

Art, Community, & Education

Luna Negra Dance Theater Return to Coincide with New Exhibit by Cuban Artists



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.

First 4th Fund-raiser Finalized

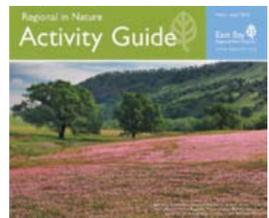
The community is invited to an evening of food, wine, beer, entertainment and fun while raising money to bring back the Livermore July 4th firework display and celebration.

The event will be held Thurs., March 22 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Robert Livermore Community Center - Cresta Blanca Room, 4444 East Avenue, Livermore.

Tickets are \$20 at the door. A local favorite, vocalist and guitarist Roger Kardinal, will provide entertainment for the evening as light appetizers complement the wine and beer tastings. A raffle will be held for gift baskets and autographed sports memorabilia.

The evening is one of the ways the Livermore Fireworks Committee is planning to raise funds to bring back the Livermore July 4th firework display and celebration. After the annual Fourth-of-July festivities fell victim to budget cuts and were cancelled in 2011, a group of community members gathered to form the Livermore Fireworks Committee, and is operating under the non-profit umbrella of the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARP) Foundation. Parking and admission fees collected at Robertson Park, the closest location to the firework display, cover less than a quarter of the costs of the event, so the remaining costs need to be covered by community donations and corporate sponsorships.

The committee is confident that the community will financially support the effort to bring back the Livermore fireworks since watching the firework display is an annual tradition for many throughout the city, not just



The East Bay Regional Park District activity guide for March-April can be found inside this week's Independent. The insert includes information about such activities as Park'n It in Summer Day Camp, Pole Walking, Kayaking Big Break and others.



RABBIT ADOPTION

Hi. My name is Winston. I'm a young dwarf Dutch boy, 2 1/2 lbs big. I'm friendly, and lots of fun. Meet Winston at the Livermore Petco this weekend from 1-3 pm Saturday and Sunday. Rabbits and volunteers will be on hand at the Livermore Petco, 4500 Las Positas Rd, and the Dublin Petco, 11976 Dublin Blvd. both days. For more info, call 925-519-1723, or email ebrabbit@comcast.net. www.eastbayrabbit.petfinder.com to see more pet profiles.

National Report: Broken Relationship Threatens Research Quality At LLNL

By Jeff Garberson

A "broken relationship" threatens to erode the quality of research being conducted at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and its companion national defense laboratories in New Mexico, according to a report by the National Research Council.

The relationship referred to is between the laboratories and their federal sponsor, the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA). The New Mexico laboratories are Los Alamos and Sandia National Laboratories. Sandia also operates a laboratory in Livermore.

The management review was undertaken at the request of Congress. A study committee visited Lawrence Livermore and the other laboratories last year to take public testimony, much of which focused on the excessive governmental controls and high overhead costs.

NNSA's security and safety policies came in for particular criticism. In recent years, they have been so intrusive as to lead to a "breakdown of trust," according to the just-released report.

The report urges "NNSA, Congress, and top management of the Laboratories (to) recognize that safety and security systems at the Laboratories have been strengthened to the point where they no longer need special at-

tion."

Safety and security costs should be reduced "so that they do not impose an excessive burden on essential (science and engineering) activities," the report continues.

The report criticizes an ever tighter NNSA management approach that now has Site Offices next to the laboratories exercising "direct budget, regulatory and contract oversight, and administrative authority." The

immediate result, it said, has been "increased centralization of science and technology planning and direction" and "top-down tasking."

The Site Offices at Livermore and Los Alamos are "organized and staffed largely for monitoring compliance," according to the report. "This reflects mistrust" and undercuts the "balanced approach" that is needed for

(See RESEARCH, page 4)



Photo - DougJorgensen

Students prepare to take part in 'Hunger Games.'

"Hunger Games" stoke a love of reading

By Patricia Koning

At the Livermore Valley Charter School (LVCS) last Friday, all of the elements were there - the reaping bowl, the tributes, the cornucopia, even Caesar Flickman and Effie Trinket. Sound like *The Hunger Games*? To culminate the study of Suzanne Collins' best-selling young adult novel, LVCS sixth grade core teachers Judy Watkins and Heather Wenzler led their students through a reenactment of the key elements of the book.

"We wanted students to really connect to the book and under-

stand government oppression and corruption," explains Watkins. "This also ties into our study of ancient Rome and the gladiator games."

The book describes a post-apocalyptic, dystopian world set in the country of Panem, which is divided into 12 districts. After one of the districts rebelled against Panem's capital, the Hunger Games were devised as a way to keep Panem's subjects in line.

Each district must send two tributes, ages 12 to 18, to compete in the Hunger Games, a

televised battle to the death with great rewards for the winning district. The name of each boy and girl within the age range is entered yearly into their District's reaping bowl, from which the tributes are drawn. Youth can earn extra money and food for entering their names more often, resulting in the poor being over-represented in the reaping bowl.

In January, the teachers began putting their sixth grade students' names into their own reaping bowl. "We wanted to make inclusion in the reaping bowl a positive thing, so they were

entered for things like turning in homework and participating in class," says Wenzler.

The sixth grade math teachers incorporated the LVCS reaping bowl into their instruction, with an exercise in which each student calculated his or her chances of being chosen. Watkins and Wenzler divided their students into Districts 1 through 11.

"The students were very familiar with District 12, the home of the book's heroine Katniss Everdeen, so we used that as our

(See GAMES, page 8)

Livermore Endorses Transportation Spending

The Livermore City Council endorsed the Alameda County Transportation Commission transportation expenditure plan (TEP).

The TEP outlines how funds raised through the reauthorization of a countywide sales tax would be spent over the next 30 years. The TEP includes \$400 million to extend BART to Livermore.

Livermore would receive \$1.59 million each year for local streets and roads; \$370,000 for paratransit; and \$390,000 for bicycle and pedestrian projects,

amounting to over \$100 million over the next thirty years.

Other TEP projects benefiting the Tri-Valley include interchange improvements at Greenville Road, Vasco Road and Isabel Avenue, highway 84 improvements and widening, improvements to Greenville Road, Dublin Blvd., and El Charro extension to Stanley Blvd., gap closure and development of the Iron Horse Trail, and operating funds for LAVTA.

The resolution approved by the city council asks that the board of supervisors place the

tax measure on the November 2012 ballot.

If approved by two-thirds of county voters, the \$7.7 billion measure would extend and enhance the county sales tax, raising it from a half cent to a full cent. The tax would become permanent. Bob Vinn, assistant city engineer, told the council that the proposal requires that updates of the expenditure plan be approved by a majority of county voters at least every 20 years.

The measure is a one-time chance to obtain the funding, which for Livermore would be

seed money to obtain the total estimated for the BART extension. Special legislation allowed the election for November 2012 to add a half cent to the current half cent tax. If it were to pass, the TEP list would be built out.

The proposed measure will need to be supported by a majority of the cities representing a majority of the population in the county and the Board of Supervisors to qualify for the November 2012 ballot. The cities and county must vote up or down on the TEP. The Fremont City Council ap-

(See TEP, page 2)

BART Directors Approve Moving Livermore Project Ahead

BART directors unanimously authorized moving ahead to the next level of work on building an extension to Livermore.

At its meeting Feb. 9 in Oakland, the board agreed to proceed with a project-level EIR and the formation of a joint powers agreement (JPA) with Livermore and the Alameda County Transportation Commission (ACTC).

Director John McPartland, whose district includes Livermore, made the motion, which

was seconded by director Tom Radulovich of San Francisco.

Radulovich added an amendment that made clear the understanding that no capital improvement money for the Livermore extension would come from BART.

Directors from the older areas of BART service were worried that the Livermore project would have to tap into BART funds sometime in the future.

Directors said that BART has \$30 million in reserves, which

is a small sum compared to the overall budget. Further, BART faces the need for \$7.5 billion in improvements for the entire current system. Much of it is for replacement of train cars that are 40 years old.

The change doesn't conflict with Livermore's position. The city has said all along that the project could be built without BART funds.

The city is counting on voter approval of a countywide one-half cent sales tax enhancement

and extension in November. That would bring \$400 million to the project.

Another \$114 million is available to the project from bridge toll revenue and leftover Measure B money, said Livermore city engineer Cheri Sheets.

Some \$3 million of the \$114 million is left over from Measure B, which was a sales tax sponsored by ACTC. The remainder is bridge toll revenue split between \$95 million authorized by AB

(See BART, page 10)

Pleasanton Approves Police Union Contract

A new agreement with the Pleasanton Police Officers Association (PPOA) was approved last week by the Pleasanton City Council.

Police officers in attendance indicated they would also vote in support of the new agreement.

Under the new Memorandum of Agreement (MOU), there will be no pay increases. Union members will begin picking up employee retirement contributions; a two tier retirement program will be implemented; and retirement health benefits are changed. The new agreement is expected to save the city approximately \$2.4 million through the 2013-2014 budget. The current MOU expired May 31, 2011.

The expiration date of the proposed MOU is May 31, 2014, slightly over two years from the date the document becomes operationally effective.

City Manager Nelson Fialho stated, "This contract is for two years, which allows for adjustments should the economic situation change."

A member of the Tea Party and several police officers spoke to the council about the contract.

David Miller, Tea Party, said, "It is an outrage that the police are confronted with the reality of unsustainable promises made by irresponsible politicians. The current pensions are unsustainable. There needs to be a retirement plan that does not cause conflict between city staff and taxpayers as the stock market goes up and down."

The concern about pensions is the unfunded liability of \$137 million that the city is faced with backfilling. City Councilmember Cindy McGovern suggested that the pension payments that the police will be making could go towards reducing the liability. "I want to make sure that the

(See CONTRACT, page 5)

Retirement Allows Mayor to Spend More Time on City Business

Livermore Mayor John Marchand will retire from his job as a senior water quality chemist.

Marchand has worked for the Alameda County Water District in Fremont for over thirty years. He has been responsible for ensuring the safety of the drinking water. Marchand also served for 15 years on the Board of Directors of the Zone 7 Water Agency before being elected to the Livermore City Council in 2005.

Marchand was elected mayor in November of last year and has decided to focus his energies on serving the residents of Livermore.

"There are so many exciting things that are starting to happen in Livermore that I need to focus

(See RETIREMENT, page 9)

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PET OF THE WEEK

Maizy is an angelic dog with the sweetest face. At just about one year, she has a kind and gentle personality and boy, does she love her toys. If you are looking for a companion, Maizy will suite your desires. She could also be a lap dog if you would like, as she just adores people. Interested in learning more? Call 925-426-8656 or go online to www.valleyhumane.org or www.facebook.com/ValleyHumaneSociety to see other adoptable dogs and cats. Valley Humane Society is located at 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton. Photo by Aaron Czeszynski

GENETIC STUDIES OF PRE-HISTORIC RELATIVES

The increasing speed and accuracy of gene-sequencing techniques are enabling scientists to flesh out the relationships between today's human beings and our fellow humans from prehistory.

Earlier this month, an evolutionary anthropology team from Leipzig, Germany, posted online the entire genome of a young girl who died some 40,000 years ago in the Denisova cave in the Altai Mountains of southern Siberia.

The genome was developed from a few milligrams of DNA preserved in the fossilized finger of the girl in the cave's freezing temperatures. The Denisovans, as the girl and her extended family have since been called, were clearly human. However, their DNA was more closely related to that of the Neanderthals, who lived at about the same time, than to today's humans.

According to Leipzig anthropologist Bence Viola, "We think the Denisovan population inhabited most of eastern Eurasia in the same way that Neanderthals inhabited most of western Eurasia."

From this and other studies, it appears likely that humans interbred with both Denisovans and Neanderthals. Research has found that modern humans in Oceania carry about 5 percent Denisovan DNA and that southeast Asians carry about 1 percent Denisovan DNA. People outside Africa are thought to carry 1-4 percent Neanderthal DNA.

This month's posting of the complete genome is a fine example of international collaboration in science.

The Denisova cave is thought to have been occupied by early humans beginning some 280,000 years ago. Exploring there for remains that might shed light on human ancestry, Russian scientists Anatoly Derevianko and Michael Shunkov found the fossilized finger of the girl in 2008 and sent it to molecular geneticist Svante Pääbo and his colleagues at the Max Planck Institute of Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig.

The Max Planck anthropologists published a rough draft of the girl's genome in 2010 and continued to refine their work, planning to publish a more complete version later this year. But when Pääbo learned at a conference last month that other anthropologists were basing their research on his cruder 2010 findings, he arranged to post the more detailed genome promptly and publicly.

The ability to compare detailed sections of the genome with other, longer studied DNA samples should open important avenues of research into the twists and turns of evolution, according to Richard Green, a UC-Santa Cruz biomolecular engineer.

The new technology is "pretty powerful," he said. "Every spot on the genome has a unique evolutionary history, and we can now draw comparisons and identify where there were common ancestors."

SATELLITES REVEAL ICE MELT

NASA's twin GRACE satellites, which measure variations in gravitational pull with extreme sensitivity, have revealed the world's melting glaciers and ice caps in greater detail than was previously available.

Some of the satellites' findings have been unexpected, like the apparent absence of melting in the high mountains of Asia. However, the overall thrust of the research supports previous estimates that melting ice contributes nearly half to the steady rise of the world's oceans, currently at a rate of about 3.5 millimeters per year.



That rate is expected to increase with rising temperatures, because rising temperatures induce changes that in turn speed further warming. If the 3.5 millimeter rate were to continued unchanged, the oceans would rise about an inch every seven years.

Melting ice contributes about 1.5 millimeters per year to ocean rise, according to the NASA and other findings. That's about 1/16 inch. About .4 millimeters comes from glaciers and ice caps and 1.1 millimeters from Antarctic and Greenland ice, according to NASA.

GRACE stands for Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment. It is very much an international project. It extends work undertaken in the 1990s by Germany. GRACE is supported jointly by NASA and Germany's Aerospace Center. The satellites were launched by Russia in 2002. They travel in identical polar orbits 135 miles apart, communicating with each other and the ground by microwave so that their positions can be fixed to an accuracy of less than the width of a human hair.

GRACE measures gravity in 20 regions worldwide, giving it a comprehensive picture of ice loss and other factors that can influence changing gravitational fields.

John Wahr, a University of Colorado researcher, said the old way of estimating ice melt was to visit "a few easily accessible glaciers" and then extrapolate the melting to some 160,000 glaciers worldwide. Only 120 glaciers had been directly measured by the old method and only 37 of these had an archive of data going back at least 30 years or more, according to one report.

Beyond sensing any mass change in large ice formations, the GRACE satellites have provided the most detailed maps to date of variations in the Earth's gravitational forces. For example, it can measure the circulation of magma in the Earth and the gradual rebound of land masses that are no longer weighed down by two-mile-thick Ice Age glaciers.

It also measures human caused resource changes such as groundwater depletion. Like many other scientific programs, the gravitational measurements can have economic and policy implications. Climate is one example, resource management is another. Last year, an article in the New York Times described the reluctance of California officials to accept GRACE data suggesting groundwater shortages in California's Central Valley because of lowering aquifers caused by heavy irrigation.

Similarly, the article pointed out, the satellites' findings could influence relations between competitive and even hostile neighbors like India and Pakistan that share groundwater basins.

The GRACE satellites have already doubled the five-year lifespan estimated when they were launched a decade ago. Their low orbit of 300 miles gave them maximum gravitational sensitivity but shortened their lifespans. At that altitude, they occasionally plowed through wisps of atmosphere, slowing very slightly each time.

On-board instruments have detected the resulting drop in orbit, and thruster rockets routinely extended their mission by boosting them back toward their original altitude. There is enough rocket fuel on board to keep them going for several more years.

U.S. and German governments have so far only agreed to support their mission through 2015. Sometime after that, the very gravitational forces that the GRACE satellites have been measuring will pull them into the thicker part of the atmosphere, where they will be incinerated.

TEP

(continued from page one)

proved the TEP last week.

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

Vinn commented, "It is a balanced and equitable plan for the entire county. It literally includes something for everyone."

Members of the public supported Livermore's endorsement of the TEP. Several predicted it may be difficult to convince Livermore voters to support it. Ron Geren pointed out that people are skeptical about BART coming to Livermore after having paid for it for so long.

Kathy Streeter stated, "TEP is really well put together. We need to pull together to get out the vote."

Bob Baltzer pointed out that the measure is a lot more than BART. "However, BART to Livermore is the crucial piece. This is our one shot. It needs to be full BART, not a bus."

Robert Allen declared, "It's wonderful seeing Livermore residents pulling together to support BART to Livermore."

Mayor John Marchand said that the \$400 million in the measure combined with \$120 million from MTC goes a long way towards paying the estimated \$800 million cost of the extension. "We are really close. Money attracts money. It has

been really exciting to see people at loggerheads with each other now testifying together for the common good of the community to achieve a common goal."

RECYCLING, SINGLE BAG

The city council took no action on new Alameda County ordinances that deal with recycling and single bag use. That means that the city will implement the ordinances.

The city could have opted out of participating by approving resolutions stating its intention to do so.

The new mandatory recycling ordinance requires all business that generate four cubic yards or more of garbage per week and multi-family properties with five or more units to segregate recyclable materials beginning July 1, 2012. Recycling would involve cans, bottles and cardboard. A second phase, beginning July 1, 2014 would divert organics such as food scraps, yard waste and food contaminated paper.

Participation by the city is expected to increase diversion from landfills. It would not have a large impact on garbage rates, because increased recycling revenues can partially offset rate increases.

The single use bag ordinance bans the use of free single-use carryout bags and imposes a minimum 10 cent per bag for recycled content paper bags and reusable bags. The ordinance takes effect on Jan. 1, 2013. It would apply to larger retail businesses, with the exception of restaurants and nonprofit reuse organizations.

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VALLEY ROUNDUP

Police Officer Attacked

Debris thrown from the P Street railroad crossing struck a Livermore police officer, who suffered head trauma. The officer was transported to ValleyCare Medical Center for treatment. The officer has been placed on medical leave due to his injuries. The identity of the officer is being withheld.

Police believe that attack was planned with the intention of injuring the officer.

The incident occurred when the officer noticed large chunks of concrete in the road. The officer activated his emergency lights to notify traffic to yield while he cleared the roadway hazard. The officer notified the LPD dispatch center that he was clearing the debris from the roadway. Within moments of exiting his vehicle, the officer requested emergency assistance as he was having rocks and chunks of concrete thrown at him from the overcrossing. The officer reported 3-4 persons threw several rocks at him and then fled Westbound on the railroad tracks from P Street.

The chunks of concrete used during the assault were approximately 8" x 14" in size. The rocks used during the attack were the granite rocks that line the railroad tracks and are roughly 3 inches in diameter. The Livermore Police Department is still investigating the incident and is asking for the community's help in identifying the suspects. Anyone with information concerning this incident is urged to contact Livermore Police Officer Steve Goard at (925) 294-7531. Those who wish to remain anonymous may do so.

Haubert Endorsed

GOP Assembly candidate and fiscal conservative David Haubert announced several endorsements from local education leaders in his campaign to represent California's 16th Assembly District. These endorsements follow his earlier endorsement from former State Senator Richard Rainey.

Democrat Joan Buchanan is the incumbent. Dublin Unified School Board Member

Dan Cunningham was among those endorsing Haubert.

Haubert has served on the Dublin Unified School Board of Trustees. He points out that during his nine-year tenure, the District improved test scores every year, while maintaining a balanced budget and upgraded technology in the classrooms.

During his public tenure, Haubert has served on various community boards, including Alameda County Local Area Formation Commission (LAFCO), Anka Behavioral Health Inc. Board of Directors, Dublin United Soccer League Board of Directors 2010-2012, and as a volunteer for the Red Window Project, a non-profit committed to combating human trafficking.

Another Pedestrian Hit

A 16 year old male crossing S. Livermore Avenue in the marked crosswalk located between First St. and Railroad Ave. last Friday was struck by a driver who failed to see the pedestrian. S. Livermore Avenue was closed for approximately three hours during the investigation.

The collision is still under investigation.

This was the sixth injury collision in Livermore involving vehicles striking pedestrians since January first of 2012. Pedestrian involved injury collisions have been on the rise in Livermore for the last several years. In 2009 there were 10 pedestrians injured in roadway collisions. That number rose to 17 in 2010 and 18 in 2011. There have been no fatal pedestrian involved collisions in Livermore since 7/13/08 when a pedestrian was struck and killed as he ran across East Ave. near Jensen St.

The Livermore Police Department has three crosswalk enforcement operations planned during the next two months. During these enforcement efforts, LPD officers will be targeting specific crosswalks in town and will be citing drivers who fail to yield to pedestrians crossing the roadway within those marked crosswalks.

If there are questions regarding pedestrian safety, or general traffic issues, contact the Livermore Police Department Traffic Unit at (925) 371-4850.

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Environmental Work Begins on Oak Grove Plan

The City of Pleasanton will begin preparing a supplemental environmental impact report for a proposed development on the Oak Grove property.

The 562 acres in the southeast hills of Pleasanton is owned by the Lin family. A previously approved 51-unit project was successfully referended in June 2012.

The Lins have now submitted a plan for 10 residential units. The ten custom home sites would range between 16 and 214 acres in size, utilizing the entire 562 acres. According to the city, the locations for the homes were selected to reduce the effects of home construction on the existing topography, viewsheds, trees and wetlands. The home sites would be accessed via a private road extending from Hearst Drive.

A proposed trail easement would cross the site from north to south.

The 10-unit development is exempt from the provisions of Measures PP and QQ, ridgeland protection ordinances approved by voters. Measure PP specifically exempts 10-unit developments.

The city is taking comments on the proposed scope and content of the supplemental EIR. Responses should be sent to Steve Otto at sotto@cityofpleasanton-ca.gov by March 15, 2012.

The Lin family currently has two lawsuits against Pleasanton moving forward in the courts. At the center of the lawsuits is the 51 unit custom home Oak Grove development designed for the site of the 10-unit development.

One lawsuit involves an appeal of a court decision issued earlier this year that dismissed a lawsuit challenging whether a development agreement was voided along with the planned unit development (PUD) ordinance for Oak Grove. The second legal action, is a complaint asking for damages.

Two Oak Grove ordinances were approved by the city council. One was a development agreement; the second was a planned unit development. Each contained a poison pill that states that if one of the ordinances were invalidated, the other ordinance would also be invalid.

The original suit was dismissed by Alameda County Superior Court Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers. In her decision, Judge Rogers wrote that the plain terms of both ordinances indicate that both ordinances would be set aside in the event of a successful referendum of one. Once the referendum occurred, the condition that would invalidate the ordinance came to pass and no contractual duty was created.



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EDITORIALS

Leading by Example

The Pleasanton Police Officers Association (PPOA) deserves recognition for stepping up to the plate to help the city through the current economic downturn.

PPOA agreed to a new contract that will take up to \$1000 out of the pockets of police officers, while saving the city \$2.4 million through the 2013-2014 budget. There will be no new pay increases. Union members will begin paying the employee retirement contribution. There will be a second retirement system for new hires.

Dave Batoy, president of the police union, told the council, "We are realistic and understand these are not financially optimum times. We are supporting this because we don't want to see services cut for Pleasanton residents."

City Manager Nelson Fialho commented on the new contract by thanking the police union for "leading by example." It is a sentiment echoed by The Independent.

Strong Superintendent

Kelly Bowers, Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District Superintendent of Schools, was selected as Superintendent of the Year by the California School Administrators (ACSA), Region 6.

The region includes Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.

Through Bowers' efforts, the school district has built stronger ties within the district and the community. She has accomplished this by providing quarterly updates to the community and website alerts, to name a few. She can be found representing the district at almost every public function.

Bowers has emphasized demonstrating to the District and community that "we are thriving not just surviving."

Board President Bill Dunlop said, "She has a fantastic vision of what the education programs of our District need to become. She is superb at getting the teachers, staff, and the School Board to work toward the vision of meeting the needs of all students to prepare them for success when they graduate from the Livermore School District."

Bowers is deserving of the recognition as Superintendent of the Year. She is living up to her proclaimed goals to "Inform, Include, Inspire, and Innovate."

RESEARCH

(continued from page one)

maximizing "scientific flexibility" without sacrificing security, health and safety.

The report was particularly emphatic about the importance of high quality experimental work at the Laboratories and the negative role of NNSA in making it more difficult.

"Experimentation leads to discovery, and also provides essential validation for modeling and simulation," the report stated.

By contrast, NNSA's approach to management has become so formal and distrustful as to undercut the experimental process. NNSA's "checklist-based methods are demonstrably valuable for high-risk tasks, but onerous when nimble thinking and innovation are required," according to the report.

The study committee was told by scientists, engineers "and some managers at all three labs" that "experimentation is becoming more difficult to pursue, and therefore less common, because of burdensome steps that must be completed associated with purchasing, safety checks and certifications, and so on.

"Thus, there is already some evidence that science and engineering at the Laboratories are relying less on experimentation, which has worrisome implications for the S&E (science and engineering.)"

The report went on to cite personal testimonials by staff at both Livermore and Los Alamos illustrating the damage to scientific quality.

A Los Alamos "senior staff member" wrote:

"When I started as a young postdoc...there was a social contract... You will never get rich in science, but we treat you as adults, respect you for your commitment, and in turn you can pursue science and have fun." Today, this contract is badly broken....

"How else...explain the fact that today the signatures of (3-4 people) are required if I want to take my laptop...to work from home? I also need to write a half page justification why I want to work from home. If I want to attend (a professional physics conference,) I need signatures of (five people)...Where academic freedom once reigned...we have today a Lab totally driven by risk averseness. We are drowning in paperwork and regulations. I know of three world-class scientists just in my group, who left... because they could not work in

this environment anymore."

From a Lawrence Livermore employee "with over three decades of experience":

"I have seen our efficiency drop by at least a factor of two over the last two decades. The inefficiency accelerated after the contract change from (University of California) to (Lawrence Livermore National Security, the new for-profit contractor.) The Lab is being micro-managed by (the U.S. Department of Energy, of which NNSA is an autonomous unit), and now the new contractor, to the detriment of this country. I worked hard, and I'm sometimes frustrated by the bureaucracy....It seems that concern about risks overrides scientific progress constantly. Often times, I will not initiate or take on difficult R&D assignments because of the unfunded hoops I have to jump through."

The report cited anecdotal concern about the possibility that "young, talented scientists and engineers" might not want to work at the Laboratories, but it "did not find data" indicating that this was a problem. On the other hand, it pointed out, it is hard to be sure since "the Labs may be benefiting from reduced employment prospects caused by the current recession." As the economy improves, the report cautions, "The Labs should not be complacent about their ability to attract and retain staff."

Some who spoke to the study committee worried that morale and concern for the public interest might have suffered after a for-profit contractor took over management of the Livermore and Los Alamos laboratories. However, the review committee "did not see evidence of that," according to the report.

"When Laboratory employees were questioned about heavy-handed bureaucratic processes, they could not point to their origin; that was true even for managers."

The review committee applauded the broadening of laboratory missions into non-weapons areas, including work for agencies other than DOE and NNSA. This work makes the laboratories more attractive destinations for talented scientists and engineers, who bring a range of skills and talents that can then strengthen basic missions.

