

Art, Community, & Education



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 list

Race Route In Livermore Announced

Livermore will host the Stage 4 Start of the 2011 Amgen Tour of California on Wednesday, May 18.

The Amgen Tour of California is a Tour de France-style cycling road race that challenges the world's top professional riders along a state-wide demanding course from May 15-22, 2011. Stage 4, an 83 mile route from Livermore to San Jose, is the only 2011 Bay Area segment for this internationally known cycling event.

On May 18, riders will depart from First and L Streets at 11:00 am heading east with a parade loop through Downtown Livermore along South Livermore Avenue, Third Street, P Street and then First Street again. After the loop, the 124 riders will turn down East Avenue where they will pick up speed, and ride past the Sandia and Livermore National Labs on Vasco Road. A turn onto Patterson Pass Road

(See ROUTE, page 8)

San Ramon Women's Club Aids Senior Support Program

A grant of more than \$9,300 from Dublin-San Ramon Women's Club will help the Senior Support Program of the Tri Valley continue programs to help the elderly live independently and in their homes.

Marlene Peterson, director of Senior Support, said, "We are so thankful" for the Women's Club grant, especially in a time of declining public resources.

Based in Pleasanton, now approaching its 30th year of operation, the Senior Support Program helps approximately 1,600 Tri-Valley residents aged 60 and older. Support comes from a variety of public and private sources: cities, counties, state and federal government; Kaiser Permanente; and private and individual contributions.

Private donations are essential to the program's success, Peterson says. "Without this (Dublin-San Ramon Women's Club) grant, we'd be cutting programs," she said.

She referred in glowing terms to a community fund-raising event put on by the Women's Club, the Holiday Fantasy Luncheon. "Everything they did was just great," she said. "It was filled with warmth and caring and community - that's the way these women are."

Senior Support efforts range widely, from connecting seniors with essential city services like Pleasanton Paratransit and helping them find affordable housing to organizing exercise classes and arranging for transportation to medical appointments.

Success is often in the details and the caring. One example is noticing that an elderly resident can hardly get up out of low chair and finding a more suitable one to replace it. Another is finding that a senior is isolated because of a hearing disability and obtaining a hearing aid that enables him or her to socialize again.

More information on Senior Support Program services is available at its website, <http://www.sspvtv.org/>

Preliminary Ruling Dismisses Lawsuit

Superior Court Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers has issued a tentative ruling that would dismiss the Lin lawsuit claiming that a development agreement for Oak Grove is still valid.

In her ruling, the judge writes, "The Court is inclined to sustain the Demurrer (city) as to all causes of action, but reserves on the issue of whether the Demurrer is sustained with or without leave until after oral argument."

A demurrer is a legal mechanism to have a complaint filed by an opposing party dismissed by the court, in this case, the city

asking the court to dismiss the Lin family's lawsuit.

The oral arguments are set for this Thurs., Feb. 10. The judge will listen to oral arguments before deciding whether the Lins will be allowed to amend their complaint and fix the defects the city identified.

Rogers notes that the court interprets the two ordinances, the development agreement and planned unit development (PUD), to "constitute an integrated contract designed to be read and interpreted together." The plain terms of the development agree-

ment state that it shall be of no force and effect if the PUD were set aside by referendum.

The referendum petition was finalized and submitted on December 5, 2007, only twenty-nine (29) days after the ordinances in question were passed. Once the referendum petition was submitted, the PUD was suspended and such suspension, combined with the "poison pill" language, likewise suspended the development agreement. While the referendum vote did not take place until June 8, 2010, the only reason for this delay was litigation of Plaintiffs'

(Lin) own making, according to the judge.

Rogers continues that she does not believe that a prior order issued November 13, 2008 on Plaintiffs' (Lin) petition for writ of mandate, compelling the City Manager to perform a ministerial execution of the development agreement, had any effect on the validity of the contract at issue.

The Court believes the plaintiffs have waived their right to assert the invalidity of the "poison pill" in Ordinance 1962 (the development agreement), as this action was not filed until

June 8, 2010, well beyond the 90 day timeframe set forth in government code for challenging a development agreement.

The Lin family attorneys had argued that their clients misunderstood the ramifications of the poison pill provision in documents related to developing land owned by the family in southeast Pleasanton.

Jennifer and Frederic Lin, owners of the Oak Grove property, filed the lawsuit against the City of Pleasanton last June in an effort to move forward with a (See LAWSUIT, page 8)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Dads from Croce Elementary and Altamont Creek elementary schools in Livermore played in the third annual Super Saturday Flag Football Game last Saturday. For the story, see page 7.

Pros and Cons of Redevelopment Aired

Gov. Jerry Brown's State of the State message included his proposal, announced earlier in January, to get rid of redevelopment agencies, such as the one in Livermore.

Livermore Mayor Marshall Kamena criticized Brown's proposal last week as counterproductive, because it would damage an economic engine that generates more revenue for the state, through property tax and sales tax income. Further, redevelopment's main goal, cleaning up blight, is a benefit for everyone, said Kamena.

Redevelopment agencies are popular in California. Some 425 of the state's 481 cities have them. Some 398 are still active, with 27 others ended, said Krista Noonan, public information officer for the California Redevelopment Association.

Brown in his speech Jan. 31 said that the state's 425 redevelopment agencies have taken tax revenue away from schools,

health services and other state responsibilities by taking the new tax yield from the value of appreciated property in redevelopment areas. That money is used to build new projects within the redevelopment areas, instead of going to the state, or into cities' and counties' general funds, and to the state school fund.

The redevelopment agency can use the accumulated tax revenue to build infrastructure to support the new development. The money can also be used to back bonds used for development of the new construction.

Livermore redevelopment money helped build the downtown parking garage, improve streets, and construct shops, restaurants, the Livermore Cinemas and housing that included more than 20 percent of the total as affordable units. The state requires that at least 20 percent of new housing connected to redevelopment be affordable. (See REDEVELOPMENT, page 4)

Science and Democracy Interact to Improve Society

For centuries, politicians, philosophers and religious leaders have wrestled with concepts for improving the lot of mankind, sometimes describing them in the kind of splendid intellectual detail that forms the basis of university courses and scholarly debate.

Some concepts have been abstract, others practical. Plato,

Thomas More, Vladimir Lenin and Aldous Huxley were only a few of the many famous (or infamous) names to offer their views on the subject.

While utopians have wrestled with theoretical approaches, and in some cases created the administrative apparatus to impose them on a population, a process that the West may take for grant-

ed today has produced genuine improvements in the welfare of people around the world.

This is the co-evolution of science and liberal democracy, in which the freedoms offered by a democratic government create fertile ground for the fruits of science to enrich society. The centuries-long process and its outcome were described last

week by noted science author Timothy Ferris, who spoke at Livermore's Bankhead Theater last week as part of the Rae Dorough discussion series.

Ferris, a professor emeritus at the University of California at Berkeley, may be best known for his books on astronomy, The Whole Shebang and Coming of Age in the Milky Way. He

has written more than two hundred articles and essays, made documentary films for PBS, and produced the phonograph record that serves as an artifact of human civilization on the Voyager spacecraft now exiting the solar system.

His Bankhead talk was based on his more recent book, The (See FERRIS, page 8)

Mixed Responses to Pleasanton Finances

There were mixed responses to information provided during a workshop to discuss personnel costs and pensions in Pleasanton.

Speakers at recent city council meetings have raised concerns about unfunded pension liabilities, how much employees contribute towards their pensions, and health care costs. Much of the focus was on the approval of a pending contract with Local 995. The union represents all but fire and police. The city council is due to consider the contract at its Feb. 15 meeting.

At the workshop, there were angry comments made on both sides regarding the issues.

Some declared that the city should go back to the bargaining table to extract further concessions from the union. In particular, they want city employees to pay the full amount of employee contributions toward pensions. They also want a 2-tier system implemented, with new employees being offered a different retirement. They called it a fairness issue. They pointed out that members of the public have

(See FINANCES, page 12)

ACE Corridor Project Narrows Route Choices

Potential routes and station locations for the Altamont Corridor Rail Project were unveiled at the California High-Speed Rail Authority's Board meeting in Sacramento last week.

Findings from a newly released "Preliminary Alternatives Analysis" report were presented last week, including recommendations on route alternatives and station locations that should

move forward into the next phase of the planning process and receive detailed environmental analysis. The Authority Board unanimously approved the report.

The board narrowed the options through the Tri-Valley to two routes. The most controversial would send ACE through both downtown Livermore and

(See ROUTES, page 12)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

New San Jose Police Chief Chris Moore is from Pleasanton.

Zone 7 Director Rises to Top Job at San Jose Police

By Ron McNicoll

Chris Moore has reached a little higher in his commitment to public service.

The Pleasanton resident and Zone 7 Water Agency director was named San Jose's police chief on Feb. 1 by a vote of that

city's council.

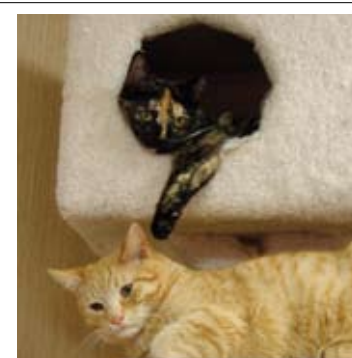
The promotion was a step up from acting police chief, which was another step up from assistant police chief, to which he ascended from one of the four deputy chief positions on the San Jose force.

Moore has been with the San Jose police force for 26 years. He has taken on a variety of experiences and lower organizational positions that prepared him for his lofty new title.

In his early San Jose police (See TOP JOB, page 8)

Inside

Art & Entertainment.....	Section II	Roundup.....	3
Bulletin Board.....	Section II	Short Notes.....	10
Classifieds.....	10	Sports.....	6
Editorial.....	4	Obituaries.....	9
Mailbox.....	4		



PETS OF THE WEEK

Interested in adopting two sweet siblings who would make great pets? If so, come on down to Valley Humane Society and meet Buzz and Honey. Both are about ten months old and hoping to go into a home together. Honey is a female tortoiseshell, while Buzz is a male orange tabby. Mellow, loving, and purrfect describe these kittens flawlessly. To learn more about our adoptable animals, call 925-426-8656 or visit the website www.valleyhumane.org. Valley Humane Society is located at 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton. Hours are Tues.- Sat. from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

VALLEY ROUNDUP

Property Tax Info On-line

The Alameda County Auditor-Controller Agency has added a new feature to its website that allows Alameda County property owners to lookup local property tax rates and information about the property tax refund process.

By going to acgov.org/auditor/tax, property owners can obtain detailed property tax rate information and debt service rates levied by the district. Property owners can also find general information regarding the property tax refund process.

The website provides telephone numbers for the cities and districts that have placed fixed charges or special assessments on property tax bills.

It also includes a section with frequently-asked-questions that will answer many general questions regarding property taxes.

Another County website, acgov.org/propertytax/index.htm, provides property owners with information about how much they owe in property taxes. The site also enables property owners to pay their tax bills online.

Iron Horse Trail

There will be a special joint meeting of the Pleasanton Parks and Recreation Commission with the City Council on Feb. 10 at 6:30 p.m. Also attending will be the Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trails Committee.

The East Bay Regional Park District will present the Iron Horse Trail Feasibility Study.

The meeting will be held in the city council chambers, 200 Old Bernal Ave., Pleasanton.

Meeting Canceled

The Board of Directors meeting for the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District for Wednesday, Feb. 9, has been canceled. The next Board meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 23.

The LARPD Board meets in the Cresta Blanca Ballroom at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. For more information, visit www.larpd.dst.ca.us or call 925-373-5700.

Bank Robbery

At about 2:30 p.m. Feb. 3, Livermore Police Department began receiving 911 calls from citizens inside the Bank of America located at 1748 Railroad Avenue. The citizens were calling to report that an armed robbery was in progress. At the same time, a robbery alarm was activated at the bank.

A suspect entered the bank and waited in the bank teller line. Once at the front of the line, he pointed a gun at the teller and demanded money. An undisclosed amount was given to the suspect who then ran from the bank. No vehicle was seen.

Officers responded and set up a perimeter around the bank. The bank was secured by

officers while other officers checked the roadways for any fleeing suspects. Officers received information that the suspect was entering the 580 freeway heading westbound towards Castro Valley. The suspect, who was followed, continued westbound on I-580 to an area of Oakland/Piedmont where a perimeter was set up around an apartment complex.

In conjunction with the CHP and Oakland Police Department, a search of the area was conducted. The suspect was not located.

The suspect is described as a white or light skinned Hispanic male, 6 feet tall and approximately 180 pounds. He was armed with a black semi-automatic pistol.

More Gang Arrests

In the past week, the Livermore Police Department has continued its proactive investigation of gang related crimes.

As a result of those investigations, 8 juvenile arrests have been made in the past seven days for crimes ranging from graffiti, brandishing a weapon to battery resulting in serious bodily injury. All of the juveniles are suspected gang members associated with the Norteno and Sureno gangs. All of the juveniles are Livermore residents.

As a result of the arrests, pertinent information has been obtained that will assist in solving other violent crimes currently being investigated by the Livermore Police Department.

Including the 8 juveniles arrested this week, the Livermore Police Department has arrested 22 suspected gang members in the past three weeks.

The police continue to ask for assistance from the public. Citizens are encouraged to report any suspected gang activity. If suspected gang members are congregating or involved in criminal activity call LPD Dispatch (925) 371-4987 (non-emergency). If the incident is life-threatening immediately call 911 (emergency).

McNerney on Subcommittee

Congressman Jerry McNerney (CA-11) will serve as the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, a subcommittee of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. In this capacity, Congressman McNerney will be the highest ranking Democrat to serve on this subcommittee.

The Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs is charged with overseeing the process by which the Department of Veterans Affairs provides benefits for veterans, including disability, pension, life insurance and burial benefits. The Subcommittee is also responsible for overseeing the Board of Veterans' Appeals and the Court of Appeals for Veterans' Claims. These bodies review and issue decisions for benefit claims determinations made by local VA offices.

Congressman McNerney has served on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs since 2007.

Bankhead Theater in Livermore Continues to Be Successful

The Bankhead Theater in Livermore continues to be successful. The theater is operated by the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center (LVPAC), a nonprofit organization.

Len Alexander, LVPAC executive director, notes, "Now that 2010 has ended and advanced discussions are underway regarding the proposed Regional Theater, I would like to pass along an update on recent activities of the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center and the Bankhead Theater."

Alexander points out that for the third season in a row, the Bankhead Theater maintained, even in a slow economy, the average annual attendance of 70,000 patrons from across the Tri-Valley and beyond, including approximately 14,000 students. In addition, the theater supported 228 user-days, including the presentation of 184 public events. Attendance for all events achieved 74% of capacity, a 1% gain over the previous season. "Attendance at LVPAC Presents events rose to 83%, our highest level yet and reflects, we believe, the growing awareness of and support for the unique presentations we bring to the region," Alexander commented. "This growth continues with sold out audiences for each of our last six presentations."

LVPAC membership, the source of annual contributed income, increased by 24% over 2009, and helped to raise more than \$1.5 million in 2010. Finally, LVPAC ended its fiscal year with a modest operating surplus.

Alexander concluded, "We

are pleased that LVPAC is able to make a significant contribution to the cultural and economic

health of our community and wish to thank all of those who have helped us to do so."

BANKHEAD THEATER



Swing, Swing, Swing with the Pied Pipers, Polly Podewell and Gene Krupa Tribute Big Band
Sun Feb 13 3:00pm
\$39/\$51/\$62/Students \$12
Big Band is Back!

Experience the jumpin' sounds of the Gene Krupa Tribute Band as they perform the most popular swing hits of the big band era including Krupa's signature song Sing, Sing, Sing. This show also stars the Pied Pipers performing their many hits including Dream, On the Sunny Side of the Street and I'll Never Smile Again, plus Polly Podewell who was the last vocalist to perform with Benny Goodman's orchestra.

TICKETS 925.373.6800 or www.bankheadtheater.org



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Wind Power Topic for Science On Saturday

The Feb. 12 "Science on Saturday" lecture will focus on harnessing wind for energy needs.

Jeff Mirocha and Sonia Wharton, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) scientists, and teacher Christine Tyler, will present "It's Gust About Time: Harnessing the Wind for Our Future Energy Needs." Congressman Jerry McNerney, a former wind energy engineer, will address the audience at the start of the first session.

How can we produce much of the energy we need from clean, renewable sources? Wind energy can lead the way. This lecture will discuss why the wind blows, where the winds blow the best, how energy can be generated from the wind, and how science and engineering can ensure a

reliable and abundant supply of green, renewable energy to power our future.

There are two sessions, 9:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore.

Admission is free. Seating

is on a first-come, first-served basis; there is no pre-registration. Directions, maps and a complete list of lectures are available at <http://education.llnl.gov/sos/>. Science on Saturday is presented by LLNL's Science Education Program.

Tribute to Norma Harris Ware

The dance committee had begun work on the decorations for our high school's 1943 Valentine Dance. I had a free period so I wandered over to the gym. I noticed that a person who transferred onto our campus for her senior year was there. I introduced myself and we chatted for a few minutes. I suggested that we leave the gym. We cut school and attended a matinee at the local theater. The show was "Casablanca". The musical theme was "As Time Goes By". Yes, time has gone by. Little did I know then that a casual date would morph into a 68 year relationship? Thank you, Norma, for the joy, wisdom and love that you have brought into my life. I shall be grateful from here to eternity and forever more. All of my love. Always, Bob





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<p>3422 TORLANO PL RUBY HILL, PLEASANTON FORMAL FRENCH \$1,749,950</p>  <p>5 Bd 3(1) Ba • 4,500[±] sq.ft., 0.56[±] Acres Formidable, elegant with private location, backing up to open space. Custom built by Jerry Soba Construction. www.3422torlano.com Uwe Maerz 925.360.8758</p>	<p>7123 CEDAR MOUNTAIN LIVERMORE NEW PRICE \$4,188,000</p>  <p>4 Bd 5.5 Ba • 8,950[±] sq.ft., 16.86[±] Acres Walls of glass, salt water aquarium, wine tasting room. Incredible setting. apartment perfect for in-law or au-pair. 9 car garage. Views and more! Peggy Cortez 925.648.5454</p>	<p>1867 SANNITA COURT RUBY HILL, PLEASANTON ITALIAN VILLA \$2,749,000</p>  <p>5 Bd 5 (2) Ba • 7,340[±] sq.ft., 0.58[±] Acres Custom home, cul-de-sac w/ unobstructed views. Office, bonus room, controlled walk-in wine cellar, wet bar, large Koi pond, built in BBQ. Uwe Maerz 925.360.8758</p>	<p>1225 LOZANO CT RUBY HILL, PLEASANTON ITALIAN VILLA \$4,299,000</p>  <p>6 Bd 7(2) Ba • 8,877[±] sq.ft., 0.65[±] Acres Stunning Ruby Hill Estate. Nestled in an unrivaled setting among olive trees and lush landscaping w/ mile long views of vineyards. Uwe Maerz 925.360.8758</p>	<p>11 LOWER GOLF RD CASTLEWOOD, PLEASANTON OPEN SAT & SUN 1-4 \$1,250,000</p>  <p>4 Bd 3 Ba • 2,400[±] sq.ft., 0.33[±] Acres On the 8th fairway of the Castlewood Country Club. Single story w/ separate family room, formal dining. Beautiful plank hardwood floors. Steve & Lorraine Mattos 925.251.2544</p>	<p>219 E. ANGELA DOWNTOWN, PLEASANTON TUDOR STYLE \$1,099,000</p>  <p>4 Bd 3 Ba • 2,278[±] sq.ft., 0.10[±] Acres Classic Tudor architecture w/ incredible charm & character; 3 bd, 2 ba plus a full bed & bath in separate upstairs apartment. Weiner & McDowell Group 925.251.2585</p>
<p>1976 ARMONDO COURT RUBY HILL, PLEASANTON ITALIAN VILLA \$3,649,000</p>  <p>6 Bd 6.5 Ba • 9,821[±] sq.ft., 0.55[±] Acres Located on a cul-de-sac w/ tremendous views, private patios & balconies. This home is all about architectural details & refined craftsmanship. Uwe Maerz 925.360.8758</p>	<p>6645 AMBER LN CARRIAGE GARDENS, PLEASANTON ½ ACRE LOT & POOL \$1,398,000</p>  <p>5 Bd 3 Ba • 3,475[±] sq.ft., 0.50[±] Acres Beautifully upgraded custom home features 5 spacious bd, improved ½ acre lot. Pool, spa, waterfall, slide, sport court and more. Weiner & McDowell Group 925.251.2585</p>	<p>760 WALL ST LIVERMORE MOVE IN READY \$415,000</p>  <p>3 Bd 2 Ba • 1,136[±] sq.ft., 0.14[±] Acres Features Open Spacious Kitchen with Maple Cabinets, Master Suite w/ Walk-In Closet, Carpet & Wood Laminated Flooring and much more! Sara Lovett 925.583.2177</p>	<p>1007 MOCHO ST LIVERMORE CLOSE TO DOWNTOWN \$390,000</p>  <p>3 Bd 2 Ba • 1,484[±] sq.ft., 0.16[±] Acres Huge price reduction! Nicely remodeled home close to downtown! Extensive tile work thru out, slab granite in remodeled kitchen & much more! Diane Sass 925.699.9508</p>	<p>1578 BUENA VISTA AVE LIVERMORE ALAMEDA COUNTY \$449,900</p>  <p>3 Bd 2 Ba • 1,705[±] sq.ft., 0.50[±] Acres Perfect Size Country Property in Alameda Co. This house has no immediate rear neighbors and backs to Open Space & Vineyards. Tom E. Chance 925.487.6360</p>	<p>CALLE DE LA MESA PANDEROSA, PLEASANTON NEW PRICE \$629,000</p>  <p>3 Bd 2.5 Ba • 1,650[±] sq.ft., 0.14[±] Acres Open flr plan. Hardwood flrs. Breakfast nook, plantation shutters, Central A/C, large yard & close to schools. Michael Delahanty 925.251.2516</p>

Blackhawk East
4105 Blackhawk Plaza Cir.
Danville, CA 94506
925.648.5300

Blackhawk West
3880 Blackhawk Rd.
Danville, CA 94506
925.736.6000

Danville
15 Railroad Ave.
Danville, CA 94526
925.855.4000

Lafayette
3799 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Lafayette, CA 94549
925.385.2330

Livermore
1983 Second St.
Livermore, CA 94550
925.667.2100

Montclair/Piedmont
6116 La Salle Ave., Ste. 200
Oakland, CA 94611
510.339.4800

Orinda
89 Davis Rd., Ste. 100
Orinda, CA 94563
925.253.7000

Pleasanton
5075 Hopyard Rd Ste. 110
Pleasanton, CA 94588
925.251.2500

Walnut Creek
1700 N. Main St.
Walnut Creek, CA 94596
925.280.8500

Valentine's Day in The Valley

By Laura Ness

The history of Valentine's Day is filled with various legends of danger, romance and murder. One such tale has it that Emperor Claudius imposed a law preventing soldiers from getting married as it was believed that single men made better soldiers. A priest named Valentine apparently disregarded this rule as he felt it unjust and wed young couples in secret. When the emperor learned of these clandestine marriages, he had Valentine imprisoned. The origin of the Valentine card is believed to have begun when the priest left a farewell note for the jailer's daughter, with whom he'd become friends, signing it, "From Your Valentine." Valentine, the patron saint of lovers, was executed on February 14, 270 AD.

Well, nobody needs to get hurt, jailed or executed this Valentine's weekend around the Livermore Valley, although we can never prevent the occasional broken heart. There's plenty of love in the air everywhere you turn. Where you turn is up to you. Just make sure to bring something home for your sweetheart!

You can feel the love as early as Thursday, as Page Mill is celebrating its anniversary! Beginning on Thursday, Feb 10, from noon til 4:30pm, Dane Stark and friends will commemorate five years in Livermore! Join them for wine tasting, snacks and special discounts on all wine and merchandise: perfect for Valentine's gifts.

On Friday, February 11, it's Vino Acoustico at Page Mill. Enjoy live music provided by Winemaker, Dane Stark and his group, TLA, on Friday, Feb. 11 from 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. Taste a flight of wines, have a glass and some snacks, groove to the tunes, all for \$15.00. Underground Wine Club members pay just

\$10. Dane sings and plays the guitar, romantic troubador that he is.

Cedar Mountain Winery, on February 13, will hold a Valentine's Day Chocolate and Port Tasting 12:00-4:00 in the Winemaker's Art Gallery for Port and Chocolate Tasting. Cedar Mountain will feature its LBV Port, Cabernet Royale Port, Tortuga Royale, Chardonnay del Sol, Viognier Port presented in a chocolate glass. Bissinger's Handcrafted Chocolates, and more will be available. \$10 fee (not refundable on a bottle of wine).

At Charles R, they've got the place all fit for Cupid as they prepare for their Valentine's Port & Chocolate Affair, Saturday & Sunday, February 12th & 13th from Noon to 4:30pm. For Wine Club Members, they'll be pulling out their very special '03 "Dad's Port" from the deep, dark recesses of the library. Their current port will also be available for tasting, served both chilled and at room temperature. To top it all off, Bonnie is making homemade fudge from her secret port-based recipe. Talk about a labor of love. Come on out and bring your honey - you will be sure to impress!

Flights of Fancy and wine are featured at the 4th annual Cuda Ridge Wines, Vines and Valentines weekend. Choose from two tasting flights, Cupid and Desire, \$5.00 each. Look for special wine discounts throughout the weekend, and the ubiquitous chocolate fountain will beckon with an assortment of fruit and other tasty dipping morsels. Frankly, Scarlet, you have to try the Franc!

Romance is in the wine at Cannonon, Feb 12 and 13. Bring your sweetheart to taste a premium 7-wine flight, just \$5. Special for this weekend, the

popular 2007 Petite Sirah Port and 2009 Late Harvest Semillon-Sauvignon Blanc, all paired with gourmet Wine Lover's chocolate and Cocoa Vinoso. Free for Gatekeeper's Guild members.

Les Chenes and Eagle Ridge are teaming up for "It Takes Two to Be In Love," a celebration of wine and chocolate for Valentine's weekend, Feb. 12 & 13, 12:00 - 4:30. Wine & Chocolate Pairings include:

- Les Chenes -Chocolate Souffle & Syrah
- Eagle Ridge -Petite Sirah & Chocolate Truffles
- Chocolate Cake Balls & Cabernet

Have "Your Heart" stamped with any wine purchase at both wineries, and enter a drawing for the decadent "It Takes Two To Be In Love" basket, filled with both chocolate and wine. Drawing is Sunday Feb. 13 at 5:00pm, and you need not be present to win.

Les Chenes is also rolling out a new Rose of Mourvedre for Valentine's weekend, and Candice will have some new mustards to perk up your tastebuds, including Orange Primitivo, as well as Sesame mustard for making an amazing Asian style chicken salad. Don't miss the new Chutney Rouge, perfect for that roast lamb or grilled pork loin. For your sweet tooth, she has French Style Chocolates Hearts as well.

Curious about the Corbettini Cocktail? You should be. Come on over to Crooked Vine/ Stony Ridge and enjoy a love-inspiring libation, along with some Valentine's sweets and treats, February 11 thru 14. Savor the honey-filled Crooked Vine Viognier and tropical fruit bomb Fume Blanc, as well as the Stony Ridge Zinfandel and the new Cabernet. Dessert wines also beckon.

At Garre Vineyards, it's a special wine and chocolate pairing, Friday, February 11, 2011

- Sunday, February 13, 2011 (11:30am - 5pm). \$5 pp: free for wine club.

