

Art, Community, & Education

Pleasanton's Teen Improv Troupe Invited to Participate in Chicago's 2012 Teen Comedy Festival



## Find Out What's Happening Check out the second section

Section II is filled with information about arts, entertainment and special events. There are education stories, a variety of features, and the arts and entertainment and bulletin board.

## Pleasanton, Police Reach Tentative Agreement

The City of Pleasanton and the Pleasanton Police Officers' Association (PPOA) have reached a tentative agreement on a memorandum of understanding (MOU).

Before becoming final, the agreement needs to be ratified by members of PPOA and approved by the city council. The council will vote on the proposal at its Feb. 7 meeting.

PPOA includes 83 sworn police employees, 61 police officers and 12 police sergeants. Under the new MOU, there will be no pay increases. Union members will begin picking up employee retirement contributions, a two tier retirement program will be implemented; and retirement health benefits were changed.

The new agreement is expected to save the city approximately \$2.4 million through the 2013-2014 budget.

The current MOU expired May 31, 2011.

The expiration date of the proposed MOU is May 31, 2014, slightly over two years from the date the document becomes operationally effective. This shorter contract allows for greater flexibility to make adjustments should the economic environment change significantly.

The proposed contract does not include any wage adjustments.

The cost to fund the CalPERS pension program is comprised of two parts. The first is a variable employer rate which is expressed as a percentage of salary for covered PPOA employees (in FY 2011/2012, this rate is 24.1%). The second is a fixed 9% contribution for which members are responsible. The City has been paying the 9% contribution on behalf of its

(See AGREEMENT, page 9)



### RABBIT ADOPTION

My name is Zuzu. I'm a smart, young girl, and quite the little Ninja bun. I'm 3½ months old, extremely affectionate, and litter box trained. To meet Zuzu, join us this Saturday from 12-3 pm at our Adoption Event at the Dublin Petco, 11976 Dublin Blvd. Anyone able to adopt, volunteer or foster, East Bay Rabbit Rescue can use the help. For more info, call 925-519-1723, or email ebrabbit@comcast.net. Visit www.eastbayrabbit.petfinder.com to see more pet profiles. Cats are also available now.

# BART Would Provide Access to Jobs in Livermore

Extend BART to Livermore in order to transport people to jobs there, a number of speakers argued.

Many declared that fairness should be honored, since Livermore residents have been paying for BART for almost 50 years. Health issues provided another theme, since pollution caused by traffic continues to impact the quality of life in the Tri-Valley.

The comments were made during two public hearings held last Thursday on a proposed Transportation Expenditure Plan (TEP). The \$7.7 billion TEP would guide spending on trans-

portation projects in Alameda County over a 30-year period if voters were to approve a ballot measure planned for the November 2012 election. The measure would ask voters to increase the sales tax from a half cent to a full cent. If approved, the tax would become permanent.

Both a subcommittee and the Alameda County Transportation Commission Board of Directors approved the TEP. Twenty commissioners voted in favor of the plan, Supervisor Keith Carson was opposed. One commissioner was absent.

The plan provides \$400 mil-

lion for the Livermore BART extension along I-580 to Isabel Avenue, a bone of contention for those who want the money spent elsewhere.

The measure is a one-time chance to obtain the funding, which for Livermore would be seed money to obtain the total estimated for the BART extension. Special legislation allowed the election for November 2012 to add a half cent to the current half cent tax. If it were to pass, the TEP list would be built out.

The proposed measure will need to be supported by a majority of the cities representing

a majority of the population in the county and the Board of Supervisors to qualify for the November 2012 ballot. The cities and county must vote up or down on the TEP.

Hearings on the TEP are scheduled at the Livermore City Council on Feb. 13, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors on March 27, Dublin City Council on April 3, Pleasanton City Council on April 17 and the BART board on April 26.

The main talking points from members of the public who wanted the TEP revised during two hearings included a desire to

change the wording for a BART extension to Livermore, concern about the loss of funding for transit oriented development (TOD), and lack of specificity around wording for a student bus pass.

The bus pass language was changed from "potential" projects to "successful" projects would be funded throughout the life of the measure.

Several commissioners pointed out that funding for TOD would be available through MTC as part of the One Bay Area plan.

The final plan increases AC (See BART, page 10)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Monday marked 23 years since the kidnapping of Ilene Misheloff from the streets of Dublin. To mark the day, Ilene's family and friends participated in a Candlelight Walk and Ecumenical Prayer Service. 13 year-old Ilene Misheloff vanished while walking home from Wells Middle School in Dublin on January 30, 1989. The investigation into Ilene's disappearance continues in an effort to return Ilene safely to her parents. There is currently a \$100,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible for Ilene's disappearance.

## Dublin Saw Advances in 2011

By Carol Graham

When Dublin Mayor Tim Sbranti met President Barack Obama at the recent 80th Conference of Mayors in Washington DC, he decided to ask for some advice.

"I know you're a basketball player," Sbranti said. "I coach high school basketball in the city where I'm a mayor. Do you have

advice for my team?"

"That startled him a little bit. He looked at me, kind of puzzled at first, then said, 'Play defense. Play good defense and everything else on the court will take care of itself.' As he was walking away, shaking hands he turned back and repeated, 'Play good defense,'" Sbranti added, laughing. "We'll make sure we do that."

As for the plan for the city itself, Dublin has been playing offense - with notable results. At the State of the City address and luncheon held on Wednesday, January 25 at the Shannon Community Center, Sbranti noted Dublin's striking achievements in 2011, recognizing that residential development returned, retail vacancies were filled, office tenan-

cies rose, and new restaurants and parks were advanced.

"2011 was a banner year in our city's history," said Sbranti. "We enjoyed the distinction of being named an All-American City - the only such award in California this year." Designated by the National Civic League to the top ten U.S. communi-

(See DUBLIN, page 8)

## Preparing For Lawsuit Over Layoffs, Former Employees Blast Lawrence Lab

Five former employees denounced Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory last week for the callous and allegedly illegal way it laid them off in 2008, shortly after a new contractor took over the facility with promises of improving efficiency.

The five are suing the Lab in a collective action that is scheduled to be heard on February 27 in Alameda County Superior Court

in Oakland. They held a press conference last week to discuss the motivation for their suit.

They are among 130 who filed formal complaints with the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing, according to a fact sheet issued by their attorney, Gary Gwilliam of Oakland. A total of 440 employees were laid off by the Laboratory.

Earlier this month, pre-trial legal actions appeared to undercut at least two of the complaints brought against the Laboratory. One complaint was that there was no funding shortfall that would create the basis for the layoffs in the first place. The other claimed evidence of blanket age discrimination against all the plaintiffs. Superior Court Judge

(See LAWSUIT, page 4)



Bob Coomber on one of his climbs.

## Coomber Selected to Fill LARPD Board Vacancy

Bob Coomber was selected to fill the vacancy on the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) board.

The seat became vacant when

Lauren Turner was elected to the city council in November.

Three candidates were interviewed by the board during its

(See LARPD, page 2)

Inside	
Art & Entertainment.....	Section II
Bulletin Board.....	Section II
Classifieds.....	10
Editorial.....	4
Short Notes.....	7
Sports.....	6
Obituaries.....	9



### PET OF THE WEEK

Are you looking for a sweet kitten who loves snuggling? If so, look no further. Meet Mickey, a ten month old buff tabby who adores people. He is loving and playful and would be the perfect fit into any home. To learn more, call 925-426-8656 or visit the website www.valleyhumane.org. Valley Humane Society is located at 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton. Check the website for new hours of operation. Photo courtesy of Ken Jacoby

**IMPROVING TREATMENT OF A DREAD DISEASE**

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis is a cruel disease that usually kills its victims within two to five years, although intensive care and breathing-assist machines can extend survival time. ALS is more commonly called Lou Gehrig's disease after the Depression-era New York Yankees baseball great whose career it cut short.

ALS afflicts about two of every 100,000 people worldwide. Because it is both incurable and rare, not much scientifically valid information has accumulated on how well ALS treatments work in prolonging life.

That may be starting to change, in part because of efforts by a Livermore statistician working with a San Francisco neurologist.

The statistician is Dan Moore, who was hired by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in the early 1970s to help interpret the large amounts of data that new analytical technologies were just starting to collect in studies of human chromosomes.

Moore is retired now except for his efforts on behalf of research carried out by neurologist Robert Miller, director of the Forbes Norris ALS Research Center for Sutter Health in San Francisco.

Understanding patterns of longer or shorter ALS survival is not simple because there is so much variation in patient response by age, health at diagnosis, and reaction to particular drugs, Moore says.

After receiving a death sentence with the diagnosis, not many patients are disposed to participate in the sorts of trials with placebos and control groups that are available to doctors researching more common diseases with varied outcomes, like prostate cancer or breast cancer.

Today, a significant historical record exists in part because Moore created it. He became aware in 1993 that ALS cases were not being reported in the systematic way that cancers were under federal rules.

So he started a database himself. Although he had no way of knowing what the future would bring, "I thought it was important to learn about factors that affect patient survival," he recalls.

He and Robert Miller, the ALS center director, used historical data from several clinical trials to measure the effects of riluzole, the only FDA-approved drug to date for ALS patients.

The study showed that riluzole slows the progress of the disease without safety concerns. The drug is nothing like a cure, but the effort showed how the ALS community would be able to interpret past clinical trials with scientific rigor.

Miller is enthusiastic about Moore's retrospective study and about recent clinical trials more broadly. In the past year alone, there have been five encouraging preliminary studies that warrant further efforts, he said.

One, to which Moore contributed, demonstrated a new approach to preventing the inflammation that accompanies and perhaps exacerbates the disease. The researchers found that a drug labeled NP001 blocked cellular responses that produce the inflammation.

Other studies in San Francisco and elsewhere are demonstrating new drugs or combinations of drugs that appear in early tests to slow progression of the disease or to reduce some of the psychological problems that accompany it.

Forbes Norris and other research institutions are now planning the first stem cell trials for ALS therapy. Beyond drugs, a pace-maker that stimulates breathing by sending an electrical signal to the diaphragm has shown promise in increasing survival time.

Forbes Norris and other institutions have shown that combination treatments — drugs, nutritional supplements, physical therapy and other approaches — can add up to improved quality of life and longer survival.

ALS is still incurable, but some progress is better than none. "For the first time, hope is coming over the horizon," Miller wrote recently.

**EARTHQUAKE FAULTS NEAR TIBET**

Field geologists often venture into difficult terrain, but a Belgian geologist with connections to Livermore has traveled farther and higher than most in her efforts to explore earthquake faults in western Tibet, an arid region being forced ever higher by the



grinding northward push of the Indian subcontinent into Asia.

The geologist is Marie-Luce Chevalier, who made frequent trips to Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory from 2002 to 2005, when she was a doctoral student in Paris, to use one of its research facilities, the Center for Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (CAMS).

She did post-doctoral work at Stanford from 2006 to 2009, continuing her association with the Bay Area and friends from Livermore.

In 2010, she moved to a Chinese research facility in Beijing, called the Institute of Geology-CAGS, where she works today.

She and her Chinese colleagues study the faults and seismic movements that are created by the monumental forces of the India-Asia collision, which is driving Tibet to the east at a rate of tens of millimeters per year and pushing the world's tallest mountains ever-higher.

To understand these forces and the dramatic geologic landscape that they have created, the researchers work to establish where and how the earth is fractured and create a detailed map of movement near the faults.

Sometimes the earth creeps slowly, at a steady pace. Sometimes it is frozen and unmoving, and geologists know pressures are accumulating that will someday be released. Sometimes there is hard evidence that the earth has leaped many meters in a fraction of a second.

Chevalier's specific research interests have been the Karakorum and Altyn Tagh faults, which lie close to one another north of the Himalayas and south of the Pamirs. She studied the Karakorum with colleagues from Livermore, China and Paris. More recently she has focused on the northern part of the Karakorum fault, in the Chinese Pamir.

A particular question is whether the Karakorum and Altyn Tagh faults are independent or interconnected, and if they are interconnected, how.

For the past month, she has been back in the Bay Area with hundreds of pounds of rock samples flown from the vicinity of the Altyn Tagh. The rocks were processed and prepared at Stanford before being sent across the Bay to CAMS, where a precise count of beryllium-10 atoms will help determine their age much as counting carbon-14 atoms can help date fossils.

Understanding the age of the rocks along the faults can help reveal when the faults last shifted, how often they shift and how powerful their movements might be in future. Mapping such faults and accumulating detailed information about their dynamics is slow and sometimes hazardous, but it advances understanding of one of the most complicated, dramatic and seismically active mountain regions on earth.

Over the years, Chevalier has made eight trips to the isolated, sparsely populated region. In her student days at Stanford, she once suffered a dangerous attack of altitude sickness and had to be carried down to 13,000 feet for treatment at a "hospital" located in a garage.

"It was a scary experience," she recalls.

Because of her experiences in China as a post doctoral geologist, adjustment to a different culture has been relatively smooth. She speaks Mandarin and goes out of her way to visit markets and otherwise immerse herself in local activities. Institute of Geology colleagues are friendly and helpful. She holds the rank of professor. They are proud to introduce her to visiting scientists.

Although the Institute has no other Europeans on staff, she hopes that might change. Instructors at Belgian universities in Brussels and Liege have asked her to make presentations to their students the next time she visits in hopes of encouraging some of them to consider working in China.

**CORRECTION**

Last week's column misstated one part of the expected performance of the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope, which is expected to see first light in the Chilean Andes in 2020. LSST is expected to reveal up to two million events per night that now go unseen, changing phenomena like very distant exploding stars and moving rocks that might threaten Earth.

**LARPD**

(continued from page one)

meeting last week. The two other candidates were Barbara Kraybill and Dale Wilkins.

There were two votes taken. The first was 3 to 1 with Maryalice Faltings dissenting. She preferred Kraybill. The second vote was unanimous.

Director Steve Goodman made the motion to appoint Coomber. He stated, "Selecting a board member is one of the most difficult decisions I have had to make. I was very impressed with the candidates. Any one of them would be a tremendous asset to the board. However, I am going with Coomber. His passion for the outdoors and trails is something we continue to need on the board. His perspective from accessibility is something we haven't looked at in the same way that he does."

Director David Hutchinson added that he appreciated Coomber's assistance with disabled veterans.

Board President Beth Wilson also felt that all of the candidates were outstanding. In supporting Coomber, she stated, "Enthusiasm along with knowledge and integrity are the things I need to look at."

Faltings pointed out that each of the candidates had a strength. "My first choice is Ms. Kraybill. I have a concern about Coomber. I think his focus is a little narrow. We need someone who is familiar with the district and would drop right into the board. Ms. Kraybill knows the district inside and out. Her knowledge of budgeting and of the district appeal to me."

Kraybill worked for the district for 30 years, retiring in 2007.

Coomber, who travels the trails in a wheelchair, describes himself as a park user and fitness advocate. In 2010, Coomber was

appointed to the State of California Recreational Trails Program Advisory Board and in 2007 was inducted into the California Outdoors Hall of Fame.

He says of the district, "LARPD reaches every corner of our community. Parks, trails, kid's sports programs, senior programs and so many other services all are integral and vital pieces of Livermore's social fabric. I believe I can enhance the board's ability to cope with the financial challenges presented to all special districts in today's economic climate."

Coomber works for Technology Credit Union as a loan adjustments manager. He previously worked for Wells Fargo Bank and Transmuth Financial.

Coomber was sworn in immediately after being appointed. He will hold office until the November 2012 election when the seat will be up for election and the successful candidate will serve the remainder of the term, which expires in December 2014.

Prior to the Board meeting, about 20 citizens held a kick-off meeting for a community action group composed of interested residents who will explore bringing back a Fourth of July Celebration for Livermore. People stepped up to take leadership roles and talked about keeping the celebration at Robertson Park, with the goal of holding a 2012 event through the help of fund-raising and volunteer efforts.

Also, Ralph Sherman, president of the LARPD Foundation, gave a presentation to the Board discussing fundraising efforts in support of the District. The public can support the LARPD foundation through donations, and access information on the LARPD website.

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**Plastic Bag Ban Approved; New Recycling Rules Added**

The Alameda County Waste Management Authority (AC-WMA) has adopted two ordinances that are designed to help the county achieve its long-term waste reduction goals.

The first ordinance requires recycling of high market-value materials from larger businesses and multi-family properties.

The second ordinance prohibits free distribution of single-use bags at check out in stores that sell packaged food.

Individual jurisdictions within the county are able to opt out of either ordinance by resolution of their governing board by March 2, 2012.

Up to 1,500 local jobs are expected to be created as a result of the Alameda County mandatory recycling ordinance.

Recycling reduces greenhouse gas emissions significantly, which is why the State has adopted a mandatory recycling law to help implement its climate change initiative (AB 32). The State law requires larger businesses (four cubic yards of garbage service per week and above) and multi-family properties of five units or more to obtain recycling service. The mandatory recycling ordinance adopted for Alameda County builds on the State's requirements by specifying which materials need to be recycled and by requiring that an adequate level of recycling service be obtained.

The single-use bag ordinance will help reduce the number of bags going to landfill and decrease the problems caused by plastic bags at recycling processing centers and landfills. The ordinance bans single-use bags at check out at retailers selling packaged food county-

wide. Recycled content paper or reusable bags may be provided but only if the retailer charges a minimum price of 10 cents per bag.

Frequently asked questions with detailed information on each of the proposed ordinances is available at [www.stopwaste.org/news](http://www.stopwaste.org/news).

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# EDITORIAL

## Celebrating Downtown

Downtown Livermore was the focus of a celebration held Monday at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore. The occasion was the Livermore Downtown, Inc. board installation and awards ceremony.

Much was made of the fact that the downtown has become a place where people want to be.

Mayor John Marchand declared, "The downtown is truly the heart and soul of a community. Our downtown is where the community comes together."

The volunteer of the year, former councilmember Jeff Williams, echoed those words. "In the last ten years, Livermore's downtown has gone from four lanes of gravel trucks going 35 miles an hour, to a fantastic place for people to gather and have a good time."

The downtown was recognized as a cultural center, and a place to celebrate the city's history through such events as the rodeo parade and the annual wine country festival.

The theme of the evening said it all, "It is a place where brilliance thrives."

## LAWSUIT

(continued from page one)

Robert Freedman denied both claims, suggesting that there will need to be trials on 130 individual cases.

The Laboratory took note of the pre-trial activity, stating, "The judge in this case has already made the determination that the broad-brush allegations made by the plaintiffs alleging some scheme to get rid of older workers are without merit."

The complaints have literally hundreds of parts. Laboratory counsel has objected to most, if not all. Court papers show some objections overruled and some sustained in pre-trial activity. How they play out in specific cases remains to be seen.

In the meantime, apart from the impersonality of the legal process, the five former employees who spoke out last week echoed the broad themes of bitter complaints that circulated in the Livermore community during the months following the 2008 layoffs.

The stories were individual and anecdotal, but common messages were these: The new, for-profit corporation treated loyal employees like criminals; those selected for layoff felt betrayed by an organization they had trusted; older people were selected for layoff in contradiction of the Lab's own inverse seniority policy; and this is a sign of how callously Lab employees would be treated from now on.

The five who spoke out last week echoed many of these themes. They ranged in age from 52 to 61. Marian Baraza, who was laid off at age 56, said the layoff process made her feel "like a criminal."

She had gone to work at the Lab at 17 and met her husband there. They had two daughters. In time, he died of a heart attack, but she stayed on. "The Lab has been my life," she said.

Although she had been a loyal employee for nearly four decades, she said she was escorted to the gate by guards and treated with suspicion. "All that was missing was handcuffs," she said.

She teared up as she described the shock of being laid off without warning, comparing it to the darkness she felt when her

## Research Opens Door to New Medicines, Devices and Materials

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory scientists and international collaborators have created the shortest, purest X-ray laser pulses ever achieved, fulfilling a 45-year-old prediction and ultimately opening the door to new medicines, devices and materials.

The researchers, reporting in the Jan. 26 edition of *Nature*, aimed radiation from Linac Coherent Light Source (LCLS), located at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC), at a cell containing neon gas, setting off an avalanche of X-ray emissions to create a new "atomic X-ray laser."

husband died.

Others at the press conference had similar stories. Greg Olsen said he had worked there nearly 30 years with excellent performance reviews and a spotless record.

He was a supervisor when he was laid off. "I was in shock that Thursday" when they told him, he said. He too felt suddenly mistrusted, as if he were a criminal and had done something wrong. "Nobody thanked me for my years of service. That job was so important to me."

Since then, he said, he has struggled. He "had to see some doctors, get some medications." He has applied for 75 job openings, he said after the press conference, with no interviews.

Several of the speakers referred to the difficulty of finding jobs because of the onset of recession. To Elaine Andrews, a 61-year-old administrator in Human Resources at the time of her layoff, "It was the beginning stage of the biggest recession in our lifetimes. I couldn't even get an interview, let alone a job."

Andrews had worked at the Lab for 29 years. She had previously filed a sexual harassment suit against the Lab. Her complaint claimed that this was a cause of her being chosen for layoff. (Judge Freedman agreed that this is an issue that can be tried.) She was the only career employee laid off in her department and her duties were then taken over afterwards "by significantly younger and less-senior employees," according to a fact sheet issued at the press conference.

The Laboratory responded to the press conference last week with a statement that was in sharp contrast to the mistrust encountered by those laid off in 2008.

"A workforce restructure is the last thing this Laboratory wanted to undertake in 2008," the statement reads. "LLNL considers its employees its greatest asset and exhausted all other options to perform its important work for the country (e.g., voluntary separation program, attrition, cost cuts to operations) before proceeding with an involuntary separation."

"X-rays give us a penetrating view into the world of atoms and molecules," said physicist Nina Rohringer, a former LLNL postdoc, now a group leader at Max Planck Society's Advanced Study Group. She collaborated with researchers from SLAC, LLNL and Colorado State University.

Livermore scientists include Rich London, Felice Albert, Jim Dunn, Alex Graf, Randy Hill and Stefan Hau-Riege.

The new laser fulfills a 1967 prediction, which proposed that X-ray lasers could be made by first removing inner electrons from atoms and then inducing

# Community Acceptance Is Crucial To Nuclear Waste Disposal, Expert Says

By Jeff Garberson

The most important single lesson from nearly two years of work with a national commission on nuclear waste disposal is social and political rather than technical, according to a participant with ties to Livermore: Obtain community acceptance before trying to decide on the location of a waste repository.

Allison MacFarlane, a geologist by training and associate professor at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va., was one of the technical experts on the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future. It was established by Energy Secretary Stephen Chu in early 2010 at the direction of President Obama.

The Commission was charged with recommending policies for storing, processing and disposing of nuclear waste, particularly from power plants.

The U.S. approach to nuclear waste disposal is generally considered to be unsuccessful. It focused on disposal at Yucca Mountain, located some 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas in a state whose population and elected representatives have risen up in opposition to storing nuclear waste there for the long term.

President Obama effectively killed the Yucca Mountain plan, which cost about \$15 billion but was never carried to completion.

MacFarlane believes that Yucca Mountain is not stable enough geologically for long term storage, meaning periods of 1 million years or more. The region is subject to volcanic

and seismic activity. She also believes that waste containers should be stored below the water table — not above, as at Yucca Mountain — to minimize deterioration from oxidation.

Her views, expressed in an interview with the Independent in 2010, derive from careful study. She wrote a book on Yucca Mountain, *Uncertainty Underground*, published in 2006.

MacFarlane's professional interest in Livermore comes from her past participation in National Academy of Sciences studies of how to dispose of spent weapons fuel. In the 1990s, she took a particular interest in Lawrence Livermore National Lab's approach to immobilizing the waste in a ceramic matrix, an approach that was discontinued under the Bush Administration.

She has a personal attachment to the city as well, having been married here and returning from time to time to visit friends with husband Hugh Gusterson, the anthropologist who has written extensively about the Lawrence Lab.

The first finding of the Blue Ribbon Commission is that community support is necessary for a successful waste disposal program. MacFarlane views the existing New Mexico site for storing nuclear weapons waste as something of a model for community acceptance.

The site is the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, near Carlsbad. Commission members found "overwhelming support" for the project because the state and community were involved

in planning from the start, she says.

The Blue Ribbon Commission report has eight recommendations in all. After developing community support, the second is to create a new organization "dedicated solely to implementing the waste management program and empowered with the authority and resources to succeed."

A third is to make use of funds which are now being provided by nuclear utility ratepayers for waste management. A fourth is to develop "one or more geologic disposal facilities."

The report and its arguments and recommendations are available online at <http://brc.gov/>

Asked whether she thinks the recommendations are likely to be followed, MacFarlane says she isn't sure but hopes so. "Many of the changes we recommend can only be accomplished by a legislative change. If not, then we will remain mired with no solutions in sight."

The report warns strongly that doing nothing is unacceptable. "Tens of thousands of tons of spent fuel (have accumulated) at more than 70 nuclear power plant sites around this country" with no option beyond letting it continue to accumulate, according to the report.

Many of the storage sites are in urban areas. Problems are both practical and moral, the report indicated. "The need for a new strategy is urgent, not just to address these damages and costs but because this generation has a fundamental, ethical

obligation to avoid burdening future generations with the entire task of finding a safe, permanent solution for managing hazardous nuclear materials they had no part in creating," it said.

It is hard to predict how many of the recommended changes will be agreed to in Washington. The Associated Press suggested that one in particular would be "likely to stir opposition in Congress": the proposal to channel the \$25 billion Nuclear Waste Fund into long-term waste disposal solutions instead of using it to offset the federal budget deficit.

Utilities are paying into the fund at a rate of about \$750 million per year. Congress will not give that up willingly, the AP article suggested.

Another recommendation that may find bureaucratic resistance is the proposal to create a new organization, outside the U.S. Department of Energy, with the authority and resources to carry out the waste management program.

For MacFarlane, publication of the report is the culmination of nearly two years of intense activity, including travel, briefings, discussions and debate. The activity won't end right away, however. She and other Commission members will be presenting briefings to interested groups for months. She gives a briefing to a Colorado energy group tomorrow, to the Platts Nuclear Energy conference in Bethesda next week and to the American Association for the Advancement of Science, meeting in Vancouver, later this month.

## Obama, Brown Focus on Jobs, Education

The two top elected executives, President Barack Obama and Gov. Jerry Brown, summed up their views of the nation and state respectively, with an emphasis on getting people working again.

Obama spent some of his speech time Jan. 24 talking about how Congress can help recovery by passing stricter regulations on banks' loans and by encouraging the growth of green energy.

One of Brown's job generators is the state's high-speed rail project, which has approximately doubled in cost estimate to over \$90 billion. Brown said that when BART and other publicly financed transportation projects began, people said they were too expensive. History will prove today's high-speed rail critics wrong, too, he said.

In the State of the Union speech, Obama noted that the government loans to General Motors have been working, because the automaker has risen again to be the world's top vehicle seller.

"We bet on U.S. workers and ingenuity, and tonight the U.S. auto industry is back," with 160,000 jobs added. He observed that Ford, which did not take government loans, contributed to the comeback.