It is not, however, new. All three of the laboratories have had non-nuclear and non-weapons programs for decades.

Labs Host Networking Seminar On Integrating Renewable Energy

By Patricia Koning

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) and Sandia National Laboratories, in partnership with the City of Livermore and the I-GATE Innovation Hub, on Monday kicked off a seminar and network series called "Get to Know Your Labs." The first event, held at the Robert Livermore Community Center, focused on the integration of renewables in light of the new state mandate to provide 33% renewable energy across California by 2020.

"The Get to Know Your National Labs seminar series is part of a larger effort to reach out to the community and better communicate what the local national laboratories do," said Buck Koonce, LLNL's Director of Economic Development. "It

also allows us to describe how businesses can work with the two Labs, license our technologies, and learn about unclassified research projects."

Approximately 75 people attended the seminar representing both technology companies and community economic development from the Tri-Valley, Fremont, Tracy, and Brentwood.

After introductions by Koonce and Erik Stenehjelm, director of LLNL's Industrial Partnerships Office, Debbie May, Director of Industry Relations, moderated a panel on obstacles to integrating renewables featuring John Grosh, Deputy Associate Director for Computations; Patrick Dempsey, Manager of Strategic Engagements for LLNL; Bob Burleson, Program Manager CES-21; Nalu

Kaahaaina, Low-Energy Carbon Program Leader; and Liang Min, Grid Operations Lead at LLNL.

Dempsey noted many challenges facing utilities and stakeholders in integrating energy from renewable energy — cyber attacks, distributed generation, additional storage requirements, dependency on weather conditions, and the impact of electric cars. Grosh pointed out that LLNL's High Performance Computing Innovation Center, which is part of the Livermore Valley Open Campus, can help with some of the engineering problems.

"The mission of this center is to enable industry access to high performance computing," he said. "There are three challenges to using high performance

computing: lack of expertise, software, and access to hardware. We foresee being able to bring our resources to bear on the most challenging problems."

After the panel, attendees chose between three breakout sessions: models for planning the integration of renewables; forecasting and grid operations; and non-technical barriers to renewable integration. The event concluded with a networking wine mixer.

"We think this seminar was a great first step toward our goal of reaching out and working with the business community in the greater Tri-Valley area and beyond," said Koonce. Sandia will host the next seminar in the series later this year. The topic has not yet been determined.

Chinese Company Invests \$25 Million In Bridgelux

A Chinese company has agreed to invest \$25 million in Bridgelux, the Livermore-based LED lighting company announced.

The Chinese company, Kaistar Lighting (Xiamen) Co., Ltd., is situated in Xiamen, a city of about 3.5 million on the southeast coast of China.

The \$25 million is an equity investment, meaning Kaistar Lighting will become part owners of the local firm, a Bridgelux spokesperson confirmed. The fraction of Kaistar's ownership was not disclosed.

The Bridgelux spokesperson said that the investment will not mean a change in employment numbers in the Livermore facility. Bridgelux now employs 189 in Livermore and another 37 elsewhere, the spokesperson said.

Bridgelux moved its headquarters to Livermore nearly two years ago with an initial staff of about 150. Company CEO Bill Watkins anticipates continued growth in the industry. In particular, he sees solid state lighting shooting upwards from \$3 billion today to \$25 billion in 2015.

Bridgelux received a local

boost last year when it was chosen by Chevron Energy Solutions from among many competitors to provide a high efficiency lighting demonstration for the City of Livermore. Bridgelux wasn't chosen because it was local but because it had the most promising technology, according to Livermore Chamber of Commerce executive director Dale Kaye.

Kaye called Bridgelux a "wonderful" company to have based in Livermore, both because of its commercial potential and its enthusiasm for keeping work

in the U.S. as much as possible.

A Bridgelux statement announcing the Kaistar investment said the resources would be used to "accelerate research, development and production of LED chip and packaging technology for general illumination applications."

General illumination refers to commercial building lighting, outdoor lighting, retail and residential lighting, as opposed to computer and television screen backlighting, a spokesperson said.

MAILBOX

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

BART Around the Bay

Robert S. Allen

BART Director (1974-1988)
Livermore

One Bay Area? MTC and ABAG would better seek BART around the Bay and reaching out rather than just dense housing around transit stations. Recast and update the superb 1957 rapid transit report whose first phase brought us BART. Drop the North Bay for now and add Santa Clara County, as the report proposed.

Five counties with six million people ring San Francisco Bay. Unified rail transit could bring us together and cure many of our regional problems. It could build on the best of both BART and Caltrain. This balanced plan would likely:

A. Grade separate Caltrain from Millbrae to San Jose and add a freight track.

B. Convert that Millbrae-San Jose Caltrain to BART.

C. Convert Millbrae-San Francisco Caltrain to SF Muni.

D. Extend BART through Livermore to ACE and beyond the Altamont (to Grant Line Road/I-580).

E. Extend BART from San Francisco's Civic Center station to the Presidio and Golden Gate Bridge.

F. Extend BART along I-80 from El Cerrito Del Norte to a Crockett intermodal.

G. Convert eBART to BART and extend it to Brentwood.

H. Extend BART from Berryessa over US 101, to SJSU and Diridon in San Jose, looping the Bay.

I. Reroute the Capitol Corridor via Mulford and grade separate East Bay Capitol Corridor tracks.

Except for subway in San Francisco and San Jose and a short Altamont tunnel, most of this is at grade and hence lower cost.

BART's 1962 bond issue was paid off a decade ago. A similar bond issue today, adjusted for population in the five counties and inflation would yield about \$16 Billion. Let BART, ABAG, and MTC propose such a study, develop a balanced plan, and bring it to the voters. That's the best route to One Bay Area.

Hard Hearted Women Candye Roberts Pleasanton

Recent events reveal a growing hard-heartedness in many women when it comes to the is-

sue of defending human life.

Last week, the Susan G Komen Foundation published their decision to stop giving grant money to Planned Parenthood. A spokesperson from Susan G explained that they had changed the criteria for their grant recipients — they didn't want to fund organizations under investigation by the US government, which Planned Parenthood is, and that they were going to stop grants to PP because PP didn't even do the mammograms—they just referred women to other places that DID do a mammogram/breast exam.

So it seems Planned Parenthood was taking grant money just to act as a middle man regarding breast health — they didn't perform any medical test or breast screening themselves. Imagine that in one room where they give a woman a smile and a referral slip to get a mammo somewhere else, in the room next door, a nurse gives a woman a pat on the shoulder, tells her it will all be over soon, and proudly performs the procedure to end the life of an unborn little girl. Why is that worthy of one single Susan G. Komen Foundation grant dollar?

A day after the defunding, we heard the fallout from the Komen decision — women facebooked and emailed Susan G to demand the organization continue to give money to an abortion mill who doesn't even provide mammograms! Women, mothers, grandmothers, daughters DEMANDING donor money continue to go to a "breast screening middle man" who performs abortion.

Astonishing. Only women have been blessed with the gift of growing a life inside of their own bodies and yet many hearts have grown cold and calloused to this gift and miracle. Worse yet, the Susan G Komen Foundation caved to the demands of hard-hearted pro-abortion women and reinstated their PP grants, even though people such as Michael Bloomberg had stepped up with \$250,000 for PP. I am befuddled at what the so-called "women's movement" appears to have produced: an unabated passion for killing the unborn. So, it would seem that if you are a Susan G. Komen breast cancer prevention donor or walker, you are now a pro-abortion donor and walker. I have often wondered if one of the nearly 50 million aborted babies would have been the one to discover the cure to breast cancer.

On a final note, The Affordable Health Care Act aka Obama Care, will be offering grants for school based health clinics. Parents, you should know that anything that happens between your daughter and the health care clinician must remain private. Since Obamacare will already cover costs of hospitalization, outpatient care, home care, medical equipment, mental health and drug abuse, what possible need could there be for a separate "secret" health care clinic at a

school? I suspect abortion advocates have the answer.

City Fees Joanne P. Hottendorf Livermore

My family recently experienced the tragedy of a home robbery. The thief smashed through our front door and stole a few thousand dollars of our personal belongings. Aside from the stolen items, the front door needed replacing. It was very expensive to replace not only the front door, but the jamb needed to be replaced too.

The City of Livermore charges \$185.00 for a permit for "improvements to the exterior of a home." I phoned the Permit Center of Livermore to tell them we were not improving or enhancing the exterior of the home, we were repairing damage from the break in. The difference is obvious. As victims of a crime we should not have to pay the \$185.00 fee. I was told flat out that there is NO EXCEPTION to the required fee, robbery victims are still required to pay. That is just cruel on the city's part, adding insult to injury. So, on top of the insurance deductible, we have to pay the City of Livermore for the privilege of repairing our home damaged by the criminal.

I just thought that the citizens should know what their city is up to and it is no good.

Case Against Prop 8 Rev. Lucas Hergert Minister, Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore

Prop 8 is about religious freedom. The recent federal court decision against the 2008 ballot initiative is a win not only for gay men and lesbians. It's also a victory for the free exercise of faith in this country.

Thousands of clergy from different traditions welcome the day when we can officiate marriages for our gay and lesbian parishioners. In the United Church of Christ and the Unitarian Universalist Association, these unions will have full denominational backing.

Many states, like California, prohibit religious leaders from performing marriages that our traditions regard as legitimate and holy. This is a clear violation of the First Amendment. By denying us this right, the government prevents us from exercising our religious freedom.

Those who argue otherwise use a tortured logic. They suggest that equal marriage somehow infringes upon their liberties. Not so. No law would demand that a religious group perform marriages against its will. Equal marriage simply allows religious groups that wholeheartedly endorse those unions to do so.

Will Prop 8 be defeated by the Supreme Court? For the sake of religion in this country, it's in my prayers.

Environmentalists William Beiriger Livermore

It's time we say no to what the environmental programs are doing to the THINK GREEN process of this country.

We have tried to make use of more and more green energy over many decades before we called anything GREEN. The first green energy that was adopted was hydropower. But, the environmentalists came along and complained that the dams were killing the fish and also doing away with white water rafting.

Then we had nuclear power come on line and the environmentalists put a stop to new nuclear power plants. But, one of the best known of their group, Ansel Adams, said that nuclear power was the best way to go until a substitute source could be found.

Then we tried wind power, but again the environmentalists have complained that we are killing the raptors that fly along the Altamont Pass. So, the wind power industry has developed new larger windmills that turn at a much slower speed, which give the raptors a better chance to survive.

Down in the area near Barstow, CA a new form of energy was developed that used the sun to heat a boiler on the top of a tall tower to form steam that in turn turned a turbine. That idea fell to the wayside because the birds that flew thru the light beams from the solar collector panels were fried by the heat.

We have geothermal power at The Geysers near Cloverdale. This power plant has generated electrical power for many years, but the environmentalists have complained about that noise and some of the minerals that are given off by the steam that comes out of the ground are bad for the environment.

Now we have started to install solar voltaic panels to generate power from sunlight, in areas across the United States, only to have the environmentalists complain that the panels on the Altamont Pass will send the raptors into the windmills. Remember, these wind turbines are being upgraded to protect the birds.

European countries are far ahead of the United States with their clean power projects, including every one of the above types of energy.

I think it's time that the environmentalists come down to earth and give our new energy forms a chance to make this world a cleaner place to live.

If they keep complaining and stopping progress then, we should turn off the Gas, Electricity and Water to the houses of every environmentalist in the United States. And, we should NOT let them put Solar Panels on their rooftops, not allow them to put a wind turbine in their yards and not let them put water wells in their yards.

Then they will see what it was like to live in the Stone Age.

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CONTRACT

(continued from page one)

changes in the contract go towards sustaining current and future pensions."

Fialho said that is something the council could discuss during its upcoming budget talks.

Dave Batoy, president of the police union, told the council, "We support the contract even though it will have a financial impact on each officer, with up to \$1000 per month coming out of pocket of each officer. We are realistic and understand these are not financially optimum times. We are not supporting this contract because we are being pressured into it by radical Tea Party extremists, but because we don't want to see services cut for Pleasanton residents."

Other police union members made similar comments.

PPOA includes 83 sworn police employees, 61 police officers and 12 police sergeants.

Councilmember Jerry Thorne commented, "The contract moves towards a sustainable retirement plan."

In the new contract, the cost to fund the CalPERS pension program is comprised of two parts. The first is a variable employer rate which is expressed as a percentage of salary for covered PPOA employees. In FY

2011/2012, this rate is 24.1%. The second is a fixed 9% contribution for which members are responsible. The City has been paying the 9% contribution on behalf of its PPOA employees based on an agreement reached in previous years in lieu of the employees receiving salary adjustments. In the current contract discussions, agreement was reached for the PPOA employees to pay the full 9% member contribution over a span of a year and a half.

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

Police personnel currently participate in a CalPERS risk sharing pool for agencies with less than 100 active members, and have the 3% at 50 formula pension program. The agreement reached implements a 3% at 55 program, with the retirement calculation based on the three highest years' earnings. This program will realize substantial savings over the long term for the City once all employees are on the less costly retirement program. In addition, it allows the Police Department to remain competitive in attracting and retaining high quality candidates.

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

Fialho concluded by thanking the police union for "leading by example."

APPEAL OF PROPOSED HOUSE UPHeld

In other action, the city council upheld an appeal of a planning commission approval of a new home to be built in the downtown.

The vote was 3 to 2 with Jerry Thorne and Jennifer Hosterman in the minority. Cheryl Cook-Kallio summed up the council majority view, "I think the home is just plain too big for the lot."

Cindy McGovern and Matt Sullivan also felt that further applications to build in the historic downtown should await the conclusion of the task force

working on historic preservation guidelines.

The new house was proposed for a lot on Neal Street. The new home would have replaced a 480 square foot home with what staff described as "a significantly larger home." There was no agreement on the actual square footage of the proposal, since there had been adjustments made in response to concerns raised by the planning commission.

The staff noted that the home to be demolished was found to have no historical significance.

The appeal was submitted by Christine and Brian Bourg. Christine argued that the home does have historic value, because it was owned by the Hall family. "Fred and E.E. Hall were prominent businessmen. They grew hay that likely fed Seabiscuit. The two were among those who brought the county fair to Pleasanton and E.E. Hall served as first president of the fair board."

During the public hearing, there was both support and opposition to the application. Supporters said it was a good design that would fit in well with the neighborhood. Opponents said it was too big and would change the character of the area.

Science on Saturday Lecture Looks at 'Space Junk'

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory scientist John Henderson and teacher Tom Shefler will present "Space Junk: Traffic Cops in Space," at the next Science on Saturday lecture on Sat., Feb. 18.

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

Our society is reliant on satellites for many important everyday activities: travel, farming, communication and entertainment, for example. As we launch more satellites, the risk of a satellite colliding with another or a piece of space junk increases, threatening satellite services we depend on. This presentation will review the many ways we use satellites, how space collisions happen, how much of a danger space collisions are, and what can be done to prevent them. In addition, the presenters discuss how collisions in space have surprising results because of their extremely high speeds, why most satellites simply cannot maneuver out of the way of

space junk, and why supercomputers are part of the solution to minimizing collisions.

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.

This year the Lab is expanding the availability of the talks by streaming them live via the LLNL Facebook page. To access the talks on Facebook, go to www.facebook.com/livermore.lab

BINGO

FEB. 18, 2012 • 6:30PM

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College Board to Consider Planned Parenthood Counseling Services

The governing board for Las Positas College is set to approve Planned Parenthood's counseling services for the college's health center. At least one Valley resident plans to be there in opposition.

The Chabot-Las Positas Community College District board will meet at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 21 at its headquarters, 5020 Franklin Drive, Pleasanton.

The college already provides pregnancy and contraceptive counseling at its health care center from Mondays through Thursdays. It is provided by ValleyCare Health System as part of the medical clinic on campus. Las Positas pays ValleyCare from student fees.

The college wants to extend that service for Fridays, when none is available. The class load at Las Positas is lighter on Fridays. The college has found a way to provide the service without paying for it. If approved by the board, Planned Parenthood would be working under a contract with no financial obligation by the college.

When Kathy Redmond of Pleasanton read about the proposed addition in the college's student newspaper, she was concerned about it.

She has no objection to information about contraception per se. She realizes that there won't be any abortions performed

on campus. However, Planned Parenthood has clinics where abortions are performed. Redmond said that that goes against a college's values.

Now a nurse, Redmond at one time taught English at a community college, so the connection between educational values and the consideration of who will provide the service is important, she said.

Redmond told The Independent that Planned Parenthood says that only 3 percent of its services go toward abortions, and 97 percent for contraception materials distribution and information and pregnancy counseling.

However, Redmond said that her look at the internet on a pro-life web site shows a much higher percentage of Planned Parenthood resources devoted to abortion.

Donna McNichol is director of expansion for Planned Parenthood Mar Monte in San Jose, which would sign the LPC contract. She said that only 3 percent of Planned Parenthood activity at Mar Monte is connected to abortions. These figures are audited annually by the state, she said.

There won't be any abortions performed at LPC. Student Health Services at LPC approached Planned Parenthood to provide the service, said McNichol. "The bottom line is that at Las Positas, there will be only

reproductive health services," said McNichol.

LPC president Kevin Walters said that he was unable to comment for this story, because all such questions have to be asked at the district headquarters level.

The district's vice chancellor of business services, Lorenzo Legaspi, said that a vote on signing a contract with Planned Parenthood was due at the board's regular meeting in January. However, some directors held up the vote, because they wanted to double-check that the service would be at no cost to the college.

McNichol added that students will pay out of their own pockets, with many of them using health insurance coverage or a qualifying income-based program to cover the service.

College board trustee Carlo Vecchiarelli of Pleasanton said that he wasn't aware of any opposition. He did not have any fixed opinion, but did say that he represents everyone in his district, so he wants to hear all aspects of the question.

Trustee Barbara Mertes of Livermore said that she read the recommendation for signing the contract. "As a board member, I don't become involved with any real political issues at campuses. We try to work through proposals that are awkward or difficult," said Mertes.

4th OF JULY

(continued from page one)

those gathered at Robertson Park on July 4th.

Donations may also be mailed to: Livermore Fireworks c/o LARPD Foundation, 4444 East Avenue, Livermore, CA 94550

Make checks payable to LARPD Foundation with "FIREWORKS" noted in memo space. LARPD Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. For more information email livermorefireworks@gmail.com or call 925 963-8019.

Join Livermore Fireworks on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/Livermorefireworks>), follow us on Twitter (<http://twitter.com/livfireworks>), and visit the Livermore Fireworks website (<http://livermorefireworks.org/>). Meetings are held each Wednesday at 6 p.m. at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore.

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HEART HEALTH FREE EDUCATION SEMINAR



Presented by: Ramford Ng, MD
ValleyCare Medical Foundation Cardiologist

Date: February 29, 2012

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: ValleyCare Medical Plaza
5725 W. Las Positas Blvd, Pleasanton
2nd floor Conference Room
Pleasanton

Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in the United States; one in every three deaths is from heart disease and stroke. These conditions are also leading causes of disability preventing people from working and enjoying family activities.

Join us for a free education seminar presented by Dr. Ramford Ng, where he will discuss risk factors, early recognition and prevention of cardiovascular disease. Dr. Ng will also discuss general peripheral vascular disease screening.

Please register for this seminar by calling the ValleyCare Health Information Line at 1-800-719-9111 or visit valleycare.com/educationseminars.



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SPORTS NOTES



Race to Go Through Livermore Twice

The 2012 Amgen Tour of California professional road cycling race will go through Livermore twice during stage 3 of the 2012 edition. As part of stage 3, for the first time in the history of the race, the riders will climb Mt. Diablo.

Livermore is the stop city for Stage 3 on Tues., May 15. The start is at the Berryessa Community Center in San Jose and finish at First and M Streets in Livermore.

The seventh-annual event will travel more than 750 miles over eight days from May 13 - 20, 2012.

The start for stage 3 has been moved to north San Jose, just a few miles from the Sierra Road climb. While the riders won't be expected to tackle a Category 1 climb just two miles from the start as they have been in the past, the route into Livermore is one that the race has taken before: Calaveras Road and Highway 84.

While Livermore will be hosting their first stage finish in 2012, riders have raced thru the town during previous editions including the stage 4 start in 2011.

Just 28 miles into stage 3, the riders will contest a challenging sprint to the finish but the race will just be getting started. Heading out north on Livermore Avenue, the riders will likely face a stiff head wind coming down the valley. After passing through the town of Danville, the Amgen Tour of California will grant a wish that has been made for the past six years by riders and fans, a climb up Mt. Diablo.

After a fast and technical descent into Walnut Creek, the race will then head east into the Town of Clayton where the second sprint of the stage will take place. From Clayton, the race will connect back to a familiar route into Livermore. Just nine miles from the finish, the riders will likely tackle blustery winds as they battle the final King of the Mountain (KOM) of the stage up Patterson Pass Road followed by a quick descent that will take the race onto Cross and Tesla roads. On Livermore Avenue once again, it will be just a few miles to a sprint finish in historic downtown Livermore.

In celebration of the route announcement, each of the 14 Host Cities produced videos highlighting their respective stages. The videos are now posted on the official race website at www.AmgenTourofCalifornia.com. Each video includes specific route details, as well as individual city highlights.

"We take great pride in developing the route for the Amgen Tour of California, not only because it attracts the world's elite cyclists, but because it puts an international spotlight on California for eight days," said Kristin Bachochin, executive director of

the race and senior vice president of AEG Sports. "We spend countless hours poring over possible route scenarios and taking into account fan and rider suggestions before determining the final course; it is a true labor of love. We want to thank our Host Cities for creating the videos that highlight their stage route details and show what an amazing race this will be."

The Amgen Tour of California draws the world's top cyclists, including Tour de France competitors, Olympic medalists and world champions.

Volunteer registration for the race is now available on-line. Race organizers are looking to fill nearly 5,000 volunteer positions for the seventh-annual race, a majority of which are for the Course Marshal position, one of the more critical responsibilities during the race. Course Marshals provide support for the 75 professional Course Marshals who travel with the tour and support the local law enforcement authorities in each city. Course Marshals will be assigned a designated area along the race course to assist with the coordination and safety of the field of play for all race venues. They have an opportunity to be on the race route and close to the cyclists, with responsibilities for monitoring pedestrian traffic, barricades and road closures, as well as keeping spectators informed as the race is in progress. Course Marshal positions are for local stages only, not the entirety of the race.

Additional volunteer opportunities, such as media, security and volunteer check-in, are being recruited by the 14 individual Host Cities on an as-needed basis.

People looking to volunteer for the race can apply on the official race website, www.AmgenTourofCalifornia.com. Volunteers must be over the age of 18 or accompanied by an adult. Shortly after filling out the on-line form, volunteers will be contacted by the local organizing committee and receive further information.

For more information about the Amgen Tour of California and to view the stage videos, please visit www.AmgenTourofCalifornia.com.

Reed Plumbing Company
Livermore, CA
(925) 371-5671
davidreed@dareedplumbing.com
LIC #601931



Photo - Doug Jorgenson
Granada High School and Livermore High School players battled for control of the ball during a match last week. Granada was the winner, 1 to 0. Granada took on Pittsburg Wednesday night in the first round of NCS playoffs.



Pictured are Diamonds U10 Girls futsal championship team (left to right) Coach Ruben, Asst. Coach Katie Demillo, Holly McRitchie, Kayla Grisham, Luciana Garcia, Vanessa von Sosen, Raquel Espinosa, Celina Garcia, Coach Ralph, and Sophia Bueno (missing from photo - Jazmin Contreras).



The SM/SC 6th grade Flyers brought home a 2nd place trophy from the Tri-Valley CYO Championship. The game went down to the wire. With 7 seconds left, St. Raymonds took a final shot that dropped, putting them up by 1 point at the buzzer and taking the win away from SM/SC in overtime, 24-23. Walking off the floor for the last time this season with their heads held high were, (front row, left to right) team captain Katherine Gomez, Maddy Valone, Emma Zika, Maddy Stewart, Katie Fournier, Vanessa Barone, Emily March; (back) team captain Kate Marcel, Coach Tim, Lauren Rodgers, Coach Lori, Jessica Bennett and Aliyah Barone.

Livermore 52, Granada 15

Livermore High School men's varsity wrestling team defeated their cross town rival, Granada, 52-15 and improved their EBAL record to 6-2.

The Cowboys took an early lead with 2 forfeits in the heavy weights and 2 decisive wins at 106 and 113. Brandon Self scored the first Granada team points with a come from behind win at 119 followed by Granada wins at 126 and 132. Then the momentum shifted back to Livermore. The Cowboys swept the middle weights with 4 pins and a hard-fought overtime win by Jacob Bohland at 145 lbs. The duel ended with alternating pins by Granada senior Troy Gomez at 182 and Livermore Junior Alex Ezerski at 195.

Wednesday's duel was the last of the season for both teams and they head into the EBAL Championships on February 18.

106-Cortez (L) d Wright (G) 6-0; 113-Macasoal (L) md Kazowski (G) 8-0; 119-Self (G) d Sanchez (L) 6-4; 126-Castro (G) d Robles (L) 8-6; 132-Coburn (G) md Fabian (L) 16-4; 138-Lang (L) p Beltran (G) 1:21; 145-Bohland (L) d Campiotti (G) 7-5 OT; 152-Rardon (L) p Bailey (G) 3:09; 160-Baxter (L) p Cook (G) 2:19; 171-Morgan (L) p Robles (G) 1:33; 182-Gomez (G) p McNamey (L) 5:08; 195-Ezerski (L) p Bradanini (G) 0:50; 220-Neale (L) f; 285-Hernandez (L) f

Girls Futsal

Diamonds U10 Girls futsal team captured the futsal championship last Saturday by defeating P-town Bunch 8-2. The Diamonds dominated the game, allowing only one goal P-town Bunch in each half. Sophia Bueno, Kayla Grisham, Holly McRitchie,



Photo - Doug Jorgenson
Foothill High School goalie saves a shot by Amador Valley High School in EBAL action last week. Amador won the match, 1 to 0, and now moves on to the NCS playoffs. They took on Newark in a Wednesday night match.



Pictured with trophies are competitors from Taylor's Martial Arts in Livermore (back row) Joseph Ventura, Kyle Ford, Joseph Vitale, Sifu Wade Taylor, Katrina Curbelo, Brandon DeBorba, Vince Aying; (middle) Paul Curbelo, Jaden Husser, Tanya Sharetskaya, Hector Flores, Ariyana Walling; and (front) Helena Macias, Kristin Ford, and Alexis Aying; not present for the picture is Rachel Bryant.

Jazmin Contreras, and Vanessa von Sosen all contributed to the scoring. Celina Garcia, Raquel Espinosa, and Luciana Garcia played exceptional defense and provided great passing. Vanessa von Sosen and Raquel Espinosa were solid as goalies in this championship game. The Diamonds went undefeated for the futsal season with each player contributing to the 56 goals in 7 games.

Seahawks at Zone 2

The Pleasanton Seahawks (PLS) age-group swimmers proved they are champions at the Zone 2 Championships held in Moraga February 4-5, 2012. Many best times and new cuts were on tap for the weekend and numerous PLS swimmers made the All Star Zone 2 Team.

