



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.

New Livermore Camping Ordinance Draws Criticism

The Livermore City Council approved an ordinance regulating overnight camping on public and private property where the public has the right-of-way. In essence, what the ordinance does is clarify that overnight camping on public properties and private property where there is public access, is unlawful without possession of a

permit authorizing use of the facility. The ordinance is the result of recent activities on public property, particularly in arroyos and rights of way, that have raised concerns regarding public health, safety and security. The vote was 4 to 1 with Lauren Turner opposed. Turner stated, "I am opposed to this ordinance. This

is crazy. We should start by looking at how we can help these people. Arrests and fines do nothing. Yes, there is a need to keep the arroyos safe. There has to be a better way. I'd rather look at solutions that don't involve jail or fines." Any violation of the ordinance would be considered an infraction punishable by a fine not to exceed \$100 for

a first offense, and, for a second or subsequent offense, a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed \$300 or imprisonment in the county jail for a period not to exceed 30 days, or by both fine and imprisonment. Recently, the city has received complaints from residents concerning the construction of structures within parts of arroyos and

the effect these activities have on the health and safety of the area. The concerns impact quality of life for neighboring residents due to noise levels, trash and health and safety. Concerns have also arisen regarding damage to vegetation, and the lack of sanitary facilities. The proposed ordinance is intended to provide staff

(See CAMPING, page 4)

Easement Protects Walker Ranch and Endangered Species Habitat

Four hundred acres of the historic Walker ranch in Contra Costa County will remain forever protected, thanks to the teamwork of the family, an energy solutions company, and the California Rangeland Trust. California tiger salamander, San Joaquin Kit Fox, western burrowing owl and the California red-legged frog can be found on the land. Through the unique partnership, the Walker family will continue to operate the ranch they love. The listed species the ranch supports will benefit from good land management practices.

Protected will be 400 acres of the 1,956 acre Walker ranch.

In the early 1980s, the Walker family, which has raised cattle on the Walker Ranch at the Altamont Pass for nearly 100 years, was approached by a wind energy company that wanted to put windmills on the Walker's land to produce power for the surrounding communities. The Walkers agreed. With the lease of surface rights, that company put hundreds of windmills on the tops of the ranch's largest hills. Those windmills provided power to the East Bay for two dozen years without fail.

Years later, the wind technology on the ranch needed updating for increased efficiency. Commonly called "re-powering" by locals, the energy company replaced the aging windmills with 15 larger and more efficient, 3.2mw Siemens turbines. That upgrade required the company to build new roads and slightly alter the landscape, triggering the requirement for a new permit.

During the permitting process, the energy company found out that the new roads would impact the habitat of the California tiger salamander, California red-legged frog, San Joaquin kit fox and burrowing owl, all of which thrive on the cattle-grazed wind farm. State and federal laws mandate the loss of those habitats must be mitigated by the permanent protection of similar habitat nearby. Together, the energy company and the Walker family found a viable solution to the problem using a conservation easement held by the Rangeland Trust. Because the Walker family employs sustainable practices to manage their ranch, the energy company was able to use 400 acres of the 1,956 acre Walker ranch near the wind farm for mitigation.

Mitigation easements are similar to other types of conservation easements in that the land is protected from development in perpetuity. The difference is that when a mitigation easement is purchased, it is usually done so by a large corporation or entity at the direction of a state or federal agency.

(See RANCH, page 8)

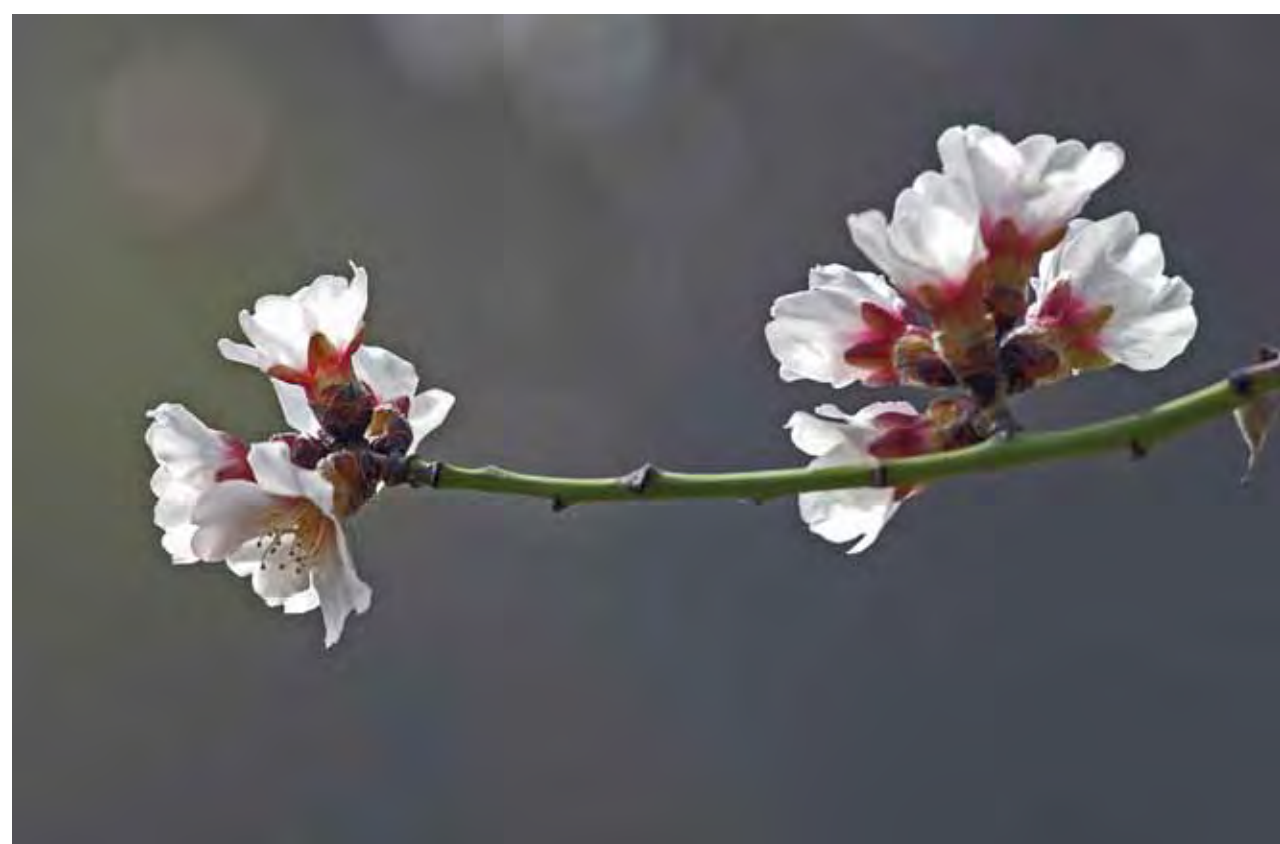


Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Warm weather has produced trees in bloom throughout the Valley.

Dublin Still Leads Valley in Tobacco Control

The City of Dublin received an A grade for the second consecutive year in the American Lung Association's annual report card on communities' tobacco control efforts.

Dublin ranks in the top 3 percent in the state on tobacco control, and is one of only six Eastbay governments to receive A grades. The others are Berkeley, Albany, Union City, Richmond, and Contra Costa County, which sets regulations for residents in its unincorporated areas.

Livermore and Pleasanton received D's. The two cities lagged far behind other cities in passing ordinances that are up to date in controlling tobacco sales and side-smoke environments, said California Lung Association policy director Sarena Chen.

Chen recalled that in 1994, residents of all three Valley cities met at Pleasanton Gardens, and took the initiative to tackle tobacco control based on the science used at that time.

All three Valley cities were on the forefront of efforts then. Only Dublin has moved ahead, using the latest science, said Chen. "Dublin started passing more ordinances, under the leadership of Mayor Janet Lockhart. So Dublin started to surge ahead of the other two cities in the Valley."

"Now Dublin has received an A, and Livermore and Pleasanton both were

(See TOBACCO, page 7)

Pleasanton Okays Historic Preservation Changes

The Pleasanton City Council approved changes designed to clarify the process for the preservation of historic homes in the downtown area.

A historic preservation task force began working in 2011 on a review of the

current downtown historic preservation policies, guidelines, and processes. All of the proposed changes are limited to the Downtown Specific Plan area. They would not be applicable to properties zoned commercial, including homes sited

on land zoned commercial. The final vote to adopt all but two recommendation sent to the council by the Historic Preservation Task Force was unanimous. The council rejected the idea of looking at the Mills Act and the proposal to establish a

national register and plaque program. The Mills Act would provide incentives and tax breaks for historic preservation.

City Manager Nelson Fialho said of the Act, "It's hard to administer for the

(See HISTORIC, page 5)

Retiree Health Notices Are False Alarms

Hundreds of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory retirees were incorrectly warned this month that their health care was about to be canceled because the system set up for premium payments failed to transfer

money in time, according to retirees who spoke to the Independent.

The warnings were sent to Laboratory retirees who receive health care through Kaiser Permanente. The warnings turned out to be

false alarms, triggered by the slow processing of funds in a cumbersome system in which funds are provided by the Laboratory to Kaiser Payment Services. Kaiser Payment Services sends payment to Illinois-based

Aon Hewitt Corp., a benefits management firm, which then returns the money to Kaiser for medical service.

According to Aon Hewitt service representatives, payment for February medical

(See ALARM, page 4)

Council OKs Task Force to Look at East Dublin Commercial Development

By Ron McNicoll

The Dublin City Council has cleared the way to create a task force to discuss East Dublin's future commercial development.

The council voted unanimously at its meeting Jan. 21 to establish a 12-member Community Commercial Task Force, which would study approximately 1.5 million square feet of commercial space designated for East Dublin in the general plan.

The task force will make recommendations to the City Council. It would also open communication lines

in the other direction, by being available to inform residents and other interested parties about commercial development.

As presented by staff, the task force would look at several things. They include currently planned commercial land that could be converted to some other use, such as residential; the characteristics of centers, and the economics of developing the centers; the economic viability of such sites, and the kinds of features people would like to see in the commercial areas.

(See TASK FORCE, page 4)

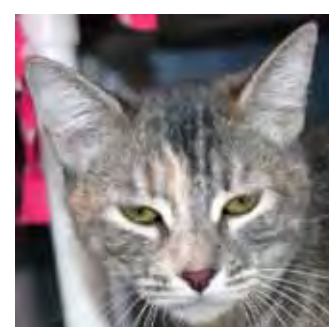


Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Decoy coyotes are used to scare away flocks of geese from the Dublin Sports Park.

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PET OF THE WEEK

If the lion is king of the jungle, Nala might well be its gossip columnist. The chatty 9-month-old grey and orange torbie takes pride in her sociability and would probably do well with other cats...if they don't mind her sharing their business! Get the latest from Nala at Valley Humane Society (VHS), located at 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton. VHS is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am - 4 pm. For more information, please call (925) 426-8656 or visit valleyhumane.org.

Photo - Valley Humane Society/D. Smith

Cedar Mountain Begins Work on New Winery and Tasting Room

By Carol Graham

After owning and operating Cedar Mountain Winery for more than two decades, Linda and Earl Ault are launching a new phase in its evolution.

"We started Cedar Mountain in 1990 in our three-car garage on Tesla Road," said Linda. "We built up its capability until last year when we were crushing 250 tons of grapes and bottling 25,000 cases for other Livermore wineries. We finally decided that we should start a new chapter in our book of life, scale back and enjoy the fruits of our 24 years on Tesla Road."

When they found the perfect property last summer on Reuss Road - two acres, single story modern home, and no vineyards - they made their move.

This January 23rd, Cedar Mountain Winery hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for its winery and tasting room near the front of the new property at 10843 Reuss Road, off Tesla just past Cross Road. On hand to celebrate were Les Chenes Estate Vineyards' Candice and Richard Dixon, Bent Creek Winery's Tom and Pat Heineman and Rich and Carol Howell, and Charles R Vineyards' Dick Bartlett.

"We sold the old property but we kept the name Cedar Mountain," Linda told those gathered for the ceremony. "From our window on Tesla we could see Cedar Mountain and liked the name. We'd considered about 20 names, including Earl's grandmother's name Bordeau. But we thought calling it Chateau Bordeau would be too pretentious."

"Not anymore," said Candice Dixon, bringing laughs from everyone who has seen Livermore Valley's wine country grow exponentially over the last



two decades.

"We were the tenth winery here in 1990," said Linda. "There are currently over 60 wineries in the Livermore appellation."

Yet Cedar Mountain was the area's first to be certified "green" - a designation honoring its efficient use of resources and reduction of waste and environmental degradation.

"It just makes sense to be green. I was raised by a Polish grandmother who lived through the Depression," said Linda. "Nothing at our house was wasted. We reused and recycled everything we could. I was raised this way, and will continue to be like this always. I landscaped the Tesla winery using drought resistant, native California plants and I plan on doing the same for the Reuss Road property."

However, before the landscaping comes the construction. "We are building them a brand new facility that will include a tasting room, a production area and a wonderful covered porch for patrons to enjoy," said contractor Jeff DeBernardi of Pleasanton's DeBernardi Development, Construction and Remodel-



In the top photo by Doug Jorgensen, friends gather to take part in the official groundbreaking. The lower photo is of a young Linda with Princess.

ing, whose motto is, quite fittingly, *Your Contractor for Life*.

"Nearly 20 years back they entrusted me to build their production facility on Tesla which, over the years, we expanded and expanded. We have such

trust in each other that a simple handshake or a nod will get things done. That's a rarity these days. I'm proud to be part of Cedar Mountain Winery's next chapter in their book of great wines."

The project will likely

be completed in about six months. "We're hoping to be open by harvest," said Cindy Burnett, Cedar Mountain Winery's general manager, noting that currently tastings are available for members of their wine club, the Cedar Mountaineers, and by appointment for groups of ten or more.

"When we open to the public, we'll be open one weekend per month with the possibility of an occasional event," she added. Till then, fans of the Aults' award-winning wines and ports have another option. "We are very excited to be partnering with downtown Livermore's Swirl on the Square. Not having a tasting room for the public has been rough for us. We keep hearing how people think we have closed up shop," stated Burnett.

"This opportunity should help reintroduce us to the public. We'll be pouring wines out of the tasting room 'On the Side,' right next door to Swirl. We start tastings on Thursday, February 6th and will be there every other Thursday from 5 to 10 p.m. We will offer wine tasting flights, wine by the glass, and wine by the bottle. We are looking forward to reconnecting with our customers and making new ones."

Added Linda, "We're still here, and we're concentrating on making the Livermore Valley's finest wines at Cedar Mountain Winery. We could have moved anywhere in this country, and we chose to stay in Livermore. This is our home."

For more information, visit cedarmountainwinery.com, or like on Facebook.

Learning Center Seeks New Director

Twin Valley Learning Center is searching for a new Director. The Center which was started forty years ago is seeking an educator who is interested in serving this population of young people who want to be more successful at school.

March 15 is the last day of service for the current Director, Neal Cavanaugh. Please leave name and phone or email contact at 447-3455 or call a Board member for more information: Louise Grey, 447-1455 or Sally Bystroff 449-8555.

Twin Valley Learning Center is a non-profit, public service corporation committed to providing individualized instruction to students of all ages, regardless of race, creed, ethnicity or financial status. TVLC has been providing services since 1974.

Dublin 'State of the City' Talk Postponed to Feb. 26

Dublin Mayor Tim Sbranti's "State of the City" address, originally scheduled to be presented at the Dublin Chamber of Commerce Luncheon on Wednesday, January 29, has been re-scheduled to a later date.

It was learned that the funeral services for slain BART police officer Sergeant Tom Smith will be held on January 29 in nearby Castro Valley. Sgt. Smith was killed in the line of duty in Dublin earlier this week. "Out of respect for Sgt. Smith and his family, the Chamber of Commerce and I feel that it would be best to postpone our 'State of the City' address. We offer our deepest sympathies to Sergeant Smith's family, as well as to the entire BART police department, during this difficult time."

The "State of the City" Luncheon will now be held on Wednesday, February 26, at 11:30 a.m., at the Shannon Community Center in Dublin.



Livermore Half Marathon

Saturday, March 29th, 2014

Start & Finish Location: First Street & S. Livermore Ave
 Half Marathon Start: 8:00am
 Family funK: 8:15am
 Festival: 9:10am

Join us for the Inaugural Livermore Half Marathon!

Get ready for a unique experience as Livermore brings you its first destination running event. Boasting California's oldest wine region, the Valley's Parks & Trails and a grand start & finish on First Street in the heart of the redeveloped Livermore Downtown. This area has become a dining, shopping and entertainment destination, which will result in a rockin' festival of local wineries, craft beer, artisan chefs and live music.

Runner Perks

- Gorgeous course showcasing the Livermore Valley, Wine Region and Historic Downtown District
- Commemorative Wine Glass (yes, for wine tasting!)
- Gender Specific Technical Shirt (one you'll actually wear)
- Awesome Finishers Medal (we're talking serious hardware)
- Free Admission to the post-race RunLiv Wine & Music Festival on First St. (the reason we all run, right?)

For more information and to register today visit <http://runlivermore.com/>

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#livermorehalfmarathon
 For more information visit www.livermoredowntown.com

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VALLEY ROUNDUP

Hacienda Vacancies Down

Hacienda Business Park in Pleasanton saw another year of continued overall vacancy reduction in 2013. Over 400,000sf of tenant activity occurred in Hacienda during 2013, along with several new project approvals and construction. Net tenant absorption totaled approximately 66,500 square feet.

"This marks the third consecutive year of positive growth in Hacienda. Once again, good tenants in some of our strongest clusters came to Hacienda over the course of the year," said James Paxson, Hacienda's general manager. "2014 will also see some exciting developments as the roots of new activity in 2013 takes hold."

Major transactions in 2013 were seen by companies in a variety of business segments, including Bio-Rad (biomedical), Iron Planet's relocation (online retailer), Pleasanton Bilingual Montessori Preschool (Chinese bilingual preschool), Safari Kid (academic heritage school), Schneider Electric (energy management), Spigit, Inc. (social innovation software), YP's relocation (search and advertising company), Zenith's relocation (insurance services), and Zoho (online business services).

Over 10 million square feet of existing, mixed-use space is occupied by some 550 companies that employ approximately 17,500 people.

Mixed Use Bill

SB 674, authored by Senate Majority Leader Ellen M. Corbett (D-East Bay), passed the Senate last week.

Specifically, this bill increases the maximum amount of neighborhood-serving goods, services and retail uses allowed in a mixed-use project using the California Environmental Quality Act residential infill exemption from 15% of

total floor area to 25% of the total building square footage.

SB 674 will potentially allow a greater number of community-oriented projects—with ground-floor neighborhood-serving uses on the bottom floor with residential housing on the floors above—in communities throughout California. This type of smart growth design encourages the ability of local residents to access day-to-day services by walking or biking, instead of traveling by car or other polluting modes of transportation.

Senator Corbett said, "This community-oriented bill makes it easier for local authorities to implement smart growth projects in communities throughout California. There are tremendous personal, community and environmental benefits to having residents walk a block to the corner store or ATM instead of needing to drive several miles to the nearest large grocery store or bank branch."

SB 674 is supported by the American Planning Association / California Chapter, California Building Industry Association, California Business Properties Association, California Chamber of Commerce, California State Association of Counties and the Urban Counties Caucus.

County Residents Waste Items

StopWaste spent the past year taking a look at garbage carts to find out what was being thrown out. A report being mailed this week shows that residents and businesses in Alameda County dumped as much as \$70 million of recyclable and compostable items in the garbage last year.

The report is part of a new Benchmark Service from StopWaste, a public agency responsible for reducing waste in Alameda County.

"We're still burying too many valuable resources in landfills," said Gary Wolff, P.E., Ph.D., StopWaste Executive

Director. "More recycling would capture valuable resources already in our communities, stimulating the local economy and creating jobs. Our goal for Alameda County is that by 2020, less than 10% of what's in garbage containers will be recyclable or compostable."

The Benchmark Service tracks progress towards that goal, and has three components:

- Random, anonymous measurements of how much garbage, recyclable and compostable material is in garbage containers in Alameda County
- Analysis of those measurements
- Reports sent directly to garbage service account holders describing what was found.

The first reports are now being sent to Alameda County residents and businesses. The data in the reports show how much garbage, recyclable and compostable material (as a percentage by weight) was in residential garbage containers, and some categories of business garbage containers, in 2013.

On average, residential garbage carts in Alameda County contain 32% "good stuff" (recyclable and compostable material) by weight, an improvement from 60% in 2008. School garbage containers contain about 55% "good stuff."

The biggest potential for improvement is with organics recycling. "If we could make just one change, it would be to recycle all our food scraps in the green bin, all the time," said Alameda County Waste Management Authority (dba StopWaste) Board President Don Biddle. "This would reduce greenhouse gases and help create compost that's used to grow food and beautify urban landscapes."

For tips on how to recycle better, residents and businesses can visit www.StopWaste.org.