It's expensive now to conduct business in China, so it's an opportunity for the United States to step in with tax code reforms, including lowering the corporate tax rate for businesses that don't outsource their jobs to overseas locations.

Companies providing high-tech work should receive double the tax break, said Obama. "Send me those tax reforms, and I will sign them right away," said Obama.

When Obama took office, he set a goal of doubling U.S. ex-

ports in five years. That goal was met in four years, he said.

One way to put people back to work is to provide them with new skills quickly in the technology economy. "Tech has twice as many openings as it has workers," said Obama. The way to fix that is to fund programs at community colleges "to become community resource centers for high-tech manufacture."

Las Positas College already established partnerships with the science labs and industry for training classes in a variety of technological fields, and is always open to doing more, its officials have said.

Turning his attention to K-12 education, Obama praised teachers for their dedication, since they often "dig into their own pockets to buy materials, and work at modest pay."

Obama said that he would "offer schools a deal" by offering them resources to "keep teachers on the job, reward the best ones, and grant the schools flexibility." He said he wants to see teachers who teach with passion, not "just helping kids learn."

Obama did not offer any details about how he would set up the guidelines and funding to make that change in education.

The President did say that he is proposing that all states require all students to stay in high school until they graduate or become 18 years old.

In the Valley, that may be a moot point. The state already requires school attendance until graduation or age 18. Pleasanton senior director of pupil services Kevin Johnson said that the district and other districts offer many alternatives for those who need help, including alternative high schools and independent study.

Students sign a contract concerning attendance. If they don't meet that obligation, the contract is filed with the district attorney, who then decides what to do about accountability.

On the energy front, Obama said, "Tonight, I will open 75 percent of our offshore gas and oil production." He said production is at its highest in eight years. The nation is less dependent on foreign oil than it has been for the past 16 years.

"However, we have only 2 percent of the world's oil reserves. There needs to be development of every available source of U.S. energy," said Obama. The audience gathered in the House of Representatives gave one of its loudest standing ovations to that remark.

Public research dollars over the past 30 years helped to abstract natural gas out of shale rock, said Obama, implying that more public money needs to be spent on energy research.

Despite private industry failures in the clean energy business, that must be pursued. "I won't walk away from the promise of clean energy," said Obama.

"I will not cede the wind, solar or batteries industry to China or

Germany because we refuse to make the same commitment here. We subsidized oil companies for a century. It's time to end it, and create clean energy tax credits," said Obama.

The political divisions in Congress are too great to pass "a comprehensive plan to fight climate change, but we can set the energy standard to create a market for innovation," he said.

Obama said that he wants to see enough new clean energy generated on public lands to power 3 million homes. Further, he wants the Department of Defense to "work with us" so that the military buys enough capacity to power 250,000 homes per year.

Further, through infrastructure changes that would cost \$100 billion in the next decade, the nation can make energy use more efficient. "Send me a bill that creates these jobs," said Obama.

Obama also called for a bill that would "cut red tape" in construction projects on highways.

Providing middle class people a break on their houses that are underwater, Obama said he would help them refinance, and "save \$3000. A small fee on the largest financial institutions would pay for it. It would allow banks a chance to "repay a deficit of trust."

New regulations of Obama's administration will "save \$10 billion over the next five years and send funding to entrepreneurs, not to Wall Street."

Near the end of his speech, Obama proposed a Veterans Job Corps, which would enable the hiring of returning veterans as firefighters and police, "so America is as strong as those who defend her."

### RESPONSE FROM LOCAL CONGRESSMEN

All three congressmen in the Valley are Democrats and supported Obama's speech, focusing on various aspects of it.

John Garamendi, whose district includes Livermore, said that he was pleased to hear the President talking about the same things he has outlined in a bill that he wrote.

The bill, HR 613, says that transit equipment used in America should be made in America. Garamendi also is the author of HR 487, which focuses on making renewable energy equipment in America. Garamendi liked Obama's comments on shifting away from oil subsidies and instead rewarding clean energy.

Obama's comments on community colleges also drew praise from Garamendi. Many tech jobs don't need a four-year degree, and economic support for community colleges is vital, said Garamendi.

Jerry McNerney of Pleasanton said that Obama's speech showed that he is in touch with the "everyday struggles of real people, and that he is committed to building the middle class and preserving the American dream for all people."

"Right now we have the opportunity to build the middle class and those trying to reach it. With a focus on creating jobs,

making education affordable, and keeping families in their homes, we can build our communities and spur economic growth."

"We have done some good work, but there are still too many folks struggling in today's economy. We have much more to do in the months to come," said McNerney.

Pete Stark, whose 13th District includes south Pleasanton and Sunol, and next year will have the entire Valley, said that he "wholeheartedly supports (the President's) call to strengthen the middle class, to make smart infrastructure investments to put America back to work, and to ensure our tax code is fair — not skewed toward the wealthy few. I urge the president to stay firmly committed to these causes in the coming months."

"I applaud the President's call for putting an end to Republican obstructionism. If we want to move our country forward, we cannot allow Republicans to repeat the brinkmanship that that led us from one crisis to another throughout 2011," said Stark.

### BROWN STILL COMITS TO HIGH-SPEED RAIL

A controversial topic in Brown's State of the State message Jan. 18 was his continued support of the high-speed rail project, which would connect San Francisco to Los Angeles with trains that can travel up to 180 mph.

Critics have said that since the estimated cost has nearly doubled to more than \$90 million, it's doubtful that voters today would approve the project.

However, Brown said that great infrastructure projects back in his first two terms as governor, and his father's two terms, had their skeptics, but have proven necessary, such as BART. The project will help deliver cleaner air by taking planes out of the air and cars off the freeway, said Brown.

The Tri-Valley Regional Rail Working Group has kept an eye on the high-speed rail developments. If the train's second route comes north toward Sacramento, it could also feed over through the Altamont to east Livermore, and hook up with the ACE train, and possibly the future BART to Livermore.

Other comments in Brown's speech included a few on education that already have been reported. Among them is the idea of giving local school districts block grants to be spent at a district's discretion. Brown provided no details. The key would be how much money would go into the block grants.

Local districts have long asked for such discretionary funds, instead of specific-category state funds with strings attached to how the money is spent.

Brown's intent is to keep several specific categories money intact, including special education, which is mandated by the federal government.

Brown also mentioned his idea for weighted funding, with a higher proportion of funding going to districts that have a higher percentage of low-income and English language learners.

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# DOGS

(continued from page one)

conducting the canine searches. She wanted to hear more student feedback.

Student trustee Shreya Gupta said that there has been plenty of discussion about the canines among her fellow Amador Valley High School students. Overall they support the policy. However, they do have concerns.

One concern was whether or not it violated their rights. "Seniors in civics classes are holding this discussion. They understand they have limited rights at school. They felt it's not that big a problem for the most part," she said.

Amador Valley students also said that not all students should be penalized for the problem, and "they do feel they are being penalized by the district." Further, it might make it look like dogs were a bigger problem than they are," said Gupta.

One student who carools with others is worried that if he just gives a ride home to someone who smells of alcohol and that odor is in the car, he will suffer for it.

Senior director of pupil services Kevin Johnson said that any investigation of such an incident would be thorough and would try to ascertain the truth. Police Chief David Spiller agreed with Johnson, adding that the dogs are not trained to detect alcohol.

Trustee Chris Grant said that it was good to hear that students are

talking about the issue. "That's half the battle. This is really designed as a deterrent, and part of that is kids talking to each other, asking each other, is this a problem or not? We have a dialogue going," said Grant.

Board president Joan Laursen said that she was "a little surprised" about her reaction to the canine drug-detection issue. She was a libertarian in college for a short time. She thought she would be uncomfortable having canines on campus.

"But after hearing Mothers with a Purpose (at a district anti-drug forum) and hearing the kids who went through recovery," and their comments about the importance of keeping drugs off campus, "my reaction was not the way I expected."

Laursen said that the process of installing the canine use within a district policy is important, and can happen relatively soon.

### BOARD WILL LOOK AT \$2 MILLION IN CUTS

District staff will bring the board at its Feb. 14 meeting a list of proposed cuts to save \$2 million in the next school year, in case the district has a \$5.5 million shortfall from state funding in a worst-case scenario.

The district can "dip into" its \$3 million reserve if the state budget makes it necessary, leaving \$2 million in cuts to cover the

remaining shortfall, said assistant superintendent Luz Cázares.

If the state comes through with enough revenue in the optimistic scenario discussed by Gov. Jerry Brown, the district's revenue would take a dip of only \$350,000, which would be a specific state cut to school bus transportation. Pleasanton contracts with a bus company to carry special education students.

The state budget is still in flux. That makes it difficult to plan for it right now, said Cázares. The district needs to approve its final budget by mid-June. The Legislature's deadline is June 30.

More important is that the district must also meet a deadline of March 15 to send out preliminary layoff notices to teachers. Final notices are sent in May, at the time of the governor's revised budget, which will offer firm numbers for the statewide school picture.

With the potential prospect of laying off teachers, the district will follow its usual policy of making cuts as far from the classroom as possible. However, it was predicted that it will be difficult, if not impossible, to avoid teacher layoffs in light of the goal of \$2 million in cuts. More will be known when the board sees the proposed cuts Feb. 14. Adoption of a list of cuts is expected at the board's Feb. 28 meeting.

# Movie Filming in downtown Pleasanton

Smera Productions announced that it will be filming scenes for their upcoming movie in downtown Pleasanton on Friday, February 3, 2012. Hari Mahesh's What If is a psychological thriller that follows Ed Baxter, a successful psychiatrist, on his journey to-

wards schizophrenia as episodes of hallucinations and paranoia complicate his life.

"It's funny how even the smallest decision can have such a great impact on an ending. What If..." said director Mahesh. "That's

what the film's about."

The film will be shot in various locations over the next three weeks throughout the Bay Area, including Fremont, Pleasanton, Saratoga, Redwood City and Napa.

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## Hacienda Reporting Positive Inflow of Tenants

Hacienda Business Park in Pleasanton is reporting a net positive inflow of tenants in 2011. Nearly 350,000 sq ft of activity occurred in Hacienda during 2011 with net absorption totaling approximately 113,000 square feet. The park is the largest mixed-use development in Northern California.

"Given the overall level of activity in the Tri-Valley in 2011, we see these numbers as a significant indication of Hacienda's value" said James Paxson, Hacienda's general manager. "Furthermore, we are seeing signs that 2012 will also be another year for positive absorption."

Major transactions in 2011 were seen by companies in a variety of business segments, including Omron Network Products (fiber optics), IntegenX (DNA-related laboratory equipment), Aplegen (scientific instruments),

Pacific Office Automation (office products), Pure Red Creative (advertising), MetLife Home Loan (finance), Re/Max Accord (real

estate), Axis Community Health (health), and Guerrilla Jiu-Jitsu (fitness).

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## Palo Alto Medical Foundation Community Health Education Programs February 2012

For a complete list of classes and class fees, lectures and health education resources, visit: [pamf.org/healtheducation](http://pamf.org/healtheducation).



### Lectures and Workshops



**Aches and Pains? Help Remains!**  
**For Your Health Community Lecture Series**  
Presented by Bryan Chin, D.O., PAMF Internal Medicine  
Wednesday, Feb. 15, 6:30 - 8 p.m.  
4050 Dublin Boulevard, Dublin, 925-875-6464

Leave the evening with a better understanding of how to reduce your aches through manipulation. Learn about the relationship between the body's structure and function, how this relates to pain, and the benefits of osteopathic medicine.

### Services at the Dublin Center



**A Mother's Place: Postpartum Support Group**  
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Meet with an R.N. and certified lactation consultant to ensure your first weeks of motherhood are healthy and happy.

#### Childbirth and Parent Education Classes, 650-853-2960

- Breastfeeding - Secrets for Success
- Preparing for Birth

#### Nutrition and Diabetes Classes, 510-498-2184

- Heart Smart (cholesterol management)
- Living Well with Diabetes
- Living Well with Prediabetes
- Raising Healthy and Happy Eaters! (for parents of children ages 1-6)

#### Weight Management Programs, 510-498-2184

- Bariatric Weight Loss Surgery Program
- Healthy eating, Active lifestyles. (for parents of children ages 2-12)
- Lifesteps® (adult weight management)
- New Weigh of Life (adult weight management)

#### Community Health Resource Center

The Health Resource Center offers information and support for those who wish to make informed decisions regarding their health and wellness. The center is open to all members of the community, and services are provided at no cost.

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- Health reference books
- Health lectures
- Health newsletters
- Informational brochures
- Educational videotapes and DVDs
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- Information on community resources

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# SPORTS NOTES



Trent Trump from the Livermore Aquacowboys' Senior Group was selected to represent Pacific Swimming in the National Distance Training Camp held January 26 through January 29. Trent flew to the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs in order to participate in the camp for some of the best young distance swimmers in the country. He held meetings with some of the best coaches in the country and he was able to train at the Olympic Training Facility.



Pictured is West Coast Soccer's Melissa Ellis as she makes a move on a Juventus player on her way to goal. Melissa scored one of two goals in the Wild's win over Juventus.



Photo - Doug Jorgensen  
Granada High School defeated Foothill High 41 to 37 in EBAL action last week. In the photo, Foothill's Nick Bussani (25) attempts to keep Devin DeBrum (23) from driving to the basket.



Martial Arts of America Livermore presented its 2011 Grand Masters. Pictured (from left) are Emma Britton BBC1 division, Amalie Hittinger BBC2 division, Skylar Shapiro BB division, Timothy Blanton BBC2 division, and Noah Roe Tigers division. These students received the highest number of points for the 2011 tournament season.

The Hot Shots Girls U9 soccer team captured the Cabernet Indoor U9 Championship. The team was undefeated all season. They played two tough teams on Sunday. The final game was down to the wire and the Hot Shots won as a team in the last 45 seconds. Pictured are (back, left to right) Brooke Schaible, Coach Kirk Murphy, Sohpia Anderson, Kayla Remund, Erin Murphy, Coach Brian Cox, Alana Cox, Corrina Bartolotto; (front) Maddie Riddle, Brooke Trevethan, Kelsey Brumm, Bridget Yocham, and Taylor Sprott.

### Livermore Wrestling

Livermore High School men's wrestling team defeated San Ramon 63 to 12 in a meet held in Livermore.

The results: 108-Cortez (L) p Mitchell (SR) 3:56; 115-Macasool (L) f; 122-Sanchez (L) d Stouffer (SR) 10:6; 128-Disbrow (L) p Mostaghim (SR) 2:31; 134-Pinto (SR) d Robles (L) 8:5; 140-Gunari (SR) md Fabian (L) 14:4; 147-Roach (L) p Turbus (SR) 4:30; 154-Bohland (L) p Roberts (SR) 2:35; 162-Rardon (L) p Labrie (SR) 2:46; 173-Morgan (L) p Klapperich (SR) 2:36; 184-Flores (SR) p McNaney (L) 5:49; 197-Ezerski (L) f; 222-Neale (L) p Thomas (SR) 4:45; 287-Hernandez (L) f;

### Trampoline Competition

Livermore's Springtime Tumbling and Trampoline Team competed in the MEGA Trampoline Competition in San Rafael on January 22nd. Athletes competed in Trampoline and Double Mini Trampoline.

Trampoline Results:  
Level 5: Miranda Harries 21.60 (2nd), Nicholas Abrego 20.40 (2nd), Zoe Harries 19.20 (2nd)

Level 6: Sabra Wilson 22.50 (2nd), Lexi Carzoli 21.70 (3rd)

Level 7: Loren Couture 23.20 (1st), David Davison 22.70 (1st), Paige Chew 21.80 (2nd), Megan Contariego 21.60 (3rd), Megan Hebert 21.30 (1st), Alex Holland 20.60 (2nd)

Level 8: Kaitlyn Clevenger 52.20 (1st), Jeremy Pigford 50.60 (1st)

Level 9: Delaney Foote 56.80 (2nd), Ruben Padilla 56.10 (1st), Robathan Harries 52.20 (1st), Joshua Erickson 52.10 (1st)

Double Mini Results:  
Level 5: Miranda Harries 56.20 (1st), Zoe Harries 55.60 (2nd), Nicholas Abrego 54.30 (1st)

Level 6: Lexi Carzoli 57.70 (1st), Page Chew 57.50 (2nd), Sabra Wilson 57.30 (1st)

Level 7: Megan Hebert 58.10 (1st), Alex Holland 58.10 (2nd), Megan Contariego 57.50 (3rd), Loren Couture 57.20 (1st)

Level 8: Joshua Erickson 60.20 (1st), David Davison 59.00 (3rd), Kaitlyn Clevenger 58.30 (1st), Jeremy Pigford 58.10 (4th)

Level 9: Delaney Foote 61.20 (1st)

Robathan Harries 50.80 (1st)  
Level 10: Ruben Padilla 63.60 (1st)

### Edge Gymnastics

Edge Gymnastics team members competed in the 2012 National Gymnastics Festival at Gymtowne Gymnastics in San Mateo on January 28. The level 8 team finished first. Results:

Level 7: Younger: Brianna Londeree, 2nd on floor (9.025); Middle: Julia Pfluger, 1st all-around (36.1), 2nd bars (9.35), 2nd floor (9.45); Kimberly Smelley, 2nd all-around (35.875), 1st floor (9.475); Serena Chan, 3rd all-around (35.725); Rhianne Khweled, 1st beam (9.375)

Level 8: Middle: Kelley Hebert, 1st all-around (38.0), 1st vault (9.5), 1st bars (9.6), 1st beam (9.325), 1st floor (9.575); Marcela Matheus, 2nd all-around (36.5), 2nd vault (9.15), 2nd bars (9.4). Older: Angelica Leporati, 1st vault (9.075), 1st beam (9.25); Kelsey Ferranti, 2nd floor (9.275)

Level 9: Older: Yasmine Yektaparas, 1st all-around (36.825), 1st beam (9.25), 1st floor (9.45), 2nd vault (9.1); Stephanie Relova, 2nd beam (9.125), 3rd floor (9.075); Nicole Corkill, 2nd vault (9.25); Kendall Green, 3rd vault (8.925)

Level 10: All Ages: Kara Jones, 1st all-around (35.425), 1st tie floor (8.825), 2nd beam (9.3)

### Seahawks Surge

The Pleasanton Seahawks (PLS) had a very busy weekend Jan 21 and 22 competing at the Long Course Super League Championships in Concord and the C/B/A+ Meet in San Ramon. Many best times and new cuts were in the making

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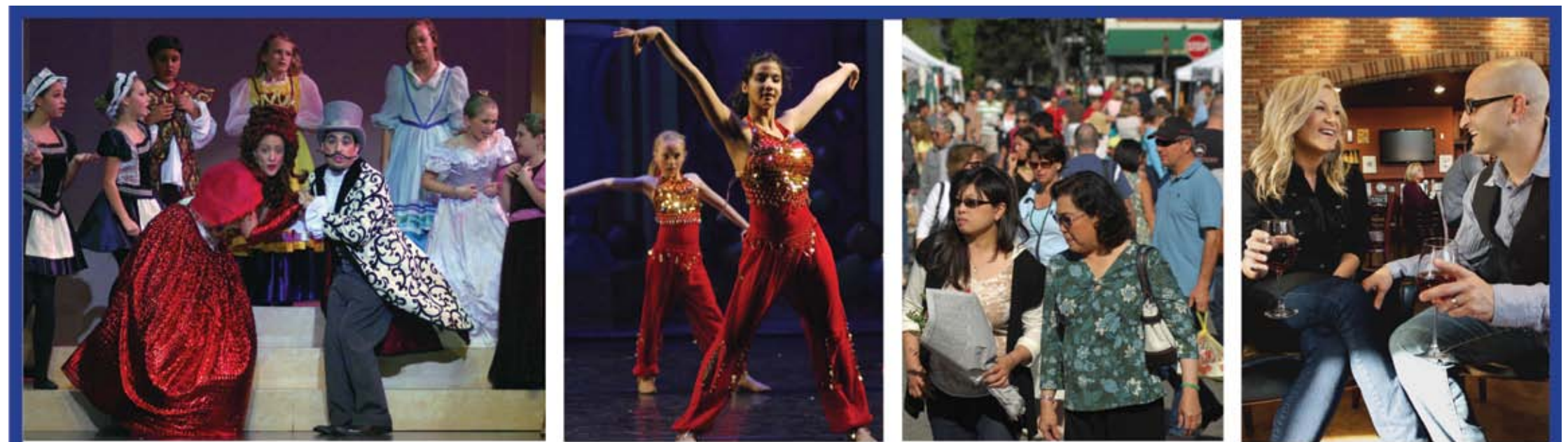
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# SPORTS NOTES



The 16 Head First Gamers baseball team won the Twin Creeks Winter Blast Tournament on Sunday, January 22, 2012. The Gamers put together a complete team effort with timely hitting, great defense and excellent pitching to win the tournament. They only fielded 9 players for the tournament and everyone contributed. Garrett Hodos, Jordan Ott and Ryan Probst pitched complete game victories. Hodos pitched a gutsy 5 – 4 win in the opener. After giving up four runs in the first two innings, Hodos shut down the opposition over the next 5 innings for the victory. In the second game, Ott (pictured above right) threw a No Hitter with 11 strikeouts. Probst won the championship game with a 9 – 3 victory. Garrett Vaughn was named tournament MVP. Pictured are the team (from left) Coach Jesse Kingdon, Jordan Ott, Nick Adgar, Jared Cleto, Gabe Tramble, Trevor Greenley, Garrett Hodos, Ryan Probst, Garrett Vaughn, Coach Chuck Humphrey and Carlos Garcia kneeling.



Pictured is West Coast Olympic Gymnastics Academy Level 9 gymnast Isabella Orecchia.



The 6th grade Flyers captured the CYO Basketball Division Championship, ending the season with a 9-1 record after defeating St. Joan 27-14. Pictured (left to right) are Emily March, Coach Lori, Katie Fournier, Aliyah Barone, Lauren Rodgers, Maddy "she's got moves like Jagger" Stewart, Emma Zika, Maddy Valone, Jessica Bennett, Kate Marcel, Katherine Gomez, Coach Tim and Vanessa Barone.

including new team records.

**Super League Championships**  
Senior Elite: Lifetime best times by Marissa Bergh (100 fly); Cayla Jetter (200/400 free); Tony Shen (50 free). Unrested season best times: Iris Brand (200/400 free); Marissa Brown (400 free); Eva Chung (400 IM); Chris Dourou (200 back); Nick Johnston (200 free); Rachel Knowles (200 fly, 400 free); Celina Li (200/400 IM); Nick Silverthorn (100/200 back); James Thompson (200 fly, 200/400 free); Maggie Woods (50/200/400 free).

**CB/A+ Meet**  
Pre Novice Group: Alcina Kenny first swim meet swimming best times (BTs) in 25 free, 50 back; Adora Do swam fast 50 free/breast; Adam Valentine BT 50 back, shaving off 7 seconds (1:16.60) and did well in 25/50 free and 25 fly; Dominick Wonosaputra BTs 50 free/back, (57.35 and 1:07.18 respectively) and did well in 25 free, 50 breast.

Novice I Group: Sophia Stiles achieved a B time in 50 Breast and a lifetime best time (LBT) in 25 Free. Andrew Li achieved LBTs in 50 Free and 50 Breast. Niva Ranavat achieved an LBT in 50 Free.

Novice II Group: Nikita Gautham

100% best times – new B time 50 Breast (1:04.50); Emily Tsai 2/3 BTs (25 Free, 100 IM); Bryson Huey 5/6 BTs (25 Free, 50 Back, 50 Breast, 25 Fly, 100 IM).

Pre-Junior Group: New B-times - Rachana Mukkamala, Samantha Snow, Tim Ding, Sophie Bueche, Isabella Chin, Catharina Ren, Chris Lam; New A-times - Duhita Gondhalekar, Nicole Stiles, Emma Washam, Hunter Pace; New JO Cuts - Kyra Black, Alex Ren; New JO Westerns Cuts - Kyle Kenny

Junior Group: Katherinea Cory had 3 BTs, Miranda Heckman set a new team record in the 10 and under 100 back, Grace Kim made 3 new JO times, Lara Serban made a JO time in the 500 free, Justin Tsai BT 50 back, Alexa Bui 3 BTs, Susan Chen 2 BTs, Laurel Heckman improved her 500 free, Christy Neufeld 100% BTs, Paulina Umansky 3 BTs, Emma Valentine 5 BTs, Nja Zuniga 3 BTs, Paarsa Heidari 2 BTs, Alex Kuang 2 BTs, Matthew Neufeld 3 BTs, Ben Song 4 BTs, Ben Sproul 5 BTs, Tim Yao 3 BTs, Matthew Li 3 BTs.

Varsity/Pre Senior Groups: Special congratulations to Samantha Howell who broke two team records (100 Free 54.22, 200 Free 1:57.35) and swam 7 best times; Shawn Kim - new FW 50 Free and 2 best

times; Best Times: Michelle Wang (3), Sophia Barrera (4), Christopher Jhong (8), Wolfgang Lachance (3), Michael Martin (2), Pieter Cory (3), Michael Yao (2), Vera Umansky (7), Danielle Zacharias (5), Mandy Helle (2), Teesa Heidari (3), Lekya Mukkamala (4), Anthony Jhong (5), Jonathan Mui (4), Nathaniel Sproul (2), Christopher Lee (3), Trevor Lee (1), Eli Chin (2), Jeffrey Wang (2), Charlie Li (4)

### CYO Basketball

The 7th grade St. Michaels/St. Charles (SM/SC) STOMP! CYO basketball game team did it again. Battling to stay on top of the scoreboard they picked up the pace in 2nd quarter and took charge leaving the court at the half with a 6 point lead. However, Catholic Community of Pleasanton (CCOP) tied it up in the 3rd. STOMP! continued to drop shots in a very defensive game. Sinking 5 much needed points in the 4th, they took the lead by 3 and held on till the final buzzer beating CCOP by a mere 12-9. LeRhae Sanders scored half the points, shooting 30% from the field, with 3 steals, 2 rebounds, extreme hustle and playing fundamental

basketball. Robyn Kammeier dropped one in at the end to push STOMP! ahead and grabbed 3 rebounds to shut her opponents off. Taylor Peterson also had 4 rebounds, 3 points, 2 blocked shots and 2 steals for the team while Shannon Meyer shut down the key down low with 4 rebounds, 2 steals, a blocked shot and caused 2 turnovers. Madissen Taylor kept CCOP out of the paint and off the scoreboard. Two attempts, 2 rebounds and 2 blocked shots helped earn her team the victory.

In their last game of the season, the SM/SC 6th grade Warriors faced the CCOP team they opened the season against. The Warriors took the loss in the first game. This time around they were hoping to earn a win to even up the season matchups. The Warriors, a small team in comparison to the bigger CCOP players, played pressure defense all four quarters. They created numerous CCOP turnovers at half court, but were not able to convert them against the opposition's equally impressive defense. On offense, the Warriors' had several opportunities to score in the perimeter and in the paint. However, most of those attempts came up short, and were no match against the CCOP's hot offensive. The victory went to CCOP with a final score of 22-13. Riley VanTrease led the Warriors with 5 points, followed by Tyler Langowski with 4 points. Lukas Owen and Keaton Simoni contributed with 2 points each. Seth Davis reeled in 3 rebounds.

