, the greater the obligation to empower and support those at the bottom.' How could you not like this guy?"

That commitment to service was reflected at many community events where Ken would join the barbecue crew and serve those attending instead of standing on stage in the spotlight.

Although Ken often wore a tie and worked with his mind during the week, he loved working with his hands on the weekend. He painted homes on weekends for many years and drove a pick-up truck throughout his professional career so he could pursue his weekend avocation.

He was born Sept. 2, 1942 in Vancouver, Canada to the late Vera and David Mercer. The family moved to San Bruno where he grew up and graduated from Capuchino High School.

Ken enjoyed his family and grandchildren and never missed a sports event where he could cheer all of them on to victory or comfort them in defeat.

He was very proud of his five grandchildren, Katie and Nick Despotakis and Allison, Emily and Tommy Mercer. Ken is survived by his children, Shelley Despotakis (Mike) of Livermore and Chuck Mercer of Pleasanton, along with his brothers Ron Mercer of Santa Clara County and Norm Mercer of Livermore along with many nieces and nephews.

The family prefers contributions in his memory to the ValleyCare Foundation, 1111 E. Stanley Boulevard, Livermore, 94550; or Hope Hospice, 6377 Clark Avenue Suite 100, Dublin, CA 94568

Patricia Beebe

June 24, 1947 - Jan. 8, 2014

Patricia Lynne Beebe, known as Nama to her grandchildren and Trish and Pat to her friends, unexpectedly succumbed to a heart attack in her home. She was 66 years young.

Born in Oakland, to the late Robert Kenneth and Bettie Jayne Kelley. Raised in Pleasanton, she enjoyed summers at the beach in



Pescadero with her Aunt and spending time at the Pleasanton Fairgrounds Race Track with her

father who was a horse trainer. She attended Amador Valley High School and became one of the original Oakland Raiderettes.

She married Thomas Joseph Mansor, had four children - TJ, Tammi, Robert, Zak.

In 1978, she married Jerry Beebe of Livermore and they became residents of Modesto. Patricia always had a knack and love for treasure hunting, a trait picked up from her mother Bettie, which she later turned into a successful estate sale business for 20+ years called "Estate Liquidations." A business her son Robert will continue on. She had a joy for music, singing, loud race cars, playing games, watching movies, and finding that "perfect gift." She could tell story after story and you definitely wanted to listen. Most days you would see her in gold, leopard and bling. She had a positive outlook on life and lived life to the fullest. She was always smiling and liked to make you smile. She was warm, interested and caring, a real people person. Couldn't ask for a more loyal friend, amazing mom or best grandma. She would say her "children and grandchildren were her angels," they meant the world to her. Living by the motto she kept posted on her desk, "what is most valuable is not what we have in our lives, but who we have in our lives," her family and friends were always put first.

She was a loving and devoted grandmother to 9 grandchildren: Dillan (23), Paisley (21), Klein (20), children of TJ and Heather Mansor of Temecula. Clay (21), Ty (19), Carli and Rachel (16), children of Tammi and Jeff Nielsen of San Ramon. Tommy (8), son of Zak and Michelle Mansor of San Diego. Brooke (3), daughter of Robert and Jaime Mansor of Don Pedro.

Along with her children, Patricia is survived by her husband of 36 years, Jerry Beebe of Modesto; her younger brother Mike Kelley of New Mexico, his son Skyler of Arizona, and cousins.

Celebration of Life will be held: Saturday, January 25, 4:00pm-8:00pm Bridges Clubhouse, 9050 South Gales Ridge Road, San Ramon.

In Lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to be made in her name in honor of Robert "Bud" Nielsen to: Family Farm Alliance - PO Box 216, Klamath Falls, OR 97601 541-850-9007

Lester Francis McDonald

Nov. 5, 1932 - Dec. 26, 2013
Resident of Livermore

Lester McDonald, also known as Dad, Poppa Les, Grandpa Les, and Pops, became our guardian Angel the day after Christmas. He was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather and friend. He was a pole climber for Pacific Telephone until 1967 and continued his career in communications at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory until his retirement in 1993.

After his divorce, Les met Barbara Angelotti. They married on August 23, 1980. Barbara, who also worked at Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, was raising two children, Audra and Jennifer.

Les volunteered every week for over 20 years at the Veterans Hospital in Livermore.

He felt strongly the need to give back some of the care his father had received while

staying in the Veterans Hospital in his later years. Every week on Thursday evenings, he and his wife Barbara would visit the residents and would play bingo, help with watercolor classes and coordinate picnics, parties and other activities.

Les also worked with the Veterans Golden Age Games, similar to the Olympics where he would take patients with various disabilities to participate and compete in games held throughout the country. This included traveling by plane and staying in hotels and although it was sometimes difficult, he absolutely loved doing it for the guys.

Les eventually qualified to participate in the games himself and won in the sport of Table Tennis.

Les had a camper and a boat. He loved to fish and loved taking the family camping. He was an accomplished water skier and would spend most of his summers on the lake. At home, he loved to cook in his backyard-outdoor kitchen which he built himself from scraps and treasures he found. It had everything he needed to become a creative cook, learning to cook almost everything on the barbecue, including stir fry. He and his son-in-law Phillip spent many nights solving the world's problems over a gin and tonic.

Once or twice a year, he would take the train from California to Oregon to visit his son Chris's family in Salem. After returning he would always talk about the special moments he shared with Chris, including sitting along the river while camping.

As a sports fan he loved football and especially his team the Raiders. He had season tickets and his seats were located in the "Black Hole" three rows up. Rain or shine, he always enjoyed his games there. He also loved to watch golf and would play occasionally when he could.

One of the many things he loved to do was to travel with his granddaughter Taylor's softball team. It was lots of fun for him and he was able to attend most of her games.

Les loved his dogs, both his Black Lab Tar, who has passed away and his current dog Rosie, a (French Mastiff) Dogue de Bordeaux, who still waits for him to come home. Tar loved to travel with Les to the VA and work as a therapy dog. Les and Tar were always very close and we are sure Tar was there to greet and comfort him when he passed. Lester is probably walking with Tar somewhere in heaven.

Les is survived by his loving wife Barbara, and his children, Judy (Brian) Hough of Benicia, Cherrie (Ron) Combs Valley Springs, Chris (Lauralea) McDonald of Salem Oregon, Audra (Phillip) Ryder of Livermore and Jennifer Angelotti of Malin Oregon. He also leaves 10 grandchildren, Travis, Ashley, Jessica, Trevor, Mackenzie, Tristan, DJ, Taylor, Jocelyn and Deirdre. He also leaves many generations of loving nieces and nephews.

In celebration of his life, there will be a memorial service and remembrance on Jan. 27 at 1:00 PM at Callaghan Mortuary 3833 East Ave. Livermore. A graveside ceremony will follow at St. Michael's cemetery 3885 East Ave. Livermore.

The family wishes to say thank-you to the staff at ValleyCare Medical Center in Pleasanton for the good care they provided Les during his stay.

James B. Elliott

James B. Elliott, 48, of Oakland, California, died unexpectedly on December 5, 2013. He was a nuclear physicist at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. His wife, Linda, and daughters Mia and Noe, along with the rest of his family and friends, will miss him greatly.

Jim was born September 19, 1965, in Charleston, Ill. He earned a bachelor's degree in physics and astronomy from the University

of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1988 and his M.S. and Ph.D. in nuclear physics from Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind. in 1990 and 1995, respectively.

While at Purdue, he was part of the High Energy Nuclear Physics Group in the Department of Physics until 1999. He then worked in the Nuclear Science Division at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory until 2006. His most recent research at Lawrence Livermore Lab was part of the Weapons & Complex Integration Directorate was in high-energy density physics, hydrodynamics, high-energy nuclear physics and asteroid deflection. He authored or co-authored more than 100 scientific publications, many of which were highlighted in professional journals.

He married Linda Haymes in 2001 and the couple has two daughters: Mia (10) and Noe (9). Jim was devoted to his family, and they enjoyed many activities together, especially, soccer, basketball, kayaking, watching super hero movies and drawing. In addition to Jim's many scientific interests, he also enjoyed long-distance running; completed over 50 marathons including Chicago, Boston, Washington D.C., and San Francisco. In his spare time, you could always find him in the comic book store.

On January 25th, a Celebration of Life service will be held at the Joaquin Miller Community Center, 3594 Sanborn Drive Oakland, CA 94602. The Celebration will take place from 1:00-3:00 PM. All are welcome to attend and share memories and stories.

Memorial donations can be made to The California State Parks Foundation (<http://www.calparks.org/ways-to-give/>) or The Regional Parks Foundation (<http://www.regionalparks-foundation.org/>).

Matthew Wayne Ketcham

Mar. 23, 1964 - Dec 6, 2013
Livermore, CA

Matt passed away peacefully on Dec. 6th after a hard fought battle with cancer.

He is survived by his wife of 26 years Laury, his daughter Shauna and son Nick all of Livermore, father Wayne Ketcham of Morgan Hill and brothers Pat Ketcham of Lafayette and Chris Ketcham of Paicines. He was preceded in death by his mother, Debby Ketcham.

Matt was born in San Jose, CA and moved several times in his life, living in Salinas, Bellevue,

WA, Morgan Hill, San Luis Obispo, Merced and finally in Livermore. He graduated in 1982 from Live Oak High School where he was a team member of the two time CCS championship football team. He attended Cuesta Junior College and Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo.

Matt worked for Ocean Pacific Product in San Luis Obispo, Emigh Livestock in Merced and Shasta Produce in Oakland. He then became a partner and Vice President of Oakport Transportation Services in Oakland where he worked until his death.

Matt loved camping, fishing and BBQing with his family and friends. When he wasn't doing those things, he could be found watching and supporting sports of all levels, from his beloved Oakland Raiders to youth sports no matter the level, football, soccer, softball and baseball. Sports were not the only benefactor of his avid support. He was passionate about agriculture and was a strong supporter of the Livermore High School FFA program. The promotion of youth in agriculture was very important to him.

A Celebration of Matt's life will be held Saturday, February 8, 2014 at the Livermore Veterans Memorial Building at 522 South "L" Street from 1-4 p.m.

Memorial donations can be made to the American Cancer Society or to the Livermore High School FFA, C/O Joe McNealy, 600 Maple St, Livermore, CA 94550.

Anna Johnson

A memorial service celebrating the life of Anna Catherine Johnson, 94, of Livermore, will be held at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, January 25, 2014 at Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Avenue, Livermore.

Mrs. Johnson passed away in Livermore on December 24th.

Last month a funeral was held in Bloomington, Illinois and a graveside service at Friends Cemetery in Bentown, Illinois.

Anna was born March 21, 1919, in Bentown, Illinois, the daughter of Raymond Peter and Catherine Ella Lausterer Benjamin. She married Robert "Bob" Aaron Johnson, Sr. on October 12, 1952, at Park United Methodist Church, Bloomington.

Surviving is a son, Robert "Bob" Aaron Johnson, Jr. and daughter-in-law Janet Brehe Johnson, Livermore; two grandchildren, Catherine "Katie" Jeanne Johnson and Jonah Michael Johnson, both of Livermore; two nephews, Norman Hiser,

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Obituary/Memorial Policies

Obituaries are published in The Independent at no charge.

There is a small charge for photographs in the obituaries.

Memorial ads can also be placed in The Independent when families want to honor the memories of their loved ones. There is a charge for memorial ads, based on the size of the ad.

Please send an email to editmail@compuserve.com

OBITUARIES

(continued from page 9)

Lexington, Illinois; George R. Benjamin, Ellsworth, Illinois; one niece, Mildred E. Smiddy-Benjamin, Bridgview, Illinois; and three great-nieces and one great-nephew.

She is preceded in death by her parents and brother, Charles Benjamin.

She and her husband moved to Livermore in 1993 to be close to their son and his family. They were active in Asbury United Methodist Church, where soon after arriving she was fondly known by some members as the "pie lady" for her pies that she would bring to church. She enjoyed crocheting and made many baby blankets for family and friends. Through her church she donated baby blankets that she had made to Children's Hospital in Oakland. Until fairly recently she averaged a blanket a month. She enjoyed growing flowers, especially African violets. She was a loving and caring person who gave much to others unconditionally and always had a great smile.

Gifts in Anna's honor may be made to Asbury UMC Memorial fund, 4743 East Ave., Livermore, CA 94550 or to Park United Methodist Church, 704 Allyn Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Jeffery Allen Lind

Resident of Livermore
July 18, 1960 - Dec. 9, 2013

Jeffery Allen Lind was called home to Our Creator on Monday after a courageous battle with brain tumor. He touched many lives with his gentle spirit, patriotism and positive outlook on life.



He was a consummate outdoorsman who loved fishing and camping and was an avid runner and fitness buff.

Jeff was born in Fremont, CA and graduated from John F. Kennedy High School and earned an associate degree in Administration of Justice from Ohlone College. He joined the Alameda County Sheriff's Office in 1983. He worked at the Santa Rita Jail, North County Jail, Airport Police Services, Eden Township Substation and the Office of Emergency Services. He retired from the Sheriff's Office in 2011.

Jeff is survived by his devoted wife, Pinky; loving children Vanessa, Taylor, Rance and step-son, Armando Uribe. He is also survived by his mother, Joan; sister, Julie Lombardo; and brother-in-law, Frank Lombardo. His vibrant physical presence and generous loving spirit will be missed by all who knew him.

Friends and family are invited to a memorial service to celebrate Jeff's life on Saturday, January 25, 2014 at 10:00 in the morning at the First Presbyterian Church of Livermore, 2020 Fifth Street in Livermore.

In lieu of flowers, the family will appreciate gifts in Jeff's honor made to either the American Brain Tumor Association or the First Presbyterian Church of Livermore Memorial Fund. American Brain Tumor Association, 8550 West Bryn Mawr Ave, Suite 550, Chi-

cago, Illinois 60638 (www.abta.org). First Presbyterian Church of Livermore, 2020 Fifth Street, Livermore, CA 94550 (Please designate check for FPC Memorial Fund).

Stanley James Ekstrom

Stanley James Ekstrom, 95, died peacefully on January 11, 2014 in Woodland, California.