Neighbor Arrested

On December 13, 2013 the Pleasanton Police Department investigated a residential burglary that occurred in the 7750 block of Canyon Meadows Circle. The stolen property included electronic items, tools, home furnishings, and clothing. After the burglary, the residents installed video surveillance equipment on the exterior of their home, which proved to be an excellent tool. On December 31, 2013, the residents were viewing surveillance footage when they noticed their neighbor, 39 year old Sormeh Angela Zupan, walking in front of their residence wearing the stolen pajama pants and slippers from the burglary.

Detectives from the Pleasanton Police executed a search warrant at Zupan's residence on January 22, 2014. Nearly all of the victim's property was recovered, including the victim's home furnishings, which Zupan had used to decorate her own residence. Zupan was placed under arrest for burglary and possession of stolen property. Zupan will be booked at Santa Rita Jail in Dublin.

Dublin Mobile App

Dublin has released a new City Mobile App as part of the City's efforts to further enhance communication with the community. The free Dublin app, "My Dublin CA," features links to news, calendar items, the Parks and Community Services Guide, special events, parks and facilities information, a resource directory, employment opportunities, and more.

Dublin currently contracts with CivicPlus for the development, hosting, and maintenance of the City's website. CivicPlus recently offered the development and design of a mobile app for cities.

To download the "My Dublin CA" app, residents and business can visit iTunes or GooglePlay.

SHORT NOTES

Dublin Crush

The City of Dublin is launching a writing project to celebrate the people, places, and things in this community that people are crazy about!

The "Dublin Crush" writing project invites residents to tell a tale, write a love letter, or craft a poem or essay, telling how they fell in love with someone or something in Dublin.

This is not a competition, but an exhibit of written works. So feel free to get creative—mash up words with photos or drawings, or share your words on unusual papers or other flat media. Or go purist and simply put pen (or computer printer ink) to paper.

The deadline to submit

entries is Monday, February 3, 2014 at 5:00 PM.

Exhibit will be on display February 9 to March 2 at the Dublin Heritage Park & Museums. The opening reception will be held on Feb. 13.

For more information, please call (925) 556-4500.

Critter Investigation

C.S.I.: Critter Scene Investigation is the theme of the Feb. 1 Livermore Area Recreation and Park District ranger staff program.

Meet Ranger Patti Cole at 11 a.m. at the nature area entrance at Sycamore Grove Park.

Calling all investigators – come look for clues at various

scenes for critter activity. What was there? What did they do? Did everyone (critters, that is) get out alive? This program will include some off-trail hiking and potentially examination of carcasses or remains. This is an adults-only program. Advanced registration is required by emailing pcole@larpd.org or calling 925-960-2400. 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.

Crab Feed and Comedy

A Comedy and Crab Night Crab Feed will benefit CAST (Creative Autism Solutions Team).

White Crane Winery in Livermore will host the event on Sat., Feb. 8 from 6 to 9 p.m. at The Rock House, 1840 Portola Ave., Livermore.

A "slew" of comedians will appear, including Priya Prasad. Beer and wine will be available for purchase, as well as auction items.

Tickets are \$49.95 plus tax (\$44.95 for White Crane Club members). Advance paid reservations are required.

Reservations can be made at www.whitecranewinery.com.

CAST is a local nonprofit helping families of children with autism.

Waste Reduction

StopWaste is seeking to fund innovative waste reduction projects through the Grants to Nonprofits Program, now in its 17th year. The Grants to Nonprofits Program awards funding to private, nonprofit organizations in Alameda County for projects that:

- Increase individual and community involvement in source reduction and recycling efforts
- Decrease the amount of waste generated and sent to the County's three landfills

• Encourage the development, marketing and use of recycled products

Grant amounts typically range between \$25,000 and \$65,000. Proposals requesting higher levels of funding are considered based on anticipated impacts commensurate with the grant request.

For more information about the grants program and to download a grant application, visit www.stopwaste.org/nprgrants or contact Meri Soll at msoll@stopwaste.org.

Deadline for application is March 17, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time

For more information, go to www.stopwaste.org/nprgrants.

HEARING HEALTH

LUNCH & LEARN

WHEN: February 11, 2014

TIME: 11:30 TO 1:30

WHERE: Beebs at the Las Positas Golf Course

915 Club House Drive, Livermore, CA

LUNCH INCLUDED ... NO OBLIGATION

Speakers: *Kenneth Billheimer, Au.D., Audiologist and Harvey Sparks from Unitron Hearing Instruments*



- How your hearing works
- Daily and Extended wear hearing devices
- The benefits of treating hearing loss early
- The consequences of untreated hearing loss

Harvey Sparks is an expert on hearing aid technology and gives talks around the country to hearing care professionals and consumers alike.

For more than 40 years, Unitron has improved the lives of those with hearing loss by designing some of the highest-quality hearing aids available. Unitron's focus is on the daily activity of the user and how to seamlessly integrate hearing aids into lives by bringing back sound for a fuller, more productive day-to-day lifestyle.

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EDITORIAL

Understanding

The efforts of Interfaith Interconnect were recognized Monday by the Livermore City Council.

The council issued a proclamation in honor of World Interfaith Harmony Week, noting that locally Interfaith Interconnect is an organization made up of clergy and community members that encourage people of different faiths to come together to learn and understand one another.

The organization holds monthly discussions, local events and cultural celebrations in celebration of its mission "to enrich, inform and educate ourselves and others about the great diversity of faiths and cultures in our valley."

One of the founders, Ruth Gasten, noted that ten people organized Interfaith Interconnect in 2011. Last Sunday, an interfaith concert attracted 500 people. Other events have drawn large crowds as well.

Only by learning about those who may have different views and ideas is it possible to create a pathway to peace and understanding. Such efforts must start at the local level. We are proud of the fact that Interfaith Interconnect has begun the dialog. We hope it spreads.

ALARM

(continued from page one)

premiums had to be received prior to January 10 in order to be credited in time to avoid a cancellation notice. Actual dates of receipt cited by Aon Hewitt ranged from January 10 to January 17, according to retirees who spoke to the Independent.

Aon Hewitt referred inquiries to Kaiser Payment Services. Kaiser Payment Services had not responded to the Independent by its press deadline.

According to retirees who spoke to the Independent, customer service representatives for both Aon Hewitt and Kaiser Payment Services acknowledged that, at a minimum, hundreds of retirees received the notices.

The administrative complexity of the current medical benefits system has been the subject of criticism by Laboratory retirees who recall the days when the University of California operated the Laboratory on a non-profit basis and maintained a benefits office that

negotiated for group health care contracts and took steps to protect retiree interests.

The U.S. Department of Energy terminated the University's role as sole manager of the Laboratory beginning in 2008. Retiree health care was then farmed out to private firms, including Aon Hewitt. One group of retirees filed a lawsuit, which is pending, aimed at forcing UC to take Lab retirees back into its health care programs.

"This is one more example of the kind of complicated arrangement that the Laboratory has created by farming out the health care that the University of California used to handle," said Carole Hilton, Chair of the Livermore Laboratory Retirees Association. "Why on earth do payments have to go from Kaiser to Aon Hewitt and back to Kaiser? Money that could be used to improve the medical care of retirees is instead funding unnecessarily redundant processes."

TASK FORCE

(continued from page one)

The task force will meet regularly. Staff is expected to bring a report to the council in September.

The study will include properties that already are under study for general plan amendments: Heritage Park, The Green at Park Place, Summerhill/DiManto parcels 3 and 4, and The Promenade.

Councilmembers liked the idea. Vice Mayor Don Biddle said, "This is pretty much what I as thinking -- community education."

Councilmember Abe Gupta said, "The plan has been laid out well. It's important to use the task force to solicit the feelings of the public."

Further, the task force can look at East Dublin in the whole context of Dublin's entire commercial picture. That will give "the task force credibility, and a flow of ideas."

Councilmember David Haubert said that the original idea was to have a town hall meeting, but the task

force is better. However, he does not want the process to take so long that it would hold up decisions that the council would be making on the general plan amendment (GPA) studies that are underway.

A staff member said that Heritage Park is going to the planning commission soon, so that process is near. Other GPAs are not that far along. It would be hard to predict how quickly they would advance.

Mayor Tim Sbranti said there is a definite need to prioritize commercial space. He said the Downtown Specific Plan calls for 2.8 million square feet of commercial, and also cited the 2.5 million square feet in East Dublin.

Applications for the task force will be taken through Feb. 19. At that time, copies of all applications will be given to each councilmember. Sbranti and the four councilmembers each can recommend one member to serve on the task force.

CAMPING

(continued from page one)

with tools to address the effects of camping in public spaces, as well as areas where there is public access.

Turner's viewpoint was supported by the majority of those who spoke about the proposed ordinance.

Brian O'Reilly pointed out that Livermore has taken the lead in helping the down-trodden. "I am concerned about people in encampments. Forty percent are homeless because they have mental problems. I'd like to see Livermore take a more compassionate approach in dealing with the homeless."

Maureen Hamm from the Unitarian Universalist Church opposed the policy, because it targets the most fragile and vulnerable population. "They are the least likely to have money to pay fines. The ordinance will create arrest records that will make it more difficult to find housing. The ordinance does not address the issue of the shortage of affordable housing. It is important to provide more social services and housing."

One speaker estimated there were 60 to 80 homeless people living in Livermore.

Don Meeker stated, "The ordinance documents our failure to provide housing for the homeless. They have found their own homes." He said it is an issue of justice.

Other speakers pointed out that the homeless have mental health issues, some have drug problems, others are veterans suffering from post traumatic stress disorder unable to function in a building. "At one time, each was someone's precious child and something has gone wrong. We need to do something more than make things tougher on those who already have it tough."

On the other side of the issues, speakers pointed to the health and safety issues. Contaminated water goes down the creek to other areas.

Terry McKeown expressed sympathy for the plight of the homeless. However, he said, there is a need to do something. "I have seen first hand broken glass, litter and fecal matter. Neighbors have been cleaning up the arroyo. The area is for the community. Unless something is done, it will reach the point where neighbors can no longer maintain the area."

Mayor John Marchand

declared that the legislation is a public health and safety ordinance. "It's true many have mental health issues. We can't help them if they stay in nameless camps. It's not about fines. Right now we don't have the authority to clean-up a camp. This ordinance will provide the tool we need to identify those at greatest need and direct them to services that can help them." He praised faith-based groups and volunteers who have stepped forward to help the homeless.

Marchand said that other cities send their homeless to Livermore, because it is the only city that has provided homeless shelters.

Police Chief Michael Harris said that the response is largely complaint driven. "We aren't looking around for people. We need a legal foundation to deal with complaints."

Councilmember Stewart Gary stated, "There is a lot of passion around the issue. If it were easy to solve homelessness every major

city could have done so. It's darn hard. This ordinance is one of many tools. The next steps are collaboration and communication.

Gary continued, "Few communities have a living arroyo with water running through it recharging the groundwater. There is a segment of society that violates 200 years of health and safety laws that limit the spread of communicable diseases." In response to Don Meeker's comments about justice, Gary said, "Justice is for everyone, those who follow the body of the law and those who choose to ignore the law because they have one or more issues in their lives."

He called the ordinance a balanced step. "The testimony we heard tonight doesn't begin to touch the problems of illegal camps in the arroyo. We have to draw the line and say enough is enough. To do so we need clearly defined public policy," said Gary.

Both councilmembers Doug Horner and Bob Woerner agreed with Gary. Horner said that camping is neither safe nor in the public interest. Protecting the public interest is why we are here.

Woerner added that it is a regional problem. "This is one tool. We need a whole range of tools to deal with homelessness."

Marchand said that he planned to call a summit to discuss ways to lift people out of homelessness.

Gary said that the discussion should include the state of homeless services and what next steps might look like.

Woerner suggested that additional information would be helpful in dealing with the issue. He said information could include how the numbers have changed; from where do the homeless come; why do they come to Livermore; what kind of services are needed; and what services would they accept.

New Swalwell Donations Bring Him to \$1 Million Mark

Rep. Eric Swalwell, D-15th District, has amassed slightly over \$1 million in his bid for re-election.

Swalwell disclosed the information in a press release Jan. 22, nine days before the filing deadline for declaring donations in 2013, the first year in the two-year election reporting cycle.

At the last filing deadline, September 2013, Swalwell reported \$781,000 raised in the calendar year to date. That rose by \$279,000 to \$1,060,000 by Dec. 31.

State Senate Majority Leader Ellen Corbett, whose district includes the Valley, is an announced candidate for the congressional seat. At the September filing, she had raised \$65,000. The

Federal Elections Commission reporting page does not show the last quarter of 2013 for Corbett or Swalwell, because it is not posted until after the Jan. 31 deadline.

Swalwell also announced the endorsements of all of the mayors in the congressional district, and many of the councilmembers. In Livermore, that included Mayor John Marchand and councilmembers Stewart Gary, Doug Horner, Laureen Turner, and Bob Woerner.

In Pleasanton, Mayor Jerry Thorne and councilmembers Karla Brown and Jerry Pentin have endorsed him as has former Mayor Jennifer Hosterman.

Dublin Mayor Tim Sbranti and councilmembers

Don Biddle and Abe Gupta have endorsed Swalwell, who was a Dublin councilmember when he ran for the House in 2012. Gupta was appointed to replace him.

Alameda County supervisors Scott Haggerty and Richard Valle are also supporting Swalwell.

Among prominent Democrats listed as endorsing Swalwell are state Attorney General Kamala Harris, state treasurer Bill Lockyer, and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi. Ellen Tauscher, who held the seat from 1997 to 2009, also supports him. Swalwell served as an aide on Tauscher's staff when he lived in the Washington, D.C. area.

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.)

Tesla Off Road Use Tom Crabtree Livermore

A recent letter writer feels that the existing off-road vehicle park at Carnegie is sufficient for families who want to enjoy 'that sort of thing'. The writer also thinks that the intended Tesla expansion area of barren, brown hills, should be turned into a 'tranquil' picnic and hiking area. - right next to a motorized park! So I wondered, how many other off-road vehicle parks are there in the greater Bay Area? I checked and found ... ZERO. How many picnic and hiking parks - state, county and city? Hundreds, many with little usage.

The Carnegie, being the only off-road vehicle park in the greater Bay Area, naturally is listed as one of California's most heavily used parks. The State would like to expand it, using their next-door Tesla property - long intended for that purpose. Among other improvements, they would add family picnic areas and training facilities for new riders.

Is the Carnegie-Tesla area isolated from heavily

populated areas? Yes. Can you even see it (or hear it) from a mile or two away? No.

Let's be fair here.

Testing Water Rich Buckley Livermore

Write your city council and local newspapers. Demand elected officials require your water service provider (Zone 7) expand your local water-purity tests. France (and their wine industry) are getting ahead of the game. Endocrine Disruptors we are breathing in every day appear to be forming as a result of global toxic Chemtrail dumps. These Endocrine Disruptors are negatively impacting our health and intelligence! <http://tinyurl.com/m2s-sfwd>

The Homeless Chris Wilson Livermore

At Monday's Livermore council meeting a small group of neighbors living near the Arroyo Mocho spoke in support of an ordinance establishing a camping policy. This ordinance gives the police department the authority to break up any encampments and fine and jail the homeless. Despite three-fourths of the comments being against this ordinance, the council passed it on four to one vote. Only councilmember Laureen Turner voted against the measure.

The homeowners (and Mayor John Marchand's) arguments were basically related to the quality of Livermore's water being affected and some trash on the walking paths of the Arroyo. I'm sure the deer,

ducks and hired grazing goats add as much to the environment as the homeless.

A great lack of compassion was evident in statements such as, "We're forcing the homeless to get help," and "The homeless are being shipped to Livermore to take advantage of our services." Another speaker referred to these people as idiots.

Mayor Marchand referred to the \$900,000 grant from the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program received by the city in 2009. He said it has done nothing to alleviate our problem because there are more homeless than ever in town.

The stated intention of this grant is to "provide financial assistance and services to prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless."

Many of Livermore's homeless services are provided by nonprofits such as Open Heart Kitchen and those initiated by faith based organizations. Years ago members from several Livermore churches formed the Livermore Homeless Refuge to provide overnight shelter during cold and/ or rainy winter nights. This was in response to the deaths of a number of men and the non-existence of shelters.

There is a great misconception that the homeless should "just get a job." For every person there is a different story. Many have a mental illness due to abuse, war trauma or heredity and will never be functioning members of society. If Livermore's city council will not have compassion for these people, we who do care can speak up for them.

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Livermore School Board Appoints Local Control Committees

The Livermore School District Board of Trustees approved membership in Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) advisory committees during its meeting last week.

As part of the state budget, the Local Control Funding Formula was established. It is based on a weighted student formula that provides supplemental funding and grants for pupils identified as an English learner, foster youth or low income.

In spending funds, the state requires each district to develop and implement an LCAP describing how a district intends to meet annual goals for pupils with specific activities to address identi-

fied state and local priorities. The state priorities include basic services, school climate, student achievement, student engagement, other student outcomes, parent involvement, course access, and implementation of the Common Core state standards.

The LCAP would be created after consultation with all stakeholders. Livermore has established advisory committees to receive the input.

An advisory committee must be comprised of parents of students who are English Learners. The state requires such a committee if 15 percent or more students in the district are English

learners.

The advisory committees can be existing committees or newly formed committees.

Cindy Alba, Director of Curriculum and Special Projects, told the board that the district decided to include a committee representing English learners even through Livermore is just below 15 percent threshold. She explained that the district already had a committee of parents of English learners. "We felt it was important to engage the current committee in the LCAP process. It is well established and highly functioning."

The other committee approved by trustees in-

cludes teachers, principals, administrators, members of bargaining units, one student from each comprehensive high school, and school personnel. All different groups are represented on the committee, including foster youth and socio-economic disadvantaged students. "It is a nice, well-rounded committee," said Alba.

Members of the LCAP English Learner Advisory Committee include Altamont Creek Elementary, Lilia Olvera; Arroyo Seco Elementary, Karla Reyes; Christensen Middle, Gwynne Cable; Croce Elementary, Marivel Canela; Del Valle Continuation High School, Mallely Camero; East Avenue Middle, Rosalia Hernandez; Granada High School, Ana Sanchez; Jackson Avenue Elementary, Susana Balderas; Junction Avenue K-8, Irma Arzate; Livermore High School, Mar'a Real; Marilyn Avenue Elementary, Rocío Del Real; Mendhall Middle, Sofia Ávalos; Joe Michell K-8, Rosa Suarez; Rancho Las Positas Elementary, Eugenia Morales; Smith Elementary, Rosa Romero; and Sunset Elementary, Isabel Acosta.

The other Board-established advisory committee includes: the Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services and the Chief Business Officer (CBO) as facilitators; one representative from each of the four employee groups; one representative from each school's School Site Council; and one student from each comprehensive high school.

Trustee Anne White suggested that the committees be asked to comment on whether the district's budget supports the plan. "I want the emphasis to be on transparency."

Meetings will be open to the public. The district has also sent a letter to the state asking that the state to allow districts to retain local control over spending plans.

The LCAP must be adopted by June 30th at a regular public meeting of the Board of Education.

In other news, the audit for 2012-13 was given an unmodified opinion, which represents a clean audit.

HISTORIC

(continued from page one)

incentives and tax credits it achieves."

The vote against considering the Mills Act was 3 to 2 with Cheryl Cook-Kallio and Karla Brown in support of the idea.

Although the final overall vote was unanimous, there was not unanimity for the individual provisions. Separate votes were taken on the proposals.

The council agreed to accept 1942 as the cut-off date for designating a home as historic. Mayor Jerry Thorne commented, "I felt it was too recent. The date would cover all of the homes between Peters Street and the fairgrounds. After talks with staff, I was assured there is a rigorous test to determine if a home built before 1942 were historic. I think I can go along with the date."

Councilmember Jerry Pentin suggested a review of the date every ten years.

Councilmember Karla Brown commented that 1942 is a natural break. Styles and construction changed after the war.

A clarifying definition of what constitutes "demolition" drew a 4 to 1 vote with Pentin opposed. He stated that he felt the current system wasn't broken. The common sense factor was used in previous decisions, and it worked, Pentin claimed.

Thorne stated, "I don't like it 100 percent. But it's not bad enough that I'll argue with it."

The approved definition describes demolition of a residential building for purposes of historic preservation as the removal of the front facade or the most visible facade from the street, including changes to the roof and roof line, but excluding the replacement of windows and doors. The front or most visible facade includes the forward most ten feet of the structure and roof/roof line. If portions of the building are unusable due to dry rot, termite damage, etc., then portions may be removed and reconstructed provided the new exterior construction matches the original in material, composition, design, color, texture, shape and dimensions.

The council was unanimous in changing wording that would allow demolition of homes in the Ray St.-Spring St. area, the first subdivision in Pleasanton. Previously, homes could not be demolished.

The council also supported the proposal that new homes be constructed using architectural styles found in the downtown; discouragement of the replacement of wooden windows; prohibition of demolition by neglect; use of story poles at staff's discretion; and hiring of a consultant to conduct a survey of historic homes. Story poles are used to show the size of a structure.