### WCOGA Gymnastics

West Coast Olympic Gymnastics Academy optional gymnasts competed at the Red Heart 10.0 Invitational at Bay Aerials Gymnastics in Fremont, on January 7-8, 2012, at the 2012 Flips Invitational at Flips USA in Reno, NV on January 15, 2012, and at the San Diego Classic/Nastia Invite 2012 at Poway Gymnastics in San Diego, CA on January 22, 2012.

Red Heart 10.0 Invitational: Level 9, Isabella Orecchia finished in 6th place all-around with a 32.675. In her first meet at Level 8, Anna Siebel finished in 8th place all-around with a 34.125. In her first meet at Level 7, Megan Quinton finished in 9th place on bars and 10th place all-around.

2012 Flips Invitational: Level 8 gymnast Anna Siebel finished in 9th place on bars with a 9.325.

San Diego Classic/Nastia Invite 2012: Level 7 gymnast Jessica Yen finished 3rd place on bars with an 8.375 and 7th place all-around. Level 7 gymnast Rebecca Yen finished 8th place on floor with an 8.500 and 10th place all-around.

### West Coast Soccer

The West Coast Soccer Wild U14G RAL kicked off the season with two tough matches. The Wild traveled to Elk Grove to play the first game of the New Year.

The first half was a tough welcome back from the holiday break. The rusty Wild battled strong winds, a bumpy turf, and a tough Everton team, even with second half adjustments and cobwebs shed, the Wild fell short, 0-2.

On the following day, the Wild played Juventus at home at Livermore's Robertson Park. They picked up on the momentum they started to build in Everton. Even with freezing rain coming down, the Wild battled a tough and extremely fast Juventus team. As the game progressed, the Wild continued to grow stronger and play with more intensity, speed, and aggressiveness than their opponent. The Wild's Tori Nicolo, and Melissa Ellis both scored goals in the second half to give the girls a 2-0 win over Juventus. The entire team played well and contributed to the win.

### Community Day at A's

Livermore community in support of Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) athletic programs at the Oakland A's vs. Cleveland Indians game on Sunday April 22nd. The National Anthem will be performed by Livermore's own, Granada High Junior, Braden Sweeney. Family packages, field level seats, tailgate BBQ parking, t-shirts and more. Sponsor packages are available and include sponsor name on event signage and t-shirt. The order deadline is March 31, 2012. More information can be found at the LVJUSD website ([www.livermoreschools.com](http://www.livermoreschools.com)) or by emailing [communityrelations@lvjUSD.k12.ca.us](mailto:communityrelations@lvjUSD.k12.ca.us).

### Bocce Kits for Rent

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District is now 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.

### High School Basketball

Foothill at Livermore High School, the second of four basketball games to air on Tri-Valley Community TV, will be taped on Friday, February 3rd and air the next day. Tri-Valley Sports Final personalities Ian Bartholomew and George "Dr. B" Baljevich will be providing commentary.

Tri-Valley TV30 will begin broadcasting the game on Comcast TV channel 30 and AT&T U-verse via channel 99 on Saturday, February 4th at 7:00 p.m. In addition, the game is scheduled to stream live and be available via Video on Demand on the Tri-Valley TV website at [www.trivalleytv.org](http://www.trivalleytv.org). DVDs of the games may also be purchased via the website.

Foothill at Livermore broadcast schedule: Saturday, 7 p.m., Sunday at 5 p.m., Tuesday at 9 p.m. and Thursday at 10 p.m.

### Water Polo Registration

Registration is underway for water polo. LARPD is offering two water polo programs this spring. Six to ten year old athletes can register for Splashball, a "T-ball" version of water polo. Splashball meets on Fridays from 3:30-5:00pm at the Robert Livermore Community Center pool from March 9 through May 18 and costs \$85 (no class 4/6). Older or experienced athletes can register for the 14 & Under LAZERS team.

The LAZERS team practices on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 4-5:30pm at the Robert Livermore Community Center pool from February 27 through May 18 and costs \$250. Parents are encouraged to attend an informative parents' meeting 2/27 at 4pm. All experience levels are welcome.

To register, call 925-373-5751, or visit [www.larpd.dst.ca.us](http://www.larpd.dst.ca.us). For more information about the LAZERS, visit

# SHORT NOTES

### Mushroom Madness

Mushroom Madness is the topic of the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District ranger program on Sun., Feb. 5.

Meet Ranger Amy Wolitzer at 1 p.m. at the reserved picnic area at Sycamore Grove Park.

Ranger Amy and Debbie Veiss of the Bay Area Mycological Society will lead the annual mushroom hunt in Sycamore Grove Park. Join this program to crawl around under trees, wander through meadows and look at rotting logs to see how many different types of fungi can be found. In 2011 there were more than 25. Wear clothes that can get dirty. Please be aware that mushrooms may not be removed from the park – you can take lots of photos but the fungi needs to remain in its habitat. Call 925-960-2400 for directions to the reserved picnic area.

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.

### Sing, Ring, Listen, Paint

There will be a special *Sing, Ring, Listen and Paint* storytime on Saturday, February 11, 2012 at 10:30am at the Livermore Public Library Civic Center, 1188 S. Livermore Avenue.

This will be a storytime about bells, sing about bells, and ring bells—and before you leave, help paint large bells provided by Café Art which will be placed on display in the Library. Bells and take-home crafts provided courtesy of Amelia Escutia and Café Art.

This program is part of *Livermore Reads Together*, a community-wide reading program featuring John Hersey's book *A Bell for Adano*, which takes place in Italy during World War II. The community of Livermore is encouraged to join their neighbors by participating in the *Livermore Reads Together* free events for children and adults during the month of February 2012. Copies of books and event schedules are available at all Livermore Public Library locations. *Livermore Reads Together* is sponsored by

The Friends of the Livermore Library.

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

### Valentine Theme

M.o.M.'s Reading Time this February theme for The Day it Rained Hearts! The Museum on Main invites preschoolers (ages 2-5) and their families to join in the monthly preschool pre-literacy program, M.o.M.'s Reading Time. On Wednesday, February 8th from 10am-11am participants will enjoy The Day It Rained Hearts with books and crafts in honor of Valentine's Day.

This program sponsored by Target's Early Childhood Reading Grant Program introduces preschoolers to books and activities about the unique people, places, and events in the community.

Book reading begins at 10am with theme crafts immediately following. Free admission. Donations are always appreciated. No Reservations are required. Large groups or playgroups please call in advance:

925.462.2766 or email: [education@museumonmain.org](mailto:education@museumonmain.org). For more information check the museum website at [www.museumonmain.org](http://www.museumonmain.org).

### Coldwell Banker

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage has announced that Anil Uppal has joined the company as a sales associate in its Livermore office. In his new position, Uppal will specialize in residential sales in Dublin, Pleasanton, Livermore, Sunol, San Ramon, Danville and Blackhawk.

Prior to joining Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, Uppal had a successful career for 36 years in the auto industry where he served in various corporate and management positions in India and London.

Uppal earned his degree in mechanical engineering from Monereco (MNNIT) in Allahabad, India. He is the founder and president of the Monereco Alumni Association Delhi – NCR Chapter in India, and is an active member of the Northern California Chapter of the Monereco

### Alumni Association.

Uppal recently completed an intensive training program through Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, which emphasizes the principles and tech-

### niques of real estate.

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Livermore is located at 2470 First Street #204 and can be reached at 925.371.2100. (continued on page 9)

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U12 Boys & U12 Girls: 2pm-3:30pm	U12 Boys & U12 Girls: 9:30am-10:45am
U13 Boys & U13 Girls: 4pm-5:30pm	U13 Boys & U13 Girls: 11am-12:15pm

ALL TRYOUTS ARE AT:  
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San Ramon, CA 94582

To register for the tryouts, please visit  
[www.trivalleysoccerclub.com](http://www.trivalleysoccerclub.com)

# No Hair Challenge Is Too Big for Her Secret

By Patricia Koning

Hair loss can be devastating, especially for women. It's also much more common than you might think — diseases like alopecia, lupus, and trichotillomania can cause hair loss, medications and medical treatment like chemotherapy, along with damage from coloring, perms, and straightening, and even the natural aging process all cause hair loss.

For women in the Tri-Valley facing hair challenges, there's Her Secret, a one-of-a-kind hair salon specializing in couture hair extensions, hair weaving, and hair replacement. On Thursday, Feb. 9, the Livermore Chamber of Commerce will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Her Secret. Since summer, the salon has been quietly operating at 2612 Old First Street, a location that's both secluded and near downtown with plenty of parking.

Owner Helen Owens moved Her Secret to Livermore from San Leandro after that location became too hectic. She owns another Her Secret salon in Tracy and operates Classics International salons in New York City and Los Angeles.

It's not much of an exaggeration to say that Helen has been helping women deal with hair loss for most of her life. Like her mother, Helen suffers from alopecia areata, a medical condi-

tion that results in hair loss from some or all parts of the body. She lost her hair at age 11. "You can imagine how devastating that was," she says. "My mother had a collection of wigs, so I started cutting those up to fit into my little bald spots."

She soon began receiving professional instruction from a neighbor who made show wigs for the entertainment industry. She started designing custom hairpieces and wigs for friends and family and word of her skills quickly spread. By the time she was 18, Helen had already landed her first celebrity client — Izora Armstead of the Weather Girls, an R&B group best known for the 1982 hit "It's Raining Men."

One of her highest profile clients is Tony and Grammy award winner Jennifer Holliday, the original "Effie White" in the Broadway hit "Dreamgirls." She's also worked with professional runners Cryste Gaines, Inger Miller, and Florence Griffith Joyner.

"I love being able to help women overcome hair loss," says Helen. "My skills can make a huge difference in someone's life."

She makes a dozen different hair units for women, all handmade using hair from India, which Helen says is the highest quality available. Making a custom hair unit takes about six



Helen Owens (left) works with Jo Owens on a hairpiece.

Photo - Doug Jorgensen

to eight weeks. The price ranges from \$500 to \$10,000. Her wigs are a lifelong investment — they can last 15 or more years with regular maintenance.

When a client comes to her for a wig, Helen first goes through a consultation. "Often people bring me a picture of how they used to look," she explains. "I can create a wig that gives them back that

hair." Or, she can completely transform a woman's look.

A different challenge is posed by women suffering from trichotillomania, the compulsive urge to pull out one's own hair. "I create a special wig or hairpiece that is extremely durable and customized to discourage pulling," says Helen. "Sometimes, this along

with behavior modification and other medical care, is enough to break the cycle."

She also provides these patients complete privacy or schedules them only with other trichotillomania patients to build a sense of community. "It doesn't work for everyone," says Helen. "When I succeed, this is some of

the most gratifying work I do."

In addition to the custom wigs, she provides hair extensions, which can be a hair replacement solution as well as a way to add volume or just change one's style. Her Secret also offers all regular salon services like haircuts, styling, perms, straightening, and color. Helen will be styling KKIQ radio host Faith Alpher's hair for Livermore Valley Opera's 20th anniversary gala celebration on Jan. 28.

Another of Helen's specialties is working with the hair of biracial children. "The hair of mixed race children can be difficult to work with because there are so many different textures," she explains. "I have five brothers who are all married to women of different nationalities so through my nieces and nephews, I've seen it all. I love it."

Labelle Agency of Dallas recently named Helen a celebrity hair stylist for the west coast. "This recognition is, for a hair stylist, the equivalent of winning an Academy Award," she says. "I really enjoy the creativity of working on celebrities, but my first love will always be helping women like myself, who suffer from hair loss."

For more information, visit [www.hersecret-hair.com](http://www.hersecret-hair.com) or call 510-910-4850.

## DUBLIN

(continued from page one)

ties, All-American Cities must demonstrate innovation, inclusiveness, civic engagement and cross-sector collaboration by describing successful efforts to address local challenges. Job creation, neighborhood revitalization, crime reduction, improving education and engaging youth are key to earning the All-American City title.

Throughout 2012, ongoing celebrations of this achievement and the city's 30th anniversary of its incorporation will include a Saint Patrick's Day Parade, a special July event, and fireworks at the new Food and Wine Festival in September.

"We know that one of the reasons for our success in 2011 was intense planning in 2009 and 2010," said Sbranti. "We are

entering a similar phase in our city's history, where planning in 2012 will reap huge benefits for Dublin's future."

The city was able to balance its 2011-2012 fiscal year budget without the use of reserves. Staff will be moving to a 2-year budget process, allowing more time for productive, forward-thinking pursuits as opposed to just undertaking budget exercises, said Sbranti.

Although the Tri-Valley had been hit hard during the recession, Sbranti pointed out that Dublin's sales tax numbers have increased and property tax revenue is positive.

Recent noteworthy Dublin developments include the opening of the School of Imagination (a non-profit organization dedi-

cated to helping special-needs youngsters get the support and services they need), the Tri-valley YMCA, Sprouts Farmers Market, Sports Authority and the downtown BART station, as well as finishing the Downtown Specific Plan. The plan utilizes a market-driven approach that encourages redevelopment of existing spaces along with additional incentives to develop vacant lots in order to densify the downtown area and make it more pedestrian-friendly.

Robert Tucknott, CEO of Tucknott Electric Co., said, "Dublin has gone a great distance in the past year to build this city into a high-quality, desirable community in which to conduct business and to live. I'm excited about all the new plans for various projects

as we are watching them being completed."

The Façade Improvement Program provides mini-grants, matching fund opportunities, and the free use of architectural services allowing owners to envision and enhance their properties in the downtown area and along Dublin Boulevard between Village Parkway and Dougherty Road.

"I keep up with nearly everything our city is planning," said Angela Muetterties, a 17-year Dublin resident and Tri-Valley Realtor. "The one thing I am constantly impressed with is the elected officials' and staff's level of professionalism and the passion they show for the work they undertake."

Sbranti spoke about the city's

enthusiasm for environmental efforts including partnering with schools to support waste management goals, the completion of a comprehensive energy audit along with immediate implementation of recommendations such as using LED (light-emitting diode) lights in designated parks and along city streets, developing a water conservation management element, and protecting open space along the urban-growth boundary in east Dublin.

"We also have a vibrant faith community," added Sbranti. "We're actively working on addressing needs within our city and the entire Tri-valley. We'll be hosting a Pastor's Summit in the coming months to review the recently released Tri-Valley Hu-

man Needs Assessment, analyze service gaps, and find out how we can partner together to address these issues.

"In the past 30 years, we've accomplished much and we have a lot to be proud of," concluded Sbranti. "With the work slated to take place in 2012, there's no doubt that the next 30 years, and beyond, will be even brighter."

Economic Development Director Linda Smith added, "The overall sentiment of the Mayor's remarks were extremely positive and reflected a very bright future for the City of Dublin. The city continues to position itself as a great place to do business."

For more information, visit [www.timsbranti.net/blog/](http://www.timsbranti.net/blog/) or [www.ci.dublin.ca.us/](http://www.ci.dublin.ca.us/)

## DOWNTOWN

(continued from page one)

Johnny Cash, part Elvis and pure Wolf.

"Every bar downtown with a TV screen will be tuned in to watch Hamlin perform during Hollywood week," said Snedecor. "Downtown is the place for us to gather as a community and as a region, to celebrate anything that happens in our community. Having Wolf here tonight to share with us really does fit right in with what a vibrant downtown is all about."

Livermore Mayor John Marchand and Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty offered comments.

Marchand declared, "The downtown is truly the heart and soul of a community. Our downtown is where the community comes together. Call me biased, but I think our downtown

is particularly special. It is where brilliance thrives."

Haggerty said that the great thing is that Livermore has been able to hold onto the past while looking toward the future to build a vibrant downtown that is enhanced by the Bankhead Theater.

Following their speeches, 13 year old Kylie Miller, whose mother and aunt own WoopieDaisy Toy Shop at 154 S. J Street, took the stage to read an essay she was assigned in her 8th grade honors core class to capture an important memory. She chose to write about growing up in the shop. Her words capture the charm of shopping in downtown Livermore: "As you walk through the screen door, you hear the delightful creak of squeaky hinges," Kylie wrote.

"You instantly feel the shop welcome you."

Since 1986, Livermore Downtown Inc. has been a Certified National Trust for Historic Preservation's Main Street Program which is geared toward revitalizing downtowns nationwide through a four-point approach: organization - establishing co-operation and collaboration; promotion - rekindling community pride and economic confidence; design - creating an inviting, safe environment and appealing atmosphere; and economic restructuring - strengthening existing economic assets while converting under-used commercial space into productive properties.

Combining these four points with its tagline "Where Brilliance Thrives!," LDI honored this

year's recipients before swearing in the new board members.

The first award of the night went to Volunteer of the Year, Jeff Williams, who served as LDI's liaison during his four-year term as city councilmember. "In the last ten years, Livermore's downtown has gone from four lanes of gravel trucks going 35 miles an hour to a fantastic place for people to gather, have a good time, and do some shopping," noted Williams.

Business of the Year went to Artistic Edge. Located in historic Blacksmith Square at 21 S. Livermore Avenue, Artistic Edge offers one-of-a-kind gifts from local and regional artists.

Historic Building Rehab was awarded to El Sacramento Restaurant and Bar, 2062 First Street,

noted for its authentic, gourmet Mexican and Central American cuisine. ("With a French infusion," added Mayor John Marchand.) Property owner Rick Corbett said, "A few people have asked about the purple accent color on the outside. I asked my granddaughter what her favorite color was this month, and she said purple. The good news is, the month before, it was pink."

Hero of the Year went to commercial realtor Sherry Nigg, who, along with her contractor husband Dan, does everything possible to fill the spaces and make sure tenants are long-term. "To us, they're family."

Board Member of the Year was given to First Street Alehouse owner Brook Witherspoon who served as board president for

the past two years. "One thing I'm really proud of is bringing green practices to downtown. Our business was just certified a green business, which is a tremendous achievement," said Witherspoon.

Partner of the Year was awarded to the Public Works Street Team. Handling everything from potholes to signs to traffic control during special events and pooper-scooping after the rodeo parade, the team makes sure the downtown is always photo-ready.

Board members are president Elizabeth Fields, vice president Ivy Faught, secretary Crystal Burke, treasurer Dennis Swanson, immediate past president Brook Pavich, and board of directors, Anthony McPeake, Nickie Branco, Nancy Mueller, Robert Gundrey, and Bryan Fangues.

# County Looks at New Airport Land Use Policy

Alameda County's Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC) is revising its airport land use compatibility plan, which last was updated in 1986.

The commission met for a work session Jan. 26 at the county public works building in Dublin to hear public comments about its proposed text changes.

Two people spoke from the audience. Livermore principal planner Steve Riley talked about various points that Livermore wants to make certain the plan is recognizing.

Dave Nielsen, project manager for a new church under construction in the airport zone, talked

about ensuring that the rules will not prevent any problems in building the new church.

The new Crosswinds church would be on Freisman Road, which runs easterly from El Charro Road to a dead end near the church property, which is east of the golf driving range.

The church is switching its development plans to a 36-acre parcel from a smaller one it acquired also on Freisman Road. It currently is housed in Dublin.

The church wants to make sure that the county will still allow the kinds of land uses it currently does both at the new location and at the smaller Freis-

man Road site, which the church wants to sell to a developer.

Nielsen told The Independent that the property owners in the whole vicinity near El Charro Road worked for years with the city on the El Charro Specific Plan, which has been approved by the city. They all want to make sure that the county honors the land uses permitted by the plan.

The city has the same interest about the El Charro plan zoning, Riley told The Independent. The city wants the county to grandfather in any development that has vested rights, such as an approved map.

The major development in

the area, which is already under construction, is the Paragon Outlet Center. The county has not said officially that it would be grandfathered in, because the plan has not been adopted. Riley is confident that there won't be any problem. All airport issues were resolved before Paragon construction started, said Riley.

"Based on the definition in the draft plan, it appears the El Charro development would meet it. There is not disagreement. It's a matter of communicating that," said Riley.

Riley said that the city also wants ALUC to be notified by Livermore only when there is a

change in proposed land use density (how many people on the land), intensity (e.g., commercial is used more often than warehousing), and proposed land use changes.

ALUC's draft has the city referring other changes, such as engineering of projects. Livermore feels that is not necessary, said Riley.

County senior transportation planner Cindy Horvath said that the comment period on the study will end on Feb. 6.

Horvath noted that the ALUC

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THE WOMAN IN BLACK (PG13) DLP	12:00	2:25	4:45	7:05	9:35	
CHRONICLE (PG13) DLP	12:25	2:40	4:50	7:20	9:30	
BIG MIRACLE (PG) DLP	1:30	4:10	6:50	9:15		
HUGO 3D(PG) DLP	1:00	4:00	6:40	9:20		
THE GREY D-BOX (R) DLP	1:05	4:30	7:10	9:55		
ONE FOR THE MONEY (PG13) DLP	12:15	2:30	4:40	7:15	9:30	
MAN ON A LEDGE (PG13) DLP	1:15	4:15	6:55	9:25		
UNDERWORLD AWAKENING 3D (R) DLP	12:20	2:35	5:00	7:20	9:35	
EXTREMELY LOUD & INCREDIBLY CLOSE (PG13) DLP	12:30	3:50	6:45	9:40		
RED TAILS (PG13) DLP	12:35	3:55	6:50	9:45		
BEAUTY AND THE BEAST 3D (G) DLP	12:05	2:20	4:35	6:45	9:00	
CONTRABAND (R) DLP	1:10	4:00	7:05	9:45		
THE IRON LADY (PG13) DLP	1:20	4:25	7:15	9:40		



## SHORT NOTES

(continued from page 7)

Uppal may be reached directly at 925.895.1153 and via e-mail at Anil.Uppal@cbnorcal.com.

### Landmark Mortgage

Landmark Mortgage Group announces the affiliation of many of its Advisors serving key roles in 2012 for local real estate organizations.

Mortgage Advisor and Managing Partner, Rick Benitez was elected Affiliate Director for Bay East Association of Realtors (BEAR) for 2012-2013.

Mortgage Advisor and Branch Manager, Linda LoGrasso will serve as the Education and Program Chairperson for Women's Council of Realtors (WCR) Delta chapter.

Mortgage Advisor Russ Bar- to's, 3<sup>rd</sup> year with the Tri-Cities chapter of WCR, will be as Budget and Finance board member for 2012.

Mortgage Advisors Corinne Andrews and Laurie Christeson were elected to the Real Estate Alliance of Livermore (REAL) board. Andrews will serve as Media Communications Officer and Christeson as Tour Coordinator.

Also, Mortgage Advisor Todd Utikal, is on the board for 2012, in the capacity of Public Relations Officer with the Pleasanton Rotary Club.

In their roles for these organizations, our Mortgage Advisors will strengthen Landmark Mortgage Group's leadership in the community and continue to be

the Total Lending Resource.

### Agent Training

David Bonvicin, Farmers Insurance agent in Pleasanton, has completed the Career Agents Course at the University of Farmers training facility in Agoura Hills, California.

The course gives an agent the ability to learn how to successfully understand the needs of Farmers' customers and help them choose the right insurance to meet their needs.

### Unitarian Guest

John Buehrens, former President of the Unitarian Universalist Association, is coming to the Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore on Sunday, February

5 at 10:30 a.m. He will lead worship and then lecture on his newly published book, *Universalists and Unitarians in America: A People's History*.

Buehrens led the liberal religious denomination from 1993-2001. Since that time, he has pastored the First Parish in Needham. He is an activist for progressive causes. Today he sits on the national board of Freedom to Marry, an organization committed to marriage equality.

The Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore is located at 1893 North Vasco Road in Livermore. Sunday services begin at 10:30 a.m. The church is accessible to people with disabilities and welcomes children of all ages.

## AGREEMENT

(continued from page one)

PPOA employees based on an agreement reached in previous years in lieu of the employees receiving salary adjustments. In the current contract discussions, agreement was reached for the PPOA employees to pay the full 9% member contribution over a span of a year and a half.

Once the contract has been ratified and approved, employees will pay 3%, followed by 6% in July 2012 and 9% in July 2013.

Police personnel currently participate in a CalPERS risk sharing pool for agencies with less than 100 active members, and have the 3% at 50 formula pension program. The agreement reached implements a 3% at 55 program, with the retirement calculation based on the three highest years' earnings. This program

will realize substantial savings over the long term for the City once all employees are on the less costly retirement program. In addition, it allows the Police Department to remain competitive in attracting and retaining high quality candidates.

Currently, police personnel who retire receive medical plan benefits for the employee and spouse calculated on a percentage based on years of service with the City. The new agreement reached modifies the benefit from two parties to employee only, and terminates when the employee becomes Medicare eligible, which is currently age 65. Over the long-term, this will significantly reduce the cost of the retiree medical program for the City.

## OBITUARIES

### Betty Jane Steele

May 12, 1924 - Dec. 5, 2011

After a valiant battle with bladder cancer, Betty Jane Steele passed away at home. She was surrounded by her loving family.



Born in Dunbar, Virginia, she is the daughter of James and Golden Griffith. Betty led a rich and

rewarding life with reading being her passion, especially books about WWII. She was a government employee in Washington, D.C. during the war in support of her brother Paul, who was lost at sea serving aboard the Mt. Hood.

Betty leaves behind a family who loved her very much. Her husband Wayne Steele predeceased her in 2005. Her daughters Melissa Griffith and Camille Meyer, sister Anna Rawls and family, brother George Griffith and family, survive her. In addition to stepdaughter Dianne Lowe, Betty has seven grandchildren, Jeffrey, Tracy, Eric Kihl, Adam, Daniel and John, eight great grandchildren, Cynthia, Alexes, Brandi, Britney, David, Jaaron, Kolton and Tyler, all survive her.

Betty was an inspiration to her family, teaching all of them the importance of family values. Her memory and her beautiful smile will be with her family forever in their hearts.

A celebration of Betty's life was held at her home in Livermore, where she lived for 56 years. A graveside service was held December 28, 2011, at Memory Gardens Cemetery by her family to pay tribute to her wonderful life.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

### Alpha "Jackie" P. Amaral

June 18, 1922 - January 24, 2012

Alpha P. Amaral, better known as "Jackie," passed away peacefully surrounded by her family in San Leandro, CA on January 24, 2012 at the age of 89. A resident of Livermore for nearly 55 years she was born June 18,



1922 in Henryetta, Oklahoma. At the gates of Heaven she was reunited with her parents and beloved husband of 42 years, John Amaral and parents Hardy and Laura Henley.

Mrs. Amaral will always be remembered as an amazing woman who touched the life of everyone who met her and she will forever live in the hearts of her family and friends.