All aboard the "love train" for the Tamas Estates Valentine's Voyage, Saturday, February 12, 2011 (6 - 8pm). Bring that special someone to Tamás Estates for a romantic evening.

Reservations are highly recommended, as space is limited. Complimentary for Salute! wine club member and one guest. \$10 for non-members.

At McGrail Vineyards, savor delicious desserts paired with Cabernet Sauvignon, Saturday, February 12th, 12pm til 4pm. Try a vertical of Reserve Cabernets from 2005-2007, served with scrumptious delights from Truffle Gateaux, Peace of Cake, and L&L Sweets and Treats. \$10 non-members; \$5 members.

On Sunday, February 13th, 12-4:30pm, get ready for *Chocolate Fondue & Cabernet*, featuring verticals and barrel samples of McGrail's marvelous Cabs. Bring your sweetheart and dive into dark Belgian chocolate fondue paired with a vertical of award-winning Cabernet Sauvignons from 2005-2008. The band TankHalfFull will be performing from 1-4PM. Buy tickets in advance online: \$20 non-members; \$15 members. Music for your ears, chocolate and cab for your soul. What's not to love?

Two Valentines are better than one at Steven Kent and La Rochelle. In the Barrel Room, enjoy a new release of 2003 Cabernet Sauvignon Vintage Port, and sample chocolates from Truffle Gateau. Cookie Lee Jewelry will also be on hand with the newest in their line: don't forget your Valentine loves jewelry even more than chocolate...but maybe not more than wine. Better get all three, just to be safe. Tracey and Jennifer are making Cupid's job easier, by offering a discount of 25% on six bottles of

wine, at both Steven Kent and at La Rochelle, where you can also enjoy a special Valentine's Day Pairing, \$20.

Join Picazo Vineyards for barrel tasting of the long-awaited rosé 2010 Vin Rouge. Then entice your taste buds with the pre-release Picazo Proprietary Red, a luscious blend of 63.7% Cabernet Sauvignon and 36.3% Estate Merlot paired perfectly with decadent chocolates, mousse, truffles, salted caramels, and boca negra. Space is limited for this exclusive event so please contact Pam to join. Fifty dollars per person. pam@picazovineyards.com

At Wente Vineyards on Tesla, it's a Wine and Chocolate Feast on Saturday and Sunday. Sit down and enjoy five chocolate and wine pairings carefully prepared and selected by Wente Vineyards. Learn how chocolate and wine can combine and create a romantic and sensual experience! Reservations Required. Select the 1:00 pm or the 4:00 pm session. Wine club members, \$30. Guests, \$35. Call 925-456-2405 to purchase tickets or buy online.

Valentine Dining Looking for a great Valentine's repast? How about Uncle Yu's at the Vineyard, where love is on the menu for Valentine's Day weekend, February 11-13. Fall in love with an indulgent 5-Course Chef and Sommelier Tasting Menu plus Regular Menu, February 14, Valentine's Day, a 5-Course Chef and Sommelier Tasting Menu & a 3-Course Limited Menu. (Regular menu not available for dinner February 14.)

For reservations, call 925.449.7000 or go to www.opentable.com.

Elliston in Sunol invites you to make reservations for their annual Valentine's Winetaster Dinner, Saturday, February 12,

2011 (6:30 - 9:30pm). The hors d'oeuvres and champagne reception begins at 6:30pm, followed by the first of four courses at 7:00pm, each paired with a delicious varietal. Cost of \$85/pp is inclusive of meal, wine, tax and service charge. Advance reservations are required. Contact the office today to make your reservation: 925.862.2377

Come celebrate Valentine's Day with a special "Winemaker's" style dinner at Café Garre. On Saturday, Feb. 12 and Monday, Feb. 14th, they'll have a four-course meal paired with wine. Dine to the strumming of a harpist: how romantic! \$110.00 per couple; \$95.00 per couple for Wine Club Members. Reservations Required. Please call 925.371.8200.

Poppy Ridge is offering a special 5-course dinner served with live music and a champagne toast on February 12. Make reservations at 456-8215.

Rock the Casbah in downtown Livermore with a Mediterranean feast and belly dancing during four shows on Valentine's Day, February 14. Reservations can be made at 243-1477.

When the chocolate and roses frenzy has subsided, mark your calendars for President's weekend, Feb 19 - 21, when Mitchell Katz will be open on Monday and Wood Family holds their annual barrel tasting weekend on Saturday and Sunday, Feb 19 & 20. Thomas Coyne Winery will hold its winter open house. Lots more is happening as well on the annual birthday bash for Abe and George. Celebrate by taking them out of your wallet and trading them for a bottle or two of something to wash down that cherry pie. While cash has certainly lost its cachet, cards will never go out of style. Don't forget that special Valentine's card for your sweetie. Love: always an investment worth making.

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Valentine's Gift & Dining Guide

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Valentine's Day Monday, Feb. 14

Share the Love at Garré Vineyard
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Celebrate with Your Valentine, FEB 12TH OR 14TH

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Saturday, February 12th Porter's Restaurant

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*Prix Fixe Menu - Select from three intricately prepared entrees.

RESERVATIONS: 925.456.8215

EDITORIALS

Global Climate Action Plan

They're voting on elements of a Climate Action Plan (CAP) for Pleasanton.

Residents are invited to fill out a "ballot" dealing with global climate issues.

The goal is to develop an action plan that is technically feasible and cost-effective, is capable of making a significant contribution to carbon reduction, and is supported by the community.

City of Pleasanton held a meeting on the CAP recently, with some 60 residents attending. More meetings will follow. The plan is scheduled for completion by next February.

The vote by the citizenry is an advisory one. The City Council will make the final decisions. The residents' input, however, is certain to play a major role in how CAP is written.

This is a profoundly important endeavor. It's a matter of local government responding to a global problem — a problem many believe is the most important issue of our time.

City of Pleasanton is certainly taking it seriously. The ballot is a comprehensive packet with some 19 pages of material and 300 ideas for attacking global warming. It's available at City Hall or on-line at pleasantongreenscene.org.

Pleasanton residents are urged to get involved.

County Fair Acclaimed

The Alameda County Fair brings not only a diverse array of exhibits and entertainment during its annual two-week run in Pleasanton, but also glory to the county. The fair has become one of the top county fairs in the U.S.A., consistently year after year winning the highest prizes in regional, national and international judging.

At the Western Fair Association's recent convention in Reno, Alameda County was the leading winner, taking home 47 awards including 27 first place honors. This marks the sixth year Alameda County has led this field. The judging covered the U.S. and Canada. Alameda County was honored for its programs in the categories of children, conservation, consumer protection, agriculture, and others.

The fair also received the Louis B. Merrill Award for what is described as its exceptional canine attraction that provided an opportunity to adopt rescued dogs.

In attendance numbers, Alameda County made the Top 50 list among North American fairs. Half of the larger fairs were state fairs.

Announcing the awards, the fair eloquently stated, "Historically, the nature of the fair has always been to promote education and showcase community talents and achievements. Couple that historic foundation with a continued drive to provide new, as well as traditional all-age entertainment and you get a venue that will always have a place in the heart of America."

The Alameda County Fair is a winner.

REDEVELOPMENT

(continued from page one)

Kamena said that redevelopment does not eliminate revenue to agencies that collect taxes in the redevelopment area. The agencies and school districts sign pass-through agreements for tax revenue from redevelopment area.

Livermore Community Development director Marc Roberts said that the state's redevelopment law requires that all local agencies have a pass-through agreement with the redevelopment agency, before redevelopment cannot begin.

Negotiations for the pass-through agreements are conducted like a business negotiation, said Roberts. "It's in other agencies' interest to come to some agreement. They understand that if there is blight in the community, it is not paying off for the whole community and for the taxing entity. There may be a short-term loss (of some revenue), but a long-term gain," he said.

SCHOOL DISTRICT AGREEMENT EXPLAINED

Asked about redevelopment agencies' support for schools, Roberts said that what goes into the agreement is flexible.

No redevelopment revenue can go to schools for operational expenses. It can be spent only on capital improvements. Supporters of Brown's position say that by ending redevelopment agencies, the taxation in those redevelopment areas will then flow to Sacramento, and come back to school districts in the form of higher amounts for staff salaries.

According to Roberts, in the early 1990s, the school district negotiated with the city to take a fee rather than redevelopment money. At that time, the city imposed a fee on development of \$14,550 per home that is paid to the school district. New homes were being built at a rate of 500 per year. Recently, there have been fewer than 100.

Dante Gumucio negotiated for the school district.

The district's agreement says that if the city stops imposing its development fee on builders, redevelopment funds would go to the school district based on a sliding scale formula. At this time, \$3 million in developer fees sits in the school district fund.

The portion of the property tax that would go to the state for schools is 21.5 percent of the city's total property tax. The amount collected in Livermore doesn't affect what the state pays

Livermore schools.

Livermore has been closing schools, and its enrollment is declining.

Livermore chief business official Susan Kinder said that looking at the developer fee in the light of declining enrollment is "on our radar." The district wants information to see what the situation is now.

Gumucio said that if the district decides that building new schools is no longer a priority, it could change the agreement, and write it so that it could obtain money to renovate existing schools.

Using the funds for renovation, could free up other money for operations.

HEARING SHOWS 2 SIDES OF BROWN'S PLAN

A public hearing before joint Assembly committees in Sacramento showed the pros and cons in the dispute over Brown's plan to end redevelopment agencies.

The hearing was chaired by Assemblywoman Joan Buchanan of San Ramon, whose 15th District includes Livermore. Linda Barton, the Livermore City Manager and newly elected president of the California Redevelopment Association (CRA), spoke during the brief time allotted her, as did approximately 70 other people who took their turn at the public's microphone. She expanded on her remarks for the Independent.

Speaking for the CRA, Barton said that she and others are supposed to be talking about alternatives and options. "We don't know what they are," since Brown hasn't shown any detail about what would replace RDAs.

Brown did say that cities could undertake redevelopment responsibilities, and be given a chance to raise revenue from local property tax, provided voters approve. He said that perhaps the majority approval vote could be reduced to 55 percent.

The legislative analyst office official did reveal a few details at the hearing. The replacement agency would have a panel advising it comprised of city, county special districts, schools, and the redevelopment agency.

The panel would see to the wind-down of current projects, and figure the current indebtedness among them, said the official.

They would also be contributing a total of \$1.7 billion to help fill the state's projected \$25 billion deficit.

In her remarks, Barton said that the State Constitution bars the state from taking money from RDAs, because Proposition 22 passed. "Don't take money from local agencies," she said.

People advocating the abolition of RDAs have been using the wrong figures concerning job creation, said Barton. "The correct figures are that without RDAs, there would be 300,000 jobs lost and \$40 million in economic activity."

Sales tax and transient occupancy taxes are generated by new businesses. Barton estimated the state would lose \$2 billion annually if RDAs go away.

By concentrating developments in the smart-growth manner, RDAs also contribute to implementing AB 375, which aims to cut carbon emissions. "That can help the state reduce its carbon footprint," said Barton.

On the other side of the issue, speakers disputed the notion that RDA's help the state's overall economic picture. Studies were cited that found the jobs shift from one part of a county or region to another.

One supporter of Brown's plan speaking on a special three-person panel giving testimony to the legislators said that union jobs disappeared on the Peninsula, and reappeared in the Central Valley town of Visalia as non-union jobs, with lower pay. The Peninsula was the poorer for it, and so was the state income tax picture, she said.

Livermore and cities around the state have been taking steps to guarantee legally that in case they lose the redevelopment agency, they can still finance the commitments made.

Kamena told the Independent that the redevelopment agencies get the economy going. They do so with the tax increment included in the development. "It's newly found money for the whole operation of the state," he said.

"There are cities and mayors who object (to Brown's proposal.) Most are involved in redevelopment agencies that are more successful than the one over which he (Brown) presided in Oakland (when he was mayor there)," said Kamena.

WHAT ABOUT PENSIONS?

Kamena criticized Brown's speech for not touching on pension reform for state employees as a way to help close the state's \$26 billion budget hole. Livermore and other Valley cities are dealing with their contracts with unions by seeking to have employees contribute to their own health care plans for retirement, and also their retirement pension plans, said Kamena.

The state engaged in pension reform in 2009, said Livermore's two legislators, Sen. Loni Hancock and Buchanan.

"We rolled back pension benefits to the 1999 level. Sen. Hancock and I voted for it. We may have been the only legislators in Contra Costa County who voted for it," said Buchanan. (A portion of Richmond, in Contra Costa County, is in Hancock's predominantly Alameda County district.)

Some 15 of the state's 21 employee unions signed contracts last year that contained pension and wage take-backs. "You have to give them credit. They understand the crisis that the state is facing," said Hancock.

"The average public pension (that goes to retirees) is \$24,000 per year. There is a lot of public outcry, quite correctly based on Bell, California, stories where top executives not in a union were spiking their pensions," said Hancock. (Spiking means that they were adding to pay shortly before retirement, so that their pension amounts would be larger.)

"State employees now are paying 8 to 10 percent into their retirement. We have to dis-aggregate ordinary working people from some of the top executives," said Hancock.

Both legislators are Democrats, as are the other Contra Costa state legislators. Analysts say that many Democrats don't want to offend unions in their base of support by going after state pension reform. Also, providing more revenue available to schools is a concern of the state-wide teachers union. The belief is that more state money would flow to schools, because it would not go to the RDAs.

Buchanan said that her concern for the potential for more money for education is based on her 18 years' service on the San Ramon Valley school board.

HANCOCK: BROWN FACES TOUGH TASK

Asked whether she supports Brown when it comes to ending redevelopment agencies, Hancock did not commit one way or another. She said that Brown faces a tough task to fill the projected \$25 billion budget hole.

"The state budget is required to reimburse counties and school districts for property tax given to redevelopment agencies. The state doesn't have the money

to do that anymore," said Hancock.

Hancock referred to Brown's mention of giving the cities a break on raising funds on their own with voters to do redevelopment.

Hancock said that mayors and redevelopment agency officials "don't want (the end of redevelopment agencies). Others don't want to see their programs end, such as advocates for the disabled." Brown has to find some way to cut \$12.5 billion, while also getting an election passed to extend \$12.5 billion in revenue from expiring taxes to cover the budget hole, she said.

Kamena pointed out that Brown has not mentioned one potential source of funding to close the deficit: an oil extraction tax.

California is the only oil-producing state that doesn't charge the tax, said Hancock. She told The Independent she backed Proposition 87 in 2006, which would have established the tax. She also proposed such a bill last year, but it failed to receive the Republican votes necessary for the two-thirds to pass it, she said.

"I continue to support it, and would love to see a movement develop among redevelopment people to utilize it as an alternative source of funding," she stated.

"The redevelopment community might also consider supporting a 'split roll' of property taxes, so that businesses and corporations pay their fair share," said Hancock.

There has been talk by some legislators of changing Proposition 13 so that protections for homeowners remain, but businesses no longer would be covered by that law.

BUCHANAN SEES BUDGET BEFORE JUNE

In her response about whether she would support eliminating redevelopment agencies, Buchanan said, "I haven't seen the full proposal on redevelopment agencies. What the governor wants to accomplish is to give cities the ability to deal with blight and redevelopment, but find another way to fund it."

"I do believe the budget will pass the Legislature. That needs to happen to pass the tax extension (election in June)," she said.

"I don't believe it's the end of the redevelopment discussion," said Buchanan. She said that Brown's proposal on redevelopment ties into his plans for realigning services. "That plan is being developed. None of us have seen it," said Buchanan.

"I believe you will see some change in redevelopment guidelines, to make sure it is done as intended. Twenty percent (of redevelopment funds) must go to low-income housing, not sit in a fund not being spent," said Buchanan.

"The big issue for me is that if you create a program, money should be spent for the purposes of that program," said Buchanan. A criticism about some of the redevelopment agencies in the state has been that they set aside the funding to build affordable housing, but they don't build it.

Buchanan said that she has read a great deal about redevelopment, including editorials that cite examples of cities that have not been right on point with the intended procedures of redevelopment agencies. She noted that Livermore has been perceived as following the redevelopment rules.

The public will be given a closer look at which redevelopment agencies have failed to meet requirements about affordable housing when state controller John Chiang finishes his audit of 18 of the state's 425 redevelopment agencies, said Buchanan.

LIVERMORE MEETS HOUSING REQUIREMENT

Livermore rises above the 20 percent minimum requirement for affordable housing. The redevelopment agency has provided funds or will do so for a level of about 22 to 23 percent of affordable housing of the total of all the residential units that have been built or are proposed.

Already constructed over the years have been 596 residential units, with 175 of them in the affordable category. A range of 633 to 683 units is proposed to be built. Some 113 of the total proposed housing would be affordable.

Among future residential proposals is a major one, Livermore Village Housing, which would be on the site of the former Lucky store next to Livermore Avenue at Railroad Avenue. It will have approximately 300 townhouse and condominium units, including 30 low-income and 56 moderate-income units.

The site would also have a 2000-seat regional performing arts center, and a park plaza. Estimated value of the project including the theater, plaza, a new parking garage and infrastructure for the entire site and related improvements is \$70 million in today's dollars. It does not include the cost of building the housing. If approved, the redevelopment agency funds would pay 53 percent of the total cost.

MAILBOX

(Opinions voiced in letters published in Mailbox are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Independent. Letter Policy: The Independent will not publish anonymous letters, nor will it publish letters without names. Abusive letters may be rejected or edited. Frequent letter writers may have publication of their letters delayed.)

Renegotiate Contract Bart Hughes Pleasanton

The current Pleasanton PCEA employee contract should be renegotiated for several reasons. First, the contract would mean that Pleasanton retirement costs continue to rise faster than the overall budget thereby crowding out other line items. Inevitably this means a reduction in services for residents. Staff acknowledged this cost point during the public workshop on Tuesday evening.

Second, the contract would ensure that Pleasanton's retirement unfunded liability, already an unsustainable \$185M (MVA), will continue to grow. Simply put, it is irresponsible to continue to let this happen. Once again, staff acknowledged this liability growth point Tuesday evening.

Third, the city did not put forward a credible plan to address our unfunded liability. The suggestion to use current city reserves to pay off the debt is not feasible and would put the city in a precarious financial position. It is an unsustainable approach to approve employee contracts without a concrete framework to address the liability. Essentially, this contract would be "kicking the can down the road".

Fourth, it is the fiduciary responsibility of our elected officials to consider new material information. Since the November

6th, 2010 closed-door agreement, CalPERS communicated that Pleasanton's contribution costs will grow substantially over the next few years. On top of this, CalPERS communicated further rate increases due to its planned reduction of investment returns assumption. This has not been accommodated for with the current tentative agreement.

Lastly, this contract was discussed and agreed upon behind closed doors and well before the public had the opportunity to provide input. This action is quite dissimilar to what many cities operate. Cities like Santa Cruz first gather input from citizens and then enter into labor negotiations. The Mayor and several Council Members stated the need to negotiate in good faith with the union and therefore are bound by this tentative agreement. Where is the good faith with regards to citizens? How can the Council bind the city to a decision outcome that admittedly excluded public input early in the process? The following omission is quite telling: the current proposal does not contain a two-tier pension element that so many other cities have already implemented. A two-tier pension would not cost current employees anything, but would allow Pleasanton to begin to control long-term pension costs. And yet the Council doesn't feel it is right to send the contract back for re-negotiation. To date, absolutely no contract changes have been made due to public input.

Unfortunately, it appears that this contract will be approved as is. Pleasanton residents deserve and should have had a better outcome that balances the needs and sacrifices of both employees and citizens. Most everyone, including the Mayor and City Council, acknowledge that we have a serious issue that needs

to be addressed. It should start now in a meaningful way with this current contract.

League's 91st Birthday Barbara Hempill Livermore-Amador Valley League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters was founded on February 14, 1920, by leaders in the women's suffrage movement. Members of the Livermore-Amador Valley League are busy all year distributing voters' affidavits, studying various issues, holding candidates' forums, and providing election literature such as "Easy Voter" and "Pros and Cons". The L-AV League is currently studying the issue of Health Care under the leadership of Charles Hartwig.

"For more than 90 years, the non-partisan League has stood for the civil exchange of different points of view," according to Chuck Hazen, Administrator for the L-AV League. "Our work has helped to improve the functioning of government and bridge the gap between voters and elected officials."

The Livermore-Amador Valley League is one of more than 800 Leagues in all 50 states. Since 1920 our goal has been to educate and inform. Membership is open to men and women of all ages. For more information about the League visit our website at <http://lav.ca.lwnet.org>. The L-AV Spring Lunch and Program will be held at Girasole Grill at 11:30 am, Wednesday, April 20.

An exhibit celebrating the Centennial of Woman Suffrage in California 1911-2011 will be at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley from May 14 to July 16. It will focus on the lives of women in the Amador Valley and Contra Costa County.

At Risk Jo Ann Frisch Livermore

Know what's brewing in Livermore? No, it's not beer. It's deadly diseases, such as anthrax, plague, and Q fever. These dangerous pathogens are growing at the Livermore Laboratory.

We know the Lab was caught conducting a forbidden bio-warfare agent experiment. The Centers for Disease Control

discovered researchers illegally developing an antibiotic-resistant strain of plague.

Also, an unauthorized person was given access to - and shipped - thousands of vials of anthrax across the country. Some spilled, and five workers were exposed. The Lab was fined \$450,000.

These incidents happened when the Lab had only Bio-Safety Level-2 capability. Now, it is operating a BSL-3, which allows even more hazardous experiments.

Were you asked to take this risk? Do you think you should have some say about it?

Tri-Valley CAREs (TVC) thinks so. No Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was prepared, and there were no public hearings. So, TVC sued and won a decision that forced the Lab to analyze potential impacts of terrorism at the BSL-3. The Lab refused to hold public hearings or prepare an EIS. So, TVC is suing again.

TVC is asking the court that originally ruled in their favor to compel public hearings and an EIS. That way, the community will know the risks and have a say in the final decision.

Depending which way the wind blows we are all "downwinders." Over 7 million people are at risk. You can check www.trivalleycares.org for updates on this important issue.

Thank You Lety Santiestevan & Arnis Kapostins

Thank you for your patronage and for making our four years of "Tea Time" memorable. We have enjoyed our time in the beautiful Victorian Tea Room in Livermore. Over the years we have celebrated many special events with our loyal customers, enlightened our guests with the tradition of "Afternoon Tea" and served patrons from all over. It is time for us, however, to move on.

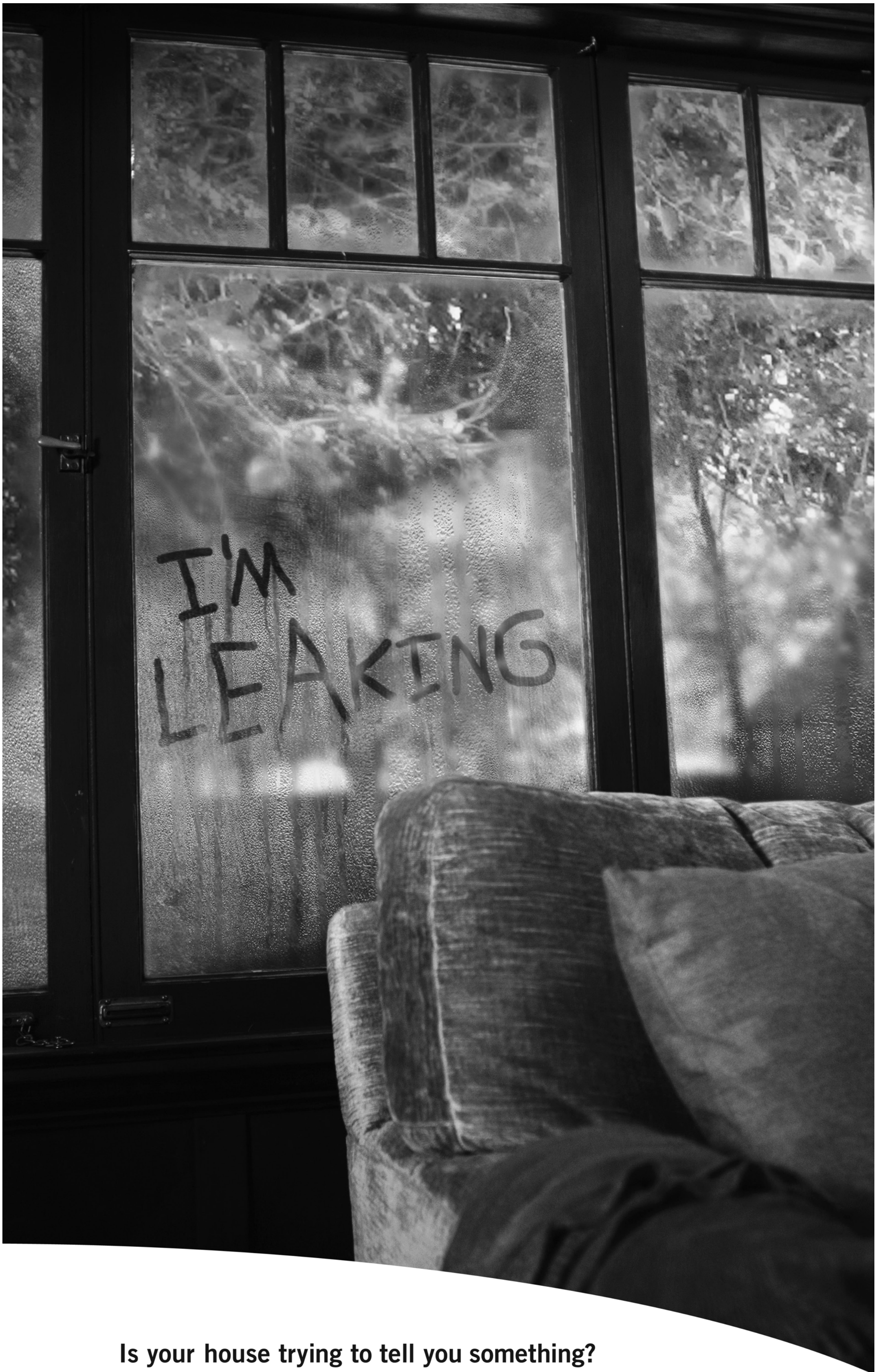
Again we are extremely thankful for our loyal patrons, who made our time in Livermore, unforgettable. We look forward to providing you a superior tea service experience in the future. Please continue to check back on our web site www.august-tearoom.com for additional information.

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SPORTS NOTES



The Mighty Cagers of SM/SC finished their season with an 11-5 victory over St Joan of Arc, giving them a record of 10-0. Even though these girls are only 8 years old they knew what going into Sunday's game meant for them-an undefeated season. The girls were fired up and ready for action when they stepped on the court. All played the greatest defense of the year against the well coached team of St Joan's. Especially noted for their great defensive play and rebounding were Emma Hyde, Jillian Collom and Jackie Parker who took away St. Joan's offensive threat. On the scoring end Jordan Briggs, with her speed and quickness managed to have several steals and Carlie Spruiell, Lourdes Cacacho and Amanda Price all contributed with great passing and shooting. The other team members who contributed throughout the year were Ariel Conley and Laura Marshall.



The CYO SM/SC 5th grade girls Swoosh team fought hard for an undefeated season Sunday with a strong finish they completed the season with a 10-0 record. Team members are: Taylor Lachman, Emma Zika, coach Tim Rickford, Daniela Walker, Kate Marcel, Nicole Bartels, Katherine Gomez, Emily March, Chelsea Walker, coach Lori McBride, Katie Fournier, Maddy Valone and coach Kristina Lupo.