Changes that were proposed to deal with mass and bulk standards were altered, resulting in unanimous support. Currently, zoning allows a floor area ratio (FAR) of building size to lot size of 40 percent. The proposed change would have required an average FAR based on the average size of lots within 150 feet plus 25 percent. The

council ultimately agreed that the new formula could be used as information in determining how large a home could be, but would not be the deciding factor. The current policy of 40 percent would be retained.

Thorne commented, "Bulk and mass aren't part of historic preservation."

Councilmember Cheryl Cook-Kallio said that downtown lots come in all sizes and shapes, varying in height and depth. She suggested a "common sense" approach be used. She added later that property owners have rights. So do neighboring property owners, referring to the impact an overly large home could have.

Brian Dolan, director of community development, said that staff has been using a common sense approach. "It's been difficult."

Requiring detached garages be added as part of a renovation was supported 4 to 1 with Kathy Narum opposed. She said that the language does not allow for unintended consequences.

The final language dealing with garages stated that when a lot exceeds 60 feet in width, detached garages are required and are to be located to the rear of the site. Exceptions can be granted due to a physical constraint that prevents compliance such as an existing heritage-sized tree or inadequate lot depth.

Pentin objected to the proposal that the use of metal roofs be discouraged. He said that they work for the right use in the right place. He pointed to one homeowner who used a metal roof in order to allow rain water capture. "With green built homes, I think we will see more metal roofs," said Pentin. The council vote was 4 to 1.

Requiring a first floor review of proposed renovation garnered a 3 to 2 vote with Thorne and Narum opposed. The current policy reviews only the second floor changes. Brown pointed out that many of the homes that might be considered historic are one story. Not requiring a review misses the meat of the whole thing.

Prior to the vote, members of the public weighed in on the proposals.

Jan Batchellor said she had lived and worked in the downtown for 40 years. Over that time there have been many changes. "Every change has increased the beauty, eclectic nature and value of our city." She pointed out that the historic neighborhoods came about, not because of regulations, but because people cared. "Every time another rule or regulation is established to fix a problem, unintended consequences are the result. The task force never explored incentives, only more rules and regulations."

Dorothy Nesbitt suggested that setting the date at 1942 should be reconsidered. As years roll by, homes that are becoming heritage homes aren't being protected. She suggested using the age of a home, rather than a specific date. For example, the selected age could be 75 years, allowing for protection of homes that

reach that age.

Peter McDonald said that he is aware of one homeowner who spent \$225,000 on renovation in an effort to meet the standards of rehabilitation established by the Secretary of the Interior. "They add greatly to the cost." He did not want the standards to be part of Pleasanton's process.

Dolan explained, Secretary of Interior standards are part of the CEQA process.

Gene Finch said, "I don't see why we need more bureaucracy. People are here because they like what they see. Keep it simple. Don't add layers and layers of bureaucracy."

Linda Garbarino, a member of the task force, said members carefully tweaked language. There was a lot of compromise. She noted that the regulations allow for new additions to accommodate growing families. The changes will make it easier to do so. "My concern is for generations to come. We are the stewards of the city. It is important to ensure historic homes are here for our children."

John Banovich, who has restored five old homes, said that he loves looking for vents, windows and door knobs. It's part of the process. There is a need for reasonable regulations. He would allow garages and out-buildings to be converted into living spaces. "Property values are higher in historic communities," he added.

Bonnie Krichbaum, a task force member, said that the goal was to simplify, not make things more complicated. "Historic preservation happens everywhere. We're not inventing the wheel. We cannot risk the loss of our heritage."

Chairman of the Task Force, Jennifer Pearce, said that Pleasanton should decide what is important to Pleasanton, not the state. The changes are designed to create efficiency and certainty when people want to make renovations.

At the end of the meeting, Councilmember Brown raised the idea of creating an historic neighborhood designation that would not include rules or regulations. Signage could be used to recognize these historic areas.

Other councilmembers agreed to look into the idea.

NEW COMMITTEE
The council voted to establish a legislative committee. It will be comprised of Mayor Thorne and Cook-Kallio.

Pentin had asked to be appointed. He deferred to Thorne to allow Cook-Kallio to serve. She pointed out that she had not been appointed to other committees that she had wanted to be part of. "This would be my first choice."

The new committee would meet monthly, or as necessary, to review state and federal legislation, make recommendations to the City Council regarding formal legislative positions, and occasionally meet with subject matter experts which may include the League of California Cities and other related organizations.

Charter High School Graduates Its First Class

By Ron McNicoll

Tri-Valley Charter Preparatory (TVCP) saw its first graduation earlier this month.

Principal Eric Dillie told the TVLC board at its meeting Jan. 23 that it was a "soft graduation." Since it was a mid-year commencement, it was smaller than the one that will take place on June 7.

There were three graduates, all exchange students from China. The ceremony was held at an LVCP assembly.

A speaker at the event, as shown on a YouTube video made and posted by music teacher Colin Dean, praised the three girls' contribution to the school. The speaker declared that without their presence, the school would not have been the same. "Similarly, they are very blessed, because of you," he said, in reference to the assembled students.

Livermore Valley Charter School (LVCS) principal Tara Aderman also reported some news for the board. The middle school girls cheerleading team will be going to the national competition at Disneyland March 1 and 2.

Diana Luna, volunteer coach of the 13-member team, told The Independent that the team won the right to compete at Disneyland by finishing first in a regional competition at Oak Grove. The events are sponsored by the United Spirit Association (USA).

Luna's niece was a cheerleader on the previous year's team. She volunteered this year to carry the coaching along. Luna, a lifelong Livermore resident, was a cheerleader herself when she attended Granada High School student. She has two Granada graduates helping her -- Taylor Stevenson and Sara Nelson.

Aderman also talked about the LVCS lottery. There are 148 slots available. So far, 397 applicants have signed up. Enrollment forms are available in English and Spanish. They are on-line at the LVCS web page. Deadline to apply is 3:30 p.m. Feb. 7.

Aderman and Dillie also told the board about their schools' Average Daily Attendance (ADA) figures. High attendance rates are important, because the state funds schools on a per-pupil basis. More absences mean less budget revenue.

For LVCS, the attendance has been just over 97 percent for each grade level. At LVCP, daily attendance has averaged 96 percent. Dillie said the figure is "awesome for a high school. Usually it's 90 or 91 percent."

Dillie also praised the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program, which can focus students better on their tasks. Several faculty members are planning to attend a state conference on AVID, and one is also going to learn more at a middle school in San Leandro.

AVID is a college readiness system for elementary through higher education that is designed to increase schoolwide learning and performance.

LVCP enrollment is 462 students. Some 65 of them, or 14 percent, are Hispanic, said Dillie.

By comparison, Hispanic people were represented as 20.9 percent of Livermore's population, in the 2010 U.S. census. Data from the 2013 API testing at Livermore High School shows that 24.5 percent of students there are Hispanic. The figure for Granada High School is 26 percent.

Dillie said that he will be speaking to the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the Livermore Valley Chamber of commerce to promote the school.

Alameda County Seeks Feedback on Tree Ordinance

The Alameda County Public Works Agency (PWA) is inviting comments on its tree ordinance.

Deadline for comment is Feb. 7, said arborist Inta Brainerd. Response can be made to her at 510-670-5786, or an e-mail to info@acpwa.org.

Most of the people affected by the tree ordinance are property owners in the more urban unincorporated areas. However, in the Valley, Foothill Road is residential and unincorporated. There are also a few other residential spots in the Valley that may not have been annexed to Pleasanton or Livermore, said Brainerd.

A meeting about the ordinance was to be held by the county on Jan. 29, after The Independent's deadline. Brainerd said that the county is not proposing any change in the ordinance, but is looking at simplifying some language to make the ordinance easier to understand.

Along those lines, the PWA wants to solicit comments from residents about how the ordinance is working for them.

Residents' main point of contact with the tree ordinance has to do with the trimming and removal of trees. Some residents are not aware of their responsibility for pruning trees and removing downed trees that are in the county road right of way, said Brainerd. The county's responsibility is only to take care of road and sidewalk clearance. The county will respond if trees are down in an emergency, and are blocking the streets.

The right of way distance is measured from the center of the road, as seen on relevant maps. The distances of those lines can vary greatly

depending on the place in the road.

If any portion of a tree is in the right of way, the property owner needs a permit to have it removed, or trimmed. Brainerd says the county has provided more prominent tree services permits that can be used by homeowners, as a convenience.

Sometimes property owners are not aware of the permit need. They might act on their own, and do the wrong thing, said Brainerd. She cited a hypothetical example of taking a mature tree, such as a 60-foot sycamore, and cutting it down to a 12-foot stump. "That can be a safety hazard, because if growth sprouts back, it is weakly attached to the tree, and is far more likely to decay, and snap off," said Brainerd.



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SPORTS NOTES



Livermore Outlaws 13U Baseball Club brought home the championship from the Martin Luther King weekend memorial tournament held by Bigtimer Baseball in Capitola. The Outlaws captured the title by going undefeated in bracket play. Finishing with 31 runs scored against 13 runs allowed for the tournament, the Outlaws defeated the Wolfpack of South San Francisco 5-3 for the championship. Rigo Zaipen was given the tournament MVP award (as selected by the umpire crew) for his outstanding pitching, hitting and play at 1st base. For more information about the Livermore Outlaws go to outlawstravelball@yahoo.com. Pictured (left to right) are Coaches Stan Phillips, Rich Hayley, Paul Schrader, Neil Rasmussen; (back row) Seth Street, Drew Arruda, Rigo Zaipen, Wyatt Calkins, Brad Archer, Aaron Aguilar; (front row) Andrew Hayley, Ryan Brandt, AJ Phillips, Ian Rasmussen, Parker Brandt, Nolan McCormick, and Cam Schrader.



Zone 2 All-Stars: The Pacific Swimming, Zone 2 SCY Winter Championship Meet was held on January 25-26, 2014 at the 'Soda Aquatic Center' at Campolindo High School in Moraga. Pictured are Claire Suen from Dublin, Caroline Eckel from Livermore, Daniella Hawkins from San Ramon, and Emily Claridge from Pleasanton, who all swim with The Pleasanton Seahawks. Caroline, Daniella and Emily will represent the 11-12 girls at the All-Star meet. Caroline was the first place and high point winner for the 11-12 girls with 88 total points for the weekend. Daniella came in second place with 74 points and Emily was 7th with 51 points. The top 8 will travel to Burlingame on March 1-2 to represent the zone 2 girls 11-12 year olds.



West Coast Olympic Gymnastics Academy Optional gymnast from Pleasanton, competed at the Deltchev Invitational in Reno, Nevada on January 18, 2014. Individual results: Abigail McKeag, Level Seven Senior, highlight in vault with a 8.8500, placed 3rd on bars with a 8.7500, tied for 3rd place on floor with a 9.000 and accumulated an AA of 34.350. Megan Quinton, Level 8 Junior, highlights were on Floor with a score of 9.0250 and in AA with a 33.550. Sara Ling, Level 8 Senior, highlights were on Floor with a score of 8.5250 and in AA with a 32.350.



Pictured is West Coast Fury defender Gracie Alfonso clearing a ball during Saturday's clash with crosstown rival Livermore Fuson.

Livermore Aquacowboys

The Livermore Aquacowboys (LAC) Swim Team stood out at the USA Pacific Swimming Zone 2 Championships held in Moraga over the weekend with many swimmers finishing in the top 8 and top 16 overall while also setting New Junior Olympic, Far Western, Senior Clovis, and Team Records in Individual swims and Relays.

LAC also had 3 team members selected to the 14 and Under 2014 Zone 2 All-Star Teams: Paige Chew (13), Jared Tovera (12), and Brandon Siu (14). They will compete in Burlingame March 1st and 2nd against 4 other Zones in Pacific Swimming.

LAC Swimmers finishing in the top 8 individual swims were: Jacqueline Arnold 4th-100 breast; Paige Chew 3rd-100 free; Taber DaCosta 8th 100-free, 7th-50 back, 7th-100 breast, and 5th 100 IM; Shelby Diehl 7th-100 breast; Katie Kulp 7th-100 free, 4th-100 breast, and 7th-200 IM; Bryce McLaggan 3rd-100 free, and 4th-50 free; Alex Quach 4th-25 free; Gregory Quach 7th-50 fly and 7th 200 free; Jared Tovera 8th-100 free, 6th-200 IM, and 8th-50 free; Trent Trump meet champion-100 free, 2nd-200IM, and 2nd-50 free; Alex Wang 3rd-100 breast and 5th-200 IM.

LAC Swimmers finishing top 9th-16th were: Shahini Ananth 15th-100 breast; Paige Chew 9th-100 breast, 9th-50 free, 15th 200 IM, 16th 100 back, and 13th 100 fly; Taber DaCosta 11th-50 free, 10th-50 fly and 11th-200 free; Megan Fairbanks 10th-50 free and 15th-100 free; Alex Gonzalez 13th-200IM; Katie Kulp 11th-50 free; Addison McLaggan 14th-100 breast and 15th-5 free; Bryce McLaggan 11th-100 breast and 15th-200IM; Franco Moufarrej 16th-200 free; Sofia Moufarrej 16th-100 fly; Celine Nguyen 11th-100 breast; Alex Quach 11th-100IM, 13th-100 free and 13th-100 breast; Gregory Quach 9th-100 breast, 10th-100 free, 12th-50 back, 11th-100 IM, and 14th-50 free; Brandon Siu 9th-50 free, 12th-200IM, 11th-100 fly and 13th-100 free; Jared Tovera 11th-100 breast, 15th-100 back and 10th-100 fly; Trent Trump 10th-100 breast; Sam Yoon 9th-50 free, 13th-100 free, and 12th-200 IM.

Relay Top 8 Finishes: LAC 15-18 boys Medley Relay, Trent Trump, Alex Wang, Bryce McLaggan, Sam Yoon were Zone 2 Meet Champions; LAC 15-18 girls Medley Relay; Shahini Ananth, Shelby Diehl, Katie Kulp, Megan Fairbanks took 2nd place; LAC 11-12 boys Medley Relay and 11-12 200 Free Relay both took 2nd Place; Paige DeCosta, Jared Tovera, Collin Trump, and Franco Moufarrej, set new team records and Far Westerns by 2 seconds; LAC 13-14 girls medley relay Emma Hayes, Paige Chew, Sofia Moufarrej, Tori Carroll took 5th; LAC 13-14 boys Medley Relay Gabe Atkins, Brandon Siu, Matthew Hayes, Hunter Woffinden took 5th.

West Coast Soccer

STATE CUP CHAMPS: West Coast Fury completed an unbelievable season Sunday with a pair of victories against local rivals during Nor Cal State Cup play in Turlock. The Fury opened the final two games of the year with a 1-0 victory over Livermore Fusion in penalty kicks (PK's). West Coast was missing leading scorer Kelena Brongiel, who suffered an ankle sprain during warmups. However, great ball movement and outstand-

ing defense from the back line of Grace and Angie Alfonso, Cassidy Brackett and Celina Garcia kept Fury's clean sheet through regulation and overtime. In PK's, Celina Garcia, Angie Alfonso and Jennifer Barron all connected on their shots. Kelsey Hoopes made a great save to preserve the victory.

In Sunday's championship, 3 first half goals were scored by Trinity Sandridge, Bella Romero and Kourtney Kessler as they cruised to a 3-1 victory over Pleasanton Rage. Fury was able to beat the Rage's top team all four times they played this year. The victory over Pleasanton gave Fury the Nor Cal State 7 Championship.

With the win, the Fury ended their season with an unbelievable record of 44-7-5; that included 6 championships. "This is the most amazing group of young ladies I've ever coached and the future looks extremely bright for this team" said Fury coach Ray Canevari.

The West Coast Warriors U13 advanced into the Red Division, the highest division in Northern California. The Warriors team is made up of players from Livermore, Tracy and around the Bay Area playing games out of Livermore. The Round of 32 started out well for the West Coast Warriors as they defeated Central Marin 6-1 and Palo Alto 5-0 this past weekend. Saturday West Coast's Estevan Murillo found Nathan Negrete on a slashing run who placed the ball in the corner to put the Warriors up 1-0. Marin equalized 10 minutes later. At the half Coach David Mahabali adjusted some things offensively and Murillo, Negrette, Dylan Greene and Brendan Trevelthan scored for the Warriors. Hunter Mc Daniel, Brandon Harmon, Chris Barron and Cameron McWilliams organized the defense well to close out the game without allowing another goal.

West Coast entered Sunday in second place in their group behind a good Palo Alto team and having to win to advance. Palo Alto started moving the ball and pressuring the Warriors. Combination play among West Coast's midfield Miguel Angel, Carlos Terriquez and Estevan Murillo enabled the Warriors to spring Murrillo who finished his opportunities by scoring a hat trick to lead the team. Once again West Coast had to adapt to the pressure of the high speed and pace of the Red division and their key adjustments opened up the game finishing with a 5-0 win and a shutout.

The wins were important as the West Coast Warriors earned the #2 seed in the quarterfinal round and play a premier team in Montclair on February 8th.

West Coast Coaching Director Troy Dayak's dream was to develop quality soccer players and the West Coast Warriors made him proud. If interested in participating, West Coast Soccer tryouts will be held Saturday February 1st at Granada High School in Livermore. Registration is at www.westcoastsoccerclub.com.

LAZERS water polo

The Livermore LAZERS on Saturday, Jan. 25, hosted its third and final tournament of the Livermore Area Recreation and Parks District's water polo club's Winter Session at the Robert Livermore Community Center. Among the Level I standouts were goalie Briney Pettit, offensive stars Brady Scanlon and Ethan Fovel, and defensive whiz Rylee Mora. For the Level II boys, goalie Scott Ragatz was outstanding. Cole Markley and Nathan Williams played well offensively, and Luca Cuppoletti

played well at the 2-meter position. For the level II girls, Madeline Nelson and Gianna Paden played exceptionally well at both ends of the pool, and Alyssa Bergmann had some nice saves as goalie.

In a tournament at West Val-

ley College, the LAZERS 18U boys were led by Michael Brooks' leadership and constant movement. Andrew Kettenhofen also pushed the team, with goal scoring heroics and great defense. On Sunday, the 16U group ended play with a 3-0

final tally. They were led by Tyler Paden's great drives and counters, and several game-saving blocks by Harry Yee. While the 18U girls lost three games on Saturday, Michelle Hawkins distinguished herself with solid play throughout. The 16U girls won two of their three games; Hannah Carlson did a great job in goal, while Hannah Borjon, Katlyn

Johnson and Elizabeth Bukus were the top players in the water in front of Carlson.

Tumbling and Trampoline

Livermore's Springtime Tumbling and Trampoline (T&T) hosted the Springtime Invite competition on

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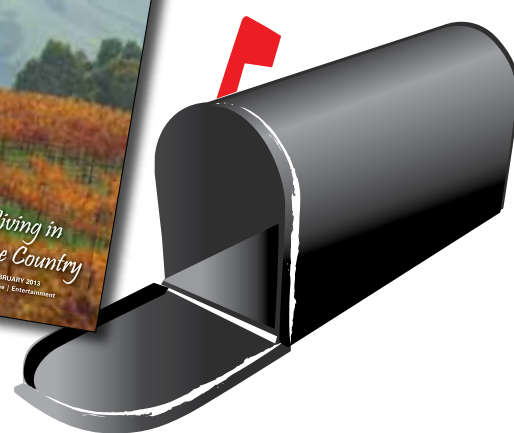
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SPORTS NOTES



Pictured are members of the West Coast Warriors U13 team. The team advanced to the quarterfinals of State Cup play.



The Livermore Aquacowboys swim team competed recently at the Zone 2 championships.