Jackie leaves behind her five devoted children, Rhonda Brazil and husband, Donald of Livermore; Larry Walling and wife Kelley of Nevada City; Brenda Turpin of Livermore; Jeanie Hohenwarter of Escalon; and Pam Goulart and husband Al of Tracy. She is also survived by her sister

Geneva Garrett of Livermore and many grandchildren, great grandchildren and extended family members.

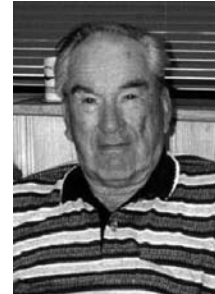
A Celebration of her Life was held Jan. 30 in Tracy. She was laid to rest with her husband John at Tracy Public Cemetery. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions can be made in her name to Kaiser Permanente Post-Acute Care Center (KPPACC) 1400 - 168<sup>th</sup> Avenue, San Leandro, CA 94578.

An on-line guest book is also available at [www.frymemorial-chapel.com](http://www.frymemorial-chapel.com) for condolences and special messages to the family.

### Lynn J. Walch

Lynn J. Walch passed away peacefully at his home in Alamo, California on January 21, 2012. Mr. Walch was 93 years old.

A pioneer of the modern aviation repair business, Mr. Walch's life reads like a great novel. He was born August 24, 1918 in Goodrich, North Dakota. The son of farmers, Mr. Walch was the youngest of five children; brothers Lawrence and Oly, sister Deena and brother Wyatt.



In his life he rode the rails to Idaho and eventually California where he was helped out by hobos, who fed and watched out for him on the way. He worked for the 3 C's (Civilian Conservation Corp) in Idaho and Standard Oil refinery in Concord, Ca and was taken in by the Conover family of Walnut Creek. Mr. Walch never forgot the kindness and generosity of the people he met during this time and his own kind and giving nature was a testament to that.

In 1942 Mr. Walch joined the Army Air Force. He captained a Martin B26 Marauder in the 319<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group during WWII. Although he had some close calls, Mr. Walch's steady hand brought his crew home safely from 52 missions. He had great respect and high praise for his crew and fellow pilots. As for his own skills he was much more humble, attributing his success to luck; as he put it "there were better pilots than me that didn't make it back".

After the war, Mr. Walch worked for several aviation companies and in 1952 he set out on his own, creating the L.J. Walch Company. Mr. Walch led the company to great success as an FAA repair station. As the company gained a reputation for quality and reliability it outgrew several locations until Mr. Walch and Company made the decision to relocate to a custom built facility in Livermore in 1999. The Livermore location has allowed the company to grow to new heights performing repair work for customers around the world and continuing to be an innovator in the industry. Dedication to quality is a virtue that Mr. Walch stressed to all employees. Following his lead, it continues to be the driving force of the company's success 60 years later. As a boss, Mr. Walch led by example and was loved by all

his employees. He never ended a meeting without thanking everyone for their hard work.

Mr. Walch was an avid Golfer and a member of Castlewood Country Club in Pleasanton for over 40 years. He was a great outdoorsman and enjoyed hunting and fishing. He also enjoyed entertaining and good meals.

Mr. Walch was married to Janet O'Neil in 1948. She was the love of his life and they had many great years and adventures together. Mr. Walch was also blessed with three Children; Jim, Tom and Heidi, two Grandchildren Tom Jr. and Debbie Woodbeck and two great-grandchildren, Ron Woodbeck Jr., and Chrissy Woodbeck. Over the years Mr. Walch and his family would go on a number of trips, Fishing, Golfing, Traveling and just enjoying each other's company.

Mr. Walch was a very generous man. No credible charities were ever turned away with an empty hand. No one can count the number of times Mr. Walch uttered the phrase "let's send them something" any time a worthy charity would call.

Mr. Walch had an infectious laugh and a great sense of humor. Like all great men, he was humble to the core and his ability to laugh at himself spoke volumes about his character.

When Mr. Walch began to have health issues and no longer felt he could drive, he was granted the gift of a couple of living angels; Mary Kulu and Nick Lewis, as his home care technicians. Mary and Nick were quickly enamored with Mr. Walch's contagious good spirit and to them Mr. Walch became family. With Mary and Nick's help, Mr. Walch was able to continue to come to work. All who knew Mr. Walch are grateful to Mary and Nick for allowing him to keep his freedom during his final years.

The hearts of all who knew him are heavy with sadness. To say Mr. Walch was a great man scratches not the surface of truth. He will be missed as a boss, as a friend and as an example of how life should be lived.

In keeping with Mr. Walch's wishes, there will be no public service. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Alzheimer's Association of America.

### Bobby Gene Philbin

Bobby Gene Philbin passed away on Tuesday, January 24, 2012 at the age of 81 years. He was a Livermore resident.

Bob was the youngest of 6 children born in Tecumseh, Oklahoma in 1930 to Edward and Georgia Philbin. His family moved to California, he went to school in Alameda. They returned to Tecumseh and he graduated from Tecumseh High School and worked locally until he was drafted into the Army in 1951. He served in the front lines in the Army during



the Korean conflict, 1951-53. After being honorably discharged, he returned to Oklahoma and eventually settled in California working for Caterpillar Tractor, retiring in 1986. He has resided in Livermore since 1995 and has spent the years since his retirement enjoying and loving his two grandsons who filled his life with joy.

Bob is survived by Marilyn, his wife; his daughters Janet Malski and Barbara Nunez; and two grandsons Patrick Malski and Christopher Malski. He is also survived by sisters Sue Samuel, Virginia Miles, and Mary McKinley, his brother-in-law, Don McKinley, and nieces and nephews.

Final resting place is at Lone Tree Cemetery in Hayward, CA Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

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### Leone Marie Kelly Baker

Former Resident of Pleasanton Lee Baker to her friends; Grandma Baker to everyone else passed away at Lake Park Retirement in Oakland Ca. on January 23, 2012. She was 87 years old.

Born November 16, 1924 in Muskegon, Mi. to Patrick and Leone Kelly; brothers Tom, John and Jim; and sisters Peg, Pat and Joann. She graduated from Grant Hospital School of Nursing with RN in 1949 and worked as a "Courier Nurse" aboard the Santa Fe Railroads "El Capitan."

In 1948 Lee met Leo M. Baker at the Aragon Ballroom in Chicago, Ill. Leo was in medical school after finishing four years in the Navy. Lee married Leo M. Baker June 28, 1949. After helping her husband through medical school the couple moved to a small town in Eastern Colorado. Here they did numerous baby deliveries in the homes of ranchers and farmers, along with taking care of other farm related injuries. While in Colorado the Bakers adopted three beautiful babies. In 1961 Lee and her family moved to Jefferson City, Missouri, where Leo started working for the Missouri State Prison as the Medical Director and Lee was a stay at home mother.

Lee started volunteering with the Red Cross and teaching nursing aid to inmates at the prison. In 1966 the family undertook a medical missionary trip around the world, staying in Nepal for six weeks. Lee and her family moved to Jackson, Michigan in 1973 when her husband took a job with Jackson State Prison. Lee continued to volunteer with the Red Cross and teaching in the prison. In 1975 Lee and Leo moved to Lompoc, California to work at the Federal prison. While in Lompoc, Lee and Leo started a free clinic for the Hispanic community. Around 1980 Lee and Leo moved to Pleasanton, California, where Lee volunteered at the Pleasanton Police Department and with the Red Cross.

After Leo passed in 2002, Lee moved to Oakland, California, where she began to volunteer at St. Vincent de Paul, Oakland Police Department, Amtrak Railways, Red Cross, Oakland Airport, Marines' Memorial Club & Hotel, Lake Park Retirement and the Salvation Army Drug

Rehab.

Lee loved to travel with her family and friends. She enjoyed dancing, dining and laughing. She loved the military and her boys at the Salvation Army. She is survived by her three children: Gregory Morrison Baker, his wife Marilyn; Steven Kent Baker his wife Jen; Susan Marie Home, her husband Lee; brother Tom Kelly; and grandchildren: Jared, Erin and Reese Baker.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held on February 2, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. at the Salvation Army, 601 Webster St., Oakland, California.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

### Peter Timmer

Resident of Livermore Jan. 11, 1964 to Jan. 28, 2012

Peter Timmer was the first born son, of David and Maria Timmer. He was a lifelong resident of Livermore, a fifth generation native.

He is preceded in death by his beloved father, David. Pete is survived by his loving brothers, Brendan and Patrick, and his sister-in-law, Susan. His relatives were always an important part of his life. His cousins, aunts and uncles were very special to him. They always included him in their lives. They kept in touch from Livermore to Dayton, Ohio.

Peter was educated in the Livermore School system, and attended Granada High School, Class of 1985. He was an avid Giants and Sharks fan. His bedroom was a showcase for both teams. He wore the Giants and Sharks jackets with pride. Pete loved to bowl, play Bocce Ball, shop, go to dances, attend 4-H meetings and work at his jobs. He was employed at Johnson Controls, Target and Navlet's Nursery. He was a hard worker. Pete also volunteered at The Friendship Center and Buena Vista Thrift Store. He was Mr. Organizer. In spite of his physical and mental handicaps, he gave 110% of himself. Pete taught all of us a lot about life. The simple things of life mattered to him. He wrote many Thank You notes. He loved his family, friends, caregivers, church friends, and Miss Kitty. He will be missed by many.

His East Bay Innovations support workers were certainly part of the reason Pete was able to participate in his community. His social workers from Regional Center were also part of his support team. This team of support workers loved him and kept him safe and confident. In fact, Rosée Llamado was a huge part of his life, helping him for

twenty years. She was his second mother. He's now free of all his physical ailments and deserves his place in heaven. Let his spirit be a guide for all of us who were a part of his life.

Memorial Donations can be made in his name to East Bay Innovations, 303 W. Joaquin Ave., Suite 110, San Leandro, CA 94577 or to Hope Hospice, 6377 Clark Avenue, Suite #100, Dublin, CA 94568.

A Celebration of Peter's life will be held on Saturday, Feb. 18, 2012 at 11Am at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1020 Mocho St., Livermore, CA. Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

Thomas F. Jones April 9, 1925-Jan. 21, 2012 Livermore resident

Tom died Saturday evening Jan. 21, 2012 with family nearby. Growing up in Omaha, Nebraska, he joined the Navy and served in WWII.

He served in active and reserves in the Navy for 32 years. While stationed in Corpus Christi, Texas, in 1944, he met and married his wife, Modene. They had 67 years together. In 1957 they moved from San Diego and Tom joined Sandia National Laboratories working there until 1984 when he retired. Ham radio had been his main hobby since his teens. His call sign was K6TS. As a member of LARK and FOC radio clubs, he made friends around the world. Tom had many friends and valued them very much. He was a member of Trinity Baptist Church.

Tom is survived by his wife, Modene; daughters Lynda Messier (husband Hervie), Patricia Morrow (husband Brett) and grandson Steven Cheeseman. He was preceded in death by his daughter Mickey Jones in 2008. A private burial was held January 26, 2012.



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# Meet the New Kid On the Block: Charlie Kidd of Las Positas

by Laura Ness

Young Charlie Kidd has the fire: you can see it in his bright blue, slightly scrutinizing eyes. You can tell he's been around a few blocks in zip codes far, far from Livermore. He's originally from Chico, schooled at Cal Poly, where he studied Crop Science and grew lots of things like alfalfa, onions, corn, broccoli and pumpkins. Then, he discovered he preferred growing grapes, and got totally into vineyard design and management, designing and developing 13 vineyards in places you may have heard of like Templeton and Paso Robles. He also managed 20 different vineyards and performed pest control on 20 more. He began making wine in San Luis Obispo at Wild Wood Winery in 2001, starting his own label, John Alan, in 2003.

However, it was his stretch as a winemaker at Flat Creek Winery in the hill country of Texas that really drew out the renegade in him and at the same time, turned him into a rigid disciplinarian. There's just enough redneck sympatico still left to make him a fit for the old west part of Livermore, as he can don the cowboy boots and fit right in at a bar. Yet, there's no doubt he's the kind of control freak you want in a winemaker, especially one tasked with cleaning up with the foibles of the past.

Discipline is immediately evident upon walking into his lab. He gets chemistry, he gets vineyards, he really gets how to make vibrant wine. We tank-sampled three of his fave 2011s, and they show cool-headed skill, intense flavors and bright promise. This is a find for Lisa and Lothar. He hit the ground running flat out in Livermore right after the Texas harvest, which wrapped up in July (you don't want to know), and had to expand the crush-pad area, order new hoses and fermenting equipment, barrels and fermenting supplies, all the while checking on the vineyards. Installing all the new wine processing infrastructure was a top priority. He's done a masterful job. The place is now outfitted with gorgeous, custom-made Slovenian tanks that allow you to automate your pump over program in any way you want. Say, every two hours for the first few days, then maybe down to four times a day etc. It's geekiness in a land of history.

The event room is being totally redone as well, in the Territorial style that graces the rest of the facility. Charlie is excited about the opportunity to be involved in rebuilding this beautiful place from the inside out, and is looking forward to providing brides with wines that they'll love as



Charlie Kidd is the new winemaker.

much as they already love the gorgeous setting.

So, what about the wines? Well, the 2011 vintage for Las Positas is off to a promising start. Charlie crushed enough fruit to make about 2500 cases. The winery is set up to handle 9k cases, so he has much room to grow. We sampled three wines out of tank, including a Pinot Grigio and Pinot Blanc from Buttner, plus a rose made from all the red wines they crushed this past harvest and all I can say is, bring it on.

Here's the inside skinny: Charlie really worked something crazy-magic with the 2011 Buttner Pinot Grigio. It was picked at rather high brix, underwent a 51-day fermentation, with no malolactic. Yikes! this thing is a tropical fruit hurricane: you cannot escape it, and frankly, you wouldn't want to! It's so beguiling, this one will blaze through the sales registers as soon as it's released.

What about that Pinot Blanc from Buttner? This is elegant stuff, with a lush texture and moderate alcohol at 13.9%: only half went through malolactic. He favors banana flavors in Pinot Blanc, and uses a yeast that pushes the fermentation towards the tropics. Still, there is huge minerality here, with lovely crisp, ripe pear and a hint of unsalted cashews, followed by a hugely long Meyer lemon finish. This is a wine you could drink all day, but then, you really should set aside some time to savor the rose, which sports 4 clones of Cabernet, Petit Verdot, Tempra-

nillo, Petite Sirah and Barbera, the juice of which is captured through the slats of the sorter. This wine is gorgeous, with lively strawberry, raspberry and cranberry flavors, and a gorgeous color, structure and texture.

We also barrel-sampled some 2011 Barbera, very chewy with good acid, cherry skins, nice varietal earthiness and an overall impression of a cherry turnover. This should be a beauty. The 2011 Cabernet underwent extensive cold soaking and pump overs, extracting every ounce of color and texture from the fruit. The result is a gorgeous hue, pointing towards a sturdy, stout beverage laden with roasted chiles and beets, quite savory. It will develop in 40% new French, Hungarian and American oak.

We'll be excited to see what Charlie can do with the 20 acres of Chardonnay that are under lease to Wente until 2013. He plans to try four processing methods, including 100% French oak barrel fermented with total malo, stainless with malo, stainless with no malo and a combo of barrel and stainless with no malo.

He's also planning a Super Tuscan blend of Sangiovese, Tempranillo, Petite Sirah, Cabernet and Malbec. Mmmm...

There's a new bottling line ready to rock n' roll as soon as the steam unit arrives for sterilization. To be bottled are the 2010 Chardonnay (which Charlie rescued from a not so pretty fate), the 2009 Tempranillo and Cabernet, plus those delicious 2011 whites and rose. Can't wait!

## BART

(continued from page one)

transportation operations from 17.3 to 18.8 percent of the funding. Maintenance for BART was included. A minimum of 15% of local streets and roads funding is to be spent on bicycle/pedestrian elements.

Supervisor Carson wanted different wording for the BART extension. He was joined in his request to redefine the BART to Livermore project by the Community Vision Platform advocacy group, which includes Transform, Greenbelt Alliance and Urban Habitat.

No changes were made in the wording for the BART to Livermore extension.

Union members were pleased with the projects that would provide jobs, including BART to Livermore. A representative of the California Alliance for Jobs called the TEP incredibly balanced. "It would add thousands of jobs."

Andreas Cluver of the Construction Trades Council supported the plan because it takes into account the interest of all constituents. Shifting funds from TOD hurts members of the trades council. "However, in the interest of compromise, we are willing to support the TEP," he stated.

Jobs were also on the mind of others who spoke

Buck Koonce, senior adviser to assist with the management of the Livermore Valley Open Campus at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, advocated for BART to Livermore. He explained that the new Open Campus is working on partnerships with academia and industry in an effort to leverage technologies developed at the Lab for use in manufacturing, biomed, energy and others. "It will be vitally important to make plans for access. We are in negotiations with several 100 Fortune Companies and an international university. The lack of BART will negatively impact those negotiations."

Joyce Starosciak ACTC board member from San Leandro called the TEP a jobs bill. "It will create immediate work. That means everything in this economy. BART to Livermore will make sure people will have transit to jobs there," she stated. She pointed out that Livermore is becoming a jobs hub.

Livermore resident Don Milanes suggested that the Isabel station would provide better access to Las Positas College. He pointed out that Livermore is set to become a high tech job center. People will be traveling to Livermore to work. BART would provide the access.

During the board comment period, ACTC Board Chairman Mark Green, Union City mayor, said of the TEP, "The plan funds a spectrum of transportation improvements. There is something for everyone." He suggested that anyone attending the meeting would be foolish not to support the proposal. The consequences of not supporting it would be that millions of dollars won't be available. "I think we have the right plan. A survey conducted three months ago showed 79 percent approval. That may go up or down or stay the same."

Supervisor Nate Miley said the plan represented a consensus document. "The measure has to work for everyone. I think we have hit the nail on the head. We keep giving and giving and giving. People keep asking for more and more and more. We've given enough when it comes to making changes. If you want to oppose this, let's get it on. If you defeat it, we on you. To say there needs to be a few more little changes is your opinion. Game over."

Tom Blalock, the BART representative on the board, said there is no need to tweak the wording for the Livermore extension. There will be an EIR

process that would study the various options.

Greg Harper, AC Transit director, said that wording for the BART to Livermore extension tied the hands of BART directors by being too specific. There is a need to look at all alternatives. "I fear that if funding BART to Livermore is tied to a particular alignment and station, you are predetermining the outcome of studies," he stated.

Those supporting a change in wording want to reduce the cost for BART to Livermore with a cheaper alternative such as buses or rail.

Supervisor Scott Haggerty commented. "We aren't trying to fix everything. It is not our job to fully fund or restore everything or to let the state and federal government off the hook. In talking about BART, it is time for the Livermore extension to be part of the measure. I don't view it as something Livermore residents deserve. It is a health issue. The pollution caused by traffic impacts the quality of life. I guarantee you, if BART to Livermore is not in the measure, I won't support it. I have moved as far as I can on the language."

Haggerty stated later that if less specificity is applied to the Livermore to BART, then all projects should be less descriptive. That would require massive changes in the wording in the plan.

The wording for BART to Livermore reads as follows: project funds the first phase of a BART Extension within the I-580 Corridor freeway alignment to the vicinity of the I-580/Isabel Avenue interchange using the most effective and efficient technology. Funds for construction for any element of this first phase project shall not be used until full funding commitments are identified and approved, and a project-specific environmental clearance is obtained. The project-specific environmental process will include a detailed alternative assessment of all fundable and feasible alternatives, and be consistent with mandates, policies and guidance of federal, state, and regional agencies that have jurisdiction over the environmental and project development process.

The public weighed in with its comments.

Livermore resident and Lab employee, Lynn Seppala presented what he called a 5-5-5 plan. "We are asking for a share that equals 5 percent of BART's fare revenue. Five percent of Alameda County residents are asking to share 5 percent of the revenues to extend BART's track length by 5 percent."

Bob Baltzer, Friends of Livermore, emphasized that the measure requires two-thirds majority to pass. "If there were significant changes in the BART to Livermore language, it wouldn't pass. Then no one would receive anything."

Linda Jeffery Sailors said that 8,300 Livermore voters had signed an initiative to keep BART on 580. This project has been worked on for a long time. There have been at least five studies. Rather than conduct an additional study, it would be a better use of money to look at the old studies.

Ron Geren pointed out that BART would provide relief for one of the most congested freeway systems. He said that it would not be possible to sell the idea of increasing taxes in Livermore if residents would receive no benefit.

Olive Green, a Livermore resident, said she was BTW (BART tax weary). She hoped the measure would move forward as recommended by staff.

The main opposition came from people who favored different wording for BART to Livermore. Dave Campbell, East Bay Bicycle Coalition, voiced what others said, that changing some wording would make the TEP better. Wording should address connecting with BART, not the specifics of a project. They would then be able to support it.

Jeff Hobson of Transform said the TEP is an opportunity to conduct a study of BART to Livermore to make sure it remains the most affordable and reliable project available. He urged a change in wording to avoid a predetermined outcome of the EIR.

Michele Jordan of Genesis said there is not enough money in the measure for existing transit and for roads.

Jonathan Bair of Walk Oakland Bike Oakland was the most outspoken in opposing BART to Livermore. "Sending an ironclad mandate to BART is a grave mistake without a study to determine the best technology. Livermore does not have the votes in a countywide measure to demand this. Choosing an alignment not approved by BART is meddling."

Bob Franklin, BART board, said that the language in the TEP regarding BART to Livermore could be a legal problem. He suggested wording be changed to state that the extension would be built near the 580 corridor.

County Legal Counsel said studies can clearly look at whatever alternatives they want for the extension. BART would be well advised to study significant alternatives. If an alternative were selected that does not match the TEP language, the language can be amended. It takes a two-thirds vote of the ACTC board and 45 days notice. It was pointed out the same rule applies for any changes made to the TEP, once it is approved by voters.

Livermore Mayor John Marchand commented, "I represent 83,000 people that you consider irrelevant. Some have expressed concern about paying taxes for something they don't have. Livermore residents have been paying for BART. I don't want to get nuanced out of this. A connection could mean a bus. We've been paying for BART."

Supervisor Keith Carson said he realizes that Livermore has paid into BART for 50 years.

However, it should be possible to look at all the options. "We should be able to come to an agreement that Livermore will connect to BART in Livermore by rail. The most efficient, cost effective rail option should be considered."

Haggerty said that the projected \$1.2 billion cost to extend BART to Livermore includes soft costs. The pricetag can be reduced to \$800 million by removing the cost of a maintenance yard and the purchase of additional cars. He declared, "I have no BART station. You (Berkeley) have three. It's not fair."

The TEP includes pass-through funding to local jurisdictions for local streets and road maintenance and bike and pedestrian projects. It also includes funding for specific capital projects, including \$132 million for Route 84 widening to I-680, \$28 million for I-580 interchange improvements, and \$5 million for widening Greenville Road.

Chairman Mark Green said there has been all kinds of talk about changes in wording for BART to Livermore. "Some are political; some talk about it being the right thing to do. The project is needed and will be needed. Yes, it is a lot of money. With a two-thirds requirement, we need something that will pass across the county. It is time to get off the soap box and get with us at the ballot box."

## Sheep Shearing Planned at Concannon

Sheep shearing will take place at Concannon Vineyard at 10 a.m. on Sat., Feb. 4 in block 9.

The shearing prepares these Mini Weed Munchers for their March lambs. Sheep will be gathered, vaccinated, sheared, and feet trimmed.

The mini sheep are replacing chemicals and tractors in the organic vines for weed control. They cut down on air and noise pollution as well as the use of fossil fuels and chemicals.

Vaccinating sheep one month before giving birth protects the sheep and the newborn lamb from disease. Lambs are given another booster shot one month later along with an ear tag to identify the lamb for record keeping.

Shearing sheep before lambing helps with spotting who is getting close and also helps the newborn find the "faucets." Sheep in the vineyard don't wear their hooves down like sheep in the wild, so their feet need to be



Miniature sheep help keep weeds out of the vineyard.

trimmed at least once a year. It's almost like a "spa day" sheep style.

Crane Ridge 4-H Sheep Group will be on hand to help with the work and answer questions about sheep care. Local

Sheep Shearer, Russ Duguid will demonstrate his finesse in the fine art of "turning sheep."

For more information, call Allison Batteate at 925-455-5755 or email her Allison@BatteateRanch.com

## LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

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Call 925-243-8000

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS**  
**NAME STATEMENT**  
**FILE NO. 459223**

The following person(s) doing business as: At Ease, 764-C Hayes Ave, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Mary Elizabeth Binder, 764-C Hayes Ave, 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 7/26/1995.  
Signature of Registrant(s): Mary Elizabeth Binder  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 13, 2011. Expires December 13, 2012.  
The Independent Legal No. 3155. Published January 12, 19, 26, February 2, 2012.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS**  
**NAME STATEMENT**  
**FILE NO. 459503**

The following person(s) doing business as: Fire Stations 4 Hire, 3147-A Independence Drive, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Wicktonville Fire Department, Inc., 3147-A Independence Drive, Livermore, CA 94551  
This business is conducted by a Corporation  
The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.  
Signature of Registrant(s): Paul M. George, Senior Vice President, Operations  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 21, 2011. Expires December 21, 2012.  
The Independent Legal No. 3157. Published January 12, 19, 26, February 2, 2012.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS**  
**NAME STATEMENT**  
**FILE NO. 460015-16**

The following person(s) do-

ing business as: (1) NDura - Corp (2) Changio.com, 3028 Gardella Plaza, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): NDura - Corp, 3028 Gardella Plaza, Livermore, CA 94551  
This business is conducted by a Corporation  
The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 1/9/2012.  
Signature of Registrant(s): Carlos D. Aguilera - President  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 9, 2012. Expires January 9, 2012.  
The Independent Legal No. 3158. Published January 12, 19, 26, February 2, 2012.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS**  
**NAME STATEMENT**  
**FILE NO. 460100**

The following person(s) doing business as: D. B. Services, 2487 Wellingham Dr., Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following

owner(s): Douglas Brenzel, 2487 Wellingham Dr., Livermore, CA 94551

This business is conducted by an individual  
The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 1/10/2012.  
Signature of Registrant(s): Doug Brenzel, Owner  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 11, 2012. Expires January 11, 2012.  
The Independent Legal No. 3160. Published January 19, 26, February 2, 9, 2012.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS**  
**NAME STATEMENT**  
**FILE NO. 459983**

The following person(s) doing business as: Luke's Custom Pool Service, 856 Olivina Ave, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lukas Swift, 856 Olivina Ave, Livermore, CA 94551  
This business is conducted by an individual

The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 12/28/11.  
Signature of Registrant(s): Lukas Swift, Owner  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 6, 2012. Expires January 6, 2012.  
The Independent Legal No. 3161. Published January 19, 26, February 2, 9, 2012.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS**  
**NAME STATEMENT**  
**FILE NO. 459901**

The following person(s) doing business as: Virtual Polymers, 2447 Rivers Bend Circle, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): (1) Marshall Scott Jones (2) DiAnne Clark Jones, 2447 Rivers Bend Circle, Livermore, CA 94550  
This business is conducted by Husband and wife  
The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/01/1999.