Novice II Results: Emily Tsai went a new best time in 25 Free (21:81); 8-under Girls 200 Medley Relay is now ranked 2nd on Seahawks Top 10 list: Emily Tsai, Christina

Coatney, Olivia Kim, Lauren Jhong
Intermediate II: 8 & under girls: Olivia Kim broke into the all time top 10 is now 7th in the 25 fly, Lauren Jhong new "A" in the 25 fly; 8 & under boys: Mattias Bengtsson new "A" in the 100 free, Max Cory new "A" in the 50 free
Pre-Junior Group: New B-times - Samantha Snow; New A-times - Vickie Luo, Nicole Stiles, Nick Wonosaputra; New Junior Olympics Cuts - Kyra Black (50 FR, 100 FR, 50 FL & 100 IM), Alex Ren (50 BK); New Far Westerns Cuts - Kyle Kenny (50 BR); We also had two swimmers who had 100% Best Times for the Meet: Vickie Luo & Nicoles Stiles both went 6 for 6 with New Best Times.

Junior Group: Katherina Cory made 2 new A-times; Miranda Heckman broke 2 team records in the 50 back and 100 IM; Grace Kim swam well; Lara Serban had 5 best times; Justin Tsai made a new JO time in the 100 IM; Susan Chen made 3 new best times;

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SPORTS NOTES

Christy Neufeld had a best time in the 100 free; Emma Valentine made 3 new best times; Nija Zuniga had 2 new best times; Niklas Bengtsson had 100% best times; Kevin Gao made 100% new best times; Paarsa Heidari had a best swim in the 200 IM; Alex Kuang and Aaron Li had 2 new best times; Matthew Neufeld had a best time in the 100 breast; Will Rose had 100% best times; Ben Song had 2 new best times; Tim Yao made 2 new JO times in the 200 IM and 100 fly

Varsity/Pre Senior: Sophia Barrera (4 best times); Mandy Helle (5 best times); Samantha Howell (3 best times); Danielle Zacharias (1 best time); Michael Martin (5 best times); Drew Kobayashi (5 best times, selected to the Zone 2 All Star Team/Meet); Jonah Cooper (1 best time, High Point recipient and select to Zone 2 All Star); Michael Yao (4 best times); Christopher Jhong (5 best times); Peter Cory (3 best times); Christopher Lee (2 best times); Trevor Lee (2 best times); Jeffrey Tang (2 best times); Kyle Oslund (3 best times); Anthony Jhong (3 best times); Jonathan Mui (5 best times, alternate to Zone 2 All Star Team/Meet)

Black Belt League Tourney

Taylor's Martial Arts in Livermore sent 13 of its students to the California Black Belt League 2012 Kick Off Open Tournament in Ripon, CA, on February 4, 2012. The following students competed and placed in the tournament:

Helena Macias (7 yrs old) - 1st place in Forms; Alexis Aying (7 yrs old) - 1st place in Sparring; Kristin Ford (8 yrs old) - 2nd place in Forms and 2nd place in Sparring; Paul Curbelo (10 yrs old) - 1st place in Forms and 3rd place in Sparring; Ariyana Walling (11 yrs old) - 1st place in Sparring; Hector Flores (11 yrs old) - 2nd place in Forms and 2nd place in Sparring; Jaden Husser (12 yrs old) - 2nd place in Forms

Katrina Curbelo (12 yrs old) - 1st place in Forms and 3rd place in Sparring; Kyle Ford (13 yrs old) - 1st place in Sparring and 3rd place in Forms; Tanya Sharetzkaya (14 yrs old) - 2nd place in Sparring; Joseph Vitale (14 yrs old) - 2nd place in Sparring; Rachel Bryant (16 yrs old) - 1st place in Forms and 4th place in Sparring; Brandon DeBorba (17 yrs old) - 2nd place in Sparring

The team was coached by Sifu Wade Taylor, Vince Aying and Joseph Ventura at the tournament.

Alumni Game

Livermore High School baseball will be holding its annual Alumni game on Saturday, February 25 at 11:00 at the Varsity Field.

Anyone who played any level of baseball at LHS is welcome to attend and/or play.

A lunch will be held after the game. Contact Coach Perotti at dperotti@lvjhsd.k12.ca.us or call him at 925-586-2811 or check the baseball website at www.pokesbaseball.com for more info. No need to contact to play, just show up on the 25th of February and play and/or watch.

Jr. Football Expands

Due to its success over its five-year existence and the support of LARPD and the high school football programs, Livermore Junior Football League (LJFL) is expanding to include all children aged 7 through 14 (as of August 31, 2012.) Football participants will learn the fundamentals of contact football in a safe and positive environment and play regardless of talent level or ability. Cheer participants will learn the fundamentals, cheer at games and compete locally. All games will be played in Livermore at the high schools. All practices will take place in Livermore. The season begins on August 1 and concludes in early November.

Online registration is open at www.LJFL.org.

There is an early registration discount of \$50. Registration costs increase after March 31. Each player pays a \$25 refundable volunteer fee. Sibling discounts apply. With the help of local businesses and residents, LJFL has a limited number of scholarships for needy families. Applications are available at www.LJFL.org and must be submitted by March 31.

For those interested in coaching, applications are available at www.LJFL.org. LJFL provides training for all coaches. No experience is necessary.

Registration will close when the league reaches 12 teams. No players are ever cut. All players play the entire game on offense or defense. Players are not limited to a few plays per game. Everyone plays the entire game.

For additional information, interested parents should visit: www.LJFL.org. President and Vice-President of LJFL are Rico Richardson and Matt Archer.

High School Basketball

Granada High School at Livermore, the last of four high school basketball games to be broadcast on Tri-Valley Community TV, will be taped on Friday, February 17th and air the next day. Tri-Valley Sports Final personalities Ian Bartholomew and George "Dr. B" Baljevich will be providing commentary. Planned interviews include coaches and players.

Tri-Valley TV 30 will begin broadcasting the game on Comcast TV channel 30 and AT&T U-verse via channel 99 on Saturday, February 18th at 7:00 p.m. In addition, the game is scheduled to stream live and be available via Video on Demand on the Tri-Valley TV website at www.trivalleytv.org. DVDs of the games may also be purchased via the website.

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

Community Day at A's

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

Water Polo Registration

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

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

To register, call 925-373-5751, or visit www.larpd.dst.ca.us. For more information about the LAZERS, visit

Speed and Agility Clinic

Coaches and trainers from the Dublin Falcons use the Nike SPARQ training system to teach young athletes how to correctly use their bodies to achieve their athletic goals. This will be accomplished in a positive and fun environment while teaching the basic fundamentals of footwork, jumping, balancing, speed and strength. Participants ages 6-14 will be divided by age groups. Sessions are February 2 - March 8, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Pro-rated registration fees are available. Please register for Activity #27911 at www.dublinrecguide.com or at the Shannon Community Center.

Special Education Students Learn to Work, Get to Play

By Carol Graham

Last Friday morning, before the rain clouds swept in, the sun shone on the Springtown Golf Course. However, it couldn't compete with the smiles of one group on the course.

"Our students have been looking forward to this outing for weeks," said teacher Denise Watson-Lum, of her Special Education Transition students at Granada High School. "Some of them surprised themselves with their performances. They all said they would love to come back again - tomorrow."

Watson-Lum's students may be used to working at the golf course as part of the Transition class's work program. However, for many, playing there was a new experience.

"This was my first time; it was pretty intense," said Christopher Solovskoy, 21. "I didn't know what I was doing, but it was fun. The hardest part was swinging and making contact."

Granada's Transition program offers young adults, ages 18-22, the opportunity to gain skills by working in two-hour intervals at local businesses. The result is increasing confidence, self-esteem and self-reliance.

"For many of these young adults, this is their last opportunity with the education system to master necessary skills to provide an independent quality of life," said Watson-Lum, noting that the program services students with all types of disabilities, including autism, Down's syndrome, receptive and expressive language delays, and seizure disorders.

Springtown Golf Course staff member Jason Cain, explained, "The students come here twice a week to take part in a normalized



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Gage Meyer attempts a putt.

work environment. They have huge energy; every job they do, they're so proud of. When we were asked if the kids could come out and play, we negotiated a fair price - nothing."

During work hours, students perform a variety of jobs at the golf course, including landscape maintenance, café work and golf cart washing.

"A lot of times I drive the golf carts to where they need to be," said Alexander Gregg, 21, of his work at the course. "This was my first time golfing. I'm not as bad as I thought I'd be. The best part was finally getting the ball into

the hole. I didn't count how many strokes it took, but it was more than I would have liked."

The purpose of the students' golfing visit was to experience the game as part of their leisure skills-building activities as well as to see the other side of their work contributions, said Watson-Lum.

After accepting the special education teaching position last summer, Watson-Lum's research revealed that many transitional work programs offer jobs that repeat the same skill set - just in different settings. "Many seemed to focus on janitorial type skills, a valuable skill, but not the only opportunity," she said. "I want to provide work experience for these young adults to develop significant, marketable work skills in a variety of industries."

With job assignments, one of the aspects Watson-Lum wants to consider is student interest. "Let's face it," she said, "jobs are better if you like what you do."

With a goal of introducing students to jobs they may not have considered for themselves, Wat-

son-Lum interviewed students to find out their interests, hobbies, activities and goals.

"The answers were as diversified as you can imagine," she said. "Although the goal of 'airline pilot' might not be a readily available option for some students, there are a host of intercon-

necting industries and supporting roles surrounding each potential job out there."

In addition to such economically-sensitive industries such as food service, retail and entertainment, Watson-Lum expanded job opportunities to include child care, landscaping, and office work. She hopes to broaden the base further by incorporating geriatric support, animal care and public relations.

"The Springtown Golf Course is one of our most popular work-sites," said Watson-Lum. "Jason has been instrumental in developing site tasks with appropriate scaffolding opportunities to maximize learning for these young adults. Our students always leave the job site empowered by a feeling of achievement and contribution."

"He's been a wonderful host today, taking time to make us all feel welcome, interacting with the students, and even providing donuts."

Cain said he's the lucky one. "I keep telling these kids how helpful they are - and they thank me for it. They showed up today. It's such a joyous thing. I would be thrilled if they wanted to come out regularly."

Hosting the outing for the young people showed what an asset Springtown Golf Course is for the community, Cain added. "This is where Livermore holds out a hand to this population."

Free Guided Art, Nature Walks Offered in Pleasanton

Special walks are planned for this month and next, one focusing on nesting birds, the other on public art in Pleasanton. Both are sponsored by World Walk to Wellness and are open to anyone interested.

World Walk to Wellness was founded by W. Ron Sutton, AKA "Mr. Pedometer," as a way to encourage people to "walk 'n' talk together," since that is a proven method to sustain healthy walking habits while having a good time. Sutton is a Pleasanton resident and CEO of ACCUSPLIT, makers of the only certified accurate pedometers and stop-watches. To find out the location of every weekly walk, sign up for the free e-newsletter at walks@WorldWalkToWellness.org.

There is no charge for the Saturday morning walks, nor are reservations necessary. However, voluntary donations may be made to Pleasanton Partnerships in Education Foundation (PPIE). More than \$6,500 has been raised by World Walk to Wellness to benefit local public schools from participant donations, plus matching funds from ACCUSPLIT at annual wellness festivals.

Expert trail guide Dolores Bengtson will lead a walk at Shadow Cliffs Regional Park, 2500 Stanley Boulevard, one mile east of downtown Pleasanton, on Saturday, March 24. By then, she predicts that the herons will be sharing the nesting area with egrets, and possibly with cormorants.

A former gravel quarry, the 266-acre Shadow Cliffs park has much more to offer than just swimming and waterslide areas. The group will explore trails along the arroyo with its chain of smaller lakes and ponds. Go to ebarks.org to download a trail map.

"Dolores Bengtson knows so much about our flora and fauna that I always learn something interesting on her guided hikes," said Sutton. "Her energy is contagious. Between walking 'n' talking and stopping 'n' learning, the time and distance fly by."

The walk will begin at 9 a.m. Enter the park off of Stanley Boulevard at the signal and drive to the rangers' kiosk. A \$6 parking fee per vehicle will be collected,

or, if the ranger is away from the kiosk, exact change must be fed into the permit machine. Continue to the sign posted on the right that says "Marina View." Park in that area, near the public restroom facility. Look for Dolores' white vehicle with the blue backpack on the hood.

Trails are unpaved, mostly wide and level, with some gradual inclines. Walkers are encouraged to bring along binoculars, wear comfortable shoes, dress in layers, and carry water bottles.

On February 18, and also the third Saturdays of March and April, Nancy & Gary Harrington will be leading tours of public art in downtown Pleasanton. The Art Walks all begin at 9 a.m. in the parking lot adjacent to City Hall, 200 Old Bernal Avenue, and each takes about two hours, walking on level, paved sidewalks. The Harringtons alternate two routes, taking in different works of art. The February walk will loop north on Main Street, with side excursions to view three murals and the sculptures surrounding the Firehouse Arts Center.

"There is so much to learn and see on the Harringtons' Art Walks that I will walk them all," said World Walk to Wellness founder Sutton.

Several of the sculptures have been donated by the Harringtons. These are identified as "Another H.A.P.P.Y." - Another Harrington Art Partnership Project for You. Donations for future public art can be made by sending checks made out to the City of Pleasanton (with "Another HAPPY" in the memo) to: City of Pleasanton, Attention: Susan Andrade-Wax, P.O. Box 520, Pleasanton, CA 94566-0802. Tax-deductible donations in any amount are welcome. More than \$400 has been sent in since the Art Walks began in December. Three new sculptures have been unveiled in recent months.

World Walk to Wellness held group walks every Saturday of 2011, including local city parks and trails, as well as excursions into Livermore and Sunol. Saturday walks are planned for each week in 2012, ranging from 1-3 hours in length. Mid-week morning walks may be added this year. A website is being constructed, to augment weekly e-newsletters.

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Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Steve Melander, Steve Burman, and Steve Ziganti sample their wine.

3 Steves Winery Who are these guys?

by Harry Stoll

The three Steves of 3 Steves Winery are Steve Burman, age 49, Steve Melander, age 45, and Steve Ziganti, age 59. That's old enough to know better, yet after a few years of making wine for a small winery that they partly-owned, the three Steves had this eno epiphany over a glass of wine. "Let's start our own winery." They did and the rest is the future.

The three Steves make their wine at Tenuta Vineyards, from which they rent equipment and space. The 3 Steves barrel room—off of the Tenuta barrel room—while less spacious than Wente's, is big enough for now, with a capacity of more than one barrel for each Steve.

Recently, in that intimate enclave, Steve Burman, Steve Ziganti, Zig's 28-year-old son Jason, and a question-asking guest, sat among the barrels and boxes of wine, and talked wine, wine, wine.

For a blink in time, intense esthetic athletic Steve Burman closed his eyes, and held his hands close together in front of his face—in something akin to a spiritual gesture, carrying no hint of rehearsal. Then he said, "I can almost see in my brain a digital spectrum of flavors and aromas."

"He's a savant," said Zig. "He once described a flavor as *Orange Creamsicle*." Burman says anybody can learn to identify flavors and often shows non-believers the light of how to be discerning tasters. There's hope.

The 3 Steves Winery buys grapes from prime vineyards in Livermore and other appellations. Burman says he tries to calibrate his palate to his favorite yeasts so when he tastes grapes he knows what yeast to use. He deeply believes that no matter how excellent the grape, 100% of a varietal is too much. "I'm a fan of big hitting Cabernet Sauvignons. I taste it here (touching front and sides of face) but sometimes something is missing." He touches his throat. Maybe it doesn't finish right. He is certain that adding a small amount of Petit Verdot to a good stout Cabernet Sauvignon makes it complete and better.

Tall Steve Ziganti says, "When we do our selecting and blending on weekends, the three of us sit at a table outside and do our tasting and some tentative blending, then compare notes, finally settling on what we want to do."

"We want each vintage to taste different," says Burman. That's a very refreshing approach. The big boys often say they take what the fruit gives them, but the reality is they manipulate the wine to give their customers what they expect.

Ziganti explains that Steve Melander, the third Steve, is not here today because, "He has one of those things, what do you call it? A job." Ziganti is retired. Burman hopes he can make some money out of 3 Steves Winery and not have to return to the corporate world. His latest job there, last he hopes, was as chief operating officer of a hi-tech firm.

In just one year in business their eno endeavor made a profit. That's very unusual, no matter the scale. They save money on salaries by not paying themselves. At the end of the first year the partnership had \$778 in the bank. That may be a bloated

figure so they'll look good the way the high rollers do. They probably rounded it up from \$777.51.

But a bigger deal for them was winning three medals at the San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition for their 2009 Chardonnay, reserve Cabernet Sauvignon, and Zinfandel. Their Cabernet Franc won a medal at the Alameda County Fair.

It's strictly cash on the barrelhead for barrels, bottles, and everything else they buy. "We've been offered terms," said Zig, but said, "Thanks, maybe some day we'll take advantage of that but for right now, no." Strictly cash is not their only old fashioned way. They want to treat the customer right and will only sell wine that they enjoy. They hold the prices to between \$20 and \$30.

Go to their web site for tasting notes on their wines. These guys would not lie. 3 Steves Winery presently makes two Livermore Valley Chardonnays. One is oaky and buttery and stands alone. The other is lighter and crisper, "more food friendly," as current cant puts it. But it does have a bit of oak that even a savant might not taste. If you think oak is bad in a crisp Chardonnay, try this one.

Jason Ziganti grew up cooking and is taking culinary courses with an eye to making a living at it. (Wisely, he is also a general contractor.) He said the Chardonnay would go well with a sauce he makes of mangos, red

and green onions, cilantro, and jalapenos, to which he adds wine juice.

They also make a Livermore Valley Cabernet Sauvignon from two different Livermore Valley vineyards, with a small amount of Alexander Valley Petit Verdot added. The notes say it has "plenty of dark fruit on the nose and palate." Burman says "I'm a big bing cherry fan."

Their Cienega Valley Cabernet Franc is—unfortunately for us but fortunate for adding to their \$778.51 bank account—sold out. This is part of what we missed: "The wine seems to change with every sip, as the fruit finishes it meets with hints of chocolate and coffee." Dang!

Zig zags toward Zin. Alphabetically last is a Cienega Valley Zinfandel, which "... drinks well on its own but pairs nicely with tomato based sauces ..." The notes also note that "It also has bright red fruit and hints of chocolate and pepper ..."

For after dinner, Ports of course, a tawny Port bringing rich plum and chocolate and a Chardonnay Port to go with butternut squash. Both of these are from Livermore Valley grapes.

You could set up a tasting and tour by appointment at Tenuta Vineyards. Soon, 3 Steves Winery will open a licensed tasting room inside of Swirl on the Square in Blacksmith Square. Check their web site for an update. 3steveswinery.com

Mello Cielo: A Heavenly Bus Ride Through the Vineyards

Have you had the pleasure of the Mello Cielo experience at Ruby Hill yet? Two tours are offered daily during the week, at 11:30 and 2:30, by advance reservation. For \$25, you get a guided journey through the sprawling estate vineyards that surround the Ruby Hill Winery, and extend beyond the current Mitchell Katz Winery property to the border of a large ranch that extends all the way to Sunol. You'll rumble past the Merlot vineyard that is destined to be grafted to Italian varietals like Trebbiano and Nebbiolo, then hum past a beautiful chateau that might eventually become a classy French restaurant. Enconced in succulents, it has the aura of a bygone era. As a dining establishment, it would be a welcome addition to this corridor. One can imagine the residents of the Ruby Hill neighborhood would welcome it. One has to wonder if another winery really is what's needed here, but in the not too distant future, Mitchell Katz will move out and Rubino Estate Winery will move in, with a distinct focus on Italian varietals. A big fan of Italian varietals, winemaker Chris Graves can hardly wait.

As the bus gears down for the uphill climb towards the Peacock Patch Zinfandel and Petite Sirah vineyards, the rather imposing stoneclad castle-like dwelling of the estate's proprietor, Michael Callahan, looms large. From here, the views of the Valley and the hills to the East are sweepingly dramatic.

Wildlife abounds, and although we did not see the namesake peacocks that inhabit these parts, we did witness jackrabbits sprinting to safety, and a couple of raptors on patrol. Stopping at the edge of the vineyard border, our driver, Jack, uncorked some sparkling and we toasted the Livermore Valley and it's sweet East/West orientation that catches the bay breezes funneled through the Sunol gap. It was blowing a good 20 knots as we sipped the bubbles and watched ladybugs basking in the warm gleams of sun. Then it was back on the handsomely decorated "Mello Cielo" bus, this time to the winery, where Chris grabbed a thief and we dove into a Gamba barrel of 2009 Sangiovese that had been judiciously laced with 14% Cabernet. The wood for these barrels is harvested in France, then shipped to the high Alps in Asti where it ages for

three years, then returned to France to be coopered into vessels prized for aging Barolos and Barberas.

This wine had, as Kelly MacFarland from the Pour House so precisely noted, a finish of banana bread. We sampled a 2009 Cabernet, Clone 7, which displayed vibrant red fruit, a characteristic Livermore hint of menthol and distinct earthiness. About 9% Petit Verdot lent a leathery plummy dark note beneath the bright, chewy loganberry fruit. It reminded me of a Cliff bar. We popped into the lab to watch Norm performing VA analysis on barrel samples: a task he performs religiously, along with barrel topping, which is done every 3 weeks - far more often than most in this Valley. Ruby Hill prides itself on cleanliness in the cellar, and that translates directly into precisely made wines.

From the lab, we were escorted to the Water Tower, where a beautifully set table awaited, laden with glassware and a platter of cheeses and salami. This tasting experience is part of every tour. The sunlight pouring in from the windows above, made Chris's gorgeous 09 barrel-fermented Chardonnay glow, its pineapple, pear and coconut smoothness melting with the Gran Maester Manchego. The 07 Merlot's cherry and oliveness massaged the salami beautifully, and the 09 Cielo Viola, a "violet heaven" marriage of Zin and Petite Sirah, was a symphony of harmonious woodwinds, with a touch of French horn. This wine sits back on its haunches like a content feline, purring when you feed it some Columbus Dry Coppa. To wrap up the excursion, it's back on the bus to the lively, welcoming Tasting Room, where you'll enjoy port in cute little chocolate cups and be tempted, perhaps, to snag some vino to go.

For just \$25 per person, the Mello Cielo Vineyard Experience (MCVE) is a fun, informative and delicious excursion, made all the more fun by Hospitality Manager, Sara Wood, whose friendly, easy-going manner, keeps everything synchronized. Contact her at 925-931-9463 or swood@rubyhillwinery.net to arrange your MCVE. Bring friends: it's a great way to celebrate a birthday or a special occasion, like, perhaps a random Wednesday. How about Leap Day?

NEW BOARD MEMBERS FOR LWGA

Welcome Heather McGrail

district," says Wenzler.

Also hailing from District 12 were the gamemakers, students in Wenzler's seventh grade core class. These students designed "Minute to Win It" style challenges to represent the Hunger Games - tributes survived by winning these challenges; losing tributes were eliminated from the game.

The challenges included an obstacle course; Oreos face - contestants start with an Oreo on the forehead and must maneuver it into their mouths without using hands; a Survivor-style strength test, in which contestants held themselves off the ground between two desks for as long as possible; and the ramen maze, which forced blindfolded contestants to search through a bowl of cooked ramen noodles to find a piece of gum.

In the week leading up to the Hunger Games reenactment, each District designed a logo and t-shirts, created posters and signs to promote their tributes, and came up with a strategy. The teachers observed that each student District self-governed itself in a different way. Some were democratic societies, while others leaned towards dictatorships.

Money plays a key role in the

book, as Districts can purchase potentially life-saving gifts for their tributes, providing great advantage to wealthier Districts. In the school exercise, sixth graders could earn "Panem bucks" through good behavior while students in other grades, teachers, and parents could purchase them. All money raised will be used for the sixth grade core Create a Culture project in the spring.

The Panem bucks added a new component to the exercise that neither teacher envisioned - a counterfeit ring. "We discovered that students were counterfeiting Panem bucks," says Wenzler. "Rather than try to find and punish the perpetrators, we made it a teaching point." They voided the existing Panem bucks and created counterfeit-proof currency - a life lesson on corruption and the powers of government.

On Friday, Feb. 10, the games began with a parade through the school. The tributes then entered "the arena" - the school's multipurpose room - for the start of the games. Math teacher John Mahlstedt wore his most sparkly blazer to play the role of Caesar Flickman, the host of the Hunger Games. Principal Tara Aderman dressed up in fluff and sparkles to act the part of Effie Trinket, the escort and stylist to Katniss.

The games themselves were, as the teachers had expected, choreographed chaos. Watkins and Wenzler wound up improvising to keep the activities moving on schedule. They threw in a tornado, fireball, and landslide to eliminate contestants, much like in the book when the gamemakers set the arena's forest on fire because the television audience was getting bored. Four tributes were declared winners. Their

reward was extra credit.

Before the games had even begun, Watkins and Wenzler knew they had succeeded in one goal - getting their students excited about reading. "Sixth grade is a really pivotal age. It's when students begin to enjoy reading for the sake of reading," says Wenzler. "Many students started reading the sequel on their own as soon as we finished reading *The Hunger Games* in class."

'Idol' Helps Launch Read-A-Thon

Local 'American Idol' contestant Jason 'Wolf' Hamlin visited Livermore Valley Charter School (LVCS) on Monday, February 13 to help launch the school's annual Read A Thon. The 24-year-old singer, a mechanic at Poppy Ridge Golf Course in Livermore, earned a golden ticket to Hollywood after his audition in San Diego. On Feb. 13, Hamlin performed for the school's 983 students, kindergarten through 8th grade, to celebrate reading and inspire them to pick up a book.

Hamlin is one of many special local guests who visited the school on Read In Day, the official launch of LVCS's Annual Read A Thon. Guests this year also included the Mayor of

Livermore, John Marchand; Cher Wollard, Livermore's Poet Laureate; Ruth Gasten, a Holocaust survivor who wants to share her story; Jeff Avila, a cartoonist and martial arts specialist; and Barbara Stanton, a miniaturist artist.

Guests visited students in their classrooms to share a special book and talk about how reading has shaped their life and career. During the Annual Read A Thon, held from February 10th - 21st, students will seek sponsorships for the minutes they read, with all funds raised going directly to the school.

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SHORT NOTES

Police Honored

Avoid the 21, Alameda County's multi-jurisdictional effort against impaired drivers, honored 135 police officers, California Highway Patrol officers and sheriff's deputies for their DUI expertise on Wednesday, Feb. 8, at an advanced training seminar in Fremont.

The event was sponsored by Mothers Against Drunk Driving and the California Office of Traffic Safety, which funds Avoid the 21 through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Alameda County Sheriff's Deputy Keith Gilkerson won the "Dunny Award" for excellence. It is named after Sgt. Mark Dunakin of the Oakland Police Dept., an active and enthusiastic Avoid the 21 participant, said Sgt. John Hurd of the Livermore police. Dunakin died in 2009 in the line of duty along with three other OPD officers.

CHP officers from the county's four area commands made up 72 percent of those who received plaques and uniform pins. Sheriff's deputies followed with 14 percent. The remainder of honored officers were from police agencies throughout the county.

Two deputies and four CHP officers had DUI arrest totals above 90 for 2010. They are Deputy David McKaig with 129, Officer Robert Koehn with 106, Deputy Shawn Osborne with 99, Officer Kevin White with 97, Officer Jon Bacon with 94 and Officer Barrett Adams with 90.