January 18th. Twenty-seven T&T gymnasts competed in 3 events: trampoline, double-mini trampoline, and tumbling. Springtime brought home 7 first place medals in each of the 3 events. Complete results follow:

Trampoline
Level 3: Sammy Ahner 23.3/1st
Level 4: Nicole Wong 23.5/2nd, Emma Banas 23.0/4th, Aiyana Stanford 21.6/3rd

Level 5: Amy Williams 22.7/3rd, Zoe Harries 22.4/6th, Skylar Shapiro 22.0/6th

Level 6: Emma Petersen 23.4/1st, Colleen McCandless 22.0/2nd, Darby Culver 21.6/3rd, Dawn Powell 21.6/5th

Level 7: Megan Wong 23.2/4th, Timothy Chan 22.2/2nd, Kaitlyn Firestone 21.8/10th

Level 8: Jelani Roberson 50.1/2nd, David Davison 49.9/1st, Nicholas Chan 49.7/2nd, Alex Holland 48.5/1st, Nicolai Peterson 48.3/4th, Hannah Crosby 47.7/2nd, Ben Tomlin 41.7/2nd, Megan Contariego 40.7/4th

Level 9: Kaitlyn Clevenger 54.6/1st, Connor Tomlin 53.7/1st, Nick Francken 53.5/2nd, Kendall Aasen 49.1/4th

Youth Elite: Ruben Padilla, 89.8/1st

Double Mini
Level 4: Emma Banas 57.4/1st, Sammy Ahner 56.7/1st, Aiyana Stanford 56.0/2nd

Level 5: Amy Williams 55.9/1st, Darby Culver 55.9/2nd, Nicole Wong 49.5/4th, Zoe Harries 27.8/4th

Level 6: Emma Petersen 55.5/6th, Colleen McCandless 54.7/2nd, Dawn Powell 54.2/10th, Skylar Shapiro 47.6/11th

Level 7: Megan Wong 57.2/2nd, Ben Tomlin 56.2/2nd, Kaitlyn Firestone 55.8/9th, Timothy Chan 55.7/4th

Level 8: Kaitlyn Clevenger 60.9/1st, Nicholas Chan 60.1/1st, David Davison 59.3/2nd, Nicolai Peterson 58.9/3rd, Hannah Crosby 58.4/3rd, Jelani Roberson 58.2/2nd, Megan Contariego 57.7/2nd, Alex Holland 57.6/3rd

Level 9: Connor Tomlin 61.5/1st, Nick Francken 59.1/2nd, Kendall Aasen 30.4/3rd

Level 10: Ruben Padilla 67.4/1st

Tumbling
Level 3: Aiyana Stanford 54.8/1st, Emma Banas 54.8/3rd, Amy Williams 54.7/4th, Dawn Powell 53.5/6th, Sammy Ahner 52.9/2nd, Skylar Shapiro 52.9/7th, Darby Culver 52.8/1st, Zoe Harries 52.0/6th

Level 4: Emma Petersen 57.0/1st, Nicole Wong 54.6/4th, David Davison 53.8/1st, Colleen McCandless 53.1/2nd

Level 5: Kaitlyn Firestone 54.1/2nd, Timothy Chan 52.9/2nd, Ben Tomlin 51.7/3rd

Level 6: Megan Contariego 53.7/2nd, Hannah Crosby 53.3/3rd, Megan Wong 53.0/3rd, Nicolai Peterson 51.1/3rd, Nicholas Chan 50.6/4th

Level 7: Jelani Roberson 54.6/1st, Nick Francken 54.7/1st

Level 8: Kendall Aasen 51.3/2nd, Connor Tomlin 50.8/1st

Level 9: Alex Holland 52.0/3rd

CYO Basketball

SM/SC 5th-grade girls clinched a first-place tie. Playing without half of its roster and four of five starters, the St. Michael/St. Charles (SM/SC) 5th-grade girls "A" team on Sunday held off visiting St. Raymond 25-19 to clinch a first-place tie in CYO basketball regular-season play. Haiden Arruda led a balanced offensive attack with 11 points, Sarah Kerling was a whirlwind with 11 steals, Jackie Urban controlled the glass with 14 rebounds, and Erin Schrader, Kendall Waugh and fourth-grader Natalie Urban provided clutch support throughout.

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 athenian-track@hotmail.com.

Bocce Kits for Rent

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

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

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

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

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.

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 began 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 LARPD 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

Mavericks FastPitch Tryouts

The Mavericks FastPitch 12U Livermore team is still looking for a few more girls to round out the roster for 2014. Focus for this coming year is player development, play time and team growth as an A-team. 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.

Dougherty Valley High Team wins Sandia National Laboratories Regional High School Science Bowl

Students from Dougherty Valley High School in San Ramon, will be one of the teams representing California at the U.S. Department of Energy's National Science Bowl in Washington, DC. The team took first place at the Sandia National Laboratories Regional High School Science Bowl at Las Positas College on Saturday, Jan. 25.

The students representing Dougherty Valley High School are Augustine Chemparathy, Rishi Krishnan, Bibhav Poudel, Saranesh Prembabu, and Wesley Wang, coached by Cathy Huang and Rym Han-nachi. Mission San Jose High School finished in second place and Amador Valley High School took the third spot.

A total of 24 teams from Northern California high schools participated in the event. Students answered questions related to Biology, Chemistry, Earth and Space Science, Energy, Mathematics, and Physics during the fast-paced, all-day, "Jeopardy" style competition.

The Dougherty Valley High School team will receive an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., to compete against top teams across the nation at the DOE National Science Bowl in late April. While this is the



Pictured (from left to right) are coach Cathy Huang, Augustine Chemparathy, Saranesh Prembabu, Wesley Wang, Bibhav Poudel, Rishi Krishnan.

school's first trip to the DOE National Science Bowl, several team members already have experience on the national stage. Chemparathy, Krishna, and Prembabu were part of the Gale Ranch Middle School that won the DOE National Science Bowl in 2011.

Sandia National Laboratories coordinates annual high school and middle school regional competi-

tions for DOE's Office of Science. DOE created the National Science Bowl in 1991 to encourage students to excel in math and science and pursue careers in related fields. More than 200,000 students have participated in the National Science Bowl since its inception.

Sandia National Laboratories is a multi-program laboratory operated by San-

dia Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of Lockheed Martin Corp., for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration. With main facilities in Albuquerque, N.M., and Livermore, Calif., Sandia has major R&D responsibilities in national security, energy and environmental technologies and economic competitiveness.

Laab's Science On Saturday Begins February 1 at the Bankhead Theater



Rodger Johnson teaches Physics, Chemistry, and Physics and Engineering Technology at Monte Vista High School.



Vic Castillo, PhD is a research engineer at LLNL and was honored with the 2013 Community Service Award from Great Minds in STEM.

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's popular lecture series, "Science on Saturday," returns Feb. 1 and runs through March 1. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the program. The series will offer four lectures with a theme of computational modeling.

Topics include exploring nature via computer simulation; fusion modeling; menacing microbes; and simulating the human heart on the world's fastest supercomputer.

The lectures are free. They will be held in the Bankhead Theater, located at 2400 First St. in Livermore. Two presentations are offered at 9:30 and 11:15 a.m.

Each lecture highlights cutting-edge Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) science presented by leading Lab researchers who are joined by master high school science teachers.

Kicking off the series of four Saturday sessions is: "Computer Simulation: Exploring Nature With a

Computer," by LLNL scientist Vic Castillo and teacher Rodger Johnson of Monte Vista High School.

In this series kickoff, participants will learn how computer simulation is used by LLNL scientists on the world's fastest computers. Computer simulation reproduces the behavior of natural and manmade systems to help understand, predict and communicate. Castillo and Johnson will show how to do computer simulations with free, open-source tools for class projects or just for fun.

The schedule of lectures:

• Feb. 1: "Computer Simulation: Exploring Nature With a Computer," by LLNL scientist Vic Castillo and teacher Rodger Johnson of Monte Vista High School.

• Feb. 8: "Fusion Modeling: Using Big Computers to Understand One of the Universe's Biggest Secrets," by LLNL scientist Frederico Fiuza and teacher Dan Burns of Los Gatos High School.

• Feb. 22: "Menacing Microbes: Protein Models Reveal Secrets," by LLNL scientist Beth Vitalis and

teacher Dean Reese of Tracy High School.

• March 1: "The Cardiod Project: Simulating the Human Heart on the World's Fastest Supercomputer," by LLNL scientist David Richards and teacher Erin McKay of Tracy High School.

Lectures and demonstrations are targeted to middle and high school students. The lectures are sponsored by LLNL's Science Education Program. Seating is on a first-come basis. There is no pre-registration.

The lecture series also will be available via livestream at <http://new.livestream.com/LivermoreLab>. There will be the ability to pose questions to the presenters and engage in chat live with the event. A student worksheet outlining each talk will soon be available on the Science on Saturday website at <http://education.llnl.gov/students/science-on-saturday>.

For more information about Science on Saturday, directions and a map, go to the Web <http://education.llnl.gov/students/science-on-saturday/> or contact Richard Farnsworth, (925) 422-5059, or e-mail farnsworth1@llnl.gov.

TOBACCO

(continued from page one)

given D's, because the City Council in Dublin has been proactive in upgrading its ordinances," said Chen.

Chen said that Livermore adopted ordinances banning smoking in outdoor areas of restaurants, and within "reasonable distances around doorways, but they never said what the distance was." Other cities have defined distances. Details like that have helped such cities pull ahead in the scoring, leaving other cities behind.

The grades given to communities resemble a grade point average in college. There are three categories: smoke-free outdoor air, smoke-free housing, and reducing sales of tobacco products.

Number totals in each category are added together, then divided by 3 to come up with the grade. Dublin's total added up to 35 out of a possible 43 points total. That gave Dublin a rounded-off score of 12.

Pleasanton accumulated 14 points, which averaged out to 4 points. Livermore's total was 9 points, which averaged to 3 points.

Within the categories, Pleasanton received 4's for smoke-free areas in dining and in service areas, which

was the highest score available. But the city has zeros in other areas. Its total in smoke-free housing is 3 out of a possible 14. Two of the three points came for banning smoking in common areas in housing.

In Livermore, the city received 2 points each in dining and entryways. The city was awarded 2 points each in common areas of housing and service areas.

One focus for the Lung Association has been an effort to have local government license tobacco dealers. Dublin earned two points in that category, which pushed its score up to the A level in 2012, said Chen. Livermore and Pleasanton have no such licensing.

The revenue from a fee can be used for a local government police force to set up stings to catch merchants selling tobacco to minors. There is limited money from the state to do this. It derives its fund from a one-time state fee of \$100 for each location from which cigarettes or tobacco products are sold at retail, said Chen.

Some cities in the county are charging fees that support local enforcement of the

ban on sales to minors. They estimate enforcement cost and divide by the number of tobacco sellers to derive the fee amount.

Piedmont was the only community in Alameda County to receive an F. It did not score any points. Chen said the Lung Association is working with Piedmont to improve.

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POOL SERVICE

Concert to Raise Funds for Music Education in the Schools

One of the world's foremost fingerstyle guitarists, Muriel Anderson is coming back to Livermore for a Rotary Music Scholarship benefit concert on, Wednesday, February 5th, 7:30 PM at Our Savior Lutheran Church.

Muriel was the first woman to have won the National Fingerstyle Guitar Championship. An engaging performer, her obvious joy of music, humor, and facility across musical genres is revered by guitarists and audiences worldwide.

She has recorded with country legend Chet Atkins and performed in New York with renowned guitarist Les Paul. She is host and founder of Muriel Anderson's All Star Guitar Night, the premiere music event at the semi-annual NAMM music trade shows, and also the founder of the Music for Life Alliance charity. Her work with the alliance facilitates the efforts of individuals and organizations



Muriel Anderson will perform.

making music learning accessible to young people who may not otherwise be able to experience the educational, psychological, and social benefits of making music.

The proceeds of this Rotary Music Scholarship Benefit Concert goes directly into a fund that provides financial assistance to those qualified Livermore music students interested in pursu-

ing a career in music. Over the past decade, Rotary's music scholarship has provided tens of thousands of dollars to young people for music camps, private lessons, travel expenses

and financial assistance to repair or replace their musical instruments. Grants to students range from \$200 to \$1000, depending on specific needs.

Former owner of Fine Fretted Friends, once a community music store in downtown Livermore, Rotarian Michael Ferrucci has brought numerous world recognized music artists to our city. Responsible for bringing such artists as the late Doc Watson, Laurence Juber, Stanley Jordan and the "Year of the Cat" fame Al Stewart to play for music education needs.

Ferrucci says, "This is what I do. Everyone knows, it's a fact that making music makes you smarter. The need to provide support for our community's youth who are seriously interested in music couldn't be greater. Currently, our school's budgets cannot facilitate music education like years past. Public music education has been

severely curtailed and with few exceptions is essentially non-existent in our schools today. The Livermore Rotary club Music Scholarship is for some, the only financial aid available to Livermore's under privileged students."

Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door, students \$10. Tickets can be purchased at ABC Music, 2156 First St., Livermore; Travel Bug, 2269 Third St., Livermore; or Baughman's Western Outfitters, 2029 First St., Livermore.

RETZLAFF Estate Wines
Sweetheart Wine Special & Raffle!
 Feb. 7, 8, & 9
 Hours: 12:00-4:30pm
 1356 S. Livermore Ave.
 (925) 447-8941

Public Art Program to Continue

The public art program and in-lieu fee will be renewed in Livermore.

The ordinance was due to sunset in October 2014.

The city council voted unanimously to extend the art program and to establish a task force to review the in-lieu fee.

The review is required every two years to determine if the fee needs to be changed.

Currently, the fee requires all new developments to install public art or pay a fee. The in-lieu fee is set at one third of one percent of the construction costs.

The goal of the Art in Public Places program is to enhance the visual and aesthetic quality of Livermore by creating a unique sense of community. This program provides guidelines for the installation of public art and implementation of related activities. To provide a funding source for these endeavors, a fee is assessed on residential, commercial and industrial development.

Jean Prasher, Human Services Coordinator, told the council that just over \$200,000 has been collected, with 80 percent spent on the installation of art and 20 percent on other programs

Among the completed art

projects is the whale mural at the wastewater treatment plant, the firehouse mural and utility box murals.

The grant funds have been used for high school senior art awards, California Theatre Company to perform in schools, mini grants, prize money for the

Livermore Art Association spring show, and art related projects connected with the Amgen Tour of California.

Currently, work is underway on new banners and public art projects within the cultural arts district in the downtown. Discussions include art installations in-

spired by Livermorium.

Mayor John Marchand commented, "The public art adds to the quality of life. It also lends itself to economic development by bringing in people."

He noted that the whale mural has received national recognition.

Super Bowl Party - Sunday @ 1:30 - Free Admission!

Oscar Nominee for Best Picture, Actor & Director!
NEBRASKA
 Fri - Sat: 1:20 4:15 7:00 9:10
 Golden Globe WINNER for Best Picture!
12 YEARS A SLAVE
 Fri - Sat: 3:45 8:30
PHILOMENA
 Fri - Sat: 1:00 6:45

Vine Cinema & Alehouse
 1722 First Street - Livermore www.VineCinema.com

Valentine Dinner at Café Garré
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 www.garrewinery.com

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THAT AWKWARD MOMENT (R) DLP	1:25 4:35 7:25 9:55
LABOR DAY (PG13) DLP	12:45 4:20 7:00 9:40
DALLAS BUYERS CLUB (R) DLP	12:10 3:25 6:35 9:50
RIDE ALONG (PG13) DLP	12:00 2:25 4:50 7:15 9:50
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
SAVING MR. BANKS (PG13) DLP	(FRI, MON-THUR) 12:05 DAILY 3:10 6:20 9:20
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
THE WOLF OF WALL STREET (R) DLP	12:00 3:45 7:30
I, FRANKENSTEIN (PG13) DLP	12:00 2:25 4:50 7:15 9:45
AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY (R) DLP	12:35 3:15 6:25 9:35
FROZEN (PG) DLP	DAILY 2D 12:00 2:40 5:20 8:00
FROZEN (PG) DLP	SAT-SUN SING-A-LONG 12:30
PREVIEW, THUR. FEB. 6TH: THE MONUMENTS MEN (PG13) DLP	7:00 9:45

Cultural Arts Calendar



Community Events Calendar



RANCH

(continued from page one)

It protects land containing wetlands, wildlife habitats or other ecological areas and then sets it aside to compensate for loss of lands of similar ecological value through development.

"We feel honored to be able to help the Walkers, who are long-time advocates of the beef industry and rangeland conservation, forever protect the ranch they call home," said Nita Vail, CEO of the California Rangeland Trust. "Everyone who drives in the East Bay will be able to view this portion of the beautiful rolling hills of the Altamont forever."

Conservation of the property also meets the goals of the Conservation Lands Network, a conservation plan for the region completed by the Bay Area Open Space Council, with participation from over 100 scientists and land managers. The plan emphasizes the importance of rangelands and ranchers, whose management practices support the incredible diversity of plants and animals found in our area.

"This mitigation easement is another case where government agencies are endorsing the work of cattle ranchers to sustainably manage their land for generations," said Darrel Sweet, California Rangeland Trust Chairman. "The Walker family ranch is one example of how good stewardship is protecting the environment."

Visit Our Online Calendars

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



OBITUARIES

Bernetha May Elmquist

Bernetha May Elmquist, nee' Couse, was born in Pennsylvania on May 20, 1920, and departed peacefully January 15, 2014, in Livermore California. She was known to all as "Birdie." Birdie passed away at Kindred's



Nursing Home in Livermore at the age of 93.

Birdie was a wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, and great-great grandmother. She is survived by all five of her children. She had three daughters, Marilee Hohlenkamp and husband Roger, Linda Erickson and husband Meredith, and Louise Hambrick and husband Mo. Lastly, she had two sons, Terry Elmquist and wife Lupe, and Emery Alan Elmquist and wife Tammy. Bernetha was the grandmother of eight, the great grandmother of sixteen, and great-great grandmother of one.

She was married to her loving husband Emery E. Elmquist for 56 years. Most of her life was devoted to taking care of her home and family. She was an amazing housewife and volunteered as a Girl Scout Leader and as a Library Aide. She especially loved cooking, reading, and was an avid bird lover. She lived and married in Warren, PA, moved to Tucson, AZ, then lastly to Livermore, CA.

May she rest in peace; she is now reunited with her husband, parents and siblings. She will be missed greatly by her adoring family.

A private family memorial service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, a contribution to a charity of your choice in honor of Bernetha "Birdie" Elmquist will be greatly appreciated.

Sympathy and condolences can be posted on Callaghan Mortuary and Livermore Crematory at <http://www.callaghanmortuary.com/>.

William R Guntrum

William R Guntrum was born in DuBois, PA, on August 7, 1921 and passed away on January 22, 2014 after a long struggle with Parkinson's Disease. Bill was 92 years old.

He attended elementary and high school at Girard College in Philadelphia, PA, where his favorite baseball team was the Philadelphia A's (now the Oakland A's).

He entered the US Air Corps in 1943. Bill met Doris, his wife of 69 years, when he was stationed in Alva, OK. with training missions throughout Oklahoma and Texas. After military service he returned to Rochester, NY to his job at Bausch & Lomb Optical Co. Bill entered Michigan State University in East Lansing Mi. in 1947 and after graduating with a degree in Electrical Engineering in 1951 accepted employment with Sandia Laboratory in Albuquerque, NM. He was transferred to Livermore, CA in 1958 and worked there until retiring in 1984.

He was a long time member (56 years) of Our Savior Lutheran Ministries, serving as a Sunday School teacher and on the Church Council as treasurer; a member of SIRS, coached Little League, enjoyed golfing, traveling, and playing bridge. He did most of improvements around the house including installing central air conditioning.

Bill is survived by his wife, Doris, daughter Patricia, son Michael, and brother Marshall Guntrum of Rochester, NY. Memorial services will be held

on February 1, 2014 at Our Savior Lutheran Ministries, 1385 S Livermore Ave., at 11:00 AM.

Memorial gifts may be made to OSLM or a charity of your choice.

Vernon Steve Freitas

Born in Oakland, CA on January 4, 1929, longtime resident of Livermore, Vernon passed away on January 22, 2014 in the company of his family.



He is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Eleonora; son, Michael, grandson Kyle, his wife, Jolita, their sons Leland and Logan, and grandson Kevin and his son, Lucas.

Services will be at Callaghans in Livermore, CA on Saturday, Feb. 1. Viewing will be from 11-12, service 12-1 and gravesite 1:15-1:30. Reception to follow at the Elks Lodge in Livermore.

Robert Francis Hurson

Robert Francis Hurson was born on October 14, 1969 and passed away on Thurs., January 23, 2014.

Robert grew up for the most part in Livermore, CA where he met his best friend, Tammy Kavanagh, at a coffee shop where she worked. After a two year courtship they married on March 1, 1997. Besides meeting Tammy, the best thing in his life were his two kids, Lauren and Lil' Robert.



During their life together they moved to six different towns, cities, or states before finding their dream home in Gardnerville, NV.

Robert had a knack for designing home theaters. He loved a good poker game or a tournament of corn hole during a family BBQ. He liked being outdoors just watching the stars and especially enjoyed time fishing with his father, Bill. On weekends, Robert frequently competed in Three Gun competitions through IDPA where he excelled. But most of all he loved his wife and family.

Robert has a couple of nephews and many nieces he liked to "play tricks on." He is loved and will be missed by his wife, Tammy, daughter, Lauren and son, Robert; his friend and father, Bill (Dorothy) Hurson of Livermore, CA, mother; Sheri (Dom) Andrizzi of Lebanon, OR; brother, Bill (Renee) Hurson, Jr. of Sacramento, CA; brother Dave Hurson of Veneta, OR; step-sister, Jill (Ryan) Dowling of Pleasanton, CA; step-brother, Tom Rivers of San Ramon, CA; mother-in-law and father-in-law, Holly and Don Kavanagh of Gardnerville, NV; brothers-in-law, Marc (Katie) Kavanagh of Livermore, CA, Adam (Stephanie) Kavanagh, of Gardnerville, NV, Donny (Priscilla) Kavanagh of Livermore, CA; 11 nieces and 2 nephews.

Family and friends were invited to Robert's services at 1 p.m. Wed., Jan. 29th, 2014 at Carson Valley United Methodist, 1375 Centerville Lane, Gardnerville, NV.

A memorial fund is being set up in support of his wife and children. Please contact Stephanie Kavanagh at (530) 647-6863 or jo_e1122@yahoo.com for information about where you can donate.