Signature of Registrant(s): DiAnne C. Jones, Partner  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 5, 2012. Expires January 5, 2012.  
The Independent Legal No. 3162. Published January 19, 26, February 2, 9, 2012.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS**  
**NAME STATEMENT**  
**FILE NO. 459676**

The following person(s) doing business as: Kitty Hawk Dental Care, 53 Wright Brothers Ave., Ste. C, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kimberly King, 95 Windward Commons, Livermore, CA 94551  
This business is conducted by an individual  
The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 02/25/2002.  
Signature of Registrant(s): Kimberly King, DDS  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 30, 2011. Ex-

pires December 30, 2016.  
The Independent Legal No. 3163. Published January 19, 26, February 2, 9, 2012.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS**  
**NAME STATEMENT**  
**FILE NO. 460001**

The following person(s) doing business as: The Good Earth Candle Company, 4610 Cross Road, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jeanette Maurer, 4610 Cross Road, 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 Registrant(s): Jeanette Maurer, Owner  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 9, 2012. Expires January 9, 2012.  
The Independent Legal No. 3164. Published January 19, 26, February 2, 9, 2012.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS**  
**NAME STATEMENT**  
**FILE NO. 460010**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS**  
**NAME STATEMENT**  
**FILE NO. 460031**

The following person(s) doing business as: The Good Earth Candle Company, 4610 Cross Road, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jeanette Maurer, 4610 Cross Road, 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 Registrant(s): Mohammed Akram Tokhi, Member & Owner  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 9, 2012. Expires January 9, 2012.  
The Independent Legal No. 3166. Published January 26, February 2, 9, 16, 2012.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS**  
**NAME STATEMENT**  
**FILE NO. 460195**

The following person(s) doing business as: Change, 129 S. Livermore Ave., Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Nicholas Boer, 454 Stanford

more, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Mohammed Akram Tokhi, 1318 N. Vasco Road, Livermore, CA 94551  
This business is conducted by an individual  
The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.  
Signature of Registrant(s): Mohammed Akram Tokhi, Member & Owner  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 9, 2012. Expires January 9, 2012.  
The Independent Legal No. 3166. Published January 26, February 2, 9, 16, 2012.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS**  
**NAME STATEMENT**  
**FILE NO. 460105**

The following person(s) doing business as: Smoker Friendly, 1318 N. Vasco Road, Liver-

# LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

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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 N/A.  
Signature of Registrants: Nicholas Boer, Owner  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 12, 2012. Expires January 12, 2017.  
The Independent Legal No. 3167.  
Published January 26, February 2, 9, 16, 2012.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 460506

The following person(s) doing business as: Bay Area Code, 551 Summitree Drive, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s):  
(1) John Hardin Norris, 551 Summitree Drive, Livermore, CA 94551 (2) Joseph Paul Krick, 2175 Ramish Drive, San Jose, CA 95131  
This business is conducted by a General Partnership  
The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.  
Signature of Registrants: s/ John Norris - General Partner  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 20, 2012. Expires January 20, 2017.  
The Independent Legal No. 3169. Published January 26, February 2, 9, 16, 2012.

### NOTICE OF INVITING BIDS

NOTICE is hereby given that sealed competitive bids will be accepted in the office of the GSA-Purchasing Department, County of Alameda, 1401 Lakeside Drive, Suite 907, Oakland, CA 94612 **NET-WORKING/NORTH COUNTY BIDDERS CONFERENCE** RFP #900973 for Operation and Maintenance Services of Sewer and Water Systems in the Alameda County Service Area (CSA) R-1967-1 Castlewood, Wednesday, February 15, 2012, 10:00 a.m. - General Services Agency, Room 1107, 11th Floor, 1401 Lakeside Drive, Oakland, CA **NET-WORKING/SOUTH COUNTY BIDDERS CONFERENCE** RFP #900973 for Operation and Maintenance Services of Sewer and Water Systems in the Alameda County Service Area (CSA) R-1967-1 Castlewood, Thursday, February 16, 2012, 2:00 p.m. - Public Works Agency, Room #230A, 951 Turner Ct., Hayward, CA **Response Due by 2:00 p.m. on March 21, 2012 County Contact: Evelyn Benzon (510) 208-9622 or via email: evelyn.benzon@acgov.org** Attendance at Networking Conference is Non-mandatory. Information regarding the above may be obtained at the Alameda County Current Contracting Opportunities Internet website at www.acgov.org. 2/2/12 CNS-2252306# THE INDEPENDENT Legal No. 3170

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 459236

The following person(s) doing business as: North First BR, 4323 N. 1st St., Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ramanjit Singh Kailey, 201 E. Grant Line Rd. #46, Tracy, CA 95376  
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/ Ramanjit Singh Kailey  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 13, 2011. Expires December 13, 2016.  
The Independent Legal No. 3174. Published February 2, 9, 16, 23, 2012.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 460900

The following person(s) doing business as: Riesling Realty, 820 Cherokee Dr., Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Andrea Sousa, 820 Cherokee Dr., Livermore, CA 94551  
This business is conducted by an individual  
The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.  
Signature of Registrants: s/ Andrea Sousa, Owner/Broker  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 30, 2012. Expires January 30, 2017.  
The Independent Legal No. 3175. Published February 2, 9, 16, 23, 2012.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 460501

The following person(s) doing business as: Ultra Property Development, 2662 Decker Lane, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Chris Patterson, 2662 Decker Lane, 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/ Christopher Patterson  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 20, 2012. Expires January 20, 2017.  
The Independent Legal No. 3171. Published February 2, 9, 16, 23, 2012.

### ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Case No. 12613770  
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF ALAMEDA  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:  
1. Petitioner: Paul Seungyop Kwak filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: **Present Name: Paul Seungyop Kwak Proposed Name: Paul Seungyop Kwauk**  
2. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.  
**NOTICE OF HEARING**  
a. Date: 03/23/2012  
Time: 8:45 AM Dept: 504  
b. The address of the court is: 24405 Amador Street, Hayward, CA 94544

**Hayward Hall of Justice**  
3.a. A copy of this Order To Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county. The Independent  
Dated: January 23, 2012  
/s/ Winifred Y. Smith  
Judge of the Superior Court  
The Independent Legal No. 3172.  
Published February 2, 9, 16, 23, 2012.

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Date of Filing Application: January 19, 2012  
To Whom It May Concern: The Name(s) of the Applicant(s) is/are: **Manjinder Kaur**  
The Applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at:  
**1536 N. VASCO RD. LIVERMORE, CA 94551-9217**  
Type of license(s) Applied for: **41 - On-Sale Beer And Wine - Eating Place**  
Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control  
1515 Clay St. Ste 2208  
Oakland, Ca 94612  
(510) 622-4970  
The Independent Legal No. 3173. Publish February 2, 9, 16, 2012.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 459236

The following person(s) doing business as: North First BR, 4323 N. 1st St., Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ramanjit Singh Kailey, 201 E. Grant Line Rd. #46, Tracy, CA 95376  
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/ Ramanjit Singh Kailey  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 13, 2011. Expires December 13, 2016.  
The Independent Legal No. 3174. Published February 2, 9, 16, 23, 2012.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 460900

The following person(s) doing business as: Riesling Realty, 820 Cherokee Dr., Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Andrea Sousa, 820 Cherokee Dr., Livermore, CA 94551  
This business is conducted by an individual  
The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.  
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The Independent Legal No. 3171. Published February 2, 9, 16, 23, 2012.

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

**ADOPT A NEW BEST FRIEND:** TVAR, the Tri-Valley Animal Rescue, offers animals for adoption every Saturday and Sunday, excluding most holidays. Saturdays from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm, dogs and cats are available at the Pleasanton Farmers Market at W. Angela and First Streets. Two locations will showcase cats only: Petsmart in Dublin noon to 4 and the Pet Food Express in Livermore 1 to 4. Sundays, cats are at Petsmart in Dublin 1 to 4, and PetCo in San Ramon 11 to 3. TVAR at (925) 803-7043 website at www.tvlar.org

### EMPLOYMENT

**65) HELP WANTED**  
**JANITOR/FLOOR TECH**  
Evening Shift. Must have own transportation and clean driving record. (925)245-0595

### NETWORK SYSTEMS ENGINEER: MS in Comp. Sci. (or foreign equiv) OR BS in Comp. Sci. (or foreign equiv) + 5 yrs of prog. exp. Jobsite: Livermore, CA 94551. Mail resume to: 3S Network Inc. Attn: HR, 26000 Town Center Dr. #230, Foothill Ranch, CA 92610.

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### 56) ADULT CARE

**Independent Contractors Wanted, Senior Home Health Care. Must have experience. Senior Solutions, Inc 925-443-3101**  
**160) BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY**  
**BE WARY** of out of area companies. Check with the local Better Business Bureau before you send money or fees. Read and understand any contracts before you sign. Shop around for rates.

### TO PLACE A CLASSIFIED AD

call 925-243-8000  
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Inland Valley Publishing Co.  
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The Federal Fair Housing Act, Title VII of the Civil Rights

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### 127) LOST/FOUND

**LOST Red Pointsettia Clip Earring**  
Lost downtown Livermore, Friday 12/16.  
If found, please call (925)447-1762

### NOTICES/ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 155) NOTICES

**"NOTICE TO READERS:** California law requires that contractors taking jobs that total \$500 or more (labor and/or materials) be licensed by the Contractors State License Board. State law also

requires that contractors include their license numbers on all advertising. Check your contractor's status at www.cslb.ca.gov or 800-321-CSLB (2752). Unlicensed persons taking jobs less than \$500 must state in their advertisements that they are not licensed by the Contractors State License Board."

### REAL ESTATE

Inland Valley Publishing Co.  
Client Code:04126-00001  
Re: Legal Notice for Classified Ads  
The Federal Fair Housing Act, Title VII of the Civil Rights

Act of 1964, and state law prohibit advertisements for housing and employment that contain any preference, limitation or discrimination based on protected classes,

including race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin. IVPC does not knowingly accept any advertisements that are in violation of the law.

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**REAL ESTATE NEWS AND NOTICES**

## Don't Become a Victim of a Mortgage Modification Scam

By Kelly DeYoreo

The California Association of Realtors is warning struggling homeowners not to fall victim to unscrupulous con artists trying to take advantage of unknowing, financially troubled home owners. These scammers usually promise mortgage loan modifications or reduced monthly payments in exchange for upfront fees. In most cases, charging upfront fees or payments for these services is illegal.

According to the Federal Trade Commission, these offenders review foreclosure notices in newspapers, the internet and public records to identify potential victims.

Scammers who place ads online, on television or radio, and in newspapers claiming to "stop foreclosure now" and offering "guaranteed loan modifications" or "money back guarantees" should be reviewed cautiously by the homeowner, and the homeowner should be extremely careful about paying anyone an upfront fee.

"The real unfortunate aspect of the foreclosure rescue scams is that it makes an already stressful and tough situation more stressful and more difficult," says Josh Fuhrman, director of counseling for the Homeownership Preservation Foundation, which works with credit counseling agencies to educate and counsel at-risk homeowners.

Many scammers represent themselves as being affiliated with the government, when that is not the case.

In one typical example, scammers use a letterhead that supposedly indicates the correspondence is from the Obama administration's Making Home Affordable plan.

"Scammers will use deceptive marketing practices that convince consumers into believing they are contacting reputable organizations," Fuhrman says.

Unfortunately, such tactics are widespread.

"Almost every homeowner who calls me and is behind on his mortgage tells me that he has been approached by someone offering loan modifications for upfront payments of around \$2,500 and \$3,000," says Kimberly Allman, a certified housing counselor.

The desperate homeowner pays the upfront fee, and usually gets very little, or nothing, in return.

"What happens for that fee is that the scam company does little more than call the phone number on the homeowner's mortgage statement and ask that the homeowner's loan be modified," Allman says. "Or, the company writes a letter asking for the same thing, and that's all they do. One phone call or letter, and that's it."

Scammers sometimes try to encourage homeowners to turn over the ownership, or title, of their home. In one popular scheme, an organization promises to buy an at-risk homeowner's home and agrees to let the former homeowner rent it out.

Scammers sell these programs by suggesting that giving the title to a new borrower with a better credit rating will help secure financing, and prevent foreclosure of the home.

Supposedly, the homeowner is allowed to live at the residence as a renter with the option of buying it back later.

"Ultimately the organization has no intentions of selling the home back to the consumer," Fuhrman says.

In some cases, the scammer sells the home to someone else. Or the con artist takes the homeowner's title, any equity in the home and additional processing fees before disappearing and leaving the home to default, Fuhrman says.

In short, run away from people who ask you to transfer your property deed or title to their name.

So how can homeowners ensure they are talking to a legitimate source of help?

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and the Department of the Treasury make the following recommendations:

- You can apply to the federal Home Affordable Modification Program (HAMP) on your own, or with free help from a housing counselor approved by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Applying to the program is always free. For more information on how to apply, call 1-888-995-HOPE or visit www.makinghomeaffordable.gov.
- Only your mortgage servicer (the company you make your payments to) has the power and discretion to grant a loan modification. Therefore, no third party can guarantee or pre-approve your HAMP mortgage loan modification application in advance.
- Beware of anyone seeking to charge you money in advance for mortgage modification services. In most cases, charging fees in advance for a mortgage modification is illegal.
- Paying a third party to assist with your HAMP application does not necessarily improve your chances of receiving a loan modification. Accordingly, beware of individuals or companies that ask you for payment and tout success rates or claim to be "experts" in HAMP mortgage modifications.
- If an individual or company claims to be affiliated with HAMP, and displays a seal or logo representing a government agency in correspondence on online, you should call the Homeowners Hotline at 1-888-995-HOPE to double check.
- Beware of individuals or companies who offer a money-back guarantee.
- Beware of individuals or companies who advise you as a homeowner to stop making your mortgage payments or to not contact your mortgage servicer.
- Don't send your mortgage payments to anyone other than your mortgage servicer.
- Financially troubled homeowners can protect themselves and avoid scams by working with a HUD-approved housing counselor to understand their options and apply for help. Assistance from HUD-approved counselors is free, and homeowners can reach them by calling the hotline at 1-888-995-HOPE or by visiting www.makinghomeaffordable.gov.

There are many honest professionals who legitimately and diligently assist struggling homeowners every day. In addition to certified housing counselors, a number of reputable local Realtors and lending professionals are also very experienced in assisting homeowners in distress, and can help you understand your options when you face a hardship.

A knowledgeable Realtor or loan broker will provide valuable assistance in helping you determine whether a loan modification, refinance, short sale, or deed in lieu of foreclosure might be the best option for you, and won't charge you an upfront fee for the advice.

Kelly DeYoreo is a Realtor with Prudential California Realty, Livermore



City of Pleasanton Naturalist Eric Nicholson will conduct hikes on the Pleasanton Ridge as part of the popular Ridge Runners Nature Day Camps offered in the summer.

## City of Pleasanton Unveils More than 40 Summer Day Camps for Kids and Teens

Hike along the Pleasanton ridge and hear a mini-course on local history, explore the Bay Area's premier science museums, or explore the world of robotics. These are just a few of the many activities on tap in more than 40 summer day camps offered through the City of Pleasanton's Community Services Department. Registration for summer camps and spring classes and programs began Feb. 1.

Pleasanton residents can register for a wide array of activities and programs offered in the spring 2012 Activities Guide. Please disregard the registration date on the cover of the summer camp insert; the date that online registration begins is February 1, 2012.

Pick up a copy at the Pleasanton Public Library or at the Community Services offices at the City campus at 200 Old Bernal Avenue, or view it online at [www.cityofpleasantonca.gov](http://www.cityofpleasantonca.gov). A full-color center insert features 15 pages of summer day camp options for youth from ages 2

to 18. These include the following:

**Summer Seekers** is a camp specially designed for students entering 1st through 3rd grades. It includes eight weeks of themed fun with such themes as Under the Sea week, a talent show, Pirate Adventures and Wild About Art. Campers will take part in a variety of activities such as arts and crafts, cooperative games, camp songs, theater arts, outdoor play, swimming, and a special event or field trip each week.

**Summer Explorers** is another camp option where kids entering grades 4 to 6 can participate in up to eight themed weeks of fun such as arts and crafts, games, theater arts, outdoor play, swimming, and one field trip or special event each week to destinations such as the Lawrence Hall of Science, Boomers, and others.

Middle school students seeking to have some fun this summer should consider **P-Town Teens Camp** for participants entering grades 7 to 9. In addition to swimming, games, art projects,

and cooking, campers will go on a field trip each week to destinations such as the Chabot Space & Science Center, Marine World, and more.

All three camps run from June 20 through August 12 at the Amador Recreation Center. Campers should plan to bring a snack and lunch from home each day. In addition to adult staff supervision, well trained and mature college counselors conduct the camps. Space is limited and early registration is encouraged.

A wide sampling of specialty camps is also planned, including art camps focused on painting, drawing and sculpture, chess camp, science camps, computer and Lego camps, nature camps, drama camps, and dozens of sports camps. Gingerbread Preschool will also host summer camps for the youngest residents ages 2 to 6.

For more information about any of the summer camps, please call (925) 931-5340, or register online at [www.cityofpleasantonca.gov/services/recreation](http://www.cityofpleasantonca.gov/services/recreation).

## Spanish Speaking Parent Project Meetings Planned on Tuesdays

Horizons Youth & Family Services, through the Livermore Police Department, will be offering The Spanish Speaking Parent Project on Tuesday nights starting March 13, 2012 at the Del Valle Continuation High School in Livermore.

This 11 week program is specifically designed for parents with at-risk youth and juveniles involved in gangs, drugs, sexual activity or who are incorrigible.

The goals of the program are to motivate a child towards academic success, as well as prevent or improve problems with alcohol, drug abuse and gang involvement.

Participants will also have the opportunity to form support groups with parents in similar situations.

Originally designed as a "youth outreach" program with recreational activities and informational counseling, Horizons has evolved into a professionally staffed family counseling program effectively addressing serious issues.

In order to create a service plan for the entire Tri-Valley, Horizons brought together the

four law enforcement agencies, as well as the four school districts, Valley Community Health Center, and Livermore Area Recreation and Park District.

This partnership resulted in a Comprehensive Youth Services funding that led to alternatives to suspension, educational advocacy, and attendance monitoring. Other benefits include violence prevention, parenting skills and

support groups, family counseling, and the education, prevention and treatment of drug and alcohol abuse.

For more information, please contact Horizons Family Counseling at (925)371-4747 or contact Horizons Family Counseling at <http://www.cityoflivermore.net/citygov/horizons/services/default.asp>

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# Art, Community, & Education

## Pleasanton's Teen Improv Troupe Invited to Participate In Chicago's 2012 Teen Comedy Festival



**The 2011-12 Creatures of Impulse teen improv troupe from Pleasanton has been invited to perform in the nationally recognized Teen Comedy Festival held in Chicago in May.** Photo by Aaron Zwiefel Photography

Pleasanton's highly acclaimed Teen Improv troupe, Creatures of Impulse, has been invited to perform in the Teen Comedy Festival in Chicago in May. Twelve members of the 20-member troupe will attend the festival, which takes place on Saturday, May 12 at the Athenaeum Theatre.

In addition to performing their improvised teen musical, "Tri-Valley High: The Musical," Creatures of Impulse will attend performances and workshops facilitated by industry professionals in stand-up comedy, theatrical improvisation, sketch comedy, and more.

The troupe hopes to raise more

than \$15,000 to fund the trip through a number of shows, donations, and improv workshops for teens and adults. All of the funds raised will be applied to festival fees, lodging, airfare, and various administrative costs associated with the trip. Those interested in donating to the troupe can send

checks payable to the City of Pleasanton (please put COI to Chicago 2012 on the memo line). Checks can be sent to: Creatures of Impulse, Firehouse Arts Center, P.O. Box 520, Pleasanton, CA 94566.

Several benefit performances  
(continued on page 6)



Wylie Gustafson (Photo - Bill Watts)

## Evening Features Songs, Music and Poetry of the American West

The national tour of "Don't Fence Me In," a variety show style evening with the country's finest Western artists, arrives at the Bankhead Theater on February 23, 2012. The evening includes a celebration of the songs, music and poetry of the American West. The five groups include Wylie and The Wild West, The Quebe Sisters Band, Los Teximaniacs, North Bear, and rodeo poet Paul Zarskyski.

Part of the LVPAC Presents expanded Country/Western Series, the show evokes the pioneering spirit of the American West and echoes Livermore's own western roots. With something for everyone, from cowboy songs and poetry, high plains yodeling, and western swing fiddle, to Tex Mex polkas and Northern Plains

drumming, "Don't Fence Me In" is designed to appeal to audiences of all ages.

Tales of the American West have captured the imagination of listeners across the country for a more than a century. "Don't Fence Me In" showcases the unique character of the region using authentic music and oral tradition to tell the stories of the range, ranch and reservation, from the valley of the Rio Grande to the Bitterroot Mountains. A wide slice of the American West is represented by the five groups, each of whom performs separately and also appears with others.

With their cowboy songs and high plains yodeling, Wylie & The Wild West have traveled the world over and appeared at the Grand Ole Opry more than 50 times. Despite a career as one of America's most

popular western entertainers, Wylie Gustafson still gets up every day to tend the livestock. He makes sure that whatever the song he's writing, "a real cowboy will be able to relate to it somehow." The son of a rural Montana veterinarian and rancher, Gustafson's ranch is just down the road from where he grew up. He is an accomplished cutting horse enthusiast and the 2005 NCHA Western National Finals Champion. Nearly everyone has heard Wylie Gustafson yodel; his "Ya-hoo-ooo!" was featured in the original Yahoo! advertising campaign.

As The Quebe Sisters Band, Hulda, Sophia and Grace Quebe (pronounced KWAY-bee), ages 19, 22 and 24, bring a fresh youthful energy to the rich musical tradi-

(continued on page 6)



Naresh Michael

## Cabaret Series Presents 'An Evening in Roma'

Pleasanton's Firehouse Arts Center Cabaret Series continues with "An Evening in Roma," on February 18 at 8 p.m. Featured will be singer/musician Naresh Michael.

The Firehouse Arts Center is located at 4444 Railroad Avenue in downtown Pleasanton.

Michael presents his distinctive tango-influenced international repertoire in a program including opera, jazz, popular standards, Latin music and contemporary "popera." Called "the Andrea Bocelli of tango," Michael sings a romantic style of music inspired by music legends Mario Lanza and Placido Domingo and combined with the modern flavor of Josh Groban and Michael Buble. From Bocelli's smash hit Con Te Partiro ("Time to Say Goodbye") to Dean Martin's An Evening in Roma, his show is sophisticated and uplifting.

Accompanied by piano and violin, Michael sings in several different languages including Italian, Spanish and German, as well as English, and plays guitar and bandoneón throughout his performance. The bandoneón, one of his trademarks, resembles an accordion, but is actually a type of concertina. The instrument is particularly popular in Argentina and Uruguay and plays an essential role in the orquesta típica, or tango orchestra.

Tickets to An Evening in Roma are adult: \$15, \$20 and \$25; child: \$12; senior: \$20. They may be purchased online at [www.firehousearts.org](http://www.firehousearts.org) up to three hours prior to the performance, by phone at (925) 931-4848, or in person at the Firehouse Arts Center Box Office. Box Office hours are Wednesday-Friday, 12 noon-6:00 p.m., Saturday 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., and for two hours prior to the performance. The entrance to free parking is on Spring Street near First Street.

# 'Love Letters' First Production at Dublin's Black Box Theatre

Just in time for Valentine's Day, the City of Dublin will host its first theatrical production, *Love Letters*, at the Sunday School Barn black box theatre located in Heritage Park, located at 6600 Donlon Way.

The Pulitzer Prize nominated *Love Letters*, by A.R. Gurney, is a compelling story of a 50-year romance carried on through love letters. The production unfolds as simple reading of letters between two characters, Andrew Makepeace Ladd and Melissa Gardner, from their first correspondence in elementary school through a lifetime of both mundane and eventful occurrences. As simple as the production is, the play is a compelling piece for actors since

its success relies on simple tone of voice, facial expressions, and personal nuances to get their characters across.

Since the first production of this work in 1988, it has been an attraction for busy actors since little preparation is required with regard to memorization of lines. It has been performed by big screen luminaries such as Elizabeth Taylor and James Earl Jones, Kathleen Turner and Christopher Walken. It has also reunited favorite television couples. Family Ties' Michael Gross and Meredith Baxter reunited in this play. Larry Hagman has performed two tours of this production; one with his Dallas co-star Linda Gray, and a second with his I Dream of Jeannie

co-star Barbara Eden.

The local cast for Dublin's production features Bob Stratton and Ali Lane. Bob Stratton has appeared in numerous East Bay productions such as *Guys and Dolls*, *The Producers*, *Man of La Mancha*, *Ragtime*, *Annie*, *Hair* and in *All Shook Up!* Ali Lane, a graduate of UCLA, was one of the first female mariachi performers in Los Angeles and spent several years touring Canada, Mexico and Japan with her own Latin specialty show, *Las Gauchas*. Locally, Ali has also been featured in numerous East Bay productions including *Nine*, *Gypsy*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, and *All Shook Up!* where she played opposite her *Love Letters* cast mate, Bob Stratton.

The play is directed by Brian Olkowski and produced by Tri-Valley Young Performers Academy.

The production will run for two weekends, Friday to Sunday, February 3-5, and February 10-12. Performance times are Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m., and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. Admission is \$12 for adults, \$7 for youth 6-12 and \$5 for children 5 and under. Tickets

may be purchased in person at the Shannon Community Center located at 11600 Shannon Avenue, or online at [www.DublinRecGuide.com](http://www.DublinRecGuide.com). For more information, please call (925) 556-4500. After the show, enjoy dinner next door at Frankie, Johnnie and Luigi Too. All audience members will receive a 15% discount coupon at the event (not valid for parties of 6 or more. Offer expires February 13).

## Art Happens in Downtown Livermore on February 9

Art Happens in Livermore's Cultural Arts District once more on February 9, with exhibits and activities in several sites from 5:30-8:00pm.

Art Happens is a new monthly art event, with meet the artists, open studios, receptions and hands-on arts projects in several locations downtown. Art Happens is produced by the Bothwell Arts Center with significant support from Livermore Performing Arts Center.

The newly published Art Happens Tour Guide is now available in many downtown shops, and includes a map of the Art Happens event as well as a listing of the many other places that feature art exhibits in the downtown area.

The Bothwell's Downtown Art Studios featured studio artist for the month is Joanna Crawshaw. She shows her colorful and playful works in her exhibition titled "Journeys." When asked about her work, Crawshaw says, "Though each of us follow a different path, we seem to have similar experiences along the way. Life is full of heartache, sorrow and anger, but it is also full of happiness, love and peace. Many of us focus on the end result, but I feel the journey is the most important part."

Housed upstairs in the Old Firehouse building, the Firehouse Art Studios will also be open to the public. This group of accomplished artists show work from abstract to realism in the longest-operating art studio in the area. Visitors are treated to art with each



'Sunny - 09' by Joanna Crawshaw.

step up the stairs.