Pleasanton U13 Rage AC White won the Nor Cal Silver Division and will play in the championship game Nor Cal Cup Gold Division on February 13 in Woodland. The U13 AC White team captured the Nor Cal Silver Division with a record of eight wins, one loss, and one tie. Their goals for were 29 and goals against were 5. Pictured are (back row) Coach Dave, Amanda Jensen, Mildreth Gil, Maggie Kilday, Megan Martin, Riley Akins, MacKenzie Bammer, Bryanna Schreiber; (center row) Lisa DeFeo, Katie Franciskovich, Jasmine Dessouky, Sadie Moore, Christina Echavia, Heather Jackson, Nicole Tsuno, Xenia Perea, Sami LaBella; (front row) Madison Avery, and Kennedy Truex.



Craig Cofer pictured at Grossmont College in San Diego.

Letter Of Intent to U of Hawaii

Former Livermore High School Cowboy Craig Cofer (Class 2009) has committed and signed a national letter of intent to play football at University of Hawaii in Honolulu as a DE.

After his graduation Craig was a Redshirt at Southern Oregon University in Ashland, Oregon. He then transferred to Grossmont College in San Diego, where he played and excelled as a DE with the Griffins.

Craig was recruited and received a full scholarship from the University of Hawaii in Honolulu. He will start classes in June. Warrior football camp starts during August.

According to his parents, Craig's hard work and achievement to be recruited by the Warrior Football team has much to do with the foundation in academics and athletics he received at Livermore High School.

Baseball Alumni Game

Livermore High School baseball alumni are invited to play in an alumni game this year on Saturday March 12th and 11:00. The alumni will be playing against the current Varsity team.

Lunch will be provided afterward for all those that participate. Even if you do not wish to play or you physically are unable to, come on out and check out the new facility and enjoy a free lunch.

Any questions, please feel free to check our website at www.eteamz.com/LHSCowboysBaseball or e-mail Coach Perotti at dperotti@lvjUSD.k12.ca.us

BUSC 2011 Placement

Pleasanton Ballistic United Soccer Club (BUSC) has released its 2011 placement dates for the upcoming 2011-12 soccer season. The sessions are scheduled around the two 3-day holiday weekends during the month of February. BUSC has also rented the turf fields at Las Positas College in order to eliminate any possible rain out issues.

These placements are for all competitive levels of play for the age groups below.

The U9 & U10 age groups will run in the "academy" format, which means players will be selected from a player pool of the top 50 players for each age group. These players will train together during the March-May time frame. Coaches will use this spring training to determine what team the players will be placed upon after they return from the club break, which takes place from June 17 through July 4.

Each age group will have 5 teams of 10 players.

A U9/10 academy parent information night will be announced soon. Please check the website for details.

All parents are asked to register their kids for try outs by completing the registration form available on the website www.busc.org. This pre-registration process will allow BUSC to properly prepare with staff and equipment.

U9-U10 Age Groups: Saturday, February 5 & Sunday, February 6, Las Positas College (turf field) both days; Age 9: 9:30am-10:30am; Age 10: 11:00am-12:30pm

U11-U14 Age Groups: Saturday, February 26 & Sunday, February 27, Las Positas College (turf field) both days; Age

11: 8:30am-10:30am; Age 12: 11:00am-1:00pm; Age 13: 1:30pm-3:30pm; Age 14: 4:00pm-6:00pm

U15-U16 Age Groups: Tuesday, April 12 & Thursday, April 14, Val Vista Park; Age 15: 4:00pm-5:30pm; Age 16: 5:30pm-7:00pm

U17-U18 Age Groups: Thursday, April 21 & Friday, April 22, Val Vista Park; Age 17: 4:00pm-5:30pm; Age 18: 5:30pm-7:00pm

U19 Select & Advanced: Val Vista Park; 4:00pm-6:00pm

Water Polo

The LAZERS High School Boys water polo team competed this past weekend in the final Pacific Zone games for the season. They did well with a 3-0 record for the tournament with wins against Ohlone 15-5, American River 8-6 and Marin 9-5. Ian McNair led scorers with 10 goals. Mike Anhorn netted 8, Aron Sherman 5, Michael Hawkins 4, Tyler Carter and Turner Sblendorio 2 each and Hunter East added 1. Each and every goal was earned with outstanding offense played by the entire team.

Tyler Carter and Luke Lalor both played tremendous defense in goal with an outstanding 5M shot blocked by Luke. The LAZERS HS Boys will compete in the Winterfest tournament in Southern California this weekend.

This past Sunday, the LAZERS 18 and under girls team had its toughest test yet. Just prior to Winterfest the team played 3 games against some tough competition. Both Lanna Antonoff and Veronika Mach did amazing work in the goal, blocking over 25 shots. Lauren Cano and Myra Hernandez showed their time in practice has really improved their game. Mikayla McNair and Michelle Hawkins proved they could give and take when it came to aggressive play.

CYO Basketball

SM/SC 6th grade Spartans CYO basketball team #604 lost to St. Isidore #605 14-13 in a hard fought, physical, defensive battle Sunday. The Spartans took on undefeated St. Isidore for the second time, losing to them previously 43-10. Bobby Cantelino, Zachariah Eme, Brandon Agcong, Frank Gomez, and Patrick Schwartz, who all played their best defensive game of the year, led the Spartans. They were instrumental in creating steals, blocked shots, and rebounds. Jacob Murdoch led on the offensive end by scoring 10 points for SM/SC.

The 4th grade team SM/SC Lasers took on St. Raymond's, Brooke Promes and Haley Farrell were strong shooters for St. Raymond's in a 12-6 win over the SM/SC Lasers. Isabella Saavedra out-rebounded the opponent and showed great toughness. Jane Abele, Lindsay Harnish and Justynne Thomas had stellar games executing defense and passing.

The SM/SC 5th grade girls Swoosh team finished their season with a 10-0 record beating their final opponent, St. Joan, 20-6. Point guard, Maddy Valone had a fantastic game on the front line with 11 attempts, 5 steals, 4 rebounds, causing 3 turnovers and 6 fast breaks resulting in 6 points. Daniela Walker did an excellent job in the center position with a team-tied high, 10 rebounds. She also had 12 attempts, 6 points and 2 steals. Chelsea Warner was a strong presence on defense with a personal best 6 rebounds, a blocked shot, 8 attempts and 2 points. Forward, Taylor Lachman, had her best game of the season shooting 50% from the field, scoring 4 points and pulling down 4 rebounds underneath. A great effort by the entire team all year was proven as the Swoosh girls outscored their opponents 170-70 resulting in an undefeated season.

Pleasanton Seahawks

The cold, rainy weather didn't dampen the competition, as the Pleasanton Seahawks (PLS) swim team had a great showing at the Santa Clara hosted Sr 1 Meet January 29 and 30. PLS highlights included many standout, lifetime best swims.

Pre-Senior highlights: Rachel Bench 100 breast; Alex Gilchrist 100 Fly, 100 back; Samantha Howell 500 free; Emma Kauffeld 200 free; Regis Lachance 100 back; Trevor Lee 100 breast; Meg MacGregor 200 free; Thomas Neufeld 100 breast; Jon Ong 5 new 10 cuts; RJ Scott 1650 free; Paris Sinclair 200 breast; Jeff Tang 500 free and Mike Yao 50 free. Congratulations to Maxime Rooney for picking up his first Sectional cut in the 200 back.

Varsity highlights: New A-times: Natalie Cook, Jae Williams, Andrew Song, Parth Subramanian; New B-times: Shilpa Krish, Sophia Passin; New Best Times: Sabrena Cornwell.

Senior standout swims: Katie Woods 200 back, 400 IM; Jason Chen 100 breast, 200 IM; Kevin McLaughlin 500 free, 100 breast and Tony Shen 100 breast. Many swims were right around or just under life time bests.

Senior Elite standout swims: Kirsten Brand 200 back; Brandon Chandler 100 back, 200 breast, 100 free; Kristine Doan 100 back, 100/500 free; Nick Johnston 200 fly, 400 IM; Celina Li 200 back; Tim McLaughlin 100 back, 200 breast; Bridget Moran 200 back; Andrew Seitz 100/200 back; Maggie Woods 200 back, 400 IM and Chris Dourov 100 free.

Nor-Cal Swim Meet

The City of Pleasanton's Dolores Bengtson Aquatic Center will be the host-site for a swim meet in the coming week. The Pleasanton Seahawks Swim team will host the two-day Nor-Cal Superleague Championship meet that begins on Saturday, February 12th and continues through Sunday, February 13th. The meet is expected to draw about 200 swimmers who will begin to arrive each morning by 7:00 a.m., with competition beginning at 9:00 a.m.

The City of Pleasanton has been working closely with the Pleasanton Seahawks to develop plans for a successful competition and reduced impact on the neighborhoods surrounding the Aquatic Center, located at 4455 Black Avenue near Santa Rita Road. Participants have been encouraged to carpool when possible and obey traffic laws to help reduce the impacts on the surrounding neighborhoods.

For more information, please contact the Recreation Supervisor, Michelle Stearns at (925) 931-3423.



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Fans lined up to have their photos taken with the San Francisco Giants' World Series Trophy at Stoneridge Mall in Pleasanton. The trophy was in Pleasanton on February 2, which was designated "San Francisco Giants Day" in Pleasanton through a special City Council proclamation. The trophy was on a 30-plus city tour of California which began on January 4 and will include stops at the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York, to Troy New York where the team was originally founded, to New York, New York to pay tribute to Giants fans on the east coast, and to the Giants Spring Training Facility in Scottsdale, Arizona. The tour will culminate in a tour of the neighborhoods of San Francisco and eventually make its way to AT&T Park for the Giants home opener against the Los Angeles Dodgers on April 8, 2011. Pictured are John Bird from Livermore, Colleen Ramfell, Denise, and Danielle Hunt.

Bocce Kits for Rent

Following the debut of two new bocce courts at the freshly renovated Bothwell Park, 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 Cen-

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

NorCal Grizzlies Baseball

NorCal Grizzlies Baseball is currently evaluating players ages 9U thru 14U for 2011 spring tournament baseball season. Season runs through July and includes 13 local tour-

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In addition I would like to publically acknowledge and thank The Independent writer Ron McNicoll for his past, and continuing efforts, in his consistently thorough and fair news coverage of the Pleasanton Unified School District over the years-Well Done!"

Pat Kernan

Former Pleasanton Unified Trustee, LVPAC Board Member, Of Counsel to the Patton Martin Sullivan LLP, a Pleasanton based law firm

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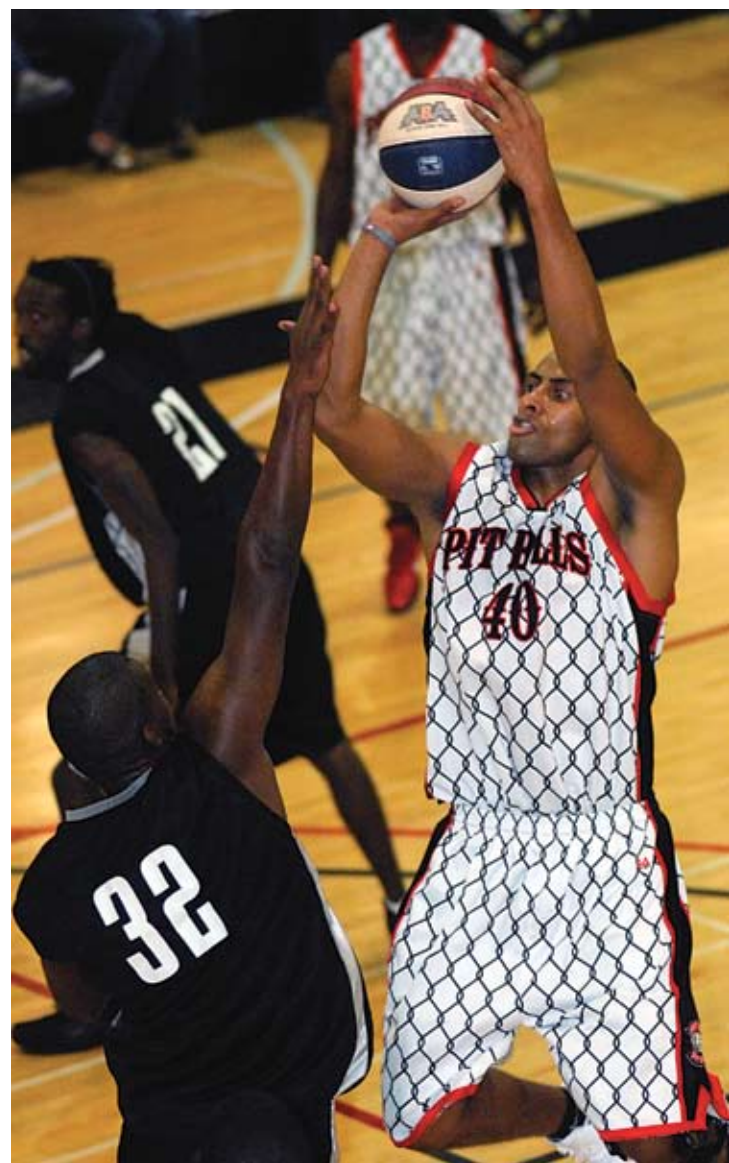
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SPORTS NOTES



Photos - Doug Jorgensen

Back to back wins on Friday and Saturday pushed East Bay Pit Bulls into the #1 spot in California and back into 8th position in ABA power rankings. Friday night the Pit Bulls defeated the California Sea Kings 120-130. The Pit Bulls came out determined to defend their home court and led the entire game. Teohn Conner recorded a double-double with 43 points, 11 rebounds. Tray Britt added 33 points, Jordan Boreman dished out 12 assists while Vili Morton pulled down 17 rebounds. Saturday night the Pit Bulls traveled to meet the Bay Area Matrix and came away with a hard fought 116-115 win. Once again Teohn Conner led all scorers with 43 points and 10 rebounds. Steven Johnson added 31 points. Starting point guard, Jordan Boreman, who leads the team in assists and steals, added 7 assists and 3 steals in the victory on Saturday. The Matrix will be looking for revenge when they come to Las Positas College on Sunday, Feb. 13 for a 7 p.m. tip-off. Tickets can be purchased at www.eastbaypitbulls.com. Las Positas College is located at 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. Pit Bulls' player Vili Morton (40) goes up for a shot.

naments, 1 tournament in SoCal, 2x weekly practices at indoor training facility and outdoor fields, and complete uniform package. Please contact Tom Graham, Head Coach, at 925-922-5050 or tomg@norcalgrizzlies.org. Schedule an evaluation at www.norcalgrizzlies.com/2011springballreg.html.

Adult Softball Leagues

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District is offering adult softball leagues for spring 2011.

League fees are \$795 for men's, coed and business teams and to \$650 for men's senior teams. General registration starts Tuesday, Feb. 1, and goes through Monday, Feb. 28.

LARPD Spring 2011 adult softball leagues run April 15 to July 10 unless make-up games need to be played. The league teams are based on a 10-game schedule, plus playoffs for the top four teams. All games are in the evening and will be played at Ernie Rodrigues Softball Complex, 1717 S. Livermore Ave., or Max Baer Softball Field, 1310 Murdell Lane.

The following leagues are offered this season: Sunday, Masters 35+ (intermediate-advanced) & Seniors 50+ (beginner-intermediate); Monday, Men's D3 (beginner, intermediate, advanced), Men's Blue and Men's Gold (intermediate advanced); Tuesday, Business Coed (intermediate-advanced); Wednesday, Men's D Open, D Majors (intermediate-advanced); Thursday, Men's D1 and D2 (intermediate-advanced); Friday, Coed D1 (intermediate-advanced), Coed D2 (beginner-intermediate).

Space is limited for adult softball, therefore early registration is advised. Leagues must sign up in person at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave. Teams must submit their complete roster and league fees at the time of registration. Spring 2011 adult softball information can be viewed on page 29 of the online Winter/Spring 2011 Classes & Programs Brochure, available at www.larpd.dst.ca.us. For more information regarding leagues, registration or schedules, please call Jim Carlson at 925-373-5712.

Equestrian

The Rocky Mountain College Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) Equestrian Team had a good showing at the most recent event held in Logan, Utah, January 29 - 30, 2011.

With 22 team members competing, the Rocky equestrians placed in every class they competed in. In total, the RMC team won nine first places, four second places, and nine third places.

The RMC team competed against teams from Carroll College, the University of Montana, Montana State University, Utah State University, University of Montana Western, and the College of Southern Idaho in two Western shows on Saturday and one English show on Sunday.

Among those competing was Shauna Ketcham, of Livermore, who placed 4th and 3rd in the two Western Shows.

PGSL Registration

2011 Registration is still open for some divisions in the Pleasanton Phantom Girls Softball League. All girls living in Pleasanton, Dublin and Sunol are eligible to play. Families with daughters in grades K-3 are encouraged to register their children as there are still openings. "Black" division teams have been formed, and "Teal" division teams are nearly finalized. There's still room in a few PGSL's "White" divisions. Register ASAP as Opening Day is just a few weeks away. Two ways to register: 1) Online at www.pleasantonsoftball.org; 2) Mail-in: PGSL, P.O. Box 911, Pleasanton, CA 94566 (download a registration form from the website). Late fee of \$25 applied after 11/30/10. For more information or questions, email Christine Tanis at christine.t@pleasantonsoftball.org.

Dublin Bowl-a-Rama

Dublin Partners In Education is now recruiting teams to bowl at the annual Bowl-a-Rama event. This family fun event raises money to support program in the Dublin public schools. All families are invited to join in the fun, kids and grandparents are welcome.

The event will be held Sunday, March 6, fun starts at 1:00 till 4. Registration forms are available at all public school offices and at Earl Anthony's Dublin Bowling Center.

Contact Kelly Knabe at 828-255 ex 5423 or e-mail knabekelly@dublin.k12.ca.us for more info.

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Croce Dads Win Super Saturday Football Game

By Patricia Koning

In the final minute of Superbowl XLV, the Pittsburgh Steelers just couldn't complete a pass that might have changed the outcome of the game. However, on the day before the Superbowl, the dads of Croce Elementary School had no such trouble breaking a tie by scoring a game-winning touchdown with just six seconds left in the third annual Super Saturday Flag Football Game.

Croce's last second touchdown put the school ahead of Altamont Creek with a Super Saturday record of two wins and one loss. Altamont Creek won the first Super Saturday Flag Football game in 2009 by a score of 14-12. Croce won last year's game 13-12. With Croce's 19-13 victory, the Super Saturday trophy will remain on display in the Croce office for another year.

Phil Baucke, coach of Croce's team for the last three years, had the idea for the crosstown flag football game three years ago after his wife Monica complained to him that the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) was having a hard time getting fathers involved in school activities. That first year, the dads came out in full force for the game and then stayed active. Monica says in the school year after the first game, she noticed more fathers at school events like the Halloween party.

Both Christensen Middle School (CMS), which Altamont and Croce both feed into, and Livermore High School (LHS) participate in Super Saturday, broadening the community building beyond the two elementary schools. The LHS cheerleaders always turn out to pump up the crowd and teach cheers to the elementary school children. CMS physical education teachers David Hill and Stephen Peters refereed the game along with parent Lori McBride and LHS student Tristan Lewis.

Students were also involved, both in the stands and on the field. Christopher Horch, a fourth grader at Croce who recently was diagnosed with leukemia, ran out the first ball. Croce student Jared Baucke and Altamont Creek student Jake Gutierrez served as ball runners during the game.

Altamont Creek principal Beverly Tom and Croce principal Shari Johnston sat together in the stands. Livermore Board



Action was fast and furious in the annual game.

of Education president Chuck Rogge also attended the game, sitting squarely in the middle between the Altamont Creek and Croce sides.

While the dads take the football seriously—perhaps a little too seriously, as there are a few minor injuries each year—the competition is friendly and fun. "Every year the Altamont Creek office staff sends our office a box of Kleenex on the Friday before the game," says Monica.

About 40 fathers participated in Saturday's game. The teams have become more organized in the three years of Super Saturday. Now, the coaches actively recruit new players and hold practices for several weekends before the big game.

"This is a great event because we get to involve our children. After all, this is why we do this. We love showing our children that we are supporting their school and their events,"

says Sean Powers, coach of the Altamont Creek team. "Everyone also loves the camaraderie. Our dads enjoy getting together for this event and then recognizing each other around town all year."

Phil says that each year Croce sees more dads becoming involved. Six new dads joined the roster this year. "As our dads move on to middle school, they recognize Mr. Hill and Mr. Peters from the game as well as several dads from each team," he adds. "It's nice to have some familiarity as our students progress and the two schools come together at Christensen."

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Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Pleasanton merchants hosted the annual Truffles, Tidbits and Wine Tasting stroll last week in the downtown. Participants were treated to gourmet treats and fine wines. The event is hosted by the Pleasanton Downtown Association. Savvy Seconds, pictured, poured wines from Longevity Winery.

FERRIS

(continued from page one)

Science of Democracy, published last year. In it, he reviews the rise of democracy and of science and rests part of his case on the poor living standards of many societies that practice neither, such as those in the Middle East and in sub-Saharan Africa.

Ferris described the scientific process in the traditional way: a proposal is followed by experiments that confirm, deny or revise the original hypothesis, leading to a better understanding of the real world. Over time, the clearer view opens the door to technologies and to industries (steam engines, aircraft, transistors) that power the economy and lift standards of living on many fronts.

Societies that allow free discussion — liberal democracies — generally encourage the process and benefit from it. Societies that are afraid of new answers — authoritarian societies — resist the process, with living quality suffering as a result.

Ferris cites impressive statistics to support his case for the improvement in societies. From 1800 to the present, longevity more than doubled, from less than 30 years to more than 65, even while the world's population was increasing from one billion to more than six billion.

During the same time span, wealth increased nearly tenfold as measured in gross domestic product per person, from \$750 in 1800 to \$6,460 today.

In most of the world, literacy has kept pace with change. In the middle ages, fewer than 10 percent of Europeans were literate, says Ferris. By 1750, half were literate, and 99 percent are today. Worldwide, the adult literacy rate is better than 80 percent and is rising at one-half percent per year.

The societies that started and continued this process were those that began to tolerate experimentation and willingness to consider new information based on observed results. In his talk, and in separate interviews, Ferris emphasized the importance of observation to verify or correct conclusions that can be reached

ROUTE

(continued from page one)

sends the sixteen teams to the Cross Road loop. Turning on Tesla Road, the riders will skirt the edges of vineyards before turning on Mines Road and heading for San Jose.

The City's Local Organizing Committee, a group of City staff and community partners like Livermore Downtown Inc. and the Chamber of Commerce, is planning the event. Watch for future announcements about race day volunteers, sponsorships, temporary street closures, and more.

Livermore's enthusiastic route crowds the past three years as a "pass-through" community helped the City win one of the coveted stage starts this year.

A variety of local bike-themed community events and cycling-related restaurant and retail promotions are being planned. For more information visit www.amgentourofcalifornia.com or the City's special ATOC Facebook page.

Email questions to livermore-atoc2011@yahoo.com.

by thinking alone.

If there were a single event associated with the start of the process, it is the beginning of the Enlightenment, which Ferris dates to 1687, when Isaac Newton published his seminal work, Principia, on gravity and the motions of objects ranging from earthbound projectiles to celestial bodies.

Principia stimulated an intellectual ferment that was already underway. Ferris considers that the growing interest in observational science "incited liberal democracy by undermining authority," generating a desire to show what is true regardless of what political, academic and religious leaders claimed.

Not that tolerance or progress came easily in England or elsewhere. Resistance to new ideas, in science as well as in politics and religion, continued then as it does today. Ferris brought a chuckle from the audience by referring to the 19th Century publication of On The Origin of Species by Charles Darwin, helping to establish principles of evolution, as "an event from which the world has not yet begun to recover."

Ferris spelled out three significant threats to the continued interplay of science and democracy today.

One is excess population growth, the possibility that political institutions will be threatened by the rise in population worldwide. He thinks this unlikely because of recent trends, the slowing of growth as more and more people move to urban areas where large families are no longer needed for farm labor. In 2007, for the first time, he said, the world had more people living in cities than in the country.

A greater threat is the changing climate, which he described in an interview as "a clear and present danger." To Ferris, the problem is solidly established, "scientifically robust" and a lot cheaper to prevent than to try to fix after it occurs.

The political consequences are hard to predict. However, they include drastic scenarios that would surely put great pressure on governments. In The Science of Liberty, Ferris cites the expected consequences of

various levels of warming. For example, "an increase of two to three degrees could sharply reduce the world's supplies of drinking water," while three to four degrees "could melt the Antarctic and Greenland ice caps, raising sea levels and driving hundreds of millions of people from their homes."

The third danger is dogma, that relic of the pre-scientific world that seems to be part of the human psyche. Dogma is an unquestioning belief that conflicts with science and resists discovery. Ferris acknowledged a claim made from the audience that dogma is on the rise, and while he thinks that the democratic system is strong and stable, "dogmatic assaults on climate science worry me."

He compared the situation to the growth of the fast food industry, which has led to a loss of cooking skills. "You don't cook (the food) yourself," he said, "you just pick it up in its entirety." Similarly, too many people have stopped exercising their own powers of observation and reason, instead getting their opinions pre-packaged on the web or on talk radio.

Asked in an interview why he did not suggest other obstacles to continued improvements in the quality of life, such as emerging disease or nuclear terrorism, he said "my point was just to describe areas where dogmatism threatens science and liberty."

On another topic, a visit that he made to Lawrence Livermore Lab just prior to his Bankhead talk, he commented that he was "cheered and impressed by Livermore's civic spirit and positive output."

He added, "I share with millions of other people the hope that nuclear fusion power will soon become a reality, perhaps along the lines to which the scientists and engineers at Livermore's National Ignition Facility have devoted so much hard work and skill. Many forms of alternate energy show promise, but fusion power would be the real game-changer in addressing climate change while sustaining the robust economic growth that has already done so much to reduce poverty, ignorance, and violence around the world."

TOP JOB

(continued from page one)

career, Moore earned a law degree in that city. He has never practiced with a firm. However, he did work for a year for former Attorney General Janet Reno, which added to his administrative experience.

Moore received a nonpartisan White House fellowship. His job as one of the attorney general's six staff counsels was to screen grant applications submitted by police departments to the Office of Justice.

Moore also earned a Fulbright police research fellowship that took him to London to study police accountability at Scotland Yard. Those contacts are still valuable in his work. Some visitors from Britain have come to San Jose for the purpose of picking up ideas for their police departments.

Gaining knowledge about police accountability has helped Moore with the hot-button issue of relations with the minority community that have arisen in San Jose.

News media reported that some minority organizations were suspicious of promoting from within a department that many of them did not trust.

Moore told The Independent that he was asked by news media whether the complaints about police treatment were simply a matter of perception, as some close to the police had suggested. He said he told reporters that "I don't think it's perception. I think it's very real."

To deal with community complaints, Moore is establishing a

board that will advise him. The panel will include critics of the department, as well as backers.

COMMUNITY POLICING AN IMPORTANT TOOL

Moore also is a big believer in community policing. That means community members must take an active role in looking after their neighborhoods.

"Say there is a park, and there are people drinking there who don't live there. Neighbors can call the police for help. We can deal with the problem then and there, but it doesn't stop it from coming back," said Moore.

"We can have a community meeting and work with police and with park and recreation to fence areas, put up signs, a comprehensive approach. It is better than, 'You are the police; you fix it.' Their engagement alone, and offering suggestions helps them to get to know their neighbors," said Moore.

San Jose has had a good reputation as a relatively low-crime area. At one time it was the safest big city in the United States. The city has slipped to fourth, mainly because of more property crimes.