Memorial services will be held

Millicent Charlotte Fisher McManus

Charlotte Fisher McManus, 91, a longtime resident of Green Valley, Arizona passed away on Monday, December 16th, 2013 when her heart failed to resuscitate following a surgery to repair her broken hip which she sustained from a fall at her home earlier in the week.



Born Millicent Charlotte Fisher in Lysander, Onondaga County, New York, on August 13th, 1922 she grew up in New York State answering to the name Charlotte. Upon graduating from Tully High School in 1938 Charlotte went on to study at the Central City Business Institute in Syracuse, New York and graduated there in 1940 being named one of the "outstanding" graduates in a letter addressed from the school director. She worked clerical jobs until Charlotte met, fell in love and married Melvin Taylor McManus on April 2nd, 1942. While Melvin served in the Army during WWII and was stationed in Germany, Charlotte made their home in Fayetteville, New York. Upon being discharged from the Army they made their home in Manlius, New York until moving to California in 1952 with their three children, living first in San Diego and then settling in Livermore other than a brief few years in Manteca. The couple owned and operated Laundromats and Dry Cleaning Agencies in these places.

Charlotte went back into the work force full time following Melvin's early retirement in 1968 due to health reasons. She worked first at FEM of San Leandro, then at the Livermore School District and finally going to work at the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory where she worked for nineteen years until her own retirement in 1983. Melvin and Charlotte retired to Green Valley, Arizona in the spring of 1983 where the warm weather and golfing suited them both. Often times they would send postcards from Hawaii. Charlotte couldn't resist going back to work and so she worked part time as a personal secretary at the Green Valley Pecan Company until shortly before her death and she also volunteered at a Thrift Store in Tucson.

Charlotte was a superb self-taught seamstress. Her sewing room was always full of old and new material scraps which she could seam into beautiful blankets and quilts. She also sewed clothes for her daughter and granddaughters. Painting was her other passion and she loved to sit in front of her easel and paint what she saw in front of her. Her creations were always signed "Charm".

Charlotte's husband, Melvin, preceded her in death in 2001, as did her son, Bruce in 1980. She was also preceded in death by her father and mother, Milton and Lenora Fisher, two siblings, Mildred Abbott and Melvin Fisher, and one great-granddaughter, Isabella. Charlotte is survived by two children, Ross McManus and wife Linda of Iowa, and Kathleen Mincks and husband George of Washington, five grandchildren, Ryan McManus and wife Lydianne, Claudine Wade and husband John, Lisan Adams and husband Rick, Isaiah Mincks and wife May and Jedidiah Mincks and

eight great-grandchildren, Erin, Sara, Abigail, Lauryn, Andrew, Reed, Randan and Leah.

Charlotte was laid to rest next to her husband, Melvin and son, Bruce at Memory Gardens Odd Fellows Memorial Park Cemetery in Livermore, California. A memorial service will be held at a later date in California. Charlotte would have wanted any contributions to be given to The Salvation Army. That can be done locally or by calling 1-800-SAL-ARMY (725-2769)

Edith Jewell (Melugin) Wood

Oct. 5, 1934 - Jan. 20, 2014 Edith Jewell (Melugin) Wood passed away peacefully in Fremont, California on January 20th, 2014. She



was born in Savoy, Texas, and graduated 1954 from the Texas School for the Deaf.

She is survived by one son, Richard Wood, Jr. of Fremont, one daughter, Carrie Wood-West, from Dublin, one son-in-law, Richard West, two granddaughters, Melissa and Staci, and one grandson, A.J., two granddogs, Bailey and Coco, and one sister, Minnie Elizabeth (Melugin) Shelton of Redding. She was preceded in death by the love of her life, Richard Wood, her parents, and her brother Charles E. Melugin.

She had many hobbies including cross stitching, puzzles, bingo, triply and cards, and chatting with her friends at Fremont Oak Gardens Senior Deaf Community Apartments. Nothing made her happier or prouder than bragging about her wonderful grandchildren.

Services will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory would be appreciated to DCARA -Deaf Counseling Advocacy & Referral Agency in San Leandro. (<http://www.dcara.org/>)

Although she is gone from our sight, she is always in each of our hearts. We will continue to miss her each day until we are reunited in Heaven.

Diane Carter

Diane Carter left us to join her Savior January 19, 2014, departing from the comfort of her home and



the company of loved ones. She was a true trooper through her eleven month battle with brain cancer, her faith and concern for others never waning.

Diane was born on August 16, 1948, in Bakersfield, where she lived until her family relocated to Fresno. She was blessed with the ability to make everywhere she went a more beautiful place. She was a passionate floral and interior designer and made magic happen for her family, friends, and customers of her long-ago gift shop, the Cornucopia, formerly in Danville. We can only imagine the decorating she's doing behind the Pearly Gates. In addition to decorating, she loved her Bible study, reading, gardening, entertaining in her

home, and especially SHOPPING. Diane kept smiles on all of the faces around her and was well known and loved by so many.

She will be wholeheartedly missed by her family and friends. Diane is survived by her husband Val, with whom she shared 46 years of marriage. Believe it or not, their eyes first met across the crowded San Luis Obispo Pacific Bell cafeteria in 1967, and they fell in love. Diane is also survived by her children Nick and Melissa, brothers Don and Danny, and many beloved grandchildren, nieces and a nephew.

A celebration of her 65 years of life will be held February 7, 2014 at 1:02 p.m. at Cornerstone Fellowship, Livermore, CA.

Brett Christopher Gibson

Man life is crazy. You never know what's going to happen next. Staying strong because I know that's what my dad would have wanted. I'm



legally an adult now but I will always be daddy's lil girl. G o n e b u t n e v e r f o r g o t t e n , h e w i l l l i v e o n i n m y h e a r t f o r e v e r . I k n o w h e ' s i n a b e t t e r p l a c e a n d n o t i n a n y m o r e p a i n . I l o v e h i m m o r e t h a n w o r d s c a n e v e r d e s c r i b e . H e w a s a g o o d m a n a n d t o u c h e d t h e l i v e s o f s o m a n y . H e w a s t a k e n f r o m u s t o o s o o n b u t I j u s t w a n t h i m t o b e i n p e a c e . T h a t ' s w h e r e h e i s n o w i n h e a v e n w i t h a l l t h e a n g e l s l o o k i n g o v e r h i m a n d p r o t e c t i n g h i m .

July 14, 1966 --- January 22, 2014 RIP to my father Brett Christopher Gibson. We love you Brettie-jams . . . your loving daughters Ashley Gibson and Keri Gibson.

John F. Lakner

Feb. 5, 1921- Jan. 18, 2014

John was born in Iron Belt, Wisconsin, to John & Anna Lakner who had emigrated from Yugoslavia. He



grew up in Ironwood, Michigan. As a child, he enjoyed ice skating and skiing down snow covered iron ore stockpiles.

John obtained his B.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Michigan in 1942. He worked for Thompson Aircraft Products in Cleveland, OH, until he was drafted into the Army in September 1945. He worked in the Chemical Warfare division including nuclear testing in Operation Crossroads, Bikini Atoll. In 1948, he went on to Carbide and Carbon Chemical Corp at their Oak Ridge facility and was involved in uranium compound waste processing. Oak Ridge is where he met his wife of 65 years, Avo. 1949 to 1955 was spent at Los Alamos National Laboratory. He obtained his Masters in Chemical Engineering at the University of

Colorado, Boulder in 1957, and then moved to California for LLNL where he worked in an experimental high pressure-high temperature facility.

John retired in 1986. He then spent time traveling (such as driving to Alaska), maintaining three Studebakers, working the backyard orchard, and painting in water colors.

He was preceded in death by brothers Edward and Louie and by his son, Marc (Denise). He is survived by his wife, Avo; daughter, Holly Bachleda (John); grandchildren Lt. Stephanie Lord, USAF (Bradley), Jennifer Rader (Sgt Scott, USMC), Sarah Bachleda and Emily Bachleda.

Visitation will be from 6-8pm, Friday, Feb 7, at Callaghan Mortuary.

John will be at rest in Ironwood, Michigan.

Connie LeBow

1941 - 2014

Constance (Connie) Susan LeBow, 72, a 44 year resident of Livermore, passed away on January 22,



2014. She was the second of three daughters born to Herbert and Dorothy Cooper in Portland, Oregon on April 8, 1941. Connie was preceded in death by her parents and her sister Carole.

As a young woman, Connie met and married Robert (Bob) J. LeBow. They had five children. Connie held down a job, went to nursing school and still managed to take care of her family. Her heart was always with her family. She will always be remembered as a wonderful mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend. She was a devoted and loving wife for 50 years. Bob preceded her in death in 2010.

Connie was a very caring and compassionate nurse for more than 30 years. She never missed an opportunity to give kind words to people, always appreciative, always gave thanks and found the good in everything. The LeBow home was open to family and friends, always.

Connie enjoyed a hot cup of café mocha in the morning while she mastered Sudoku, word games and crossword puzzles. She baked the best chocolate brownies ever! Connie laughed often and had a hilarious sense of humor. She had a fondness for gardening, nature and enjoyed the outdoors. Walking on the sand at the ocean was a favorite for her but most of all her joy was spending time with her grandchildren.

Connie is survived by her children; Jeff (Jennie), Julie Farnar (Tony), Rob, Brian, Michael (Michelle), her nephew Norm Dalsis (Barb), her sister Stephanie Snyder (Bill) and many grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

Family and friends are invited to a viewing and service on Monday, February 3rd, 2014 at St. Michael's Catholic Church, 458 Maple Street in Livermore, CA. The viewing will at 11:00 a.m. and the service will begin at 1:00 p.m. A reception to celebrate Connie will be at the church's Parish Hall following the service.

We will love you always and you will be close in our hearts forever.

Obituary/ Memoriam Policies

Obituaries are published in The Independent at no charge. There is a small charge for photographs in the obituaries.

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

Please send an email to editmail@compuserve.com

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KEEPING COUNT OF VISITORS

Park It column by Ned MacKay

It's currently estimated that the East Bay Regional Parks receive 25 million visitors annually. This doesn't mean 25 million different people; it includes visitors who return frequently.

The figure is an amalgam of estimates from park supervisors, gate receipts from parks with entrance kiosks, and enrollment figures from programs and facilities requiring reservations. Knowing how many people visit the parks is important to district staff for park operation and maintenance.

In some areas the district has gone high tech in an effort to obtain a more accurate count. One example is in central Contra Costa County, where nine infrared counters have been set up on the regional trail network.

The counters are deployed along the Iron Horse, Contra Costa Canal, Lafayette/Moraga, California Hiking and Riding, and Briones to Mt. Diablo Regional Trails. Rangers download the accumulated information monthly. Counting passing traffic in 2013, they totaled 1.5 million visitor trips. It confirms the belief that the multi-use inter-park trails are among the district's most popular venues.

This is turning out to be one of the driest winters on record. As a result we are still experiencing a fire season that normally would have ended at least a month ago.

"These are definitely record-breaking unseasonal weather conditions," said Paul Cutino, the East Bay Regional Park District's assistant fire chief.

Paul said the district firefighters and rangers are on alert, and are completing extra patrols. Assuming the dry weather continues, he also had some fire safety tips for park visitors and neighbors:

- Be careful with matches and fire in general, especially when discarding cigarettes.
- Make campfires only in designated fire pits, and be sure they are properly extinguished. Be sure you have a permit when required. Abide by all posted or announced fire safety rules.
- Don't drive your vehicle into dry grass. A hot manifold can ignite a fire.
- Homeowners should be careful when mowing dry grass on their property. Hot motors and sparking from stones can start fires, too.
- If you see smoke in open parklands, report it immediately. Just call 9-1-1 and you will be connected to the proper agency.

Healthy Parks Healthy People Bay Area is a partnership of the Institute of the Golden Gate, East Bay Regional Park District, and Golden Gate National Recreation Area to promote the idea of regular outdoor recreation in the parks as a path to good health.

As part of this program, the regional park district offers monthly outdoor activities for people of all ages and abilities under the HPHP banner. Here are three of them, all on Saturday, Feb. 1:

- Celebrate the California state park system's 150th anniversary with an easy stroll along the shoreline at Crown Memorial State Beach to the Elsie Roemer Bird Sanctuary. It's from 10 to 11 a.m., led by naturalist Francis Mendoza. Meet at the intersection of Park Street and Shoreline Drive. For information, call 510-544-3187.
- For a Healthy Heart Hike, join naturalist Kristina Parkison for a stroll from 1 to 3 p.m. at Coyote Hills Regional Park in Fremont. This one is for ages 10 and older. Meet at the visitor center at the end of Patterson Ranch Road. For information, call 510-544-3220.
- Naturalist Cat Taylor will lead a two-mile backwoods ramble through the urban wilds of Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area in Pleasanton from 9 to 11 a.m. Meet at the last parking lot near the Lake Trail. Shadow Cliffs is located on Stanley Boulevard just east of Valley Avenue.

Continuing the theme of something for all ages, the Family Fun Nature Hour at Crab Cove Visitor Center in Alameda will showcase sharks from 2 to 3 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 1 and 2. Story Time and Nature Fun is from 11 to 11:30 a.m. every Saturday and Sunday in February.

Crab Cove is at 1252 McKay Ave. off Central Avenue in Alameda. For information, call 510-544-3187.

Hikes for Tykes is designed for young children accompanied by a parent. Naturalist Sara Fetterly will lead a one-mile tyke hike from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 4 at Lake Temescal in Oakland. Meet Sara at the south entrance off Broadway Terrace in Oakland.

For hikers ages 55 and older, there's the Over-The-Hills-Gang. Naturalist James Wilson will lead the gang on an exploration of Berkeley Meadow at East Shore State Park from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 4. Meet at the Seabreeze Market parking lot on University Avenue just west of the I-80 overcrossing in Berkeley.

And, how about Yoga for Kids? Youngsters six and older accompanied by a parent can try some kid-friendly, nature-themed yoga in a program from 2 to 3 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 2 at Tilden Nature Area in Berkeley, led by interpretive student aide Morgan Rani Evans.

Meet at the Environmental Education Center. To get there, park at the end of Lone Oak Road off Tilden's Central Park Drive, then follow the signs. For information, call 510-544-2233.

Fossils and frogs will be the quarry during a walk along and in Pine Creek at Diablo Foothills Regional Park in Walnut Creek, led by naturalist Eddie Willis. If it has been raining (we can only hope), the going may be a bit soggy at times.

Meet Eddie at 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 2 in the parking lot at the end of Castle Rock Road in Walnut Creek. The hike is for ages six and older. For information, call 888-327-2757, ext. 2750.

Fishing games are on the agenda in a program from 2 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1 at Big Break Regional Shoreline in Oakley. Learn how to identify the different species that live in Delta waters.

Then from 10 to 11 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 2, naturalist Kevin Damstra will talk about what a delta really is, and how ours is different from others.

Big Break is located on Big Break Road off Main Street in Oakley. For information, call 888-327-2757, ext. 3050.

All these programs are free and none require reservations. Some parking fees may apply. Find more information on all park district programs and make reservations online by visiting the park district website, www.ebparks.org.

Two Therapy Dogs Go to Doggie Heaven

Lawrence, the Livermore Lab, went to Doggie Heaven on December 21, 2013. And two weeks later, his buddy, Albert, went to Doggie Heaven to join Lawrence. Albert was grieving and stopped eating after Lawrence died. Both dogs were registered therapy dogs with Therapy Dogs Inc., headquartered in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

In March 2013, Lawrence's veterinarian found a mast cell tumor on his front right leg. It was surgically removed, followed by chemo. At his six-month follow-up with his oncologist, there was no sign of cancer in that area, but he was panting much of the time and sometimes coughing. So his oncologist x-rayed his lungs and found masses there. More tests showed masses in his liver too. Four weeks later, the masses were growing, despite weekly chemo treatments. So we tried another chemo every two-four weeks with plans after five sessions to reassess him. We never reached that point. The oncologist diagnosed Lawrence as probably having a cancer in the lining of his blood vessels (hemangiosarcoma), so it spread throughout his body, from the liver to the lungs and beyond. The chemo was tough on him. But he continued to wag his tail to his right and accept treats, even on his final day, just before his veterinarian, Dr. Heather Moore, sent him on his final journey to Doggie Heaven on the evening of December 21.

Albert was diagnosed with small cell (T cell) lymphoma in his intestinal tract in early December 2013. He also had chronic gastroenteritis with GI ulceration. We did not do chemo with Albert. The day before Albert died, we tried acupuncture and herbal treatment. I had hoped he would overcome the loss of Lawrence, but that was not to be. On the morning of January 4, 2014, I found Albert suffering on the family room floor, under the ceiling fan, one of Lawrence's favorite resting spots. Dr. Moore came over in a couple hours to send Albert on his way to reuniting with Lawrence.

Lawrence was born on July 20, 2001, in Palo Alto. His father Nitro was born at Marstad Labradors on Tesla Road in Livermore, giving Lawrence his Livermore connection. Pat Wheeler obtained Lawrence from Elemental Labs in Palo Alto. He is an AKC registered Black Lab. When Pat went to see the Black Lab puppies, there were eight adorable puppies, all Black (though the mother was a yellow Lab), four females and four males. Pat could not decide which puppy to get. She told the breeder she wanted her dog to be a therapy dog, so he recommended the one that first interacted with people. He turned out to be a wonderful choice. He was named Lawrence, the Livermore Lab. He was one of five dogs to win the Tri-Valley Herald "Name That Cutie" contest in November 2011.

Pat took Lawrence to puppy socialization classes and to basic obedience classes. Those didn't keep him from chewing up the couch in the family room or the cargo cover in her car. But Pat could see that Lawrence was born to be a therapy dog. One event was particularly poignant. Pat often walked Lawrence around shopping areas. One day, she wanted to head back to the car, but Lawrence had other ideas and had a strong way of making his point known. He "tugged" Pat toward a disheveled drunk man sitting by a trash can outside a liquor store. Lawrence went right up to him, comforted him, and put a smile of his face. Lawrence obviously knew how to do his job!

In November 2002, Lawrence became registered as a therapy dog with Valley Humane Society. The next month, on December 12, 2002, he started work at Golden Manor, a facility in Livermore for people with Alzheimer's and dementia. He loved going there almost every Friday morning and did so for years, under different owners, until it closed in November 2011. Pat was always amazed, as were staff there, to see how Lawrence could get people



Pictured with Pat Wheeler are Lawrence (left) and Albert.

to open up, talk, participate, do what staff asked them to do, and bring joy to visitors as well as those residing there.

In July 2004, he started going to the VA in Livermore, until Pat and he were terminated from the therapy dog program there in July 2013. Lawrence accumulated 1,398 hours of service to our veterans. He served them in several areas including short-term care, long-term care, respite care, Alzheimer's unit, clinical social work group therapy sessions, physical therapy, recreational therapy, memorial services, and Protestant services. It was the day that Lawrence managed to get a patient to walk out of his room on his own that Pat became aware of what a wonderful difference Lawrence could make. No staff had been able to do that, but Lawrence got this person to walk out of his room on his own. Staff were stunned when they saw Lawrence walking with this man. That was the start of Pat collecting many stories and testimonials, first at the VA and then at numerous other sites and programs which lead to the book, *Successful Tails: The Wonders of Therapy Dogs* (available on-line, Amazon and Barnes & Noble as well as at Cooleykatz Toys in Livermore and Towne Center Books in Pleasanton).

In June 2005, the VA did not have staff available to take veterans to participate in the Rodeo Parade. So the Residents Council asked if Lawrence would represent them. Of course he was delighted to do so. But then the local radio station, KKIQ, contacted Pat to find out which branch of the service he was in and what his rank was. Pat had no idea how to respond. So she went to the VA. In the lobby of the nursing home were two veterans in their wheelchairs, a very large Marine and a very slender Navy veteran. She posed the question to them, with Lawrence by her side. The Marine loudly exclaimed, "Oh, he's a Master Sergeant in the Marines." The Navy veteran quietly said, "Oh no, he's the Chief Petting Officer." That was the start of the therapy dogs at the VA being "Navy Petting Officers."

Lawrence had just over 100 hours at that time, so 100 hours became the level for a dog to be a Chief Petting Officer. A group of four Navy veterans met and assigned Navy ranks for various hour award levels. When Lawrence reached 1,000 hours in 2010, the Navy veterans at the VA promoted him to "Rear Admiral" for 1,000 hours of tail wagging. In 2006, Lawrence and Pat started to work with recreation therapy staff to coordinate the therapy dog group at the VA. Lawrence was involved in the training and testing of many therapy dog teams over the next four years.

In September 2006, Lawrence visited the mother of Pat's friend at an Easy Living Care Home (ELCH) site in Livermore and that started many years of visits at ELCH facilities. A resident at one of the homes that he visited in November 2013, said to Lawrence, "Lawrence, when you die, I know you'll go to Doggie Heaven. When I die, I hope I can go to Doggie Heaven so we can meet again. But if they won't let me in, I'll send you my forwarding address."