Another upstairs venue is the brand new Figurehead Art Gallery, upstairs at the Old Theater Mall. With an upscale remodeling and art presentation, Figurehead will be exhibiting works by multiple gallery artists including found object, pottery, art jewelry, photography, paintings and more.

The Wild Vine Wine Bar & Lounge will host a reception for artist Casey Haven from 6:00 to 7:30. At Blacksmith Square, always art-filled Artistic Edge holds

a Jewelry Trunk Show. Several Blacksmith Square shops show local and regional art on their walls as well.

During Art Happens, Art Glass Studios and Café Art offer hands-on experience with glass art and ceramic projects and technique in their creative studios.

Art Happens every second Thursday of the month. For a full calendar of offerings through June, pick up a map or download one online at [www.bothwellartscenter.org](http://www.bothwellartscenter.org).

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## 'Secret of Santa Vittoria' to Screen at Vine



Livermore's Vine Cinema, 1722 First Street in Livermore, will present a special showing of the movie *The Secret of Santa Vittoria* as part of the Livermore Public Library's *Livermore Reads Together* series. The movie will be shown at noon on Saturday, February 11, 2012. Admission for this event is free.

Nominated for 2 Academy Awards and winner of a Golden Globe for comedy, *The Secret of Santa Vittoria* (1969) is classic comedy starring Anthony Quinn as the mayor of Santa Vittoria. The movie, shot in Italy, was produced by Stanley Kramer, and is based on a book by Robert Crichton.

Set during World War II in Italy, *The Secret of Santa Vittoria* tells the story of Italo Bombolini, the mayor of the winemaking hill town of Santa Vittoria, as he learns that the German occupation forces want to take all of Santa Vittoria's wine with them. The townspeople frantically hide a million bottles before the arrival of a German army commander and his detachment. The Germans are given a few thousand bottles, but know there is a lot more. The two very different men engage in a battle of wits.

This program is part of *Livermore Reads Together*, a community-wide reading program featuring John Hersey's book *A Bell for Adano*, which takes place in Italy during World War II.

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



World War II gun.

## Talk at Library to Focus on the Legacy of WWII in the Bay Area

*The Legacy of WWII in the Bay Area* will be presented at 7 p.m. on Thursday, February 9, 2012 at the Livermore Public Library Civic Center, 1188 S. Livermore Avenue.

Not only did the Bay Area make a huge contribution to the war effort, it may well have the nation's finest surviving collection of historic sites, ships and landscapes from the era for us to visit today. Join National Park historian Stephen Haller for a discussion of the Bay Area during World War II and a virtual tour of great places to visit that will bring you back in time and evoke the history and feeling of the period.

Stephen A. Haller is the Park Historian and Branch Chief for Cultural Resources at Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Formerly the Curator of Historic Documents for the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, he has also been an interpreter at a number of historic sites in the San Francisco Bay Area, including Alcatraz, Fort Point and the Maritime Museum. His academic background is in nineteenth century American history and he has specialized in the study of shipwrecks, naval and military history.

He is the author of *Post and Park*, an illustrated history of the Presidio of San Francisco, *The Last Word in Airfields*, a special history study of Crissy Army Airfield (at the Presidio), co-author of *The Last Missile Site: An Operational and Physical History of Nike Site SF-88 at Fort Barry, California*, and *Shipwrecks at the Golden Gate* and was editor of the *Sea Letter*,

the journal of the National Maritime Museum Association. He has been principal investigator for World War II oral history projects at the U.S.S. Arizona Memorial National Historic Site in Hawaii and at the War in the Pacific National Historic Site on Guam. His recent work assignments include project-managing and co-authoring the *Seacoast Fortification Preservation Manual for Golden Gate National Recreation Area*, which received the California Preservation Foundation's 2000 Design Award, managing the three-year project that resulted in the administrative history of Golden Gate National Recreation Area—*The Park That Makes Its Own Weather*, and managing the preservation of the most extensive network of seacoast fortifications in the National Park System.

There is no charge for this event.

This program is part of *Livermore Reads Together*, a community-wide reading program featuring John Hersey's book *A Bell for Adano*, which takes place in Italy during World War II. The community of Livermore is encouraged to join their neighbors by participating in the *Livermore Reads Together* free events for children and adults during the month of February 2012. 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.livermore-relibrary.net](http://www.livermore-relibrary.net).

## Spend an Evening with President Roosevelt

This February, spend *An Evening with President Roosevelt*, a man of many achievements as a naturalist, explorer, author, soldier, and a politician. The Museum on Main's annual Ed Kinney Lecture Series programs "*An Evening With...*" welcomes the 26<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, Teddy Roosevelt, portrayed by Fred Rutledge (pictured at right) on Tuesday, February 7 at 7 p.m. The event is sponsored by Rebecca Bruner.

"*An Evening With...*" is a speakers series where audiences come face to face with people making history today as well as actors who look and sound as if they have stepped out from the pages of history books.

The speakers series takes place monthly January through October at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton, CA 94566. Tickets may be reserved in advance at <http://www.museumonmain.org/ed-kinney-lecture-series.html> or by calling the Museum on Main at (925) 462-2766. All tickets are paid at the door. Ticket prices: \$10 General Admission, \$5 Members & Seniors, \$3 Students/Teachers with ID. All tickets are paid at the door. Cash, check, Visa and MasterCard accepted. All tickets are open seating and after 6:45pm any unclaimed reserved tickets will be released for sale.

For more information on the Ed Kinney Lecture Series visit [www.museumonmain.org](http://www.museumonmain.org) or call Museum on Main at (925) 462-2766.



**A special Armchair Travelers program, Sicily and the Amalfi Coast will be presented by Dale Schauer on Thursday, February 9, 2012 at 1:30 p.m. at the Livermore Public Library Civic Center, 1188 S. Livermore Avenue. There is no charge for this event. The presentation will feature highlights of Sicily, a land that has been shaped by the Greeks, the Romans and the Arabs from nearby Africa before the Normans drove out the Arabs and formed the kingdom of Sicily. The presentation then moves on to the scenic Amalfi coast south of Naples and visits ruins of the Greek and Roman civilization. This program is part of Livermore Reads Together, a community-wide reading program featuring John Hersey's book A Bell for Adano.**



# Science on Saturday Begins with a Talk about Mercury Messenger

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's lecture series, "Science on Saturday," returns February 4 and runs through March 3. This year's talks cover a wide range of current topics including the Lab's work on the Mercury Messenger; effects of earthquakes; space junk; and restoring sight to the blind.

The lectures are free of charge. They are held in the Bankhead Theater located at 2400 First St. in Livermore. Two presentations are offered at 9:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. This year the Lab is expanding the availability of the talks by streaming them live via the LLNL Facebook page.

"This is an excellent way to reach out to students not matter where they live," Richard Farnsworth, manager of the Lab's Science Education Program said.

Each lecture highlights cutting-edge Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL)

science presented by leading Lab researchers joined by master high school science teachers.

Kicking off the series of four Saturday sessions is: "The Gamma-Ray Spectrometer at Mercury: A Seven Year Journey to the Innermost Planet," by LLNL scientist Morgan Burks, and teacher Dan Burns.

This lecture will discuss NASA's MESSENGER mission with a focus on the gamma-ray spectrometer and the importance of gamma-ray science in helping to understand the planet Mercury. This talk also discusses the science and engineering that allowed for the spectrometer to work at cryogenic temperatures in one of the hottest places in the solar system.

Lecture series:

- Feb. 4: "The Gamma-Ray Spectrometer at Mercury: A Seven Year Journey to the Innermost Planet," by LLNL scientist Morgan Burks and teacher Dan Burns.



**Messenger at Mercury.**

- Feb. 11: "Sleuthing Seismic Signals: Understanding Earthquake Hazard and Monitoring

Nuclear Explosions," by LLNL scientist Sean Ford, and teacher Ken Wedel.

- Feb. 18: "Space Junk: Traffic Cops in Space," by LLNL scientist John Henderson, and teacher Tom Shefler.

- March 3: "Restoring Sight to the Blind: Bridging the Medical Gap with Technology," by LLNL scientist Sat Pannu, and teacher Kirk Brown.

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.

For more information about Science on Saturday, directions and a map, go to the Web at <http://education.llnl.gov/sos/> or contact Richard Farnsworth at (925) 422-5059, email at [farnsworth1@llnl.gov](mailto:farnsworth1@llnl.gov).

To access the talks on Facebook, go to [www.facebook.com/livermore.lab](http://www.facebook.com/livermore.lab).

How many of you out there have family photos without any identification? You have no idea who those intriguing people are. Great-aunt Martha? Great-grandfather Wells?

About a month ago, April Beam sent me an e-mail after reading my columns on the Livermore oil wells. She and her husband had a collection of family photographs that included some of the oil wells. I drove to their house to look them over. Her husband, Jerod, and I went through them. He said that I could take some to make copies for the Livermore Heritage Guild. Several weeks later, Mary Rasmussen invited me, Don Rasmussen, and Marion Alexander to her home to look over the photos and identify more of the people standing around oil wells, participating in rodeo parades, or dressed up for weddings. We had a good time thinking back on the old days.

One of the people who kept recurring in the photos was Harry Lefever. The earliest photo of him was at the old Independence oil well site about 1917 when investors had decided to redrill the well to a deeper level. Harry is in the photo with his uncle Percy Lefever, the well dresser, and his father Howard Lefever, the well driller. Harry is named as the mascot; he looks about seven years old. He was born in 1909.

The next photo, in chronological order, shows Harry all dressed up in a handsome tweed overcoat, tie and white shirt, and a soft cap at about age twelve. He has socks and high laced leather shoes. A jacket is just visible under the neck of the coat, but no pants are in sight, so he must be wearing short pants.

Another photo shows Harry in long light-colored pants and a white long-sleeved shirt. He is carrying some books and the background has trees in it, so perhaps he is on his way to or from high school—he looks about 17 or 18 years old. He graduated from Livermore High in 1929.

By 1930 he had started to work for Kaiser Sand and Gravel; he became an engineer who operated one of the giant dredging machines, the Walking Monnighan, at the Radum plant along Stanley Boulevard. The collection of photos shows one from the *Herald* printed with an article in 1953, when Kaiser held a special celebration for long-time

workers. Harry's portrait shows him with a soft cap and a smiling face. He is wearing a jeans jacket and an open collar shirt.

Harry had an amazing gift. He could play music by ear. There is a group of small photos; each one shows his playing on a different instrument: the drums, the guitar, the piano, the clarinet, the violin, and the accordion. A 5 x 8 photo has a combo consisting of Diane Brown on piano, Ray Brown Sr. on saxophone, Neil Rasmussen on drums, and Harry on the accordion playing at the May School graduation ceremony in 1951. Harry's large accordion is beautiful and has his name on the top. The gathering at Mary Rasmussen's house told me that Harry and his friends had a group called the Northern Addition Hotshots that played for dances and other events. One of my favorites in the photo collection is of a trio taking a break from work. Sitting in a mountain of gravel are Bob Livermore playing trumpet, Ray Brown

on sax, and Neil Rasmussen on trombone. Harry is not playing, but I'll bet he was near by. The 1929 high school yearbook lists Harry as a member of the dance orchestra playing the oboe.

Another photo is of Harry and Irene Raymond on their wedding day, probably in 1939. Harry is dressed in a dark-colored suit with a perfect crease in the pants, a white shirt and tie. Irene has on a fancy hat topped with flowers (I wish I could see the colors, but it is black and white) that is tilted to her right. She is wearing a light-colored suit with a long top gathered at the waist with a scarf. The skirt is a soft A-line. They lived at 355 North K Street.

Harry and Bill Ralph were instrumental in gathering the collection of antique farm equipment at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. Two of the photos show Harry in a barn at the fairground with the collection. In one of them, Ray Brown Sr. is playing a sax made of some sort of metal piping and a metal bowl.

Harry is grinning from ear to ear and conducting the impromptu concert with a conductor's wand.

Harry served the Alameda County Resource Conservation District for 23 years as a director, and then for 15 years as its president until his death in 1978. In Harry's memory, the Resource Conservation District dedicated the Plant Materials Center—120 acres against the creek at the Rose Avenue gate entrance into the fairgrounds. A photo of Harry is on the front cover of the dedication program, showing him stooped down, touching plants on the ground. The plant center was a place where researchers from the Soil Conservation Service grew plants—some natives, others they had determined were good for growing in our area. Unfortunately, the Center has been taken over by the Fairgrounds and is no longer used as planned.

This photo collection illustrates the life of Harry Lefever—a kind, good-humored, talented man. What are you doing with your old photos? Are they in a box in the basement? Perhaps it is time to resurrect them and identify them with the help of friends and relatives. The Heritage Guild down at the old Carnegie Building would love to have copies to add to their collection about our community.

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

## Do You Remember?

By Anne Homan



### Harry Lefever and Family Photos

## WESTERN EVENING

(continued from page 2)

tions of the Lone Star State. All three are Texas State Champion fiddlers who not only fiddle, but sing in three-part harmony, accompanied by expert fiddle teacher Joey McKenzie on the rhythm guitar and Drew Phelps on bass. In addition to appearing at the Grand Ole Opry and in venues across North America, the Quebe sisters appeared at the 2010 Berkshire-Hathaway Shareholders' Meeting, where even the "Oracle of Omaha" (and ukulele player) Warren Buffett couldn't resist joining in on the familiar western ballad, "Red River Valley."

Winners of the 2010 Grammy Award for "Best Tejano Album," Los Texmaniacs puts their own stamp on musical traditions that run deep in their families and in south Texas communities, melding classic conjunto sounds – rancheras, polkas, waltzes, cumbias, huapangos and schottishes – with Texas rock, blues and R&B. Born in the valley of the Rio Grande and rooted in the lively accordion dance tunes of the area's European immigrants, conjunto ("group" in Spanish) had emerged by the 1930's as a boisterous and distinctive Tex-Mex fusion. In Los Texmaniacs, founder Max Baca's use of the traditional 12-stringed bajo sexto blends with the accordion of David Farias, Lorenzo Martinez on drums, and Oscar Garcia on bass guitar, to achieve a contemporary conjunto sound.

One of the newest groups in Northern Plains drum and song, North Bear has gained national recognition as a foremost example of "straight" or traditional Northern Plains singing. This distinctive style employs falsetto and nonword musical syllables called "vocables" that increase in volume and tempo as the song progresses. Founded in 2003 by brothers Jermaine and Luke Bell of the Northern Arapaho tribe, North Bear's members represent tribes from across the Great Plains including the Oglala Lakota, Cheyenne and Paiute. While firmly rooted in Northern Plains tradition, North Bear is also at the center of a resurgence of interest in the hand drum, used to accompany songs with improvised, often humorous lyrics, akin to rap.

Montana's rodeo poet laureate and recipient of the 2005 Governor's Arts Award for Literature, Paul Zarzyski (rhymes with "whiskey") has been "spurring the words wild across the open range of the page," as he puts it, for 35 years. Zarzyski left his small hometown in northern Wisconsin and headed to Montana at the age of 22 to

pursue his twin passions for poetry and bareback bronc riding. After a dozen years on the circuit, both amateur and professional, a bad back ended his rodeo career and he turned to making his living with words. Unlike most rodeo poets who use traditional rhymed verse, Zarzyski prefers free verse, although his nine poetry collections feature both styles, ably expressing the spirit of Western life. His rodeo poems, All This Way for the Short Ride, won The Western Heritage Award from The National Cowboy Hall of Fame in 1997.

"Don't Fence Me In" is produced by the National Council for the Traditional Arts, the oldest traditional arts organization in the country. Founded in 1933, NCTA is dedicated to preservation and presentation of a wide range of American arts by traditional artists, who share their deep and multicultural roots in live tours, festivals, broadcast programs, films and recordings.

The show will be at the Bankhead Theater for one night only on Thursday evening, February 23, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets range from \$29 to \$51 with \$14 student tickets available.

The national tour of "Don't Fence Me In" will be followed by the three-part bluegrass harmonies of Red Molly on March 2, 2012. To celebrate Livermore's Western Heritage Month and the 94th Annual Livermore Rodeo, the Bankhead Theater will host a full week of country music beginning with the familiar country-rock of Pure Prairie League on May 28th. West Coast contemporary country band Buffalo Rome opens rodeo weekend with a concert on Friday evening, June 8th, followed by the return of local favorite, Grammy Award-winning western swing band Asleep at the Wheel on Saturday evening, June 9th. Tickets for all shows in the LVPAC Presents Country/Western Series can be purchased at the Bankhead Theater box office.

The Bankhead Theater is located at 2400 First Street in Downtown Livermore. To purchase tickets call 925-373-6800 or visit [www.bankheadtheater.org](http://www.bankheadtheater.org)

## Black History Month Concert at Dublin Library

The Dublin Library will host a free concert with performer Kirk Waller on Feb. 4 at 3 p.m.

For Black History Month, Kirk tells stories from Henry Box Brown to John Henry and his mighty hammer. The program

## Celtic Music and Dance at the Bankhead

Some of the world's finest Celtic artists arrive at the Bankhead Theater on February 8th in a showcase of expert dancing and musicianship. "Celtic Nights – Journey of Hope and Promise" tells the epic story of a proud and passionate people who dared to leave their beloved homeland, determined to find a better life in America. The program includes Celtic ballads, fiddle playing and traditional step dancing. Tickets for the single performance of "Celtic Nights" on Wednesday evening, February 8, 2012 are already selling quickly and range from \$39 to \$62 for adults and \$14 for students.

In 1845, a widespread fungus among potato crops ruined the livelihood of farmers across Ireland leaving them destitute and desperate for survival. With emigration their only hope, millions left the country and headed to America. While starvation was a poor alternative, leaving was not an easy choice knowing they were unlikely to see their homeland again. Arrival did not guarantee a future as few had the resources to establish businesses or farms, but rapid growth in America offered opportunities that were reaped by hard work and perseverance. As the immigrants found their way in this new world, the familiar stories, music and dances of the old country kept them connected, eventually taking root in American music where traces of the Irish homeland can still be heard in the bluegrass, country and western music of today.

"Celtic Nights" is a showcase not only of the Irish immigrants' rich heritage but of the America they found, a new and welcoming homeland. The evening is filled



Celtic Nights

with short vignettes, songs and dances that range in spirit from joyful laughter to wistful melancholy. Direct from Ireland, singers, dancers and musicians take audiences on the immigrant's journey, filling the theater with Celtic music, the foot-tapping percussive sounds of jigs, reels, and polkas, and encouraging audiences to join in on songs such as "Danny Boy," "Isle of Hope," "May We Never Have to Say Goodbye," and "My Love is in America."

"Celtic Nights" was developed by the talented artistic team, led by producer Michael Durkan, whose stunning show "Gaelforce Dance" was named winner of the 2010 IQ Magazine Best Dance Spectacular Award over other productions including the well-known "Riverdance" and "Lord of the Dance." The group is dedicated to establishing the Gaelic voice as a global treasure, expressing the power and

passion of Ireland's rich culture through the drama of its music and dance. Their past productions, which also include "Irish Nights" and "On Eagles Wing," have performed for sold-out crowds around the world.

"Celtic Nights" appears at the Bankhead Theater as part of the LVPAC Presents 2011-2012 World Music Series. Coming next in the World Music Series on Thursday, March 1, 2012, Luna Negra Dance Theater will bring its distinctive and engaging style of contemporary Latino dance to the Bankhead. They will be followed by Mexico's premier Mariachi group, Mariachi Sol de Mexico, on Friday evening, April 27th at 8:00 p.m.

The Bankhead Theater is located at 2400 First Street in Downtown Livermore. To purchase tickets call 925-373-6800 or visit [www.bankheadtheater.org](http://www.bankheadtheater.org)

## IMPROV

(continued from front page)

are also scheduled in the coming months to fund the trip to Chicago featuring new original teen improv formats. The next in this series of original formats is Mafia-esque, an improvised teen murder mystery based on a popular camp circle game.

Mafia-esque plays at the Veterans Memorial building on Friday,

February 10 at 7:30pm. Then, on Friday, March 2 at 7:30 p.m., Creatures of Impulse will perform The Tribe, a teen long-form improv show based on the long-running reality show Survivor. Tickets for both shows are \$5 per person and are available at the door.

On Saturday, April 23, Creatures of Impulse return to the

Veterans Memorial Building stage at 7:30 p.m. to present The Impuls-ible Film Project, a revival of a format made popular by the Un-Scripted Theater Company in San Francisco. Three teams of improvisers will take to the streets of Pleasanton to shoot three improvised short films based on your suggestion. Tickets are also \$5 per person, and all tickets are available at the door.

Creatures of Impulse supporters can soon contribute to the teen improv troupe online at the Kickstarter.com website by searching either "Creatures of Impulse" or "Tri-Valley High: The Musical" on Kickstarter.com. For more information, please call Mark Duncanson at (925) 931-4828.

Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, Tennessee.

This program is suitable for families with children ages 6 and up.

This program is funded by the Friends of the Dublin Library.

incorporates music, mime, and singing.

Kirk has performed at festivals, schools, libraries, churches and special events in the San Francisco Bay Area and across our nation. Last fall he told at the National

# 'Little Mermaid' Takes Students into the Blue Waters of Imagination



Cast members of 'Little Mermaid' pose for a photo.

By Carol Graham

"Come into the cold blue waters of your imagination," called Professor Thumperdumper at the start of Marylin Avenue Elementary School's original adaptation of *The Little Mermaid* presented on Saturday, January 28 in the school auditorium.

With that, sea creatures and seafarers brought the stage to life as 53 students told the story of Celia, a mermaid who lives for music and awaits her chance to visit the World Above on her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday.

"At first I had butterflies," said Ariel Williams, who played Celia. "But it was really fun when I saw all the people who came here to see us."

Missoula Children's Theatre, a nation-wide touring company that schedules week-long residencies at schools to star students in full-scale productions, hosted the presentation - supplying everything from a script, director, scenery, costumes and props. Cast auditions were held Monday, January 23, followed by four days of intensive rehearsal to learn lines, songs,

and choreography before the two Saturday performances.

"To put this presentation on in just a week? I thought it was incredibly amazing," said Principal Jeff Keller. "Parents were supportive, interested, and very appreciative for their children to have this opportunity."

Katie Maiello, 22, a tour actor who played the parts of Mrs. Merman and Starfish, said, "Marylin students were fantastic! They picked up everything quickly, and were very studious."

MCT's mission is to help students develop life skills like goal achievement, creativity and self-confidence through the performing arts. Teacher Noah King, said, "We can't praise them highly enough. They've been so professional, so positive and such a great inspiration for the kids."

Last year, after hearing a radio story about MCT, teacher Sue Carling and King saw "Treasure Island" in Danville. "We were both completely enchanted with what they accomplished," said King. "We made a pitch to our leadership team about bringing

the group here. Sue was really the point person - the person that brought everything together."

"We cobbled the funding together through grants, donations and volunteers," said Carling noting support from the Livermore Valley Education Foundation, Livermore Rotary, First Presbyterian Church, and her friend Mary Burnham who provided piano accompaniment for the performance. "Mary loved it; she was glad I asked," said Carling.

"It felt really good when the audience sang and clapped along," said fifth-grader Dianca Tanod, who played a town crier. "The best part was being onstage with all my friends and expressing my feelings."

Maiello, who was onstage nearly the entire time, said, "As a tour actor, we try to help the children, which sometimes includes guiding

them in the right direction onstage. But we want to make sure they do their absolute best so they leave with the best possible feeling.

"The actors were really nervous," she added, "but we told them it was okay to channel the nervous energy into performance energy."


"Before, my heart beat really fast and hard, and I almost started shaking," said Dianca. "But then it was fun because I got used to the audience."

The production included songs, many with audience members instructed to sing-along by following the bouncing barracuda; a prince (who "got a degree in Charming from Princeton, of course") and many puns on the underwater theme: things were done on por-

poise, a bouquet of flounders was delivered, and, naturally, big girls don't koi.


All of MCT's shows are original adaptations of children's stories and fairytales, with twists on the classic stories children know and love. With the theme of appreciating what one already has, *The Little Mermaid* concluded with Celia noting, "I've learned that everything I've ever wanted is right here."

While many of the young students consider pursuing their acting dreams further, at least one was looking forward to enjoying that classic Broadway tradition: the wrap party. "The best part was that my whole family came," said Ariel. "Everyone's coming to my house afterward for a party."



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## ART &amp; ENTERTAINMENT



"Blushing Rose," watercolor on paper by Barbara Viola

## Student Exhibition at the Community Center Gallery

The students of Thomasin Dewhurst Fine Art will be holding their first art exhibition at the Robert Livermore Community Center Gallery located at 4444 East Avenue.

Work from students aged 5 to 92 will be exhibited. On display will be acrylic paintings, watercolor paintings, oil paintings, collages, prints and drawings in charcoal and conte pencil. The pieces are colorful, bold and imaginative expressions of the creative exploration, careful observation and problem-solving skills.

The students come from Livermore, Pleasanton, San Ramon and Danville, and have worked in art classes held by Thomasin Dewhurst at various locations in Livermore and Pleasanton, including the Robert Livermore Community Center, Croce Elementary School, Hearst Elementary School and at the instructor's own Art Studio.

The exhibition be on view through February 29 2012. It is open to the public during the business hours of the Robert Livermore Community Center: 8a.m. - 6 p.m. M-Th; 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Friday; 9 a.m. - noon Saturday.

For further information, please contact Thomasin Dewhurst (925) 216-7231 or thomasin\_d@hotmail.com or visit the website: <http://childrensartclassesprojects.blogspot.com/>

### ART/PHOTO EXHIBITS

**Blue Bay Press: Eloquence in Printmaking,** Harrington Gallery, Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. January 19 - February 18, 2012. Exhibit will include several styles of printmaking —etching, monotype, chine colle, and woodblock,

on handmade paper, canvas, and other surfaces, for example. It will also include a small collection of marble sculptures made by Maj-Britt Hilstrom. [www.firehousearts.org](http://www.firehousearts.org).

**Scenes of Yosemite,** exhibit of paintings by Charlotte Severin and Larry Gipson and photographs by Mark Davis. The exhibit will be on view through February 15 at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. Gallery hours are Wed.-Fri. noon to 5 p.m., Sat. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and one hour prior to theater performances.

**Expressionist painter Marco Rosales Shaw** works are on display at Prudential California Realty through March 15. Prudential California Realty is located at 1790 First Street, Livermore. The show is open for viewing during regular business hours or by appointment. Contact Cher Wollard at 925 824-4824 or [cherw@cherw.com](mailto:cherw@cherw.com) for information.

**Judy Rice Exhibit,** January and February 2012, Garre Winery Restaurant, 7986 Tesla Rd., Livermore. Watercolor landscape and flower paintings at this exhibit. The restaurant is open Monday through Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and for some dinners. 925-371-8200.