The homicide rate is down to 20 per year, "still 20 too many, but that's a 10-year low," said Moore. In the 1980s, when crack cocaine was a criminal influence, the murder rate was 80 per year.

PERCEIVED AS HONEST, FAIR, OBJECTIVE

A writer on a civic-oriented blog in San Jose, who worked for Moore in the 1990s, said that Moore "is not arrogant, egotistic, dogmatic nor a cult-of-personality type. He is honest, pragmatic, down-to-earth, fair and objective."

People who attend Zone 7 meetings regularly might well agree with that perception. His demeanor is friendly and approachable. He was so well-regarded by other Zone 7 board members that they appointed him over a field of 20 or so candidates to the board in 2006. He succeeded John Marchand, who resigned after his election to the Livermore City Council.

LAWSUIT

51-home project in the southeast hills of Pleasanton. The lawsuit was filed after Pleasanton voters backed a referendum overturning the approval of the planned unit development. The lawsuit claimed the approval of the referendum by Pleasanton voters did not affect the development agreement.

Another ordinance approved at the same time as the development was a development agreement. Each of the documents contains a poison pill provision that says that if one were set aside by a referendum, the other would be void.

The Lins' Attorney Andrew Sabey writes that at the time of the referendum, the viability of the development agreement in the event of a successful PUD referendum was not at issue and had not been fully considered by the Lins. "Now that the development agreement is at issue and the legal implications of the PUD referendum have been researched, the Lins recognize that they were, in fact, mistaken."

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		1:30	4:10 6:50 9:25
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GNOME AND JULIET (G) DLP		1:30	3:45 6:10 8:20
JUST GO WITH IT (PG13) DLP	12:10	1:20 2:50 4:00	5:30 6:40 8:10 9:35
THE EAGLE (PG13) DLP		1:40	4:25 7:00 9:45
SANCTUM 3D (R) DLP		12:55	3:55 6:40 9:15
THE ROOMMATE (PG13) DLP	12:15	2:30	4:45 7:20 9:30
THE MECHANIC (R) DLP		1:30	4:15 7:00 9:25
NO STRINGS ATTACHED (R) DLP		1:20	4:15 6:55 9:40
THE KINGS SPEECH (R) DLP		12:45	4:10 6:50 9:35
TRUE GRIT (PG13) DLP		1:10	3:45 6:40 9:10
THE FIGHTER (R) DLP		12:50	4:05 7:10 9:50

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Temple Grandin to Talk at Las Positas College about Adult Autism

Temple Grandin, portrayed in an award winning HBO movie and regarded as the world's most accomplished and best-known adult with autism, will speak at Las Positas College on Monday, March 7, at 7 p.m. in the Barbara Fracisco Mertes Center for the Arts. General admission tickets are now on sale at the campus bookstore for \$5; parking is \$2.

"We're really excited about bringing Temple Grandin to Las Positas. She is a dynamic and inspirational speaker," said Las Positas College Psychology Instructor Ernest Jones, Ph.D. Jones noted that Grandin's presentation is part of the college's week-long celebration of Brain Awareness Week, a global campaign to increase public awareness about brain research, and is sponsored by the Psychology Department and the Psi Beta Psychology Honor Society.

People around the world have seen Grandin thanking her mother and waving to appreciative audiences on the nationally televised 2010 Emmy and 2011 Golden Globe Award ceremonies where the eponymous 2010 HBO movie about her life won awards and recognition.

Grandin was 2 years old when she was diagnosed with autism in 1950. The doctors told Eustacia Cutler, Temple's mother

to put her in an institution, but her mother refused, choosing to teach Temple, send her to school, and find her the best teachers. Grandin went on to earn a B.A. in Psychology and both M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Animal Science.

"On behalf of all the parents like myself who have a child with autism, you are our hero," said movie producer Emily Gerson Saines at the Emmy Awards ceremony, where she also called Grandin's mother "our inspiration."

Named to "Time" magazine's 2010 list of the 100 most influential people in the world and one of twenty-five "Heroes," Grandin is a scientist, professor, best-selling author, leading authority on autism and animal behavior, animal welfare advocate, inspirational speaker, and professor at Colorado State University.

She has been featured on National Public Radio, the BBC TV special "The Woman Who Thinks Like a Cow," ABC's "Primetime Live," "The Today Show," "Larry King Live," "48 Hours," and "20/20," and in many national publications including "People," "Forbes," "U.S. News and World Report," and "New York Times." Bravo Cable produced a half-hour show on her life and she was featured in the best-selling book,

"Anthropologist from Mars."

Jones noted that Grandin's speaking engagement marks her second visit to the college. When she visited in March 2008, she also met with the Psychology Club students and presented a lecture to anatomy and biology students.

The Las Positas College Department of Psychology brings world-renowned speakers and events to the campus and Tri-Valley community. This past year, the department presented "The Mystery of Sleep" conference featuring William C. Dement, M.D. Ph.D., the world's leading authority on sleep and regarded as the "Father of Sleep Medicine." A frequent Las Positas College visitor was the late Kim Peek, the super-savant who inspired the Oscar winning film, "Rain Man," starring Dustin Hoffman. Past speakers also have included Dr. John Ratey, bestselling author and associate clinical professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School.

For more information, please visit the Las Positas College website at www.laspositascollege.edu.

Las Positas College is located at 3000 Campus Hill Drive in Livermore.

Pet First Aid Classes Benefit Valley Humane Society

American Safety Academy in Dublin is offering Pet First Aid classes on February 26 and 27 with 100% of the class fees benefitting the Valley Humane Society.

Classes are available at 9:30am or 2pm both days. Each class is three hours.

The Pet First Aid course is a comprehensive class teaching

pet owners what to do in case of an emergency. Topics include how to administer medications, recognizing an emergency, performing pet CPR and first aid, treating common illnesses and how to stock a first aid kit. The fee for the class is \$50; 100% of that money will go directly to the Valley Humane Society.

"We are passionate about

family safety and pets are an important part of many families," said Carol Brown, Director of the American Safety Academy. "We are also big fans of the Valley Humane Society and the work they do in the Bay Area, so holding a fundraiser for them seemed like the perfect fit for us," Brown added. The VHS is poised to take

Reservations Being Accepted for GrapeXpo

The Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association hosts its annual GrapeXpo on Tues., March 1, 5:30 to 8 p.m.

The event is designed to bring Livermore Valley grape growers and grape buyers together to accomplish the following:

- Showcase and facilitate the sale of Livermore Valley grapes to potential buyers
- Communicate grape varietal and quality needs of today's winemakers
- Build long term relationships between our Valley's growers and grape buyers

The event begins with a State

of the Industry Report presented by Jeff Bitter, VP of Allied Grape Growers

Following the discussion, Valley growers will showcase their grapes to potential grape buyers and winemakers in a "speed dating" format, designed to facilitate interaction between every grower and attendee.

The GrapeXpo will be held at the Martinelli Event Center, 3585 Greenville Rd., Livermore. It is free to LVWA members, \$15 for nonmembers.

Please RSVP by Feb. 25 to LVWA offices at 925.447. WINE (9463) or www.LVwine.org

Pleasanton Lab Technician 100,000th Person to Use New Express Lane

A lab equipment technician from Pleasanton took the 100,000th trip on the new I-680 Express Lane last month, as usage of the new lane continues to rise.

Larry Uruquat took the historic trip on January 13, Express Lane records show. Uruquat, a technician for Beckman Coulter, says he uses the lane two days a week en route to service calls in the Palo Alto area.

"I really like the lane," Uru-

quat said. "It's a nice feature to have when you don't have someone to carpool with. I just wish it was going in both directions."

Since opening last September 20, the southbound Express Lane over the Sunol Grade from Pleasanton to Milpitas has seen weekly average usage increase by more than 20%. The lane reached a high of 2,024 users on January 20.

Express Lane officials are pleased with the results so far. "We're seeing more drivers each month choosing to use the Express Lane to avoid traffic congestion," said Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty, Chair of the I-680 Express Lane Authority Board of Directors. "In less than five months, we're right on target for projected revenue and the number of vehicles using the lane."

The I-680 Express Lane operates Mondays to Fridays from 5

a.m. to 8 p.m. The lane is "open to all" at night and on weekends. California Highway Patrol officers will provide enforcement using visual and electronic means.

Solo drivers who want to use the I-680 Express Lane need a FasTrak toll tag mounted on their windshield. Drivers are charged a toll each time they choose to use the Express Lane. The operation is fully electronic, with no toll-booths or tollgates, so customers do not need to slow down or stop to pay. Motorists with a FasTrak toll tag can enter the Express Lane at designated places. An overhead electronic sign displays the current toll being assessed. Toll costs vary based on real-time traffic levels on the Express Lane to ensure that traffic in the lane flows smoothly.

More information about the Express Lane and how to sign up for FasTrak is available online at www.680expresslane.org.

OBITUARIES

Harriett Mabel Kemp

Harriett Mabel Kemp was born on June 28, 1913 in Sacramento, CA. She passed away on Wed., Feb. 2, 2011 in Livermore, Ca. She was 97 years old.



She lived in California all her life including Oakland, Hayward, Castro Valley and Heritage Estates in Livermore. She was a member of First Presbyterian Church and the Clipper Club. She enjoyed RV camping, long drives and dinners, reading, crocheting, bingo and most importantly her family.

She was preceded in death by and her husband, Bernard Kemp in 2002 and her grandson Bruce Alaax in 1994. She is survived by her daughter Beverly and son-in-law Gene Alaax of Livermore, a son, Kenny and daughter-in-law Rhonda Kemp of Pleasanton, brother, Everett Whitsitt of Tucson, AZ; grandchildren, Debbie and Steve Migliore of Livermore, Larry and Maryann Alaax of Patterson, Wade Kemp of Livermore, Scott and Joan Kemp of Escalon; great grandchildren, Stacy Hernandez and her husband Jeff, Hannah, Madison, Bailey, Miya and Kayla Kemp and one great great grandchild, Kayleigh.

A visitation was held on Saturday, Feb. 5th with Funeral Service following at Callaghan Mortuary. In honoring Harriett's wishes the graveside service was private and limited to only the immediate family and close friends.

Final resting place was Memory Gardens Cemetery in Livermore. In lieu of flowers memorial donations can be made to Hope Hospice, 6500 Dublin Blvd Ste 100, Dublin, CA 94568 or First

Presbyterian Church, 2020 Fifth St., Livermore, CA 94550.

Lorraine Stebbins Hill

Lorraine Stebbins Hill passed away on Wed., February 2, 2011 at the age of 91. She was born February 6, 1919 to Ernest E. and Mable E. Stebbins in Harve, Montana.

She met Lewis C. Hill in Selleck, WA. They were married, October 5, 1937 in Vancouver, WA. For several years, they lived in Talent/Ashland and Roseburg, OR. After her husband passed away, "Larrie" moved in 1991 to live with her daughter, Darlene, in Fort Bragg, CA. In 2009, she moved to Silver Oak Manor in Livermore, CA near her daughter, Melissa.

While in Roseburg, Larrie was an active volunteer at the Veteran's Hospital. She retired as a CNA from Douglas County Nursing Home. She loved people, music, and flowers.

Larrie is survived by her four daughters: Darlene (Jack) Jeffries, Melissa (Gene) Fisher, Barbara Steingraber, and Rebecca (Pat) Beckett. She had 13 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

The family wishes to give a special thank you to the staff and volunteers (custodial, housekeeping, kitchen, nursing, office, and activities) of Silver Oak Manor in Livermore, CA. All four of her daughters feel her life could not have been better with the excellent loving care that she received for the three years she lived at Silver Oak.

The family will be having a private gathering.

Joan Suzanne Edwards Miles

Joan Suzanne Edwards Miles passed away on Tuesday, February 1, 2011, surrounded by her children and adoring husband. She was 67 years old.



Joan was born on May 12, 1943 in Fullerton, CA, to Martin and Barbara Edwards. As a toddler, the family moved to San Leandro, CA where she spent her youth. Joan graduated from San Leandro High School in 1961. She lived in Oakland and Alameda, CA, before marrying her husband of 37 years, Richard. They started their life in San Leandro, where they welcomed their son, and finally settled in Livermore, CA in 1977. There, they welcomed 3 more children, all girls, into their family.

Joan loved being a mother. Many called her a second mom. She liked to be involved in the lives of the kids that grew up around her. She enjoyed working, and finally found her calling in the medical field. She earned her phlebotomy certificate and began working at Kaiser Permanente as a Medical Assistant. She absolutely loved her job and the people she worked with for

over 12 years. She was happy to be able to express her caring nature.

Joan's many hobbies included traveling, genealogy, photography, and serving her church. She loved life, was always eager to embrace it, and was very supportive of her children. Spirituality and religion was a big part of her life. She and Richard were sealed in the Mormon temple for eternity. They were a loving, fun couple, and laughter could always be heard in their house. Joan had a warm spirit and vibrant sense of humor that drew people to her.

Joan was preceded in death by her parents and two cousins. She is survived by husband Richard Miles, children Robert Miles, Meredith Miles, Barbara Elliott, and Lindsey Pappas (Nicholas); sister Virginia Edwards; niece Amber Lancaster; nephew Gabriel Ross; 2 step-children, 5 grandchildren, and several cousins and relatives.

The service was held on Monday, February 7, in Livermore, CA. Joan was buried in Memory

Gardens Cemetery. If desired, any donations can be made in her name to the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance or Kaiser Hospice.

Louis Anthony Moreno

Louis was born on May 6, 1969 in Hayward, CA and passed away on Sat. Feb. 5, 2011 in Livermore, CA. He worked as a Union laborer and was a member of Shiloh Church in Oakland, Ca. Louis was an avid bike enthusiast.

Louis is survived by his wife Lisa, children Lani, Louis Jr., Luke and Levi; parents Lino and

Betty Moreno, a brother Roly and by several aunts, uncles and many loving friends.

Visitation for Louis will be held on Friday, Feb 11, 2010 from 10am to 1pm with a funeral service to begin at 1pm at the Chapel of Callaghan Mortuary 3833 East Ave, Livermore, CA. Louis will be laid to rest following services at Memory Gardens Cemetery 3873 East Ave, Livermore, CA.

In lieu of flowers the family respectfully requests memorial donations be made to the Shiloh Church 3295 School St, Oakland, CA 94602

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SHORT NOTES

Nature Programs

Spiders and Their Kin is the topic of the Sat., Feb. 12 Livermore Area Recreation and Park District ranger program. Meet Ranger Dawn Soles at 10 a.m. at Veterans Park.

They creep, they crawl, and they give some folks the heebie-jeebies. They are the eight-legged animals of our world—arachnids (aka spiders and their close relatives). Join this ranger program to discuss these wonderful creatures. Learn about the venoms these animals use, what spiders are considered dangerous in the area and some interesting facts about their life-styles. There will be a few live specimens to look at.

The Old Almond Orchard is the theme for Sun., Feb. 13. Meet Ranger Amy Wolitzer at 2 p.m. at the Wetmore Road entrance to Sycamore Grove Park.

There are several remnants of the Olivina Estate in Sycamore Grove Park. One that is often overlooked is the old almond orchard in the middle of the park. Although the trees are more than 100 years old, they still bloom impressively every February. Enjoy a slow-paced walk to one of the most beautiful spots in the park this time of year. Good for all ages, cancelled if raining.

There is a \$5 per vehicle parking fee. A \$2 donation is requested to help support the programs. Participants may call 925-960-2400 for more information.

Help Build Trails

Volunteers from East Bay Trail Dogs are in the process of building new trails for LARPD's Holdener Park.

Work will continue on February 15, 19 and 26. New volunteers are welcome to help with this project. Meet at the parking lot at Holdener Park at 9 a.m. Bring water, lunch, gloves and a hat.

For more information, contact Steve Ruley at ruley2@comcast.net or visit the website www.eastbaytrail-dogs.org, or contact the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD).

Comedy Benefit

The 3rd Annual PAR 4 Kids' Sake Comedy Night will be held on Thursday, March 3rd at Tommy T's Comedy Steakhouse in Pleasanton. Tommy T's will be giving 100% of the tickets sales proceeds to PAR 4 Kids' Sake.

Tickets can be purchased on the PAR 4 Kids' Sake website or directly from any of the committee members. Tickets are \$20 each, 2 for \$35, or a table of 10 for \$150. The show will start at 7 PM with the doors opening

at 5:30 PM. Optional dinner, appetizers, and drinks can be purchased during the evening. PAR has sold out the previous comedy nights so ensure your spot by ordering your tickets early.

Regina Stoops who lives in Pleasanton will once again be the opening act. Regina has performed all over the bay area and utilizes her personal knowledge of raising an autistic child to keep the audience entertained. The headliner will be announced in the future.

For more information on PAR or to purchase tickets to the comedy night visit www.par4kidsake.org or call 925-461-0501.

Educators and Space

In the summer of 2011, Teachers in Space will offer five one-week professional-development workshops for high-school science, technology, engineering, and math teachers. Teachers in Space project manager Edward Wright announced the workshops during the final session of the Space Exploration Educators Conference, which took place here today.

At the Suborbital Astronautics Workshop, teachers will learn about aeronautics and spaceflight while experiencing some of the training that future space pilots will receive. Expert instructors will include former Shuttle commander and XCOR Aerospace chief test pilot Col. Rick Searfoss (USAF-ret.). Participating teachers will fly in a glider and learn to pilot a flight simulator for a sub-orbital spacecraft now under development. At the end of the workshop, teachers will receive a copy of the simulator software to take back to the classroom.

The Suborbital Astronautics Workshop will be held for the first time at the Frontiers of Flight Museum in Dallas, TX on June 20-24.

Repeat sessions will be held at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, FL on July 18-22 and at NASA Dryden's AERO Institute in Palmdale, CA on July 25-29.

At the Space Medicine and Human Factors Workshop, teachers will learn about high-altitude physiology and respiration, decompression and vacuum exposure, space weather and radiation, and the effects of weightlessness, gee forces, noise, and vibration. The workshop will be held at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, FL on July 11-15.

At the Suborbital Flight Experiment Workshop, teachers will gain hands-on experience with space hardware as they build experiments to fly aboard an unmanned suborbital experiment as part of the Excelsior

STEM mission. The workshop will be held at the NASA Dryden AERO Institute in Palmdale, CA on August 1-5. The workshops are being developed by Teachers in Space, a nonprofit project of the Space Frontier Foundation, under a cooperative agreement with NASA.

The workshops will be offered at no charge to teachers. Low-cost subsidized housing will be available for workshop participants. A limited number of travel stipends will be available to defray the cost of meals and transportation.

Additional information and workshop applications can be found at www.teachersinspace.org/workshops.htm

Recruitment Grant

A \$500 recruitment grant is available for a woman student pursuing a career in education.

Eligibility includes graduate of a high school in Livermore, Pleasanton or Dublin, full time student of upper division or graduate standing as of fall 2011, must have a good gpa.

The application deadline is March 29, 2011.

The grant will be awarded by the local chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, an international honor society for women educators.

To receive an application form, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Susan Canfield, 262 Trevano Rd., Livermore, CA 94551.

Sycamore Grove Calendar

The 2011 Sycamore Grove Park calendar is now being offered at reduced pricing, and there's plenty of time left in the year to enjoy all the park has to offer. The calendar showcases the unique beauty of this open space park and makes a great holiday gift.

Created by the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District park ranger staff, the 2011 calendar features new glossy color photos taken throughout the 774-acre park. All photos were taken by LARPD Park Rangers Amy Wolitzer and Glen

Florey.

Monthly photos include the almond orchard in bloom, colorful wildflowers, local wildlife and the golden hills in the upper portion of the park. The calendar also indicates Park District happenings and times the park is open throughout the year.

Proceeds benefit open space programs and facilities. Calendars are now only \$5 each or only \$3 when purchased with an annual Sycamore Grove parking pass. Calendars can be purchased at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., or by mail or phone at 925-373-5700 (plus a \$3 shipping fee). Order forms and a calendar preview can be found online at www.larpd.dst.ca.us.

Norvell Joins CMIT

Ken Norvell recently joined CMIT Solutions of Pleasanton as Managing Partner - Business Development. CMIT Solutions is one of the largest IT services franchise companies in the United States. CMIT Solutions of Pleasanton was opened in August 2005.

"I am excited to work with such a great team of people and I am looking forward to helping local businesses get the most out of their technology investments," Norvell said. "With CMIT's robust managed services programs, I'll have the opportunity to bring superior technical support to even more businesses throughout the Tri-Valley area."

Norvell brings extensive career experience in sales and installation management for electronic components and capital equipment. Most recently, he was Regional Sales Manager with Philips Electronics, coordinating the sales of electronic manufacturing equipment to small and medium sized businesses throughout Northern California and the Pacific Northwest. Ken has lived in the Tri-Valley area for more than 20 years.

As a strategic business partner to small and mid-sized businesses, CMIT Solutions reduces the impact of network security threats and improves productivity. This enables company

leadership and employees to focus on their top priorities - building and maintaining a successful organization. CMIT Solutions' managed services platform, CMIT Marathon, provides small businesses with unlimited IT support at a flat, affordable monthly rate that could result in annual savings of 30-50 percent. Additionally, the company offers quick and reliable resolutions to unforeseen technology issues.

For more information, please contact CMIT Solutions of Pleasanton at 925-462-8862.

Scholarship Program

The Kohl's Department Stores (NYSE: KSS) Kohl's Cares® Scholarship Program will award more than \$415,000 in scholarships and prizes, ranging from \$50 Kohl's gift cards

to \$10,000 scholarships, honoring young volunteers who have made a positive impact on their communities. Nominations for kids ages six to 18 will be accepted Feb. 1 - March 15 at kohlskids.com. Kohl's enters the 11th year of its scholarship program.

To nominate volunteers ages six to 18 for a Kohl's Cares scholarship, visit www.kohlskids.com. Nominations are accepted Feb. 1 through March 15, and nominators must be 21 years or older. Two nominees from each of Kohl's 1,089 stores nationwide will win a \$50 Kohl's gift card, and more than 200 will win regional scholarships worth \$1,000 toward post-secondary education. Ten national winners will be awarded a total of \$10,000 in scholarships for post-secondary education and Kohl's will donate \$1,000 to a nonprofit organization on each national winner's behalf.

Funding Available For Organic Projects

Applications are being accepted for Certified Organic and Organic Transition conservation funding. USDA's EQIP Organic Program can help with cover crops, crop rotation, mulching, nutrient management, pest management, field borders and hedgerows, and more

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides funding on the following basis:

- Practices to help implement an Organic System Plan
- Provides up to \$20,000 per year or \$80,000 total
- Cost-share funding covers up to 75% of project costs

Applications are due by March 4, 2011.

To apply, contact Morpheus Anima, USDA Natural Resource

Conservation, 3585 Greenville Road, Suite 2, Livermore CA 94550; information at (925) 371-0154 ext. 125, fax (925) 371-0155, or by email morpheus.anima@ca.usda.gov or at www.acrcd.org.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 446474

The following person(s) doing business as: Steven David Gallery, 1467 Portola Meadows Rd., Livermore CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Steven David Mattos, 1467 Portola Meadows Rd., Livermore CA 94551 Autumn Williams, 1467 Portola Meadows Rd., Livermore CA 94551

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 446603

The following person(s) doing business as: Mainland Leis, 738 Alexander St., Livermore CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Vivian Garcia, 838 Mayview Way, Livermore CA 94550 Victoria Foster, 2484 Robinson Circle, Livermore CA 94550 Shenay Jorgenson, 1081 Laguna St., Livermore CA 94550

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 446872

The following person(s) doing business as: Walk On Water Faith (WOW Faith), 3800 Vineyard Ave. Apt. J, Pleasanton CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Keely Payne, 3800 Vineyard Ave. Apt. J, Pleasanton CA 94566 Jacqueline Smith, 644 Amberwood Way, Livermore CA 94551

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 446434

The following person(s) doing business as: Vincent's Diamond Sawing & Drilling LLC, 5015 Pisces Ave., Livermore CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Vincent's Diamond Sawing & Drilling LLC, 5015 Pisces Ave., Livermore CA 94551

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 447209

The following person(s) doing business as: Esteeem Productions, 327 Jillana Ave., Livermore CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Christina Chan, 327 Jillana Ave., Livermore CA 94550 Brianna Slaven, 1412 Portola Ave., Spc. 12, Livermore CA 94550

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 447495

The following person(s) doing business as: CMK Solar, 2850 Calle Reynoso, Pleasanton CA, 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Craig Minoru Kurotori, 2850 Calle Reynoso, Pleasanton, CA 94566

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 447547

The following person(s) doing business as: Beamborch Studio, 154 Jensen Way, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Loren C. Olk, 154 Jensen Way, Livermore, CA 94550 Elizabeth L. Olk, 154 Jensen Way, Livermore, CA 94550

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 447547

The following person(s) doing business as: Kim's Excelent Cleaning Service, 5015 Pisces Ave., Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kim A. Valdez, 5015 Pisces Ave., Livermore, CA 94551

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 447206

The following person(s) doing business as: Happy Tails Dog Packs, 3037 Badger Drive, Pleasanton CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Janet Vigallon, 3037 Badger Drive, Pleasanton CA 94566

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 447282

The following person(s) doing business as: Rockhouse Sports Pub and Grill, 1840 Portola Ave., Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Billy Jordan, 73 N. Alta Dena St., Mountain House, CA 95391

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 447282

The following person(s) doing business as: Rollhouse Sports Pub and Grill, 1840 Portola Ave., Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Billy Jordan, 73 N. Alta Dena St., Mountain House, CA 95391

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 446926-27

The following person(s) doing business as: 1) Monkey Barrel Press, 2) Jennifer Fosberry, 4544 Sierrawood Lane, Pleasanton, CA 94588, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jennifer Alfonso, 4544 Sierrawood Lane, Pleasanton, CA 94588

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Homebuyers Are Back, Looking for Deals

By Cher Wollard
The year is starting out strong for real estate. After four years of buyer reticence, mostly because of concerns about the direction of the economy, buyers are back. Investors, of course, have been in the market strongly since 2008, snapping up bargains as home prices slumped. But buyers looking to purchase homes for their families to live in have only really entered the market in strong numbers when government incentives in the form of federal and state tax credits were dangled in front of them.

Last year's buyers were overwhelmingly first-time homebuyers taking advantage of tax incentives. Move-up buyers have continued to hold back.

This year may be the turning point. "I have a lot of buyers all of a sudden," reports Carla Winter, a Realtor with ReMax Accord in Livermore.

Bill Hernandez of Prudential California Realty, Livermore, agrees.

"The buyers are out. It's a real attractive time," he said. "Interest rates are low and there are a lot of properties on the market." New home sales have been up since October, according to the National Association of Home Builders. And Lawrence, Yun, chief economist for the National Association of Realtors is forecasting 5.2 million existing home sales in 2011, up from 4.8 million in 2010. Those sales are likely to range from entry-level to multi-million dollar homes.

So far the evidence is merely anecdotal. Today's offers on properties won't materialize as actual closed transactions for one to two months – longer for short sales. And those won't show up on economic reports until the end of the quarter.

"I know there are a lot of buyers out there," said Jennifer Malakoff of Alain Pinel Realty, Livermore. "I see a lot of cash in the market. Investors are investing. Homebuyers are taking advantage of the low prices and low interest rates."

But are there really more buyers? Or is it that buyers are more likely to make offers, instead of just looking?

"I do think people are making more offers. In fact, it's not unusual to see multiple offers on the best properties."

One Livermore agent with Prudential California Realty listed a Sunset East home priced at \$599,950 in late January. At the first open house, prospective buyers were lined up at the door when she opened. More than 50 parties came through that day, and the sellers received four offers. They are now in contract.