His first wife, Ruth Ekstrom, died in 1992; he remarried in 1997 to Florence Ekstrom, who survives him. Stan was a loving father (and father-in-law) to Connie Kelly (Bill Kelly), Steve Ekstrom (Susan Brown), Pam Viebeck (George Viebeck) and Greg Ekstrom (Patty Ekstrom). He had an extended family he was so proud of. He was grandfather to Dawn Taloyo, Aaron Kelly, Joanna Ekstrom, Elise Viebeck, Caroline Ekstrom, Sonya Ekstrom, Lizzi Ekstrom, Philip Viebeck, David Ekstrom and Michael Viebeck; and he was great grandfather to Alex and Sage Taloyo. In addition, he had two stepdaughters Nicki Lura (married to Ken Lura), Leslie Cochran (deceased), and numerous step-grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Stan led an exciting life, punctuated by service in the Army in World War II, three years living in Bahrain, a post-retirement life in Incline Village and Reno, NV and Tucson, AZ, and several vacations in Maui and Europe. He spent his final months in Yolo County, CA. He was a mechanical engineer and worked 20 years, before he retired, for the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. He was also an amateur photographer, painter and poet. After his retirement in 1983 he learned CAD and started a business drawing house plans for homeowners in the Lake Tahoe area.

He was known as a loving, generous and thoughtful man who placed great importance on his family and their welfare. A hallmark of his later life was the wonderful family vacations he sponsored in Lake Tahoe and Sun Valley, ID.

Private memorial services for family will be held in Davis, CA and at Lake Tahoe.

Jean E. Van Arsdale

Jan. 1, 1934-Jan. 14, 2014
Resident of Livermore, CA

Jean Van Arsdale entered into heaven peacefully on January 14, 2014 with her husband, two daughters and a son-in-law at her side. On December 27,



2013 Jean and her husband celebrated their sixty-first wedding anniversary and on January 1, 2014 she celebrated her eightieth birthday.

Jean was born in Mt. Hol-

ly, New Jersey and graduated from Bordentown High School. She lived in New Jersey until 1964 when the family moved to La Mesa, California. They lived there until July of 2011, when they moved to Livermore to be near their daughter and her husband.

Upon arriving in La Mesa she immediately volunteered to serve on the City of La Mesa Welcome Wagon staff. This activity was perfect for her interest in meeting people, and after a few years this led her to become a market research interviewer, which she thoroughly enjoyed. She worked as an interviewer for San Diego Surveys and two years later purchased the company. Under her ownership and leadership the company grew to become one of the leading market research companies in the San Diego and Las Vegas areas. She became involved with the Market Research Industry Association and was active on both the California and National levels. She served on many committees of the Southern California Chapter and was president for two terms.

Jean had many interests and friends; she led a very active social life. She was musically inclined, she played the piano beautifully and sang in the local chapter of Sweet Adeline's for several years. She enjoyed playing cards and was a member of her bridge club in La Mesa for fifty years. Her travels with her husband John included trips to Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Australia and many countries in Europe. She and John became members of the Friendship Force Organization which involved traveling to other countries and hosting members of other clubs around the world. Her leadership skills shined again, she was active on several committees and served as president of the San Diego Chapter for one term.

Jean is survived by her husband John and their four children: Cindy Jones, her children Rochelle, Evan and Chase; David Van Arsdale, his children Veronica, Julia, Anna and Maria; Judy and husband Ed Novak, their children Elizabeth, husband Pat Sills, great grandson Oliver, and Jonathan; Susie and husband Darren Young, their children Jared, Ryan and Spencer.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:30 at St. Charles Borromeo Church, 1315 Lomas Avenue in Livermore on January 30, 2014. There will be a public viewing at 10:30. In lieu of flowers contributions may be sent to the March of Dimes, 1275 Mamaroneck Ave, White Plains, NY 10605, or your local chapter. March of Dimes was established to fight polio and was her favorite charity.

Cleo Genevieve (O'Grady) Chappell

Cleo Genevieve (O'Grady) Chappell went home to heaven Thursday, Jan. 16, 2014. She was surrounded by her daughter and caregiver and it was a peaceful transition. Cleo was born March 16, 1920, in Kent, Washington. Cleo moved with her family to Gustine, Calif. at thirteen years old. While in high school, she met Wm., Billie, Chappell and in 1938, they were wed. From this union two

daughters, Patricia Dencer of Merrill, OR. and Marilyn Hughes of Livermore, CA. Bill and Cleo moved the family to Livermore in 1951 and remained until their passing. Her parents Wm and Mary O'Grady and brother Leo O'Grady preceded Cleo in death.

Cleo and Bill were married 64 years. Cleo worked at both Wente and Cresta Blanca before accepting a position at Lawrence Livermore Lab. While at Cresta Blanca, she met the Marino Family and not only were they the best friends, but neighbors. At LLL, Cleo was Secretary in the Purchasing Dept. for 20 years. She enjoyed the people she worked with and they remained friends long after her retirement.

Cleo is survived by her daughters and sons-in-law Kenneth Dencer and John Hughes; three grandchildren' Michelle (Dencer) Scully of Lakeport, CA; Kelli (Hughes) Ness; Kevin Hughes, great grandchildren, Ryan Cary and Carrissa Steele; Max and Jake Scully; Kayla, Kelsey, Kyle, Brandon, Hughes; and great grandchild, Carter Steele

She was proud of her Irish Catholic heritage and loved to hear about the lives of all her family and friends and welcomed them with listening ears and an open door policy. One of her mottos was "you never go anywhere with your hands hanging" and prided herself on her fabulous cooking and made sure you never went hungry from her table. She was frugal with herself but generous to those she loved and cared for.

Her favorite wearing apparel was classic black and white. She did enjoy a good Manhattan.

For the last three years, she was long suffering. Her caregivers, Emy, Digna, Judith, Karen gave her much love and tended to her with gentle and loyalty in home care. Her family will be eternally grateful for all their kindness.

She will be dearly missed by those who loved her. She has left an empty spot in the world but those left behind are comforted by the knowledge that her long-suffering has ceased and she is with the Lord that she sought fervently for so many years.

In lieu of flowers please send a donation to Hope Hospice, Clark Ave. Suite 100, Dublin, CA 94568; Alzheimers Foundation, 1060 La Avenida, Mountain View, CA 94043, or the Asthma Foundation. 8201 Corporate Dr., #1000, Landover, MD 20789

A rosary was held Wed. Jan 22, Callaghan Mortuary, East Ave., Livermore, CA; Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on Jan 23, at St. Michael's Church, Livermore, CA

June K. Ross-Josiassen

June, 1923 - Nov., 2013
Resident of Livermore, CA

Loving wife to Joseph F. Josiassen (deceased). Loving Mother, Grandmother, and Great-grandmother - 90 years of age. Avid sports fan; superb cook; expert in needlepoint; and, a talented seamstress. She was a 30 year member Eastern Star,



Alameda Chappell; active with Senior Citizens Group, Tri-Valley and Heritage Park.

She is survived by children, Sandra, Joseph, Janice and Lynne; brothers, Donald and Joseph; and, sisters, Viola, Shirley and Patt. Thank you for your floral contributions.

Memorial Service will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, January 26, 2014, at Community of Christ Church, 34050 Paseo Padre Parkway, Fremont, CA.

Jeanne Louise Chance

Jeanne Louise Chance, a resident of Dublin, passed away on January 7, 2014 at the age of 91.



Jeanne was married to John Chance for 54 years. He preceded her death in June, 2000.

She was a devoted and loving wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother and friend. Her heart was ALWAYS with her family. She had a passion for playing bridge and traveling the world. She was the current treasurer for the local Widows & Widowers Club and a member of the Castro Valley Women's Club.

She is survived by her two daughters, Donna Hoffman and Kathryn Smith, four grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

We all love you and you will be forever in our hearts.

Peder Edvin Andersen

Peder Edvin Andersen, age 91, a longtime Livermore resident, passed away December 29, 2013 after a long struggle as a result of being hit by a bicycle on the evening of December 5, 2012 on Palm Avenue in Livermore.

Pete is survived by his wife Margaret, his brother Arne, and his sisters Edith and Helen.

Pete was born on July 4, 1922 in Envang, a farmhouse named Engvang near Vejle, Denmark. Pete was the first of four children of Helge Edvin Andersen and Mette Iversen Andersen. In 1927 the family emigrated from Denmark to the United States and after staying one year on a dairy farm in Iowa, they were one of the first families to come through the newly opened Moffat Railway Tunnel on the Continental Divide in Colorado in 1928, on their way to California.

With the help of Mette's relative, John Rasmussen, they moved to the now historic Wood Ranch in Danville, where Helge worked and Mette cooked. Charlotte Wood, a well-known retired

teacher, helped the family learn English. Two years as a first grader helped Pete learn English. Four years later, they settled in what is now Camp Parks in Dublin. In 1942, with the outbreak of World War II, the family was forced to relocate to a ranch near Collier Canyon, where a barn built in 1885 still stands, and where Pete lived for the rest of his life.

Pete graduated from Amador Valley High School in 1941. He played football and basketball at Amador. After graduation, he began a carpentry and construction career, in addition to being a rancher, until his retirement.

Pete proudly served in the U.S. Army in Italy during World War II as a member of the Headquarters Company, 361st Infantry Regiment, 91st Division of the U.S. Army because of his ability to type, a skill that was hard to find. Pete never forgot the day the Colonel was in another office and Pete took the call to "... stop shooting, the war is over." He was awarded a Purple Heart when his jeep was accidentally strafed by a British plane. He received a Bronze Star for outstanding service.

He began to keep score at Livermore High basketball games in 1952, when the assigned scorekeeper failed to show and Pete filled in. He scored an incredible 3,513 games over the next 60 years. He was a sports writer for The Livermore News (currently The Herald) from 1951 to 1956. In 1955, Pete married Margaret Detjens, his beloved wife of 58 years.

Pete loved travel, photography, fishing, elk hunting, and being close to nature. Yosemite was one of his favorite spots. He climbed Half Dome four times after he turned 60 and Mt. Dana when he turned 80.

Pete also loved to photograph fall foliage around the country, and especially dramatic scenes of Arizona, where he traveled often with Margaret and his friend the late Jack Kolln of Pleasanton. Pete also made several trips to Europe, including Denmark, to re-visit relatives and the farm where he was born. He also traveled to Norway, Spitsbergen Island, near the North Pole, and Iceland.

As a lover of football, Pete attended 660 college games from 1934 until 2012. He also attended 37 Rose Bowl games and dozens of other college Bowl games. In five days in 1974, Pete was in the stands at the Fiesta, Gator, Orange, and Peach Bowl games.

Pete was a member of the VFW, the Livermore Danish Lodge, Masonic Lodge, Livermore Heritage Guild, Museum on Main in Pleasanton, Museum of the San Ramon Valley, and the Danish Immigrant Museum in Iowa.

A heart-felt Celebration of Life for Pete will be held at the Livermore Veteran's Hall (5th and L Streets) on Saturday, January 25, 2014 at 1 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hope Hospice (6377 Clarke Ave., Dublin 94568), The Livermore-Granada Boosters (2117 Fourth St., Livermore 94550) or a historical society/museum of your choice.

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LEGAL NOTICES

FOR INFORMATION PLACING LEGAL NOTICES

Call 925-243-8000

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 486274

The following person(s) doing business as: Diablo Valley Property Management, 1779 Mill Springs Common, #315, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Judith D. Pipkin, 1779 Mill Springs Common, #315, 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 12/20/2013.

Signature of Registrants :s/: Judith D. Pipkin

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 26, 2013. Expires December 26, 2018.

The Independent Legal No. 3587. Published January 9, 16, 23, 30, 2014.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME FILE NO. 470643

The following person(s) has (have) abandoned the use of the Fictitious Business Name: Diablo Valley Property Man-

agement, 1860 Meadow Glen Drive, Livermore, CA 94551.

The Fictitious business Name Statement for the Partnership was filed on October 10, 2012 in the County of Alameda.

The full name of Registrant: Victor A. Romero, 1860 Meadow Glen Drive, Livermore, CA, 94551

Signature of Registrant: /s/: Victor A. Romero

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 26, 2013. Expires December 26, 2018.

The Independent Legal No. 3588. Published January 9, 16, 23, 30, 2014.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 485891

The following person(s) doing business as: Erin's Cookies, 2179 Autinori Ct, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s):

Erin Sue Criminale, 2179 Autinori Ct, 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 11/15/2013.

Signature of Registrants :s/: Erin Criminale

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 12, 2013. Expires December 12, 2018.

The Independent Legal No. 3589. Published January 9, 16, 23, 30, 2014.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 485761

The following person(s) doing business as: Silhouette Med Spa & Weight Management, 101 East Vineyard Avenue, Suite 107, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s):

Silhouette Med Spa, 101 E. Vineyard Avenue #107, Livermore, CA 94550

This business is conducted by a Limited liability company

The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.

Signature of Registrants

:s/: Soraya Esteve - Member This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 9, 2013. Expires December 9, 2018. The Independent Legal No. 3590. Published January 16, 23, 30, February 6, 2014.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 486386

The following person(s) doing business as: Quickly - Livermore, 1106 E. Stanley Blvd, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s):

CharBy Adventures LLC, 248 Scherman Way, Livermore, CA 94550

This business is conducted

The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.

Signature of Registrants

:s/: Soraya Esteve - Member This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 9, 2013. Expires December 9, 2018. The Independent Legal No. 3591. Published January 16, 23, 30, February 6, 2014.

by a Limited liability company

The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.

Signature of Registrants :s/: Charlene L. Anderson, Owner / Manager CharBy Adventures LLC

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 2, 2014. Expires January 2, 2019.

The Independent Legal No. 3591. Published January 16, 23, 30, February 6, 2014.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 486328

The following person(s) doing business as: 1st Street, Smog, 4001 1st Street,

Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s):

Alan Moffat, 3708 Catamaran Ct, Discovery Bay, CA 94505

This business is conducted by an individual

The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 11/11/13.

Signature of Registrants :s/: Alan Moffat

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 30, 2013. Expires December 30, 2018.