"This county is fortunate indeed to have such a large group of great DUI officers," said Lt. Ava Garavatti of the Livermore police, who chairs Avoid the 21.

Avoid the 21 will hit the streets again for Cinco De Mayo and St. Patrick's Day, two occasions that many people celebrate with alcohol.

Red Planet Rising

Red Planet Rising is the topic of the Sat., Feb. 18 Livermore Area Recreation and Park District ranger program. Meet Ranger Glen Florey at 6:30 p.m. at the Wetmore Road entrance to Sycamore Grove Park, 1051 Wetmore Rd.

Just in time for this nature program, Mars will be at opposition - as close as it ever gets to Earth and shines most brightly in the night sky. Come out to Sycamore Grove for a walk into the hills to watch Mars rise in the eastern sky after sunset. Please dress warmly and wear comfortable walking shoes. The hike will be ap-

proximately two miles; canceled if raining.

There is a \$5 per vehicle parking fee at either entrance to Sycamore Grove Park. A \$2 donation is requested to help support the programs unless other fees are specified. Participants may call 925-960-2400 for more information.

Volunteer Advocates

Volunteers are being sought to participate in the Alameda County Court Appointed Special Advocates Program (CASA).

CASA is a nationally based organization that provides one-on-one court advocacy to abused, neglected and abandoned children who are dependents of juvenile court. It has been operating in San Leandro and is now planning to expand to offer services in the Tri-Valley.

No special skills are required, only "a desire to help foster children."

An orientation meeting will be held on Feb. 22 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the Multiservice Center, 3311 Pacific Ave., Livermore.

Please RSVP to John Anyosa at 510-618-1964 or janyosa@acgov.org.

Dublin Police Academy

Dublin Police Services will be hosting the 2012 Citizens' Police Academy for adults who reside or work in Dublin. The Academy's first session will be Wednesday, March 28, 2012. It will be held for nine Wednesdays thereafter, from 6:30pm - 9:30pm. The Academy will culminate in a graduation on May 30, 2012.

The goal of the Citizens' Academy is to teach the public about law enforcement operations, foster kinship between the community and law enforcement, and to promote community policing by supporting and encouraging citizen involvement.

The Academy will offer instruction by experienced law enforcement personnel on topics such as: Crime Scene/Evidence Collection, Traffic and Radio Operations, Gangs and Drugs, and the Coroner's Bureau. Participants will have an opportunity to tour Santa Rita Jail, the 5th largest jail in the nation, as well as get a taste of officer training at the Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC).

Sessions are limited to 30 participants on a first-come, first-served basis. Potential participants must be at least 18 years old and must successfully complete a background

investigation check, sign waiver forms, and be approved by the Chief of Police. Felony convictions or serious criminal arrests are cause for dismissal of an applicant.

Applications are available on-line at www.dublin.ca.gov, by e-mail, fax, or in person at Dublin Police Services, 100 Civic Plaza. Once completed, applications may be submitted by e-mail, fax, mail, or in person. The application deadline is March 23, 2012.

Stewardship Science

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) has announced a funding opportunity for the Stewardship Science Academic Alliances Program (SSAA). The work CONDUCTED by the SSAA Program helps NNSA enhance and promote the academic efforts of future scientific leaders and helps recruit researchers who will help ensure the safety, security and effectiveness of the nation's nuclear stockpile.

The SSAA Program trains stu-

dents in key areas of stewardship science not supported by other agencies. The program offers the highest caliber of education and hands-on training and experience to the next generation of scientists.

This funding opportunity announcement is for grants and centers of excellence for the research areas of low-energy nuclear science; properties of materials under extreme conditions and/or hydrodynamics; radiochemistry; and for centers of excellence only for the research area of high energy density physics. All these areas of research are relevant to stockpile stewardship.

A research grant is awarded for up to three years at a funding level appropriate for the proposed scope, typically \$50,000 to \$300,000 per year. A cooperative agreement is awarded for up to five years at a funding level appropriate for the proposed scope, typically \$1,000,000 to \$3,000,000 per year.

The announcement is posted on FedConnect and grants.gov (FOA DE-FOA-0000611; CFDA Number

81.112). Visit either website and type in Funding Opportunity Number DE-FOA-0000611. The submission deadline is March 12.

Trade Show

Two local networking groups GNON (Girls Night Out Networking) and B2B Gathering Inc. join forces in Pleasanton on February 29 to provide the community with a one time networking seminar and tradeshow. Over 25 trade show booths will be open. In addition to the tradeshow, participants will attend the B2B fast paced 90 minute networking seminar covering topics such as:

- How to turn current clients into your non-commissioned, non-salaried sales force
- How to get people to jump through hoops to help you find more referrals
- How to overcome shyness and become a "person of influence"

RETIREMENT

(continued from page one)

my energies in one direction. I am at a point in my life where I can do this."

Marchand pointed out that some people mistakenly believe that all the mayor does is run two city council meetings a month and collect a full-time salary. In fact, the job of mayor is a full time responsibility and pays a salary of \$1400 per month. Mayor Marchand accepts no medical or dental benefits from the city.

"I represent the City's interests on a number of local boards and commissions. Many of these meet at least once a month and most meetings are during the work day so it has been difficult to schedule around my day job," Marchand said.

For example, in the last week Marchand attended two subcommittee meetings of the Alameda County Transportation Commission (ACTC), attended meetings of the BART Board of Directors, the Alameda County Conference of Mayors, the i-GATE (innovative Green Advanced Transportation Excellence) business incubator, met with the Tri-Val-

ley Mayors and City Managers and participated in a third grade reading program at a local school. Marchand also serves on the Airport Land Use Commission and was appointed as an alternate to the Local Agency Formation Commission, (LAFCO).

Marchand recently traveled to Washington D.C. with the other Tri-Valley mayors. "We develop our legislative agenda beforehand, so when we go back, we speak as a region and not as individual cities. We have been successful at returning millions of tax dollars to the Tri-Valley to rebuild our aging transportation and communication infrastructure."

Of the coming year, he said, "In the middle of the worst recession in the post-war era, we will be opening the Paragon Outlets, with a half million square feet of retail later this year and creating two thousand jobs. We are revitalizing our downtown and partnering with the labs to market new technologies. This is an exciting time. I want to be able to devote my time to better serve the residents of Livermore."

Survey Finds Residents Like the Quality of Life

In the latest survey of Livermore residents, 86% of respondents found the quality of life in Livermore excellent or good. It is the same percentage as in 2010.

Questions were posed by the 2012 National Citizen Survey. According to a staff report, "2012 results overall are very positive, despite global economic and other external factors facing respondents."

Ninety-three percent of residents agreed that Livermore is an excellent or good place to live, up 1 percent from 2010.

The Livermore City Council were presented with the results of the survey at a goal setting workshop held Wed., Feb. 15.

Other highlights from the 2012 survey showed that 88% perceive Livermore as an excellent or good place to raise children, up 3%; 82% say that the overall appearance of Livermore is excellent or good, up 2%. Opportunities to attend cultural activities was agreed by 68% as excellent or good, up 4%.

Services provided by the city received the same level of support, 79% compared to services provided by California at 22% excellent or good.

Perceptions of safety dropped a little, with 93% saying neighborhoods were safe during the day, down 3%; 94% felt safe in the downtown during the day, down 2%. At night people felt safer, with 81% in neighborhoods agreeing, up 1%; downtown 78% felt safer compared to 77% in 2010.

The highest rating was for fire services at 93% seeing it as excellent or good. On the other side, street repair and maintenance only 53% felt it was excellent or good and 51% said code enforcement was excellent or good. Both street repair and code enforcement showed an approval increase of 2%.

The survey was sent to 3000 households in November 2011. A total of 817 completed surveys were returned. The margin of error is + or - 3%.

OBITUARIES

Floyd D. Hyde

Floyd Dean Hyde passed away peacefully in his sleep in Livermore on January 25, 2012 at 91 years, 11 months and 7 days.

Born at home at Couvers Crossing in Youngsville, PA on February 18, 1920, Floyd was welcomed by his parents Percy and Florence Hyde.

In 1938 he entered the Navy. He was returning state side aboard the destroyer USS Helm DD388 to be discharged, when on December 7, 1941, WWII broke out at Pearl Harbor. The Helm, already underway, was the first ship to make it out of the harbor on that infamous day. Floyd spent the rest of the war on the Helm and was discharged from the Navy in 1946 with the rank of Chief Water Tender.

That November he married his hometown sweetheart, Carolyn York, who lived five houses away. They moved to San Diego in 1956 and then to Livermore in 1959 where he worked for Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory as a machinist. After retiring he moved to Bella Vista, Ca and became a Locksmith, operating his own business. He moved back to Livermore in 2008.

He enjoyed riding motorcycles and going to motorcycle races and was a member of the Livermore Motorcycle Club. When he gave up motorcycles he returned to riding horses and was a member of the Ranch Riders. He spent many weekends on trail rides and took part in the memorial ride of the De Anza expedition.

His other hobbies included reading, watching car races, and collecting medical and cookbooks. At ninety-one he renewed another interest, drawing, and was taking art lessons.

He was preceded in death by his parents Percy and Florence Hyde, daughter Christina Hyde and wife Carolyn.

He is survived by his daughters and son-in-laws: Lee and Charles Hartz of Livermore, Linda and Dan Moniz of Newman, Ca, and Amber and Blaine Alton of Livermore; 6 grandchildren, Jesse Hartz and wife Kate and Jamie Hartz, Stacy and Jason Moniz, Tiffany and Shaun Barr,

and 5 great-grandchildren.

Services were held February 9, 2012, at the San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery in Santa Nella, Ca. In lieu of flowers please make donations to the Veterans of Foreign Wars or your chosen charity.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

Clara Piepoli

Resident of Livermore

Clara Piepoli, 99, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, January 25, 2012.

Born in Scranton, PA, she was the daughter of the late James and Louise Pezzuti. She grew up and was educated in Scranton.

During her teenage years, she cared for her grandmother who

taught her the true meaning of love. For 20 years, she worked in the Button Mill in Scranton. In 1948, she married the late Vito (Bill) Piepoli. They opened Piepoli's Tavern in Scranton, which they operated for nine years. In 1963, they moved to Rockville, MD, and returned to Scranton for retirement in 1973. After her husband's death in 1979, Clara lived with her sisters. In 2002, she moved to CA to live with her daughter and son-in-law, and she enjoyed her last years with them as well as with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Clara was a faith-filled woman who prayed for everyone. She loved playing bingo and cards, and loved spending time with her family and friends. She will be truly missed by all who knew and loved her.

She is survived by her daughter, Mary, and her husband, Chuck McGraw; and their son, Jeff McGraw, his wife Carol, and their two daughters, Giselle and Estella McGraw. She is also survived by her granddaughter, Carrie (McGraw) Atkin, and her husband Pete Atkin.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the charity of your choice.

The Memorial Mass will be held on Saturday, February 18, 2012 at noon at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Livermore.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

Jerry F. Goodman

Resident of Livermore

Jerry was born on March 14, 1939 in Texas, and passed away on Saturday, Feb. 4, 2012.

He was 72 years old.

He was a very hard worker for most of his life. He enjoyed listening to country music and playing poker.

He is survived by his loving wife of 50 years, Jerry; and their children: daughter, Gloria and son-in-law, Frank Roach, son, Jerry and daughter-in-law, Karen Goodman, daughter, Rhonda and son-in-law, Danny Burrow and daughter, Christine Goodman; his sister, Delores Gabasa; numerous nieces, nephews, grandchildren and great grandchildren, along with other family members and many friends.

A Celebration of his Life will be held on Fri., Feb. 17, 1 p.m. at Callaghan Mortuary, 3833 East Ave., Livermore.

Kyle Charles Truitt

Airman 1st Class Kyle Truitt passed away unexpectedly at the young age of 23 on January 26, 2012 in Sherwood, AR, while serving as a C130 Crew Chief for the Little Rock AFB 19th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

Kyle was born on March 28, 1988 in Tracy, CA. He was raised in Tracy, Livermore, Discovery Bay and Brentwood, CA, as well as Kitzengen, Germany, when

his father served in the Army. Kyle graduated in 2006 from Liberty High School and during his time in school was a member of the JV and varsity water polo teams. Kyle was an exceptionally vivacious young man who touched the hearts of a tremendous number of people throughout his young life. He enjoyed many genres of music, cooking, and fishing with friends and family.

Kyle is survived by his father, James Truitt, and his mother, Mary Dugan and Randall Dugan and grandmothers Marie Truitt and Ellen Johnson. He is also survived by a twin sister, Marlena Truitt Stone; his niece and nephew, James Stone Jr., Ashley Stone; as well as aunts and uncles, Lois and Paul Laza and Jean and Mike Price; cousins Derek Laza and his wife Cynthia, Janel Laza, Alex Price and Austin Price, second cousins Ariane Laza and Siri Laza. He is also survived by four half siblings, Harley Hunter, Justin Hunter, Lillian Dugan and Randall Jay Dugan II. All of his family, friends and military family are incredibly devastated by his passing, especially his girl friend, Karen Montero. He was preceded in death by his grandfathers Mike Truitt and Donald M. Johnson.

Services were held at Callaghan Mortuary in Livermore.

and Nestor Anderson. Britta also had one sister, Ellen Marie Anderson.

After her education at Redlands University, Britta landed her first teaching job at the seaside town of Dana Point, California. As Britta Albert, she gave birth to a son Michael and daughter Kathy. To her children she passed on her love for the ocean, and animals, and her Swedish heritage. Britta was fluent in Swedish as a second language. She also passed on important lessons. I can still hear her say, "If you're going to do something, do it right."

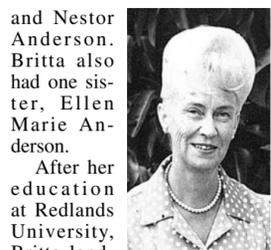
For many years she taught first grade at Santa Fe School in Monrovia, California; where she also played the piano for the school music programs.

When she retired, she married a gem of a man and her true forever love, Len Martin, a longtime resident of Livermore, California. Len worked many years for Livermore Laboratory- and even sold them a good bit of their land. Britta and Len spent 42 years making their home together, traveling and taking care of each other. Britta was an avid stamp collector. She also had numerous pen pals across the world. She would regularly chop up cheese, etc. making a suet for the birds that flocked to their backyard. A number of cats also found their way to the Martin

Britta Lisa Margarita Anderson

Resident of Livermore

Britta Lisa Margarita Anderson was born on January 27, 1919 to two Swedish immigrants; Elin



backyard-as if they passed the word on that this was the best place to be to get 'adopted' by a couple who would love and take care of them.

Britta is survived by her husband Len Martin, her son Michael Albert (and wife Jeanette), daughter Kathy Reid (and husband Dave), and her grandchild Dawn Noel Reid. Britta's love of music and piano playing and language skills seem to have been passed down to her granddaughter who majored in Linguistics and now teaches over 50 children piano and love for music. (She also passed on her baby grand piano to Dawn along with countless pieces of sheet music!)

Another thing about "Mom"- No one could give a better HUG! We miss her.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.



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BART

(continued from page one)

1171, and \$16 million from the later Measure I approved by Bay Area voters.

If the two money pots — the hoped for \$400 million in November, and the set-aside \$114 million — were available, their total of \$514 million advances the project well down the road to its ultimate cost.

Estimates vary about how much the extension would cost, depending what is charged to the project. BART has projected that it could go as high as \$1.2 billion. Livermore officials have said \$800 million. Sheets told The Independent earlier this week at it could reach \$750 million.

Frank Wilson, former BART general manager now working for Livermore as a consultant on the extension, told The Independent earlier this week that the exact cost can't be estimated now, because the scoping study will pin it down better.

However, it should not be too far off from the \$600 million that the Warm Springs extension in Fremont cost. That project went out to bid last summer.

If you compare the Livermore extension with the Warm Springs extension, they are essentially the same. They extend five miles and involve one station. Our talks with BART will involve driving the costs closer to those associated with the Warm Springs project, taking into account today's costs.

Wilson said that BART's \$1.2 billion estimate of the project costs includes spending project money on tail tracks (where BART cars are cleaned and maintained) for enough length to store 100 cars.

The only thing that could really be justified for the project is tail tracks to store 50 cars. That would take the 40 cars now stored by Pleasanton, which no longer would be at the end of the line, and add 10 cars needed for the Livermore extension.

BART wants to store 100 cars

in Livermore, because it wants to shift costs away from other end-of-the-line stations in the system, and move them to Livermore, while having Livermore finance that whole shift, said Wilson. That adds significant cost to the Livermore project, he said.

LONG LIST OF STUDIES ALREADY DONE

Another factor that could add to cost is the study. At the meeting in Oakland, Livermore resident Linda Jeffrey Sailors waved some reports at the BART board, and talked about how many studies already have been completed for the Livermore project.

The first was in 1991, when Livermore was studied along with what wound up being the Dublin/Pleasanton station. Other studies followed in July 2002, December 2002, October 2003, 2006, 2007, 2008-09 (the program EIR for the extension, plus BART to Livermore and on to Tracy).

There was an additional study in 2010-11 to see if switching BART from downtown to I-580 could comply with funding requirements to be near a transit-oriented development (TOD) community.

One more huge study will just add to the cost and delay the project, said Sailors and others at the meeting microphone.

Further, some items don't need additional study, said Sailors. She cited the diesel train, which would have used existing railroad tracks, that BART proposed as a "short-term" solution. That already has been rejected by Livermore.

A portion of the track is used by ACE. There is no more track time available for them to expand service, let alone provide a DMU for BART, said Sailors.

Contra Costa director Joel Keller brought up light rail, DMU and other alternatives to BART rail as an interim measure. He said it worked for eastern Contra Costa, where Antioch is happy

to have the short-term solution of light rail.

Light rail and DMU and many alternative BART track alignments will again be studied as part of the project EIR. However, much of the data from the previous studies can be the base for the coming document, said Sheets.

Sheets said that there will also be new considerations, because of changing policies by various agencies, including environmental regulators. For example, the California tiger salamander has been listed by the federal Fish & Wildlife Service. Since the last study, the state Fish and Game Department has also listed it, so that is one more update that the project EIR will have to provide.

Also a new Regional Transportation Plan is being worked on, and a county plan, too, so the project has to be reviewed in light of those, said Sheets.

"We have to follow all the rules at project level. We will be doing that," said Sheets.

In order to save money and time on the project, Livermore wants to hire a firm that can conduct both design studies and building, said Sheets.

The design plans are reviewed by the builders and the building plans by the designers. That catches errors much sooner than splitting the two functions between two separate organizations. The combined study results in more speed, and therefore less overall cost, she said.

When Livermore forms the JPA with BART and ACTC, the city would be the manager, which Sheets said is a better description than "lead agency," since the powers of all three would be equal, said Sheets.

Sheets said that if all goes well in timing with the entire project, the station at Isabel Avenue near Interstate 580 would be open in 2020 or the following year.

Other items authorized by the board's action will be conceptual

engineering and creation of rider-ship development plans.

There will also be an analysis in the light of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, which fosters equal treatment for seniors, handicapped persons, and ethnic and racial minorities.

MARCHAND LIKES BOARD'S VOTE

Livermore Mayor John Marchand told The Independent that the BART board showed caution in its action, but the vote showed "that they have confidence we can work together to bring BART to Livermore."

At the meeting, Marchand also corrected an error made by one director who said that Livermore and Pleasanton have rejected the high-speed train advocated by Gov. Jerry Brown. If it goes through the Central Valley near Tracy, the train could link to Livermore BART via the Altamont, and provide another funding source for the Livermore project.

Marchand said that there has been no formal vote on either the Livermore or Pleasanton city councils concerning high-speed rail. Only Pleasanton indicated that they would not support high-speed rail.

The board's decision was literally applauded by many Livermore residents who attended the meeting.

Many of the comments were similar to those made at several board meetings of the ACTC in pushing to be included on the November ballot for the \$400 million in financing.

Many talked about paying taxes on BART for decades, without getting any service. Bob Baltzer said he has lived in Livermore since 1962, and waits for it.

"There is some agitation to amend the motion to include all kinds of bus stuff out of the Dublin/Pleasanton station. Commuters coming from the Central Valley won't stop at a transfer station to a bus, then go five miles

to BART," said Baltzer.

Valerie Raymond said, "BART was sold as a regional system, and after 49 years, it's not unreasonable to say now is that time to keep that commitment." Livermore has paid the one-half cent sales tax on BART, but received very little benefit from it, she said.

Later in the meeting, director Radulovich said, "No one has paid a dollar to BART to Livermore. It has all gone to the system we have now. Any new money on extensions have to come from new sources."

Joan Seppala told the board that Livermore, with its future i-GATE center, will be a regional job magnet, attracting people from all over the Bay Area. Seppala added that it's important to have November ballot tax support for the new Measure B from all over the county including Livermore, because it will be on a ballot along with the Governor's statewide tax increase.

Former Livermore Mayor Archer Futch said that he has supported BART for 50 years. The extension is important to help clear up Valley air. He said that parking will be essential. The parking structure slated for Livermore will hold 2500 cars.

Markus Huber said that it takes him 30 minutes to make the drive from Springtown to the Dublin/Pleasanton station. Having enough parking will be crucial; without it, commuters won't stand a chance, he said.

Charles Hartwig said that he has been using BART for decades, even though he had to drive to the Bayfair station to do it, and now goes to Dublin/Pleasanton. He belongs to many Livermore organizations, and he finds great Livermore extension support among everyone he comes in contact with.

Trice Cunningham said that she has been in Livermore 35 years. "I know what it's like to wait," she said. She also said she doesn't drive a car, and needs BART.

Nancy Bankhead said that BART held out a carrot, and Pleasanton got the carrot - a BART station. There was no carrot for Livermore. Now Livermore should get the carrot, "so that we can make carrot cake, and ride BART."

LARPD board member Beth Wilson said that she and other seniors need BART. Further, the smog it would displace has an adverse effect on the health of humans, plants and animals. Also, the extension will attract more than 20,000 new riders by 2035.

TRANSFORM URGES KEEN FISCAL LOOK

Transform, which has advocated for more money for inner city transit, bicycle paths and education, and other concerns of Bayside transit users, was represented at the meeting by Manolo Gonzalez.

Transform tried to obtain more money from ACTC's allocation of the Measure B funds that will be on the ballot in November. One of their arguing points was that the BART project (with its \$400 million allocation) wasn't ready for the ballot yet, because the costs were not known.

Gonzalez said that he was glad to see director McPartland moving forward with the extension, "but we don't want to move too quickly. There are issues about cost and how to pay for this." He said there should be an investment analysis, to show where the money will come from.

Gonzalez called the BART to Livermore extension "a BART project," and said that it needs to be led by BART.

A speaker from Urban Habitat said that she "echoed what Manolo just said. Our folks are more and more dependent on BART. We want to see the system reliable for the long term, and make sure it doesn't become less affordable. You need to maintain the core system, before there is an extension," she said.

Pleasanton Meets Deadline for Housing Element and CAP

The Pleasanton City Council approved a new housing element and a climate action plan (CAP) at a special meeting held Monday night.

The two items complete the terms of the settlement agreement with Urban Habitat and the State Attorney General's office. The settlement required that the city approve the housing element and CAP by Feb. 13, 2012.

The Urban Habitat, an affordable housing coalition, sued the city in an effort to force the rezoning and to end a 1996 voter-approved cap of 29,000 housing units in the city. They said the housing cap prevented the city from meeting its assigned housing numbers.

In a first step towards meeting the settlement, the council last year rezoned nine sites throughout the city for multifamily residential development. The new housing element outlines a variety of steps the city would undertake to provide more affordable housing. It consists of background data and analysis, an inventory of housing sites to meet the city's regional housing need and goals, and policies and programs to be implemented in the coming year.

The CAP focuses on reducing greenhouse gas emissions through a number of programs including installation of energy efficient hot water distribution systems, high efficiency toilets and heating and cooling systems. New buildings would be required

to be constructed to allow for solar water heating and photovoltaic systems.

The next step is to develop implementation plans for both documents. The majority of the work on implementation is to be completed in 2012.

As part of the housing element, the city will look at possibly reducing second unit development standards, enhancing incentives for developers to build affordable housing and for property owners to develop their properties with housing, assessing future sewer infrastructure needs, modifying zoning to allow farm worker housing, and conducting public outreach to amend the zoning code to accommodate transitional housing and emergency shelters in residential districts as required by state law. There will also be a review of growth management policies.

Planning Manager Janice Stern told the council that the growth management review would determine whether the consistency and capacity of infrastructure would enable the city to meet state housing law.

The city council will be given a report on potential growth management policies at its March 20 meeting.

Speakers were mainly supportive of the new housing element.

Carl Farrington, a member of the Social Justice Committee of the Catholic Community of Pleasanton, said that he believes

the city would gain enormously by increasing the availability of affordable housing. The city needs a diversity of cultural backgrounds and viewpoints as well as levels of education to create a more vibrant community. He noted that he was not speaking for the committee.

Gloria Bruce spoke for East Bay Housing organizations. She liked the changes, with one exception. She questioned the nondiscrimination ordinance, which requires that low, very low, and extremely low income housing be dispersed throughout new residential developments. She felt that it would preclude the construction of stand alone affordable housing projects.

Former councilmember Becky Dennis agreed with Bruce. She felt dispersing the affordable housing would make it difficult to almost impossible for nonprofits to provide affordability.

Julie Testa was concerned that the proposed growth is not mitigated. "The burden of growth will fall on the residents." She said that current residents would likely be asked to approve a tax to pay to build a new school. She added that the community doesn't understand that this is the beginning of a lot of new growth in Pleasanton.

Councilmember Cindy McGovern stated, "Most of us share your frustration. The state is changing the character of our city. We have to remove constraints to growth to meet regional hous-

ing numbers. It doesn't say how the new infrastructure would be financed."

Councilmember Jerry Thorne said he supported the need for more workforce housing. He was concerned about the impact on private property rights as more housing is assigned to the city.

Councilmember Matt Sullivan said he was not 100% comfortable with the new housing element. "However, it is at a point where I can live with it." He added, "This is the tip of the

iceberg for Pleasanton and most communities when it comes to development. Residents need to weigh in on the process as ABAG assigned its new regional numbers."

The city is not required to build the housing.

Sullivan was much happier with the climate action plan (CAP). "I think this is a very good plan with a lot of good policies. It is a milestone towards the goal of becoming a more sustainable city."

Koonce to Head Lab Economic Development

James (Buck) F. Koonce has been Appointed Director, Economic Development for Integration of Laboratory Partnership Activities.

The announcement was made by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory Director Penrose C. Albright.

Koonce as Director, Economic Development, will work with the two Deputy Directors and the Senior Management Team, the Industrial Partnerships Office, General Counsel, Office of Strategic Outcomes, University Relations, the High Performance Computing Innovation Center, the Chief Financial Office, and Government and External Relations.

Albright commented that Koonce would advance strategies that will bring more visibility to the Lab's research and recognition of efforts to help transform

the region into a vibrant innovation hub — both important to U.S. economic competitiveness and national security."