What is causing the rebound now? Some of it is seasonal, of course. Home sales historically pick up after the first of the year, increase steadily through May, and taper off as families shift their focus to vacations and other summer plans.

But this may be more than a seasonal shift. According to Zillow Research, the economy is improving, and this will gradually increase "household formation and consumer confidence."

Winter puts it this way: "There are good deals. There's evidence the economy is improving. Interest rates are still good. Rents are almost the same as what mortgage payments would be, so why not buy?"

A survey released last month indicates that the overwhelming majority of both homeowners and renters still believe in the American Dream of homeownership.

The American Attitudes About Homeownership survey of 3,793 adults, conducted by Harris Interactive in October and released Jan. 19, found that even in the current challenging economy, 95 percent of owners and 72 percent of renters believe that over a period of several years, it makes more sense to own a home than to rent.

A majority of renters – 63 percent – said that it was at least somewhat likely that they would purchase a home at some point. Among renters who are young adults (18-29 years old) the sentiment was overwhelmingly in favor of homeownership, with 92 percent saying they expect to purchase a home at some point in the future.

And of those who already own a home, 93 percent said they are happy with their decision and would buy again.

"The results of this survey illustrate just how important issues related to homeownership are to people in this country," said Ron Phipps, president of the National Association of Realtors, which commissioned the poll.

In fact, that dream of homeownership is so strong that some of the folks out buying homes now are purchasing not for themselves, but for the next generation.

"Buyers are looking to the future," Hernandez said. "I've had several clients I took out to the Central Valley to buy investments as homes for their children. Some of them have kids who are young adults, and they'll be living in these homes. Nobody is talking about a 'double dip' in home prices. They are more concerned about getting their kids in homes while they are still affordable."

The Wall Street Journal, citing a survey by Weichert Realtors, reported that "affordability" is the top reason people are buying homes now. Buyers are enticed by low home prices and low interest rates on mortgages.

The median price paid for all new and resale houses and condos in the Bay Area in December – the last month for which we have complete data – was \$375,000, down 1.3 percent from \$380,000 for both November and December one year ago, according to DataQuick. The peak of the current cycle, \$665,000, was reached in June/July 2007, while the median hit a low of \$290,000 in March 2009. Around half the peak-to-trough drop was the result of a decline in home values, while the other half was a shift in sales mix to lower-cost homes.

Interest rates on conventional 30-year fixed-rate mortgages hover below 5 percent.

"There are tremendous values out there," said Malakoff. Inventory in all price ranges is healthy – and they're not all short sales and bank-owned properties. Sellers with equity are also returning to the market.

"It's almost like it's back to normal," Hernandez said. Is this trend likely to continue, or will we see more ups and downs in the housing market. No one knows for sure, but industry professionals are optimistic.

"Two weeks after Super Bowl" is the unofficial launch of the spring homebuying season," Malakoff said. "So my prediction is that by mid-February, we agents will all be crazy busy!"

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

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FINANCES

(continued from page one)

been hit with pay and pension reductions, and don't want to contribute additional money to reduce the unfunded liability. They declared that is only fair that public employees share in solving the city's problem.

In addition, it was noted that the contract was negotiated prior to information issued by CalPERS on what the city contribution would be.

Currently, the city pays both its share and the employee share towards retirement. The miscellaneous contribution by employees is 8 percent; for police and fire it is 9 percent. The city's contribution rate changes each year, based on information provided by CalPERS. In 1985, the city's rate to pay its share of pension costs was 10 percent, today it is 21 percent for miscellaneous employees; police cost is 33 percent; and fire 32 percent.

Others, including union members, stated that they had made concessions in the pending contract that impact their take-home pay. They have agreed to pick up 2 percent of the 8 percent pension contribution. In addition, there will be no raises for the next two years.

City Finance Director Emily Wagner pointed out that the pension plan is administered by CalPERS, the California retirement system. However, the city is 100 percent financially responsible for its pensions. Pleasanton has three union groups: fire, police and miscellaneous. Personnel costs are 79 percent of the general fund budget, up from 65 percent in 2001. City personnel costs include salaries, health care, post retirement medical, workers compensation, miscellaneous benefits and retirement costs "Entitlement costs are escalating," declared Wagner. Currently, payments to CalPERS each year are around \$17 million.

The unfunded pension liability is somewhere between \$121 and \$183 million. The lower amount is actuarial value of assets, the higher the market value of assets. Wagner said she didn't lose sleep over the unfunded liability, because it is funded up to 80 percent. However, there would be concern if the unfunded liability were to go below 80 percent. Up until 2001, it was 100 percent funded. It has been hovering around 80 percent. "We know we have a problem," declared Wagner.

She said that the city is embarking on a long term plan to reduce the unfunded liability. The plan includes reducing the cost of benefits by having existing employees pay their contribution, continuing with zero salary increases (PERS assumes an annual increase of 3.25 percent), implementing a two tier system for new employees, and making supplemental payments to PERS to accelerate the payoff.

Personnel cost savings and containment approaches that have been pursued include a soft hiring freeze. Fewer employees reduces the liability.

The union contract under consideration includes no salary increases through March 31, 2013, a modification to health care benefits with a less expensive non-HMO plan substituted for current employees and for retirees, a switch to Medicare at age 65. The employee CalPERS payment will be 2 percent.

Wagner told those attending the workshop that the city was in good financial shape. It has \$25 million in reserves, and \$224 million in an investment portfolio of marketable securities. The securities could be liquidated to pay off the unfunded liability, something she would not recommend.

In response to concerns that the city would raise fees or taxes to cover the unfunded liability, Wagner stated that the city council has little ability to increase

tax revenues. Any increase must be approved by voters. Fees and charges cannot exceed the cost of the service provided. The city cannot make a profit.

Wagner added, "Management has known for at least three years that PERS and retiree medical costs were growing faster than what could be financially sustainable. Pleasanton worked with other cities on a solution that would not put Pleasanton at a disadvantage when hiring. There are those who believe we are not implementing the plan fast enough. At the end of the day, the question is 'will Pleasanton be fiscally sound both for the short and long term'."

Bart Hughes, a resident who has spoken at council meetings, stated, Pleasanton is in financial straits. "This is about fairness. As a private citizen, my income is not going up. However, expenses are going up on a regular basis. One dollar paid to the city is one dollar less for citizens. Everyone acknowledges there is an unsustainable situation. It has got to change." He was concerned that the 2-tier system was not being instituted at this time.

City Manager Nelson Fialho commented that in going into negotiations with the union, one of the priorities was a 2-tier system. It was not the top priority.

Roslyn Rondash, Local 995 representative, said, "We negotiated in good faith. We made serious concessions that will impact our paycheck and retirement. We know that times have changed. We understand we have to pitch in. However, we need to take baby steps, to let families get used to less take home pay." She pointed out that she helps to pay her own retirement, because she is being paid a salary that enables her family to live in Pleasanton. Her property taxes go to the city. If she had to live elsewhere, because of reduced pay, she would not be contributing to the city's income.

One member of the public noted that her income had dropped by 30 percent. Public employees are not alone in being asked to sacrifice. She wanted the contract renegotiated.

A retired public employee, who did not work in Pleasanton, said that it seems employee groups have given up a lot. He accused the city of trying to get rid of its current employees and bring in new workers because it will be cheaper. "The council ought to ratify this contract."

Former councilmember Becky Dennis pointed out that the city began paying the employee contribution in exchange for no pay increase. The economy was booming, the city was losing employees. "It seemed fair to offer an increase in long term benefits to encourage people to stay on." She said that the union contract being considered represents the lowest paid employees. "They are not the cause of the problem. Nor can we ask them to solve the problem. The problem is caused by outside forces. A change of direction is good. Small steps will take us where we want to go."

Another former councilmember Kay Ayala said that with the new information provided by PERS, the city needs to go back to the bargaining table. She pointed out that there are large concessions being made by unions in other cities. She didn't think that asking for more contribution to the pension fund was taking away money from employees. The money is taken from the pay check and put into a good retirement fund that is far superior to Social Security. "We need to do something now."

Karen Martins argued, "Of course, it's taking away money." She wondered if this were an attempt to break the union.

Julie Testa pointed out that the money going toward paying

the employee share of pensions could be better spent on such things as a youth center or completing the Bernal Park. "It's not a pay cutback. The payment was originally an employee responsibility. This has been a bonus paid for twenty years."

At the conclusion of the public hearing, Bart Hughes and Mayor Jennifer Hosterman had an argument over whether he should be allowed to ask staff a series of questions.

Hughes noted, "I have never experienced a public meeting that is so biased in one way. Your role (mayor) is to serve as an impartial facilitator of this discussion. It has been an incredibly partial evening." He referred to the mayor stating, "Well said," following comments in support of the union.

Hosterman said that Hughes had been very involved with the entire process in discussion with staff. You have raised issues. I thank you for doing so. She didn't think he had questions that hadn't been answered.

Hughes said he is searching for fairness when it comes to union contracts.

The city council offered their comments.

Matt Sullivan noted that the council has been working to solve the problem for some time. There is not a lot of disagreement that there is a problem. There is disagreement on how fast changes should happen. This does need to be about fairness to workers and taxpayers. "This is tough because it affects people and their livelihoods, the people who make the least amount of money. We are being asked to solve bigger fiscal and economic problems on their backs."

Sullivan said there is a need to go to a 2-tier system, 100 percent employee contributions and zero salary increases for several years. Changes need to occur through the collective bargaining process. "We need to honor the agreements and commitments we make. I believe we have turned the corner and are headed in the direction we need to go when it comes to benefits."

Jerry Throne described employees as among the most conscientious, dedicated and smartest people. "It's always painful when leaders have to take something that impacts livelihood. We all realize things have to be taken away. There is a natural tendency, because of the pain, to react slowly and cautiously. I believe this is one of the occasions when timing will be a critical part of the decision making process. We need clear and measurable goals

and objectives. I will look at any contracts carefully to make sure that employees make appropriate contributions to achieving those goals."

Cheryl Cook-Kallio said she had wondered what had caused the type of angst during the workshop. "I think it's because many people are hurting. When you are hurting, you can't quite understand how other people aren't hurting in the same way. I've taken a pay cut. I get it. I don't know that seeing someone else take a cut in pay will make

me feel any better or do anything to my budget at all."

Cook-Kallio added that service is what taxpayers are financing. "You're paying for good parks, clean parks, for knowing that police and fire will come when you call, and when you turn on the tap there is clean water."

Cindy McGovern said her goal is to achieve sustainability. The current PERS rates are not sustainable. She did not want to lay off people to reduce the unfunded liability. In the future, she would like to see negotiations sunshined to give the public

an opportunity to come in and express their concerns prior to negotiations.

Hosterman said she agreed with comments made by her colleagues. "We have to remember we are talking about people and their lives. When we start a dialog that is less than civil, it's enough to make me cry. I was surprised how the discussion went tonight. We have to take a measured approach. Together, I think we will get there."

The council was scheduled to meet in closed session on Tuesday to discuss the contract.

ROUTE

(continued from page one)

Pleasanton. The next phase will look at undergrounding or aerial routes through both city centers. The second route still under consideration would send ACE south of Livermore and Pleasanton through Sycamore Grove Park. The train would go underground through the park.

A proposal to follow I-580/I-680 south to Fremont and San Jose was eliminated.

Some parties urged that an alignment through the Tri-Valley area along I-580 and I-680 would minimize noise and visual environmental quality impacts and natural resource impacts. The evaluation found such a freeway alternative to be impracticable as a result of substantial constructability issues and risk due to extensive construction in and around the freeways and due to the need to accommodate a future planned BART extension.

The study identified notable tradeoffs in the Tri-Valley area among downtown alignments, and south-of- Pleasanton/Livermore alignments in terms of travel time, ridership/revenue potential, noise and visual environmental quality impacts, and natural resource impacts. City of Pleasanton representatives expressed their opposition to an alignment through downtown Pleasanton, whether aerial, or tunnel. City of Livermore representatives expressed concern about an aerial alignment through downtown Livermore.

The downtown routes were found to have the highest connectivity and accessibility with ACE stations and future BART transit connections. The route south of town was the shortest and fastest route.

The Altamont Corridor Rail Project is aimed at modernizing the existing Altamont Commuter Express (ACE) into a streamlined system with faster intercity

service and better regional connections.

The corridor will be designed as a dual-purpose system, which could accommodate both ACE and California High-Speed Trains. High-Speed Trains would run at reduced speeds through the Altamont Corridor, then link directly into the California High-Speed Train mainline system in Stockton, Modesto and San Jose. This design would allow future passengers to ride a train from Sacramento to San Jose, for example, or from Livermore to Los Angeles.

The future Altamont Corridor Express could speed commuters from the Central Valley to the Silicon Valley faster than ever before—cutting the current 2 hour plus trip down to about 1 hour. Station stops may include Stockton, Lathrop/Manteca, Modesto, Tracy, Livermore / Pleasanton, Fremont / Union City, Milpitas, Santa Clara, and San Jose. The goal is to run state-of-the-art electric trains that will be more comfortable, faster, cleaner and greener than the current system. The system will provide quick trips between cities, commuter access to job centers, and easy connections to local transit, BART, and California's planned High-Speed Train network.

The full report and detailed maps are available on the website under "Featured Documents" at www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov/Altamont_Corridor.aspx



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Art, Community, & Education



Jack Henderson dancing as one of the toy dolls in the Tiffany's Dance Academy production of the Nutcracker.

Livermore Dancer Gets a Shot at Playing Billy Elliott

By Patricia Koning

Jack Henderson, a fifth grader at Sunset Elementary School in Livermore, may get the opportunity of a lifetime—playing the title role in the Tony award-winning Broadway musical “Billy Elliot.” He was one of four finalists when he auditioned for the role in Los Angeles last month.

Jack has been dancing since the age of four at his mother's dance studio, Tiffany's Dance Academy. He's won numerous awards in competitions and held lead roles in Tiffany's productions. However, when a call came from a Billy Elliot casting agent, his mother Tiffany was surprised.

“It was totally out of the blue,” she says. “We'd heard about the open auditions last year, but Jack wasn't really interested and I didn't think he was ready. So it was a real shock to receive a phone call asking for him by name.”

Joe Lanteri of the New York City Dance Alliance recommended Jack, which was enough to receive a personal invitation to the Los Angeles audition. “Just the audition process is a great experience,” says Tiffany. “The role of Billy Elliot? Well that would be the opportunity of a lifetime.”

The search for Billy Elliot be-

gan two years before “Billy Elliot: the Musical” opened on Broadway in 2008. Casting the role is extremely difficult—Billy must be an accomplished dancer and no taller than 4'10" with an unbroken voice. The child star carries the show, in a role has been likened to running a marathon, even completing a decathlon.

Since the show began, auditions have never stopped. In a *New York Times* interview, casting director Nora Brennan said she's seen over 2,000 boys since 2006; only 12 have made it into the show. Typically, the Billys last about six months in the part before they outgrow the physical constraints. As more productions come online—a second national tour based in the south will begin next fall and international productions are in the works—the need for a steady stream of prospective Billys will only increase.

While the movie “Black Swan” created a world in which a single dancer carries the entire lead, in the real dance world it's much different. Because the part is so demanding, each company has several Billys in the cast. The boys don't dance in back-to-back shows and each performance needs a standby Billy.

The process from the first audition to taking the stage as Billy Elliot usually takes about two and a half years. Casting agents often begin identifying potential Billys around the age of 9 or 10 in open auditions.

Jack lasted through his entire seven-hour audition, which included hip-hop, ballet, tap dancing, singing, and acting. “I was pretty nervous when I first got there and saw all the other kids,” he says. “Once we started dancing, I got really comfortable.”

He has no vocal training, but that is not a requirement. The producers are looking for a trained dancer who meets the physical requirements with acting and singing potential. “I was surprised that some of the kids that I thought were the most talented didn't make it all the way through the audition,” Jack says. “The acting was much harder than I expected.”

The most promising boys are usually sent to Billy Camp in New York City, where they hone their performance skills and learn the mechanics of giving a successful stage performance. Even attending the rigorous camp is no guarantee that a boy will get the

(See BILLY, page 7)

Musical 'Bat Boy' Lands on Pleasanton Stage

Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre production, “Bat Boy – The Musical,” opens at the Studio Theater in Pleasanton on February 18.

“Bat Boy, the Musical” is a story about a defenseless boy trying to find his place in the world, who wants nothing more than be loved.

Book is by Keythe Farley and Brian Flemming; music and lyrics by Laurence O'Keefe.

Director Paul Plain writes, “In the late 90s' at the Actors Gang in Los Angeles this exciting take on the story opened and since then has gained a cult following that has left audiences thrilled, exhausted with laughter, stunned and leaving having witnessed this freshest of the contemporary new musicals out

there. Bat Boy tells a story full of significant messages. It teaches us lessons about the need for tolerance, the harm in prejudice and the danger of jumping to conclusions. Every one of us has experienced some type of prejudice. If we can get beyond what he looks like, we might see a little bit of ourselves in Bat Boy.”

Laurence O'Keefe, the lyricist for this absurd story says, “The model that we thought of when we were creating the show was that of scape-goating. There are three reasons for scape-goating: People are or look different, people are weaker, or people are much stronger in a way. We set out to make Bat Boy all three.

Plain continues, “Bat Boy is a



metaphor for many people in our society who are misplaced and misunderstood. I heartily concur. The musical is goofy, it's quirky, it's weird, but it is also tragically

truthful. Bat Boy the Musical attempts to teach us, the audience, about what really matters in the theatre — and in life — people, emotion and relationships. Filled with funny splendid songs of every kind and satirical takes on every musical you have probably ever seen. (I dare you to count how many Musicals are spoofed and how many are referenced).”

Assistant Director is Noah Haydon, Musical Director Min Kahng, Choreographer Emily Garcia, Producer Kathleen Breedveld, Costume Design by Stephanie Morris, Lighting by David Lam and Sound Design by Scott Johnson.

The cast includes Alex Rodriguez, Patty Penrod, Paul Plain,

Meghan Ihle, Jeff Tan, Anthony Everhart, Brian Daughlath, Olivia Hytha, Ron Pickett, Ron Houk, Alan Wiltse, Melissa Heinrich, Jennifer Kosta, Catherine Gloria.

Performances are 8 p.m. Fridays/Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays, Feb. 18 - Mar. 13, 2011 at the TVRT Studio Theatre, 1048 Serpentine Lane, Suite 309, Pleasanton.

Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$22 for seniors, \$20 for students. A processing fee will be added to the price of each ticket. Tickets may be purchased online: www.trivalleyrep.org (click on TICKETS), by phone at 925-462-2121.

Contains adult content and adult situations.

Pied Pipers Perform Songs of the Big Band Era

The hit songs of the big band era come to life this February in a jam-packed performance at the Bankhead. The show stars the Pied Pipers performing their many hits including, Dream, On the Sunny Side of the Street and I'll Never Smile Again. Also experience the sounds of the Gene Krupa Tribute Big Band as they perform some of the most popular swing hits of the big band era including Sing, Sing, Sing, Leave Us Leap, Boogie Blues and Krupa's theme song, Starburst, plus Polly Podewell the last vocalist to perform with Benny Goodman's orchestra.

Swing, Swing, Swing, comes to the Bankhead Theater for a single performance on Sunday, February 13, 2011 at 3 p.m.

Originally consisting of eight members, seven men and one woman, the Pied Pipers were formed in Los Angeles during the mid-1930s. The Pied Pipers are best remembered for their collaboration, perhaps one of the greatest collaborations of the big band era, with the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra and Frank Sinatra. The Pied Pipers officially joined Dorsey in January 1940, just before Sinatra, who became the new boy singer with the band. Both Sinatra and the Pied Pipers made their recording debut with the Dorsey Orchestra on February 1, 1940.

In April 1940 the Dorsey Or-

chestra, combined with the historic pairing of Frank Sinatra and the Pied Pipers, struck gold with their song I'll Never Smile Again. It was a hit for 15 weeks and remained on the charts for an additional 25 weeks. This memorable song was the very first hit for Sinatra and the Pipers. Many more hits followed such as: This Love of Mine, There Are Such Things, Oh, Look at Me Now and The One I Love Belongs to Somebody Else.

The Pied Pipers were equally as successful at making movies as they were singing songs. They made four movies, including Sinatra's first, Las Vegas Nights. The other movies followed within the next few years entitled, Ship Ahoy, DuBarry Was a Lady and Reveille with Beverly, featuring the hit song, Night And Day.

The Pied Pipers left Dorsey to join Johnny Mercer who was the greatest lyricist of the day and founder of a new record company in Hollywood, Capitol Records. The Pipers were the first artists to sign with Capitol and recorded their first Gold Record, Dream. The Pied Pipers soon became the biggest selling vocal group of the time and Downbeat Magazine's annual poll reported the Pied Pipers as the Top Vocal Group for six consecutive years. Much of the success of the Pied Pipers was due to their distinctive modern

harmony and phrasing.

Over the years the membership has changed, however the Pied Pipers still carry on the tradition of vocal expertise with television appearances and National Theatre tours throughout the country. The Pied Pipers have come full circle from the Dorsey/Sinatra Era to today.

Polly Podewell began her career with what has become a continuing exploration of the Great American Songbook in 1975, singing to unanimous critical acclaim in her hometown of Chicago. Now based in Los Angeles, she is being received with equal enthusiasm as she was earlier in New York City and on tour with Benny Goodman, Buddy Rich and Woody Herman. According to John McDonough in Downbeat Magazine, Polly Podewell was Benny Goodman's most impressive singing discovery since, possibly, Peggy Lee. Polly's recordings include I'm Old Fashioned and All of Me. Podewell has roots in show business as both parents were actors, although she worked as a teacher before launching her singing career.

Tickets range from \$39 to \$62, with \$12 student tickets available.

The Bankhead Theater is located at 2400 First Street in Downtown Livermore. To purchase tickets call 925-373-6800 or visit www.bankheadtheater.org.



The Pied Pipers

Youth Music Festival to Be Held at the Firehouse

The 9th Annual Youth Music Festival will be presented on Saturday, February 19, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.

The musical variety show will be performed at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton.

In the show, youth between the ages of six and 18 will showcase their musical talents. Vocal and instrumental soloists and ensembles will perform. This year, the Festival will take on a more youth-driven, fresh, and energetic tone. Four teen producers are assisting with building the set list and inspiring collaborations among selected youth musicians.

Russell Cowick and Kirby Marshall-Colins, members of Creatures of Impulse, the City of Pleasanton's teen improv troupe, and teen producers for this year's festival, will emcee the event. Among the show's highlights will be Chloe Ma, a young pianist who is returning for her fifth consecutive Youth Music Festival event; sixteen-year-old, Giorgio Navarini, who will share a bit of his heritage with traditional Italian accordion music; vocalist Devin Dunne who will sing an opera selection and youth producers Russell Cowick and Chris Himelblau who will



Pleasanton's Young American Patriots Fife and Drum Corps

collaborate with other musicians to perform a reggae version of a popular Frank Sinatra tune. The audience will be asked to join in

the finale by participating in a group rendition of a well-known Beatles song.

A live demonstration from the Pleas-

anton's Young American Patriots Fife and Drum Corps will precede the show at 1:30 p.m. on the First Street patio side of the Firehouse Arts Center. The audience is encouraged to arrive early to experience it, as well as a vocal surprise in the lobby just before the theater opens for the show.

"I think the audience will be impressed at the young talent and the vision our youth producers had in putting the show together," says Senior Recreation Specialist and Youth Music Festival Director Mark Duncanson. "This year, the Youth Music Festival is truly made of youth, produced by youth, and is for all ages. We hope everyone will come out to help us energize the youth performing arts community."

General admission tickets are \$8. They may be purchased online at 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.

Livermore Shakes shakes it up with “Backstage” Fundraiser

What are actors like offstage? How do they prepare for their on-stage roles? Do they understand all of Shakespeare’s language? How do they fight with swords every night without someone getting hurt? These questions and more will be answered at Shakespeare’s Associates’ Winter Fund-raiser. Company artists will pull back the curtain and invite attendees inside the rehearsal process.

The workshops were such a hit

with patrons last year the company decided to make the event an annual offering. “Folks got such a kick out of being part of the rehearsal process,” says Lisa Tromovitch, Producing Artistic Director. “We knew that teaching people some of the secrets of fight choreography would be appealing, but we were pleasantly surprised at how many attendees were so curious about how we approach the text and learn about the history and

culture surrounding the plays. We are going a step further this year and bringing in actors who will be in rehearsal for our upcoming show at the Bothwell, ‘A Life in the Theatre’.”

In addition to workshops on stage combat, text and dramaturgy, veteran actor William J. Wolak, cast as Robert in A Life, will give a fireside chat about his own life in the theater. Wolak was last seen as the Friar in the

Livermore Shakespeare Festival’s 2010 Romeo and Juliet. Joseph Salazar, last summer’s Romeo, will play the younger actor, John, in A Life, and will lead a workshop demonstrating how actors prepare for scene work.

The evening will be enhanced by heavy hors d’oeuvres, dessert, and wine from Rodrigue Molyneux Winery.

Shakespeare’s Associates Winter Fund-raiser will be held on Saturday, February 26th at the Bothwell Arts Center at 6pm. Tickets are \$80 per person which includes the workshops, wine, hors d’oeuvres and dessert. \$100 tickets include the workshops, wine, hors d’oeuvres and dessert, and five tickets for the door prize drawing for “A Night of Theater”

package. \$60 teen tickets include the workshops, hors d’oeuvres, dessert and soda. Tickets are available at 1-800-838-3006 or www.LivermoreShakes.org.

A Life in the Theatre directed by Eric Fraisher Hayes will open in the West End Theater of the Bothwell Arts Center on Friday, April 1, 2011 and will run March 31st (preview) through April 23rd. Performances are Thursdays at 7:00pm, Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00pm, and Sundays at 2:00pm. Tickets range from \$25 to \$35, day-dependant, with discounts for seniors and others. For more information, visit the website at www.LivermoreShakes.org. Tickets are on sale through Brown Paper Tickets at 1-800-838-3006 or via [LivermoreShakes.org](http://www.LivermoreShakes.org)

A Look at the Hero and Un-Hero

City of Pleasanton Poet Laureate Deborah Grossman and Livermore Poet Laureate Cher Wollard will co-host the first Literary Evening at the Firehouse Arts Center on Friday, February 18, 2011 from 7:30-10:00 p.m. The event, The Myth & Reality of the Hero & the Un-Hero from Mythology to Reality and Personal Story, will feature invited poetry and prose writers from the around the San Francisco Bay Area.

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

A cheese and no-host wine reception will take place from 7:30-8:00 p.m. The readings will begin at 8:00 p.m. and an author book signing will follow the event. Admission is \$5.00; free to students.

Narrator Robert Eastwood will weave original and other writing into his perspective on the heroic and anti-heroic traditions in literature and myth in conjunction with more than a dozen highly-acclaimed invited Bay Area writers including David Alpaugh, Lynne Knight, Connie Post, and Lee Rossi.

Eastwood, a San Ramon, Calif. resident, has been nominated twice for a Pushcart Award and has won the Grand Prize at the Berkeley Poets Dinner Contest. His work has appeared in Blue Unicorn, Carquinez Review, The Dirty Napkin, Oxford Magazine, Ekphrasis, and many other journals, in print and online. He has written three chap books, The Welkin Gate, Over Plainsong and Night of the Moth.