The Independent Legal No. 3592. Published January 16, 23, 30, February 6, 2014.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 486634
The following person(s) doing business as: Brite Farms, 1811 Santa Rita Rd #102, Pleasanton, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): CAS InterGlobal LLC, 1811 Santa Rita Rd #102, Pleasanton, CA 94566
This business is conducted by a Limited liability company. The registrant has not yet begun to transact business using the fictitious business name listed above.
Signature of Registrants :s/ Keliang Zhu, COO of CAS InterGlobal LLC
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 7, 2014. Expires January 7, 2019. The Independent Legal No. 3593. Published January 23, 30, February 6, 13, 2014.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 486871
The following person(s) doing business as: Vasco Urbano Wine Company, 2245C South Vasco Rd, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): WGG Enterprises, LLC, 2245C South Vasco Rd, Livermore, CA 94550
This business is conducted by a Limited liability company. The registrant has not yet begun to transact business using the fictitious business name listed above.
Signature of Registrants :s/ Jeffery H. Cranor, President
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 14, 2014. Expires January 14, 2019. The Independent Legal No. 3594. Published January 23, 30, February 6, 13, 2014.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 486448
The following person(s) doing business as: Transporter Cab, 3221 Leahy Way, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Saidal Kaviyani, 3221 Leahy Way, 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 N/A.
Signature of Registrants :s/ Saidal Kaviyani
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 17, 2014. Expires January 17, 2019. The Independent Legal No. 3595. Published January 23, 30, February 6, 13, 2014.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 486397
The following person(s) doing business as: Russian Hill Press, 166 Anna Maria St, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Paula Chinick, 166 Anna Maria 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 N/A.
Signature of Registrants :s/ Paula C. Chinick
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 2, 2014. Expires January 2, 2019. The Independent Legal No. 3596. Published January 23, 30, February 6, 13, 2014.

ANIMALS

2) CATS/DOGS

ADOPT A DOG OR CAT, for adoption information contact Valley Humane Society at (925)426-8656.

Adopt a new best friend: TVAR, the Tri-Valley Animal Rescue, offers animals for adoption every Saturday and Sunday, excluding most holidays. On Saturdays from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm, dogs are available at the Pleasanton Farmers Market at W. Angela and First Streets. Two locations will showcase cats only: Petsmart in Dublin from 12:00 to 4:00 and the Pet Extreme in Livermore from 12:00 to 4:00. On Sundays, cats are available at Petsmart in Dublin from 1:00 to 4:00, and Pet Extreme in Livermore from 12:00 to 4:00. For more information, call Terry at (925)487-7279 or visit our website at www.tvar.org

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What's Ahead in Real Estate for 2014?

By Cher Wollard

The year ahead is shaping up to look a lot like the year that just ended, but with a few twists:

- Home prices are likely to rise, but not as steeply as the past two years.
- Inventory should remain low, but as builders rush to get new homes on the market and would-be sellers see an opportunity to capture equity, the offerings may not be quite as slim as in 2013.
- Interest rates will increase, but still remain at historic lows.
- Buyers will do fewer flips and more buy-and-holds. Even investors are seeing the benefits of long-term ownership, versus turning a quick buck. And, with the rapid decline in foreclosures and short sales, there are fewer opportunities for flipping properties. This is good news for those needing to rent homes.

At least, that's the prediction of many economists, and local Realtors are seeing evidence to back that up.

"My year has started off with a bang," said Pam Cole of Legacy Real Estate and Associates in Livermore. "I have been slammed since the beginning of the year."

The nature of transactions is likely to shift, with changes in lending regulations impacting buyers and sellers.

"There is a pent-up demand for both rental and owner-occupied housing as household formation will inevitably burst out," according to Lawrence Yun, chief economist for the National Association of Realtors. "But the bottleneck is in limited housing supply, due to the slow recovery in new home construction."

The inventory of resale homes is also well below normal levels, which means buyers are bidding up prices.

"We started with very low inventory again," Cole said. "We're getting offers on properties as soon as we put up a sign, before they even go on the MLS. And buyers are writing very aggressive offers. And there are sellers who are moving into active adult communities thinking this is the time to cash in on the property values we have right now."

Nationally, home prices have increased 18 percent during the past two years. The median sales price for a home in California climbed an astounding 28 percent in 2013, from \$319,310 to \$408,600, following a similar increase in 2012. The median sales price for the Bay Area is close to the \$550,000 mark. Prices are expected to rise another 6 percent in 2014, led by a strong showing in the higher-priced housing sectors.

Last month's Bay Area home sales were the slowest for a December in six years, the result of a constrained supply of homes for sale, according to DataQuick real estate data service.

"Last year, when we opened for business on Jan. 3, Livermore had 43 or 44 properties on the market. We ended on Dec. 31 at 47."

"We watched the inventory stay at a very low level the first two quarters of the year. In the middle of the year we saw an increase, but it sold off as quickly as it started and we ended the year with not very many houses for sale. Higher prices mean fewer homeowners are underwater."

In the Bay Area, sales of distressed properties, including both short sales and foreclosures, accounted for about 1 in 8 resale transactions in December. This is in sharp contrast to more than 1 in 3 last year at this time.

In fact, the ratio of distressed sales to "equity" sales is back to the historic norm in our region, although parts of California are still catching up, according to information supplied by DataQuick real estate data service.

Higher prices also are likely to result in fewer investors in the marketplace. Investors, including many from other countries, snatched up bargains during the recession.

With investors easing out of the market and too little inventory, we may actually see a slight decrease in overall sales, according to the California Association of Realtors.

"Next year will be a more 'normal' year and the economy will presumably grow at a faster pace, which will provide support to the housing market," C.A.R. forecasts.

N.A.R. President Steve Brown noted that new mortgage credit rules, known as the Qualified Mortgage or QM, could make it tougher for some buyers to obtain financing.

"Qualified borrowers are getting a loan that they are very likely to be able to repay, but some borrowers may wind up paying much more for their mortgage, or not get a loan at all due to the tougher standards," Brown said. "The new rules may tighten credit too much, but we're hopeful regulators will make adjustments if this proves to be true."

For 14 consecutive months the Bay Area median has risen more than 20 percent on a year-over-year basis.

Prices have continued to rise on a year-over-year basis, according to DataQuick, although at a slower pace than in early 2013.

"If current trends hold, including year-over-year price appreciation of 20-plus percent, the typical home would be selling for \$50,000 to \$60,000 more by spring. Perhaps twice that at the upper end of the market. That could loosen up quite a bit of inventory. The question then is how much of the pent-up demand that accumulated during the down years is still there? An additional issue is the fussy mortgage market, although things are moving in the right direction there, slowly," said John Walsh, DataQuick president.

In our area, climbing prices and changes in the lending industry are starting to impact buyers.

"I've already had several buyers who cannot qualify for what they could have a year ago because prices and interest rates have gone up, so they have had to adjust their expectations," Cole said. "I hope interest rates stay low enough that buyers won't have to reduce even more what they are looking for in a home."

"It's the third week of January and we haven't seen a significant increase yet," Cole noted. "We're still seeing homes selling within a week of going on the market. I'm telling sellers, don't wait for spring. Spring is always a great time to sell, but this might be better with such low inventory and no competition."

For information about market conditions specific to your neighborhood, contact your local Realtor today.

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

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TALK

(continued from page one)

Stanley which won the 2005 DARPA Grand Challenge - a \$2 million prize competition for American non-driver vehicles funded by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, the most prominent research organization of the U.S. Department of Defense.

Montemerlo is a Software Engineer who received his Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in Electrical/Computer Engineering, followed by a Ph.D. in Robotics from Philadelphia's Carnegie Mellon University, the global research university recognized for its world-class technology programs.

The talk, titled "Google Self-Driving Car Project: A Glimpse of the Future," is part of the Bankhead's annual Rae Dorrough Speaker Series, during which engaging experts speak on a wide range of topics including science, health, entertainment, literature and adventure. Montemerlo's talk will highlight the capabilities and limitations of autonomous vehicles.

As of 2013, four U.S. states have passed laws permitting autonomous cars: Nevada, Florida, California, and Michigan. These cars are never unmanned; a trained safety driver sits behind the wheel ready to take over as easily as one engages cruise control, while a trained software operator rides in the passenger seat.

The team announced its cars had completed more than 300,000 autonomous-driving miles, accident free in August 2012. (Two driverless car accidents have been reported: one car was rear-ended at a stoplight, and a second accident occurred while a car was being

manually operated.) Driverless cars have traversed San Francisco's famously-crooked Lombard Street, travelled across the Golden Gate Bridge and driven around Lake Tahoe.

Fully autonomous vehicles are expected to be commercially viable as early as 2020. Technologists who have long dreamed of them believe that they can transform society as profoundly as the Internet has. Robot drivers react faster than humans, have 360-degree perception and do not get distracted, sleepy or intoxicated thereby reducing automobile deaths and injuries. Engineers claim the technology could double the capacity of roads by allowing cars to drive more safely while closer together. Because these vehicles would be less likely to crash, they could be built lighter, reducing fuel consumption.

Yet challenges also exist. Laws need to catch up to technological advances. In the event of an accident, who would be liable — the person behind the wheel or the maker of the software? And to be truly safe, autonomous cars must be more reliable than computers which do occasionally crash and can be infected.

Montemerlo's talk will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Bankhead, located at 2400 First Street, Livermore. Tickets cost \$30 and are available at the box office, online at www.bankhead-theater.org or by calling 373-6800.

All talks in the series conclude with a question and answer period, and are followed by a reception in the lobby.

ENERGY

(continued from page one)

gible for rebates up to \$4500 through Energy Upgrade California Home Upgrade.

Dublin Mayor Tim Sbranti said, "It's a win-win for homeowners to be able to take advantage of free energy-saving resources and raise money for Friends of the Dublin Library at the same time."

To learn more about the Dublin Energy Challenge, visit Dublin.ca.gov/EnergyChallenge. To sign up for the Home Energy Analyzer, visit HomeEnergyAnalyzer.org.

Funding for the program comes from utilities' rate-payers under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission.

Book Debuts at Towne Center

Len Vlahos' book *The Scar Boys*, will debut at Towne Center Books. It is a coming-of-age/ rock-and-roll novel written in the form of a college admission essay (one that blows way past the 250 word limit). This book is geared toward grades 8 and up, though anybody and everybody is welcome to join.

Len will bring a slide show presentation and his guitar to share his own musical experience that inspired the book. He will also open the floor to any brave musician who wants to join him in the fun. All in all, it will be a great night!

This program is free to the public. Wednesday, February 26 at 7:00 PM. No registration is required. For more information, please call Towne Center Books 925-846-8826.

Special Needs Benefits Seminar Set for Feb 1

Parents of children or soon-to-be adults with special needs and developmental delays are invited to attend a special benefits seminar on Saturday February 1 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at Las Positas College, 3000 Campus Hill Drive in Livermore.

The event is sponsored by Sunflower Hill, a new non-profit in the East Bay seeking to create an intentional, sustainable residential community for individuals with special needs.

The program will feature Kevin Urbatsch, who serves as the National Director of the Academy of Special Needs Planners (ASNP).

"The seminar will outline all the different benefits that are available to individuals with special needs, particularly when they turn 18

and become an adult," said Jon Elfin, a Sunflower Hill board member and chair of the event. "Making the right decisions for your child can be difficult if you don't know what they are entitled to receive. This seminar will discuss Social Security income and disability, Medi-Cal, Medicare and In Home Support Services and what you should apply for."

As the parent of a special needs child who just turned 18, Elfin notes that navigating the maze of benefits can be very confusing. "Some of the decisions you make initially for your child can affect the benefits they receive for the rest of their lives. We want parents to know their options and be able to make informed choices."

Urbatsch will also cover the process for obtaining

limited conservatorships and how the new Affordable Health Care Act can affect individuals with special needs. Trusts, estate and asset planning will also be reviewed.

Tickets for the seminar may be purchased at <http://www.sunflowerhill.org/> or

via check to Sunflower Hill, P.O. Box 11436, Pleasanton, CA 94588. For more information, contact Jon Elfin at jonelfin@att.net or info@sunflowerhill.org. Special discounts are available for two attendees (both parents) of a special needs child.



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LARPD Offers Variety of Programs in February

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District has some fun upcoming offerings available:

Treasure hunt at the annual Rummage Sales, set this year from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 25, and Saturday, Feb. 22. These sales are held at The Barn, 3131 Pacific Ave., Livermore. For those looking for an early start on spring cleaning, the Feb. 22 Rummage Sale still has vendor space available. Those interested in selling items can sign up for a space (\$40 for residents; \$45 for nonresidents). Sale items must be of garage sale variety and in working condition. No food, candy, car parts, large furniture, cars, motorcycles or any new or commercial items are allowed. Call 925-373-5700 to reserve a spot. Admission is free to shoppers for both sales.

Daughters and their dads can go out for a twirl at this year's Sweetheart Ball Daddy & Daughter Dance. The event includes dancing, DJ entertainment, refreshments and a photo booth. Tickets are \$20 per couple; additional daughter only \$7. Tickets are on sale now and must be purchased in advance - no tickets will be sold at the door. The Daddy & Daughter Dance will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 7, at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. To reserve tickets, call 925-373-5700 or visit the Community Center.

Students can stay active on school holidays with the School's Out Sports Bout. This one-day program is held on various school release days. Kids can play traditional sports as well as nontraditional games such as dodgeball, capture the flag, obstacle courses and a jump house. School's Out Sports Bout is for ages 5 to 12. Upcoming dates include Monday, Jan. 20; Monday, Feb. 17; Monday, March 10;

and Tuesday, March 11. The program runs from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and is only \$35 per day. Register online at www.larpd.org or call 925-373-5700.

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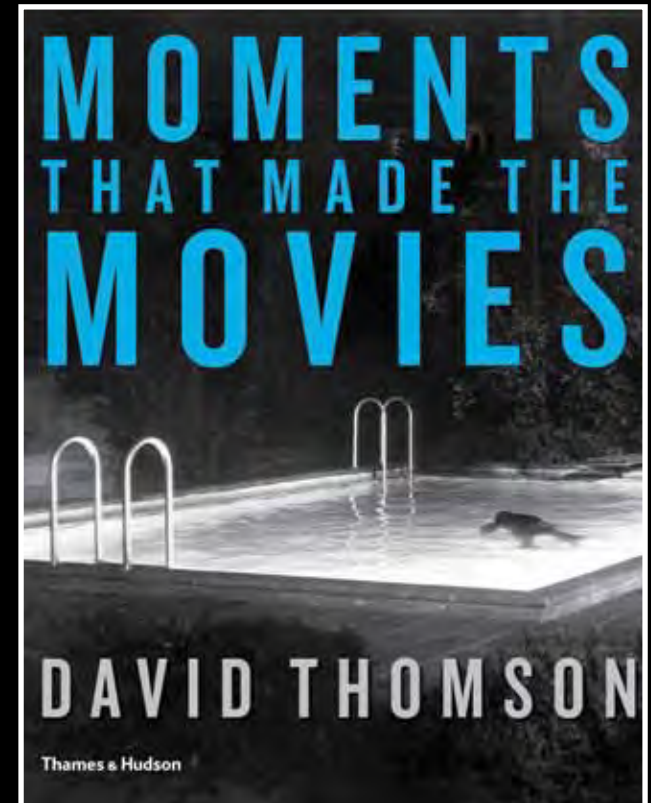
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THE INDEPENDENT • SECTION A



Clockwise, starting upper left) Taiko concert, page 2; the English detective in film, page 2; The Phantom Tollbooth performance, page 3; Friends of the Vineyards meeting, page 2; The Drowsy Chaperone review, page 5.