**Art Happens at Figurehead,** Feb. 9 Figurehead Art Gallery will participate in Art Happens with an exhibition of works by Angela Johal, Erin Kathleen Donohue, Suzanne Lovejoy Johnson, David Johnson, Goran Konjevod, Josh Latkin, Carolyn Lord, Gerald Ratto, Linda Ryan, Barbara Stanton, Deborah Thackrey, and Tom Thackrey. Drawing and Paper Folding (Origami) Classes at the Figurehead Gallery are starting in February with Carolyn Lord and Goran Konjevod, check [www.figureheadgallery.com](http://www.figureheadgallery.com) for more information, go to Facebook, or stop by the gallery at 2222 Second St. Stes. 20 and 21 (The Old Theater Mall), Livermore.

**Art Happens** Downtown Livermore every second Thursday of the month with exhibits and activities in several sites from 5:30-8:00pm. Art Happens is a new monthly art event, with meet the artists, open studios, receptions and hands-on arts projects in several locations downtown, produced by the Bothwell Arts Center with support from LVPAC. The Bothwell's Downtown Art Studio artists will open their working spaces. Featured studio artist Joanna Crawshaw will display her "Journey" exhibition at 62 So. L Street. Details about this and upcoming Art Happens are available on the new tour guides, found at the studios and many downtown locations, or downloadable at [www.bothwellartscenter.org](http://www.bothwellartscenter.org).

**Open Studios at the Old Firehouse,** 5:30-8:30 on February 9, upstairs in the historic old Firehouse at the corner of First & McLeod Streets (directly across from the Bankhead Theater). Firehouse Art Studios will hold an open studios during Art Happens. Artists Linda Beach, Lynne Shephard, Claudia Willis, Valerie Daft, Regina Leyva and Martha Eddlemer will be on hand, with a wide range of art exhibited from paintings, found object, and watercolor to encaustics, in traditional to contemporary styles. [val\\_daft@me.com](mailto:val_daft@me.com) for more info or find and like us on Facebook! [www.facebook.com/www.firehouseartstudio.org](http://www.facebook.com/www.firehouseartstudio.org)

### MEETINGS/CLASSES

**Everything Poetry (in two parts),** Second Saturday Soup-workshops 2nd Saturday of every month, 10 a.m.-12 noon Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton; Third Tuesday Trope: poetry critiques 3rd Tuesday of every month, 7 p.m.-9 p.m. Towne Center Books, 555 Main Street, Pleasanton. Contact Cynthia Bryant at [PleasantonPoetry@ci.pleasanton.ca.us](mailto:PleasantonPoetry@ci.pleasanton.ca.us).

**Make It and Take It,** Thursday nights, with guest artists and demos: January is "Fused Birthday Plate" only \$15. Art Glass Studio, 174 South L St., Livermore. For more information contact Roberta Jones at: 925-447-1962 [www.artglassstudio.weebly.com](http://www.artglassstudio.weebly.com)

### WINERY EVENTS

**Port and Chocolate Weekends,** Tamás Estates, 5565 Tesla Road, Livermore, each weekend throughout February, 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sample Tamás Estates Barbera Port with a specially selected chocolate truffle.

**5th Annual Cuda Ridge Wines, Vines, and Valentines** on Sat and Sun, Feb 11-12, 12:00 -4:30. Treat your Valentine to wine releases, Live Music, Andy's Candy's and good times! Wines to be released include 2009 S&M and 2009 Malbec. The S&M is a unique blend of Sangiovese and Malbec. The S&M is a very limited lot and won't last long. Also be tasting the 2007 Cuda Amis Port style wine, a perfect wine for your Valentine. There are two tasting flights, Cupid and Desire, each flight is \$5.00. There are special wine discounts which include 10% discount for 6 bottles or more, and 15% discount for case purchases. Andy's Candy's will sample toffees both days and the toffee is available for purchase. Livermore's Roger Kardinal, will serenade visitors on Sunday, Feb 12. Cuda Ridge Wines is located at 5385 East Avenue in Livermore, for more information go to [www.CudaRidgeWines.com](http://www.CudaRidgeWines.com) or call 510-304-0914.

**Valentine Port and Chocolate Affaire** at Charles R Vineyards, Saturday, February 11, noon to 4:30 p.m. Old-fashioned Valentine Day with Bonnie's Port Fudge and Decadent Chocolate Cake. Pairing the chocolate treats with Vino de Amor (Port), chilled and room temperature, and a Dad's special port tasting for Club Members. Ask how to become a Club Member. 8195 Crane Ridge Rd., Livermore. 454-3040. [www.charlesvineyards.com](http://www.charlesvineyards.com).

**Cedar Mountain Winery, Port and Chocolate Tasting** February 11, from 12-4 p.m. in the Winemaker's Art Gallery. Late Bottled Vintage Port, Tortuga Royale, Luana Inu, and Chardonnay del Sol. The LBVP will be paired with Live-For-More-Fudge made with our port! This locally made fudge will be available for purchase. Chocolate and port gift packs at special pricing. Tasting \$10 (non-refundable on a bottle of wine). 7000 Tesla Road, Livermore; (925) 373-6636.

**Amor de Les Chenes,** Sat, Feb. 11 and Sun., Feb. 12, noon to 4:30 p.m. Les Chenes Estate Vineyards, 5562 Victoria Lane, Livermore. Famous Jacqueline Kennedy Chocolate Souffle paired with our new Petite Sirah Port. \$5 fee. [www.leschenesvine.com](http://www.leschenesvine.com)

**Chocolate Fondue paired with McGrail Cabernet Sauvignon,** Sun., Feb. 12, noon to 4 p.m. Taste award winning Cabernet Sauvignons with delicate desserts dipped in chocolate fondue. McGrail Vineyards and Winery, 5600 Greenville Road, Livermore. \$25. [www.mcgrailvineyards.com](http://www.mcgrailvineyards.com)

**Romance Wine and Chocolate,** Feb. 12, 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. sessions, Wente Vineyards. Five decadent chocolate dessert and wine pairings, learn fun facts and trivia about the Valentine's Day Holiday, love and romance. Wine Club and Nth Degree Club Members \$30, all other guests, \$35. Call the Vineyard Tasting Room at 925-456-2405 to purchase tickets.

**Eagle Ridge Vineyard** is celebrating Valentine's Day with "Love is in the Air," Special vendors with gift items; sample the imported chocolate fountain with special goodies. Spend the day in Livermore Wine Country at Eagle Ridge Vineyard. 10017 Tesla Road, Livermore; (925) 447-4328. [eagleridgevineyard.com](http://eagleridgevineyard.com)

**Cedar Mountain Winery, Barrel Tasting** February 18, 19, and 20th from 12:00-4:00 p.m. Included will be samples of 2009 Syrah and 2005 Souzao Port. Regular tasting fees apply. 7000 Tesla Road, Livermore.

**Thomas Coyne Winery Winter Open House,** Feb. 18, 19 and 20, noon to 5 p.m. at the historical tasting room at 51 E. Vallecitos Road Livermore. Four new wines will be released: Reserve Quest, Sweet Emillie, Petit Verdot, Vino Tinto Reserva. A selection of fine fruits and cheeses will be served. Bring a picnic and enjoy sweeping views of the Livermore Valley. "Bottle Your Own Wine,"

selling Vino Tinto Barato at the open house. Bring a clean bottle, we will fill, cork and label it for \$6.00 per bottle. Use our bottle for \$6.50; or may bottle, label and cork it yourself. Available only on Feb 18. Limit of six bottles per person.

**Barrel Tasting Weekend,** March 31, 2012 - April 1, 2012 at over 35 Wineries throughout Livermore Valley, noon to 4:30 p.m. Chance to taste wines before they have been bottled, getting a behind the scenes look into the winemaking process. Meet winemakers, bottle your own wines, enjoy food pairings, and other activities that vary by winery. Tickets are \$30 advance (\$35 event day) and include 2 days of barrel tasting, exclusive discounts, keepsake glass, and special activities at each winery. For a list of activities, participating wineries, and to purchase tickets, visit [www.LVwine.org](http://www.LVwine.org)

### MUSIC/CONCERTS

**Patsy Cline Tribute** with Joni Morris, 2 p.m. Sat., Feb. 5. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. [www.firehousearts.org](http://www.firehousearts.org).

**Celtic Nights,** Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m. LVPAC Presents, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. [www.bankheadtheater.org](http://www.bankheadtheater.org) or 373-6800.

**Led Zeppelin Experience** starring "Heartbreaker," Friday, February 10, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. [www.bankheadtheater.org](http://www.bankheadtheater.org) or 373-6800.

**Ravi Coltrane,** Grammy-Nominated Saxophonist, Fri., Feb. 10, 8 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. [www.firehousearts.org](http://www.firehousearts.org).

**Legally Blonde,** Diabolo Theatre Company, The Musical performs at the Leshler Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek, February 10 - March 3, 2012. For tickets call (925) 943-SHOW or purchase online.

**Livermore Amador Symphony,** concert Sat., Feb. 11, 8 p.m. featuring two winners of the annual Competition for Young Musicians. Program features Something for Everyone. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. [www.bankheadtheater.org](http://www.bankheadtheater.org) or 373-6800.

**Tribute to Glenn Miller,** Feb. 12, 2 p.m. LVPAC Presents, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. [www.bankheadtheater.org](http://www.bankheadtheater.org) or 373-6800.

**Cypress String Quartet,** 3 p.m. Feb. 12, Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. [www.firehousearts.org](http://www.firehousearts.org).

**Music of ABBA,** winter gala, Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m. LVPAC Presents, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. [www.bankheadtheater.org](http://www.bankheadtheater.org) or 373-6800.

**Hanson and Glover Piano Duet** (four hands, one piano), Feb. 18, 8 p.m. Del Valle Fine Arts Concert, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. [www.bankheadtheater.org](http://www.bankheadtheater.org) or 373-6800.

**An Evening in Roma with Naresh Michael,** Feb. 18, 8 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. [www.firehousearts.org](http://www.firehousearts.org).

**Don't Fence Me In,** country and western, Feb. 23, 7:30 p.m. LVPAC Presents, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. [www.bankheadtheater.org](http://www.bankheadtheater.org) or 373-6800.

**Dan Hicks and the Hot Licks,** Feb. 24, 8 p.m. LVPAC Presents, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. [www.bankheadtheater.org](http://www.bankheadtheater.org) or 373-6800.

**San Ramon Symphonic Band,** Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m. "Latin Spirit," Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, 10550 Albion Rd., San Ramon. [www.sanramon.ca.gov](http://www.sanramon.ca.gov)

**Pacific Chamber Symphony,** a professional symphony orchestra, concert 8 p.m. Feb. 25, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Program: Bach to Brahms - Brandenburg Concerto #6 for woodwinds, Mozart Serenade #12, Brahms Serenade #2. \$39/\$34/\$29 \$7 students. [www.bankheadtheater.org](http://www.bankheadtheater.org)

**Ho'olaule'a o Mana'olana: A Celebration of Hope,** Feb. 25, 7 p.m. Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, 10550 Albion Rd., San Ramon. [www.sanramon.ca.gov](http://www.sanramon.ca.gov)

**Salute to the Rat Pack,** Sun, Feb. 26, 2 p.m. A Swingin' Tribute to Frank, Dean, Sammy and The Legends of Las Vegas. Bankhead

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

**Sunol Repertory Theatre Melodrama,** "Rogue of the Railway," Fri. and Sat., 8 p.m. March 9-24. Sunol Glen School, 11601 Main St., Sunol. Tickets by mail go to [sunol.net/srt](mailto:sunol.net/srt) or call 925.862.0664

### ON THE STAGE

**Laura** by Vera Caspary and George Sklar, January 13 - February 4, Role Players Ensemble, 8 p.m. Th., Fri., Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Village Theatre, 233 Front St. Danville, [www.ci.danville.ca.us](http://www.ci.danville.ca.us)

**Annie,** Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre production, weekends Jan. 21 to Feb. 3. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. [www.bankheadtheater.org](http://www.bankheadtheater.org) or 373-6800.

**Moon Over Buffalo,** by Ken Ludwig (of *Leads Me a Tenor* fame), is a wild and wacky backstage farce ably helmed by award winning director Jim Colgan. Chanticleers Theatre's first show of the 2012 season, Feb. 24 to March 18, 8 p.m. Fri. and Sat., 2 p.m. Sundays. Chanticleers Theatre, 3683 Quail Ave., Castro Valley. General admission \$18, seniors, students, military \$15. Tickets [www.chanticleers.org](http://www.chanticleers.org), [reservations@chanticleers.org](mailto:reservations@chanticleers.org) or 510-SEE-LIVE (510-733-5483)

**Love Letters - Valentines Production,** Friday to Sunday, Feb. 3 to 5 and 10 to 12, 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Dublin Heritage Park and Museums, Donlon Way, Dublin. First theatrical production in the new Kolb Barn Theatre by Tri-Valley Performers, *Love Letters* by A. R. Gurney, for two consecutive weekends. [www.ci.dublin.ca.us](http://www.ci.dublin.ca.us).

**Alice's Adventures in Wonderland,** Civic Arts Stage Company, Feb. 24, 25 and March 2 and 3 at 7:30 p.m.; Feb. 25 and 26 and March 3 and 4 at 2 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. [www.firehousearts.org](http://www.firehousearts.org).

**Douglas Morrisson Theatre presents "Dividing the Estate"** by Horton Foote, a darkly comic portrait of a family divided. Directed by Susan E. Evans. Thursday, February 23, 2012 preview 8:00 p.m.; opening reception Feb. 24; performances through March 18. Douglas Morrisson Theatre, 22311 N. Third St., Hayward. Post-play discussion March 10 matinee. Tickets \$10 preview, \$20 Sat. matinee; \$28 evening performances and Sunday matinee. (510) 881-6777; [www.dmtonline.org](http://www.dmtonline.org).

**Play On!** a comedy by Rick Abbot. March 10-11, 16-17, 2012. Friday-Saturday 8 p.m. Sunday 2 p.m. Doors open 20 minutes before show time. Tickets \$10. General admission. Buy online at [www.asburylivepresents.com](http://www.asburylivepresents.com) or at the door. Asbury Players, Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave, Livermore. (925) 447-8699.

### COMEDY

**Creatures of Impulse Improv Face-Off,** Feb. 2, 3 and 4, 7:30 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. [www.firehousearts.org](http://www.firehousearts.org).

**Comedy @ Firehouse Arts with Andrew Norelli,** Thurs., Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. [www.firehousearts.org](http://www.firehousearts.org).

### DANCE

**Moscow Festival Ballet Presents Sleeping Beauty,** Feb. 19, 4 p.m. Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, 10550 Albion Rd., San Ramon. [www.sanramon.ca.gov](http://www.sanramon.ca.gov)

### AUDITIONS/COMPETITIONS

**Open Auditions,** for Tri-Valley Haven's Annual Production of *The Vagina Monologues*, to be performed at the Bankhead Theater in April 2012, will be held on Saturday, February 4 from 3:30 - 6:30 pm at the Ygnacio Valley Library, 2661 Oak Grove Road in Walnut Creek. No appointment necessary. Experienced and inexperienced actresses of all ages and ethnic backgrounds are welcome (women only please)! Please bring a current photo and prepare a 1 - 2 minute monologue to present to the Director. For more information, please contact Carolyn

# ART & ENTERTAINMENT

Staeble at Carolyn@trivalleyhaven.org or (925) 667-2712.

**Auditions - Shout! the Mod Musical,** Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre production directed by Min Kahng. Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m. with callbacks Wed., Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m. 1048 Serpentine Lane, #309, Pleasanton. Co-Creator Phillip George and David Lowenstein, Continuity Peter Charles Morris Rated PG. Please bring 32 bars up tempo 60's Pop. Accompanist provided. No a capella or tapes allowed. Be dressed for and prepared to dance. All roles open, ages 18 and older, no pay. Rehearsals begin on February 27. Information at [www.trivalleyrep.org](http://www.trivalleyrep.org).

**Auditions, The Odd Couple,** San Ramon Community Theater production, auditions February 7, 2012 at 7 p.m. with call-backs on February 9, 2012 at 7 p.m. 6 men and 2 women from ages 20 to 60. Rehearsals begin in February with performances for 3 weekends beginning April 27, 2012. Auditions and call-backs are at the Front Row Theater in San Ramon, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Rd., San Ramon (located inside the Dougherty Station Community Center). [www.sanramoncommunitytheater.org](http://www.sanramoncommunitytheater.org) or call (925) 389-7529

**Acoustic Night,** San Ramon Parks and Community Services Department is hosting Acoustic Night for high school students on Friday, March 30 at the Loft, in the Dougherty Station Community Center (17011 Bollinger Canyon Road). The event starts at 7:30 pm and costs \$5 to attend. The Department is looking for talented musicians to perform during this event. The Acoustic Night is open to all high school students. Interested performers should contact Jennifer Gault at 973-3375 or email [jegault@sanramon.ca.gov](mailto:jegault@sanramon.ca.gov). Visit [www.SRTeen.org](http://www.SRTeen.org).

**MOVIES**

**Classic films at the Pleasanton Library,** Las Positas College and the Pleasanton Public Library present the series. Theme this year is "Three Great Directors." Admission is free. The series is hosted by Candace Klaschus,

Professor of Media Studies at Las Positas College. Klaschus offers a brief talk about each film prior to the screening. The three great film directors featured in this year's series are Howard Hawkes, John Ford and Alfred Hitchcock. Refreshments are served. A complete list of the "Three Great Directors" films is available at the Pleasanton Public Library. Movies will be shown the first Thursday of each month through June 7, 2012. No registration required. The library is located at 400 Old Bernal Ave., Pleasanton. For more information, call Penny Johnson, 931-3405.

**CHORAL**

**Cantabella Children's Chorus** is presenting an evening of good food, entertainment, dancing and auctions at the Veterans' Memorial Hall, 522 South L Street, Livermore, 6:30 p.m. Friday, February 10, 2012. The event is a fundraiser to help send the Honors Choir to the World Choir Games in Cincinnati, OH, in July, where over 20,000 choristers representing more than 70 nations will gather together. The cruise-themed evening promises lots of fun with entertainment by individuals and groups of singers, dancing, and treats available during the auctions. All are invited to "book passage" on the "Cantabella Cruise Line" at [Cantabella.org](http://Cantabella.org), or call 925-292-2663 for more information.

**OPERA**

**Opera San José** continues its 28th season with the romantic tragedy La Traviata, Verdi's heartbreaking tale of love and sacrifice, overflowing with some of the most unforgettable music in all of opera. Eight performances are scheduled February 11 through 26 at the California Theatre, 345 South First Street in downtown San José. Tickets are on sale at the Opera San José Box Office, by phone at (408) 437-4450 or online at [www.operasj.org](http://www.operasj.org). La Traviata is sponsored by the Applied Materials Foundation and made possible, in part, by a Cultural Affairs Grant from the City of San José.

**Broadcast from the Met,** Dublin Regal Hacienda Cinema. Gotterdammerung, Feb. 11; Ernani, Feb. 25 and March 14; Manon, April 7 and 25; Turandot, April 14, May 2. First date is a morning showing, second date afternoon. Check for exact curtain time. 560-0900.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**Museum on Main, preschool pre-literacy program,** M.o.M.'s Reading Time. For ages 2 to 5 and families, free reading program, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Reading at 10 a.m. with theme crafts following. Donations appreciated. No reservations required. Large groups or playgroups please phone in advance: 925.462.2766 or email: [education@museumonmain.org](mailto:education@museumonmain.org). 2012 M.o.M.'s Reading Time Dates and Themes: February 8, The Day it Rained Hearts; March 14, The End of the Rainbow; April 11, Art Smart; May 9, Please and Thank You; June 13, Flag Day; July 11, We All Scream for Ice Cream; August 8, It's A Circus; September 12, Fiesta; October 10, Creepy Critters; November 14, Thank You, Veterans; and, December 12, Light Up the Seasons. The Museum on Main is located at 603 Main Street in historic downtown Pleasanton.

**Science on Saturday,** Feb. 4, 9:30 and 11:15 a.m. The Gamma-Ray Spectrometer at Mercury: A Seven Year Journey to the Innermost Planet; Presenter: Morgan Burks, Teacher: Dan Burns. Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's lecture series for middle and high school students, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. No admission charge. [www.bankheadtheater.org](http://www.bankheadtheater.org)

**Ed Kinney Lecture Series,** 7 p.m. An Evening with President Roosevelt, Tues., Feb. 7. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. \$10 General Admission, \$5 Members and Seniors, \$3 Students/Teachers with ID. All tickets are paid at the door. All tickets are open seating. Information [www.museumonmain.org](http://www.museumonmain.org) or (925) 462-2766.

**Casks, Kegs and Cupids,** Museum on Main's Valentine fund-raising dinner. Handles Gastropub in the Pleasanton Hotel on Saturday,

February 11 at 6 pm. Gourmet dinner paired with fine wines or beers, live auction and popular two-bit auction. \$80 per person. Tickets are for purchase at Museum on Main, 603 Main Street, Pleasanton, or by phone at 925-462-2766. Cash, checks, Visa or MasterCard accepted.

**Science on Saturday,** February 11, 9:30 and 11:45 a.m. Sleuthing Seismic Signals: Understanding Earthquake Hazard and Monitoring Nuclear Explosions; Presenter: Sean Ford, Teacher: Ken Wedel. Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's lecture series for middle and high school students, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. No admission charge. [www.bankheadtheater.org](http://www.bankheadtheater.org)

**Science on Saturday,** February 18, 9:30 and 11:45 a.m. Space Junk: Traffic Cops in Space; Presenter: John Henderson, Teacher: Tom Shefler. Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's lecture series for middle and high school students, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. No admission charge. [www.bankheadtheater.org](http://www.bankheadtheater.org)

**Paul Alan Cox,** Director of the Institute for Ethnomedicine, Wed., Feb. 22, 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. LLNL Presents The Rae Dorrough Speakers Series: Something in the Water? [www.bankheadtheater.org](http://www.bankheadtheater.org) or 373-6800.

**Livermore Reads Together, A Bell for Adano,** events (Civic Center Library, 1188 So. Liver-

more unless indicated otherwise): Feb. 3, 7 to 9 p.m. The Barn, 3131 Pacific Ave., USO Dance, Music of the 1940s by the Royal Society Jazz Orchestra; Feb. 4, 10:30 a.m. The Joy of Handbells featuring the Alleluia Ringers; Feb. 7, 7 p.m. Viola Buitoni presents program on the Italian Heart of a California Cook; Feb. 9, 1:30 p.m. Armchair Travelers: Sicily and the Amalfi Coast with Dale Schauer; Feb. 9, 7 p.m. National Park history Stephen Haller will discuss the legacy of World War II in the Bay Area; Feb. 11, 10:30 p.m., children's program sing, ring, listen and paint; Feb. 11, noon, Vine Cinema, 1722 First St., screening of movie, The Secret of Santa Vittoria; Feb. 12, 2 p.m. panel of veterans will provide their perspectives on war, moderated by Jim Ott, veterans are John Shirley, John Sarboraria, Doug Bell and Joe Cook. Feb. 14, 7 p.m. Sicily Now and Then: A traveler's journey presented by Jo and George Caporaso; Feb. 16, 7 p.m. The Swingin' Blue Stars of the USS Hornet sings music of the 1940s; Feb. 23, 7 p.m. everyday life and everyday resistance in Southern Italy during WWII presented by Laura Ruberto; Feb. 26, 2 p.m. dramatic reading from A Bell for Adano by readers from Shakespeare's Associates. Livermore Reads Together 2012 is sponsored by Friends of the Livermore Library. For additional events check the library's website at [www.livermorelibrary.net](http://www.livermorelibrary.net).



Sam Stone views 'The Cage.'

## Sculpture Donated to the Livermore Library

Livermore resident Sam Stone has donated a new art piece to be permanently displayed at the Livermore Civic Center Library. Located in the Reference area of the Civic Center Library, adjacent to the public computers, the new sculpture piece is titled "The Cage." It was created by local artist Don Homan.

Carved out of basswood, "The Cage" depicts three men of retirement age seated in vigorous conversation. They seem unaware they are completely enclosed in a large wooden cage of unfinished dowels. Each is 1/5 life size and is shown in exaggerated realism, almost in caricature. The figures are positioned on a floor of unfinished pine. The understated setting showcases the exaggerated realism of the three figures.

Homan sculpts in wood and marble. His subjects range from small caricatures to abstract forms in many sizes. He is known for his Peace Monument on the Civic Center grounds in Livermore, his sculpture at the Robert Livermore Community Center, as well as works at the lab and in private collections. Homan also builds much-prized violins and plays in Alasdair Fraser's San Francisco Scottish Fiddlers.

The Civic Center Library is located at 1188 So. Livermore Avenue.

## Break Dance Competition at the Bothwell

AS 1 MOVEMENT will be holding its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual breakdancing competition and celebration on Saturday, February 11, 2012 from 3pm – 8pm at the Bothwell Arts Center. Last year's event featured many talented breakdancers from all over the Bay Area. This year appears to be even greater in numbers and talent, with well established groups and big named individuals showing up.

The event is part breakdancing competition, part Hip Hop celebration, and part community outreach. Attendees are asked to bring non-food item donations to be donated to the Tri-Valley Haven. Vendors at the event will also be donating a percentage of their sales that day to Tri-Valley Haven.

There will also be an LVCP art exhibition, an artist free wall, and live painting. After the event, attendees can head to Downtown Livermore, show their wristband of entry and receive special deals at participating business locations.

The Bothwell Arts Center is

located at 2466 8<sup>th</sup> Street, a few blocks from Downtown Livermore. Tickets can be purchased at the door the day of the event for \$10 or \$7 with a non-food item donation to Tri-Valley Haven.

Children 10 years of age and under are free. For more information and the non-food item list, visit the AS 1 MOVEMENT Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/as1movement](http://www.facebook.com/as1movement)



Photo by Cody Pa

## Community

## Defense Employees Recognized

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Defense Programs announced the recipients of the Defense Programs' Employee of the Quarter Awards.

Recipients of the awards are recognized for going beyond the call of duty in supporting the mission of NNSA's Defense Programs. The selection of the recipients is determined at each site following its own specific criteria. The recipients are as follows:

Among them are the following:

Donald W. Roberts, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), is recognized for leading a multidisciplinary, international team in the first-ever Insensitive High Explosive velocimetry pin hydrotest in LLNL's Contained Firing Facility at Site 300.

Andrew Tai, Livermore Site Office (LSO), is recognized for providing valuable contributions to the complex-wide cyber security risk management framework, and continuous monitoring initiatives that contributed significantly to greater efficiency and effectiveness in LSO security operations.

Sara Pecak, Sandia National Laboratories, is recognized for her work as the Product Realization Team lead for the B61 Life Extension Program capacitive discharge unit firing set at Sandia.

## Music Time Academy Expands

Music Time Academy has been a part of the Livermore community for over half a decade. It announced its expansion into 2155 Las Positas Ct, Suite U as of February 1st, 2012. This expansion will double the size of the studio, allowing space for not only more private music lessons and retail items, but also for group music lessons, full band rehearsals, recordings, and summer camps.