Over the past 18 months, the Lab has developed a progressive strategy to accelerate innovation and enhance national economic competitiveness. At the local level, the goal is to develop the Tri-Valley area into an innovation hub that leverages the Lab's capabilities in several thematic areas. The centerpiece of this initiative is the Livermore Valley Open Campus. Opened in July 2011, in partnership with Sandia Livermore, the two laboratories have proactively engaged with industry, gained increased support from community stakeholders, become more involved in regional high tech economic development, and broadened discussions with academic orga-

nizations. Albright commented, "These types of activities are accelerating programmatic growth and strengthening our partnerships with industry and academia. It is time to move to the next phase of our plan. This will require increased integration of many of the Lab's existing functions involving intellectual property management, licensing, sponsored research, and cultivation of partnerships with businesses, industries, entrepreneurs, economic development organizations, and higher education institutions."

Albright declared, "I look forward to continuing to work with Buck on this integration and to receiving the recommendations for improved management systems that support the Laboratory's strategic growth and business development."

Other councilmembers agreed with Sullivan that the CAP is a good one.

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LEGAL NOTICES

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Call 925-243-8000

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 460010

The following person(s) doing business as: Smoker Friendly, 1318 N. Vasco Road, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s):
Mohammed Akram Tokhi, 1318 N. Vasco Road, Livermore, CA 94551
This business is conducted by an individual

The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
Signature of Registrant(s): Mohammed Akram Tokhi, Member & Owner
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 9, 2012. Expires January 9, 2017.
The Independent Legal No. 3166. Published January 26, February 2, 9, 16, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 460195

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

an individual
The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
Signature of Registrant(s): Nicholas Boer, Owner
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 12, 2012. Expires January 12, 2017.
The Independent Legal No. 3167. Published January 26, February 2, 9, 16, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 460506

The following person(s) doing business as: Bay Area Code, 551 SummerTree Drive, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s):
(1)John Hardin Norris, 551 SummerTree Drive, Livermore, CA 94551 (2)Joseph Paul Krick, 2175 Ramish Drive, San Jose, CA 95131
This business is conducted by a General partnership
The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
Signature of Registrant(s): John Norris - General Partner
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 20, 2012. Expires January 20, 2017.
The Independent Legal No. 3171. Published February 2, 9, 16, 23, 2012.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. 12613770
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF ALAMEDA
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

1. Petitioner: Paul Seungyop Kwak filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present Name: Paul Seungyop Kwak
Proposed Name: Paul Seungyop Kwauk
2. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below

The following person(s) doing business as: Ultra Property Development, 2662 Decker Lane, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s):
Chris Patterson, 2662 Decker Lane, Livermore, CA 94550
This business is conducted by an individual
The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
Signature of Registrant(s): Christopher Patterson
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 20, 2012. Expires January 20, 2017.
The Independent Legal No. 3171. Published February 2, 9, 16, 23, 2012.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. 12613770
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Present Name: Paul Seungyop Kwak
Proposed Name: Paul Seungyop Kwauk
2. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below

to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING
a. Date: 03/23/2012
Time: 8:45 AM Dept: 504
b. The address of the court is:
24405 Amador Street,
Hayward, CA 94544
Hayward Hall of Justice
3.a. A copy of this Order To Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county. The Independent
Dated: January 23, 2012
Jst: Winifred Y. Smith
Judge of the Superior Court
The Independent Legal No. 3172.
Published February 2, 9, 16,

23, 2012.
NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
Date of Filing Application: January 19, 2012
To Whom It May Concern: The Name(s) of the Applicant(s) is/are: Manjinder Kaur
The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at:
1536 N. VASCO RD. LIVERMORE, CA 94551-9217
Type of license(s) Applied for: 41 - On-Sale Beer And Wine Eating Place
Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control 1515 Clay St. Ste 2208 Oakland, CA 94612 (510) 622-4970
The Independent Legal No. 3173. Publish February 2, 9, 16, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 460900
The following person(s) doing business as: Riesling Realty, 820 Cherokee Dr., Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s):
Andrea Sousa, 820 Cherokee Dr., Livermore, CA 94551
This business is conducted by an individual
The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
Signature of Registrant(s): Andrea Sousa, Owner/Broker
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 30, 2012. Expires January 30, 2017.
The Independent Legal No. 3175. Published February 2, 9, 16, 23, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 459236
The following person(s) doing business as: North First BR, 4323 N. 1st St., Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s):
Ramanjit Singh Kalley, 201 E. Grant Line Rd. #46, Tracy, CA 95376
This business is conducted by an individual
The registrant began to transact business under the ficti-

tious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
Signature of Registrant(s): Ramanjit Singh Kalley
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 13, 2011. Expires December 13, 2016.
The Independent Legal No. 3174. Published February 2, 9, 16, 23, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 460900
The following person(s) doing business as: Riesling Realty, 820 Cherokee Dr., Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s):
Andrea Sousa, 820 Cherokee Dr., Livermore, CA 94551
This business is conducted by an individual
The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
Signature of Registrant(s): Andrea Sousa, Owner/Broker
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 30, 2012. Expires January 30, 2017.
The Independent Legal No. 3175. Published February 2, 9, 16, 23, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 460836
The following person(s) doing business as: Livemore Ford, 2266 Kitty Hawk Rd, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following

owner(s):
Livemore Auto Group, Inc, 2266 Kitty Hawk Rd, Livermore, CA 94551
This business is conducted by a Corporation
The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 7/5/2005.
Signature of Registrant(s): Jay Gill, President
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 27, 2012. Expires January 27, 2017.
The Independent Legal No. 3176. Published February 9, 16, 23, March 1, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 460693
The following person(s) doing business as: Flynn Road Ranches, 11995 So. Flynn Rd, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s):
Paul James Faglino, 4435 First Street #341, Livermore, CA 94551
This business is conducted by an individual
The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 1/25/12.
Signature of Registrant(s): Paul Faglino
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 25, 2012. Expires January 25, 2017.
The Independent Legal No. 3177. Published February 9, 16, 23, March 1, 2012.

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL) CASE NO. RG11587151
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (AVISO AL DEMANDADO): KWAKU A. DANSO, and DOES 1 to 10 INCLUSIVE
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTA DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): INVESTMENT RETRIEVERS, INC. A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION
NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response to this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in a proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your

wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.
There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You may want to call the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp) or by contacting your local court or county bar association.
NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case, as the person sued under the fictitious name of (specify):
AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 dias, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su version. Lea la informacion a continuacion.
Tien 30 DIAS DE CAL- ENDARIO despues de que le entreguen esta citacion y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefonica no lo protegen. Su respuesta

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Local Expert Discusses Housing Challenges, Opportunities

By Kelly DeYoreo

Local Realtor, Don Faught, recently offered his assessment of the California housing market. Don has been involved in real estate for twenty-five years, first selling real estate while working for his mother, a real estate broker in Fremont. Faught then went on to become a top producer in sales before moving to management, managing offices for Dutra Realty and Prudential California Realty.

Don joined Alain Pinel Realtors nine years ago. He is currently the managing broker of the Pleasanton and Livermore offices. Don also served as Bay East Association of Realtors President in 2000, and is currently the 2012 President Elect for the California Association of Realtors (CAR), after serving as CAR Treasurer for two years.

Don offered his thoughts on current trends, opportunities and challenges in local and statewide real estate, and where he sees the market heading over the next year.

"Right now, our inventory is at a very low level, so one would think this would normally be a seller's market, but it really isn't. It's a complicated situation right now. About one-third of Californians are upside down on their mortgages - they owe more than their homes are worth. Those people aren't selling their homes; they can't. They want to sell their homes but can't afford to."

"One thing that would help is for banks to step up to the plate. I'd like to see banks or the government work with homeowners on loan modifications or principal reductions, to reduce the amount homeowners owe on their mortgages. Homeowners need some hope, that at some point they will have some equity back in their homes."

"Banks aren't willing to do this for a variety of reasons. We'd like to see banks come back to realistic accounting, valuing their assets at what they're really worth."

"When they're still carrying homes in their portfolio for which they wrote the mortgage in 2006. They're still showing that 2006 value on their balance sheet, when it's really not worth what it was in 2006. I think the banks need to consider reducing what they think their assets are to a realistic level. That would help them make some easier decisions moving forward."

Faught spoke about what needs to happen for prices to begin a recovery. "We do need to move some of these distressed properties through the system, and we have to give underwater homeowners some hope for the future."

"Appraisals have been another problem, with appraisers being extremely conservative in their valuations for a variety of reasons. Frankly, if we just had a slight uptick in value, I think that would be an extremely positive development. Even a slight gain in equity would allow more sellers, who would like to move, to put their homes on the market."

"Everybody's just sitting on the fence, waiting. You have homebuyers who would like to buy, but for varying reasons, they're not willing to buy right now. One reason is the uncertain job market. Even many people who have jobs are afraid they might lose them or have their pay reduced."

"Another reason is that people have been waiting to buy until the market reaches the absolute bottom. Everybody wants to get that best price. They're all sitting back waiting for that alarm bell to ring, telling them that prices have hit bottom, and that bell will never come."

"I've been through several different markets going back to 1986, and the way you get the absolute bottom of the market is by being lucky. You can't time it. There's no sign that's going to tell you when the bottom is here. People end up waiting too long, because you can only see the bottom after it's come and gone."

"One thing that has changed, and it's a good thing, is that we've moved to more responsible lending practices. The stated income loan was a great idea at the time, but these loans were abused. Responsible lending practice means the buyer needs to have a good credit score, and a significant down payment."

"Right now, a lot of people don't have sufficient credit or the down payment to qualify for a loan. It's very important that we keep Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac involved in the mortgage business, so that those loan products that allow qualified, solid buyers with 3.5% down to get a home loan."

Faught added, "While buyers are on the fence because they're uncertain about their own jobs and the economy in general, sellers are 'hunkering down' because they've lost a lot of equity, and they'd like to get some of that equity back. They're waiting for prices to increase before putting their homes on the market."

"Lenders are not really helping the situation because appraisal and lending requirements have become very conservative."

"People are frustrated, because what used to be a process of a few weeks involved in getting a loan is now a process that can take a few months."

As a result of the changing economy and housing market, Faught sees a noticeable change in the way people look at homeownership. "We got away from the idea that a home is a place to raise a family, a place that you live and call your own. It became an investment vehicle. Well, certainly a home's a good investment, when you hold it for a long period of time, and pay down your mortgage."

"But we got into this mentality that you buy a home, pull out your equity, and buy two more, because the appreciation was so swift. It became an investment vehicle more than a home. We got away from that concept for a while, but I do see that younger people - new, first time buyers - are looking at homeownership in a more traditional way, as a place to live, be part of a community, and raise a family, rather than as an investment to flip and make a fast profit."

Faught says it is difficult to predict where home prices will be a year from now. "Prices seem to be skipping along the bottom right now", he says. "They may stay this way until we can get consistent job growth and consumer confidence back in the market, and then prices will begin to improve."

Discussing the evolving role of Realtors over the twenty-five years he has been in business, Faught remembers a "one- or two-page sales contract." He says, "Our contract now is eight pages long. Buying and selling real estate has evolved and gotten much more complicated."

"A consumer can easily go online and spend months researching their home, and get an automated estimate of value, but that's not a substitute for a professional Realtor, invested in their community, who interprets that data every day. The role of a Realtor in helping the consumer interpret all the data, and understand their contractual rights and obligations, is more valuable than ever before."

He advises consumers to be sure they are working with a Realtor, and not just anyone who has a real estate license. A Realtor is a member of the National Association of Realtors, and bound by a strict code of ethics. He also suggests that getting a referral from a trusted source is a great way to find a competent, honest and hard-working Realtor.

Faught emphasized that living in California has many built-in advantages that have not changed: "our weather is incredible, the natural scenery is amazing, and our higher education system is world-class. California will remain a very desirable destination, for international, as well as domestic, buyers."

"Here in the Bay Area, we are lucky, in that we're already seeing a vibrant job market in parts of the Peninsula and Silicon Valley. We will once again see a strong housing market in the Bay Area; that much is certain."

Kelly DeYoreo is a Realtor with Prudential California Realty, Livermore

por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en lactore. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y mas informacion en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentacion, pida al secretario de la corte que le de un formulario de exencion de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podra quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin mas advertencia.

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remision a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniendose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperacion de \$10,000 o mas de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesion de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desear el caso.

The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y direccion de la corte es): SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF ALAMEDA 5672 STONERIDGE DR PLEASANTON, CA 94588

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la direccion y el numero de telefono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): JEFFREY FLETTERICK SBN 270847 LAW OFFICES OF JEFFREY FLETTERICK 4354 TOWN CENTER BLVD, Ste 114 #106 EL DORADO HILLS, CA 95762 (916)933-8641 (916)941-3913 fax

DATE: (Fecha): JUL 22, 2011 J. DE JESUS Clerk (Secretario) J. DE JESUS Deputy (Adjunto) J. DE JESUS

The Independent Legal No. 3178. Published February 9, 16, 23, March 1, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 460108

The following person(s) doing business as: Rock Candy Cakes, 16 Fawn Dr, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Michele Juliana Burkett, 16 Fawn Dr, Livermore, CA 94550

This business is conducted by an individual

The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 12/28/2011. Signature of Registrant(s): Michele Juliana Burkett This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 11, 2012. Expires January 11, 2017. The Independent Legal No. 3179. Published February 9, 16, 23, March 1, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 460854

The following person(s) doing business as: REALTYWORLD - STARS, 11501 Dublin Blvd Ste. 200, Dublin, CA 94568, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Leading Stars, Inc., 10221 Meyer Ct., Stockton, CA 95209

This business is conducted by a Corporation

The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant(s): Hamid Sultan Baloch, CEO This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 27, 2012. Expires January 27, 2017. The Independent Legal No. 3180. Published February 9, 16, 23, March 1, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 460105

The following person(s) doing business as: XO Pandora Online Broadcasting, 3107 Independence Drive, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): (1) Jacob Stansky, 5177 Peony Drive, Livermore, CA 94551 (2) Jarrod Anders, 6960 Reno Drive, Arvada, CO 80002

This business is conducted by Co-partners

The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 11/1/2011. Signature of Registrant(s): Jacob Stansky / Co-owner This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 11, 2012. Expires January 11, 2017. The Independent Legal No. 3181. Published February 16, 23, March 1, 2012.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Date of Filing Application: January 13, 2012 To Whom It May Concern: The Name(s) of the Applicant(s) is/are: Fat Chance Entertainment, Inc.

The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at: 2300 FIRST STREET STE 120 LIVERMORE, CA 94550-3153

Type of license(s) Applied for: 47 - On-Sale General Eating Place Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control 1515 Clay St. Ste 2208 Oakland, CA 94612 (510) 622-4970 The Independent Legal No. 3182. Published February 16, 23, March 1, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 461540

The following person(s) doing business as: Automax, 3765 First Street, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Fazil Auto Sales Inc, 1006 Natwick Way, Brentwood, CA 94513

This business is conducted by a Corporation The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant(s): Farhad Fazil, CEO This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 14, 2012. Expires February 14, 2017. The Independent Legal No. 3183. Published February 16, 23, March 1, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 460312

The following person(s) doing business as: Rockstar Audio, 3111 Independence Drive Unit A, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Scott Wood, 1046 Sunrise Ridge Drive, Lafayette, CA 94549

This business is conducted by an individual The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 1/17/2012. Signature of Registrant(s): Scott Wood

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 17, 2012. Expires January 17, 2017. The Independent Legal No. 3184. Published February 16, 23, March 1, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 460352

The following person(s) doing business as: Vapor Warehouse, 7697 Hawthorn Ave, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Interlated Ventures, LLC, 7697 Hawthorn Ave, Livermore, CA 94550

This business is conducted by a Limited liability company

The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 11/27/2002. Signature of Registrant(s): Jason Larson - Managing Member This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 18, 2012. Expires January 18, 2017. The Independent Legal No. 3185. Published February 16, 23, March 1, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 461078

The following person(s) doing business as: D and D Fabrication, 592 Sonoma Ave, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): David Abley, 592 Sonoma Ave, Livermore, CA 94550

This business is conducted by an individual

The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 1/1/2004. Signature of Registrant(s): David Abley This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 2, 2012. Expires February 2, 2017. The Independent Legal No. 3186. Published February 16, 23, March 1, 2012.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

FILE NO. 454509 The following person(s) has (have) abandoned the use of the Fictitious Business Name: Cal State Smogs, 3985 First Street, # F, Livermore, CA 94551.

The Fictitious Business Name Statement for the Partnership was filed on 7/29/11 in the County of Alameda.

The full name of Registrant: Harjit Deo, 595 Bourne Lane, Danville, CA, 94506

This business was conducted by: Harjit S. Deo Signature of Registrant: /s/ Harjit S. Deo

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 10, 2012. Expires February 10, 2017. The Independent Legal No. 3187. Published February 16, 23, March 1, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 461095-96

The following person(s) doing business as: (1) All Pro Fire Protection (2) All Pro Pumping Services, 1020 Ventura Ave, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Edward Gonsalves, 1020 Ventura Ave, Livermore, CA 94551

This business is conducted by an individual

The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant(s): Ed Gonsalves This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 2, 2012. Expires February 2, 2017. The Independent Legal No. 3188. Published February 16, 23, March 1, 8, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 461497

The following person(s) doing business as: Cal State Smogs, 3985 First Street, Suite F, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Hardeep S. Sanghera, 4998 Moorcroft Cir, Stockton, CA 95206

This business is conducted by an individual

The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 2/10/2012. Signature of Registrant(s): Hardeep Singh Sanghera This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 10, 2012. Expires February 10, 2017. The Independent Legal No. 3189. Published February 16, 23, March 1, 8, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 460725

The following person(s) doing business as: East Bay Rabbit Rescue, 1945 Fifth Street,

Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Joan Wegner, 1945 Fifth Street, Livermore, CA 94550 This business is conducted by an individual

The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 12/20/09. Signature of Registrant(s): Joan Wegner

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 25, 2012. Expires January 25, 2017. The Independent Legal No. 3190. Published February 16, 23, March 1, 8, 2012.

ANIMALS 2) CATS/ DOGS

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NOTICES/ANNOUNCEMENTS 155) NOTICES

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Unions Want Provisions for Local Jobs Included in Hacienda Developments

Members of various crafts unions asked that the Pleasanton City Council include a provision to employ local union workers as part of the approval of two developments in the Hacienda Business Park.

The city council and planning commission held a workshop last Wednesday to discuss the two proposals for high density housing.

Both would be developed by BRE Properties, LLC. The first is located across from the East Pleasanton BART station on 8.4 acres. It calls for a mixed use development of 8 buildings containing 251 residential units, four live/work units, and approximately 5700 square feet of retail space. There would be a fitness center, an open space area with a tot lot, and a leasing office.

The second site is located at the northern corner of Gibraltar Drive and Hacienda Drive on 8.1 acres. The plan would allow for 10 buildings containing 247 residential units and four live/work units.

These are the first two high density residential developments to come to the city following a settlement with Urban Habitat and the State of California requiring more affordable housing to be built in Pleasanton.

The process is moving too slowly for BRE Properties. Advocates for affordable housing said there wasn't enough affordability in the projects. Concerns were raised about the viability of proposed retail.

John Steinbuch of Colliers International represented BRE at

the workshop. He pointed out that the first application for development was submitted in February 2003. He wondered why the workshop was being held at this late date. "Time makes a deal infeasible. Consultants are paid to redo and redo plans. Lawyers are hired to renegotiate contracts. I am disappointed and mystified. We were asked to await the conclusion of the lawsuit settlement and subsequent task force discussion. The proposed process has not been lived up to by the city. We're asking to go to the planning commission for a decision and then the council for a final vote."

Becky Dennis suggested that the retail be more prominent. As proposed, it is not visible enough to attract any retail at all. Her vision was of neighborhood serving businesses such as pizza and coffee shops.

Carmen Hendrickson, an advocate for accessibility and affordability, pointed out that the city needs to pay attention to make sure units are accessible and affordable. She pointed out that a previous project in Pleasanton, Civic Square, failed to provide accessible units at a low rate. The \$2000 pricetag is way too expensive.

One speaker suggested the developments were for low and moderate income families. More units are needed for very low income workers.

Jack Dalrymple, representing three craft unions said, "We are not on board with this project yet. It matters who builds it." If there is political will, provisions can

be made for union workers to be hired so local families can make a living wage.

Jay Jurich, a 33 year Pleasanton resident, pointed out that during that time period he was hired for only one job in Pleasanton. "I think about how we support the city. Support us, so we are able to obtain local jobs at a standard wage."

Other union workers provided similar comments.

Councilmember Matt Sullivan did not like the architecture. He wanted to see a more classic and less industrial looking design. "This is an extremely important project for the community. It will set a precedent for what comes next with high density projects. I'd like to see a better neighborhood feeling." He added that the proposed retail space is completely inadequate. He would not like to see it degraded any further.

Sullivan supported the request of union members to include a provision for high school internship programs along with local jobs for local people in the development approval.

Cheryl Cook-Kallio also wanted some provision for internships and union jobs. She told staff, "Think out of the box. I think we can make this work."

Councilmember Cindy McGovern said the reason for the workshop was to allow the council to make comments. That helps to eliminate last minute changes when it comes to the council for a decision.

She was interested in making sure that trails were connected prior to people moving into the new housing. She was concerned about the retail and whether, as designed, it would be successful.

Councilmember Jerry Thorne wanted to make sure that affordability was maintained. He did not want so many restrictions placed on the development that it would become infeasible and potentially revert to office buildings on the two sites.

Mayor Jennifer Hosterman was absent.



Paul Allan Cox working with Guamanians.

Researcher To Discuss Brain Toxin Found In Food, Water

Can one form of Lou Gehrig's disease be caused by a neurotoxin in lakes, oceans and soils?

Can some other neurological diseases as well?

Ethnobotanist Paul Allan Cox thinks so after showing how a natural neurotoxin called BMMA is concentrated in the diets of villagers on Guam, who have some of the world's highest high rates of certain neurological diseases.

Cox is a widely published, Harvard-trained botanist who has spent more than three decades investigating both the medicinal potential of plants and their toxicity.

He will discuss his research, and particularly their neurological disease implications, at Livermore's Bankhead Theater on Wednesday, February 22, as part of the Rae Dorough Speaker's Series. The talk is scheduled to start at 7:30 p.m.

Cox's talk is titled, "There is something in the water." The ominous choice of words refers to his belief that a natural neurotoxin may be concentrated in the food chain and play a role in diseases not only in Guam but in the rest of the world, including the U.S.

The toxin is beta-methylamino-L-alanine, or BMMA, which can over-stimulate and exhaust neurons so that they can't function.

BMMA is produced by cyanobacteria, which are found nearly everywhere, including on the

roots of cycad plants in Guam. According to Cox's research, the BMMA is concentrated up to 100,000 times by the natural Guamanian food chain before reaching foxbats that are eaten by the indigenous Chamorro people.

The neurological illness suffered disproportionately by the Chamorro is actually a complex that includes Lou Gehrig's disease, which is medically known as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). The complex also includes Parkinson's and dementia. Studies have found highly elevated levels of BMMA in the brains of disease complex victims.

Cox and other investigators have found elevated levels of BMMA in the brains of some North American Alzheimers and ALS patients, leading to

suggestions of a possible wider link between the food chain and neurological disease.

Cox has published more than 175 scientific papers and three books. At the Institute for Ethnomedicine in Jackson Hole, Wyo., his research is focused on finding and fighting the causes of various neuro-degenerative illnesses.

He is Distinguished Professor at Brigham Young University-Hawaii, and holds adjunct professorships at the University of Hawaii and at the University of Illinois.

Tickets for this event can be purchased on line at www.livermoreperformingarts.org, at the Bankhead Theater box office at 2400 First Street in Livermore or by calling the box office 925-373-6800. Adult prices are \$30 and students under 21 are \$14.

LARPD Director Hear Update on Capital Projects

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) is working on a number of capital improvement projects.

The LARPD board received an update from staff on the progress of projects that are underway.

- The District is working with Tri-Valley Conservancy to add the former Bobba Property to Sycamore Grove Park. The property will allow for more park acreage plus access for future regional trail connectors. LARPD is working with TVC and the East Bay Regional Park District on an easement and construction of a trail connection to Lake Del Valle. A resource management plan is being developed to establish a baseline for a protective environmental easement with TVC.

- A Coastal Conservancy Grant has allowed LARPD to work on several projects in upper Sycamore Grove Park. These include pond restoration that comprises construction of a dam and minor trail realignment; design and construction of an observation deck and interpretive panels; and habitat restoration and re-vegetation work. Construction of the observation deck is scheduled for April. The project sign has been installed on the trail approach to the restored pond. In addition, a mitigation project funded by the Isabel Avenue/I-580 interchange project has provided other habitat restoration and re-vegetation work in the park.

- Also in Sycamore Grove Park, the removal of the old structure from the former Ranger Station project is complete. There will be a new restroom installed near the Wetmore Road entrance connected to an existing water line and the City's sewer system. New vault toilets will be installed at the Arroyo Road entrance parking lot. In addition, the Nature Education Facilities Grant Project will allow for a weather station, changeable interpretive display panels and "flip book" as well as rubbing plates.

- Robertson Park and Trails - The new trail and respite area project start date is slated to be built this summer. There are also plans for realignment of the Vinsanto trail. The District will expand the size of the Meadow and fence in part of the area for a dog park.

- Robertson Park Synthetic Turf Field Conversion - The project to convert current sports fields to synthetic turf is scheduled for construction bids for early 2012. In order to minimize regulatory and environmental complications associated with winter construction, the District will start construction after April 15.

- The future Cayetano Park, to be located near the intersection of Portola Avenue and Isabel Avenue next to Las Positas College, will be built by the developer, Shea Homes. The plan is in final review process. Park features include a synthetic sports field, dog park, playground, parking lot, concession/maintenance building and open play area. Staff anticipates construction to begin within 12 months, depending on the economy.

- A precast concrete monument sign for East Avenue in front of the Robert Livermore Community Center has been ordered and is expected to be installed this spring. The request for bids will be issued Feb. 10 for mid-March construction start. Also, a replacement irrigation pump for Robert Livermore Park will be installed before summer.

- At Holdener Park, a volunteer group, the East Bay Trail Dogs, has completed work on several trail sections in order to make the open space park more accessible to hikers. The group plans to return after the rainy season has made the ground easier to work with.

One Thousand and One Night
Thursday, Feb. 23, 2012

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Beautification Committee

Committed to preserving the natural beauty and habitat of our city, Committee members make recommendations on parks, roadsides, medians, city gateways and landscape maintenance standards, and lead public outreach programs. *Meets: 1st Wednesday at 6:00 pm, Maintenance Service Center, 3500 Robertson Park Road. Next meeting: March 7, 2012*

Historic Preservation Commission

The Commission is responsible for identifying, protecting, and preserving Livermore's historic resources, and encouraging public awareness and involvement in our environmental and architectural heritage. Their successes are visible in the beauty of Livermore's historic structures and landmarks. *Meets: 1st Thursday at 7:30 pm, Council Chambers, 3575 Pacific Avenue. Next meeting: March 1, 2012*

Human Services Commission

The Commission provides a forum for discussion of community social needs, monitors the expenditure of Housing and Human Services funds, assists local agencies in procuring grants, and submits an annual report to City Council on the status of social conditions and progress toward achieving solutions to the community's human needs. *Meets: 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 pm, Multi-Service Center, 3311 Pacific Avenue. Next meeting: March 13, 2012*

Library Board of Trustees

The Library Board helps to set goals and objectives for the broad variety of services and programs the Library provides, and recommends policy modification to City Council. *Meets: 4th Thursday at 7:00 pm, Civic Center Library, 1188 South Livermore Avenue. Next meeting: February 23, 2012*

Applicants are required to attend at least one meeting of the Advisory Body applied for prior to the interview. For an application or more information, contact the City Clerk's Office at 925-960-4200 or online at www.cityoflivermore.net.