Friends of the Vineyards Annual Meeting Set



Friends of the Vineyards (FOV) will hold its annual meeting at 7 p.m. on Thursday, January 30 in the Community Room of the Civic Center Library, located at 1188 South Livermore Avenue in Livermore.

Laura Mercier, Executive Director of the Tri-Valley Conservancy will be the guest speaker. Her topic will be: Back to the Future: The Tri-Valley--Then, Now, & Tomorrow.

There will be also a presentation on FOV's accomplishments during 2013, and goals for 2014.

Light refreshments will be served. The meeting is open to the public. Admission is free.

FOV is dedicated to protecting open space and supporting agriculture in the Tri-Valley. To this end, the goals of FOV are:

- Identify Tri-Valley land adaptable for agricultural uses and help create conservation strategies;
- Develop and support pro-conservation legislation and policies; and
- Educate the community about viticulture and winemaking and promote local agricultural products.

Please visit www.fov.org for more information about the organization.

Sister City Organization to Hold Benefit Taiko Concert

The Livermore-Yotsukaido Sister City Organization or LYSCO will hold a benefit concert and dessert reception, featuring the award-winning San Jose Taiko group on Saturday, February 8th at 7 PM in the Mendenhall Middle School Multi-Purpose Room.

Taiko is an ancient art form with a mythological origin in Japanese culture. In addition, there will be a Martial Arts exhibition from a local Livermore studio.

The Sister City Organization was founded in 1977 and has been sending Livermore Middle School students to Japan since 2001. Every October, about twenty Livermore 8th graders and their chaperones travel to Yotsukaido where they stay with a host family, attend school, and participate in family and sightseeing activities.



San Jose Taiko

In March, Yotsukaido students and their chaperones visit Livermore. All 7th grade Livermore residents are encouraged to apply to be selected as a LYSCO Ambassador. Applications and the selection process will take place in late March or early April.

A rigorous application and interview process selects those youth eager to represent Livermore in a positive image while learning a new culture.

The family-friendly concert is open to the public. Seating is limited. General admission is \$31.00, LY-

SCO members \$26.00 and LYSCO students, \$21.00. Children under 8 are admitted free.

For more information on how to purchase tickets for the benefit or about the Student Ambassador Program, email LYSCO at lyscos2010@yahoo.com.

Author and Film Critic Discusses the English Detective in Film



David Thomson

Author and film critic David Thomson will discuss the topic, "Suave and Sophisticated: The English Detective in Film." The presentation will take place at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, February 5, 2014 at the Livermore Public Library Civic Center.

The library is located 1188 S. Livermore Avenue. There is no charge for this event.

David Thomson is recognized as the foremost film writer of our times, "the greatest living film critic and historian" according to Benjamin Schwarz and many others (*Atlantic Monthly*). He will acquaint those attending with the suave, sophisticated and usually polite English detective, as portrayed in crime films. Critics and colleagues, moviegoers and review-readers all continue to reach for David Thomson as the final word on film. His breadth of

knowledge, candor, insight and devastating wit make learning about the cinema at least as much fun as watching whichever film David Thomson happens to be highlighting.

Born and raised in London, David Thomson won a scholarship to attend private school and after graduation enrolled in the London School of Film Technique—the only such school in Britain at that time. A risky move, certainly, and many urged Oxford, the expected choice — but it's a risk that has since led David Thomson to a remarkable career as a film historian and writer. He is a contributor to the *New York Times*, *Film Comment*, *Movieline*, *New Republic*, and *Salon*. He has acted as screenwriter for the award-winning documentary "The Making of a Legend: *Gone with the Wind*," taught

film studies at Dartmouth College and served on the selection committee for the New York Film Festival.

Thomson is also an accomplished author with more than 20 books to his name. He has been the biographer of Orson Welles and Nicole Kidman and has written a history of Hollywood titled, *The Whole Equation*. Most notably Thomson is the creator and compiler of *The New Biographical Dictionary of Film*, which is lauded as the first (and best) reference book of its kind for the film world. "As grand and eccentric as Samuel Johnson's dictionary," according to Tom Shone of the *New York Observer*, and everyone seems to agree as this staple is soon going into a fifth, updated edition. The companion volume of sorts "Have You Seen...?" shares David Thomson's

eclectic reviews of the 1,000 movies to see, and most recently he has shared his own childhood in post-World War II London with *Try to Tell the Story: A Memoir*.

This program is part of Livermore Reads Together 2014, a community-wide reading program featuring Laurie R. King's *The Beekeeper's Apprentice*. The community of Livermore is encouraged to join their neighbors by participating in the Livermore Reads Together events for children and adults during the month of February 2014. Copies of books and event schedules are available at all Livermore Public Library locations. Livermore Reads Together is generously by The Friends of the Livermore Library. For additional events check the library's website at www.livermorelibrary.net.

Grand Exhibit Explores Intricate Collage Angela Johal – Beyond Consumerism: The Body Speaks

The Grand Theatre Center for the Arts presents a feature exhibition by Angela Johal, titled *Beyond Consumerism: The Body Speaks*. The exhibition is on display from February 1st through March 8th, 2014, in the Souza and Energy Galleries.

An Opening Reception will be held on Saturday, February 1st from 12 to 2 pm. A Gallery Talk with Johal will be held on Saturday, February 15th, from 12 to 2 pm. All of these associated events are free and open to the public. In support of the exhibition, Johal will offer two hands-on collage workshops. The first, *Spaced-Out Collage*, will be presented for children ages 6-14 and family participation on Saturday, February 22nd, from 1 to 3 pm. This workshop is free and all supplies will be provided. The second workshop for adults 18+, *Create the Extraordinary from the Ordinary*, will be offered on Saturday, March 1st, from 10



The Eye of the Universe, mixed-media collage, Image courtesy of Angela Johal

am to 3 pm. This workshop costs \$15 and all supplies will be provided. There will be a lunch break from 12 to 12:45 PM. Both workshops are limited to 15 students and require advanced registration for participation.

Beyond Consumerism: The Body Speaks presents collage and assemblage by Livermore artist, Angela Johal.

Johal holds a B.F.A. in

painting from San Jose State University and has been exhibiting professionally in the region since 2006. Drawing from pop culture and consumerism, Angela seeks to reinvent and energize color and images. Incorporating source materials such as thread, paint chips, magazines, and found objects, she re-organizes components not only to create new imagery, but also to re-contextualize them, through the use of collage. The results are highly designed works of art that invite the viewer to explore layers of interlocking imagery, shapes, color, and meaning. Social commentary, philosophy, spirituality, and humor can be found in her creations.

Angela Johal states, "In my art I must find order through the incorporation of found color and images amongst the chaos and deluge of consumerism. I search for images like one would look for buried treasure. At a distance, the collages appear to perfectly balanced abstract compositions, but as you draw closer, images begin to emerge. The viewer must work to extract from the intricate and dense collages, giving time for reflection. Senses are awakened to the natural and spiritual worlds of life, death, and the fleeting to that which is ordered, lasting, and eternal."

Public hours for the Grand Galleries are Tuesday – Thursday from 10 am to 6 pm, Friday from 10 am to 5 pm, and Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm, and one hour prior to most performances on the Grand Theatre stages. The Galleries are closed during the month of August and in between feature exhibitions. Exhibitions are free and open to the public. To arrange a facility tour, visit online at www.atthegrand.org, or call Patron Services at the Leona Darr Willis Box Office at 209.831.6TKT (6858).

Public Invited to 'The Phantom Tollbooth'



The children's novel, *The Phantom Tollbooth*, by Norton Juster is coming to life at Livermore's West End Theater this January. The book, recently turned musical, is already a family favorite throughout the nation. Add some amusing songs and imaginative sets and you have *The Phantom Tollbooth Jr.*

The musical follows Milo, a young student who has become increasingly bored with the world around him. Suddenly a mysterious Tollbooth appears in Milo's bedroom and offers an escape from the reality Milo finds so dull in to the Land of Wisdom. Along the way Milo encounters a host of crazy characters including Tock (a literal watch dog), the Whether Woman and a host of Lethargians. After

visiting the cities of Dictionopolis and Digitopolis, Milo finds himself on an adventure to save the Princesses Rhyme and Reason from the Castle in the Air. But before Milo can reach the princesses he must fight off the Demons who have been watching him from the very beginning.

The cast features local students enrolled with SmARTSunlimited, between the ages of 10 and 14. The sets, costumes, and props were designed by the students in collaboration with the Producer Deborah McQueen, the Director Kirsten Roysten, the Scenic Painter Carolyn Lord, and the students themselves.

Performances will be on January 25th and 26th at the West End Theater, located at 51 Wright Brothers Ave., Suite C, Airport Plaza, Livermore. Tickets can be purchased online at SmARTSunlimited.com. SmARTSunlimited offers child centered programs in film, acting, voice, piano, violin, percussion, and guitar. Their production for children is *Moulan* (Youth & Teen) & *Cinderella* (Pee Wees) which begins on Feb. 3 and registration is now open for both of those programs. For more information, call 925-245-0283.

BANKHEAD THEATER
SEASON
13/14

Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre
Drowsy Chaperone
jan 24, 25, 31 at 8pm
jan 19, 26 at 2pm
saturday feb 1 at 2 & 8pm

Rae Dorough Speaker Series
Mike Montemerlo
GOOGLE SELF-DRIVING CAR PROJECT
tuesday jan 28 at 7:30pm

Journey of Hope and Promise
Celtic Nights
tuesday feb 4 at 7:30pm

Lamplighters Music Theatre
Die Fledermous
saturday feb 8 at 8pm
sunday feb 9 at 2pm

A Valentine from Broadway
Some Enchanted Evening
friday feb 14 at 8pm

Del Valle Fine Arts
Euclid String Quartet
saturday feb 15 at 8pm

In The Mood
1940s Musical Revue
wednesday feb 19 at 2 & 7:30pm

West Coast Presenters
Pink Floyd Concert Experience with HOUSE OF FLOYD
friday feb 21 at 8pm

Livermore-Amador Symphony
American Idols
saturday feb 22 at 8pm

call 925.373.6800
click www.bankheadtheater.org
come by 2400 First Street / Livermore

BANKHEAD
THEATER

Ragin' Cajun Mardi Gras Cancer Fundraiser Event Tickets on Sale Now

Ragin' Cajun, a Mardi Gras event, will be held March 7 at the Casa Real at Ruby Hill in Pleasanton.

Music, dancing, a gourmet dinner, beads, live auctions, and more will be part of the festivities from 6:00 to 11 p.m. at Casa Real at Ruby Hill Winery, 410 Vineyard Avenue, Pleasanton. Tickets cost \$125 each.

Ragin' Cajun is the annual fundraiser event for the Sandra J Wing Healing Therapies Foundation, a non-profit organization that provides cancer patients in the East Bay Tri-Valley area with financial assistance for complementary healing services during the course of their chemo and/or radiation therapy that are not covered by insurance.

In its first year, the Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation helped 12 cancer patients, and in just

a few short years, that number has grown substantially. Through generous support from donors and local businesses, as well as fundraisers like Ragin' Cajun, they are proud to report that they have helped nearly 400 cancer patients. The youngest beneficiary is 4 and the oldest is 87.

The following are testimonials from grant recipients:

"I want to say thank you and tell you how I have benefitted from healing therapies. I decided to try acupuncture. My cancer decreased significantly. Your grant, I believe, allowed me to get treatment I could not have afforded otherwise. I believe my doctor will be pleasantly surprised next week when I see him." — Judy S., Livermore, CA

"Thank you so much for

your generous grant. I have been using it for massage therapies. I can't tell you how helpful the massages have been. Your grant and support is such a blessing." —Georgia D., Dublin, CA

"Thank you so much for your gift of healing therapies during my time of need. Words cannot express the comfort, peace and relaxation they provided to me." —JoAnn S., Pleasanton, CA

Tickets for Ragin' Cajun are available online at <http://www.healingtherapiesfoundation.org> or by calling (866) 862-7270. This is a great opportunity to enjoy a festive evening out while helping those with cancer in the community. Those who cannot attend the event, are asked to consider purchasing a ticket for a beneficiary or make a donation to the organization.

Local Filmmaker Brings Film Crew to Sunol: Musical-Comedy to be Filmed in Niles Canyon

Bay Area filmmaker Michelle Motoyoshi will be directing a musical-comedy web series titled, "Practical Uses of a Time Machine," to be filmed in Union City and Sunol at the end of January, 2014. Motoyoshi, who lives in Fremont, CA and founded her Fremont production company, Sudden Waffles Entertainment, LLC, also wrote the script and the lyrics to the pilot's songs.

The production includes an experienced, professional cast and crew of about 25 in the independent film industry from all around the Bay Area, including Union City, Fremont, Livermore, and Pleasanton.

Motoyoshi originally wrote the script as a mini-musical, which was performed several times on

local stages. "It all started out with sort of a silly, little thought I had," Motoyoshi says, "where people use a time machine to go back and correct little mistakes they've made in their past."

To help make the transition from play to film, Motoyoshi is seeking donations on Kickstarter.com, as well as seeking local sponsors on-set meal donations. The group says they have a combined, online network of over 40,000 people to whom they plan on promoting their project and sponsors to.

"The general public doesn't realize how much time and money is involved to produce even a short film," co-producer, Kaira (her full name) explains. "Cast and crew are on set for 12-14 hours a day, multiple days in a row, after prepar-

ing for months. Just feeding everyone costs hundreds of dollars a day. When you add in other expenses like props and wardrobe, an entire production costs thousands."

Motoyoshi further explains how she had originally hoped to shoot the exterior scenes in the Niles District of Fremont, the area Charlie Chaplin once hoped to turn into the "Hollywood of the North." Unfortunately, the film permit for this location was beyond this indie production's budget. Instead, the exterior scenes will be shot at Sunol's Historic Train Depot.

Interested sponsors and the public can find out more details about the project at their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/PracticalUsesForaTimeMachine>.

Downton Abbey, Season 4

by Linda Milanese

I waited ten months to watch the opening of the new season of "Downton Abbey" and fell asleep! The English accents felt as indecipherable as a foreign language (Speak up, Daisy!) and the 2-hour plot kept fading in and out of my unconscious state.

"Oh no! The magic is gone," I worried.