David Alpaugh of Pleasant Hill, Calif. is a nationally-known poet and performer. He is a graduate of Rutgers University and University of California, Berkeley, and has taught poetry writing and appreciation at the University of California Extension. He is best known for his two-part essay, the “The Profes-



Poet laureates, Deborah Grossman from Pleasanton (top) and Cher Wollard from Livermore, will take part in the discussion.

sionalization of Poetry,” published in 2003 issues of Poets & Writers Magazine. He has authored several poetry books including Heavy Lifting and Greatest Hits.

Lynne Knight, who resides in Berkeley, Calif., published her

fourth poetry collection, Again, in 2009. She is currently working on a memoir. Among her awards are the 2009 RATTLE Poetry Prize, the Lucille Medwick Memorial Award from the Poetry Society of America, and a National Education Association (NEA) grant. Her work has appeared in many prestigious journals.

Connie Post is a Poet Laureate Emerita of Livermore, Calif. (2005-2009). Her work has appeared in many nationally recognized journals and she was winner of the 2009 Caesura Poetry Awards from Poetry Center of San Jose. She hosts the Valona Deli Second Sunday Poetry Series in Crockett, Calif.

Lee Rossi of San Carlos, Calif. is the author of three books of poems, including Ghost Diary and Wheelchair Samurai. His poetry, reviews, and interviews have appeared widely in such journals as The Sun, Poetry East, Chelsea, The Spoon River Poetry Review, and The Beloit Poetry Journal.

Other invited writers include Jannie Dresser, poetry columnist for the San Francisco Examiner, Fred Norman founding member of the Tri-Valley California Writers Club; Kirk Ridgeway, Pleasanton’s third Poet Laureate (2001-2003); freelance journalist Aleta George, author of a book about California’s first Poet Laureate, Ina Coolbrith; Liz Fortini, poet, prose author and publisher of www.languageandculture.net; Los Positas College student Samantha Kennedy, and the 2010-2011 Pleasanton Teen Poets Laureate, Mitch Grimes, Noelle Malindzak, and Vivian Tsai.

For information, contact Michelle Russo at mrusso@ci.pleasanton.ca.us or (925) 931-4847 or Deborah Grossman at the following: pleasantonpoetry@gmail.com.

BANKHEAD
THEATER

Youth Soloists Musical Panorama
Sat Feb 12 8:00pm
Adults \$22-\$28/Senior \$20-\$26/
Students \$10
Livermore-Amador Symphony

Swing, Swing, Swing
with the Pied Pipers, Polly Podewll
and Gene Krupa Tribute Big Band
Sun Feb 13 3:00pm
\$39/\$51/\$62/\$12 Students
Big Band is Back!

Four Bitchin’ Babes
Presents Hormonal Imbalance!
Mon Feb 14 7:30pm
\$57 includes dessert
& champagne reception
*A mood swinging musical revue
that celebrates the best of babes,
boys and botox!*

The Music of Doris Day
Jim Martinez Trio & Laura Didier
Sun Feb 27 2:00pm
\$18/\$29/\$40/\$12 Students
Enduring Music for All Ages





TICKETS 925.373.6800 or www.bankheadtheater.org
2400 First Street, Downtown Livermore

Art Shows

Second Saturday Art Crawl and Open Studios Combined

For an art-filled Valentine date, or to enjoy an afternoon of art in Livermore's downtown, tour Art Crawl on February 12, 2011, from 1 to 4pm. This is the first time that the previously Friday evening Art Crawl joins with Bothwell Arts Center's Downtown Art Studios' Open Studios for monthly afternoons of art on the second Saturday of each month.

Second Saturday Art Crawl and Open Studios is a free tour of open studios, art displays and exhibitions, easily accomplished within the 3 hour event time. An addition to the Crawl will be Artistic Edge at Blacksmith Square, which has organized a Valentine's event featuring 13 artists and artisans, winetasting at John Christopher Cellars, and olive oil tasting at Victorine's Olive Oil with Victorine's newest creation for Valentines – chocolate/espresso balsamic vinegar.

Art exhibited ranges from colorful contemporary to traditional, fused glass, art jewelry, figura-



The White Metis by Jordi Camps.

tive, photography, erotic works, skateboard art, and more. Opening their studios and art spaces for the afternoon will be Bothwell Arts Center's new Downtown Art Studios, featuring Open Studios with their 11 new studio artists and friends, other open art studios and permanent display venues include Ethereal Designs Jewelry, Art Glass Studio, ultraspectives photography, Panama Bay Coffee Company, Wild Vine Lounge, and Ryan Fine Art. Artists and Artisans will set up temporary displays at ABC Music Source, Outside In, Main Street Designs, Not Too Naughty, It's All About Dancing, Sanctuary Ultra Lounge, orghipchick, Woopsiedaisy and more. Many merchants will host winetasting or refreshments.

Maps will be available at each location above just prior to the Crawl.

Artists interested in signing up for future crawls should download the application at www.lindaryan-fineart.com.

Crawls will continue on the second Saturday of every month, except October, when Art Crawl steps aside for the much larger art tour, ArtWalk.



William Hackett of Cheshire Cat Photo is exhibiting photographic images of California, as the Livermore Art Association featured artist for February, at the Livermore Art Association (LAA) Gallery at the Carnegie Building at 2155 3rd Street in Livermore. Gallery hours are 11:30 AM to 4:00 PM, Wednesday through Sunday. The works include a "Best of Show" award winner and images printed on wrapped canvas. Bill also has photographs and photo gifts displayed in his regular exhibit at the Gallery. The above photo is "Yosemite Chapel." Admission is free. LAA Gallery is open 11:30-4:00 Wed-Sun, and is located in the historic Carnegie Building at 2155 3rd St. Livermore. For more info call the Gallery 925-449-9927.

Photographs Featured at the Wild Vine

Photographers Ken Ball and Victoria Whyte Ball, a husband and wife team, will be exhibiting their photos during the month of February at the Wild Vine in downtown Livermore.

The two have been photographing together for many years. Their work covers a wide variety of subjects including nature, street scenes and graffiti, portraits, and figure work. The exhibit's opening reception will be Thursday, February 10th, from 6-7:30 pm, at the Wild Vine 2187 First Street, Livermore.

Ken began cultivating his skill in photography in his early twenties and has consistently worked at it throughout his life. After college, he traveled and photographed in Europe, eventually meeting Victoria in Amsterdam where she was also traveling. After living in Europe and Idaho, they settled in Livermore in 1985 where they finished raising their family. Ken's photos feature examples of urban landscapes,

graffiti and figure work focusing on patterns and textures. Victoria will be showing landscapes as well as some figure work.

Their work includes both traditional black and white gelatin silver prints as well as digital color archival pigment prints. The influence for Victoria to take up



Gorge

photography came after her father, Don Whyte, died in 1989. Don had been in the first photography program in the mid-1940's taught by Ansel Adams in San Francisco at the California School of Fine Arts, (renamed the San Francisco Art Institute in 1961).

For the last eight years, Ken and Victoria have been working with several of Don's former classmates on a book of stunning black and white photos taken by the students of Ansel Adams, Minor White and other luminary teachers who were there at the school during that time. This book, *The Golden Decade, Photography at the California School of Fine Arts, 1945-1955*, is due to be published this year, and an advanced copy of the book will be available to look through at the exhibit's reception. Ken and Victoria's personal collection of photos will be exhibited at the Wild Vine from February 10th until the end of the February. They will both be present at the reception.

Paintings at John Christopher Cellars

Karen Fleschler will be exhibiting some of her paintings at John Christopher Cellars tasting room located at 25 S. Livermore Ave. in downtown Livermore in Blacksmith Square. Her work will be displayed for all of February and March. On display will be two styles of paintings - watercolors on watercolor canvas and the more traditional style of watercolor on paper. The hours are Thurs.-Sun. 12:00pm to 6:00pm. The tasting room can be reached at 925-456-9463. Karen also has note cards and small canvas paintings at The Artistic Edge, also located in



Blacksmith Square. Pictured is a watercolor, "Blue Umbrella."

Pacific Chamber Symphony Presents a World Premiere

The world premiere of a piece by Hollywood composer Christopher Caliendo will be featured by the Pacific Chamber Symphony (PCS) in its upcoming concert on February 25 at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore. The work was commissioned by PCS, and made possible through the support of Susan DuPree and Hollis Bascomb.

The performance begins at 8 p.m.

Mr. Caliendo has composed

music for the legendary TV series "Dallas" and for the award winning series "Paradise." His work on "Paradise," with fellow composer Jerrold Immel, was honored with an Emmy nomination. He has worked as a silent film feature composer for both SONY and Turner Classic Movies and most recently became the first composer to re-score a major motion picture - the restoration and re-release of Sam Peckinpah's epic Western "Major Dundee."

Christopher Caliendo has written over five hundred classical/world music compositions, some of which comprise his American Tangos, American Gypsy, Chamber Jazz, Classical Jazz and World Music collections.

Recently, his compositions have focused on World Chamber Music for flute musicians. His works embrace a wide variety of peasant cultures, comprising Tango, Gypsy, Flamenco, Samba, Spanish, African and Arabic influences. His

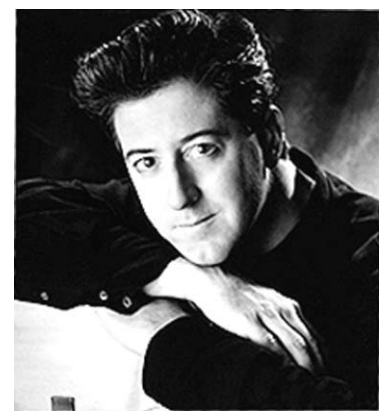
journey has been to combine these idioms into a new synthesis.

The new piece is a set of dance numbers entitled "World Music Serenade No. 1 for flute, harp percussion and strings." The flute soloist will be the renowned Hollywood flutist Sheridan Stokes.

Lawrence Kohl, the conductor of the Pacific Chamber Symphony says, "Seldom do you find such an outstanding composer and musician who is thoroughly engaged with creating music that speaks, that is a joy to listen to and to perform. His "World Serenade" is a suite of hot Latin dance numbers that rock!"

The Bankhead Theater is located at 2400 First St., Livermore.

Tickets for the performance are



Christopher Caliendo

\$39/\$34/\$29 for adults, and \$7 for students, and can be purchased by phone at 925.583.2310 or online at the website www.livermoreperformingarts.org/calendar.

Film at Vine Part of Livermore Reads

Livermore's Vine Cinema, 1722 First Street in Livermore, will present a special showing of the classic 1936 movie, *San Francisco*, as part of the Livermore Public Library's *Livermore Reads Together* series. The film will screen at noon on Saturday, February 19.

View a special showing of the classic 1936 movie *San Francisco* starring Clark Gable, Jeanette MacDonald, and Spencer Tracy, nominated for best actor. Clark Gable plays rakish Barbary Coast kingpin Blackie Norton, Jeanette MacDonald portrays a singer torn by her love for Blackie and her need to succeed among the opera-going elite, and Spencer Tracy is a priest who supplements spiritual advice with a mean right hook.

Time Out Film Guide says "romantic drama...lavish spectacle...and the walls come tumbling down! This Academy Award winning extravaganza's street-splitting, brick-cascading, fire-raging recreation of the cataclysmic earthquake, remains one of the greatest action sequences in the history of the cinema, rivaling the chariot race in Ben-Hur."

One of only a handful of independent movie houses in San Francisco's East Bay, the Vine Cinema has embraced the "dinner-and-a-movie" concept, providing restaurant quality food with a limited-item menu from the Zephyr Grill and Bar next door.

The Vine Cinema (www.vinecinema.com) is located at 1722

First Street in Livermore.

This program is part of *Livermore Reads Together*, a community-wide reading program featuring James Dalessandro's book, *1906: A Novel*, about the San Francisco earthquake and fire. 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 2011. 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 website at www.livermore.lib.ca.us.

What Are You Doing This Week?



The Independent's online Cultural Arts and Community Events Calendars have events this week, this month and this year.

PLUS

Websites for 32 cultural organizations and 183 other community, government, recreation, service and business organizations, churches and wineries....

See what's happening in The Valley. Go online to the calendars at

www.independentnews.com

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Livermore Native Outfits Pregnant Women for Adventure

By Patricia Koning

Teresa Delfin thought nothing would ever stop her from mountain climbing, not even pregnancy. But when she was expecting her son about three years ago, she did encounter an obstacle she hadn't anticipated—the lack of technical apparel for pregnant women.

"I looked everywhere, within the United States and internationally. I couldn't even find long underwear for maternity," she says.

Delfin's solution, ultimately, was to make the clothes herself. She founded Mountain Mama, a maternity adventure clothing retailer, which launched its first product line in August and won the 2010 Polartec APEX Award for design innovation and excellence. Last month Mountain Mama won the Outdoor Industry Association's highest honor, the Outdoor Inspiration Award.

Delfin, who grew up in Livermore and attended Granada High School, has been an adventurer for as long as she can remember. She started skiing at age 4 and bouldering at age 7 and today counts climbing, backpacking, kayaking, mountain biking, and surfing among her regular pursuits.

As a teenager, she spent hours on the bouldering wall at the old Sunrise Mountaineering store and eventually began working there. After high school she spent a year skiing in Lake Tahoe and tried out being a climbing instructor. She also worked as a sales representative and buyer in the outdoor adventure apparel industry. While a graduate student at Stanford University, Delfin maintains her active lifestyle, doing research for her PhD in anthropology in high altitude Peru.

The journey to Mountain Mama began with a few sketches of ideas for maternity adventure wear. The response of friends was overwhelmingly positive, so she took the next step and sought advice from a pattern maker. "Going from a sketch on paper to actual apparel was more complicated than I expected," Delfin says. "I'd seen all sides of the industry except manufacturing."

Sourcing fabric for outdoor apparel was a real obstacle, as only a few manufacturers produce fabrics



Mountain Mama founder Teresa Delfin climbs while her husband William and son Fausto watch.

Photo by Paul Mueller

designed for extreme durability, stretch, and wicking. When she finally found a fabric source, Delfin took a gamble, investing \$20,000 of her own money into buying enough to make samples.

About a year ago, she showed her apparel samples at an outdoor retailer show to mixed results. "The women loved it, but the men were a little flustered," Delfin recalls.

It didn't take long, however, for Mountain Mama to really catch on. After the Fairview Jacket, an innovative hooded wrap, won the Polartec APEX Award, major retailers took notice.

The company's launch in August was very successful—Mountain Mama got a shout out on Good Morning America the day it opened for business. Former California First Lady Maria Shriver is a big fan and invited Delfin to speak at her Women's Conference in November.

Mountain Mama's fall collection did very well in places with cold climates, like Montana, Alaska, and Canada. Delfin says she adds a few new retailers every six months or so. Mountain Mama

is now distributed internationally.

Maternity adventure apparel may seem like something a woman only needs for a few short months. However, Delfin points out that the clothing is designed to fit before, during, and after pregnancy. "It was a struggle to find the right fabric, because it needs to have incredible stretch and recovery," she explains. "Many of our designs use a modifiable cut."

Shirts that can stretch to accommodate a third trimester belly don't look baggy on that same belly six months later. Pants fit below the waist and have optional suspenders for comfort in late pregnancy.

As the company has grown, Delfin has less of a hand in the design work. She teamed up with fashion designer and climber Piper Michelle, best known as a contestant on *Survivor: Fiji* (Season 14, she was known as Michelle Yi on the show). Michelle designed about half of Mountain Mama's second collection and all of the upcoming third collection.

All of Mountain Mama's apparel, with the exception of the snow pants, is made in the United States. What's more, the compa-

ny's fleece outerwear and technical tops are sewn near the company's headquarters in the San Gabriel Mountains, using domestic fabrics and locally made zippers. The EstiraTec maternity and nursing tops are entirely sourced and manufactured within a 20-mile radius.

Delfin's life runs at a hectic pace these days—she has a 2-year-old son who just got his first pair of climbing shoes. She also teaches part-time at Whittier College. Her husband is a writer and part-time instructor as well.

Her short-term goal for Mountain Mama is to have retail sales outpace sales off the website. She'd also love to move headquarters to the Bay Area, maybe even Livermore, within shouting distance of her former employer Sunrise Mountaineering.

Longer term, she'd like the company to achieve the status of Clif Bar or Patagonia. "I'd really like Mountain Mama to become a lifestyle ambassador," she says. "We support a healthy outdoor lifestyle that begins at birth."

For more information, visit www.mountain-mama.com.

Dublin Launches Art Auction Program

Dublin Partners In Education has kicked off the annual Student Art Auction Program. Volunteers are working with students of all ages in the Dublin Unified School District. The student created art will be judged by local dignitaries and local business professionals, the award winning art will be professionally framed and auctioned at a fund-raising event for Dublin Partners In Education.

This educational program relies on volunteers to help students create art in the classroom. Volunteers share their passion and expertise with students in kindergarten through 12th grade. Original artwork produced with any type of media including water colors, acrylics, oil paints, markers, pencils, crayons are accepted for the contests. Class and team projects are encouraged.

"This program gives Dublin students a chance to publicly show off their art talent" said Janet Lockhart, Executive Director of DPIE. She invites any adult in the community that has art talent and would like to share it with local students to please consider volunteering their time. Many schools are eager to have community volunteers in the classroom helping students unleash their creativity.

To volunteer, call Kelly Knabe at 828-255 ex 5423 or e-mail knabekelly@dublin.k12.ca.us

Reptiles at the Library!

Meet an array of reptiles as the East Bay Vivarium presents "The Reptile Show!" at the Pleasanton Library on Saturday, February 19. Children ages 5 and older will meet and learn about an array of interesting reptiles from around the world, as well as dispel common myths about these amazing creatures.

No registration is required for this one hour program, which will begin at 2:00 p.m.. Free tickets will be distributed at the Children's Desk 30 minutes prior to the show.

For more information about library programs and events visit the library's website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/library/programs-and-events.html, or call the Children's Desk at (925) 931-3400 ext. 8.

Dramatic Reading from '1906: A Novel' Planned at Library

A *Dramatic Reading from '1906: A Novel'* will be presented by the Shakespeare's Associates at 7pm on Thursday, February 17 at the Livermore Public Library Civic Center, 1188 S. Livermore Avenue. There is no charge for this event.

A cast of volunteer readers from Shakespeare's Associates will

bring James Dalessandro's book *1906* to life with a dramatic reading. With an introduction by Philip Manwell, the featured selections will provide a glimpse of 1906 San Francisco—part Paris, part Dodge City—corruption, bravery, a journalist, a runaway, a Chinese slave girl and ... Enrico Caruso!

Shakespeare's Associates, Inc. are the producers of the Livermore Shakespeare Festival, among other theatrical endeavors.

Inspired by William Shakespeare, Shakespeare's Associates are committed to producing professional theater in the Tri-Valley community.

This program is part of *Livermore Reads Together*, a community-wide reading program featuring James Dalessandro's book, *1906: A Novel*, about the San Francisco earthquake and fire.

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 2011. 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.lib.ca.us.

BILLY ELLIOTT

(continued from front page)

role. Visit http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sn_Gw5QxTcA to watch a *New York Times* video on Billy Camp.

Jack says he'd love to attend Billy Camp and his mother agrees. "That alone would be an amazing experience," she says. "Just to get that level of training and to be around so much talent."

At this point, it's a waiting game for the Hendersons. Any day now, they could get a call inviting Jack to attend Billy Camp. Or, the

call might just provide feedback and an invitation to try again next year. It might be six months, even a year before they hear anything. Jack could outgrow the part before anything happens.

Tiffany says the family is taking things one step at a time. Billy Camp would be about a one-month commitment, something she and her husband Paul could balance with their kids' schooling and running their studio.

"If he were to get the role, we'd

make it work," says Tiffany. "I'm thrilled he got this far. We were at the audition with all these kids who have professional agents. Jack's agent is his seven-year-old sister Halle."

To learn more about auditions for Billy Elliot, visit www.billyelliott.com. While open auditions are offered at various times in different cities—the next is in Florida later this month—video submissions are always accepted on the website. To learn more about the show, visit www.billyelliottbroadway.com.

Series of Opera Concerts Set

The Livermore Valley Opera will present a series of OperaLIVE! concerts. They will feature principal singers and members of the opera orchestra performing excerpts from *Madama Butterfly*

The schedule is as follows:

Thurs., Feb. 10, noon, Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin.

Thurs., Feb. 17, 1 p.m., Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., Pleasanton.

Wed., Feb. 23, noon, Livermore

Rotary, Doubletree Club, 720 Las Flores, Livermore.

Thurs., Feb. 24, 7 p.m. Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., Pleasanton.

Sun., Feb. 27, 2 p.m. Dublin Library, 200 Civic Plaza, Dublin.

The full opera will be performed March 12, 13, 19 and 20 at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore. Ticket information for the Bankhead Theater performance is available at www.livermoreperformingarts.org.

Artistic Edge presents "Only One Heart"

Local artists will be presenting their unique art pieces at Artistic Edge and the courtyard at Blacksmith's Square on February 12, 13, and 14 from 11 – 6 each day at the "Only One Heart" event. Free gift wrapping will be provided by Artistic Edge at Blacksmith Square, 21 S. Livermore Ave.

Artistic Edge and the artists will also be participating in the Art Crawl on February 12 starting at 1-4 p.m. Maps for the Art Crawl will be available at Artistic Edge. During the Art Crawl, plan on stopping by John Christopher Cellars at Blacksmith Square. They will be providing wine specials for those who stop by to visit the artists.

Another Blacksmith favorite place to shop is Victorine Olive Oil, where you can sample the world of extra virgin olive oils. Create extraordinary flavor combinations of combining flavored balsamic vinegars with flavored olive oils. Stop in to try their special Valentine Creation: *Chocolate – Espresso Balsamic Vinegar!*

Participating artists at Blacksmith Square are:

Supie Davis: full line of greeting cards, framed images and many creative gift items which feature unique, handwritten messages in the sand at Half Moon Bay.

Christine McCall: unique photography of nature, local establishments, historical places of Livermore created into kaleidoscopes framed prints and greeting cards. Her artistic capabilities also reach into limited editions jewelry items.

KCF Designs: jewelry designs are "inspired by nature...head-turning original designs that really turn heads" (*sorry, not responsible for whiplash!*)

Rhonda Chase: designs elegant wire wrapped gems and jewelry items and a few new artistic gems.

Genny McGregor: photograph framed, unframed and greeting cards.

Hang-Ups: pottery and whimsical bird houses, hearts, garden stakes, mirrors and some newly creative pieces.

Sticks n' Stones ArtWear: wearable fiber art scarves, hats, etc. that "define your own style with a unique piece from their ArtWear Collection."

Michele Bucket: jewelry that will provide pieces you will want to wear for a long time to come.

Kristine Lastoskie: keep warm and stylish with hand crafted scarves and hats with striking designs and colors.

I Melt with You: refreshing lotions, body creams, candles and much more to pamper the heart and soul; customized gift baskets available.

Jemy Olivera: best known as Catjester Designs will bring a special twist to beaded jewelry and original paintings.

Ray Baldonado: art using gourds rich with culture and southwestern flare.

Angela Johal: cat paintings with various personalities; creative button bracelets and other creative surprises.

Puccini's **Madama Butterfly**

Saturday 8 p.m.
March 12 & 19

Sunday 2 p.m.
March 13 & 20

Sung in Italian with English Supertitles

Love Tragedy Honor
A Classic Production of a
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Alexander Katsman
Music Director

Brian Clay Luedloff
Stage Director

Tickets available at: Bankhead Theater box office
by phone (925) 373-6800 or online
www.livermorevalleyopera.com

Bankhead Theater • 2400 First Street • Livermore • 925-373-6800

ART & ENTERTAINMENT

ART/PHOTO EXHIBITS

Harrington Art Gallery exhibit, Look of Jazz, Saturday, January 29, 2011 – Tuesday, February 22, 2011. Bay Area artists such as Chester Elmore, Joan Finton and James Gayles will be featured in an exhibit that celebrates jazz and how it can inspire visual artists. This exhibit will be held in conjunction with our annual Campana Jazz Festival, February 17-20, 2011. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.

Art Crawl, February 12, 2011, from 1 to 4 p.m., Art Crawl joins with Bothwell Arts Center's Downtown Art Studios' Open Studios for an afternoon of art. Crawls will continue on the second Saturday of every month, except October, when Art Crawl steps aside for the much larger art tour, ArtWalk. Art Crawl is a free tour of open studios, art displays and exhibitions. For more information about the Crawl, please see www.lindaryanfineart.com.

Bankhead Theater exhibiting the Intersecting Color works of Angela Johal and kaleidoscopic local images created by Christine McCall through February 14th. Generally open to ticketed theater patrons only, the Bankhead is located at 2400 First Street, Livermore. The Bankhead's performance calendar at www.bankheadtheater.org.

Wente Vineyards, work of local photographer, Jennie McGregor, through February 28. Wente Vineyards Estate Winery tasting room, 5565 Tesla Road in Livermore. Features lose-up photography of nature, including botanicals, insects and animals.

Wild Vine art exhibition program in February features husband-and-wife team Ken Ball and Victoria Whyte Ball. The exhibit includes Ken's special take on nude photography and Victoria's evocative work with the camera. Reception Thursday, February 10 from 6-7:30 pm. Wild Vine, 2187 First Street, Livermore, also participates in Second Saturday Open Studios/Art Crawls.

Call for Artists – 13th Annual Art in the Park, October 1 & 2, 2011, on the Town Green, Danville. Open to artists with quality work in the following categories: Paintings, Sculpture, Photography, Graphics and Fine Jewelry. Booth spaces for Art in the Park are 10' x 10' and are \$70 for Alamo Danville Artists' Society members and \$85 non-members plus 10% of sales to the Art in the Schools fund. For an application, send an e-mail to normawebb@comcast.net or call 925 828-9170. Art in the Park, sponsored by ADAS and the Town of Danville, is a fund raiser for Art in the Schools of the San Ramon Valley School District. In the last few years, ADAS & Art in the Park have given over \$100,000 directly to classroom teachers for special art projects.

MEETINGS/CLASSES

Avant-Garde Arts Studio has moved to a new location in Pleasanton, 435 Boulder Court, #600. Studio art courses at Avant-Garde offer students a serious and sustained exploration of the creative processes in visual art. Technical, perceptual and aesthetic issues are addressed in a historical and contemporary context. Classes are structured so that students experience the creative process through a direct and dynamic engagement with visual media. Adult art classes are offered on Weds. mornings at 10 am - 12:30 pm and Thurs. evening at 7:15 - 9:45 pm. A variety of workshops are also available. For information, go to www.avantgardeartstudio.com or call 484-1378.

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

Art Critique and Coffee, every Friday, 10 a.m. at Border's Cafe, Rose Pavilion, Pleasanton.

poetryoncanvas@mac.com.

Journal Writing Club for Young Adults, young adults ages 12-21, are invited to join the Journal Writing Club for Young Adults at the Livermore Public Library, Civic Center, on Thursday evenings, February 10 and March 3, 2011 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm, for a fun-filled evening of writing with author J.L. Powers. Those attending will learn about publishing their works and how to expand their writing horizons. For more information, please visit TEEN SPACE on the library's website: www.livermore.lib.ca.us or contact Sandy at 925-373-5500 extension 5583.

Beginning painting and drawing lessons, Livermore artist and instructor offers lessons to children and adults with little or no art experience. Students learn to draw and paint in a realistic way in various mediums using various techniques. They will learn about perspective and color theory. Lessons will cover portraits, landscapes, still-life, illustration and more. \$22 for 45 minute lesson. For more information contact Thomasin Dewhirst at 216-7231 or thomasin_d@hotmail.com.