Lawrence was invited to make presentations about the work of dogs. He did this at elementary schools in San Ramon and Sunol and twice for the graduate ecotherapy program at JFK

University in Pleasant Hill. Lawrence impressed people with his ability to read and follow commands and his multiple approaches to getting people over their fear of dogs.

In April 2010, Lawrence was invited by the Pleasanton Military Families to attend a Welcome Home Celebration for a troop member. He went to many more welcome homes, scores of them from Oakland to Oakley to Livermore and Pleasanton until November 2013. We established a Petting Officer Pack under the Diablo Valley Flag Brigade for therapy dogs to formally attend the welcome homes in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Lawrence and his fellow pack members not only went to welcome homes, but marched in parades, attended military ceremonies, etc. His last welcome home was in Blackhawk for a Navy Captain whose father is a Rear Admiral. How appropriate.

Albert found Pat one Friday evening in August 2002. She was doing some errands in town and on her way home saw a black medium-size dog running around on Enos Way, near St. Bartholomew's Church. At first Pat thought it was her Black Lab, Lawrence. So she pulled over and opened the back of her car. This strange dog dashed over, jumped into the car, and started licking Pat's face. Pat checked at three or four houses in the area and no one seemed to know whose dog this was. All he had on was a rabies tag, so Pat took him home and called Animal Control and the veterinarian's office where he got his rabies shot. As soon as he walked into Pat's house, he and Lawrence were best of buddies. They walked around the family room together as if they had Velcro between them. We think Albert was a Border Collie/Black Lab mix, born in the spring of 2001.

Animal Control had no one available to pick him up until Monday and asked if she could keep him until then. She agreed to do so. When the veterinarian's office called the next day, she found out who his temporary owners were. They were out of town and the pet sitter lost track of all their pets. They arrived back the next evening. They called Pat and told her that they had been given this dog by a homeless family near Eureka and were hoping to find a home for him. They didn't need to do that; he had found a home for himself. Pat named him Albert after Albert Einstein, but later changed that to Albert Schweitzer when a veteran at the VA pointed out that "he was not only smart, but also healing."

After completing some basic obedience classes, Albert became registered as a therapy dog with Valley Humane Society in spring of 2005. He began working as a therapy dog at the VA in May 2005. He worked in the nursing home, short-term care unit, physical therapy, and Alzheimer's unit. By the time he was terminated by Valley Humane Society in July 2013, he had accumulated 1,002 hours of service to veterans at the VA facility in Livermore.

In February 2006, Albert was welcomed as the first therapy dog ever at Shepherd's Gate in Livermore, a safe haven for battered and homeless women and their children. At the end of his first year there, Albert earned the "Volunteer of the Year" award. He did a wonderful job of providing unconditional love to the children and their mothers,

playing with them and going for walks with them, helping them overcome their fear of dogs, and learning good manners.

In July 2006, Albert started going to Golden Manor and, in September 2006, to Easy Living Care Home sites and to Golden Manor. Both Lawrence and Albert participated in parades (e.g., Livermore Rodeo Parade, Veterans Day Parade), and attended Welcome Home Celebrations and other military events. Lawrence also performed Arthur Pryor's "The Whistler and His Dog" with bands in Carmichael (near Sacramento), Livermore, San Francisco, San Ramon, and Union City. After being terminated by Valley Humane Society and no longer able to go to the VA in Livermore, they went to the Amador Tri-Valley Center, the Castro Valley Healthcare Center (Life House), and the Livermore Valley Senior Living. Lawrence also visited the Parkview in Pleasanton.

Both Lawrence and Albert were AKC Canine Good Citizens, Canine Partners, and registered therapy dogs with Therapy Dogs Inc. In 2012, Lawrence was one of six therapy dogs in the United States honored by the AKC Humane Fund for Canine Excellence. In 2011, both received a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition from U.S. Congressman Jerry McNerney and a Certificate of Appreciation from then Vice Mayor John Marchand. Their favorite command was WORK. They wouldn't wake from a sound sleep to the words "treat" or "walk," but jumped up instantly at the word "work." And whenever Pat got their therapy dog vests out of the drawer, both were anxious to go to "work," sometimes with both trying to put their heads into the vest. They will be sorely missed by the hundreds of people they have served over the years. Hopefully, they have left these people with many happy memories.

In July 2013, Pat Wheeler obtained a ten-month-old, female Black Lab from Marstad Labradors. Named Maddie, she became a registered therapy dog with Therapy Dogs Inc., in October 2013 and is picking up the many jobs that Lawrence and Albert were doing. Fortunately, she loves being a therapy dog—the best job in the world!

For further information, go to www.phwheeler.com.

For more on Lawrence, go to these two sites—

<http://albums.phanfare.com/isolated/tourCRTU/1/5355494>

<http://diablovalleyflagbrigade.com/goodbye-lawrence/>

For more on Albert, go to <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.502185273192562.1073741850.110516249026135&type=1>

Donations in Lawrence's and Albert's memories may be made to—

• Amador Tri-Valley Center, attn: Stephanie Russell, 2177 Las Positas Lane, Suite B/C, Livermore, CA 94551 (make check payable to ANKA BHI and write "for Amador Tri-Valley Center" on the memo line) www.ankaprograms.wordpress.com/atvc/

ATVC is a day program for people with developmental/mental disabilities and who are at risk of involvement with the criminal justice system; Albert and Lawrence started there in 2013.

• Diablo Valley Flag Brigade, 1161 Scots Lane, Walnut Creek, CA 94596 www.diablovalleyflagbrigade.com

Starting in 2010, Lawrence and Albert attended welcome homes throughout much of Alameda and Contra Costa counties and other events with the DVFB.

• Pleasanton Military Families, 4411 Shearwater Court, Pleasanton, CA 94566. www.pleasantonmilitaryfamilies.org/

Lawrence started attending welcome homes for PMF troop members in April 2010 and Albert followed. Lawrence marched in the Veterans Day parade with the PMF.

• Shepherd's Gate, 1660 Portola Avenue, Livermore, CA 94551. <https://secure.common-ground.convio.com/shepgate/general/donations/>

Shepherd's Gate is a safe haven for battered and homeless women and children where Albert volunteered starting in February 2006.

• Therapy Dogs Inc., P.O. Box 20227, Cheyenne, WY 82003

www.therapydogs.com
This is the association with which Lawrence and Albert were registered therapy dogs and which has thousands of therapy dog teams throughout the US and Canada.

LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

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LEGAL NOTICES

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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 Management, 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 Crimiale, 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 Crimiale. 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 com-

pany. 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 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 11/1/13. 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.

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. 468448

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.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 487145

The following person(s) doing business as: Bio-Balance Stress Relief, 4049 First Street #236, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Stacy Rago, 2292 Cabernet Way, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant has not yet begun to transact business using the fictitious business name listed above. Signature of Registrants :s/ Stacy Rago. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 23, 2014. Expires January 23,

2019. The Independent Legal No. 3597. Published January 30, February 6, 13, 20, 2014.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 487120

The following person(s) doing business as: Roof Max, 7275 National Dr. Ste. B, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Yorkshire Roofing of Northern California Inc, 7275 National Dr. Ste. B, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 1/14/14. Signature of Registrants :s/ Kenneth Falconi, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 22, 2014. Expires January 22, 2019. The Independent Legal No. 3598. Published January 30, February 6, 13, 20, 2014.

ANIMALS

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Lions' Fundraising Event: A Good Time Was Had by All

By Carol Graham

A few months ago, the Pleasanton Lions Club helped a local family that could not afford eyeglasses for their daughter.

"Her father was so appreciative that he came to our club's set-up for the crab feed in the morning, and then came back with his family and helped us during the evening," said club secretary Pamela Grimes. "This is the first time we can remember that a person we helped offered to volunteer their time to help us in return. His act of kindness in return meant a lot to us, and only reaffirms why we all do what we do."

The Pleasanton Lions hosted their Annual Crab Feed fundraiser at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton on January 25th, with about 1,200 people attending.

"It's a night of good food among friends and community members, all for a good cause," said Lion Jim Boswell. "The event is different for different people. Some go all out with bringing special butter mixes they've created, or appetizers for friends to enjoy. Others are there to dance and party late into the event. Everyone has a different experience, but everyone has a great time."

Doors opened at 6 p.m., allowing guests a first

glimpse of items available in the silent auction: spa days, golf packages, restaurant certificates and themed baskets.

"We'd love to thank all of the local merchants, businesses and friends of the Lions who sponsor and support our club," said Grimes. "Without them, we could not serve as many organizations and those in need as we do. It's that teamwork that creates a caring community."

Volunteers working at the crab feed included around 30 Lions with many of their friends and family, along with a large number of high school students. "The Lions try to involve youth so that they can experience firsthand how their hard work makes a real difference to others, as well as enriching their own lives," said Grimes.

This year's crab feed was the second time student Madison Johnston participated. "Last year I volunteered to get community service hours for school, but this year I decided to do it again because I had fun," she said. "The crab feed is a great place to socialize with friends, volunteer, meet new people and help the community."

The Annual Crab Feed is the Lions' main fundraiser.



Casino games were part of the fun.

Last year's proceeds benefited more than 45 individuals and groups, including local families in need, Open Heart Kitchen, Make-A-Wish Foundation, the American Cancer Society, Lions Eye Foundation, City of Hope, Amador Valley and Foothill High School Bands, and Pleasanton Military Families.

"We love the Pleasanton Lions Club as they do so

much for the community," said Kim Pauselius, who hosted a Pleasanton Military Families' booth at the event. "We are truly blessed as each and every member has such a huge heart for those in need. They are continually seeking ways to assist in any way they can."

After dinner, during which 4,200 pounds of crab was served, strains of Sweet Home Alabama,

Blurred Lines and Funkytown poured out of the fairground's Young California building into the unusually balmy night air, while inside, guests moved to the dance floor and casino area.

"My favorite time is always toward the second half," said Boswell. "People have enjoyed a good meal of fresh crab, the music is going, people are dancing and the casino tables are full. Everyone is having a great time and enjoying themselves."

Lions Clubs International is the world's largest service club organization, with more than 1.3 million members in 46,000 clubs worldwide. The Pleasanton Lions, with 60 members currently, have

been serving the community for more than 80 years. Dinner meetings are held twice monthly on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 6:30. They take place at the Regalia House, 4133 Regalia Avenue, Pleasanton. All are welcome to attend.

"The evening was full of fun-loving energy. The loudness was of laughter and people enjoying the company of friends and family while getting their hands all dirty with scrumptious crab and other fixings," said Pauselius. "From where I was standing, a good time was being had by all."

To learn more, visit pleasantonlionsclub.org.



Brian Bauman, Vincent Riot, Darrell Carter, Lance Simms and Wim De Vries (from left) have developed and tested land-based mini-satellites that eventually will be used in space to help control traffic in space. Photo by Julie Russell/LLNL.

Lab 'Space Cops' to Help Control Traffic in Space

A team of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory scientists is using mini-satellites that work as "space cops" to help control traffic in space.

The scientists used a series of six images over a 60-hour period taken from a ground-based satellite to prove that it is possible to refine the orbit of another satellite in low earth orbit.

"Eventually our satellite will be orbiting and making the same sort of observations to help prevent satellite collisions in space," said Lance Simms, lead author of a paper appearing in an upcoming edition of the journal, Small Satellites.

Collisions in space of satellites and space debris have become increasingly problematic.

To help satellite operators prevent collisions in space, the Space-Based Telescopes for Actionable Refinement of Ephemeris (STARE) mission, which will consist of a constellation of nano-satellites in low earth orbit, intends to refine orbits of satellites and space debris to less than 100 meters. STARE is an ongoing LLNL project led by Wim de Vries, with Vincent Riot as lead engineer.

Using the ground-based satellite, the Livermore team refined the orbit of the satel-

lite NORAD 27006, based on the first four observations made within the initial 24 hours, and predicted NORAD's trajectory to within less than 50 meters over the following 36 hours.

By refining the trajectory of the ground-based satellite, the team believes they will be able to use that information to refine the orbit of a satellite in space and prevent a collision.

The tools and analysis used to capture the images of NORAD 27006 and refine its orbit are the same ones that will be used during the STARE mission.

"This leads credence to the capability of STARE to accomplish its mission objectives," De Vries said.

Accurately predicting the location of a satellite in low earth orbit at any given time is difficult mainly because of the uncertainty in the quantities needed for the equations of motion. Atmospheric drag, for instance, is a function of the shape and mass of the satellite as well as the density and composition of the unstable atmosphere. These uncertainties and the incompleteness of the equations of motion lead to a quickly growing error in the position and velocity of any satellite being tracked in low earth orbit.

To account for these er-

rors, the Space Surveillance Network (SSN) must repeatedly observe the set of nearly 20,000 objects it tracks; however, positional uncertainty of an object is about 1 kilometer. This lack of precision leads to approximately 10,000 false alarms per expected collision. With these large uncertainties and high false alarm rates, satellite operators are rarely motivated to move their assets after a collision warning is issued.

The STARE mission aims to reduce the 1 kilometer uncertainty down to 100 meters or smaller, which would in turn reduce the number of false alarms by roughly two orders of magnitude, Riot said.

In the case of the Livermore team, they were able to reduce the uncertainty to 50 meters, well below the 100-meter goal.

Other Livermore researchers include Don Philon, Brian Bauman and Darrell Carter. The work is funded by the Laboratory Directed Research and Development (LDRD) program.



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Pictured are tenor Greg Allen Friedman and harpist Dominique Piana

Firehouse Arts Center Art Song Experience Features Songs of Longing and Belonging

Up-and-coming tenor Greg Allen Friedman and harpist Dominique Piana will present a program of songs both well-known and unusual. They have chosen beloved classics of the lied and mélodie repertoire, normally for voice and piano, offset by original works with harp accompaniment that Dominique rediscovered and republished.

The Cantabella Honors

Choir, directed by Eileen Chang, will be featured as an opening act with works by Mendelssohn, Britten, Bárdos and Shin. The concert is aptly titled Songs of Longing and Belonging, a Unique Art Song Experience.

The acoustically perfect and appropriately intimate Firehouse Art Center will present the unique program on Saturday, February 15,

(continued on page 2)

Bankhead Theater Violinist Elizabeth Blumenstock Leads Baroque Program

Violinist Elizabeth Blumenstock leads the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra in a program of virtuoso Baroque works by composers including Johann Sebastian Bach, Georg Phillip Telemann, Georg Muffat, and others.

The Orchestra makes its debut at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore, with a performance on Wednesday, March 5. Tickets are priced from \$25 to \$93.

Elizabeth Blumenstock is widely admired for her compelling verve and dazzling performances on the Baroque violin. She leads the Orchestra on a tour of works by musical innovators such as Johann Schmelzer, who played a key role in the development of the sonata form, and Heinrich Biber, regarded as a pioneer of violin technique who popu-

(continued on page 3)



Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra.

Photo - Randi Beach

ART SONGS

(continued from front page)

*Among musical "instruments," none is more personal than the human voice.*at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are
general admission \$20main floor, \$18 rear bal-
cony, \$15 side balcony;\$15 seniors; \$12 students
(18 and under).

Faith Alpher appears as Maya Angelou.

'Kissin' the Chocolate Blues' Honors Maya Angelou and Black History Month

"Kissin' the Chocolate Blues," a literary arts program hosted by City of Pleasanton Poet Laureate Sandra Harrison Kay will be presented Tues., Feb. 11 at 7 p.m. The presentation is described as a valentine to Dr. Maya Angelou and a Celebration of Black History Month.

The program will be held at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton.

Faith Alpher, San Francisco Bay Area SAG-AFTRA actress, comedienne, motivational speaker and radio DJ will appear as Dr. Maya Angelou. Using creativity, humor and pathos, Ms. Alpher will take guests through a timeline of Dr. Maya Angelou's remarkable life and poetry.

Musical entertainment will be provided by Pleasanton resident Jessica Reaber. Sandra Kay will lead guests through the timeline.

Tickets are \$12. They may be purchased at the box office, on-line at www.firehousearts.org or by calling 931-4849.

Note, this performance includes some discussion of sexually explicit material.

For more information, go to facebook.com/pleasantonpoetry.

Among musical "instruments," none is more personal than the human voice. Singing is also intimately intertwined with the other art that draws so much on the innermost, Poetry. Together, they create a miracle of alchemy, projecting "language" into the world on the wings of beautiful melody and emotional drama.

In art song, the poet's voice that is set to music always seems on a quest: longing for, affirming or reminiscing of love; ascertaining its connection to nature or home; living in the physical moment yet projecting into the spiritual plane. Within the short duration of a song, a wondrous world of imagery is conjured from the pairing of the singer's voice with the instrument, bringing forth an alternate reality where acute perception and pure sentiment dominate.

Among the classics on the program are Schubert's folk song-like Heidenröslein, Schumann's beloved Widmung, Dvořák's haunting Songs My Mother Taught Me and the luscious wedding song Morgen Richard Strauss dedicated to his wife. Interesting to note that Schumann wrote a set of Byron Lieder (or Hebrew Songs) for the harp, and that at the end of the classical era, when the popularity of the harp equaled the piano's,

many songs were written "for piano or harp." A prime example from that period is the dramatic *Élégie* by Reichardt, a Kapellmeister to three Prussian kings who was one of the first lieder composers.

Tenor Greg Allen Friedman started taking singing lessons with Pleasanton voice teacher Sarah Franklin while in high school. He went on to earn music performance degrees at San Francisco State University and from the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University, where he performed the role of Icarus/Young Boy in the Chicago premiere of Daron Hagen's 2010 opera, *Amelia*.

Back from the windy city, he is currently training with master teacher Cesar Ulloa in San Francisco, and coaches with Erie Mills whenever possible. Greg began transitioning from baritone to tenor three years ago; his wide ranged and expressive voice is uniquely suited to the subtleties of art song.

Harpist Dominique Piana grew up multicultural in Europe in a musical family where singing was loved above all, and the Schubert recordings of Dietrich Fischer-Diskau were imbibed like manna from heaven. She studied piano as a youth, then majored in harp at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Brussels. Invited to study with

master teacher Susann McDonald in Los Angeles, she earned her M.A. at Claremont Graduate University and taught as Adjunct Professor of Harp at the University of Redlands until 2001. She has toured her poetic program *The Romantic Spirit* throughout the Western states and was on the now defunct touring roster of the California Arts Council. As a harp historian, Dominique specializes in 19th century romantic music and has unearthed many forgotten gems of the solo and ensemble harp literature.

After moving to Pleasanton, Dominique founded the Pleasanton Chamber Players with the help of PCAC (the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council) and joined the faculty at Holy Names University. She has released three CD's, writes musicological articles, edits and publishes music through her company Harpiana Publications and has been listed in the *International Who's Who in Music* since 1990.

The Firehouse Arts Center is located at 4444 Railroad Avenue in Pleasanton. Ticketes are general admission \$20 main floor, \$18 rear balcony, \$15 side balcony; \$15 seniors; \$12 students (18 and under). Tickets may be purchased at the box office, online at www.firehousearts.org or by calling 931-4848.

LAA Gallery to Present Wearable Art Show

A Wearable Art show is planned at the Livermore Art Association (LAA) gallery on Friday, February 7. Jewelry, scarves, bags and more, designed and handcrafted by artists from the Livermore area, will be

available for purchase.

Five jewelry artists will be showing their creations. They include Diana Carey, an award winning artist who studied jewelry arts at the Academy of Art in San Francisco. Rhonda Chase

has won numerous awards for her one-of-a-kind wearable art pieces. Helen Harrison is a new artist in wearable art. Helen works mainly with natural stones. Susan Miller started making bracelets a few years ago after learning the peyote stitch. Instead of the usual Aztec design, she gives them a touch of elegance. Charlene Stark is a self-taught published jewelry designer who specializes in Kazuri Beads

and wire sculpture jewelry.

Fiber artists Caryne Mount and Melinda Tai, who specializes in nature inspired wearable art made from botanical and natural fiber, will display a wide selection of scarves, clutches and bags.

The show will be at the LAA Gallery located in the old Carnegie Library at 2155 3rd St, Livermore between J and K streets. The date is Friday, February 7th from 5 to 8 p.m.

BAROQUE

(continued from front page)

larized the use of multiple stops and experimented with scordatura, or unusual tunings for stringed instruments.

Georg Muffat studied under Lully in Paris and was an admirer of Arcangelo Corelli. His *Nobilis Juventus* from *Florilegium Secundum* ("Second Bouquet") includes sections dedicated to the Spanish, the Dutch, the English, and the Italians - perhaps a reflection of his wide-ranging travels. Telemann's *Les Nations* is even more peripatetic and includes sections dedicated to the Turks, the Swiss, the Muscovites, and the Portuguese.

J.S. Bach's six-part *ricercar* makes a striking addition to this program. Although thought to have been written for keyboard, it is presented in open score (with one voice per line), lending itself readily to performance by a small strings ensemble.

Philharmonia continues its partnership with KDFC, broadcasting an unreleased live concert recording the second Sunday of every month from 8-9 PM.