Applications are due in the City Clerk's Office no later than Friday, March 16, 2012 at 5:00 pm

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Art, Community, & Education

Luna Negra Dance Theater Return to Coincide with New Exhibit by Cuban Artists



Painting by Estela Esteves (top); below is a work by Eira Arrate.



Photo - Kristie Kahns

Luna Negra Dance Theater took part in the inaugural season at the Bankhead Theater. The group returns this March with a new program of highly original works celebrating the richness and diversity of the Latino culture.

Founded by gifted Cuban-born dancer and choreographer Eduardo Vilaro, Luna Negra's distinctive choreography blends the discipline of ballet with the fiery energy of Latin and Afro-Caribbean forms.

In conjunction with the Luna Negra performance on Thursday, March 1, 2012, attendees will have the opportunity to celebrate the opening of "Cuba: una ventana abierta al Caribe" (Cuba: A Window Open to the Caribbean), an exhibit at the Bankhead Theater featuring the works of Cuban artists Eira Arrate, Grettel Arrate and Estela Estevez. The artists, as well as the entire company of Luna Negra Dance Theater, will join the audience to view the exhibit. Cuban-inspired refreshments will be served in the lobby immediately following the performance.

Since 1999, Luna Negra Dance Theater has established itself as a significant and vital component of the Latino arts community. The company provides a unique opportunity for the finest Latino choreographers and artists from around the world to tell their own stories and bring spirited new life to their communities through richly-textured contemporary dance. Equally important is the role Luna Negra plays in cultivating future artists by commissioning and presenting the works of up-and-coming choreographers.

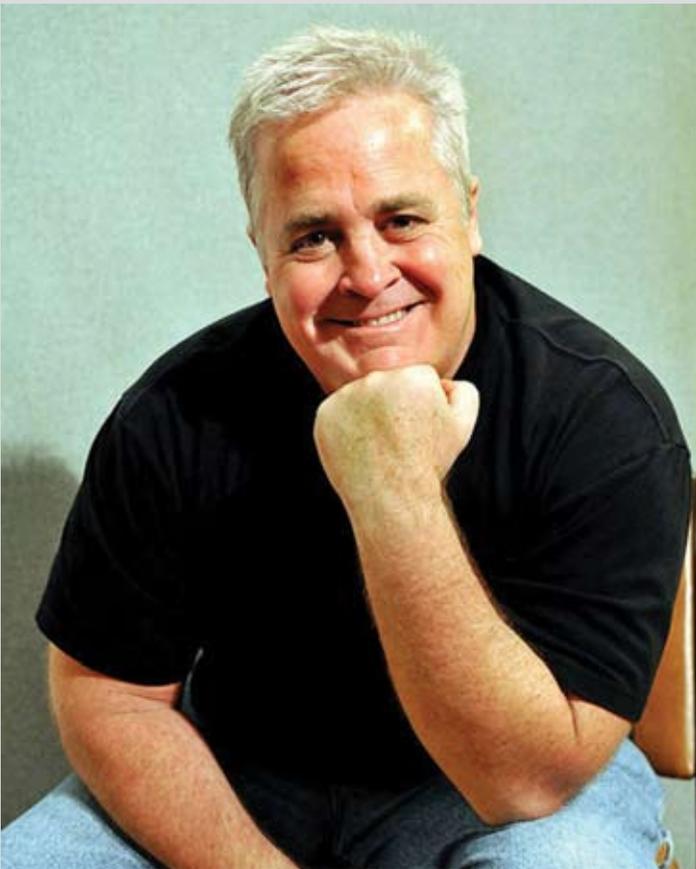
In sharing new views of their culture, tradition and

identity, Luna Negra has helped move Latino dance beyond classic folkloric styles to establish a modern and compelling artistic presence, including innovative cross-disciplinary explorations with a wide range of visual and media artists, musicians and composers. Now under the leadership of award-winning artistic director Gustavo Ramírez Sansano, Luna Negra Dance Theater has risen to the forefront of American contemporary dance, sharing their vision through vivid performances, as well as educational outreach programs encouraging the exploration of cultural identity.

"Cuba: una ventana abierta al Caribe" (Cuba: A Window Open to the Caribbean) is part of the annual festival, La Semana Cubana/Cuban Week, at Las Positas College in Livermore. Artists Grettel Arrate and Estela Estevez, from Santiago de Cuba and Havana respectively, will be showing their art for the first time in the United States and, although her photography was shown last year, this is the first visit to the United States for Havana resident, Eira Arrate. Artwork from *Con Amor y Esperanza* (With Love and Hope) from Pinar del Río, Cuba, will also be on exhibit. Celebrating its tenth anniversary, *Con Amor y Esperanza* is an art therapy program for children and young adults with Down Syndrome.

In addition to the event on March 1, a second reception that is free and open to the public will be held at the Bankhead Theater on Sunday, March 4 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

(continued on page 4)



Mike Pace

Comedy @Firehouse Arts Continues with Mike Pace

Pleasanton's Firehouse Arts Center will continue its comedy series, Comedy @Firehouse Arts, on Thursday, March 8, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. with comic Mike Pace. Opening for Pace will be Dhaya Lakshminarayanan.

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

Pace studied theater, developing a deep passion for both acting and comedy, and got his start on stage in improvisational comedy. His act is a series of one-minute, one-act plays, each enhanced by his ability to "become" character after character.

Pace has entertained United States Armed Services troops on many comedy tours in Iraq, Afghanistan, Korea, Guam, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, as well as stateside. He has been seen on HBO's "Curb Your Enthusiasm," Showtime's "Comedy Club All Stars," TBS's "Very Funny Live," and ABC's "Comics Unleashed." He has shared the stage with comedy legends such as Dana Carvey, Rodney Dangerfield and Chris Roc and has opened for entertainers Bob Dylan, BB King, Natalie Cole and Lou Rawls.

Lakshminarayanan, known simply as Dhaya, is a stand-up comic, storyteller, television host and self-described "ubergeek." She attended M.I.T. where she also taught "Charm School" to engineers, has traveled to Cuba as a researcher and has worked as a venture capitalist. On stage, she hosted "High School Quiz Show," on PBS's WGBH, which won a New England Emmy in 2010. She has also appeared nationally on NPR and PBS for her comedic storytelling on "Snap Judgment." Dhaya has entertained live at Comedy Day in Golden Gate Park and performed in Sketchfest at the California Academy of Sciences.

Tickets to Comedy @Firehouse Arts are \$15 for general admission on a first-come, first-served basis. 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. The entrance to free parking is on Spring Street near First Street.



Daniel Glover and Thomas Hansen perform piano duet.

Piano Duo to Perform

Del Valle Fine Arts Presents the Glover and Hansen Piano Duet for an 8 p.m. concert on Sat., Feb. 18 at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore.

When two of the Bay Area's leading concert pianists, Daniel Glover and Thomas Hansen, encountered each other in the Netherlands at the Franz Liszt Competition in Utrecht, the meeting was serendipitous, as together they have been able to explore the rich repertoire of works for four-hands piano.

While continuing their careers as solo artists and teachers, they have also joined forces, performing duets (both playing a single piano) and duos (playing together

on two pianos).

For their appearance with Del Valle Fine Arts they will use a single piano, a performance form which is rarely heard because it is so demanding, yet which is incredibly dynamic.

A recent performance by Thomas Hansen was described by the San Mateo County Times as "fresh, scintillating, and lyrical . . . a rich, dynamic bravura performance." Daniel Glover has been described by the San Jose Mercury News as "a whirlwind . . . an incisive, exciting, and apparently tireless player . . . a natural for hyper-virtuosic challenge."

The planned program will include Mozart's Sonata in F, K. 497

for piano, four hands; George Bizet's Excerpts from *Jeux d'enfant* (Children's Games); Francis Poulenc's Sonata for piano, four hands; Rachmaninoff's Etude-tableau and two Moments Musicaux for solo piano performed by Thomas Hansen; Saint-Saens's Toccata for solo piano performed by Daniel Glover; and Maurice Ravel's Rapsodie Espagnole for piano, four hands.

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

The ticket office is open Tuesday through Saturday from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m.

To purchase tickets call 925-373-6800 or visit www.bankhead-theater.org

'Cinderella' Ties In with Curriculum

Cinderella, California Theatre Center production performs at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore on Fri., March 23.

California Theatre Center (CTC) provides teachers with a study guide that relates performances to language arts, literature, science, and other course curriculums? Visit CTC's teacher info

page on our website for more information www.ctcinc.org/TeacherInfo/tindex.htm.

Rediscover one of the most popular fairy tales of all time, as Cinderella struggles to escape her wicked stepmother and ugly stepsisters for an evening to attend the Royal Ball and there finds her Prince Charming.

The performance is recom-

mended for grade K-5. Limited seating is available at the 9:30 a.m. performance; class size openings at 11 a.m.

To order tickets online go to www.ctcinc.org/1112tour/1112Tour_Order_Form.html or call 800-606-0424.

Chamber Symphony – Bach to Brahms



Pictured are (above) the cello section, (below) the oboe section.



The Pacific Chamber Symphony will present a program of works by Bach, Mozart, and Brahms at 8:00 p.m. on Sat., February 25, at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore.

Prior to writing the two serenades for orchestra in the late 1850's, Johannes Brahms had composed primarily for the piano.

Brahms was an astute student of musical history. He collected and studied first editions and autographs of the works of the composers that he admired, and he made deft use of his knowledge in his own compositions.

He was particularly fascinated by Bach's 6th Brandenburg Concerto, which is scored entirely for lower-register string instruments (viola, cello, and double bass) plus the harpsichord.

Brahms also admired traditional classical forms as exemplified by the music of Mozart, Haydn, and Beethoven. He was especially impressed by Mozart's skillful handling of the wind instruments.

Many consider it only natural that as he embarked on his career as a composer for orchestra that he would look to those models for inspiration.

Brahms' Serenade #2 is a synthesis of Bach's use of the low strings in the sixth Brandenburg Concerto with Mozart's use of woodwinds in Serenade #12.

The Pacific Chamber Symphony presents all three works in this program; Bach's Brandenburg Concerto #6, for low strings, Mozart's Serenade #12 for woodwind octet, and finally, the two sections join to form a full orchestra (minus violins) for the Brahms Serenade.

Tickets for the concert are \$39/\$34/\$29 \$7 students, and can be purchased at the Bankhead Theater box office at 2400 First St. in Livermore, online at www.LivermorePerformingArts.org, or by phone at 925 373-6800.

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Clover and Hansen Piano Duo

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Del Valle Fine Arts



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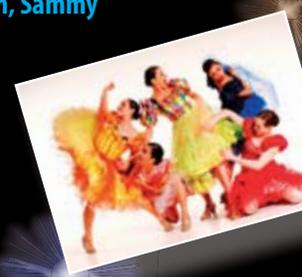


Pacific Chamber Symphony

Feb 25 at 8pm
Bach to Brahms—Serenades

Salute to the Rat Pack

Feb 26 at 2pm
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Do You Remember?



By Anne Homan

William Crosby: Civil War Vet and Farmer

The *Livermore Echo* printed a small article on 14 July 1892—Robert Bird at Mulfontes Ranch had trapped 151 gophers with ten traps in two days. I wish that Bird were still alive or that he had left me those excellent traps. Up here on Morgan Territory Road this year we are having a terrible gopher problem. Mulfontes, located south of Livermore on the Arroyo Valle, was the home of the Crosby family.

William Crosby was born in 1843 in Maine and grew up in Bangor. At age 18 he volunteered for the Civil War and served the Union cause for five years in the Seventh Regiment of the Maine Infantry. His company fought in battles with familiar names, including Bull Run, Antietam, and Gettysburg. He rose in the ranks from sergeant to captain. At fighting in the Wilderness, an area of heavy underbrush near Spotsylvania, Virginia, in May 1864, he was wounded by gunshot in the right thigh near his knee. He took a three-week leave of absence to travel to Maine and recover. Returning to the regiment in Virginia, he served for another year. Then he signed up and served in the regular army from April 1866 until January 1871.

After resigning from the army, Captain Crosby came to San Francisco, where he became a patent attorney. In June 1872 an act of Congress declared that veterans who were honorably discharged from the armed forces could claim a 160-acre homestead for free. Crosby filled out an application for a homestead on 27 July 1877; thus began a long process that included proving his military service, finding three neighbors who knew him and would confirm his application at the land office in San Francisco, and advertising his intentions in a *Livermore Echo* ad for six

consecutive weeks. Captain Crosby ended his attorney business and moved to Mulfontes in July 1887, ten years after beginning the process. Finally, he received his final certificate and his patent for the land on 30 July 1890. Crosby chose his 160 acres in section 30 T4S/R3E, an extremely steep woodland area about 11 miles from Livermore south of Lake Del Valle. Later, his wife said that the beauty of the place had bewitched him.

When Crosby moved to his land, he found a cabin already there, and he began to improve and enlarge it. In his homestead testimony he described the renovated 24 x 18 feet redwood and pine building with a shingle roof, two rooms, four doors, five windows, and a cellar. He was running eight horses and colts and some mules on the property. He had met Maria MacLachlan, daughter of a seafaring Scottish captain, in San Francisco, but her family soon moved to New York. Crosby left in late September for New York and married Maria there, probably in October 1887. They returned to Livermore and over the steep road to Mulfontes. Presumably, Crosby carried her over the threshold of their “Casita.”

Captain Crosby and his new wife settled down to a farming life. They planted a half acre of alfalfa in a fenced area and also had a large vegetable garden. He would get up “at the squawk of dawn,” drink a cold cup of coffee for breakfast and work until noon. In photos of the ranch, Crosby has a long beard and wears a floppy hat. After the noon meal, he would read for several hours. They had a baby on 27 July 1889, but he only lived for two days. They had more children, three girls and two boys. A year after moving to the Casita, they bought property next to their

ranch and moved into the larger house there. Then, in 1908 they built an even larger new house. They planted hay, fruit trees, including olives and plums, and began keeping some cattle and chickens. Their children traveled by horseback to attend the one-room Arroyo Valle School about two miles away on the road toward Livermore.

The neighbors in the Arroyo Valle had a Reading Circle that met each month in the summer. In August 1892 they had a get-together at the Crosbys with the usual neighbors plus some friends from Livermore. The Halls brought their organ in a wagon. Music, oral readings from Washington Irving, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Whittier, and a discussion of Whittier’s work filled the day. The last meeting for the season was held in October, when the Crosbys invited everyone to a picnic lunch under the oaks. After a solo accompanied by a violin by two members of the Hall family, the Captain gave readings from Shakespeare’s *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Henry IV*. Mabel Palmer read Longfellow’s poem, “Autumn,” and the evening ended with the group singing “America.”

The Captain died at his beloved Mulfontes in 1917; he was buried in the family graveyard on their homestead beside Maria, who had died nine years earlier. The *Herald* described him, “He was a quiet, retiring man, but he was fearless in the exposition of the principles he espoused.” He encouraged the formation of the Livermore National Guard unit and took part in the city celebrations of Memorial Day.

Dick Finn is working on a project to identify all the Civil War veterans who came to the Tri-Valley; so far, his count is 113 Union and 5 Confederate. (Readers can reach me at am50homan@yahoo.com.)

CUBA

(continued from front page)

“Cuba: una ventana abierta al Caribe” will remain at the Bankhead from March 1st through March 5th before travelling to Las Positas College for La Semana Cubana.

Since Luna Negra Dance Theater’s first appearance at the Bankhead, LVPAC Presents has offered audiences a variety of exceptional dance experiences reflecting the varied interests and diverse cultures within the Livermore community. From classical and contemporary ballet to modern dance, the Bankhead Theater has welcomed such world-class groups as American Ballet Theatre II, Aspen Santa Fe Ballet, and Taylor 2, as well as Argentine sensation Tango Fire and the surreal acrobatics of Diavolo. Next in this season’s LVPAC Presents Dance Series will be a single performance by acclaimed San Francisco-based Alonzo King LINES Ballet on Saturday evening, April 28, 2012. Founder and choreographer Alonzo King is known for his ability to infuse classical ballet with his own unique language of movement. His works effortlessly communicate the most profound of emotions – vulnerability and tenderness, furious abandon and exhilarating freedom. Tickets for both upcoming LVPAC Presents Dance Series performances are on sale now and each range from \$29 to \$51 for adults and \$14 for students. Tickets to see Luna Negra Dance Theater include the post-performance reception for “Cuba: una ventana abierta al Caribe.”

Now in its fourth year, the annual La Semana Cubana/Cuban Week will take place on campus from March 12 through 16, 2012. It in-

cludes presentations of Cuban art, music, dance, poetry and literature. For more information visit laspositascollege.edu or semanacubana.org or contact Catherine Suárez at 925-424-1212.

The Bankhead Theater is located at 2400 First Street in Downtown Livermore. The ticket office is open Tuesday through Saturday from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m. On performance days the ticket office remains open through intermission. To purchase tickets call 925-373-6800 or visit www.bankheadtheater.org



Photo by Grettel Arrate



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Project Hopes to Retain Local Languages, Culture

By Carol Graham

After a two-day journey into the lush, tropical mountains of Puebla, Mexico, Theresa Fellmann and Nancy Rodrigue arrived just in time to take part in a Totonacan tradition. They were able to celebrate the 6th of January, known as Three Kings' Day or the Twelfth Day of Christmas. Villagers bake a community pastry - with one unusual ingredient added.

"The pastry was a very pretty wreath with colorful dried fruits on top," said Rodrigue. "Baked inside are lots of little baby Jesus figures. If you get a Jesus in your piece, you have to help make all the tamales for the village's next celebration."

Fellmann smiled sheepishly. "I found two," she said.

The trip to visit the Totonacans, an indigenous people living east of Mexico City in the Sierras (Spanish for "saw"), was undertaken to accomplish two things.

"Part of our mission is to help indigenous people keep their languages and culture alive while receiving a modern education," said Fellmann, founder of the grass-roots non-profit group SUSTAIN (Setting Up Support to Aid Indigenous People). "The Totonacans' main need is education so they can advocate for themselves, make sure their lands are safe, and

stand up for themselves in their own country in an age of globalization."

Board member Rodrigue added, "The second reason was due diligence. If we see things are going along well with things we've already helped out with, then it makes it more viable to continue."

SUSTAIN is currently helping the Totonaca community build a dorm house for the Centro De Estudios Indigenas Kgoiyom (CESIK), the indigenous high school in the town of Huehuetla. About half of its 41 students walk up to two hours each way to attend daily. "We worked on plans with the people, and walked the territory making suggestions. They were very receptive," said Rodrigue. "But they live there; they know what works and what doesn't."

Fellmann continued, "We also met with the parents; it's like a PTA, if you will. They're very involved with what's happening because in the end, they're the ones who are going to be building the dorm and doing all the work."

"If you just give people things, you can have good intentions with bad results," she added. "When people invest their time, effort, blood, sweat and integrity, they're going to treasure it."

The visitors were treated to a



Theresa Fellmann and Nancy Rodrigue were given a first hand look at Totonacan life and a mural.

performance by the students. "It was fun because they would take turns describing their culture as shown on huge murals," said Rodrigue. "They performed a dance and music, and brought us lunch. The teenagers were very much like our teenagers - very sarcastic and flirty."

One of the biggest challenges Totonacans face is discrimination. "A lot of third world countries do marginalize their indigenous people. There are about 63 different languages spoken in various pockets around Mexico. Some are dying very quickly," noted Fellmann. "Discrimination is an age-old problem since the Spaniards came; it's nothing new. Languages can disappear in one generation."

While public school is available for students through 6th grade, it does not embrace diverse cul-

tural heritages. "When kids attend school they learn to assimilate into what is happening there," said Rodrigue. "They become further away from their culture, and learn not to be proud of it."

CESIK provides three spheres of education: academic instruction, Totonacan language and culture preservation, and apprenticeship guidance.

Fellmann and Rodrigue, who financed the visit themselves, stayed at convents and enjoyed the friendly warmth of the Totonacans.

"They were so welcoming and wonderful, why wouldn't you want to preserve this?" said Fellmann, adding that they also enjoyed the local fare. "There are bananas, coffee, papayas and mangoes growing randomly. They can pick all sorts of things out of their backyards.

It's very green, very lush - it's a paradise."

Previous SUSTAIN projects have included providing funding for computers, furniture, school supplies and air conditioning for needy populations. "We are passionate about serving the underserved," said Rodrigue.

Fellmann agreed. "Education is the great equalizer. Our goal is to provide education to people so they can communicate with each other and understand that everybody is trying to survive on this incredible planet that we live on," she said.

As for all those tamales Fellmann is obliged to provide for the next celebration? She isn't planning on making the trip again soon, but luckily, a previous donation of computers to CESIK's small tech center proved a double blessing. "I emailed internet photos of lots of tamales," she said.

To make a tax-deductible donation, please visit www.http://sites.google.com/site/indisus/ or email sustainindi@gmail.com.

Two Performances Remain in Asbury Concert Series

The 2011-12 concert season for Asbury Live Presents ends with two stand-out artists. They are Russell Moore, Bluegrass vocal star joined by his band IIIrd Tyme Out, and folk music legend, John McCutcheon. In a nine concert season which began last August, Asbury Live Presents has brought significant performers to the area at reasonable prices, in one of the most audience-friendly and comfortable venues around.

Bluegrass standouts Russell Moore and IIIrd Tyme Out arrive in northern California from Nashville and will perform one of their few concerts in the region at Asbury United Methodist Church on Friday, February 24 at 8 p.m. Cost is only \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Located at 4743 East Avenue, Asbury UMC has become the prime venue in the Tri-Valley area for Bluegrass groups. This is the third time this band

has been at this venue over the past four years. Regarded as one of the best vocalists in Bluegrass - last autumn winning his fifth Vocalist of the Year award from IBMA (International Bluegrass Music Association) - the level of professionalism and artistry of this group is extraordinary.

On Sun., March 18, internationally known folk singer and songwriter, John McCutcheon, will be in concert starting at 4 p.m. Once called by Johnny Cash "the finest instrumentalist I've ever heard," McCutcheon usually visits northern California only in January, but is making a special visit in mid-March and this will be his only Bay Area appearance until next January. Skilled at every string instrument, McCutcheon is known for his hammered dulcimer ability, his song-writing skills and his great gifts of rapport with the audience. Tickets are also only

\$15 in advance for this concert. Information about these last two concerts and the option of ordering online can be found at www.asburylivepresents.com.

The Russell Moore concert will be preceded by a pulled pork BBQ event at 6:15 p.m. in the church's Fellowship Hall - the cost is only \$9 and includes drink. Proceeds

will go to a youth mission trip to southern California this summer. For those who like to jam or listen to folks jamming - the opportunity to play or just listen will come at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Tickets may be purchased online or at the church weekdays from 9 a.m. to noon, and 1-3 p.m. For information call 925-447-1950.



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A Festive Evening to Support Junction Mariachi Club

By Patricia Koning

Last Friday evening, nearly 200 community members came together for an evening of great food, mariachi music, and dancing – all to support the Mariachi Club at Junction Avenue K-8 School. Belia Martinez, the event's organizer, estimates that the event raised about \$5,000, which will be used to purchase instruments, costumes, and other supplies.

The Livermore-Pleasanton Elks Lodge donated use of their facility on Larkspur Drive for the fundraiser. "We are very active in the community with our Hoop Shoot for Basketball, scholarships, and veteran's programs," explains Cynthia Kennedy, president of the Elks Board. "This event was an easy sell to our board – we all want to support music programs and our schools."

Wente Vineyards, Tamas Estates, Murrietta's Well, and ABC Music all donated items for the silent auction. Casa Orozco catered the event at a discount.

In attendance were Junction families, Junction staff, community members, and mariachi fans, as well as School Board Member Anne White and Superintendent Kelly Bowers. "I'm thrilled to support Junction and the performing arts," said Bowers, who attended

with her husband. "The Mariachi Club is a really great program."

Mariachi is a genre of music that originated in small villages across Mexico. Mariachi ensembles typically consist of violins, trumpets, classical guitar, a high-pitched, five-string guitar called a vihuela, a large acoustic bass called a guitarrón, and a harp. The sharply contrasting sounds of the instruments create a unique, lively sound.

The Mariachi Club, which began last May, is one of several programs intended to complement Junction's Dual Immersion program. The Futsal Club, Hispanic Culture Club, and Ballet Folklórico all provide meaningful afterschool activities that connect students to Hispanic culture and their school.

Jonathan Clark, Raymundo Coronado, Juan Reyes, and Gustavo Sanchez, the Mariachi Club instructors, performed at the fundraiser along with several other mariachi colleagues. There are 36 students in the Mariachi Club, but Martinez hopes to grow the program. The Mariachi Club will perform at the Livermore Valley Education Foundation's Reach for the Stars benefit in April.

Martinez is the parent center coordinator at Junction and newest member of the Livermore Board of



Belia Martinez and Elks Board president Cynthia Kennedy take a break with the mariachi performers. (Photo by Paul Martinez)

Education. She was appointed last month to serve out the remainder of Stu Gary's term, through November of this year. Gary left the Board when he was elected to City

Council.

The Junction Mariachi Club meets every Thursday evening from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. For more information, contact Alicia Calo-

nico, (925) 960-0654, acalonico@yahoo.com or Belia Martinez, (925) 606-4720 x6392, (925) 528-7500, bmartinez@lvjUSD.k12.ca.us.

Review: SJO's Terrific "Traviata"

By Susan Steinberg

Verdi's "La Traviata", the world's second most popularly-performed opera, is being given a dazzling new production at Opera San Jose's opulent California Theatre.

Staged and directed by internationally-acclaimed Jose Maria Condemni, the uniset concept is brilliantly versatile, and strikingly accurate for the period setting of 1889. As an example, the half-finished Eiffel Tower is visible from the window in Act I, and completed by Act III, just one of many impressive details by set-designer Erik Flatmo.

Costuming by Elizabeth Poin-dexter is gorgeously realized in shades of purple, violet, mauve, and maroon in Act I, with heroine Violetta outstanding in a pale yellow gown, like the fragile butterfly she truly is. In the final scene, the sparkling gown stands displayed on a dress form center-stage, amidst the shabby remains

of former splendor, shrouded furnishings, and Violetta's rumpled little death-bed. The contrast and symbolism are heartbreakingly obvious.

Best of all, the singing and acting are equally first class, on a par with any major opera house (and better than many bored and boring performances this reviewer remembers from SFO and even the Met). Rebecca Davis, an Opera San Jose alumna, returns from Chicago to glorify the tragic role of the courtesan who discovers true love too late. Winner of the Western Opera Auditions, she has gone on to star appearances at a variety of famous venues, including her triumphant bravura turn in last fall's "Idomeneo." Her shimmering pianissimo is magical, as is her nuanced physical acting.