Figure Drawing and Painting Workshop taught by Livermore artist Carolyn Lord, Saturday, March 19 and Sunday March 20, 2011, 9 am to 4 pm. \$99 plus \$50 Model's fee. Students bring own art supplies Register through Las Positas Community Education. "Figure Drawing and Painting Workshop", when registering the Class' Code Number is AL478 How to register www.laspositascollege.edu/communityed/index.php?

WINERY EVENTS

Livermore Valley GrapeXpo, Tuesday, March 1, 2011, 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm, presented by Livermore Valley Winerygrowers Association. Martinelli Event Center, 3585 Greenville Rd., Livermore. Free to members LVWA members/ \$15 non members. RSVP by February 25 to LVWA offices 925.447.WINE (9463) or www.LVwine.org/calendar.

Tamás Estates news & events: Valentine's Voyage, February 12, 6-8 pm; reservations are highly recommended, as space is limited. \$15 for Salute! wine club members and \$20 for non-members. Tamas Tuesdays, February 22, 4-7 pm, explore a world of wines rooted in California. Reservations are highly recommended, as space is limited. Complimentary for Salute! wine club member and one guest. \$10 for non-members Livermore; information at 925-456-2380. Tamás Estates, 5565 Tesla Road

"It Takes Two to be in love," (Just like wine & chocolate) Eagle Ridge Vineyard & Les Chenes Vineyard are pairing up to celebrate their love of Wine & Chocolate to Share with you & the one you love. Feb. 12 and 13, noon to 4:30 p.m.: Les Chenes – Chocolate Souffle & Syrah; Eagle Ridge – Petite Sirah Chocolate Truffles; Chocolate Cake Balls & Cabernet. Have "Your Heart" stamped with any wine purchase at both wineries. Enter a drawing for a "It Takes Two To Be In Love" Basket full of both chocolate & wine. Drawing is 5 p.m. Sun., Feb. 13. Need not be present to win. Les Chenes, 5562 Victoria Lane; Livermore; Eagle Ridge Vineyard, 10017 Tesla Road, Livermore.

Valentines Day Port and Chocolate affair, Feb. 12 and 13, library port served with a special fudge recipe. Charles R Vineyards is located at 8195 Crane Ridge Road in Livermore. Open noon - 4:30 Friday - Sunday.

Cedar Mountain Winery, February 13, Valentine's Day Chocolate and Port Tasting 12:00-4:00 in the Winemaker's Art Gallery for Port and Chocolate Tasting. Cedar Mountain will feature its LBV Port, Cabernet Royale Port, Tortuga Royale, Chardonnay del Sol, Viognier Port presented in a chocolate glass. Bissinger's Handcrafted Chocolates, and more. \$10 fee (not refundable on a bottle of wine). 7000 Tesla Road, Livermore.

The Restaurant at Wente Vineyards is celebrating Valentine's Day with a special menu available February 12-14, 2011. Executive Chef Eric Berg has designed a delicious three-course menu priced at \$55, with an ad-

ditional cost for wine pairings..5050 Arroyo Road, Livermore - (925) 456-2300

Thomas Coyne Winery winter open house Feb. 19, 20, 21, noon to 5 p.m. at the historical tasting room at 51 E. Vallecitos Road, Livermore. Release of new wines including the Livermore Cabernet Franc 2006. Selection of fine fruits and cheeses served. "Bottle Your Own Wine" We will be selling Vino Tinto Barato at the Open House. Bring a clean bottle, we will fill, cork and label it for you for \$6.00 per bottle. Use our bottle for \$6.50. Or you may bottle label and cork it yourself. This is available only on Feb 19 and 20. Limit of six bottles per person. For more info call (925) 373-6541 or visit http://thomascoynewinery.com

MUSIC/CONCERTS

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

Chris Bradley's Jazz Band, plays at The Sunol Jazz Cafe (In the Center of Sunol) the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month 7:30-9:30 p.m. The band features real Jazz from the 1920's, 30's, 40's.

Blacksmith Square Saturday Concerts, Thomas Coyne Winery, John Christopher Cellars, Swirl Tapas Bar and Victorian Olive Oil present live music in the Square, 3 to 6 p.m. Wine tasting (fee waived with purchase), food at menu prices. No outside food or adult beverages. Corner of South Livermore Ave. and Railroad Ave. downtown Livermore.

36th annual Campana Jazz Festival, Sat., Feb. 12, Amador Valley High School, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. Competitions and performances throughout the day. www.amadormusic.org.

Diablo Symphony Orchestra presents Flamenco! with Carolina Lugo's & Carolé Acuña's Brisas de España and Conductor Joyce Johnson-Hamilton. Sunday February 13, 2011 at 7:30 PM. Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Tickets at 925-943-7469 or http://purchase.tickets.com.

Livermore-Amador Symphony, concert, Youth Soloists, Tell, and Till, Feb. 12, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Youth Soloists featured, "Tell and Till. Prelude talk 7 p.m. 925-373-6800, www.livermoreperformingarts.org

Early Music Concert, Farallon Recorder Quarter, February 12, 2011, 7:30 pre-concert talk, 8:00 concert. Early Music Concert Series. The Morning Star - music from Northern Europe. Barbara Mertes Center for the Arts, Las Positas College, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. Farallon will perform works from medieval England through Renaissance Germany and the Low Countries to the courts of Versailles and the Thomaskirche of Leipzig. Tickets are \$15 for individual concerts. www.lpearlymusic.org or www.laspositascollege.edu/performingarts

Swing, Swing, Swing, Pied Pipers, Polly Podewell and Gene Krupa Tribute Band, Sun., Feb. 13, 3 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.livermoreperformingarts.org or 925-373-6800.

Wesla Whitfield, Feb. 13, 2 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org

36th annual Campana Jazz Festival at Amador Valley High School, 1155 Santa Rita Road in Pleasanton, California on Saturday, February 12, 2011 from 8:00am-7:00pm. The day long festival will feature 51 ensembles from 24 Bay Area schools. Two awards concerts, at 3:15 and 5:00pm will feature the winning bands, choirs, and PUSD jazz bands. Amador Friends of Music (AFM), is a non-profit 501(C)(3) organization which provides organization, fund-raising, and volunteer support to the music program. For more information, go to amadormusic.org.

Diablo Symphony Orchestra presents Flamenco! with Carolina Lugo's & Carolé

Acuña's Brisas de España and Conductor Joyce Johnson-Hamilton. Sunday February 13, 2011 at 7:30 PM. Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Tickets at 925-943-7469 or http://purchase.tickets.com.

America, Feb. 18, 8 p.m. Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, 10550 Albion Rd., San Ramon, 973-3343 or SanRamonPerformingArts.com.

Youth Music Festival, Sat., Feb. 19, 2 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. Tickets at www.firehousearts.org

Peter Fletcher - Classical Guitarist, Sun., Feb. 20, 3 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org

Pacific Chamber Symphony, concert Feb. 25, features master flutist Sheridan Stokes rejoins PCS for a program of works for flute and orchestra: Vivaldi's Concerto for Two Flutes, the Adagietto from Mahler's Symphony #5, and the world premier of a work by Los Angeles composer Christopher Caliendo. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets or information www.LivermorePerformingArts.org or call the Bankhead Theater at 925 373-6800.

The Music of Doris Day, with Jim Martinez Trio and Laura Didier, Sun., Feb. 27, 2 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.livermoreperformingarts.org or 925-373-6800.

ON THE STAGE

The Lion in Winter, Jan. 21-Feb. 12, Village Theater, 233 Front St., Danville. Presented by Role Players Ensemble Theatre. www.danvilletheatre.com.

The Time Machine: Love Among the Eloi, encore performance presented by Ohlone College Theatre Department. Fri., Feb. 11, 8 p.m. Smith Center at Ohlone College, 43600 Mission Blvd., Fremont. The Time Machine: Love Among the Eloi has been invited to be performed at the Western Regional Conference in consideration for the Kennedy Center's national award for Best Original Play. Time Machine is one of only four plays chosen to represent the colleges and universities from the nine western states. As a fund-raiser to assist with travel costs for cast and crew, to the Western Regional Conference, there will be a one night only encore performance of this award-winning production. Tickets \$20 adults, \$15 seniors and students. (510) 659-6031 or www.smithcenter.com.

Reach for the Stars! An Evening of the Arts for the Arts, Livermore Valley Education Foundation presents a special evening fund-raiser featuring arts showcase performances by elementary, middle and high school students enrolled in Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District's music, drama, dance and visual arts programs. Thurs., March 31 at 7 p.m. at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore. Tickets are \$25 for reserved seats; students tickets are \$12.50 with the purchase of a reserved seat in any section. www.livermoreperformingarts.com, or at the Bankhead box office, 2400 First St., Livermore. For additional information, contact: Victoria Schellenberger, LVEF President, vschellenberger@sbcglobal.net

Bat Boy: The Musical, Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre. Studio Theatre, 1048 Serpentine Lane, Suite 309, Pleasanton. Weekends Feb. 18-March 13. Call 462-2121 or go to www.trivalleyrep.com for information.

Little House On The Prairie, Feb. 19-27, Presented by Bay Area Children's Theater, Front Row Theater, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Rd., San Ramon, Tickets or information 973-3343 or SanRamonPerformingArts.com.

Arsenic and Old Lace, Asbury Players, March 18, 19, 20, 2011. Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., Livermore. Curtain time is 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday. Doors open 20 minutes prior to show time. Tickets are \$10 general admission, \$8 for seniors and children under 12. For additional ticket information, please call 455-1048.

Shakespeare's Associates' Winter Fund-raiser, Saturday, February 26th at 6PM at the Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 Eighth Street, Livermore, CA. Tickets \$60-\$80 at 1-800-838-3006 or www.LivermoreShakes.org. For more information visit www.LivermoreShakes.org or (925) 443-BARD.

Shakespeare's Associates' production of *A Life in the Theatre* by David Mamet. March 31-April 23, 2011, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays at the Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 Eighth Street, Livermore, CA. Tickets from \$25-\$35 by calling 1-800-838-3006 or www.LivermoreShakes.org. For more information visit www.LivermoreShakes.org or call 925-443-BARD (2273).

The Yeomen of The Guard, Lamplighters Music Theatre. 8 p.m. Sat., Feb. 19 and 2 p.m. Sun., Feb. 20. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.livermoreperformingarts.org or 925-373-6800.

Queen of Bingo, theater a go-go, Feb. 24-26, 8 p.m. Feb. 27, 2 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org

Livermore 2011 Talent Finals, Sat., Feb. 26, 7 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St. Presented by the Rotary Clubs of Livermore as a fund-raiser. www.livermoreperformingarts.org or call 925-373-6800.

Godspell, Livermore High School production, Feb. 25, 26 and March 4, 5, 8 p.m. at the school, 600 Maple St., Livermore.

The Sound of Music, presented by Amador Valley and Foothill high schools, March 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26, 7:30 p.m. Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. Tickets at www.firehousearts.org.

Judy, Judy, Judy, a cabaret tribute will be performed at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton, on March 20, 2 p.m. A tribute to the legacy of legendary singer and actress Judy Garland. Performers will include Tielle Baker, San Francisco Cabaret Gold Award-winning singer Pamela Brooks, Emmy Award singer ML Parr, joined by celebrated jazz pianist Richard Nelson Hall.

COMEDY

Girlfriends Gala, The Four Bitchin' Babes revue starring Sally Fingerett, Debi Smith, Nancy Moran and Deidre Flint. Mon., Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets or information www.livermoreperformingarts.org or 925-373-6800.

DANCE

Le Tableau Magnifique, Livermore School of Dance, will be performing "Variations in Motion" at The Bankhead Theater on Saturday, March 5, 2011, with performances at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. The performances are a benefit for The Diabetic Youth Foundation and a portion of the proceeds will be given to the organization. The Company will present five different programs starting with a full-length production of the story ballet, Coppelia. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets or information at (925) 373-6800 or via their website at www.livermoreperformingarts.org. Tickets are \$18, \$20, and \$24. There will be a dessert reception in the lobby following each performance.

Friday Night Dance Parties, themed parties each Friday night from Salsa to Swing, includes a group dance lesson at 8:15. \$15 cover charge, 8:15 dance lesson, 9:00-10:30 for dance parties. It's All About Dancing, 171 So. J Street, Livermore. 925-449-9292, or studio@itsallaboutdancing.com.

AUDITIONS/VOLUNTEERS

Solo Piano Competition for young artists, sponsored by Las Positas College Music Department, open to ages 14 through 24. The winner will perform George Gershwin's, "Rhapsody in Blue" at the May 4, 2011 Orchestra Concert as part of the inaugural season for the new Barbara Fracisco Mertes Center for the Arts. The application deadline is February 10, 2011. The selection will take place in February. To request application

ART & ENTERTAINMENT

forms and information, please contact Music instructor Mary Campbell, mcampbell@laspositascollege.edu, (925) 424-1118.

Auditions, "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm," Civic Arts Stage Company Spring Show, Directed by Paula Wujek. Auditions are Saturday and Sunday, February 26 and 27, 2011 from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. Audition packets will be available at www.firehousearts.org/programs. After receiving the packet, auditioners must email name, parent's name if under 18 years, telephone number and email address to rennals@sfshakes.org. Applicants will be notified by phone or email of audition time confirmation.

Auditions, The Sound of Music, Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre. Saturday February 19 at 11:00am or Monday, February 21 at 7:30pm. Call-backs by invitation only Feb. 22 and 24 at 7:30pm. 1048 Serpentine Lane #303, Pleasanton. Please prepare a brief song (16-32 bars). Bring sheet music; accompanist provided. Please bring a picture and resume, stapled together. No tapes; no a capella. Be prepared to dance. www.trivalleyrep.com for more information. Director: Daren A.C. Carollo, Vocal Direction: Sean Aloise, Choreographer: Todd Aragon, Producer: Kathleen Breedveld, Musical Director: Jo Ann Fosselman. Performance dates: July 22, 2011 through August 7, 2011, Bankhead Theater, Livermore.

MOVIES

Kings of Pastry, a documentary film, will be shown on February 17 at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. Presented by the Pleasanton Library. Doors open 6:15pm, film screens at 7pm. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. Free and open to all. No registration is required. For more information, call Penny Johnson, 931-3405.

Going Places: A Classic Film Series, shown the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Pleasanton Library's meeting room through June 2, 2011. The program is a partnership of Las Positas College and the Pleasanton Public Library proudly present. Candy Klaschus, film historian and Coordinator of the Humanities Program at Las Positas College, is the host. There is no admission charge. 400 Old Bernal Ave., Pleasanton. 931-3400. No registration required.

Facing Ali, a documentary film about boxer Muhammad Ali, will be shown on March 17 at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. Presented by the Pleasanton Library. Doors open 6:15pm, film screens at 7pm. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. The film events are free and open to all. No registration is required. For more information, call Penny Johnson, 931-3405.

CHORAL

Vienna Boys Choir, Fri., Feb. 11, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.livermoreperformingarts.org or 925-373-6800.

OPERA

The Barber of Seville, Opera San José continues its 27th Season presents Rossini's comic opera, The Barber of Seville. Eight performances are scheduled from February 12 through 27 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. This production of The Barber of Seville is made possible, in part, by a Cultural Affairs Grant from the City of San José.

Marie's Take on Anna Russell or "I'm not making this up, you know!" is the topic for the winter gala sponsored by the San Francisco Opera Guild, East Bay Chapter. Sun., Feb. 27 at 4:30 p.m. at the Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Dr., Danville. Soprano Marie Plette will present an interpretation of Anna Russell's hilarious musical synopsis of "The Ring of the Nibelungen." Check-in and no-host bar

are at 4:30 p.m., dinner at 5:30 p.m. followed by the program and drawing. Cost is \$85 per person. Proceeds benefit programs for singers in the Adler Fellowship and Merola Opera programs as well as for students in K-12th grades. Reservation deadline is Feb. 22. Seating is open. Reserved priority seating for reservations of tables of 8. Non-members are very welcome. No tickets will be mailed. Names will be on list at door. For information contact the con-chairman Elva Cooper at 925-846-2092 or PhilandElva@Comcast.net, Irene Reich at p.i.reich@Comcast.net (not between Jan. 15 and 30) or Silvia Lin at LLLLL@juno.com or 925-838-9255 (not from Feb. 1 to 20).

MISCELLANEOUS

Arts/poetry contest, Pleasanton Cultural Arts Contest is sponsoring a Linked Visual Arts and Poetry Contest with a cash prize. Poets and Junior Poets will have through Tuesday, February 22, to view visual art created by members of The Pleasanton Arts League and write a poem in response to that artwork. The artwork will be on display at Little Valley Winery, Studio 7, Rising Loafer, Towne Center Books, and Comerica Bank in downtown Pleasanton. The winning poem will be displayed adjacent to the corresponding piece of art and a \$50 prize will be given to the best poem in the Junior Poet category. This contest is sponsored by The Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council, in cooperation with The Pleasanton Arts League. For information on how to register for the contest and contest details, please go to www.pleasantonarts.org.

Ragin' Cajun, dinner, dance and auction on Fri., Feb. 11 from 6:30 to 11 p.m. benefit for Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation. Palm Event Center in Pleasanton. Proceeds will go towards providing funds to cancer patients. For more information about becoming a sponsor, please ask for Ken Perine at 925-292-5936. For more information about the organization or to attend the event, call the Foundation at 866-862-7270 or go online to www.HealingTherapies-Foundation.org. Tickets are \$75 per person. 1-866-862-7270.

Science on Saturday, February 12, It's Gust about Time: Harnessing the Wind, 9:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., downtown Livermore. Presented by the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Information at www.livermoreperformingarts.org or 925-373-6800.

Wines and Valentines Dinner, 6 p.m., Saturday, February 12, at The Farmer Restaurant in the historic Pleasanton Hotel. Presented by Museum on Main, gourmet dinner paired with appropriate valley wines. Voice and two-bit auctions. Tickets, \$85 each, are available at the Museum on Main. For tickets or more information phone the museum at 925.462.2766 or visit the website: www.museumonmain.org

Romance Wine and Chocolate Event, February 13, Wente Vineyards. Sit down and enjoy five chocolate and wine pairings prepared and selected by Wente Vineyards. Learn how chocolate and wine can combine and create a romantic and sensual experience. 1 p.m. or 4 p.m. Wine club members \$30, guests \$35.

Call 925-456-2405 to purchase tickets. **Museum on Main,** 2011 Ed Kinney Lecture Series. Wednesday, February, 16, 7 p.m., *Meet President and Mrs. Lincoln.* Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. No reservations are required. Tickets are available at the door on a first come first served basis. The Firehouse Arts Center is located at 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. Tickets are \$10 general admission, \$5 members and seniors, \$3 students/teachers with ID. Information, contact Jennifer Amiel, Director of Education at (925) 462-2766 or education@museumonmain.org.

A Toast to Heroes: A Literary Evening on the Myth & Reality of the Hero & the Un-hero. Fri., Feb. 18, 8 to 10 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. Poet Laureate Deborah Grossman and Livermore Poet Laureate Cher Wollard will co-host the first Literary Evening at the new Firehouse Center. Narrator Robert Eastwood, award-winning poet, author and artist from San Ramon, will weave his perspective on the mythology of the heroic and un-heroic with other invited Bay Area writers. \$5, students free. www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us

GibsonHouse Mystery Performers present "Shadow of a Murder" an interactive Mystery Dinner Theatre in The Farmer Restaurant at the historic Pleasanton Hotel. Fri., Feb. 25. 1930's-40's attire welcome. 3-course gourmet meal and farcical mystery play, all for \$64 per Sleuth, tax & gratuity included. Seating begins at 7:00pm. The Farmer Restaurant, at the Pleasanton Hotel, 855 Main Street, downtown Pleasanton. Reservations required at (925) 399-6690, ext. 17. www.PleasantonHotel.com

La Semana Cubana/Cuban Week 2011 Yemaya: Embracing the Earth, Feb. 22-25, Las Positas College, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. Events are in the evening. Feb. 22: Meet the Artists; Exhibit: Filling the Space/Llenando el Espacio; Artist in Residence: Alnolkys Turro and Photography by Eira Arrate; Batá Music: Somos 3 Jesús Díaz, Sandy Pérez and Eric Barbería. Wed., Feb. 23: Cuban Words/Palabras Cubanass, The Poetry of Nicolás Guillén performed by Joel and Ana María Oliver; Cuban Author Odette Alonso Yodu Streaming Live from Mexico City via Webcam. Thurs., Feb. 24: Cuba Café/ Café Cuba: Abel Magritte: Cuban Singer and Song Writer Lara Greene: Presentation: The Sound of Son; Rick Moniz and Catherine Suárez: Presentation: Cuba Through My Eyes. Fri., Feb. 25: Discussion Panel: Feminine Voices/ Voces Femeninas followed by Cuban Guateque/ Guateque Cubano, Trío Pasión Habanera, Dance Performance by Yussef Breffe Cuban Dance Instructor and Choreographer For more information please visit our web site lasemanacubana.org, the Las Positas College home page laspositascollege.edu or call Catherine Suárez at (925)424-1212.

Science on Saturday, February 19, With-standing Climate Change: You Can Change the World, 9:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., downtown Livermore. Presented by the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Information at www.livermoreperformingarts.org or 925-373-6800.

48th Annual Coin Show and Sale, hosted by Livermore Valley Coin Club on Sunday March 6, 2011, from 10am to 5pm. The show will be held at the Elks Lodge, 940 Larkspur Drive Springtown in Livermore. Admission is free. For further information please call Stephen Kramer at (925) 980-9307.

LIVERMORE READS

Livermore Reads, February 10, 7pm. *Are You Ready? How to Survive the Big One.* Find out all you need to know to survive the next Big Quake, and other disasters. Genevieve Pastor-Cohen, certified emergency manager, will give an overview of the hazards faced by the Livermore area, emphasizing the four pillars of preparedness. *Livermore Reads Together - 1906: A Novel* is sponsored by The Friends of the Livermore Library. For additional events check the library's website at www.livermore.lib.ca.us.

Livermore Reads, February 12, 10:30am. *Readers' Theater for Children of Lizzie Newton and the San Francisco Earthquake.* Under the general direction of Philip Manwell, Dean, students from the Arts and Communication Division at Las Positas College will offer a special presentation of the children's book *Lizzie Newton and the San Francisco Earthquake.* *Livermore Reads Together - 1906: A Novel* is sponsored by The Friends of the Livermore Library. For additional events check the library's website at www.livermore.lib.ca.us.

Livermore Reads, February 13, 2pm. *Frisky Frolics: Tin Pan Alley Troubadours.* With a ukulele-driven program of such Tin Pan Alley-era classics as "Cake Eatin' Man" and "My Canary Has Circles Under His Eyes," the Frisky Frolics quintet revels in the outdated, dusty gems from our grandparents' 78 rpm record collections. *Livermore Reads Together - 1906: A Novel* is sponsored by The Friends of the Livermore Library. For additional events check the library's website at www.livermore.lib.ca.us.

Livermore Reads, February 17, 7pm. *A Dramatic Reading from 1906: A Novel.* A cast of volunteer readers from Shakespeare's Associates will bring James Dalessandro's book *1906* to life with a dramatic reading. With an introduction by Philip Manwell, the featured selections will provide a glimpse of 1906 San Francisco—part Paris, part Dodge City— corruption, bravery, a journalist, a runaway, a Chinese slave girl ... and Enrico Caruso! *Livermore Reads Together - 1906: A Novel* is sponsored by The Friends of the Livermore Library. For additional events check the library's website at www.livermore.lib.ca.us.

Livermore Reads, February 19, 12 noon, Vine Cinema. *Classic Movie Screening - San Francisco.* View a special showing of the classic 1936 movie *San Francisco*

starring Clark Gable, Jeanette MacDonald, and Spencer Tracy, nominated for best actor. *Livermore Reads Together - 1906: A Novel* is sponsored by The Friends of the Livermore Library. For additional events check the library's website at www.livermore.lib.ca.us.

Livermore Reads, February 20, 2pm. *The 1906 Earthquake: Lessons Learned, Lessons Forgotten, and Managing Earthquake Risk.* The 1906 earthquake marked the birth of modern earthquake science. For the first time, the effects of a major seismic event were systematically investigated and documented. As earthquake sciences evolves, reanalysis of the 1906 quake yields new insights. Mary Lou Zoback, former Chief Scientist of the US Geological Survey, will bring us up to date on what we've learned. *Livermore Reads Together - 1906: A Novel* is sponsored by The Friends of the Livermore Library. For additional events check the library's website at www.livermore.lib.ca.us.

Livermore Reads, February 22, 7pm. *San Francisco's Lost Landmarks with Author James Smith.* San Francisco's earthquakes, 1906 and prior, will be presented in an illustrated discussion of how the city earned its seal and what really happened.

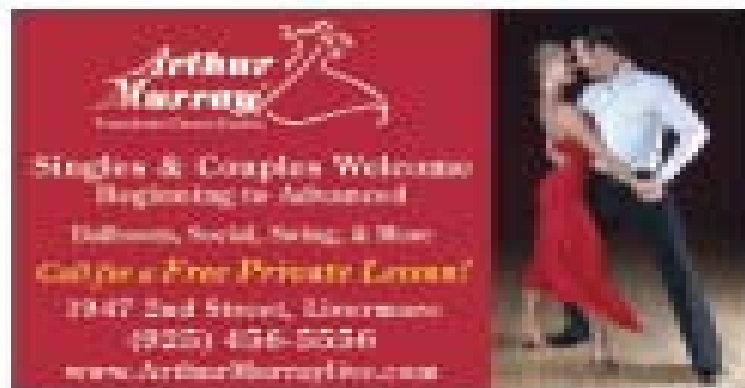
Livermore Reads, February 24, 7pm. *The Miles Brothers: Before and After the Earthquake.* David Kiehn, Historian of the Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum will show short films and photographs by the Miles Brothers, pioneers in American cinema, including their 1906 film *A Trip Down Market Street*, an historic 13-minute journey shot just days before the earthquake. *Livermore Reads Together - 1906: A Novel* is sponsored by The Friends of the Livermore Library. For additional events check the library's website at www.livermore.lib.ca.us.

Livermore Reads, February 26, 1:30am. *AfterShock!: Teens Prepare for Disaster Assistance.* At *AfterShock!*, teens will learn first aid for earthquake and fire disasters through a special American Red Cross training course designed for teens. Other topics include first response topics and techniques, and a look at teen volunteer opportunities with the American Red Cross.

Livermore Reads, February 26, 2pm. *Jack London: Eyewitness to the Great Quake.* *Jack London: Eyewitness to the Great Quake* is a dynamic portrait of California through the eyes of the renowned author, adventurer and social crusader, Jack London, as performed by Michael Oakes, artistic director of Live Oakes Educational Theater. Follow London as he journeyed throughout the region documenting the devastation of the 1906 earthquake—one of the most articulate of the eyewitness accounts. *Livermore Reads Together - 1906: A Novel* is sponsored by The Friends of the Livermore Library. For additional events check the library's website at www.livermore.lib.ca.us.



Art Crawl Is Moving To Second Saturdays
February 12, 2011 • 1-4pm
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Joe Michell leadership students presented Valley Humane Society with \$355, raised in the school's December candy-gram fundraiser.

Joe Michell Students Raise over \$350 for Valley Humane Society

By Patricia Koning

Students at Joe Michell K-8 School in Livermore presented Steve Glavan, executive director of Valley Humane Society (VHS), and Lori Rice, president of the VHS board, with a check for \$355. The presentation took place Feb. 2. The students raised the money in December through their candy-gram fundraiser.

"Thank you so much for your generosity," said Glavan. "We are so impressed with your enthusiasm and energy. Collecting so much money in such a short time shows that you are truly dedicated to the causes you support."