After taking ownership of the studio in July of 2008, Bay Area native and professional drummer, Anna Cucciardo has seen a steady growth in the business. Since 2008, the studio went from only four instructors teaching about 30 students, to ten instructors teaching nearly 150 students. Music Time has also hosted several recitals in the community, with their latest recital at the Bothwell Arts Center featuring over 40 performances by students and teachers. Due to space restrictions, the studio has focused mainly on private music instruction, however now with more space and more instructors, Music Time is ready to launch a variety of new programs in 2012.

These would include such things as group lessons on guitar and ukulele, preschool music programs, and summer rock band camps.

Cucciardo is not only the director of Music Time Academy, but also the studio's primary drum instructor. The instructors at Music Time Academy are all local, professional musicians who can be seen performing different genres of music around the world with their various groups.



Amber Laigo, Alyssa Lichtenburger, and HollyAnn Duffy (from left) benefit from scholarships.

## Education



## Transfer Students Benefit from Pedrozzi Scholarships

By Patricia Koning

Over the past three years, the Mario Pedrozzi Scholarship Foundation has given over \$1 million in scholarships and helped hundreds of students attend vocational school, community college, four-year universities, and graduate school. Now the Pedrozzi Foundation is helping community college students make the challenging transition to four-year universities.

"We feel strongly that community college students need financial support just as much as students who attend traditional colleges and universities," said Board member Paula Orrell. She notes that more students are turning to the community college system to keep education costs down and ease the transition to a four-year university.

"Whatever the reason might be that a student chooses to attend community college, the Pedrozzi Foundation feels it is extremely important to provide financial aid to as many of those students as we possibly can," said Orrell.

HollyAnn Duffy, a 2009 graduate of Vineyard High School, transferred to San Jose State University last fall from Las Positas College. The recipient of a \$2,000 community college scholarship and a \$4,000 undergraduate scholarship, she said the Pedrozzi Foundation is helping her achieve her goal of graduating from college debt-free.

"I'm majoring in community health because many of the major causes of death in America are lifestyle diseases that can be prevented with behavior changes," Duffy explained. "College is a stressful time of transition and responsibility. The Pedrozzi Foundation has lessened the stress by helping me pay for college."

Amber Laigo, a 2008 graduate of Granada High School, said her Pedrozzi community college scholarship helped motivate her to earn good grades at Las Positas, which in turn enabled her to transfer to San Jose State University last fall. She's studying psychology with a minor in child and adolescent development.

"I'm very grateful to the Pedrozzi Foundation for all their help throughout my college career," she said. "The \$4,000 undergraduate scholarship has helped defray a lot of the high costs of college, allowing me to focus more on my education and less on the stress of paying for school."

Another undergraduate scholarship recipient is Alyssa Lichtenburger, a 2008 graduate of Livermore High School. She started at Las Positas College and is now a senior at Georgetown University in Washington, DC. She is majoring in government, participates in the District of Columbia Public

Schools' Urban Education Leaders Internship Program, and works at a mentoring/tutoring program for court-involved DC youth.

Last summer Lichtenburger studied in Florence, Italy at the Villa Le Balze, which is owned by Georgetown University. "In Europe, I further developed my love of art, an interest that began with my first art history class at Las Positas. I saw famous works throughout Europe that I never thought I'd have the opportunity to see," she said. "This was a once in a lifetime experience that the Pedrozzi Foundation's financial assistance allowed me to partake in."

The Pedrozzi Foundation is now accepting applications for scholarships; the deadline is March 1. Pedrozzi Scholarships are available to any student of any age who graduated from a high school in Livermore and graduates of Alameda County high schools attending St. Patrick's Seminary & University in Menlo Park.

Scholarships are available for community college, vocational school, undergraduate, and graduate school. "The Foundation is passionate about supporting all forms of secondary education. We realize that today's students are being squeezed from every direction, with fewer scholarship dollars available and increased costs for all forms of education," said Orrell.

Currently, awards range from \$500 to \$20,000 with some spanning multiple years. Award amounts and terms are determined by the Board of Directors and can change from year to year.

For more information, visit [www.pedrozzifoundation.org](http://www.pedrozzifoundation.org).

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# Milestones

## Livermore Native Dalton Kotz Named a Navy Recruiter of the Year

By Patricia Koning

Steel Worker Second Class (SW2) Dalton Kotz, a 2003 graduate of Granada High School, recently was named the Navy Region West Naval Special Operations/Naval Special Warfare (NSO/NSW) Recruiter of the Year. Although he's been in the Navy for seven years, he's only been working as a recruiter for about 18 months.

"I love recruiting," said Kotz. "I really enjoy helping young men and women have the chance to serve their country."

He is based in Thousand Oaks, in southern California, an area that Kotz declared is ideal for finding candidates for NSO/NSW – an elite group that includes the Navy Seals. "Special ops are in high demand right now," he said. "There is a high level of inter-

est this area of the Navy. With many great high schools and great athletes, the Thousand Oaks area is a good place to find potential candidates."

Inspired by his uncle who recounted fond memories of his time in the Navy, Kotz was attracted to the opportunity to travel the world and build the necessary skills to advance a career in the field of construction as a steelworker. Since graduating from Granada, he has visited various countries including Japan, Philippines, Kuwait, Afghanistan, and Guam.

His first duty station was Naval Construction Battalion Five. Kotz was deployed to Forward Operating Base Sharana in Afghanistan in 2009. As part of a Construction Battalion, SW2 Kotz has helped build schools and hospitals for the Navy's humanitarian efforts.

"It's been a very eye-opening experience," he said. "The Navy provided me the chance to help people change their lives. This opportunity has made me who I am today."

These positive experiences only ignited a stronger passion for the Navy, inspiring him to become a recruiter. Looking for a challenging assignment, Kotz has enjoyed the opportunity to not only shape the future of the Navy by recruiting well-rounded Sailors, but also to help individuals as they embark on their journeys.

The Navy's Recruiter of the Year Award program recognizes the most accomplished and successful recruiters across the country, who recruit the best men and women for America's Navy to fulfill today's missions and meet tomorrow's challenges. Kotz won

## Military



Dalton Kotz receives award.

the award at the local, district, and regional level and was a runner up for national Naval Recruiter of the Year.

"Petty Officer Kotz just gets the job done," said Navy Recruiting District Los Angeles Assistant Operations Officer, Lieut. Jason Martin. "He's an asset to this command and an asset to the Navy. In

a very short amount of time he's shown himself to be one of our 'go-to' Sailors."

Kotz now hopes to become a career Naval recruiter. "The Navy is a global force for good that I am proud to be a part of," he said. "Being in the Navy allows me to give back to my country and all over the world."

## Community



Members of the Tri-Valley chapter of DBE (Daughters of the British Empire) happily ended the 2011 year of fundraising efforts by presenting donation checks to Axis Community Health Director Sue Compton, and Keystone Adult Learning Center Director, Nancy Brum. The group also donated approximately thirty toys to the local Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department's Toys for Tots drive, sponsored a family in need through the Salvation Army's holiday drive, and donated funds to the British Home for Senior Citizens in Sierra Madre, California. The DBE organization, founded in 1909, is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization in the USA made up of women with a common bond of British or British Commonwealth heritage and ancestry. While enjoying many social activities, members focus on philanthropy and fellowship by contributing significantly to local charities and supporting four retirement homes established by the organization in California, Illinois, New York, and Texas. This local chapter of DBE meets at 11:00 a.m. on the third Thursday of every month at Castlewood Country Club and encourages ladies with similar interests and ancestry to join their group, help with fundraising activities, enjoy social interaction, and form long-lasting friendships. For additional information about DBE in the Tri-Valley area please contact Edith Caponigro at 925-998-3500 or Jenny Whitehouse at 925-484-1273.

## Edwards Selected as American Physical Society Fellow

John Edwards, associate program director for inertial confinement fusion (ICF) and high energy density (HED) science at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, has been selected as a 2011 American Physical Society (APS) fellow.

Edwards was cited in the plasma physics category for fundamental contributions to hydrodynamics in HED physics and for his leadership in the National Ignition Campaign (NIC) on LLNL's National Ignition Facility. He joined LLNL in 1998, and over the course of his first five years, played a leading role in developing much of the foundation for the HED laser program in place today.

Edwards has since turned his focus almost entirely to ICF, leading groups in target physics, serving as the ignition team leader and, in his latest role, defining the direction of NIC experiments.

"Working on the National Ignition Campaign has been the highlight of my career," Edwards said. "I feel privileged to work on a program as important and challenging as this, on the premier laser facility in the world with a truly remarkable team. It's hard not to be excited about that."

APS fellowships are awarded after extensive review and are considered a distinct honor because the evaluation process, conducted by the fellowship committees of individual divisions, topical groups and forums, relies on nomination and recommendation by one's professional peers. Election to APS fellowship is limited to no more than one half of 1 percent of APS' membership for a given year. Nearly 250 members were elected 2011 APS fellows.

# BULLETIN BOARD

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

**Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club** will meet on Thursday, February 9, 7pm at Alisal School's multipurpose room, 1454 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. The speaker will be Dennis Murray, topic: garden design. Visitors are welcome. For more information call Bev at 925-485-7812 or visit www.lavgc.org.

**Bingo**, Thurs., Feb. 9, Livermore High School boys' volleyball fundraiser; door prizes and free snacks through the night. Cost for the first pack is \$9 for regular session games. Visit www.livermorehs.schoolloop.com/Bingo for more information and a coupon for a free pack. All proceeds benefit LHS Boy's Volleyball. Bingo Ranch, 3070 Pacific Ave, Livermore. Doors open 5pm, Warm-up games 6:30, Regular Session Games starts at 7pm. Must be 18 or older to play.

**Medicare**, The Hindu Community and Cultural Center, of Livermore (Shiva Vishnu Temple) will be conducting a free presentation/talk about overview of Medicare by HICAP. This presentation is open to all. Saturday February 11, 2012 from 2:00 to 4:00 P.M. Shiva-Vishnu Temple Assembly Hall, 1232 Arrowhead Ave, Livermore. For more information contact Suman Jain at suman1218@yahoo.com or call the temple 925-449-6255.

**Ohlone Audubon** will meet on February 7 at the San Leandro Library, Karp Room, 300 Estudillo Ave, 94577. The presenter is Glen Tepke a photographer. His presentation will chronicle a two week birding marathon across Alaska. No admission charge. Refreshment served. For more information call 925-447-8843 or go to web site www.ohloneaudubon.org

**Tri-Valley Republican Women Federated** dinner and special evening with Janie Johnson, author of "Don't take my lemonade stand, an American Philosophy," and "Obama 2012 Slogans Rewritten." Janie will discuss her prescription for preserving the Republic foundation of our country. Event info: Thursday, February 9, 2012, 6:30 p.m., Cattleman's Restaurant, 2882 Kitty Hawk Road, Livermore. \$30 guests, \$26 members. For reservations or information: coupclan1962@pacbell.net or 925-462-4931. www.trivalleyrepublicanwomen.org for information on other TVRWF activities.

**Valley Spokesmen Bicycle Touring Club**, Sat., Feb. 4, 25 or 38 miles Cinderella training rides, 9 a.m. start at Park and Ride on Sycamore Ave., Teresa Thieben, 330-5265. Sun., Feb. 5, 55 miles from San Ramon to Livermore, meet 9:30 a.m. at Bollinger Park & Ride, Alberto Lanzas, 510-825-9581. Wed., Feb. 8, 38 miles Pleasanton Ridge Park out Calaveras, meet 10 a.m. Gail Blanco, 892-1001. Anyone planning to go on a ride is asked to call the leader for details on where to meet and what to bring.

**Interviewing Skills Workshop**, for veterans, Tuesday February 7, 2012 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Las Positas College, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. LPC Veterans Resource Center building 1000. Presented by Pleasanton VFW Post 6298 and American Legion Post 237. Please e-mail Bill Oliver oliver4@lpln.gov by Fri., Feb. 3 with name and phone number if attending and please indicate if a parking pass is needed. This provides me with a mailing list to keep you posted on any changes that may arise. It will be on a first registered basis. If we have more than 20 registrants, there will be a second set of workshops. For those who send a confirmation a parking pass will be sent via email.

**Bingo** in Livermore has a new night with a Progressive Jackpot game. Tuesday Night Bingo has come to The Bingo Ranch at 3070 Pacific Avenue Livermore. Cash prizes from \$175 to \$1199. Doors open at 4:30pm and games begin at 7:00pm. Follow us on Facebook: http://tinyurl.com/85lyedm. As a reaction to the state education budget and funding, schools have resorted to creative fundraising in order to keep programs afloat. LVCP High School is hosting the weekly

Tuesday Bingo game at The Bingo Ranch.

**Citizenship Process**, The Hindu Community and Cultural Center, of Livermore (Shiva Vishnu Temple) will be conducting a free Citizenship Process and Related Issues presentation on Sat., March 10, 2 to 3:30 p.m. This presentation is open to all. Shiva-Vishnu Temple Assembly Hall, 1232 Arrowhead Ave, Livermore. This will be a presentation/talk by Aruna Venkidu ESQ on how to obtain US Citizenship and related issues. For more information contact Suman Jain at suman1218@yahoo.com or call the temple 925-449-6255.

**GNON (Girls Night Out Networking)** Mixer At Dogtopia, Tues., Feb. 7, 5 to 8 p.m. Join Debbie Hudgens of Dogtopia for fun, prizes, and a chance to make new friends. Dogtopia (7132 Johnson Dr. Ste. D, Pleasanton). \$10/pp for members, \$15/pp for non-members RSVP to gnoners@gmail.com by February. Information, visit www.gnontrivalley.com.

**Beginning German Conversation** at Las Positas College Community Education (Courses not for college credit): Thursdays 7-9 pm 2/09/12 to 3/29/12 (8 sessions). Begin to communicate in everyday German situations. Develop listening, speaking, reading and cultural understanding skills in an active supportive environment. Call (925) 424-1467 for more information or to register. Online registration at www.laspositascollege.edu/communityed

**Jungle of Jewels**, The American Cancer Society Discovery Shop in Pleasanton is requesting donations of costume or precious jewelry for its annual jewelry event, "Jungle of Jewels" on March 9, 10 and 11, 2012. Donations are accepted at the shop during open hours: Monday to Friday 10-6, Saturday 10-5, Sunday 12-5. The Discovery Shop is located in the Mission Plaza Shopping Center at 1987-A Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. Contact Monda Wiseman, Mgr. at (925) 462-7374 for more information. All proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society's programs of research, education, service and advocacy.

**Toastmasters - Livermore Lunch Bunch** meets Mondays at noon, conference room, 2157 First St., Livermore. Learn to develop communication and leadership skills in a supportive environment that fosters self-confidence and personal growth. www.livermoretoastmasters.org.

**Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society**, meeting at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2012 at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Ct., Pleasanton. The speaker is Lisa B. Lee, Professional Genealogist, who will discuss how to access the NEHGS website for digital images, recorded seminars, articles, and researching data bases for New England, Canada, and the British Isles. www.L-AGS.org/maps/Pls-BethEmek.html. Contact Cheryl Palmer, email: program@L-AGS.org

**Widowed Men and Women of North-ern CA.**, Lunch and optional shopping in Danville, Feb. 8, 11:30 a.m., RSVP by Feb. 5 to Marsha, 830-8483. General meeting and Birthday luncheon, Feb. 11, 1 p.m. Emil Villa's Hickory Pit, RSVP by Feb. 8 to Janet, 443-3317. Happy hour in Pleasanton, Feb. 16, 5 p.m. RSVP by Feb. 14 to Kathy, 398-8005. Friendly bridge, lunch Pleasanton, Feb. 18, 1 p.m. RSVP by Feb. 14 to Ruby, 462-9636. Brunch/lunch in Pleasanton, Feb. 19, 11:30 p.m., RSVP by Feb. 16 to Marsha, 830-8483. Lunch in Pleasanton, Feb. 26, 1 p.m. RSVP by Feb. 23 to Athene, 846-0111. Lunch and optional movie in Dublin, Feb. 29, 11:30 a.m., RSVP by Feb. 26 to Marge, 828-5124.

**E-reader download class**, Pleasanton Public Library is offering a series of free one-time classes in February to teach patrons how to download free electronic books, audiobooks and music to an E-Reader. Classes teach those with a Kindle, Kindle Fire, Nook, or tablet how to download material from the library. Classes begin on Tuesday, February 7 and are scheduled at 7:00 p.m. Participants must have a current Pleasanton library card to download e-materials. Registration is required, please call the Reference Desk at 925.931.3400, extension 7.

**Pleasantonians 4 Peace**, sponsoring a candlelight Vigil 7 p.m. Wed., Feb. 8 in front of the Museum on Main, 603 Main Street, downtown Pleasanton. Participants will reflect on the human and monetary costs of the war, honor veterans who have sacrificed, and

visualize ways of moving beyond this conflict to a more peaceful world. Peaceful War Protest on the fourth Wednesday of the month, February 22, between 5 - 6 at the corners of First and Neal Streets. Questions?? Call Cathe Norman at (925) 462-7495; Matt Sullivan at mjs7882@gmail.com; or kdowding@pacbell.net. www.Pleasantonians4Peace.org

**Eighth Annual Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour**: Registration for the Eighth Annual Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour, which will take place on Sunday, May 6, 2012 from 10 to 5, is now open. This free, award-winning tour features 45 Alameda and Contra Costa county gardens that are pesticide-free, conserve water, provide habitat for wildlife, and contain 60% or more native plants. This self-drive tour showcases a variety of gardens, from large parcels in the hills to small lots in the flats. Native plant sales and talks are offered at select gardens. Space is limited and registration is required. This tour will fill; register early to ensure a place. Volunteers are needed. Please register or volunteer at www.bringingbackthenatives.net/ A companion event, the Native Plant Sale Extravaganza, will take place throughout the weekend of April 30 and May 1.

**San Ramon Valley Newcomers Club**, invites new & longtime residents to its monthly luncheon on February 16 at Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Dr., Danville. 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.; cost is \$21.00. The speaker will be author Shiela Bali. She will speak on her family's escape from the Hungarian Revolution. Call Grace, 925-828-8554, for reservations & information.

**Bingo Bash**, Italian Catholic Federation, Branch #285 is holding its annual "Bingo Bash," a fund-raiser to aide the Cooley's Anemia research at Children's Hospital-Oakland and the college scholarship fund. The event will be held Saturday, Feb. 18, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Michael's Parish Hall, 372 Maple St., Livermore. Ten games of bingo; dance to the music of DJ Joe Buonsante, a raffle and a dance exhibition by Grace & Bryan Bandong. \$10.00 per person. Beverages, pizza and snacks available for purchase. Reservation deadline: Feb. 13. Call Rose S. 925-846-4227 or Elaine M. 925-846-0897. If unable to attend, a donation would be appreciated. Mail donations to ICF c/o E. Meier, 6597 Lansing Ct., Pleasanton, Ca. 94566.

**Tri-Valley Democratic Club** monthly meeting, Mon., Feb. 20, 7 p.m. doors open, 7:30 p.m. meeting. This will be a meet the candidates night. Q&A will follow brief statements by the candidates. Refreshments. IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Pkwy, Dublin.

**Annual Rummage Sale**, First Presbyterian Church, 451 So. K Street, Livermore. Fri. and Sat., Feb. 3 and 4, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday.

**Tri-Valley Animal Rescue (TVAR), Claws for Paws**, Saturday, February 4, 2012, from 6-10 p.m. This fund-raising event will serve up all-you-can-eat Crab, Caesar Salad, Pasta, Rolls, Dessert and Coffee/Tea. Raffle baskets; no-host bar (beer and wine). The event is being held at the Shrine Event Center, 170 Lindbergh Avenue, Livermore. Tickets are \$50. Order tickets on-line at www.tvvar.org, or mail a check to TVAR, PO Box 11143, Pleasanton, CA 94588. Please include e-mail address so ticket confirmation can be sent electronically to save on mailing costs. For more information, please contact Susan Ruxton at itsrmsuz@aol.com or 925-337-4946.

**4th annual "Ragin Cajun" Mardi Gras** themed dinner and dance, silent and live auction fund-raiser for the Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation (SJWHTF), on Friday, March 2, at 6:30 p.m. at the Palm Event Center in Pleasanton. Tickets are \$85 per person. The event will be hosted by Jessica Aguirre and Mike Inouye. Bring your dancing shoes, beads and masks to the event. Help us, help cancer patients. Last year's event sold out, purchase tickets early. Visit www.healingtherapiesfoundation.org or call (866) 862-7270.

**Crab Feed**, Sat., Feb. 11, Aahmes Event Center, Livermore. 6 p.m. doors open, 7 p.m. dinner, 8 p.m. dancing to "Country Flavor Band." Menu of crab and prime rib, pasta, salad, French bread and dessert. No host bar. Silent auction. Fund-raising for Shrine nonprofit. Tickets \$40 per person, table of ten \$375. Contact the Shrine Event Center Office at 373-4880 for tickets and/or information.

**Livermore Adult Community Education** is celebrating 88 years serving the Livermore Valley's Adult Learners. The following classes coming up: Microsoft Office 2010, QuickBooks, English as a Second Language, Adult High School Diploma, GED, Yoga and Art. Call 925-606-4722 or visit www.livermoreadulted.org for information.

**Operation: S.A.M.** "Supporting All Military" is a 501(c)3 non profit military support organization based in Livermore. S.A.M. has been in operation since January 2004. It is dedicated to the continued support of deployed troops. Preparation of comfort packages takes place every other week - all year long. Providing morale support for those deployed. All information provided is confidential and is not shared for security purposes. To submit a name and address, inquire about donations or helping, please visit www.operationsam.org, email operationsam@comcast.net or call 925 443-7620 for more information and the calendar of events.

**Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), Josefa Higuera Livermore Chapter**, meets 9:30 a.m. first Saturday of the month from September to May at Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., Livermore. DAR is a women's service organization. Members are descended from a patriot of the American Revolution and are dedicated to patriotism, preservation of American history, and securing America's future through education. Contact Maris at 443-3087 or mh13frog@yahoo.com.

**D.A.R. Daughters of the American Revolution**, Jose Maria Amador Chapter, Pleasanton. Meetings first Saturday of the month at 10 a.m. Group is comprised of descendants of Patriots of the American Revolution. It is a service organization that provides contests, awards and scholarships and events celebrating American history. For members, prospective members, and information on meeting location, contact Ann 510-507-5509 or anarisco@comcast.net.

**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.

## RELIGION

**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.

**Faith Chapel Assembly of God**, 6656 Alisal St., Pleasanton, Sunday School for all ages 9:15 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m., Children's Church 11:15 a.m. Women's Bible study Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Intercessory prayer 1st and 3rd Wednesdays. Please call office at 846-8650 for weekly programs.

**Trinity**, 557 Olivina Ave., Livermore. Sunday worship at 8:30 and 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday school or Bible study for all ages at 9:45 a.m. Awana is Sunday at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday nights there is adult Bible study at 6:45 and NRG and Re.Gen for youth, and children's choir for kids. Child care during all events. 447-1848, www.trinitylivermore.org.

**St. Charles Borromeo**, 1315 Lomitas Ave., Livermore. Meditation groups following the John Main tradition, every Monday 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. For details, contact Claire La Scola at 447-9800.

**Catholicism**, St. Michael Catholic Church in Livermore will screen all ten episodes of Father Robert Barron's groundbreaking "Catholicism" series, followed by a question and answer session led by Suzanne Slupesky, Catholic theology scholar. One episode will be featured per night for 10 consecutive Mondays through March 12, 2012, from 6

p.m. to 9 p.m. in St. Michael Parish Hall located on the 300 Block of Maple Street, Livermore, California. Admission is free. Learn what Catholics believe and why. Discover the full meaning of the faith. For additional information on Father Barron's series visit www.catholicismseries.com. St. Michael Parish, 458 Maple Street, Livermore, 925-447-1585.

**Centerpointe Church**, 3410 Cornerstone Court, Pleasanton. Services: 9 a.m. blended-style with choir and band, family worship. 10:30 a.m. contemporary led by band, Sunday School for children and middle-schoolers. www.centerpointechurch.org; 925-846-4436.

**St. Charles/St. Michael's Bible Study**, beginning Monday, January 9 and running through February 20. St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Community at 1315 Lomitas Ave., Livermore; 7:30-9:00 p.m. in the Pope Room. The topic for this session is Jesus and the Gospels. All are welcome, beginners to the experienced. For more information about this even contact Julie at 925-447-4549 ext 114 or at upcatholic@aol.com.

**St. Innocent Orthodox Church**, 1040 Florence Rd., Livermore. Sunday service at 10 a.m. For details please see our website at www.stinnocent.net or call Fr. Leo Arrow-smith at 456-0845.

**Join in conversation about "The Shack"** Wednesday evenings at 7:30 and Thursday mornings at 10:30. Pastor Chuck Johnstone will be hosting a discussion group on the most impactful Christian writing of our time. "The Shack" has sold over 15 million copies and tackles questions about God's role in human tragedy and how guilt, shame and issues of God's judgment shape our views about God. Drop-in participants welcome. Location: 4743 East Avenue, Livermore, for more information contact the church at 925-447-1950. Copies of the book available at the class. Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Avenue in Livermore.

**Adult Inquirer's Class**, St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, adult inquirer's class, Sunday mornings January and February. Learn about the Episcopal faith. Rev. Carol Cook will be the guide. For more information call the church office 925-462-4802. Sign up on the church kiosk or on the web site: www.stclarespleasanton.org.

**Tri-Valley Cultural Jews** will be hosting Tu B'Shvat at the Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center. Tu B'Shvat Seder in honor of the New Year of the Trees and taste the seven species of fruits in Israel; learn about the shoreline area and pick up litter in the area. All necessities will be provided. 10:30-12:30. February 5, 2012. A donation of \$5 per non-member over 13. This is a child and adult friendly event. Any questions, please call Jamie Ireland at 510-888-1404.

**What Christians Should Know about Other Faiths**, Feb. 9, 7 p.m. Father Thomas Bonacci will share his expertise from his extensive work in the interfaith community. Lynwood United Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave., Pleasanton. www.lynnwood.org

**St. Clare's Episcopal Church**, 3350 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton. Services on Sunday, 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. All are welcome and worship, whether or not you feel called to participate in any other way in the community. For more information call the church office 925-462-4802.

**Community HU\* Chant** is the theme of a non-denominational prayer activity Saturday February 4 at 1:15 PM. The Community HU is held once a month each 1st Saturday at The Parkway, 100 Valley Avenue, Pleasanton. Please contact http://eck-ca.org/ by computer, or call (925) 944-0118.

**"Mormonism"** is the topic of February's St. Charles' adult lifelong learning session on Tuesday, February 7th from 7:30-9:00 pm in Borromeo Hall. James Bennett, associate professor of Religious Studies at Santa Clara University, is the presenter. Dr. Bennett will tell of the roots of Mormonism beginning in 1830 in upstate New York and why this new religion became so successful first in the United State. All are welcome. St. Charles is located at 1315 Lomitas Ave., Livermore. For more information contact Julie at upcatholic@aol.com or 925-447-4549 ext 114. A \$5 donation for the presenter is appreciated.