Playing her dashing lover Alfredo Germont, tenor Michael Dailey brings a fresh ardent vocal portrayal to the stage, renewing memories of his many OSJ suc-

cesses, from "L'Elisir d'Amore" to "La Rondine." Especially effective in his confrontational scenes when he believes Violetta has betrayed him, he is meltingly sympathetic returning to beg forgiveness at her deathbed.

Young newcomer Evan Brummel, as Alfredo's stern father, conveyed an impressive gravitas as the strictly moralistic provincial who softens and becomes a compassionate remorseful figure by the finale. Second-place winner of the Irene Dalis Vocal Competition with a strong voice and stage presence, he is a singer to be watched in future productions.

The supporting cast includes many fine OSJ repertory ensemble members, familiar from previous performances. Veteran Isaiah Musik-Ayala is a menacing bass-baritone Baron Douphol, Violetta's jealous "protector", and Silas Elash a consoling Dr.Grenvil.

OSJ is so rich in excellent singers that it can boast an equally stun-

ning double cast, with Jouvanca Jean-Baptiste, recent Irene Dalis Competitions finalist and Wagner Society Award winner, as Violetta. Alternate performances feature SFO Merola Program graduate Alexander Boyer as Alfredo, and popular baritone Torlef Borsting as his father.

Lively Spanish dancing enhances Act III, choreographed by Lisa La Cour. An added asset is the fine-tuned chorus, with impeccably sharp entrances and precise finishes. Their beautifully blended voices and uniform volume control in the crescendo-diminuendo passages of Act III provided an outstanding emotional setting, as did their individualized stage business. Kudos to Chorus Master Andrew Whitfield.

Highest praise must go to Conductor David Rohrbaugh, professor emeritus of voice and opera, and a veteran coach of many productions, including 60 with OSJ. His sensitive orchestral interpretation

was heartbreaking without being over-wrought, especially in the overture, where a slow deliberate tempo conveyed the music's full emotional impact.

Future performances will include 8 p.m. Thursday February 16, Saturday February 18, Tuesday February 21, and Friday February 24, with 3 p.m. matinees on Sundays, February 19 and February 26. Tickets are available at 408-437-4450 or www.operasj.org.

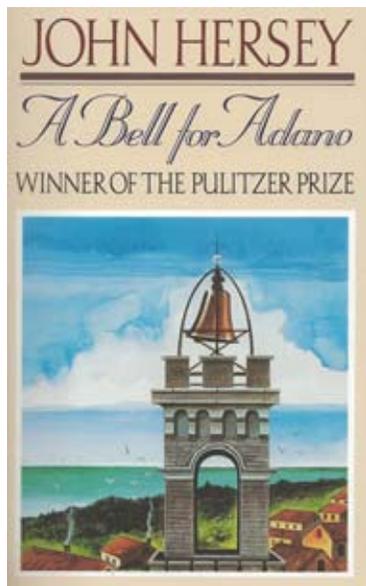
The historic, lavishly restored California Theatre is located at 345 South First Street between San Carlos and San Salvador Streets in downtown San Jose, with a huge parking lot across the street. Be sure to arrive 90 minutes before curtain time to hear the Bay Area's best pre-opera talk by immensely knowledgeable and entertaining General Manager Larry Hancock. After the talk, enjoy the old favorites played on the lobby's magnificent "Mighty Wurlitzer" pipe organ.

Shakespeare's Associates to Present Dramatic Reading of 'A Bell for Adano'

Shakespeare's Associates will present a dramatic reading from *A Bell for Adano* by John Hersey at 2 p.m. on Sunday, February 26, 2012 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 John Hersey's *A Bell for Adano* to life with a dramatic reading, transporting us to Adano, Italy during the Allied occupation in 1943. Meet "Mister Major" Joppolo, an idealistic officer, and a host of colorful characters – from Italian civilians to military generals.



Shakespeare's Associates, Inc. are the producers of the Livermore Shakespeare Festival held each summer at Concannon Vineyard, 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 John Hersey's book *A Bell for Adano*, which takes place in Italy during World War II. The community of Livermore is encouraged to join their neighbors by participating in the *Livermore Reads Together* free events for children and adults during the month of February 2012. Copies of books and event schedules are available at all Livermore Public Library locations. *Livermore Reads Together* is sponsored by The Friends of the Livermore Library. For additional events check the library's website at www.livermorelibrary.net.

Jazz Concert Set at the Pleasanton Library



Langston, a native of Oakland, California, began her musical career as a soloist at the St. John Missionary Baptist Church of Richmond. She received classical music training at California State University, Hayward, going on to perform as a soloist with the Oakland Opera and the Lamplighters Gilbert & Sullivan Ensemble. In 2005 Ms. Langston focused her career on nightclub and cabaret performance, leading to the release of her 2006 CDs, "Imagination" and "Blue Prelude." Ms. Langston's current 2007 release is titled "Street of Dreams."

Langston's repertoire reflects her love of the Great American Songbook, along with her familiarity with the blues and Tin Pan Alley tradition.

This free concert is sponsored by the Friends of the Pleasanton Library and will be held in the Pleasanton Library's meeting room. Doors open at 1:30pm. Come early to find parking and ensure a seat.

For more info regarding the program call the Reference Desk at 931-3400, ext. 7. No registration required.

Darlene Langston (pictured) and the Buena Vista Jazz Band will perform a free concert at the Pleasanton Library at 2 p.m. on Sun., Feb. 26.

Buena Vista Jazz Band plays the classic songs of New Orleans jazz, along with selections from America's blues and Tin Pan Alley traditions. In honor of Black History Month, classics of the African American jazz canon will be featured, voiced by the song stylist Darlene Langston.

Work by Pastel Artists Featured



Creek in the Meadow by Bonita Paulis

featured works by Debbie, Bonita and Marla typify some of the finest work in natural scenes," said Dirk Christiansen, owner of Studio Seven Arts.

Debbie Wardrope is a signature member of the Pastel Society of the West Coast who also works in oil and acrylics. She teaches art through the city of Pleasanton for children and adults.

Bonita Paulis is also a signature member of the Pastel Society of the West Coast. She has created paintings from a diverse collection of areas in the western United States, from the high sierra, to the California coast and the desert southwest.

Marla Bagetta, also a signature member of the Pastel Societies of America and Oregon, who has been a professional artist since 1983 when she began painting the landscape. She is one of the Wests' leading representational painters with her compelling and sophisticated imagery.

Studio Seven is located at 400 Main Street, Pleasanton; (925) 846-4322.

Studio Seven Arts in Pleasanton has announced a late winter exhibition, "Love of Art in Pastel," featuring bold and colorful works of three artists. Pastel painters Debbie Wardrope, Bonita Paulis and Marla Bagetta are featured with varying works of landscapes, California vineyards and other colorful scenes. A special event is scheduled for Saturday, February 18, (from 10:00am to 2:00pm) with Debbie Wardrope visiting the gallery to demonstrate her pastel techniques and to showcase her latest works.

"Nothing matches the color and inspirations of pastels and our



African Drumming and Dance Program Planned

The Pleasanton Public Library will host another of its ongoing Dance & Sing Around the World Series on Sat., Feb. 25. This time the focus will be on African drumming and dance as performed by Cheza Nami (Swahili for "play with me"). The program begins at 2:00 p.m. in the Library Meeting room.

Residents of all ages are invited to learn about the influence of drums and dance on the African continent. Participants will be presented with a taste of African culture through dance, music and conversation with visiting Cheza Nami artists. They will be able to participate in an interactive drum circle using traditional African instruments.

The program is open to all ages. No registration is required. Free admission tickets will be distributed at the Children's Desk one half-hour prior to the performance.

For information on this and other library activities and events, please visit the library website at www.cityofpleasantonca.gov/services/library, or call the Children's Desk at (925) 931-3400, Extension 8.

MTC Has Openings in Summer Internship Program

The 2012 Metropolitan Transportation Commission High School Summer Internship Program is now open and accepting student applications online. Approximately 35 internships will be available throughout the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. The pay rate is \$10.25 per hour. Each internship will last up to a maximum of 250 hours. Students may work full-time or part-time, for up to 10 weeks, between June 26 and August 31, 2012.

The purpose of the program is to: promote interest in transportation as a potential career; help students understand the role of transportation agencies in the community, county and region; provide skill-building and enrichment opportunities during all phases of the program; and provide assistance to our partner transportation agencies.

Interested tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grade students are invited to apply now.

Program requirements and information can be found at www.mtc.ca.gov/jobs/high_school/

Deadline for students to apply is March 8, 2012



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HEARING SERVICES

<p>Pleasanton 4460 Black Ave, #F 484-3507</p>	<p>Livermore 1524 Holmes St, #D 960-0391</p>
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www.pleasantonhearingervices.com

ART & ENTERTAINMENT

ART/PHOTO EXHIBITS

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

Blue Bay Press: Eloquence in Printmaking, Harrington Gallery, Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. January 19 - February 18, 2012. Exhibit will include several styles of printmaking —etching, monotype, chine colle, and woodblock, on handmade paper, canvas, and other surfaces, for example. It will also include a small collection of marble sculptures made by Maj-Britt Hilstrom. www.firehousearts.org.

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

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

February's Art Exhibition at the Bankhead Theater, Haiku and HiChroma, features the color-charged vineyard and landscape works of Nova Starling with poetic response by Haiku Poet and Denver Art Consultant Hilary DePolo, with a reception open to the public on February 15th from 6:00-8:00pm. The Founder's Room Exhibit, Totally Textile, continues until February 29 with works by Emilee Dunlop, Caryne Mount and Carolyn Ramsey. The theater is located at 2400 First Street, Livermore. See www.livermoreperformingarts.org for more information.

Passion for Pastels, Harrington Gallery, Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. March 14-April 4, 2012. Opening reception, Wed., March 14, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Free and open to the public. Group of pastelists reside in the bay area. www.firehousearts.org.

Livermore Art Association, Spring Art Show, March 31 and April 1, The Barn, Pacific Avenue, Livermore. Awards event Saturday night. www.livermoreartassociation.org

MEETINGS/CLASSES

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

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

Art in Public Places, join a local group of artists and paint on selected Friday mornings around town. ACC/Art Critique and Coffee invites artists to express themselves in watercolor, acrylic, oil. For more details check out the website for

PoetryOnCanvas Pleasanton or contact Claudette at PoetryOnCanvas@Mac.Com ~ ACC Meets each Friday at various locations.

Tuesday Afternoon Art Classes for Grades K-5 in Livermore, includes introduction to history of art. Tuesdays, 3:30-4:30/5 p.m. Some materials included in fee. Ongoing. thomasin_d@hotmail.com; (925) 216-7231; http://childrensartclassesprojects.blogspot.com

Art Classes for teens and adults, Livermore Saturdays 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and Mondays 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Some materials included. Please email instructor a materials list to purchase supplies. Watercolor, oil paints, charcoal, pastel, colored pencil, collage, printmaking. Classes also introduce the History of Art to students. thomasin_d@hotmail.com; (925) 216-7231; http://childrensartclassesprojects.blogspot.com.

LARP Friday morning Art Classes for Homeschoolers 4-10 years, Livermore, Fridays 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Some materials included. Please email instructor for a materials list to purchase supplies. thomasin_d@hotmail.com; (925) 216-7231; http://childrensartclassesprojects.blogspot.com/.

Beginning Stained Glass, start and finish a small stained glass window (14" x 14") using cutting and manufacturing skills. Learn how to use basic glass tools. Limited to 8 students. Additional studio hours are available at a daily, weekly or monthly rate. Tools and supplies are \$174. Does not include glass. 5 week class, 2.5 hours each. Weds. 10-7, Thurs.-Sat. 10-9, Sun. 10-4. Classes are ongoing so you may start anytime. Art Glass Studio, 174 South L St., Livermore. For more information contact Roberta Jones at: 925-447-1962 www.artglasstudio.weebly.com

WINERY EVENTS

Winemaker Series at The Winemaker's Pour House: evening with fine food from the Winemaker's Pour House and wine pairing with the winemakers from the Livermore Valley Wine Country. The Winemaker's Pour House, 2241 First Street, Livermore. Wednesday, February 22, 2012 - Fenestra Winery; Wednesday, February 29, 2012 - Retzlaff Vineyards; Wednesday, March 7, 2012 - Charles R Vineyards. 6:30pm - 8:00pm. For more information (925) 215-2656, www.winemakerspourhouse.com

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

Murrieta's Well, Port and chocolate weekends Saturdays and Sundays through February, 11 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Taste 2008 Touriga Port with succulent dark chocolate, as well as the latest releases. Silver Spur Members are complimentary, all other guests \$5. 3005 Mines Road, Livermore.

Retzlaff Estate Wines, Presidents' Day Weekend, Feb. 18, 19, 20, noon to 4:30 p.m. barrel tasting both red and white estate wines. Purchase futures. \$5 per person. 925-447-8941 www.retzlaffwinery.com 1356. So. Livermore Ave., Livermore.

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

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

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

Fenestra Winery 29th annual "Barrel Tasting" February 18, 19 and 20 from noon to 5pm, all three days. There is the normal \$10.00 tasting fee for this event. Barrel samples will include two samples of the 2011 Semillon. For an additional charge Soleil Caterers will be at Fenestra offering their artisan pizza prepared fresh and baked in a Wood Fired Oven. Fenestra will also be releasing the 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon from Ghielmetti Vineyards in Livermore (2011 Best of the Bay Red), a 2009 Tempranillo from Lodi, a 2010 Semillon, Livermore Valley, and the estate-grown 2008 Mourvedre. For more information, visit the website at www.fenestrawinery.com or email info@fenestrawinery.com. The winery is located at 83 Vallecitos Rd., Livermore.

6th Annual Barrel Tasting and Futures, Feb. 18 and 19, noon to 4:30 p.m. Wood Family Vineyards. Barrel sample and futures offering on the 2010 Grenache (extremely limited production, approximately 40 cases produced). In addition some current releases will be available for tasting. \$10 tasting fee and keep the logo crystal wine glass. Extended Family "Club" members show your card (or check the member list) for waived tasting fee. www.woodfamilyvineyards.com

San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition Public Tasting will be held at Fort Mason Center in San Francisco on February 18, 2012 from 2 to 5 p.m. Tickets are \$65 when purchased in advance from www.winejudging.com. Tickets, if still available the day of the Tasting, are \$80 at the door. For tickets and information, visit www.winejudging.com.

Gold on Greenville, Charles R, Bent Creek, McGrail & Wood Family wineries are on the Leprechaun wine trail celebrating "Gold on Greenville" on St. Patrick's Day, March 17th, noon to 4:30. Gold Medal Wine tasting and delectable desserts will be featured. Be sure to enter the Greenville Gold Gift Basket Raffle. \$5 tasting fee at each winery.

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

MUSIC/CONCERTS

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

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.

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

An Evening in Roma with Naresh Michael, Feb. 18, 8 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.

Don't Fence Me In, concert and west-

ern, Feb. 23, 7:30 p.m. LVPAC Presents, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Dan Hicks and the Hot Licks, Feb. 24, 8 p.m. LVPAC Presents, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

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

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

Ho'olaule'ao Mana'olana: A Celebration of Hope, Feb. 25, 7 p.m. Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, 10550 Albion Rd., San Ramon. www.sanramon.ca.gov

American Idol contestant, Jason 'Wolf' Hamlin, Live at The Winemaker's Pour House, evening of wine, music and food, Sun, Feb. 26, Fundraiser for Big Dawgs Rescue (www.bigdawgsgrescue.org). Two shows, 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. Reserved seating, only 24 seats available each show. \$20 will call only (925) 215-2656; General Admission \$10 limited availability. The Winemaker's Pour House, 2241 First Street, Livermore. For more information call 925-215-2656 http://www.winemakerspourhouse.com

Salute to the Rat Pack, Sun, Feb. 26, 2 p.m. A Swingin' Tribute to Frank, Dean, Sammy and The Legends of Las Vegas. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Red Molly, Bluegrass, March 2, 8 p.m. LVPAC Presents, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

The Temptations, March 2, 8 p.m. Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, 10550 Albion Rd., San Ramon. www.sanramon.ca.gov

Diane Schuur, jazz, March 3, 8 p.m. LVPAC Presents, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Pinkalicious presented by Bay Area Children's Theater, March 10-18, Fridays 7 p.m., Sat. and Sun. 2 and 4:30 p.m. Front Row Theater. www.sanramon.ca.gov

Jayme Stone, Banjoist Extraordinaire, March 16, 8 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.

Molly's Revenge, Fri., March 16, 6 to 9 p.m. St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton. Molly's Revenge is returning to St. Clare's for St. Patrick's Day Dinner. Molly's Revenge is a dynamic, acoustic Celtic band known for its unique and infectious enthusiasm. Tickets are \$40 per adult, \$20 for children under 12. That includes a dinner of corned beef and cabbage with beverages. Members of the public are invited. It is not necessary to be a member of St. Clare's to buy tickets. Tickets are available at the church office. For more information call 925-462-4802.

Music Dept. Benefit Concert with Wake the Dead, Fri., March 16, 8 p.m. Las Positas College, Barbara F. Mertes Center for the Arts Main Stage Theater, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. Advance purchase tickets will be available online at www.brownpapertickets.com with the venue of Las Positas College, or call 1-800-838-3006. Tickets will also be available at the door. For further information call the Performing Arts Events Line at 925.424.1100 or call Cindy Rosefield at 925.424.1119

Ashu Classical Saxophonist, March 18, 3 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.

Food for the Soul, a Chamber Music

Concert to benefit Open Heart Kitchen on Sunday, March 18, 2012 at 4 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, 4th and L Streets, Livermore. Information contact Janet Holmes, at 925-829-0244 or Phyllis Harding at 925-447-8630.

Lizz Wright, jazz, March 21, 7:30 p.m. LVPAC Presents, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Larry Carlton, four time Grammy Winner, Thurs., March 22, 8 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.

Jay Ungar & Molly Mason, March 23, 8 p.m. LVPAC Presents, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Livermore Amador Symphony, concert Sat., March 24, 8 p.m. featuring violin soloist Laura Hamilton; works by Wagner, Mendelssohn and Dvorak. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Larry Carlton, four time Grammy Winner, March 22, 8 p.m., Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.

Children's Variety Show, Sat., March 24, 1 p.m. Dublin Heritage Park and Museums, Donlon Way, Dublin. Featuring Amazing Mr. Pete. A former Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey Circus Clown. \$5 youth. www.ci.dublin.ca.us

Top Shelf's: Disco Fever, Motown revue, March 24, 8 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.

Pleasanton Community Concert Band, spring concert, March 25, 2:00 - 3:15. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. 447-7270.

An Evening with Rita Coolidge, 8 p.m. March 30. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Atlantic Brass (Quintet) March 31, 8 p.m. Del Valle Fine Arts Concert, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Bill Harley, 2-time Grammy winner, Sat., March 31, 2 p.m. matinee and 8 p.m. late show. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.

ON THE STAGE

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

Grease, Amador Valley and Foothill High School production, March 17-24, 7:30 p.m., Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. Tickets at www.firehousearts.org.

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

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

Douglas Morrisson Theatre presents "Dividing the Estate" by Horton Foote, a darkly comic portrait of a family divided. Directed by Susan E. Evans. Thursday, February 23, 2012 preview 8:00 p.m.; opening reception Feb. 24; performances through March 18. Douglas Morrisson Theatre, 22311 N. Third St., Hayward. Post-play discussion March 10 matinee. Tickets \$10 preview, \$20 Sat.

ART & ENTERTAINMENT

matinee; \$28 evening performances and Sunday matinee. (510) 881-6777; www.dmtonline.org.

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

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

Godspell, March 23, 24, 25, 30 & 31 and April 1, Fri. and Sat. 8 p.m., Sun. 2 p.m. Las Positas College, Barbara F. Mertes Center for the Arts Main Stage Theater, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. Advance purchase tickets will be available online at www.brownpapertickets.com with the venue of Las Positas College, or call 1-800-838-3006. Tickets will also be available at the door. For further information call the Performing Arts Events Line at 925.424.1100 or call Cindy Rosefield at 925.424.1119.

The Importance of Being Earnest, March 28, 7:30 p.m. LVPAC Presents, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

COMEDY

Theater Class, Meet the cast, Fri., Feb. 24, 7 p.m. Las Positas College Main Stage Theater Barbara Fracisco Mertes Center for the Arts, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. \$10 admission. Winner best comedy Las Positas Film Festival 2009; winner best director Vacaville International Film Festival, 2011. Sponsored by Talk Hawks. See the hit web-series in its screening/performance. Meet and hang out with the cast, and be the first to see the next episode.

Mafia-esque plays at the Veterans Memorial building on Friday, March 2 at 7:30 p.m., Pleasanton Teen Improv troupe Creatures of Impulse will perform The Tribe, a teen long-form improv show based on the long-running reality show Survivor. Tickets for both shows are \$5 per person and are available at the door. 301 Main St., Pleasanton. (925) 931-4828.

The Impuls-ible Film Project, Friday, April 20, Pleasanton Teen Improv troupe Creatures of Impulse return to the Veterans Memorial Building stage at 7:30 p.m. to present a revival of a format made popular by the Un-Scripted Theater Company in San Francisco. Three teams of improvisers will take to the streets of Pleasanton to shoot three improvised short films based on your suggestion. Tickets are also \$5 per person, and all tickets are available at the door. 301 Main St., Pleasanton. (925) 931-4828.

Comedy @ Firehouse Arts with Mike Pace, March 8, 7:30 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.

Night at the Improv, March 24, 8 p.m. Tickets \$10. Front Row Theater, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Rd., San Ramon. www.sanramon.ca.gov

DANCE

Moscow Festival Ballet Presents Sleeping Beauty, Feb. 19, 4 p.m. Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, 10550 Albion Rd., San Ramon. www.sanramon.ca.gov

Luna Negra Dance, March 1, 7:30 p.m. LVPAC Presents, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

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.

MOVIES

Theater Class, Meet the cast, Fri., Feb. 24, 7 p.m. Las Positas College Main Stage Theater Barbara Fracisco Mertes Center for the Arts, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. \$10 admission. Winner best comedy Las Positas Film Festival 2009; winner best director Vacaville International Film Festival, 2011. Sponsored by Talk Hawks. See the hit web-series in its screening/performance. Meet and hang out with the cast, and be the first to see the next episode.

Student Film Festival, Sat., Feb. 25, 1 to 10 p.m. Las Positas College, Barbara F. Mertes Center for the Arts Main Stage Theater, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. Advance purchase tickets will be available online at www.brownpapertickets.com with the venue of Las Positas College, or call 1-800-838-3006. Tickets will also be available at the door. For further information call the Performing Arts Events Line at 925.424.1100 or call Cindy Rosefield at 925.424.1119.

Jewish Cultural Film Series, "An Article of Faith," Sunday, March 11, 3:30 p.m.; "Kaddish Fur Einen Freund (Kaddish for a Friend)," Sun., March 11, 7:15 p.m.; "Mabul (The Flood)," Thurs., March 15, 7:30 p.m. Vine Cinema, 1722 First Street in Livermore. To purchase tickets online or for more information: www.eatbayjewishfilm.org or call 510.318.6456

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

CHORAL

Valley Concert Chorale, March 10, music from weddings and coronations. www.valleyconcertchorale.org

OPERA

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

OperaLIVE! at the Livermore Public Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave. Sunday, March 4, 2pm - 3:00 p.m. Free. Livermore Valley Opera presents a one-hour performance of arias from Tosca as well as those from other well-known operas. Tenor David Gustafson, who will sing the part of Cavaradossi, Tosca's lover, will perform. For more details on the full production of Tosca and the library preview programs, please visit www.livermorevalleyopera.com.

Broadcast from the Met, Dublin Regal Hacienda Cinema. Ernani, Feb. 25 and

March 14; Manon, April 7 and 25; Turandot, April 14, May 2. First date is a morning showing, second date afternoon. Check for exact curtain time. 560-0900.

Livermore Valley Opera presents Puccini's Tosca, March 10, 11 and 17, 18, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Recital, featuring tenor Marco Stefani. March 17, 2 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. Information at www.firehousearts.org or 931-4848.

MISCELLANEOUS

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

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

Toymakers Workshop, Saturday, February 18 from 10am - 12 noon: spend a morning of family toy making fun. Make your own old time toys to take home. Plus, play with our old time games and wooden toys such as tabletop nine pins,

vintage old maid, and paper dolls. Museum on Main Family Day. Free. For more information about current exhibits and programs, visit the Museum's web site at www.museumonmain.org or phone (925) 462-2766.

Science on Saturday, February 18, 9:30 and 11:45 a.m., Space Junk: Traffic Cops in Space; Presenter: John Henderson, Teacher: Tom Sheffer. Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's lecture series for middle and high school students, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. No admission charge. www.bankheadtheater.org

Paul Alan Cox, Director of the Institute for EthnoMedicine, Wed., Feb. 22, 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. LLNL Presents The Rae Dorough Speakers Series: Something in the Water? www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Livermore Reads Together, *A Bell for Adano*, events (Civic Center Library, 1188 So. Livermore unless indicated otherwise): The Swingin' Blue Stars of the USS Hornet sings music of the 1940s; Feb. 23, 7 p.m. everyday life and everyday resistance in Southern Italy during WWII presented by Laura Ruberto; Feb. 26, 2 p.m. dramatic reading from A Bell for Adano by readers from Shakespeare's Associates. Livermore Reads Together 2012 is sponsored by Friends of the Livermore Library. For additional events check the library's website at www.livermorelibrary.net.

Science on Saturday, March 3, 9:30 and 11:45 a.m., Restoring Sight to the Blind: Bridging the Medical Gap with Technology; Presenter: Sat Pannu, Teacher: Kirk Brown. Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's lecture series for middle and high school students, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. No admission charge. www.bankheadtheater.org

Murder by Merlot, a wine tasteless event. Interactive Mystery Dinner Theatre presented by GibsonHouse Mystery

Performers at Sunol Valley Golf Club. Fri., March 9. Wine tasting attire most welcome. 3-course gourmet meal and farcical mystery play, all for \$59 per Sleuth, tax and gratuity included. Seating begins at 7:15 p.m. The Sunol Valley Golf Club, 6900 Mission Road, in Sunol. Reservations required at (925) 862-2408. www.SunolValley.com.

Ed Kinney Lecture Series, 7 p.m. An Evening with Isadora Duncan, Tues., March 13. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. \$10 General Admission, \$5 Members & Seniors, \$3 Students/Teachers with ID. All tickets are paid at the door. All tickets are open seating. Information www.museumonmain.org or (925) 462-2766.

Trout Fishing in America, March 15, 7:30 p.m. LVPAC Presents, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

St. Patrick's Day-themed Brew Crawl on Friday, March 16 from 6-9 p.m. hosted by Pleasanton Downtown Association. Costumed guests will sample local craft beer and appetizers in a variety of downtown businesses. Information is available from the Pleasanton Downtown Association (925) 484-2199, www.pleasantondowntown.net.