Rice said the donation will likely be put towards VHS' Keeler's Kids program, a one-hour humane education for second and third graders emphasizing the value of companion animals and the level of commitment required to own a pet. The children learn about pet adoption and discuss the implications of caring for an animal throughout its life.

Keeler's Kids was started through a generous bequest from Joyce Keeler. A Livermore High

School teacher and president of the Livermore Education Association, Keeler left \$1.4 million to VHS after her death in 2005. The bequest made possible the new 5,000 square-foot facility that VHS expects to move into this spring.

Currently, Keeler's Kids is offered only in Pleasanton. However, Rice and Glavan hope to expand the program to Livermore in the next school year. "It's very important for us to bring this program into Livermore schools to honor the memory of Joyce Keeler," said Rice.

For the past four years, Joe Michell students have raised money for animal welfare through their December "spirit of giving" fundraiser. Third grade teacher Shannon Sullivan explained that when the program was started, the leadership students chose animals as their cause. For the first two years, donations went to the East Bay Society for the Prevention and Cruelty to Animals (SPCA). Last year the students began giving their contributions to VHS.

Glavan accepted an oversized check from the leadership students

at Joe Michell's monthly school-wide flagpole assembly, at which recognitions and awards are made. Principal Angela Ehrlich recognized 20 students of the month from all grades. Those students will enjoy a pizza lunch with her next week.

Two students received "50 Mile Club" T-shirts for running over 50 miles cumulatively in physical education class: Karen Morgan, 51 miles, and Brayan Mandujano, 53.75 miles. Ehrlich introduced the seventh grade girls' basketball team to the student body. She also announced the winners of the yearbook title contest: Sixth grader Hamosa Alokozia and second grader Haely Alatorre, who will each receive a free yearbook.

The classes of Mrs. Parker, Mrs. Brekke, Mr. Montgomery, Ms. Zeterberg, Mrs. Matulich, Mrs. Hallahan, Mrs. Corsaro, and Ms. Alvarez received Super Scientist awards for excellent behavior in science lab. Those classes will celebrate with a Super Scientist Party during science lab time, which is a hands-on science exploration day.

Local Conservation Leader Retires from USDA

Terry Huff, District Conservationist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Livermore, has retired after 33 years of service, the last 17 of which were spent assisting Alameda County farmers, ranchers, and agencies plan and implement land-based natural resource enhancements. Huff, a soil scientist by training, came to Livermore in 1993 to lead the agency's program of voluntary conservation on private lands, with an emphasis on the county's working farm and ranch lands.

Starting out as a staff of one, Huff's team eventually grew to include rangeland management specialists, engineers, ecologists and conservation planners as part of what is called "The Conservation Partnership," a slogan inspired by Huff to reflect the growing strength of NRCS' partnership with the Alameda County Resource Conservation District (ACRCD). Through Huff's leadership, numerous on-the-ground, and often innovative, conservation practices were launched. For example, a bio-engineered and constructed stream stabilization project in Castro Valley was the first of its kind in Alameda County. Similar stabilization projects were later installed on Palomares and Alameda Creeks. Huff was also responsible for implementing several technical and financial assistance programs offered through the USDA's Farm Bill and aimed at assisting farmers and ranchers implement conservation measures.

Huff's leadership style focused on developing local, state, and federal partnerships that linked and leveraged technical and financial assets, political support and, most notably, private landowners with NRCS's and The Conservation Partnership's resource management expertise. These collaborations supported the local agricultural economy, landowner rights, and the need for private lands to provide community assets such as wildlife habitat, clean water and healthy watersheds. Huff's often-used catchphrase, "No random acts of conservation," sums up his lifelong passion of addressing resource management needs and opportunities through strategic



Terry Huff

planning and forging partnerships – a style that resulted in projects that were greater than the sum of their parts.

During the El Niño winter of 1997, Huff facilitated the use of federal and state emergency funds to stabilize flood-stage Arroyo De La Laguna which was imminently threatening Sunol Glenn Elementary School and nearby residences. Huff later developed an interagency group called the Arroyo Collaborative to implement a biotechnical stream restoration demonstration project upstream from the damaged area. With the support of the ACRCD and Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty, this work continues with \$2.7 million in federal funds supported by local congressional representatives. Working hand-in-hand with the ACRCD, Huff provided leadership in the development of a multi-agency permit streamlining project which enabled local ranchers to renovate decades-old livestock ponds while protecting sensitive wildlife species such as the red-legged frog and the California tiger salamander.

Reflecting on his tenure with NRCS and The Conservation Partnership Huff said, "It's been such a pleasure to have worked with what I consider to be the most dedicated team of natural resources management specialists in California."

Huff will be feted at a no-host reception and dinner on February 11. For more information call the ACRCD at (925) 371-0154 Ext. 114.

Milestones

Community

Education

Scholarship Established in Honor of Carol Clough

Throughout her 27-year career as a Las Positas College faculty member, Carol Clough shared her gift of teaching with countless students. After she passed away in 2004, her giving continued with a \$10,000 legacy gift for Business Major Scholarships, now available through the Las Positas College Foundation.

"Carol was committed to student success and we are very grateful for her generous planned gift to support that success," said Ted Kaye, Las Positas College Foundation chief executive officer. He noted that individuals have many different reasons for planned giving including expressing their personal values, investing in their communities, making a difference in the lives of others, and realizing tax savings and financial benefits.

In addition to making a difference in the lives of past and future students, Clough helped shape what is now Las Positas College.

Don Milanese, retired vice president of Academic Services, commented, "Dr. Carol Clough was one of the early pioneers,

hired shortly after the opening of Chabot College-Valley Campus. She brought to the college - in addition to an esteemed academic preparation - extensive, relevant, and diverse work experience from the world of business."

Clough made innumerable contributions to college curriculum, planning, and governance, and was instrumental in the design and development of many of the college's current classes, certificates, and degree business programs such as Administrative Assistant and Business Entrepreneurship. "As a devoted and dedicated educator, she always was guided, first and foremost, to giving her students their highest priority," Milanese noted.

To learn more about the scholarships, please visit the Financial Aid Department website at www.laspositascollege.edu/financialaid.

For information on planned giving and foundation investments, please contact the Las Positas College Foundation at 3000 Campus Hill Drive, Livermore, CA 94551-7623; call (925) 424-1010; or visit www.lpcfoundation.org.

New Principal Hired at Carden West

Carden West School has hired Ann Kennedy as its principal and executive director, effective March 1, 2011. Kennedy will lead the continuing growth of the private, nonprofit toddler-middle school campus at 4576 Willow Road in Hacienda Park, Pleasanton. The school will add an eighth grade class in the fall of 2011.

Kennedy will be on hand to meet parents and visitors at the school's Open House on Wednesday evening, February 16, 2011, at 6:30 p.m.

Kennedy joins Carden West School from the Ross Valley School District in Marin County,

where she was an educator responsible for several administrative roles including Professional Learning, Site Council, Teacher selection, Leadership Training and Mentorship. She holds a Master of Science degree in Education as well as California Teaching and Administrative Credentials.

"I was looking for a place where warm informality balanced with a solid educational purpose and found my home at Carden West School," added Kennedy. "From my first visit, I felt drawn to Carden West because I witnessed a community that fosters the love of academic, social and emotional

learning. I've seen happy and engaged students in a vibrant learning community, supported by talented, dedicated professionals and energetic parents. I am committed to the collaboration among all of us to achieve the success of each child.

"I'm also very excited about the growth of our middle school to include eighth grade next fall. I look forward to playing an important role as the future unfolds and Carden West continues to grow and thrive."

More information available at www.cardenwest.org.

Jim Ryan Installed as New President of Livermore Valley Winegrowers

The Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association has announced the installation of its 2011-2012 Board of Directors. Jim Ryan of Concannon Vineyard is the new president, taking the reins from Mark Triska of Crane Ridge Vineyards.

The new board will serve a term of two years. Members include: Jim Ryan, Concannon Vineyard (President); Gina Cardera, Garre Vineyard & Winery (Vice President); Larry Dino, Cuda Ridge Wines (Treasurer); Amy Hoopes, Wente Family Estates (Secretary); William Martin, Safeway Inc.; Mark Clarin, Picazo Vineyards; Candice Dixon, Les Chenes Estate Vineyards; Jennifer Fazio, Steven Kent & La Rochelle wineries (Marketing Committee Chair);

Chuck Ott, Falling Star Vineyards; Read Phillips, Beets Hospitality Group/Palm Event Center & Casa Real; Jim Perry, Eagle Ridge Vineyard; Kathy Liske, el Sol Winery; and Mark Triska, Triska Crane Ridge Vineyards (Past President).

Jim Ryan is currently the Estate Manager for Concannon Vineyard. He has well over 20 years of experience in the wine business with more than 12 years spent in sales and marketing of large and boutique wineries in California, Oregon, Washington, France, Germany, Italy, Argentina, Chile, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. His six years as a general manager in the wholesale arena, 11 years of direct-to-consumer wine sales and marketing and seven years of winery operations experi-

ence enable him to see the entire spectrum of the wine production and supply chain. Jim graduated from UC Davis with a bachelor's degree in Fermentation Sciences. He has been a registered member of the Royal Guild of Master Sommeliers in London for over ten years, has served on the board for four different winegrowers associations in different growing regions in California and is currently a regional director with the Wine Institute.


The Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association is a 501(c)6 organization that supports the wineries, growers, and members in the Livermore Valley American Viticultural Area through educational and marketing programs. www.LVwine.org

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Military

Congressman John Garamendi (D-Walnut Creek, CA), a member of the House Armed Services Committee, announced the names of thirty high school students whom he has nominated to attend one of the nation's military service academies.

The academies, which include The United States Military Academy at West Point, NY, the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD, and the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO, are amongst the most prestigious

universities in the country. They have a long standing tradition of excellence in education, service and integrity.

Residents who know a high school student who is interested in applying for next year can contact Brandon Minto in Rep. Garamendi's Fairfield office at 707-438-1822 or visit <http://www.garamendi.hosue.gov> and click "services" for more information.

Below are the names of the local men and women nominated by Rep. Garamendi:

United States Military Academy: Afzal Akhtar, Livermore; Luke Nutter, Livermore; and Victoria Rao, Livermore

United States Naval Academy: Scott Crowder, Livermore; Kevin Lois, Livermore; Justin Davis, Livermore

United States Air Force Academy: Alex Buescher, Livermore; Joshua Lipp, Livermore

United States Merchant Marine Academy: Alex Beuscher, Livermore

BULLETIN BOARD

(Organizations wishing to run notices in Bulletin Board, send information to PO Box 1198, Livermore, CA 94551, in care of Bulletin Board. 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 High Cowboy Boosters Round-up, dinner, dance, auction benefiting Livermore High School athletics. Sat., March 12, 6 to 11 p.m. Shrine Event Center, 170 Lindbergh Ave., Livermore. Tri-tip dinner with all the fixings, silent, live, dessert, themed baskets auctions, raffles and drawings. Dancing. Tickets \$45 per person, \$30 for LHS staff and coaches; table of 8 \$360 with \$45 donated to sport of choice. Information email coferhome@aol.com. LHS Cowboy Boosters, 600 Maple St., Livermore, CA 94550.

CYO Basketball crab feed, Fri., Feb. 25, Shrine Event Center, 170 Lindbergh Ave., Livermore, 6 p.m. to midnight. Dinner includes choice of crab or chicken, pasta, bread and salad. Silent and live auctions. Tickets \$40 per person (adults only please). For tickets or information contact Norma Jean at 216-2519 or njfromindy@yahoo.com or go to www.smsccyo.org.

Tri-Valley Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind meeting on Saturday, February 12, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. in Cafeteria Room 2 at Valley Memorial Hospital in Livermore, 1111 East Stanley Blvd. Any visually impaired or blind person is urged to attend. Call, Carl, 449-9362 for more info.

Two Healthy Living Workshops will be offered at CRIL's Tri-Valley branch office conference room at 3311 Pacific Ave., Livermore. The speaker is Janet Maldonado. February 14, 10:30am - 12 noon in Spanish and March 14, 10:30 am - 12 noon in English / Spanish Call Abril Tamayo at 510-881-5743 or 925-371-1531 for more information and to register. Five days notice is needed for alternate formats or ASL interpreters.

Tri-Valley Democratic Club meeting Mon., Feb. 21, 7 p.m. at IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin. Ian Fletcher will discuss why free trade is bad for America; the topic of his new book Free Trade Doesn't Work. See www.freetradedoesntwork.com. Refreshments - Public invited - Discussion & Q&A

Amador Valley Quilters Guild meeting on Saturday February 12, at 1:30 pm at the Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Avenue, Pleasanton. The meeting is open to all those who are interested in the culture, history and artistry of quilting. Guest speaker will be Debbie Caffrey, author and quiltmaker from New Mexico. She will talk about "Finding and Unleashing the Creativity Within You." She will show how to take elements (fabrics) that seem mismatched, and find ways to put them together into an interrelated composition. Arrive early to AVQ's 30th anniversary and partake of celebratory cookies and lemonade and then hear Debbie's talk.

Livermore Peripheral Neuropathy Support Group's next meeting will be Tuesday, Feb. 22 at 10 a.m. The meeting place is Heritage Estates Retirement Community, 900 E. Stanley Blvd. in the second floor conference room. All are welcome. Contact Ann Laye @ 443-4098 for further information.

Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club will meet Thursday, February 10 at the Alisal Elementary School multipurpose room, 1454 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton, at 7 p.m. Jolene Adams, a Master Rosarian and VP of the American Rose Society will speak about the history of roses in Livermore. Visitors welcome. For more information visit www.lavgc.org

Volunteer Drivers Needed, Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley is looking for Volunteer Drivers to transport seniors to their medical appointments. The Senior Transportation Program supplements existing public and paratransit services by providing rides via volunteer drivers. Volunteers must have a valid driver's license, a registered vehicle, carry automobile liability insurance, and have a clear DMV record. Please contact Jennifer Cullen for more information at (925) 931-5387 or email: ja.cullen@yahoo.com. Funding for this program is provided by Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC) and Measure B Funds.

20th annual Livermore Wine Country Festival will be held April 30 and May 1, 2011. Volunteers are needed to help make the event

a success. Festival hours are Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The wine pouring shifts are Saturday 10:30 a.m. (½ hour to set up) to 2:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. (1/2 hour to clean up). Sunday 10:30 a.m. (½ hour to set up) to 1:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. (1/2 hour to clean up). All volunteers required to attend the Wine Country Festival Volunteer Training Meeting which is scheduled for Thursday, April 21 at 6:00 p.m. Download a volunteer agreement form at www.livermoredowntown.com. Forms must be returned no later than Monday, April 18th, 2011. For information, call 373-1795.

Valley Spokesmen Bicycle Touring Club, Sat., Feb. 12, 32 miles Feather Pedalers Cinderella training ride, meet 9:30 a.m. at Osage Park, Carol Da Shiehl, Alam Schiefer afschiefer@gmail.com. Sun., Feb. 13, 35 miles from Dublin to Sunol Park and back, meet 9 a.m. Mark Dedon, 828-9183. Wed., Feb. 16, 34 miles from San Ramon to Walnut Creek, meet 10 a.m. at Central Park, Peter Rathmann, 828-1973. Anyone planning to go on a ride is asked to contact the leader for details on where to meet and what to bring.

Birds of Mt. Wanda, Sat., Feb. 26 John Muir National Historic Site, 8:30 a.m. gradual climb. Meet at the CalTrans Park and Ride, corner of Alhambra Ave. and Franklin Canyon Rd., Martinez. Wear good walking shoes. Bring water and binoculars, if available. Heavy rain cancels. Information at 228-8860.

Tri-Valley Communities Against a Radioactive Environment (Tri-Valley CARES) was founded in 1983 in Livermore, by concerned neighbors living around the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, one of two locations where all US nuclear weapons are designed. Tri-Valley CARES monitors nuclear weapons and environmental clean-up activities throughout the US nuclear weapons complex, with a special focus on Livermore Lab and the surrounding communities. Tri-Valley CARES' overarching mission is to promote peace, justice and a healthy environment. All are welcome at our monthly meeting at the Livermore Civic Center Library Thursday, February 17th from 7:30pm to 9pm. For more information call Tri-Valley CARES at (925) 443-7148 or visit our website at http://trivalleycares.org

Wines and Valentines Dinner starting at 6 p.m., Saturday, February 12, at The Farmer Restaurant in the historic Pleasanton Hotel. Offered by the Museum on Main. Voice auction and a e "two-bit" auction. Tickets, \$85 each, are available at the Museum on Main. For tickets or more information phone the museum at 925.462.2766 or visit the website: www.museumonmain.org The Museum on Main is located at 603 Main Street, Pleasanton. The historic Pleasanton Hotel is located at 855 Main Street, Pleasanton.

Leslie Baker book signing, Feb. 11, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Association of Play Therapy Conference, University of Phoenix's Livermore Learning Center, 2481 Constitution Dr., Livermore. Baker, a resident of Pleasanton, will be available to sign copies of her Children's book, Healing Feelings: A Healing Story for Children Coping with a Grown-up's Mental Illness.

Free income tax help, Livermore, AARP volunteer preparers. Monday, Feb. 7-April 18, noon-4 p.m. Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore, by appointment, 373-5760. Thursday and Friday, Feb. 3-April 15, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Civic Center Library, 1188 So. Livermore Avenue, first come, first served. Bring W2, all 1099 forms, copy of previous year's tax return, and other important documents.

Pleasantonians 4 Peace, Peaceful War Protest on the fourth Wednesday of the month, February 23, between 5 - 6 at the corners of First and Neal Streets. Please join us if you can. Questions?? Call Cathe Norman at (925) 462-7495; Matt Sullivan at mjs7882@gmail.com; or kdowling@pacbell.net. www.Pleasantonians4Peace.org.

Spanish/English dual immersion, K-5th grade in Livermore. Now enrolling for kindergarten. Junction Ave K-8 School offers bilingual and bi-literate education for free. Dual immersion classroom routes Feb. 15, at 9 a.m. and Feb. 23 at 9 a.m. Open house Feb. 16 at 6 p.m. For more information, contact Jennifer Hayes at 606-4720 ext. 6332 or jhayes@lvjud.k12.ca.us.

Le Tableau Magnifique, Livermore School of Dance, will be performing "Varia-

tions in Motion" at The Bankhead Theater on Saturday, March 5, 2011, with performances at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. The performances are a benefit for The Diabetic Youth Foundation and a portion of the proceeds will be given to the organization. The Company will present five different programs starting with a full-length production of the story ballet, Coppelia. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets or information at (925) 373-6800 or via their website at www.livermoreperformingarts.org. Tickets are \$18, \$20, and \$24. There will be a dessert reception in the lobby following each performance.

Livermore Community Blood Drive: Friday, February 18, 1-7 p.m., Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Avenue. Every day, Bay Area hospitals need hundreds of units of blood to keep sick and injured patients alive. There is no substitute for blood, and it can only be replaced by blood donations. Please register at www.redcrossblood.org and use Asbury925 as the Sponsor Code, or call Thomas Petty at 925-980-8164.

Widowed Men and Women of Northern CA, Happy hour in Pleasanton, Feb. 17, 5 p.m., RSVP by Feb. 15 to Marge, 828-5124. Crab feed dinner in Oakland, Feb. 18, 6:30 p.m., RSVP by Feb. 11 to Gino, 243-1281 (prepaid reservations only). Friendly bridge, Feb. 19, 1 p.m. RSVP by Feb. 15 to Marsha, 830-8483. Lunch in Pleasanton, Feb. 21, 11:30 a.m., RSVP by Feb. 19 to Roselyn, 999-9936. Happy hour in Castro Valley, Feb. 24, 4 p.m., RSVP by Feb. 22 to Vee, 510-782-4169. Birthday dinner in Pleasanton, Feb. 26, 5 p.m., RSVP by Feb. 22 to Anne, 846-3736. Lunch and musical performance in Pleasanton, March 13, 11:50 a.m. lunch, 2 p.m. performance of Tom Rigney's Flambeau at the Firehouse Arts Center, RSVP to Athene ASAP, 846-0111.

Find a Treasure, American Cancer Society Discovery Shop in Pleasanton is requesting the donation of costume or precious jewelry for its annual jewelry event. "Find a Treasure: on March 11 and 12. 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 1987A 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.

Livermore Adult Community Education is currently accepting enrollment for the following classes: SAT/PSAT Preparation, English as a Second Language, GED, Adult High School Diploma, CAHSEE Preparation, Microsoft Office 2007, Phlebotomy, Clinical Medical Assistant, Pharmacy Technician, Clinical Nursing Asst., Hemodialysis Tech., Physical Therapy Aide, Sterile Processing Tech., Estate Planning, Retirement Planning, CPR/First Aid, Art Classes and Health & Fitness Classes. Call 925-606-4722 for more information or visit us at www.livermoreadulted.org.

San Ramon Valley Newcomers Club invites new or long-time residents to its monthly luncheon on February 17 at Blackhawk Grille, 3450 Blackhawk Plaza Cir., Blackhawk. 11:30 - 2pm. Cost is \$21. Speaker will be Terry Monday, Volunteer Program Mgr. for Medshare, which recovers & distributes surplus medical supplies. Call Susan, 925-718-5214, for reservations & information.

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

Scholarship applications. The applications for Livermore students for college scholarships from the Pedrozzi Foundation are now available online at www.pedrozzi-foundation.org. The deadline for finalizing all applications will be March 1, 2010 by 5:00 pm. This is also the deadline for receipt of all sealed, official transcripts. The Pedrozzi Scholarship Foundation will be awarding many annual and multiple year scholarships to graduates of the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District.

Retired Educators' Scholarship: Up to six scholarships, each worth \$1,500.00, are offered by the Tri-Valley Retired Educators Scholarship Foundation. The awards are offered to high-school graduating seniors and college/university students. All applicants must

be planning a career in education. Requirements are: a) applicants must be residents of the Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin or Sunol area, b) high school applicants must be seniors planning to attend a four-year college in fall, 2011, c) community college applicants must be qualified to transfer as juniors to a four-year institution in fall, 2011, d) 4-year college applicants must be sophomores who will continue as juniors in fall, 2011. Questions about the scholarship should be sent to greegno@pacbell.net or call 925-443-6097. Application packets for the scholarships can be downloaded at the retired educators' website www.div85.caltra.org/. Application deadline is March 7, 2011.

2nd Annual California Newt Festival, Augustin Bernal Park, Pleasanton, Sat., Feb. 12, 2011, 9 to 10 a.m. Learn about the natural history of amphibians, particularly the spectacular California Newt and its interesting cycle of life. In the heat of the summer they burrow deep into the earth to stay cool, and come out after the first rain of the season to make the long trek to their ancestral breeding ponds. Participants will help take a count of newts as part of an annual survey on this unique adventure for all ages. Fee: \$9 for residents/\$12 for non-residents. Call (925) 931-5340 for information or to register, or register online at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/recreation.html.

Disability Action Network (DAN) meeting, second Thursday of each month at 2:00 pm, Livermore CRIL office, 3311 Pacific Ave., Livermore. The Disability Action Network is a group of people with all kinds of disabilities who are working together to make changes in the community. The group works on health care, housing, access, attendant programs, transportation, and other issues affecting people with disabilities. For more information, please call Jessica Lehman at (510) 881-5743 x5937.

Living Valentine, Visiting Angels of Livermore, visit to a veteran in Livermore during February, \$50 donation provides a tour visit by a certified caregiver. Valentine's include a personal message from the donor and a knit cap for the veteran. Call 443-1000 for information.

RELIGION

Tri-Valley Unity Church, 2260 Camino Ramon, San Ramon. Class for children, ages 1-10, during church service, 10 to 11:15 a.m. Ongoing adult classes and small groups. All are welcome. (925) 829-2733. www.trivalleyunity.com

Spiritual Reiki Group The Japanese system of Reiki is a spiritual practice which uses meditations, chanting, visualizations, and hands-on energy group work so that we can connect to our true nature. No prior Reiki experience is necessary. On the first and third Saturdays of every month, 10-11:45 a.m. at Tri-Valley Unity's Gathering Place, 7567 Amador Valley Blvd., #120, Dublin. Contact Gayle at gstaehle@comcast.net.

Community Bible Study Class, book of Luke will be the topic of study in Pleasanton at Valley Bible Church. CBS is a non-denominational Bible study ministry open to all women, with a special children's program for ages 0-5 years old. The class meets on Thursdays from 9:30-11:30AM beginning 9/9/10 and goes until 5/12/11. More information about the CBS program and registration available by contacting Sharon at 925-399-5072, or email bobsharonmerrill@gmail.com.

Granadon Baptist Church, 945 Concanon Boulevard, Livermore. Services: Sunday

school - 9:45 a.m.; worship service - 11 a.m. All are welcome. 1-888-805-7151.

Seventh-day Adventist Church, 243 Scott Street, Livermore. 925-447-5462, services on Saturday: Sabbath school 9:30 a.m., worship 11 a.m. www.livermoresda.org/ All are welcome.

Stepping Stones on Grief Journey, Grief Ministry bi-monthly sessions, Catholic Community of Pleasanton. Feb., 10, 24 and Mar. 10, 24, 7:30 p.m. St. Elizabeth Seton, 4001 Stoneridge Dr., Pleasanton. No preregistration required. Open to all regardless of religious affiliation. Please call Mary Hagerty, 846-5377, for more information.

A Call to Justice: Amos/Micah/Hosea, is the theme of the St. Charles/St. Michael's Bible Study for January 24-March 7. God stood by his people and did the right thing for them - the Bible calls this "justice." All are invited to join the bible study group on Monday evenings from 7:30-9:00 pm at St. Charles Borromeo, 1315 Lomitas Ave., in Livermore. To reserve materials (cost \$10) or have questions call Julie at 925-447-4549 ext 114 or at upatholic@aol.com.

Engaging Spirituality, series sessions Monday evenings, offers daily practices for living deeply. Twenty-one week program starts Mon., Jan. 24, 7 to 9 p.m. St. Michael's Church, 458 Maple St., Livermore. Sponsored by St. Michael Parish Social Concerns Ministry. For more information and directions to the meeting location, call Carolyn Owens, 447-8987.

The deaf community is invited to worship at First Presbyterian Church in Livermore, where ASL translation will be provided every Sunday at 10:30 A.M. The church is located on the corner of 4th and L streets.

Love Never Ends: An afternoon for married couples, Sun., Feb. 13, 2 to 6 p.m. St. Michael Catholic Church, 458 Maple St., Livermore, in the parish hall. Couples from World Wide Marriage Encounter will share testimonials on refreshing marriages, faith in the home and celebrating life together. Information, Debbie Post, Faith Enrichment Team Coordinator, Information at DebbieJaneStine-man@yahoo.com, 443-5314.

Divorce Care, Valley Bible Church, 7106 Johnson Dr., Pleasanton, 13-week seminar and support group for people going through divorce or separation. Video shown each night featuring experts on various topics such as controlling anger, forgiveness, caring for kids, and managing finances. The group meets on Tuesdays 7 to 9 p.m. starting March 8. There is a one-time charge for the workbook and other materials of \$25. Preregistration is required. Contact Mark Porter at 846-9693 or mporter@hotmail.com.

Concert, featuring Yogi musician Dada and his band Eternal Wave. Tues., Mar. 1, 7 p.m., at Tri-Valley Unity, 2260 Camino Ramon, San Ramon, (Gayle at 925-925-3143). Suggested donation \$15. See his website www.eternalwave.com Dada will also perform Feb. 27 during 10:00 a.m. service and follow with a meditation/ chanting workshop - \$10 suggested donation, kids free. All are welcome. Dada specializes in spiritual eco-folk music and kirtan singing.

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.

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