Actually, my drowsiness was no fault of the show but, rather, the result of a 4:30 wakeup call for the last airport run of our family Christmas.

By the way, I've heard from a number of other people that they too fell asleep during the opener. PBS might consider waiting another week to air the show next year. The holidays take their toll.

But thanks to On Demand and a few days to recuperate, it was an entirely different experience—"Downton Abbey" didn't disappoint.

It is 1922 and the women are definitely starting to rule.

Lady Mary is allotted a respectable hour and a half to snap out of mourning for Matthew, her late husband. She changes from a white-faced Morticia in widow's weeds who calls her baby a "poor little orphan" to someone with a new spring in her step. Her father, Lord Grantham, would like to maintain the male-dominated traditions that allow him to exercise full control of Downton. He explains his actions as a way to "protect" (i.e., infantilize) the women in his family, but his archaic mindset is on its way out. Mary becomes a business-woman motivated to learn the ropes of managing Downton. Her final words to her father about selling land to pay the inheritance tax are "I disagree." We find out in the next episode that Matthew left a will that confirms Mary's vital role in managing the estate.

Edith is transformed every season. In Season 4 she's an attractive modern woman. She has a journalism career and plans to move in with her married editor. Of course he'll have to become a German citizen so he can get a divorce and marry Edith. Now there's a plan to endear himself to her family right after World War I.

Even O'Brien is taking charge of her own life. She never appears in Season 4 because she has stolen away into the night to try her luck with the Scottish branch of the family traveling to exotic India. Can't say that I'll miss her, but evidently Cora will. Her first reaction is to pout into her pillows, "Who will dress me?" (Geez, Lady Grantham, dress yourself!)

Cora eventually redeems herself as a modern woman when she questions her husband's insistence that Mary stay away from the business end of Downton. And more compelling in the next episode is her defiance of his decision to have the famous singer take dinner in her room rather than dine with the family. "Am I the only member of this family who lives in the 20th century?" she asserts.

After the first 2-hour opener, I predicted that this would be the season when the women would come into their own. It would be the end of the traditional old way of life when a woman dressed for dinner in her father's house and hoped a man would find her attractive enough to marry.

Then in the second episode Anna got raped.

Anna has always been the most pure, unselfish, kind and respected of all the servants—of all the characters in "Downton Abbey." Viewers are really upset. The word gratuitous keeps coming up when people talk about the incident. One friend tells me

she refuses to ever watch the show again. As hard as it was to hear her lonely screams while everyone was upstairs at the concert, perhaps depicting Anna's vulnerability as a servant is true to the time period. And her reaction is believable. There were no rape crisis lines to call; there would be no justice for a servant girl in 1922. Her typically unselfish concern is to keep it from her husband—to save Bates from hanging for avenging his wife's disgrace.

I think rather than its being an example of sensationalism, it's the show's historically accurate counterpoint to the previous optimism about women's strength and progress in society. After all, despite Sybil's early participation in demonstrations, women's suffrage got interrupted by the war, and women didn't get to vote in England until 1928. (I looked it up) It was still most definitely a man's world.

What worries me is that nothing good can come of this incident. There will be repercussions, and it's hard to believe that Anna will ever be the same.

Maybe we've become too comfortable with the sanitized version of the Downton time period. Maybe Julian Fellowes thinks it's time to be more historically authentic. But after the trauma experienced by Anna, I repeat: nothing good can come of this for her. Yes, Lady Mary is actively engaged in running the estate, and Edith has found love in an untraditional way, and Lady Cora and the rest are marginalizing the men's influence in their lives. But while "Downton Abbey" sees women rising in 1922, it will take much longer for the servants to catch up.

In any case, "Downton Abbey" will continue to have my undivided attention every Sunday night at 9:00.

Interfaith Concert Slated

Sharing Our Music II: An Interfaith Concert will be presented at the First Presbyterian Church, 4th and L Streets, Livermore on Sunday, January 26, at 7:00 PM. All Tri-Valley residents are invited to attend this event.

Musicians and choirs of a number of different faiths will present a combination of sacred and cultural music. A reception will follow where attendees are encouraged to mingle, meet new people, exchange ideas and enjoy refreshments.

There is no charge. However, seating is limited. Please register at interfaith-concert-2014.eventbrite.com and print and bring along your ticket.

The concert is sponsored by Interfaith Interconnect, whose mission is "to enrich, inform and educate ourselves and others about the great diversity of faiths and cultures in our Valley."

Three Wineries to Hold Release Party

Three wineries will be hosting a wine release party at Tesla Vintners on Saturday, January 25 from noon to 5 p.m.

Ehrenberg Cellars, Pat Paulsen Vineyards and The Singing Winemaker will each show new wines.

There will be discounts and specials available as well as a chance to meet with the winemakers.

Food trucks will be on site. The Singing Winemaker will be performing. There will be a photo booth for anyone interested in dressing up like "I Love Lucy" crushing grapes in a barrel.

Fee of \$12 is goof for tasting at all three wineries. Tesla Vintners is located at 5143 Tesla Road in Livermore. For information, contact Karen at 925-606-9463 or Chris at 510-418-8774

By Carol Graham

"When I'm describing the show to friends who've not heard of it or seen it," says actor Ron Lytle, "I borrow a line from the original press release and tell them, 'This is the funniest musical you've never heard of!'"

Yet after the Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre's seven performances of *The Drowsy Chaperone*, countless others will have not only heard of the show, but will be completely smitten by it.

"It's unlike anything I'd ever seen before. It's witty and wry, but it also has an honesty to it that really resonated with me," continues Lytle, who plays Man in Chair. "It's a great combination of classic Broadway book musical and contemporary humor. That's the brilliant way the piece is structured."

The production involves a spellbinding show-within-a-show concept that dexterously weaves elements of fiction and reality, past and present, and absurdity and truth.

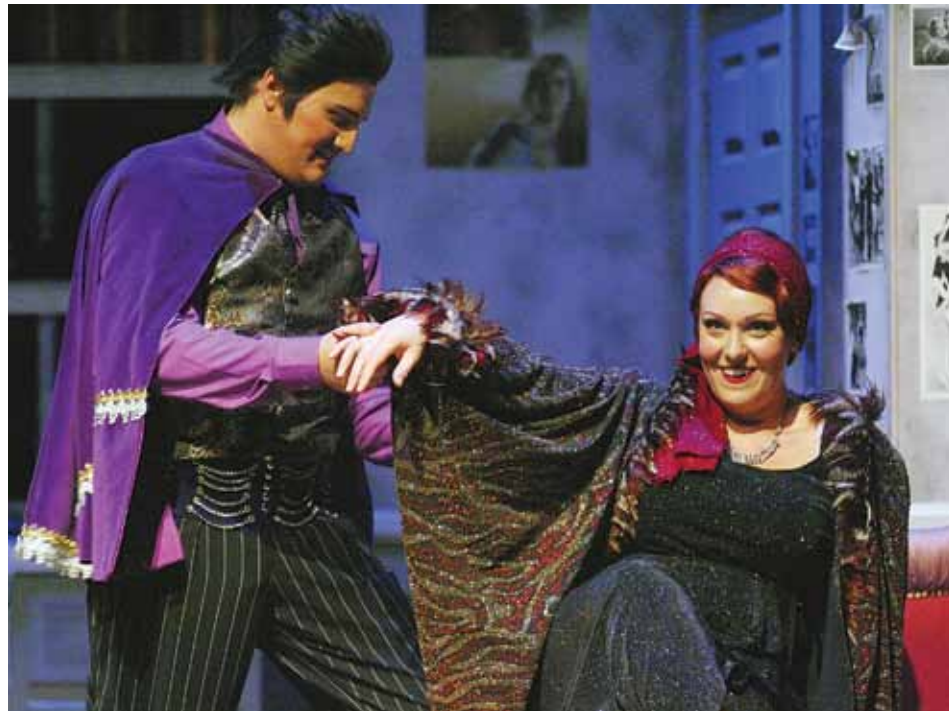
"A good friend (Man in Chair) invites you over to his apartment to bring him out of his blue mood by listening to a record of a 1920s Broadway musical called *The Drowsy Chaperone*," explains Jeff Seaberg who plays follies producer Mr. Feldzieg. "As the recording plays, the apartment comes alive with the actors on the record performing the show for the man in the chair. It cleverly shows old Broadway in a current Broadway style."

In fact, *The Drowsy Chaperone* first played on Broadway in 2006, winning five Tony Awards from its 13 nominations. Awards included Best Book of a Musical by Bob Martin and Don McKellar, and Best Original Score by Lisa Lambert and Greg Morrison.

As Man in Chair listens to his recording of the fic-

Review - The Drowsy Chaperone:

The Funniest Musical You've Never Heard Of



Photos - Doug Jorgensen

Pictured are Aldopho (Alex Orenberg) and The Drowsy Chaperone (Alexis Rogers). The photo on the front cover includes Meghan Ihle and Janet van de Graffe.

tional 1928 musical comedy, his apartment is transformed into a dazzling stage resplendent with a glamorous star, a debonair groom, an absent-minded dowager, an acerbic butler, a lovable lothario, comic gangsters, a Broadway impresario, a ditty starlet, and of course, a tipsy . . . er, make that drowsy, chaperone.

"Yes, marriage, like life, is a mad whirlwind," states the Chaperone, played by Alexis Rogers. "No, I have never married; I drink for pleasure, not out of necessity."

The concept that the audience is listening to a musical on an old LP runs throughout the show, during which Man in Chair is torn between his desire to be swept up in the entertainment and his compulsive and often hilarious need to insert his own footnotes.

When Mrs. Tottendale sings "Loves Is Always

Lovely (in The End)," Man in Chair helpfully points out that that's not always so in real life. "Often in the end," he says, "there are lawyers."

Yet much of the show revolves around stops and starts on the way to the altar, most notably for dashing oil tycoon Robert Martin (Ryan Cowles) and glittering star Janet van de Graffe (Catherine Williamson).

"I saw the original Broadway company of *The Drowsy Chaperone* and instantly knew I had to be a part of this show sometime, some way," says Cowles. "Now I have the pleasure of returning to this special show with its brilliant music, wickedly funny script, and with an incredibly talented and passionate cast and creative team."

While the talent onstage is mindboggling - the acting, singing and dancing are outstanding - much of the show's success can also be

attributed to the behind-the-scenes talent. The breathtaking sets, costumes, music and lighting are paramount in seamlessly transporting audience members to another time and another world. And, *The Drowsy Chaperone's* choreography is exquisite.

"There were plenty of challenges for me in this show," adds Cowles. "For one, learning to roller skate . . . blindfolded. But even more challenging was rising to meet our director Christina Lazo's fabulous tap choreography for Robert and George in the number 'Cold Feet.' She pushed my skill level and created a really exciting number for us to perform."

Seeing tap dancing in the movies is nothing like seeing tap dancing on stage; the echoes of the tap shoes on the floorboards combined with the escalating tempo are bewitching. Cowles

and Marty Newton perform with such jaunty grace that it's hard to imagine it was a challenge at all.

"It has been a wonderful process," says co-director and choreographer Lazo. "The numbers will get your toes tapping! I hope the audience has fun with all the humor and characters in the show, and that they connect with the poignancy of the story. It is really quite beautiful. I have laughed so hard I cried at some moments, and have gotten goosebumps at others."

"This cast has a strong passion for theater and they're constantly developing their characters with deep thought and consideration for who these people are," adds co-director/choreographer Misty Schachtell-Megia. "Even after three months of rehearsal, the cast is still laughing at the show as they watch each others' scenes. You would think they'd get tired of the jokes, but there are so many layers to the comedy that discoveries are constantly being made."

Upcoming performances at the Bankhead Theater will take place January 24, 25, and 31 at 8 p.m.; January 26 at 2 p.m.; and February 1 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. The Bankhead is located at 2400 First Street, Livermore. Tickets, costing \$28 - \$38, can be purchased online at mylvpac.com.

During the show, Man in Chair sends up an invocation. "You know what I do when I'm sitting in a darkened theater waiting for the curtain to rise? I pray. Dear God, please let it be a good show. And, let it be short, oh Lord in heaven, please. . . I just want a story and a few good songs that will take me away. I just want to be entertained. I mean, isn't that the point? Amen."

Prayer perfectly answered.

Wilder Is Wonderful

By Susan Steinberg

"Hello, Dolly" it's not. Get that Technicolor extravaganza out of your head and go enjoy the endearing original show, Thornton Wilder's "The Matchmaker," lovingly re-created by Danville's Role Players Ensemble.

Lost in time are the earlier versions of the plotline, dating back as far as 1835 (England) and 1842 (Vienna). Wilder's own first draft (with a nod to the Bard) "The Merchant of Yonkers," directed by the legendary Max Reinhardt had a brief run in 1938, but the 1955 re-write saw a major Broadway success, including a Tony Award for Tyrone Guthrie. Less than a decade later came the phenomenal musical version "Hello, Dolly," winner of 10 Tony Awards and a record of 2,844 performances.

Why does this simple comic farce keep returning again and again to public acclaim? Because it is a sweet and deeply honest portrayal of real people and their lives, celebrating their foibles, their joys, disappointments, and eventual accommodations to life. Basically, as Wilder wanted to show us, it is the story of ourselves as humans, and the wonders of each new day that so often go unnoticed.

The script presents a wild array of characters, and the cast obviously enjoys inhabiting each one. Veteran performers John Blytt as curmudgeonly Horace Vandergelder and Melynda Kiring as the indomitable widow Dolly Gallagher Levi show their Shellie Award talents in the lead roles. It is a joy to watch the tight-fisted old fox Blytt being flummoxed and outmaneuvered as Kiring distracts, deflects, and destabilizes his

rigidly-ordered world.

Vandergelder believes that most people (99%) are fools, and just as the law exists to prevent crime, men of sense (like himself, of course) exist to prevent foolishness. It is a set-up straight out of Moliere! As his put-upon barber (great straight-man Bill Dietz) wisely remarks, Horace is "pretty rash to judge which is fools and which isn't fools," just as "people that's et onions is bad judges of who's et onions and who ain't." That simple observation, one of the wisest in the play, is also a perfect summary of the plot.

The "wise" Vandergelder intends to get married in "old age" strictly for the benefit of having "a house run with order, comfort, and economy." (He does nothing without carefully calculating its benefit.) As he confides to the audience, "it's a woman's work," but she'll only run a home well if she thinks she owns it." Therefore, "marriage is a bribe to make a housekeeper think she's a householder!"