Works to be performed at the Bankhead Theater are by Georg Muffat, *Fasciculus I* "Nobilis Juventus" from *Florilegium*



Elizabeth Blumenstock
(photo courtesy of the artist)

Secundum; Johann Heinrich Schmelzer, *Sonata III* from *Sacro-profanum Concentus Musicus*; Johann Schein, *Suite VII* from *Banchetto Musicale*; Heinrich Von Biber, *Sonata IX* from *Sonatae tam aris quam aulis servientes*; J. Schmelzer, *Balletto a 4 Pastorella*; Josph Umstatt, *Concerto for Violin, Strings and Continuo in A Major*; Johann Pisendel, *Sonata for Orchestra in C minor, JunP III 2b*; J.S. Bach, *Ricercar a 6* from *The Musical Offering*; and Georg Phillip Telemann, *Overture-Suite in B-flat major "Les Nations."*

The Bankhead Theater is located at 2400 First Street in downtown Livermore.

Tickets may be purchased at the box office, online at www.bankhead-theater.org or by calling 373-6800.



Wearable art

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saturday feb 8 at 8pm
sunday feb 9 at 2pm



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

In The Mood
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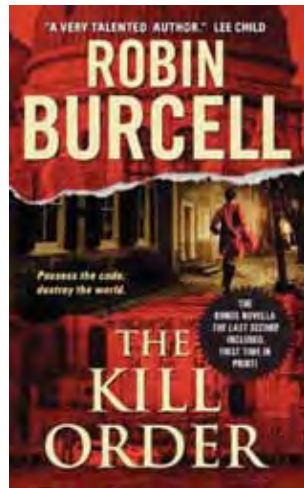
'From Sherlock Holmes to CSI' at the Livermore Library

Crime writer, investigator and forensic artist Robin Burcell will discuss the topic, "From Sherlock Holmes to CSI," at program to be presented at 2 p.m. on Sunday, February 9, 2014 at the Livermore Public Library Civic Center.

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

According to experts, our expectations for solving crimes have changed significantly over the years—as it should have given advances made in technology the last few decades. Criminal investigators have gone from simple sleuthing a la Sherlock Holmes novels, to super sleuthing a la Gil Grissom from television's CSI dramas. Which is real and which is fiction? Distinguishing the real from the fictional investigative techniques will be part of the discussion.

Robin Burcell, a retired police officer and forensic artist, knows firsthand how crime scene investigation has changed over the years, both fictionally and in real life. In fact, she's had to take this into account in her own novels, even changing plot points as new technology arises. When Burcell's first series set in San Francisco debuted, cell phones weren't as commonplace as they are now and there were telephone booths found on every corner. Now that everyone carries a cell phone that doubles as a mini computer and camera, good luck finding a pay phone. That's the beauty of (pocket) technology — people armed with cell phones suddenly become super-sleuths, sometimes without even knowing it. Look at any crime scene that's oc-



curred where vast numbers of people have gathered (the Boston Marathon is one good example) and the resulting police requests for photographs and videos filmed at the crime scene. Valuable evidence is found from people doing what they do — taking pictures with their cell phones.

Sherlock Holmes would be amazed at using cell phone photos to solve a crime. A modern-day Holmes could spot a missed clue in a photo, or something out of place, and the next thing you know, he's naming the suspect. Television CSI's Gil Grissom would probably analyze the photos with a new tool that doesn't yet exist, turning them into 3-D images to find that key piece of evidence that nabs the killer.

While some of the investigative tools on the CSI television franchise do exist, often the script writers are fabricating or enhancing technology for maximal visual impact. This makes for great TV, but not for great real-life courtroom testimony—at least from the prosecution standpoint. Jurors have cut their sleuthing eye-teeth on watching television



Robin Burcell guest speaker

dramas, and believe that the court cases in real life should reflect what they've learned on TV. There's even a name for this phenomenon: The CSI Effect. Prosecutors have had to step up their game, explaining to the jurors not only what is real and what is not, but also beefing up their evidence presentations to meet juror expectations.

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 sponsored by The Friends of the Livermore Library. For additional

events check the library's website at www.livermorelibrary.net.

The Hound of the Baskervilles Screens at the Vine Cinema

Livermore's Vine Cinema, 1722 First Street in Livermore, will present a special free showing of the movie "The Hound of the Baskervilles" as part of the Livermore Public Library's Livermore Reads Together series. The screening will be held at noon on Saturday, February 8, 2014.

Based on the novel by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (1939) marks the first of the fourteen Sherlock Holmes movies starring Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce as the detective duo and ranks as one of the best screen versions. In *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson confront one of their most difficult cases ever: Is there truly a curse on the old Baskerville estate? Is there truly a ghostly beast lurking on the dark, eerie moors?

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 sponsored by The Friends of the Livermore Library. For additional events check the library's website at www.livermorelibrary.net.

'The Great Mouse Detective' to Be Shown

A free movie, "The Great Mouse Detective," will be shown on February 7, 2014, from 4:00 – 5:30pm in Community Rooms A and B at the Civic Center Library in Livermore, 1188 South Livermore Avenue.

Follow the escapades of Basil of Baker Street, a mouse sized version of the great Sherlock Holmes. Basil lives in the bustling city of London when in 1897 when he is visited by Olivia Flaversham, a young Scottish mouse. She needs his help when the dastardly criminal Professor Ratigan forces her toymaker father to create a robot contraption that would help him rule England.

This free event is appropriate for preschool aged children through fourth grade. "The Great Mouse Detective" is part of the 2014 Livermore Reads Together program held annually in February. To find out more about the reading program please call (925)-373-5504, or visit the library's website at www.livermorelibrary.net.

'The Rescuers' Showing at the Rincon Library

A movie matinee will be shown on February 3, 2014, from 4:00 – 5:30pm at the Rincon Branch Library in Livermore, 725 Rincon Ave.

The library presents Disney's "The Rescuers." The movie follows two agents from the Rescue Aid Society on a quest to save Penny, an orphaned mouse who's been kidnapped. Penny sends an S.O.S. in a bottle from an abandoned river boat somewhere in Devils Bayou. Her plea for help reaches jittery janitor Bernard and elegant Miss Bianca at the Rescue Aid Society and the agents set out to rescue her.

This free event is appropriate for preschool aged children through fourth grade. "The Rescuers" is part of the 2014 Livermore Reads Together program held annually in February.

To find out more about the reading program please call the Children's Department at 925-373-5504, or visits the library's website at www.livermorelibrary.net.

"The Good Body Comes" Production Benefit for Tri-Valley Haven

Eve Ensler's "The Good Body Comes" will be presented by Tri-Valley Haven at Las Positas College in Livermore.

Performances will be 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 Dr., Livermore.

Tickets are on sale now: <http://thegoodbody.brownpapertickets.com>

In The Good Body, Eve



In Rehearsal

Ensler examines the female form in a hilarious, revealing, and compassionate way. Eve writes, "I am going to take a deep breath and find a way to survive not being flat or perfect. I am inviting you to join me, to stop trying to be anything, anyone other than who you are."

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

Familiar Scenes Featured in Solo Show

Artist Donna Covey's latest solo show, "Northern California Neighborhoods," will be available for viewing at the Wente Vineyards Estate Tasting Room through the month of February

The work includes watercolor and acrylic paintings depicting landmark locations found throughout Northern California. Ms. Covey's vivid and expressive style is a blend of bright color, solid design, and images.

An artist's reception will be held on Sunday, February 2nd from 1:00-3:00 pm at Wente Vineyards Estate Tasting Room, 5565 Tesla Road in Livermore. The public is invited to attend. There is no admission charge.



Writers Club Presents Program on BookTrack

Jason Hovey will be the guest speaker at the next monthly meeting of the California Writers Club Tri-Valley Branch on Saturday, February 15, at the Four Points by Sheraton, 5115 Hopyard, Pleasanton.

Jason Hovey, VP of Business Development for BookTrack, will be speaking to us about the BookTrack content and distribution platform that turns reading into an immersive movie-like experience. BookTrack's patented technology lets anyone add a synchronized movie-style soundtrack to an e-book or other digital text content, while pacing the audio to each individual's reading speed. BookTrack is a new technology that provides additional depth to stories, and promises to transform reading the way sound transformed silent film.

Find out more at: <http://>

www.booktrack.com/about

The CWC Tri-Valley Branch invites writers of all genres and experience levels to learn about their craft at its monthly meetings. The meeting will be Saturday, February 15, 2014, 2:00-4:00 p.m. (registration at 1:30). The cost for CWC Members is \$10, nonmembers, \$15. Anyone interested in the program or the organization may attend with no

obligation to join. Reservations requested by contacting George Cramer at reservations@trivalleywriters.org no later than Wednesday, February 12, 2014.

For more information about California Writers Club Tri-Valley Branch, contact Paula Chinick at president@trivalleywriters.org or visit www.trivalleywriters.org.



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Pioneer Founders Mural Unveiled in downtown Pleasanton

The newest public art piece in Pleasanton was unveiled last week. The Pioneer Founders Mural can be seen at 608 Main Street.

The work was funded in partnership with Pleasanton's Leadership Class of 2013 plus other partners and the Harrington Art Partnership.

The idea for the mural came from one seen in Tahachipi, which recognized important citizens in the city's history.

Nancy Harrington

explains, "We brought the idea to the Civic Arts Commission in 2010, but couldn't find partners. In 2012, the president of the Pleasanton Art League referred us to Barbara Stanton because she was known for her skills as a portrait artist."

The goal was to ensure people would be able to recognize Pleasanton's pioneers. All of the individuals in the mural were painted from photographs.

The setting for the mural is inside Phoebe

Hearst's home. Pioneers who can be seen in the mural are Joshua Neal, Phoebe Hearst, John Kettinger and Marie (Bernal) Kettinger, Henry Mohr, Joseph Black, Jose "Indian Joe" Guzman, Jose Maria Amador, Agostin Bernal, Walter Briggs, Edith Ziegenfuss, Thomas Orloff, Cornelius Nevin; General Alfred Pleasanton and Chief Torino.

The artist, Barbara Stanton, was born in Oakland. She moved to Pleasanton with her family at the age

of 7. She attended Valley View, Harvest Park and Foothill. After high school she attended Chabot College and attended the Academy of Arts in San Francisco one summer. She currently lives in Livermore with her husband.

Currently Barbara Stanton specializes in oil paintings and portraits (miniature and full size), landscapes, and still lifes, all done in a very traditional, realist style. Miniature collectors are her biggest fans, because she paints

Photos - Doug Jorgensen
The full mural is pictured above left. In the photo at right, artist Barbara Stanton points to a detail.

in the popular dollhouse scale 1/12 (one inch equals a foot).

Other partners in funding include Yvonne McNamera, the Robert

Williams family, Dave and Robbie Eshelman, Jack and Deanna Sanders, and Shirley Anderson in memory of Jean Silva.

American Legion Oratorical Contest Winners Announced

Livermore Post 47 of The American Legion held its Oratorical Contest on Saturday, January 18th, 2014 at the Veterans Memorial Building in Livermore. Seven students from the Tri-Valley competed in the contest. The prepared oration was required to be on some aspect of the United States Constitution, to include Amendments, giving emphasis to the duties and obligations of a citizen. The assigned topic was the 21st Amendment.

The winners of the contest were: 1st Place, John Malchar, Amador Valley High School, who received \$100, 2nd Place, Emma Baier, Livermore High School, who received \$75, and 3rd Place, Sarah Davidson, Livermore High School, who received \$50. Other contestants were Sophia Cuadra, Sarah Davidson, Gianna Donaghy, Katrina Herweg and Robert Huntington, all from Livermore High School; all of them received \$25.

The top two contestants will next go to the District 10 completion in San Leandro on February 1st, 2014.

Pictured in the photo at right (from left) are Bill Bergmann, Adjutant Post 47, Sophia Cuadra, Katrina Herweg, Sarah Davidson, John Malchar, Robert Huntington, Emma Baier, Gianna Donaghy and Roy Warner, 1st Vice Commander Post 47.



Coming to the Bankhead Theater February 8 and 9

Die Fledermaus – A Hit By Strauss

By Susan Steinberg

This reviewer is admittedly partial to The Lamplighters, that great Gilbert and Sullivan company from San Francisco, but in their sparkling new production of “Die Fledermaus,” they’ve really raised the bar to new performance heights of excellence.

Regular fans spent intermissions gushing about the amazing production, its period settings, magnificent costumes, and the perfection of every performer. All praise was justified on opening weekend, as a rollicking overture set the mood of carefree gaiety with an irresistible succession of the show’s famous melodies. It seemed impossible for listeners to resist swaying or toe-tapping even before the curtain opened.

In the tasteful 19th Century Viennese home of the Eisensteins, with its fashionable Gustav Klimt designs, a sweet first anniversary celebration has been arranged by loving wife Rosalinde, but it will not go as planned. Her husband Gabriel, contesting a minor legal infraction, has lost his temper, been cited for contempt of court, and ordered to jail for 3 days. His friend Dr. Falke arrives to persuade him to attend a fabulous “Fantasy Ball” given by an eccentric Russian prince for the evening and report to jail the following morning.

Even a happily married man can’t resist a chance for a discreet extra-marital outing and agrees. Rosalinde realizes she can spend the evening with former lover Alfredo who has been persistently serenading her, much to her delight and embarrassment. Their maid Adele, pretending

misery over her “poor sick aunt,” is delighted when Rosalinde gives her the night off out of “compassion,” as she is also invited to the ball. All sing of their sadness at the prospect of parting, then give way to their gleeful expectation of a wonderful adventure.

Popular company lead, Jennifer Ashworth (Rosalinde) showcased her gorgeous soaring soprano and a delightfully sly sense of humor in facial expression and gesture – a consummate professional! Returning to the company after a long absence, Martin Lewis was a charming, if slightly naughty, husband, matching Rosalinde indiscretion for indiscretion. As Dr. Falke, secretly aching for revenge on his friend for a prank that left him with the undignified nickname “Dr. Bat,” William Neely was a suave smooth-voiced manipulator, whose every smirk enhanced the comic plot. Making his Lamplighter debut, tenor Mark Kratz played Rosalinde’s former flame Alfred with the self-assured dash and strong tenor of his supposedly operatic character. Newcomer Maya Kherani as Adele wowed the audience with her pert personality and vocal prowess.

An endearingly comical Chris Focht as Eisenstein’s doddering lawyer, Dr. Blind, delivers one of the shows funniest “patter songs.” Frank, the prison warden who arrives to arrest Eisenstein, and instead interrupts Rosalinde’s tryst with Alfred is the urbane and mellifluous Samuel Rabinowitz, who made his hit debut last season. He sings a jaunty tune comically describing his charming little “birdcage,” where all the guests flit in



Die Fledermaus

and out and always stay for free. As Alfred has agreed to protect Rosalinde’s reputation, he goes off to jail pretending to be Eisenstein, while Frank heads to the Fantasy Ball, invited by the scheming Dr. Falke. On a ruse, Falke has also invited Rosalinde, to observe how her husband will be spending his “first night in prison.”

At the Ball, Anna Yelizarova in a pants role as host Prince Orlofsky, looked properly boyish and bored, listening to Falke’s plan to make him laugh. The set was sumptuous and the gowns impressively elaborate, especially the Russian head-pieces. The men in uniforms or costumed as Russian servants, added to the décor, thanks to the professional talents of designer Judy Jackson MacIlvaine and her students from Canada college.

As the stage has been set for surprises and explosions, the unwitting actors begin to arrive. Adele, glamorous in a “borrowed”

gown, is introduced as famous actress Olga, but Eisenstein immediately recognizes her as his maid. When he blurts out this “inconvenient truth,” Olga is forced to truly become an actress, ridicule such an uncouth indiscretion and encourage all the guests to mock his rudeness. Her famous “Laughing Song,” a perilously difficult aria, was tossed off with insouciant ease, earning enthusiastic applause. She also convulsed opera-savvy viewers with her instant death scene pantomimes of Violetta, Juliet, and Tosca.

Frank, presented as a French nobleman is introduced to Eisenstein, supposedly a Marquis with the singularly appropriate name of Renard (Fox). Frank’s title is “Chevalier de Chagrin”, rather well-chosen for a prison warden. Their clumsy attempts to “parler francais” are another hilarious scene. Finally, Rosalinde enters disguised as a masked Hungarian countess. Her mysterious

beauty attracts Eisenstein to woo her, tickling the audience with that perennial farce – a man seducing his own wife.

Many well-known melodies adorn the act, beginning with Prince Orlofsky’s “Chacon a son gout” (“each to his own taste”), delivered with a nonchalance that belies its vocal demands. Rosalinde, challenged to prove she is really a Hungarian countess must marshal all her wits to describe a “home-land” she has never seen. Calling on memories of her role in a gypsy opera, she launches a show-stopper czardas, thrilling her audience both onstage and in the theater. Then, in an even more impressive acting job, she tricks her randy husband into surrendering his “girl-bait” chiming watch, leaving a crest-fallen Eisenstein to mourn his loss.

Falke leads the guests in an enchanting waltz, inviting new friends to become even friendlier, embracing as brothers and sisters as they toast “His Majesty, King Champagne,” the work’s most famous song. To everyone’s surprise, Orlofsky announces the “Thunder and Lightning Polka” and everyone on stage takes partners and begins careening wildly as if magically transformed into a real ballet company. Having winced at the efforts of most opera chorus members attempting to dance, I could not believe the effortless style and delightful verve these singers displayed, or their skill in negotiating complicated maneuvers on a crowded stage. Renowned choreographer Tom Segal has performed a miracle, and the audience ovation rec-

ognized him as well as the hard-working choristers.

A lilting waltz, performed with professional grace was equally impressive, featuring the added humor of dancers becoming tipsy and/or dizzy enough to collapse on a settee or wind up with the wrong partners. Suddenly a striking clock reminds Frank to leave for his prison, and Eisenstein to hurry there for his sentence. As the two “French” friends depart together, everyone laughs at their discomfiture and at the surprise awaiting them. Audience members left for intermission happily humming and swaying to the music which has remained so popular for more than a century.

Act three finds the audience eagerly anticipating Eisenstein’s well-deserved comeuppance, but even more surprising revelations await each character at the prison. A droll Bruce Hoard as Frosch the jailor sarcastically submits his daily report to a conspicuously absent warden and screams at the beautiful operatic arias being sung (offstage) by the imprisoned Alfred. He complains that the tenor is constantly singing (“all in Italian, so God knows what it really means . . .”). One of Frosch’s best lines: “He’s been demanding to speak with a lawyer. That good as proves he’s guilty.”

Adele and her cousin Olga arrive, seeking the Chevalier de Chagrin, in hopes that he will sponsor Olga’s stage career. To prove her acting ability, Adele sings the famously florid “audition aria,” another audience favorite. Frosch shows them into a cell, and they emerge

(continued on page 10)

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. 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.

LAA Wearable Art Show, The Livermore Art Association is holding a jewelry and wearable art show on February 7th from 5 to 8 PM. There will be hand crafted jewelry and textiles from several local artists. Silver, semi-precious stones, silks and more will be available to fit any taste or style. The gallery is located at 2155 3rd St, Livermore between J and K streets. For questions contact Diana Carey at dianacarey44@gmail.com.

Pleasanton Art League Spring Show, March 7-9, Alviso Adobe, 3465 Old Foothill Rd., Pleasanton. Reception and awards Sun., March 9, 12:30-2 p.m. www.pal-art.com.

1,000 Words, group exhibition, Harrington Gallery, March 8-April 19, reception Wed., March 12, 7 to 9 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org or 931-4848.

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. Please register at www.figurehead-gallery.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://children-sartclassesprojects.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



Pink Floyd Concert Experience.

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: 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.winemakerspourhouse.com or 215-2656.

Live, LAUGH, Love Wine Comedy Night; Saturday, February 1, 7:00pm \$10. Bunjo's Comedy All Star Show featuring comedians from the Bay Area and beyond. Hosted by Jim Kruder with Anthony Hill, Ben Feldman, Bob Lieberman, Brendan Lynch, John DeKoven and Nina G. Limited seating. Wine and food for purchase. Purchase tickets at 925-264-4413 info@bunjocomedy.com. The Winemaker's Pour House, 2241 First St., Livermore; 925 215-2256

Chocolate and Wine, Sunday, February 9, 2014, 1 and 4 p.m. Sit-down tasting of Wente Vineyards wines paired with five decadent Ghirardelli chocolate desserts made by Wente Vineyards' pastry chef. Club Wente Members \$30; nonmembers \$35. Reservations required, 925-456-2405. Wente Vineyards Event Center, 5050 Arroyo Road, Livermore.

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.

Taiko Concert, benefit for Livermore-Yotsukaido Sister City Organization (LYSCO), includes dessert reception.

San Jose Taiko group performs on Saturday, February 8th at 7 PM in the Mendenhall Middle School Multi-Purpose Room. The family-friendly concert is open to the public. Seating is limited. General admission is \$31.00, LYSCO 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 lyscoco2010@yahoo.com.

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.firehouse-arts.org or 931-4848.

Music at the Museum featuring Bobby Caldwell, Feb. 14, doors open 6 p.m. concert at 8 p.m. Blackhawk Automotive Museum, Danville. Tickets at blackhawkmuseum.org or concert@blackhawkmuseum.org.