And, that's only one of the amazing "zingers" in his hysterical monologue. My personal favorite: "Believe me, if women could harness their natures to something bigger than a home and a baby carriage, they'd change the world." Think of the effect that line had in the 19th Century. It's still hilarious to modern audiences, who are about to witness Dolly's campaign to change Horace's world and a lot more.

Other engaging characters include Vandergelder's nubile niece Ermengarde, a romantic ingénue who is comically inhibited by propriety, and her impoverished artist suitor Ambrose Kemper. In a parody of 19th Century theatrical styles, Monica Ammerman and



John Blytt and Melynda Kiring

Ben Day fling themselves into wildly melodramatic poses each time they meet. Over-the-top comedy by Dana Lewenthal as the deaf and daft family maid and the Auntie Mame-ish Flora Van Huysen provoke some of the show's heartiest laughter.

In the plum role of Cornelius Hackl, Vandergelder's chief clerk, Mark Frazier shines as a frustrated underling desperate for at least one wild adventure in his life. Of course he finds it on a stolen AWOL trip from dull old Yonkers to New York City, where, at age 33, he might actually experience his first kiss. His pixilated monologue on women is both comically simplistic ("Golly, women are different from men.") and poetically reverent ("a fine woman is the greatest work of God.") Quite modern guffaws greeted his disarming conclusion, "You can never be really sure what's going on in their heads."

Cornelius finds his soulmate in Irene Molloy, a widowed milliner unconventionally longing for adventure herself. Newcomer Laura Melton is a hoot as this frustrated lady, considered by proper people as a "wicked woman," like all milliners, but never having had the fun of actually

BEING one. So why not go wild for one evening of wicked pleasure (in those days, to her, that meant dinner out in a supper club with a gentleman). She accepts (or rather coerces) Cornelius' invitation for a night on the town, taking along her timid assistant Minnie Fay (Lindsay Marie Schmeltzer) and Cornelius' sidekick Barnaby (young Dallas Carter).

Dolly has arranged for Ermengarde and Ambrose to arrive at the same dinner-club, where the naïve young lady exclaims, "It's not proper!". But sensible and worldly Dolly admonishes her that there's nothing wicked about eating in a restaurant, or even about being in New York, explaining, "Clergymen just make these things up to fill out their sermons."

The plot thickens as Vandergelder himself arrives, fumes at his niece's forbidden assignation, and the impertinence of his clerks eating in the same place where he is supposed to meet his prospective bride. A new character, hanger-on Malachi Stack (played with satirical slyness by RPE regular Joe Fitzgerald) suggests that Mr. V. eavesdrop, observing tartly, "Everybody should eavesdrop once in a while to show you that the world outside your head is different from the world inside your head."

Malachi has any number of sage comments as a sidebar to the madness around him. (A personal favorite is "Every man is the best judge of his own honesty." Think about it for a while.) As he observes to hansom coach-driver Gary Bennett, "No one's ever liked an employer since business began." When the cab-man protests that his horse loves him, Malachi trenchantly

counters, "That's what all employers think . . . the streets of New York are full of cab horses winking at one another."

His great monologue smacks of Alfred P. Doolittle's trickle-down theory of economics, a hilariously well-reasoned argument for the elegantly euphemistic "redistribution of superfluities" to balance the inequity between rich and poor. Rarest of all is his final exhortation, "Never support two weaknesses at the same time. It's your combination sinners who dishonor the vices and bring them into bad repute. Nurse one vice in your bosom, give it the attention it deserves, and let your virtues spring up modestly around it."

Dolly herself has a wonderful monologue, addressed equally to her late husband and to the audience, explaining why she is determined to marry Horace Vandergelder. She has decided, after years of quiet widowhood, that the world is indeed full of fools, and it is better to live among them – "a fool among fools" rather than "a fool alone." Besides, as the second Mrs. Vandergelder, she will be able to use Horace's hoarded money like manure, "worthless unless it's spread encouraging young things to grow."

It is finally left to the ingenuous young Barnaby to present the play's moral. But it would be wrong to spoil the surprise and pleasure of that last scene. Better to simply advise readers that the play will run weekends through February 8 at Danville's Village Theatre, 233 Front Street, 2 blocks off Diablo Boulevard. Tickets are available at www.RolePlayersEnsemble.com or 925-314-3400 (weekdays 9 to 5 only).

O'Neill Foundation Awards Go to Claudia Nemir and Role Players Ensemble

It was a festive evening as the Eugene O'Neill Foundation, Tao House, celebrated its 45th year, and extended honors to an individual and an organization that have contributed significantly to the O'Neill Foundation's success in recent years.

Honored were Claudia Mauzy Nemir of Alamo, and Role Players Ensemble of Danville at a gathering in the Eugene O'Neill Room of the Crow Canyon Country club in San Ramon.

Claudia Mauzy Nemir, a member of the Foundation's Board of Directors for twelve years, and Board President in 2005 and 2006, was awarded the Foundation's Open Gate Award, which honors those who have served as director of the Foundation and whose dedication and service has enhanced the memory of Eugene O'Neill.

"Not only was Claudia a staunch supporter of the Foundation," said Board Member Trudy McMahon, "but Claudia, using her insights as a retired banker, was instrumental in fundraising for the O'Neill Commemorative which is now located in Front Street Park, across from the Library in downtown Danville."

In 2010, Claudia Nemir was inducted into the Women's Hall of Fame, sponsored by the Contra Costa Commission for Women, honored in the category of "Women Contributing to the Arts." She is a former member of the Walnut Creek Arts Commission, past president of the Danville-Alamo AAUW, past chair of the Discovery Center, and past president of the Diablo Theatre Company.

Claudia Mauzy Nemir is a fifth generation Contra

Yesterday into Today

by Sarah Bobson

Walking the 60s: Visiting American Graffiti

Costa resident, and remembers when the O'Neills built Tao House in the Danville hills in 1936, having visited it as a child with her with her parents. She was also friends with the Richard Carlson family who acquired Tao House after the O'Neill departed in 1944.

The Eugene O'Neill Foundation also honored Role Players Ensemble of Danville with the Partnership Award in recognition of cooperative efforts to perpetuate the life and literary contribution of Eugene O'Neill as America's only playwright to receive the Nobel Prize in Literature and four Pulitzer Prizes.

"With Role Players fine production efforts, local audiences have had an opportunity to see many of O'Neill's notable plays performed at the Village Theatre in downtown Danville," said Foundation President Robert J. Sehr in presenting the Award. "In recent years, Role Players has produced *The Hairy Ape*, *All God's Chillun' Got Wings*, *Mourning Becomes Electra*, and at last September O'Neill Festival, *Anna Christie*. This partnership has enabled the O'Neill Foundation to further extend its efforts to promote the legacy of the playwright we honor."

The Eugene O'Neill Foundation is a not-for-profit membership organization which works closely with the National Park Service at the Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site in Danville. The Foundation provides a wide range of community and educational programs for students and adults throughout the year. The Foundation receives no federal support for its activities, and is dependent upon members' donations, and business and foundation support for its programs.

Tours of the Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site can be arranged by contacting the National Park Service at (925) 838-0249 ext. 6320. The O'Neill National Historic Site is open on Friday, Saturdays and Sundays.

Over the Christmas break, I visited Modesto to see the place that spawned the creative genius of one of my favorite filmmakers, George Lucas, and his iconic film about the 60s, *American Graffiti*.

Modesto is bigger and more spread out than I expected. The city has six exits. Google Maps said to take the Central Modesto exit, which I did after initially going past it and then having to double back. Once in Modesto, I hooked onto "J" Street, thinking it looked like the main drag in Lucas' 1973, four-star, film depicting what teenagers did on Friday and Saturday nights in small town America in the early 60s. In the film, the teenage characters cruise up and down in their Ford Thunderbirds and Chevy Impalas, several kids to a car, the boys hanging halfway out, drooling as they oggle the pretty girls passing by in other cars or jalopies, the girls engaging in their own equivalent ritual mating dance, primping their hair, checking their makeup, giggling when the boys whistle and shout catcalls at them.

In 1962, when the film takes place, Lucas, a mere lad of 18, graduated from high school like many of his characters. He owned a Fiat Bianchina, according to Dale Pollock's 1983 biography, *Skywalking*, so he probably cruised up and down "J" Street in his small, fast, Italian import. Lucas and his characters were part of the post-World War II baby boom generation that was about to leave their carefree childhoods to enter the serious, adult world. In the early 60s, some would seek knowledge and opportunity or deferments in college, some would pound the pavement

protesting the Vietnam War, and some, who either couldn't or wouldn't beat the draft, would march off to the big muddy in the Southeast Asian jungle to meet their fate.

Driving down "J" Street, it didn't take me long to spot the State Theater, which provided the backdrop, mostly darkened into shadows, for the cruising teenager characters. The other iconic image was Mel's Drive-In, which opened the film, with waitresses on roller skates whizzing to and from cars to the tune "Rock Around the Clock." Very quickly, we see several of the main characters: Curt Henderson (Richard Dreyfuss), Steve Bolander (Ron Howard, although his name on the credits was listed as Ronnie Howard, the name he used as a child actor), Terry "the Toad" Fields (Charles Martin Smith), and Laurie Henderson (Cindy Williams). Twelve-year-old Carol Morrison was played by Mackenzie Phillips. Harrison Ford was cast in a more minor role as Bob Falfa. And, the voice of popular DJ Wolfman Jack heard over the radio waves played itself. Although Ronnie Howard had already been known as a child actor, the other thespians got their start in the film. They all look so incredibly young, but only Ronnie Howard and Charles Martin were actually teenagers at the time the film was made. Richard Dreyfuss was in his 20s, and Harrison Ford turned 30 during filming.

Much to my surprise,

I learned that the film was not shot in Modesto where it's supposed to have taken place, and not even in San Rafael, Lucas' preferred location, but in Petaluma. The film, nevertheless, captures the essence of small-town America and its youth in the early 60s. We see not only the usual desperation and angst the teenagers feel on the cusp of entering adulthood, but we also hear the importance of music and cars in their lives. Sixties songs parade nearly nonstop throughout the film, hits including "16 Candles" (The Crests), "Rock Around the Clock" (Bill Haley & the Comets), "Runaway" (Del Shannon), "That'll Be the Day" (Buddy Holly), "At the Hop" (Flash Cadillac), "Chantilly Lace" (The Big Bopper), "Little Darlin'" (The Diamonds), and "Smoke Gets In Your Eyes" and "The Great Pretender" (The Platters). The songs weave through the separate but intertwining storylines about pre-adults either going off to college or the war, or remaining at home.

We see Terry "the Toad" prancing around town in his friend's 1958 Chevy Impala trying to score with a Sandra Dee look-alike, trying to impress her by obtaining, with a great deal of difficulty because he's underage, a bottle of liquor. We see Bob drag racing on the outskirts of town. We see the perfect high school couple, Steve Bolander and his head cheerleader girlfriend Laurie Henderson struggling with whether to continue going steady,

to split up because he's going off to college, or to sleep together. We see Curt Henderson debate whether to take a year off to find himself before attending college on a scholarship. These stories play out in perhaps the shortest "road story" ever filmed. Although we see the characters take a journey in which they grow and discover things about themselves, the actual physical road they travel, Main Street, is only a few blocks long.

Doing my own bit of cruising down Modesto's "Main Street," I passed several bail bonds, derelicts and homeless people wandering or camped out on the sidewalks. But on the side streets, I found charming, small, Victorian-style houses, some graced with ivy draped down their sides, with well-kept front lawns and porches where in a bygone era, before air conditioning, one could, and probably did, sit back in a rocking chair or a swing to catch the much-welcomed summer-evening breeze in this hot San Joaquin Valley town. Here, the tree-lined streets have middle-America names like Elmwood Avenue, Sycamore, and Huckleberry, names that reflect a human alliance with nature. And, the areas outlying downtown have American shopping centers and chains like anywhere else.

I maneuvered my way around the city without any trouble because it's laid out in a grid, with straight streets running parallel and perpendicular to each

other, much like in Miami where I grew up. I had to consult my GPS only once, to find George Lucas Plaza and the plaque dedicated to the town's famous son because it's located inconspicuously at the intersection of "J" Street, 17th Street, Downey and Needham, in a small patch of park, behind a large bronze statue.

I left the old part of town and headed to the pastureland. The Pollock biography said that as a youth, Lucas, who lived on a ranch, would drive his Fiat east on Sylvan Road, past acres of walnut trees, pushing the speedometer of the tiny two-cylinder engine to its limit, delighting in taking corners on two wheels at 60 miles an hour. One evening, exercising that youthful zealotness for speed and daring found in the 60s car culture, he flipped his Fiat several times trying to make a fast turn in front of an oncoming car and ended up wrapped around a walnut tree. The impact catapulted him clear of the car because his seat belt gave way. Coming so close to death, saved only because of the unexplained, quirky malfunction, had, it seems, a profound effect on the young Lucas and proved to be a turning point, both literally and figuratively, in his life.

There is no doubt that George Lucas is one of the most successful filmmakers of our time. To young people today he is known and will be remembered for his epic *Star Wars* series, perhaps also for his *Indiana Jones* adventure series. *American Graffiti*, though, his second film, has no relevance for them, but it is still a classic remembered nostalgically by many baby boomers.

ART & ENTERTAINMENT

ART/PHOTO EXHIBITS

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

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

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

To the Point, an exhibition by local colored pencil artists, will explore the vibrant and versatile art created by artist Maryann Kot and her students. The show will be on view for theater patrons from January 8th to March 5th, 2014, with a reception for the artists on January 16th from 6:00-7:30pm. The reception is free and open to the public. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org.

New Show at the Livermore Art Association Gallery, Winter: Waiting

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

MEETINGS/CLASSES

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

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

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

Figure Drawing Workshop, every Friday 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Artists bring their own materials and easels. Open to all artists. Professional artist models (nude). No instructor. Students under 18 need written parental permission to attend. Cost \$20 per session. Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 8th St., Livermore. Coffee, tea and refreshments are available. Call or e-mail Barbara Stanton for more info about the workshop, 925-373-9638 - microangelo@earthlink.net.

Preschool Art classes: Thursday mornings 9:45 – 10:45. Children

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

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

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

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

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

WINERY EVENTS

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

The Winemaker's Pour House, Live music: Jan. 23, 6:30-9:30 p.m., Natalia Sings; Jan. 24, 7-10 p.m., Tumbledown House; Jan. 25, 8-9:30 p.m., Comedy Show; Jan. 26, 4-7 p.m., Steve Kritzer & Friends; Jan.

28, 6-9 p.m., Glenn Osur at the Piano; Jan. 30, 6:30-9:30 p.m., Natalia Sings; Feb. 4, 6-9 p.m., Glenn Osur at the Piano; Feb. 6, 6:30-9:30 p.m., Natalia Sings. 2241 First St., Livermore. www.winemakerspour-house.com or 215-2656.

Las Positas Vineyards special events: Join Winemaker Brent Amos for a private tasting & tour of the winery and vineyards. Tasting will begin in the private room and will feature a special flight selected by the winemaker along with cheese, crackers and chocolate. \$20 for wine club members and \$30 for non-members. January 24 by appointment only. Contact 925-449-9463 or info@laspositasvineyards.com. Wine Wednesday's! January 29th tasting room will be open from 5-8pm. Classic flight is \$5 and Reserve flight is \$10. Inquires please contact us at 925-449-9463 or email curt@laspositasvineyards.com. 1828 Wetmore Rd, Livermore.

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

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

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

Wine Country Ranch Dance, with live music, dancing, heavy appetizers. Murrieta's Well, 6 to 9 p.m. Sat., Feb. 15. Ticket prices: \$55 per person, \$45 per person for Silver Spur members. Ticket includes live music, dancing and appetizers. Reservations are required. Please call 925-456-2395. 3005 Mines Road, Livermore.

Wood Family Vineyards, open Presidents Weekend, Feb. 15 and 16 noon to 4:30 p.m. for 8th annual barrel tasting and futures. Barrel sampling the 2012 Grenache and offering futures. \$10 tasting fee and keep the logo crystal wine glass. www.woodfamilyvineyards.com, 7702 Cedar Mountain Rd., Livermore; (925) 606-741.

Presidents Day Weekend Barrel Tasting, Retzlaff Vineyards, 1356 So. Livermore Ave. Feb. 15-17, noon; 5. retzlaffwinery.com. Come dressed as your favorite President or First Lady and the barrel tasting is on us!

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

MUSIC/CONCERTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In The Mood, music of Glenn Miller, The Andrews Sisters, Dorsey, Shaw, Goodman and Sinatra in a nostalgic, patriotic, upbeat swing-

era musical revue. Big Band plus six singer/dancers including some high flying boogie woogie with authentic music arrangements, costumes and choreography. Feb. 19 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Pink Floyd Concert Experience:

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

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

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

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

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

ON THE STAGE

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

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

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

ART & ENTERTAINMENT

Pleasanton.

Eve Ensler's The Good Body, Tri-Valley Haven presentation on Friday, February 7th at 8 pm, Saturday, February 8th at 8 pm, and Sunday, February 9th at 2 pm at the Las Positas Mertes Theater, 3000 Campus Hill Drive, Livermore. Tickets are on sale now: <http://thegoodbody.brownpapertickets.com>

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

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

COMEDY

Make-to-Order Fairytales: Creatures of Impulse, the City of Pleasanton's award winning teen improv troupe, and the Pleasanton Public Library present 5 completely different interactive programs for children ages 5-10. Creatures of Impulse will take suggestions from children to create fifteen to twenty minute improvised fairytales. Programs: Saturday, January 25, 2012, 2:00-2:30 p.m., 3:00-3:30 p.m., and 4:00-4:30 p.m. All programs are free, and no tickets required. Free parking. Library is located at 400 Old Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton.

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

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

MOVIES

"Over Troubled Waters: The Fate of California is In Your Hands," a 45 minute documentary about the Delta & the conveyance narrated by Ed Begley Jr, will be shown on Sat., Jan. 25 at 7 PM at the IBEW Hall; 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin. A guest speaker from Restore the Delta will conduct a Q & A discussion after the film. Meet & greet potluck begins at

6:30 PM, the film begins at 7:00 PM, and is followed by a Q & A discussion. This event is open to public, free (\$3.00 donations accepted), and is wheelchair accessible. For more information, call 925-462-3459.

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

DANCE

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

OPERA

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

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

MISCELLANEOUS

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

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

Storied Nights: An Evening of Spoken Word. 2nd Thursday of each month.

Features local authors reading their work 7:30 to 9 p.m. at Peet's Coffee and Tea, 152 So. Livermore Ave., Livermore. Sponsored by LVPAC and Peet's. Information go to <http://facebook.com/StoriedNights>

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

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

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

Kissin' the Chocolate Blues, a live



Photos - Doug Jorgensen
Christensen Middle School students presented a concert last week under the direction of Mr. Divita.

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

Monte Carlo and Auction Evening, Feb. 21, 7 to 11 p.m. Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444

East Ave., Livermore. Fund-raiser for Safe and Sober Grad Nights for Livermore and Granada high schools. \$45 in advance, \$50 at the door. www.granadagradnight.com or www.lhsgadnight.org.

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(925) 447-4300
2269 Third Street
www.travelbuglivermore.com



Kenneth Billheimer, Au.D.

Audiologist/Hearing Aid Specialist
Sierra Parini, Au.D.
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Livermore's Jackson Avenue Elementary School Kicks Off 'Healthy Active Stingrays' Program

"Oh, look at all those apples," said a student as she carefully nudged her way closer to the celebratory yellow ribbon separating her from the snacks. The Jackson Avenue Elementary student was on the playground, along with dozens of other classmates, teachers and families for the official ribbon-cutting of the schools, "Healthy Active Stingrays" program.

The school recently received a Thriving Schools grant from Kaiser Permanente. The health care organization awarded 14 Thriving Schools grants across Northern California to help to increase physical activity and improve healthy food offerings for students and teachers at schools. Jackson Avenue received grant funding to establish the "Healthy Active Stingrays" program to create a culture of wellness in the school community. The program is named after the school mascot.

"Healthy Active Stingrays is designed to create an environment to encourage, support, promote and reinforce physical activity, nutrition and wellness for student, families and staff," said Shari Johnston, principal at Jackson Avenue Elementary as she addressed the students during the ribbon cutting event on January 15th. "With Kaiser's generous grant of \$23,000, we are offering nutrition/cooking classes to our families; salad bar for nutritious lunches each day; a vegetable and fruit cart for healthy snacks at events; and two hydration units installed so we all can 'rethink our drink.' We have hired a community liaison/wellness coordinator to sup-



Trying out one of the two hydration units installed at the school.

port students with structured activities during recess and lunch."

The grants are just one part of Kaiser Permanente's new Thriving Schools initiative to build healthy, sustainable communities by creating a culture of health in schools. It provides prevention-focused, evidence-based wellness tools—at no cost—to any school. By helping students, staff, and teachers be more active and eat more healthfully, schools can have a positive impact on the health of the community and likely improve academic and professional performance at the same time.

"We are so excited about

this partnership with Kaiser and the chance to implement exercise and nutritional changes that will benefit our students not just physically but academically," added Principal Johnson before she and other school officials cut the ceremonial ribbon to the happy applause of the students.

Each Jackson Avenue Elementary student, staff member and teacher received a water bottle at the ribbon cutting for use at the new hydration stations on the playground and in the multi-purpose room. They were also able to select a fruit or vegetable from the new salad bar cart.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

Livermore Community Blood Drive: Friday, January 24, 1-7 p.m., Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Avenue. Every day, Bay Area hospitals need hundreds of units of blood to keep sick and injured patients alive. There is no substitute for blood, and it can only be replaced by blood donations. Please register at www.redcrossblood.org and use ASBURY925 or TEAMKC as the Sponsor Code, or call Thomas Petty at 925-980-8164 for more information. Wear your Team KC t-shirt too!

Needed: Exchange Students to travel to Mexico as the PTSCA 2014 delegation; High school students can learn about participating in the Pleasanton/Tulancingo Sister City Association Youth Cultural Exchange Program. Information is being presented at Foothill High School during lunch time 12:11 pm on Friday January 31st in room B23. The Foothill parent/student meeting is on Monday February 3rd at 7pm C6. The Amador High School student meeting is during lunch time 12:20 on Thursday January 30th in Q201. The Amador parent/student meeting is on Tuesday February 4th, in Q201 at 7:00pm. Wednesday February 12th 8-9 PM is a Parent/Student meeting at the Pleasanton Library. More information about the exchange program can be found on Pleasanton Tulancingo Sister City Association's website at ptscsca.org. If you have other questions or would like to recommend a student, please email annangst@sbcglobal.net or call at 925 600-7941.

Armchair Travelers, a monthly program, will take place at the Livermore Public Library Civic Center on Thurs., Feb. 13, 2014 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Doug and Lindy Webb will share photographs and dialogue of six (6) cruises they took to Alaska. The trips were seven (7) to eleven (11) day roundtrip cruises, departing from various cities—San Francisco, Vancouver and Seattle. The itineraries followed the Alaskan coast line, through the Inside Passage and up to Seward. Ports of call included Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway, Sitka, Icy Straight Point, Seward and Victoria, B.C. Adults are invited to this free program on the second Thursday of each month in the Community Meeting Rooms of the Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Avenue, Livermore. For additional information please call 925 373-5500.

Team KC Blood Drive will be held from noon to 6 p.m. on Fri., Jan. 24 at Mendenhall Middle School, 1701 El Padro Dr., Livermore. To make an appointment, click on the link below or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)

Ohlone Audubon will meet Tuesday, February 4th, 2014 at 7:30pm at Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Avenue, Pleasanton. Topic will be The Low Down on Getting High in Columbia? Bob Lewis will present some knockout images of Colombian birds seen during two trips to Colombia. One focus of these trips was hummingbirds, and the Bearded Helmetcrest was a primary target. Bob

is a birding instructor, bird photographer and world traveler. He is a board member of Golden Gate Audubon and chair of their Adult Education Committee, and President of the Farallon Islands Foundation. No admission charge. Refreshments served. For more information go to the website www.ohloneaudubon.org.

Anthroposophy, We are interested in bringing together a reading group focused on Rudolf Steiner's writings and talks on Anthroposophy. Please call Karen at 925-454-8962 for location, time and interest in this topic.

ClutterLess (CL) is having a special open Speaker Meeting, February 3. Michael Thompson, the president of ProShred, a Pleasanton firm specializing in secure shredding services and document destruction will speak. He is offering free on site shredding of a box or two per person after the ClutterLess meeting ClutterLess (CL) is a nonprofit, peer-based, self-help, support group for people with difficulty discarding unwanted possessions. Meetings are free. An optional donation of \$2 to \$5 will be appreciated. CL usually meets every Monday, Rm 7 at 7 pm at the St. Mary & St. John Coptic Orthodox Church, 4300 Mirador, Pleasanton. RSVP: Volunteer 925-922-1467, or ClutterlessPleasanton@hotmail.com.

Valley Spokesmen Bicycle Touring Club, Sat., Jan. 25, 22-43 miles, series of Feather Pedals conditioning rides for the Cinderella Classic, meet 10 a.m. at Crank2 bike shop in Pleasanton, Kathy Kane, kathymkane@gmail.com. Wed., Jan. 29, 40 miles from San Ramon Central Park to the Diablo Junction, meet 9:30 a.m. Jim Conger, 876-4949. Anyone planning to go on a ride is asked to contact the leader for details on where to meet and what to bring.

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

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

2014 Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour registration for the Sunday, May 4 events is now open. A variety of bird- and butterfly-friendly, pesticide-free, water conserving, low maintenance gardens that contain 60% or more native

plants will be open on Sunday, May 4, 2014, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at various locations throughout Alameda and Contra Costa counties. More than 40 garden tours will be scheduled throughout the day. Workshops - In addition to the Tour and plant sale, a series of workshops will be offered this spring. www.bringingbackthenatives.net

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

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

Crab Feed, The Livermore Fraternal Order of Eagle's Aerie #609 hold its Annual Crab Feed on Saturday, February 8th at 6:00 p.m. The cost is \$35.00 per person. Dinner includes "All-U-Can-Eat Crab" along with pasta, garden salad, and bread. Tickets must be purchased by February 1st. Stop by the Eagle's Hall at 527 N. Livermore Ave. to purchase tickets. Any questions call 925-449-6281.

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

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

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

Free Diabetes Self-Management Classes, 7 week series teaches how to manage diabetes with exercise, healthy eating and medications, and answer all questions about living with diabetes. Saturdays through February 22, 9:30-11:30, Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd. Class is open to adults of all ages

BULLETIN BOARD

(not just Seniors) with pre diabetes or type 2 diabetes. Please call the Alameda County Diabetes Program at 510-383-5185 to register. Space is limited.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bereaved Mothers' Network of the Tri-Valley, offering support, understanding and compassion to mothers who have suffered the loss (past or present) of a precious child. Safe, confidential, non-judgmental environment. Monthly meeting held at 7 P.M. on the first Tuesday of the month. Livermore Civic Center Library in Community Room "B." Small voluntary donations to help with meeting and outreach costs are appreciated. For further information reach Katie Strube at katiestrube@comcast.net.

Pleasanton Newcomers Club, open to new and established residents of the Tri-Valley. Activities include a coffee the first Wednesday of the month, a luncheon on the second Wednesday of the month, Bunco, Mah Jongg, walking/hiking groups, family activities, and monthly adult socials. Information, call 925-215-8405 or visit www.PleasantonNewcomers.com

Overeaters Anonymous. All are welcome. No weigh-ins, free will donations for rent. Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at St.

Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, 678 Enos Way, Livermore. Saturdays at 7:30 a.m. at Unitarian Universalist Church, 1893 N. Vasco Rd., Livermore. Call Nora for further information at (925) 447-1676

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), self-help weight loss support group meets in Livermore on Mondays, 6:15-6:45 p.m., Weigh-in (private); meeting 6:45 p.m. All are welcome. Information, contact Phyllis at 443-5943.

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

Assistance League® of Amador Valley invites all visitors to join this group of volunteers, reaching out to those in need in the Tri-Valley and having fun doing it. Regular meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Parkview, 100 Valley Ave., Pleasanton. For more information, go to www.amadorvalley.assistanceleague.org, e-mail assistanceleagueamadorvalley@yahoo.com, or call (925) 461-6401.

Livermore Peripheral Neuropathy Support Group meets every fourth Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m. in the second floor conference room at Heritage Estates Retirement Community. The address is 900 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore All are welcome. Contacts are: Sandra Grafrath 443-6655 or Lee Parlett 292-9280.