Songs of Longing and Belonging, Sun., Feb. 15, 8 p.m. Greg Allen Friedman, tenor and Dominique Piana, with Cantabella Honors Choir. harp: art songs by Schubert, Schumann, Holý, Strauss, Dvoák, Reichardt, Fauré, Hasselmanns, Duparc, Hahn, Leoncavallo and Tosti. 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.

ART & ENTERTAINMENT

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.

Pacific Chamber Symphony, A Celebration of PCS: Mozart - Concerto for Clarinet in A Major; Schubert - Symphony No. 5 in B Flat Major, 2 p.m. Sun., March 2. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, evoking the essence of Early Music. Wed., Mar. 5, 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Fred Hersch, jazz pianist. Fri., Mar. 7, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Rusty Evans and Ring of Fire, Johnny Cash tribute. Sat., Mar. 8, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

12th Annual Youth Music Festival, March 15, 7:30 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org or 931-4848.

Cabaret, Faith Prince 'Have A Little Faith', March 16, 2 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org or 931-4848.

Amjad Ali Khan and Sons, Master of the Sarod. Thurs., Mar. 20, 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

The Gibson Brothers, bluegrass. Fri., Mar. 21, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Freddy Cole, American jazz original. Wed., Mar. 26, 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Battlefield Band, Scottish folk band. Thurs., Mar. 27, 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Air Supply, March 28, 8 p.m. Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, 10550 Albion Rd., San Ramon. www.sanramonperformingarts.com or 973-3343.

Paula Cole, pop/rock, March 28, 8

p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org or 931-4848.

Del Valle Concert Series, 8 p.m., March 29, Poulenc Trio: 10th season gala. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Pleasanton Community Concert Band, Spring Concert, March 30, 2 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.pleasantonband.org

Tribute to Frank Sinatra and Harry James. Mon., Mar. 31, 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

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. 31; and Feb. 1, 2014. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

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

Guys and Dolls, Diablo Theatre Company, Feb 1-March 1. Leshar Center, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. For tickets, call 925-943-SHOW (7469) or visit www.lesherartscenter.org or www.diablotheatre.org.

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.

Outerbridge Clockwork Mysteries, master of illusions, Sat., Mar. 1, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change, playing at the Village Theatre, 233 Front St., Danville. Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre production. March 1-16. Tickets at www.danville.ca.gov

Sunol Repertory Theatre 2014

Production of "Hotel Escargot" Sunol March 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29. Admission \$15 reserved Seating. All Performances at 8 p.m. Sunol Glen School Theatre, 11601 Main St., Sunol. Proceeds benefit Sunol Glen School. <http://sunol.net/srt/index.html>

Creatures of Impulse Presents teen improv troupe, Face Off, March 20-22, 7:30 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org or 931-4848.

COMEDY

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

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

MOVIES

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

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.

La Cenerentola (Cinderella) by G. Rossini, Livermore Valley Opera production, March 15, 16, 22 and 23, 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>

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

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

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

An Evening with Author Steve Minnear: Dublin & The Tri-Valley, The WWII Years, March 11th, 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 at the event subject to availability.

Livermore Valley Coin Club 51st annual coin show and sale on Sunday March 9, 2014, from 10 am to 5 pm at the Elks Lodge, 940 Larkspur Drive Springtown in Livermore. More than 30 dealers from all over Northern California will offer gold, silver, and base metal coins, make appraisals and purchase coins from the public. Admission is free. Numismatic displays, information table. Lunch service will be available. For further information please call Stephen Kramer at (925) 980-9307.

St. Patrick's Day Brew Crawl, Downtown Pleasanton merchants, restaurants and local breweries, Saturday, March 15 for the St. Patrick's Day Brew Crawl, 5 to 8 p.m. Information, go to the Pleasanton Downtown Association website, www.pleasantondowntown.net/

31st Annual City of Dublin St. Patrick's Day Celebration, March 15 and 16, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dublin Civic Center, 100 Civic Plaza. Green and White Gala, Fri., March 14, 6 p.m. Dublin Senior Center. Parade, March 16, 9:30 a.m. Amador Plaza - Dublin Blvd. - Village Pkwy - Amador Valley Blvd., sponsored by Dublin Lions Club. Pancake Breakfast, March 15, 7 a.m. Fire Station 16, 7494 Donahue Dr., Sponsored by Alameda County Firefighters - Local 55. Shamrock 5K fun walk and run. March 16, 8:30 a.m. race begins at Civic Plaza. www.ci.dublin.ca.us

1,000 Words - a literary response, poet laureate San Kay Harrison will host an event related to the art exhibition at the Harrington Gallery, March 27, 6:30 p.m.

1st annual Livermore Half Marathon, Sat., March 29, start and finish in downtown Livermore. runlivermore.com.



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New Travel Service Provided by Livermore Resident

GF Journeys (www.gf-journeys.com), a travel service designed specifically for those with celiac disease or gluten sensitivity, has created a new tour to Italy that eliminates the stressful details of both travel and diet, so guests can truly relax, unwind and enjoy their vacation.

Finding a safe meal away from home can be a big challenge. It becomes even more complicated when traveling abroad. Difficulties communicating, questions about food safety and preparation, and just finding a GF-friendly hotel or restaurant can take the joy out of travel, and make the whole experience unnecessarily stressful.

GF Journeys brings back the joy of travel with the launch of "Gluten-Free Italy: Travels through Tus-

cany, Parma and Rome," a special food tour hosted by Gina DiPrima, the company's founder. DiPrima is a Livermore resident.

"Managing a special diet is a daily grind," says DiPrima. "And planning a gluten-free trip can be a lot of work. With this tour, GF Journeys takes care of every detail, including GF hotel and restaurant recommendations and reservations. The tour gives guests with challenging diets a much-deserved break so they can enjoy the art of travel without worry."

She goes on to say, "This tour is of great personal significance to me. When my own young daughter was diagnosed with celiac disease, I learned first-hand how difficult navigating each meal can be. When

we traveled abroad, every meal required extensive conversations with hotel and restaurant staff. We were so stressed out by the end. With this tour, I wanted to create a truly special experience filled with amazing food but with none of the usual GF dietary hassle."

Reservations for the tour are now being accepted. Space is limited. Visit <http://www.gfjourneys.com> for the full itinerary.

The aim of GF Journeys is to help the GF community experience the joy of traveling by eliminating the uncertainty and anxiety of finding safe hotels and gourmet meals abroad.

The company was created by Gina DiPrima, a travel professional with years of experience in tour operations.

DIE FLEDERMAUS

(continued from page 7)

indignant to learn that the Chevalier is really a prison warden. Even angrier is Rosalinde, who hurries in to arrange for Alfred's release before her husband shows up. Unknown to her, he is already present and furious at Frank's touching description of "Mr. Eisenstein's" loving farewell to his wife. Seeing hapless Dr. Blind, he appropriates the lawyer's wig, robe and glasses, and questions Rosalinde and Alfred about their assignation, pretending to need "all the facts in order to defend them."

Finally, unable to contain his anger, Eisenstein identifies himself and furiously berates Rosalinde for her infidelity. She, however, has the trump card when she swings his little watch and reveals that she was his bewitching Hungarian countess. Suddenly all the party guests pop out

of hiding for a hearty laugh at the disgraced Eisenstein, and even Orlofsky, as promised by Dr. Falke, finds the situation amusing. Falke unveils his trickery as an elaborate scheme of revenge, and Eisenstein is mollified into believing that Rosalinde's escapade was all part of the plot. As Alfred confides, "though it wasn't quite that way, now he's satisfied on all points so why quibble over small points?"

Eisenstein also has a plausible excuse for his bad behavior: "Forgive me, kitten. It was all the fault of the champagne." With their reconciliation and Orlofsky's offer to "sponsor" Adele, all problems are resolved and a happy chorus polishes off the evening with a happy toast to King Champagne. An equally jolly audience clapped, stamped, and

whistled their appreciation for everyone on stage, and especially for the evening's energetic conductor Maya Barsacq. She will alternate with Maestro George Cleve when the performance arrives at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore, Saturday night and Sunday afternoon, February 8 and 9.

Tickets are available at the box office, 2400 First Street, downtown Livermore, by calling 925-393-6800 or online at www.bankheadtheater.org.

For a wonderful comedy, with gorgeous music, and a top-notch production and cast, viewers can't make a better choice in the entire Bay Area. This reviewer will be there to enjoy its effervescence again and again! And, to applaud the snappy new translation by librettist David Scott Marley.

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.)

Alameda County Tri-Valley National Organization For Women (ACTNOW) will hold its February chapter meeting on Monday, Feb. 3rd, 6 p.m. at Round Table Pizza, 1024 E. Stanley Blvd. In Livermore. Speaker will be Ellis Goldberg from the Tri-Valley Democrat Club.

Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club will meet on Thursday, February 13, 2014, 7 p.m. in Alisal School's multipurpose room, 1454 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. Brian Kemble, curator of the Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek, will speak on the agave family, aloes and bromeliads. He has lectured extensively in the United States and South Africa. Visitors are welcome. For more information call Bev at 485-7812.

Beauty Lou and the Country Beast, performances are at 3 and 5:50 p.m. on Saturday, February 1st, at Marilyn Avenue School, 800 Marilyn Avenue, Livermore. Tickets are \$1 for students through 5th grade, and \$2 for all others. Public invited.

"Hungry" to help someone? Make a difference in the lives of homebound neighbors as a volunteer driver with Meals-on-Wheels in Dublin, Pleasanton and Livermore. There is a great need for volunteers with opportunities to help once a week, every other week or once a month. Please call Jennifer at 925-931-5386 for more information.

Valley Spokesmen Bicycle Touring Club, Sat., Feb. 1, 35-38 miles Feather Pedals conditioning ride for Cinderella Classic, meet 9:30 a.m. at Robertson Park in Livermore. Wed., Feb. 5, 25 miles, "Chilly - Hilly - Chili" ride, meet 10 a.m. at the B Street parking lot in Benicia, Barbara Wood, 707-745-6353. Anyone planning to go on a ride is asked to contact the leader for details on where to meet and what to bring.

Dress a Girl Around the World, an invitation to make simple dresses for girls in third world countries. Next Sew-Fest is Saturday, Feb. 15 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. St. Augustine Hall, Pleasanton. Help is needed sewing, ironing, cutting. Bring sewing machine or serger, iron, ironing board, scissors, along with helping hands. (Those planning to stay all day should bring a bag lunch.) Always accepting cheerful cotton fabric donations. Those who can't make the Sew-Fest but would like to sew, please arrange for kits that can be sews at home. Questions? Suzanne Beck, 925-352-8447 or suzbeck@yahoo.com

Widowed Men and Women of Northern CA, Mexican Train event, Feb. 6, noon, RSVP by Jan. 31 to Barbara 426-8876. Birthday brunch in Livermore, Feb. 9, noon, RSVP by Feb. 3 to Harriett, 447-8229. Lunch in Livermore, Feb. 11, 11:30 a.m., RSVP by Feb. 8 to Janet 443-3317. Friendly bridge in Pleasanton, Feb. 15, 1 p.m., RSVP by Feb. 8 to Janice 484-9308.

General meeting in Dublin, Feb. 16, 1 p.m., RSVP by Feb. 10 to Marge 828-5124. Happy hour in Pleasanton, Feb. 20, 5 p.m., RSVP by Feb. 18 to Marge 828-5124. Family dinner at Colombo Club in Oakland, Feb. 22, 6:30 p.m., if interested, call Gino ASAP 243-1282. Brunch in Livermore, Feb. 23, 12:30 p.m., RSVP by Feb. 20 to Ruby 462-9636. Lunch in Fremont, Feb. 26, noon, RSVP by Feb. 23 to Bette 510-357-7873.

Bingo Bash, benefit for Children's Hospital - Cooley's Anemia, hosted by Italian Catholic Federation Branch #258, Sat., Feb. 22 at St. Michael's Parish Hall, 372 Maple St., Livermore. Doors open 6 p.m., bingo at 6:30 p.m. Tickets \$10 per person includes one bingo packet for 10 games. Pizza, snacks and beverages available for purchase. Prizes and raffle. Dancing to the music of DJ Joe Buonsante, surprise entertainment. Reservation deadline is Feb. 18. Call Helen W. 462-3798. If unable to attend, a donation would be appreciated mail to E. Meier, 6597 Lansing Ct., Pleasanton, CA 94566.

Annual Rummage Sale, First Presbyterian Church, 451 So. K Street, Livermore. Feb. 7 and 8 (Fri. and Sat.), 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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 February 3rd at 7pm C6. The Amador 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 ptscac.org. If you have other questions or would like to recommend a student, please email annangst@sbccglobal.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.

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.

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.

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 \$53. 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 talks 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.bringing-

BULLETIN BOARD

backthenatives.net

Crab Feed. The Livermore Fraternal Order of Eagle's Aerie #609 holds 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 Kaskay 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 Ahmes 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.

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.

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

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

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 Tues-

day 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 katiestрубе@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 43-5943.

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 Grafath 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

American Legion Post 237, is looking for new members. Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Veterans Hall, 301 Main St., Pleasanton. Bring a copy of discharge document DD-214 to a meeting. Mailing address is Amer. Leg. Post 237, P.O. Box 823, Pleasanton, Ca. 94566.

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 Janu-

ary 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.

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.

Livermore Lioness Club welcomes new members at their regular monthly meeting on the first Tuesday of each month, at 6:30 pm. Participating in the many activities of the group is a great way to meet local people. The Lioness is a service club, sponsored by the Livermore Lions Club, that helps many worthy causes in our community. Lioness's main focus are women, children and family issues, in addition to helping the blind. For information please call 925-443-4543.

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.calvarylivermore.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 Colledge Ave. at M St., Livermore; worship 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 Con-cannon 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. Intercountry 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 Kilkare 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 pjmrueller@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 non-perishable 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. Open every 4th Saturday to distribute bags from Fresh and Easy Market and Sprouts on a first come first serve basis between 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 2333 Nissen Drive, Livermore.

Philosophers' Café/Culture Chat, an informal gathering to discuss ideas, will hold its February meeting Sunday, February 2 at 10:45 a.m. at Café Rumi, 4799 Heyer Ave., Castro Valley. The topic is "Can Judaism survive without a strong Orthodox community?" 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 sessions are scheduled for March 2, and April 13 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. February 13 and 27, 2014. No pre-registration is necessary. These sessions are open to all, regardless of religious affiliation. Please call Mary Hagerty 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.

Community HU Chant is the theme of a non-denominational prayer activity Saturday, February 1st at 1:00 PM. The Community HU Chant is held once a month each 1st Saturday at The Parkview, 100 Valley Avenue, Pleasanton. For More Information contact <http://eck-ca.org/> by computer

Milestones Community

Foundation Adds Two New Board Members

The Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation (SJWHTF) has announced that two new board members were elected to their board of directors. Foundation founder and president, Sandra Wing, leads the board.

Nelson Fialho joined the board in October of 2013 and is the chairperson for the foundation's Stakeholders Action Team (SAT). "We are continuing to assemble a group of highly connected and productive community members to help spread the word about the foundation," sites Mr. Fialho, "as well as to increase our base of community financial supporters." He has served in the role of Pleasanton City Manager since 2004. The Bay Area native lives in Pleasanton with his family. In 2011, Nelson's oldest son was diagnosed with stage 3 cancer. During that time, he became aware on a very personal level how important alternative therapies, like those SJWHTF promotes, are to many cancer patients and their families.

Eija Sommerfield was elected to the Board in

January of 2014 and is the foundation's secretary. Eija, who's banking career spans 25 years, works as vice president and commercial lender for Heritage Bank of Commerce in Pleasanton. She also serves on the Pleasanton Chamber Foundation Board. The Finland native lives in Pleasanton with her husband and 8-year old son. Eija is honored to be part of Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation due to its committed and selfless volunteer base that allows the organization to provide relief to people with cancer.

The Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation awarded grants to 136 cancer patients in the Tri-Valley in their 2013 fiscal year and is quickly approaching a total of 400 beneficiaries helped to date. The board of directors is comprised of leading business executives, and medical professionals in the Tri-Valley. The board provides guidance to the foundation's all-volunteer workforce, strategic planning, and outreach and helps secure funding for the organization's operations.

"Our new board mem-

bers possess a scope of capabilities and community involvement that will be invaluable to the Foundation and our purpose," commented founder and president, Sandra Wing. "I am certain that with their leadership and community connections we will have the opportunity to grow the foundation and better serve cancer patients in the Tri-Valley."

Serving the five Tri-Valley cities of Pleasanton, Dublin, San Ramon, Livermore and Danville, the Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation is entering its sixth year of helping local cancer patients get through their prescribed treatments by offering funds for complementary therapies that are typically not covered by insurance.

To learn more about the Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation and its mission, visit www.healingtherapiesfoundation.org.

The foundation's primary fundraiser, The Ragin Cajun, will be held on Friday, March 7th at Casa Real at the Ruby Hill Winery in Pleasanton. Tickets are available at www.healingtherapiesfoundation.org

Branchini New Bay East President

Jennifer Branchini, an agent in the Pleasanton office of BHG Tri-Valley Realty, is the new President for the Bay East Association of REALTORS®.

Jennifer has plans for her local association. Real estate and entrepreneurship are in her blood; she grew up within a family of business owners. Her aunt is Janet Cristano, broker/owner of BHG Tri-Valley Realty. By the time she was in her late teens, she was an assistant to a Blackhawk agent and was rapidly learning the business. Now she's coming up on 16 years as a successful, top-producing agent.

"I want to congratulate Jennifer on this well deserved appointment," said Ed Krafchow, CEO and Chairman of BHG Mason-McDuffie Real Estate, partner of BHG Tri-Valley Realty. "What I truly love about Jennifer is her complete commitment to her real estate career, and her very deep commitment to this industry."

Jennifer stated, "I've always been active within my state and local associations. I've also developed a real drive for being a part of an



Jennifer Branchini

effort that keeps up on the legislation and other issues that affect homeowners and REALTORS®. It's one of my passions. I've paid my dues as an agent and spent many years working hard to walk my talk concerning professionalism and productivity."

Jennifer is looking forward to being instrumental in implementing a range of services for the membership as well as working on issues that will continue to protect and preserve the benefits of homeownership. Some of the projects include:

Working on keeping local membership educated on professionalism and ethics, as well as conducting work-

shops on making the most of emerging technologies.

Working with state and local legislatures to continue to educate them on the issues that affect homeownership, like outdated flood mapping and the importance of the mortgage rate deduction and other tax issues.

Working on establishing a single point of entry for MLS members.

"I have a family and a thriving real estate business but I've always made time to participate in all levels of the real estate business, from working as an agent to organizing and overseeing a range of political and educational efforts," Jennifer said. "I love real estate, and I've always loved the job. It's the people, relationships and the satisfaction I get when I've helped get a family into their dream home or out of a property that no longer serves its purpose. Real estate is an extremely valuable asset and it's important to work on protecting REALTORS® and homeowners' interests."

Ms. Branchini lives in Pleasanton with her husband. They have three children.

Marcel Orthodontics Honored

The team at Marcel Orthodontics has been selected as the Smiles Change Lives (SCL) Orthodontic Providers of the Week for January 6, 2014. The award is sponsored by NorthStar Orthodontics, Inc.

The award was established to honor orthodontic providers who go above and beyond to help families and kids in their community. The announcement of the award sent to Doctors Claire and Thomas Marcel notes, "You are certainly deserving of this honor. We are grateful to you for making time to treat SCL children. We can't thank you enough for your generosity. You truly are changing the lives of the children you're treating and we assure you, they are extremely grateful."

Smiles Change Lives is an affordable nonprofit orthodontic program. It is open to kids ages 10 to 18 not already wearing braces. For information, visit www.smileschangelives.org.

Alameda County Fair Board Adds New Member

Chuck Moore of Castro Valley has been appointed to the Board of the Alameda County Agricultural Fair Association by Alameda County Supervisor Nate Miley. The Fair Association's 26 Board Members oversee the operations of the Alameda County Fairgrounds which attracts over three million visitors each year. The Alameda County Fair Board of Directors welcomes the knowledge and expertise that Chuck Moore

of Castro Valley brings to the Board. President of the Fair Board, Janet Lockhart states, "The agriculture, community service commitment, and enthusiasm Chuck Moore offers will be an asset to the Fair Board and the Fair community."

Chuck Moore of Castro Valley, Owner of Pacific Coast Well & Pump and Graceland Equestrian Center, brings expertise in business, agriculture, and build-

ing construction. Moore's community involvement includes work with Alameda County Agricultural Board, United States Equestrian Federation, EALI (Eden Area Livability Initiative) Blue Ribbon Steering Committee, and the National Hot Rod Association. "Alameda County has a rich agricultural heritage and my wife Peggy and I have always been actively involved in agriculture. My goal is to

promote agriculture in our community," says Moore.

The Fairgrounds is home to the oldest one mile Race Track in America dating back to 1858. The Fair Association is well underway preparing for the 2014 Alameda County Fair to be held June 18 through July 6.

Visit the Fair's website at www.AlamedaCountyFair.com or call 925-426-7600 for more information.