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness), Tri-Valley Parent Resource and Support Group is a twice-a-month parent support group for parents with children to age 18 diagnosed with or suspected of having bipolar or other mood disorders. It meets First and third Tuesdays of each month from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Pathways To Wellness, 5674 Stoneridge Dr., Suite #114, Pleasanton. The group is drop-in, no registration required and is free. Suzi Glorioso by phone: (925) 443-1797 or by e-mail: glorios4@comcast.net

DBE Daughters of the British Empire, John McLaren's Roses of Britain Chapter in the Tri-Valley meets at 11:00 a.m. on the 3rd Thursday of every month at Castlewood Country Club. DBE was founded in 1909 and is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization made up of women of British or British Commonwealth heritage and ancestry with a focus on charity and fellowship. Those interested in helping with "the cause," enjoying social activities, and forming long-lasting friendships, please contact Edith Caponigro at 925-998-3500 or Jenny Whitehouse at 925-484-1273 for additional information.

Tri-Valley Triathlon Club (TVTC), Information on 2012 programs and memberships, training philosophies and schedules, and all things TVTC, an all inclusive triathlon/marathon/endurance training program. www.trivalleytriclub.com.

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

VFW Post 7265, Livermore, invites Veterans of Foreign Wars, all military veteran welcome to meetings held 1st and 3rd Mondays, 522 South L St., Livermore. Camaraderie, support, connections, advocacy, distinction and community service. Meetings on the 1st Monday begin at 7:30 p.m. and on the 3rd Monday at 8 p.m. Information, call 455-5039.

Pleasanton Military Families is a Pleasanton based support group for those who have a loved one serving in the Military. The group gathers at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of each month to share concerns, fears, and to celebrate the joys that are experienced. There is no better support than being surrounded by others who know what you are going through. Three times per year, the group collect supplies and sends care packages to the troops. Please contact PMSFG.ca@gmail.com for the location of the next meeting.

Livermore Military Families, a support group for families in Livermore who have a loved one serving in the Military, is intended to be a safe place for family members to come and share their experiences and concerns with others who understand what they are going through. All family members are welcome to attend meetings. Meetings on the 3rd Thursday of each month at the Livermore Veterans Memorial Building, 522 South L Street from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. For more information please call Tami Jenkins, 925-784-5014 or email livermoremilitaryfamilies@yahoo.com

Good News Bears, nonprofit with a mission to distribute stuffed animals to social services, emergency services, medical facilities and anyone who needs a hug. Based in Livermore, the group reaches around the Bay Area and the world. Volunteers needed to hold collections of gently used teddy bears and other stuffed animals, assist with fund-raising and deliver the animals to organizations supported by the group. Meetings 2nd Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m. at the Livermore Police Station. Log on to www.goodnewsbears.org or call 373-7982 for more information.

ValleyCare Auxiliary, Volunteers needed. Nine different areas of volunteer service available in both Pleasanton and Livermore. Floor service, information desks, office, the library, gift and thrift shops. For more information, please call 734-3368.

RELIGION

First Presbyterian Church, 2020 Fifth Street, Livermore. 9:00 a.m. Contemplative Service in the Chapel, 10:30 Traditional Service in the Sanctuary and

children's program. For more information www.fpcl.us or 925-447-2078.

Tri-Valley Bible Church, 2346 Walnut St., Livermore, holds Sunday worship at 10 a.m. with Sunday school for all ages at 9 a.m. Children's classes during adult worship service. AWANA children's program Wednesdays at 6 p.m. 449-4403 or www.Tri-ValleyBibleChurch.com.

Unitarian Universalist, 1893 N. Vasco Rd., Livermore. 10:30 a.m. Sunday service. Information 447-8747 or www.uucil.org

Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton. Information 931-1055.

Tri-Valley Cultural Jews, affiliated with the Congress of Secular Jewish Organizations (csjo.org). Information, Rabbi Judith Seid, Tri-Valley Cultural Jews, 485-1049 or EastBaySecularJews.org

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Livermore, services 10 a.m. every Sunday. Sunday School for students (ages 3-20) is held at 10 a.m. every Sunday. The church and reading room are located at Third and N Streets. The Reading Room, which is open to the public, features books, CDs and magazines for sale. For information, call (925) 447-2946.

Sunset Community Church, 2200 Arroyo Rd., Livermore. Sunday worship service at 10:30 a.m. Nursery and children's church provided. A "Night of Worship" first Sunday of each month at 6 p.m. Wednesday night program for all ages at 7 p.m. Information, call 447-6282.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church Sunday Service 9:30 a.m. 1020 Mocho St., Livermore. Information, 447-8840.

Our Savior Lutheran Ministries, 1385 S. Livermore Avenue, Livermore. 9 a.m. worship (semiformal); 10:30 a.m. adult Bible study/Sunday school. For information, call 925-447-1246.

Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Avenue, Livermore. 9 a.m. Sunday worship. Information 447-1950.

Calvary Chapel Livermore, meetings Saturdays at 6 p.m. 5860 Las Positas Road, Livermore. (925) 447-4357 - www.calvalrylivermore.org.

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

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

Granada Baptist Church, 945 Cannannon Boulevard, Livermore. Services: Sunday school - 9:45 a.m.; worship service - 11 a.m. All are welcome. 1-888-805-7151.

Seventh-day Adventist Church, 243 Scott Street, Livermore. 925-447-5462, services on Saturday; Sabbath school 9:30 a.m., worship 11 a.m. www.livermoresda.org/ All are welcome.

Faith Chapel Assembly of God, 6656 Alisal St., Pleasanton, Sunday School for all ages 9:15 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m., Children's Church 11:15 a.m. Women's

Bible study Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Intercessory prayer 1st and 3rd Wednesdays. Please call office at 846-8650 for weekly programs.

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

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

St. Innocent Orthodox Church, 5860 Las Positas Rd., Livermore. Sunday Liturgy at 10 a.m. For details please see www.stinnocent.net or call Fr. John Karcher at (831) 278-1916.

St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, Services on Sunday, 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. Children's Sunday School & Chapel at 10:15 a.m. All are most welcome to come and worship with us and to enjoy our hospitality. For more information call the church office 925-462-4802.

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, 678 Enos Way, Livermore, (925) 447-3289. Sunday Services: Contemplative Eucharist 8:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:20 a.m. Choral Eucharist with choir 10:30 a.m.; child care for children under 5 available at 10:30 service.

Tri-Valley Church of Christ at 4481 East Avenue, Livermore, worship service 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. Sundays, all are welcome. 925-447-4333 (a.m. to 12:00 p.m.)

Little Brown Church, United Church of Christ 141 Kilcare Road, Sunol. 10:30 a.m. worship. All are welcome here. www.littlebrownchurchofsunol.org 925-862-2580

Pathway Community Church, 6533 Sierra Lane, Dublin. Contemporary Worship Service, Sunday 10:30 am. Children, youth, adult programs. Biblically based practical messages, nondenominational. All are welcomed. www.pathwaycommunitychurch.org (925) 829-4793.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 486 S. J Street, Livermore. 9:00 a.m. worship service. Bible Study/Sunday School 10:20. Bible Basics Class, which explores the main teachings of the Bible, meets at 7:00 Sunday night. Call 371-6200 or email pmjrmueller@gmail.com for more info.

Tri-Valley Church of Christ, 4481 East Avenue, Livermore; 447-433.3 www.trivalleychurch.org. Update on classes for The Story 9 to 10:00 a.m.. Worship Service 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.

Bethel Family Christian Center, 501 North P Street, Livermore, Pastors are Don & Debra Qualls. Weekly ministries: Sunday 10 a.m. - Teaching Sessions; Sunday 10:25 a.m. - Holy Grounds Fellowship; Sunday Worship Service 10:45 a.m. - Elementary aged children go to Kid's Church following worship, nursery available; Wednesday 7 p.m. - Back to the Point Bible Study; all ages; Friday 7 p.m. - Celebrate Recovery; in the dining hall; 925-449-4848.

Centerpointe Church, 3410 Cornerstone Court, Pleasanton. Services: 9 a.m. blended with choir and band. Childcare

offered for infants through age 6 and children start in the worship service. 10:40 a.m. contemporary worship led by a band. Sunday school for children and middle-schoolers. www.centerpointechurch.org 925-846-4436.

Valley Bible Church, Pleasanton, 7106 Johnson Drive, Services at 9:00 and 11:00. Interpretation for the deaf at 9:00. 925-227-1301. www.thecrossing.org

Valley Bible Church, Livermore, Meeting at Altamont Creek Elementary School, 6500 Garraventa Ranch Road, Livermore. Services at 10:00 a.m.

Cedar Grove Community Church, 2021 College Ave., Livermore. Worship Services 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. www.cedargrove.org or call 447-2351.

St. Francis of Assisi Anglican Church (1928 Book of Common Prayer), 193 Contractors Avenue, Livermore. Sunday services: 8:45 am (Low Mass) and 10 am (High Mass with Sunday School). Other Holy Days as announced. For information, call msg. center at 925/906-9561.

Chabad of the Tri-Valley, 784 Palomino Dr., Pleasanton. 846-0700. www.jewishtrivalley.com. Rabbi Raleigh Resnick.

Well Community Outreach Center ministry provides meats, canned and dry goods, toiletries, and school supplies (only available prior to the start of the school year). Those with an immediate need or who would like to donate nonperishable food items, please call the office at (925) 479-1414 to begin the process. Wednesday and Friday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., and Thursday 4 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Pick up by appointment only. The Outreach Center will be open every 4th Saturday to distribute bags from Fresh and Easy Market and Sprouts. This will be on a first come first serve basis between 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 2333 Nisen Drive, Livermore.

Philosophers' Café/Culture Chat, an informal gathering to discuss ideas, 10:45 a.m. at Café Rumi, 4799 Heyer Ave., Castro Valley. The topic is "What will happen to Jews in the United States over the next 25 Years?" Philosophers' Café/ Culture Chat is an activity of the Tri-Valley Cultural Jews, a Secular Humanistic Jewish community, but is open to the entire community. (Non-members are asked to donate \$5 per session.) Further session scheduled for February 2 with topics to be announced. For information, please contact (925) 240-5612.

Healing journey after death of a loved one. St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Dr. Pleasanton. Second and fourth Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m. January 23. February 13 and 27, 2014. No pre-registration is necessary. These sessions are open to all, regardless of religious affiliation. Please call Mary Hagerly at 925-846-5377 for more information.

Unity of Tri-Valley Church - Sunday services are at 10:00 a.m.; all are welcome. Ongoing small groups, weekly activities, choir, classes, and Children's church. 9875 Dublin Canyon Rd., Castro Valley (2 miles west of Stoneridge Mall). (925) 829-2733, www.trivalleyunity.com Rev. Karen Epps.

Lynnwood United Methodist, Worship services are 9:00 and 10:30 am with childcare at both times and Sunday school at 10:30 am. 4444 Black Ave., Pleasanton. Rev. Heather Leslie Hammer, pastor. 925 846-0221, www.lynnwood.org.

Milestones

Community



Shown is the education foundation group ceremony.

Education Foundation Now Accepting Nominations for Outstanding Teachers

Better Homes and Gardens Mason-McDuffie's Education Foundation is now accepting nominations for outstanding public school teachers for its 2014 grant program.

Every year, Better Homes and Gardens Mason-McDuffie Real Estate awards cash grants to outstanding public school teachers in an effort to acknowledge their contributions to children's future.

"The Education Foundation began in 1992 with a vision to honor teachers for their tireless work on behalf of our children, our schools and our communities," said Kathy Ollerton, Executive Director of Charities. The Foundation has granted over \$818,000 to 1365 special public school teachers throughout Northern California since its inception in 1992. In 2013, the foundation gave out 52 grants in three regions: East Bay, San Francisco and Sacramento.

To nominate a favorite teacher for 2014, visit www.bhgohome.com/educationfoundation. The deadline is March 31, 2014.

UNCLE Credit Union Celebrates Opening of New Location of Pleasanton Financial Center

UNCLE Credit Union held its official ribbon-cutting ceremony on Saturday, January 11, 2014 to celebrate the opening of its new Pleasanton location at Suite A, 1987 Santa Rita Road in the Mission Shopping Plaza. The financial center, which opened its doors to members on December 23, 2013, represented a strategic decision by the credit union's senior management and its Board of Directors to make a significant investment in its financial center in Pleasanton to dramatically improve the member experience for UNCLE members.

The result is a financial center combining state-of-the-art technology in terms of service delivery, coupled with an interior design that creates a warm, yet sophisticated environment that is conducive to building and enhancing member relationships.

"UNCLE Credit Union is proud to have had a physical presence in the Pleasanton community for the past



Pleasanton Mayor Jerry Thorne (center front) was on hand for the ribbon cutting.

20 years," states Harold Roundtree, president and CEO. "We have always been actively involved in the Pleasanton community, and our new financial center is designed to better serve our existing members, and to encourage new members to discover the comprehensive financial services that UNCLE has to offer."

The grand opening celebration and ribbon-cutting ceremony, officiated by the Pleasanton Chamber of

Commerce, took place on January 11, 2014 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Refreshments, games, giveaways, a live-remote broadcast by radio station KKIQ with on-air personality Mark Davis, plus an appearance by the Mayor of Pleasanton Jerry Thorne helped make the event enjoyable for the over 100 people who attended. The highlight was a drawing for a number of raffle prizes, including a grand prize of an iPad Air.

Buffalo Wild Wings Opening at Livermore Location

Buffalo Wild Wings® is opening its newest location in Livermore on Tuesday, January 28. To celebrate, the sports grill and bar will be offering free wings for a year* to the first 100 Guests in line for the restaurant's 10 a.m. opening.

"We are very excited to be bringing the Buffalo Wild

Wings experience to Livermore and we look forward to becoming a part of this dynamic community," said Brent Lott, Director of Operations for Tee It Up LLC dba Buffalo Wild Wings.

To receive free wings for a year, local wing fanatics are encouraged to arrive early and must remain pres-

ent until the doors open to receive the prize. Each recipient of the "Free Wings for a Year" giveaway will receive a coupon book with 52 vouchers for a complimentary snack size order – one order for every week of the year.

Guests will also enjoy NFL Legends of the Game

player appearances between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. Players include: Jeff Barnes, two-time Super Bowl winner with the Oakland Raiders; Erick Wright, four-time Super Bowl winner with the San Francisco 49ers; Mervyn Fernandez, former wide receiver for the Oakland Raiders; and, Michael

Merriweather, three-time Pro Bowl Linebacker who played for the Steelers, Vikings, Jets and Packers.

The Livermore Buffalo Wild Wings features wall-to-wall projection screens and HD TVs for ultimate event and sports viewing. Its menu includes boneless wings, specialty burgers and

sandwiches, finger foods, wraps, and salads. The main attraction continues to be Buffalo NY-style chicken wings as well as its 21 signature sauces and seasonings. The Livermore location has a full bar and 40 beer taps.

The Livermore Buffalo Wild Wings is located at 1790 North First Street.