2012 Dublin St. Patrick's Day Celebration, March 17 and 18, festival at Civic Plaza, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Parade, March 17, 9:30 a.m. Dublin Blvd. Shamrock 5K Fun Run & Walk, Sun., March 18, 8:30 a.m. Civic Plaza. www.ci.dublin.ca.us

Goodguys 30th All American Get-Together, March 24 - March 25, 2012, Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Avenue, Pleasanton. Over 3,000 All American or American Powered Rods, Customs, Classics, Muscle Cars, Street Machines and Trucks, Vendors and Exhibitors, Indoor and Outdoor Car Show, Swap Meet and Cars 4 Sale Corral, Model and Pedal Car Show, Arts and Crafts Show, Kids Play Area, Pin Strippers Brush Bash and Auction. For more information visit www.allamericangettogether.com

Reception to Open Pen Women Exhibit

The public is invited to the artists' reception for the Diablo/Alameda Branch of the National League of American Pen Women (NLAPW) "Believe/Achieve Art Exhibit."

The reception for this exhibit will be at the John O'Lague Galleria in Hayward City Hall from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 17. Refreshments will be provided. There will be live music. There is no admission charge.

Participating artists are Natica Angilly, Kazumi Cranney, Evelyn Glaubman, Elizabeth Hack, Leona Nichandros, Charlotte Severin, Pallavi Sharma, Barbara Spanskic and Tomye.

Pen Women writers will read from some of their original works during the reception. Readers are Ida Mae Kemple, Genie Lester, Doris Nicolaides, Dori Pendergrass, Connie Rush, Jackie Doyle and Winnie Thompson.

The exhibit will be open for viewing from Feb. 10 through



"The Horned Owl," by Kazumi Cranney

March 30, 2112 during normal business hours, which are 9 to 5 weekdays. Hayward City Hall is located at 777 B Street, Hayward.

NLAPW began in 1877 in Washington, D.C. when three well known professionals were denied

access to the press club based on gender. They formed their own organization for networking and support. There were seventeen women of achievement in letters, art and music. At present, over 4000 meet for support and inspiration.

Education

1st Grade Teacher County Teacher of the Year

Linda Stevens, first grade teacher at Rancho Las Positas Elementary School in Livermore, was honored by the Alameda County Office of Education (ACOE) as a 2011 *Teacher of the Year* during a October 6, 2011 at the Annual Award Ceremony at the San Leandro Arts Education Center. Stevens was visited at her school by Sheila Jordan, Alameda County Superintendent of Schools and Yvonne Cerrato, Alameda County Board of Education Trustee, Area 7 on January 20, 2012.

Stevens has been a teacher in the Livermore Valley joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) for 37 years.

"Linda is a master teacher, she

knows her students needs both emotionally and academically. She deeply cares for her students and works hard to ensure their growth" says Rancho Las Positas principal, Chris Calabrese. Mrs. Stevens has taught Grades 1-3 at Rancho where she has resided 26 of her 37 years. She is a dedicated teacher whose caring and nurturing attitude has won her accolades among parents, principals, coworkers and students over the years.

In its 22nd year of recognitions, ACOE celebrates teachers throughout Alameda County for their excellence in classroom instruction. The honor and significance of the award will be throughout the 2011/2012 school year.



Visit to Linda Stevens's classroom.

Community

Steven Kent Lineage Wine Continues to Draw Praise

The Steven Kent Winery's second release of Lineage, their ultimate Bordeaux-style blend, is continuing a remarkable track record of acclaim.

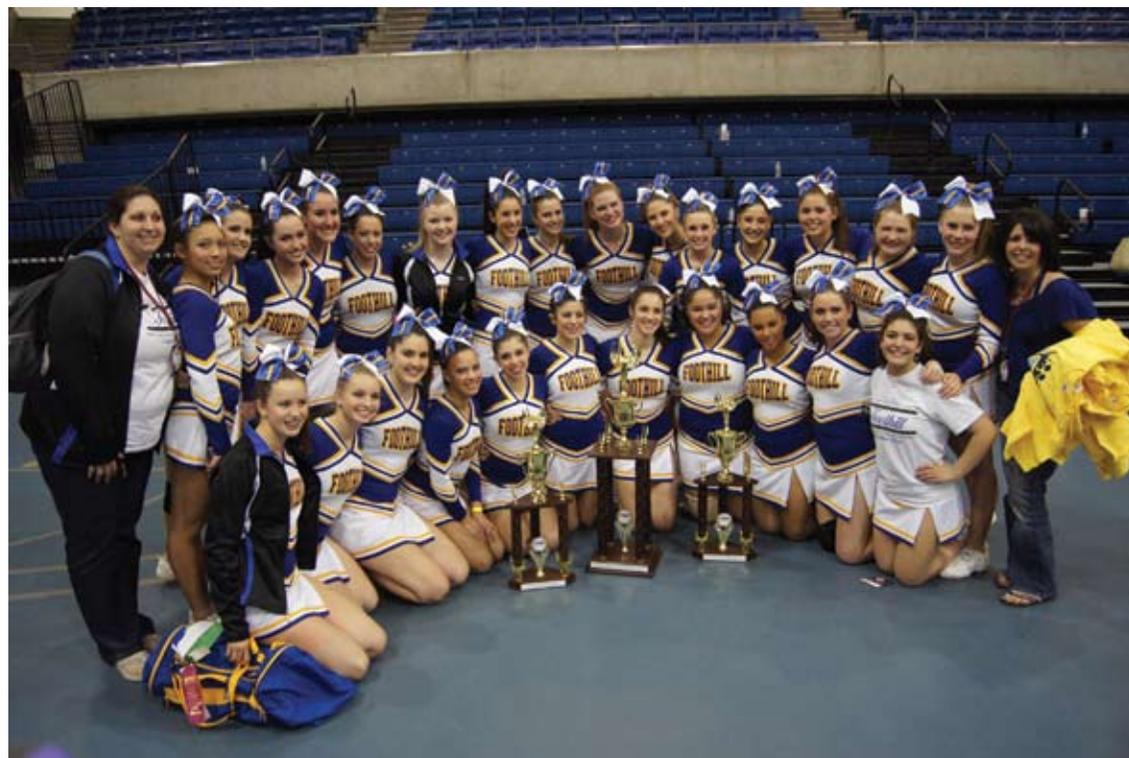
The first review of the 2008 version of this uber-limited release picks up where the 2007 debut left off. The February issue of respected critic Wine Enthusiast Magazine awarded the 2008 Lineage "94 Points" and enthusiastically recorded that: "...the second vintage of Steven Kent's lovely, lofty Lineage, impressive in its kingly bottle, is as ambitious as last year's - a sumptuous blend of 81% Cabernet Sauvignon (three different clones), 9% Cabernet Franc, 5% Petit Verdot, 3% Malbec and 2% Merlot. Its red fruit is prominent, the wine high-toned, succulent with cherry and pomegranate. Integrated and appropriately weighty, it lifts even higher on the coffee-laced finish. Give it a few years more in bottle and wow."

With "Lineage, the Steven Kent Winery has realized a long held dream: to produce a "Bordeaux-style" red that ranks among the New World's greatest, most collectable wines. The initial 2007 Lineage release created an instant 'buzz factor,' landing "94 Points" from Wine Enthusiast and "95

Points" from Connoisseurs Guide. James Laube of Wine Spectator called it the "one of the best wines ever from Livermore Valley."

Lineage is blended from just five barrels of the Ghielmetti Vineyards' best blocks. Only 118 cases were produced in the 2008 vintage. It has a suggested retail of \$135.

The Steven Kent Winery is located in the historic, world-class Livermore Valley appellation. The winery's visitor center is open daily; its on-line home is www.stevenkent.com



Foothill High School cheer squads pictured with trophies.

Foothill High School's Cheer Squads Win Awards

Foothill High School's varsity and junior varsity (JV) competition cheer squads were awarded a pair of first place trophies and the JV team won the Grand Champion trophy at the United Spirit Association California Open held at UC Davis Sunday, February 5, 2012.

The varsity cheer squad took top honors in the varsity show cheer intermediate category, competing against teams from seven other schools.

The undefeated junior varsity cheer squad triumphed in the JV show cheer novice category, com-

peting against teams from three other schools. The JV team also took home the coveted grand champion title, awarded to the group posting the highest overall score of the afternoon. They trounced 34 other teams to claim the title, including five middle schools and 29 high school squads competing in junior varsity, varsity and coed at all skill levels. "I am so thrilled for these girls," said JV Coach Karen Maurice. "They started the season really strong but continued to work so hard and

improve their performance every time they took the floor this year. They earned this title."

The two teams began their season in September and have competed successfully in a number of regional competitions in Northern and Southern California. The victorious Falcons travel to Anaheim in late March for Nationals.

The Varsity squad includes: Amanda Arnold, Jori Berman (team captain), Sarina DeJoy, Carissa DeRossett, Bailey Downum, Diane Hadley, Camille Hamlin,

Hayley Jefferies, 'Alakoka Kailahi, Keri Kodama, Gabriella Scalise and Haley Zavattero.

The JV squad includes: Haley Bean, Zoe Cristobal, Mitsu Dill, Sarah Downey, Kelsey Emery, Michelle French, Rikki Holman, Emily Palange (team captain), Jordan Robinson, Taylor Sanchez, Jessica Smilovitz, Sabrina Stermer, Brittany Trevor, and Natalie Wright. Kim DeJoy is the head coach for Foothill's nationally ranked cheer squads and is assisted by Karen Maurice, Megan Moore and Cheryl Holy.

Milestones

Community

Education



Pictured are Mayank Sharma, Brittany Bicomong, Bianca De, Celestine Jahren, Hannah Scarborough, Toby Scarborough, Chapter Regent Ann Narciso, Rupal Nigam, and Jason Ramos.

DAR Honors Students

Jose Maria Amador Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution recognized the following outstanding students from our local schools. Winners of the American History, Christopher Columbus Essay contests along with the DAR Good Citizens and ROTC Cadet were recognized at our Award Winning Youth - Annual Awards Ceremony on Saturday, February 4, 2012.

Winners are: DAR Good Citizen, Celestine Jahren - Chapter Winner, Valley Christian High School; Runner-ups: Brittany Bicomong -Foothill High School;

Tatum Wheeler -Dublin High School

Christopher Columbus Essay Contest: Title: "Christopher Columbus: In his own time, in history, and today," Bianca De - Chapter Winner, Dougherty Valley High School - San Ramon

American History Essay Contest: Topic: "Young America Takes A Stand: The War of 1812," Toby Scarborough - Chapter Winner - 5th Grade, Mohr Elementary School - Pleasanton

ROTC Winner: Jason Ramos from the Charles W Parks Squadron Camp Parks

Educator of Year Selected

Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) announced that Veronica Navarro has been selected English Learner Educator of the Year for Alameda County.

Ms. Navarro began her work with the LVJUSD 17 years ago as a paraprofessional teaching Spanish to teachers and students, assisting with computer classes and helping her school community realize goals designed to improve educational achievement for all students. When LVJUSD began receiving their funding for English as a Second Language (ESL), Veronica Navarro stood out as the ideal candidate to lead that program. Her work with this program provided the foundation for highly successful ESL educational opportunities for adults that continue to this day.

"Veronica Navarro is the ultimate professional. She has exceptional skill in developing relationships and building capacity and empowerment in others. Her work with English learners and their families spills over into other areas of the District. Daily, Veronica demonstrates leadership and commitment that promotes a high quality, rigorous educational program for English learners throughout the District" says Melinda Hall, Director of Curriculum and Special Projects.

Ju-Ting Feng, a resident of Livermore received a Master of Science in telecommunications during the December 2012 SMU Commencement ceremony. After the University-wide Commencement, SMU's schools and departments held individual receptions throughout the day to honor graduates.

Dianne Turiano Keefer of Livermore, Calif. was among 391 students named to the Dean's Recognition List at Benedictine University for the Fall 2011 semester. The Dean's Recognition List recognizes part-time students who achieve a 3.5 grade point average or above.

Loyola Marymount University has announced the students named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2011 semester. Among them are several local students: **Nicole Conrad** and **Dante Sblendorio**, both of Livermore. Students named to the Dean's list have completed 15 semester hours at LMU and earned a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or better. Additionally, a student must have completed all of his or her courses and never received an F in any course.

George Fox University released the names of dean's list recipients for the 2011 fall semester. Among them were **Jenny E. Newman**, a freshman in Philosophy and Political Science from Livermore, and **Casey James Millerick**, a sophomore in Psychology from Pleasanton.

The Georgia Institute of Technology presented degrees to approximately 2,000 undergraduate and graduate students during the Institute's 241st commencement exercises. Among them were **Todd Bandhauer** of Livermore, who received a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering.; and **Tracie Owens** of Dublin, who received a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering.

The following area residents were named to the Dean's List for the fall 2011 semester at Grove City College: **Kyle Marchini**, a sophomore Music/Religion major has been named to the Dean's List with High Distinction. Kyle is a 2010 graduate of Home-schooled and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Marchini from Livermore; and **Walter Gowen**, a senior Economics major has been named to the Dean's List with Distinction. Walter is a 2008 graduate of Homeschooled and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Gowen, III from Livermore. Students eligible for the Dean's List have a GPA of 3.40 to 3.59; for the Dean's List with Distinction a GPA of 3.6 to 3.84 and for the Dean's List with High Distinction a GPA of 3.85 to 4.00.

Fund-raising Up Next for Sandra J. Wing Foundation

The Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation (SJWHTF) bestowed its 100th grant in January 2012, an important milestone for any non-profit. The female recipient resides in Dublin, age 50, who is battling Breast cancer. She is unemployed. While we would like to provide more data, many recipients wish to remain private and anonymous.

General statistics on grant recipients, are as follows: The average age is 52; the youngest at 4 and the oldest at 75. Gender: Female 84%, Male 16%. City of grant recipients: Pleasanton 34%, Livermore 26%, Danville 20%, San Ramon 14% and Dublin 6%. Type of cancers: Breast 38%, Unknown 15%, Other 13%, Ovarian 10%, Lymphoma 6%, Colon or Rectal 5%, Multiple Myeloma 5%, Leukemia 4%, Lung 3%, Melanoma 1% and Endometrial 1%.

"I am going through hard times these days emotionally and physically. I am still in treatment. It seems it will never end. My life has been upside down since my diagnosis. It has been hard on my family to adjust to this new life with the scare of losing them. Life has turned 360 degrees. We are trying so hard to keep it together. The only thing that keeps me going is the wonderful service you are providing. I do not know how else I could have relieved my body from stress without your healing therapy donation towards people like me."- Suzanne A.

The annual fundraiser, "Ragin' Cajun" will be held on Friday, March 2 at the Palm Event Center at 1184 Vineyard Avenue, Pleasanton. The evening will include Mardi Gras music, dancing, live and silent auctions and dinner from 6:30 pm until 11 pm. Tickets for the event are only \$85 per person and event sponsorships range from \$250 to \$5,000. The event will be hosted by Jessica Aguirre and Mike Inouye, of NBC Bay Area news.

Music is provided by Brad Kinney.

Here is a sampling of auction items:

Napa Valley Weekend Getaway: A three night getaway to Aurora Park Cottages in Calistoga for one couple. A comfortable private cottage with B&B hospitality with breakfast delivered to your door. Tour and reserve tasting along with expert wine-tasting notes plus \$100 in complimentary wine-tasting certificates; and a Spa package.

The Golfing Sanctuary Package at CordeValle: One night of accommodation in a luxurious bungalow located hillside with view of the golf course. CordeValle is located within the Santa Cruz mountains on 1,700 acres which allows for many adventures and site-seeing. This package also includes two rounds of golf with cart rental.

Other auction items include a Bon Jovi autographed electric fender guitar signed by all band members. Justin Bieber and Taylor Swift autographed and framed 11 x 14 photos.

The Foundation's banner will be hung over Pleasanton's iconic city sign from Monday, February 13 through Sunday, February 19. Student and adult volunteers adorned with mardi gras beads and masks will be distributing vent postcards at 9:00 am on Saturday, February 18 near the Pleasanton Farmer's Market and downtown streets.

Jamie Carolo, 16, a student in Pleasanton states her volunteer motivations, "It's the simple fact that it benefits another person who is less fortunate. While I am young and have my health on my side, I wish to use all my energy towards making another's life easier. Volunteering is a simple yet effective way for myself and my peers to use our resources and give back. The negative effects of cancer have always been prominent in my life. My Grandmother has gone through colon, breast and lung cancer. A best friend of mine recently beat leukemia/lymphoma. I strive to alleviate the stress and hardships of cancer patients, survivors, and their loved ones."

For more information about the upcoming event, to purchase tickets, and to register as a sponsor visit online at www.healingtherapiesfoundation.org/ragin-cajun-2012 or call (866) 862-7270.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

Family Reading Night, Wednesday, February 29, the teachers at Arroyo Seco Elementary School, 5280 Irene Way, Livermore, are hosting a Family Reading Night. The event will be held at Arroyo Seco School from 6:15-8:00 PM. Families will choose from a variety of activities that focus on reading and language arts skills. Each family will attend two sessions that could include elements of Reader's Theater, poetry, art, crafts or cooking. One of the activities will involve former Arroyo Seco students will also be on hand to showcase that reading is "cool" for teenagers, too. The doors will open at 5:45 PM for families to preview session choices.

Daffodil show, The Northern California Daffodil Society will hold its annual Bay Area daffodil show at Alden Lane Nursery, 981 Alden Lane, Livermore, on Sat., March 3, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and Sun., March 4, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The show is open to the public. Admission is free. Visit www.daffodil.org or call show chairman Kirby Fong at 443-3888.

Kindergarten, Do you have a child turning 5 on or before November 1, 2012 and ready for kindergarten? Come to Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District's annual Kindergarten Registration Fair on Thursday, March 1 from 3pm-7pm or Friday, March 2nd from 2-6PM at the Robert Livermore Community Center. For more information, visit www.livermoreschools.com.

Budget workshop, in preparation of its 2012-2014 budget, the City of Livermore would like to invite residents to share their views and ideas about city services and needs. A Community Budget Workshop will be held on Thursday, February 16, 2012, from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at the Robert Livermore Community Center located at 4444 East Avenue. Those unable to attend the workshop, may share their views and ideas about city services and needs by taking an online survey February 17, 2012 - Friday, February 24, 2012 at www.cityoflivermore.net and click on "PennyforYourThoughts" link.

Foothill & Amador Juniors: Coming soon to Foothill High School: for only \$165, learn the strategies needed to outsmart the SAT with Catalyst's SAT Boot Camp! Saturday & Sunday, March 3rd & 4th - class runs 9am - 1pm both days; sign up online at www.CatalystPrep.com. This event is sponsored by Foothill's AABC and Amador's PTSA. Questions email: katrina.edwards@mac.com for FHS students or CarlaSB45@gmail.com for AVHS students.

Tri-Valley Republican Women Federated, 2012 Election kick-off games. America is one of the few countries where women have the right to vote, work, hold jobs, and participate in politics. Luncheon is on Saturday, March 10th, 11:30 a.m., at The Rock House Restaurant, 1840 Portola Avenue, Livermore. Cost of lunch is \$20 per person. For reservations or information call Phyllis at 925-462-4931 or email coupclan1962@pacbell.net.

Livermore Library Board of Trustees, meeting 7 p.m. Thurs., Feb. 23 at the Civic Center Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave. An agenda will be posted at the library 72 hours prior to the meeting.

Valley Spokesmen Bicycle Touring Club, Sat., Feb. 18, 38 to 48 miles Feather Pedals Ride conditioning event for Cinderella, meet 8:45 a.m. at Dublin High School, Rebecca Wood, 577-3842. Sun., Feb. 19, 32 miles Lafayette to Moraga, meet 10 a.m. at staging area on Olympic Blvd., Alberto Lanzas, 510-825-9581. Wed., Feb. 22, 30 miles Sunol-Palomares loop, meet 9:30 a.m. at Shannon Center in Dublin, Elaine Nadeau, 216-0801. Anyone planning to go on a ride is asked to call the leader for details on where to meet and what to bring.

San Ramon Valley Newcomers Club invites new and long-time residents to its monthly luncheon on March 15 at Faz Restaurant, 600 Hartz Ave., Danville. The speaker will be Harry Hubinger, an author of a monthly column "Stamps on my Passport." The cost is \$21. Call Grace, 828-8554, for

reservations or information.

Bingo in Livermore has a new night with a Progressive Jackpot game. Tuesday Night Bingo has come to the Bingo Ranch at 3070 Pacific Avenue Livermore. Cash prizes from \$175 to \$1199. Doors open at 4:30pm and games begin at 7:00pm. Follow us on Facebook: <http://tinyurl.com/85lyedm>. As a reaction to the state education budget and funding, schools have resorted to creative fundraising in order to keep programs afloat. LVCP High School is hosting the weekly Tuesday Bingo game at The Bingo Ranch.

The Metabolic Edge, Tues., Feb. 28, 6:30 to 8 p.m. presented by the Tri-Valley YMCA, 6693 Sierra Lane, Suite F, Dublin. Free to YMCA members, \$10 for nonmembers. Register at 263-4443. Information at www.trivalleymca.org.

Support Livermore High School Boys' Volleyball & Win Money, play bingo on Thurs, 2/23, for a chance to win money and fabulous door prizes and enjoy free snacks through the night. Cost for the first pack is \$9 for regular session games. Visit www.livermorehs.schoolloop.com/Bingo for more information and a coupon for a free pack. All proceeds benefit LHS Boy's Volleyball. Bingo Ranch, 3070 Pacific Ave, Livermore. Doors open 5pm, Warm-up games 6:30, Regular Session Games starts at 7pm. Must be 18 or older to play.

Citizenship Process, The Hindu Community and Cultural Center, of Livermore (Shiva Vishnu Temple) will be conducting a free Citizenship Process and Related Issues presentation on Sat., March 10, 2 to 3:30 p.m. This presentation is open to all. Shiva-Vishnu Temple Assembly Hall, 1232 Arrowhead Ave, Livermore. This will be a presentation/talk by Aruna Venkidu ESQ on how to obtain US Citizenship and related issues. For more information contact Suman Jain at suman1218@yahoo.com or call the temple 925-449-6255.

Free income tax help, Feb. 1-April 14. AARP tax aide volunteers, trained and certified by IRS. Serving seniors and low-middle income taxpayers. Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. Mondays noon to 4 p.m. by appointment only (373-5760) and Saturdays 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. walk-ins. Also available at Livermore Library, Dublin Library and Pleasanton Senior Center. For information on schedules go to aarp.org/taxaide or call 1-888-227-7669.

Tri-Valley Communities Against a Radioactive Environment (Tri-Valley CAREs), monitors nuclear weapons and environmental clean-up activities throughout the US nuclear weapons complex, with a special focus on Livermore Lab and the surrounding communities. Tri-Valley CAREs' overarching mission is to promote peace, justice and a healthy environment. All are welcome at the monthly meeting at the Livermore Civic Center Library Thursday, February 16 from 7:30pm to 9pm. For more information call Tri-Valley CAREs at (925) 443-7148 or visit our website at <http://trivalleycares.org>

Jungle of Jewels, The American Cancer Society Discovery Shop in Pleasanton is requesting donations of costume or precious jewelry for its annual jewelry event, "Jungle of Jewels" on March 9, 10 and 11, 2012. Donations are accepted at the shop during open hours: Monday to Friday 10-6, Saturday 10-5, Sunday 12-5. The Discovery Shop is located in the Mission Plaza Shopping Center at 1987-A Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. Contact Monda Wiseman, Mgr. at (925) 462-7374 for more information. All proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society's programs of research, education, service and advocacy.

Toastmasters - Livermore Lunch Bunch meets Mondays at noon, conference room, 2157 First St., Livermore. Learn to develop communication and leadership skills in a supportive environment that fosters self-confidence and personal growth. www.livermoretoastmasters.org.

Widowed Men and Women of Northern CA., Brunch/Lunch in Pleasanton, Feb. 19, 11:30 p.m., RSVP by Feb. 16 to Marsha, 830-8483. Lunch in Pleasanton, Feb. 26, 1 p.m. RSVP by Feb. 23 to Athene, 846-0111. Lunch and optional movie in Dublin, Feb. 29, 11:30 a.m., RSVP by Feb. 26 to Marge, 828-5124.

Pleasantonians 4 Peace, Peaceful War Protest on the fourth Wednesday of the month, February 22, between 5 - 6 at the corners of First and Neal Streets. Ques-

tions?? Call Cathe Norman at (925) 462-7495; Matt Sullivan at mjs7882@gmail.com; or kdowding@pacbell.net. www.Pleasantonians4Peace.org

Great Canyon Hikes of the Colorado Plateau: Thurs., Feb. 23, 7 p.m. Since 2000, Ken and Marcia Powers of Pleasanton have walked most of the country's premier long-distance trails--Pacific Crest Trail, Continental Divide Trail, Appalachian Trail, American Discovery Trail, Grand Enchantment Trail, Arizona National Scenic Trail, and more. A digital presentation of their latest adventure--exploring the red rock canyons of the Colorado Plateau will be the topic for Ken and Marcia. Register for this free presentation at www.rei.com/dublin.REI.7099AmadorPlazaRoad, in Dublin; for more information about these programs, (925) 828-9826.

Livermore Peripheral Neuropathy Support Group meets every fourth Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m. in the second floor conference room at Heritage Estates Retirement Community. The address is 900 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore All are welcome. Contacts are: Sandra Grafath 443-6655 or Lee Parlett 292-9280.

Eighth Annual Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour: Registration for the Eighth Annual Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour, which will take place on Sunday, May 6, 2012 from 10 to 5, is now open. This free, award-winning tour features 45 Alameda and Contra Costa county gardens that are pesticide-free, conserve water, provide habitat for wildlife, and contain 60% or more native plants. This self-drive tour showcases a variety of gardens, from large parcels in the hills to small lots in the flats. Native plant sales and talks are offered at select gardens. Space is limited and registration is required. This tour will fill; register early to ensure a place. Volunteers are needed. Please register or volunteer at www.bringingbackthenatives.net/ A companion event, the Native Plant Sale Extravaganza, will take place throughout the weekend of April 30 and May 1.

Bingo Bash, Italian Catholic Federation, Branch #285 is holding its annual "Bingo Bash," a fund-raiser to aide the Cooley's Anemia research at Children's Hospital-Oakland and the college scholarship fund. The event will be held Saturday, Feb. 18, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Michael's Parish Hall, 372 Maple St., Livermore. There will be 10 games of bingo, dancing to the music of DJ Joe Buonsante, a raffle and a dance exhibition by Grace & Bryan Bandong. Cost is \$10.00 per person. Beverages, pizza and snacks available for purchase. Reservation deadline: Feb. 13. Call Rose S. 925-846-4227 or Elaine M. 925-846-0897. If unable to attend, a donation would be appreciated. Mail donations to ICF c/o E. Meier, 6597 Lansing Ct., Pleasanton, Ca. 94566.

Tri-Valley Democratic Club monthly meeting, Mon., Feb. 20, 7 p.m. doors open, 7:30 p.m. meeting. This will be a meet the candidates night. Q&A will follow brief statements by the candidates. Refreshments. IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Pkwy, Dublin.

4th annual "Ragin Cajun" Mardi Gras themed dinner and dance, silent and live auction fund-raiser for the Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation (SJWHTF), on Friday, March 2, at 6:30 p.m. at the Palm Event Center in Pleasanton. Tickets are \$85 per person. The event will be hosted by Jessica Aguirre and Mike Inouye. Bring your dancing shoes, beads and masks to the event. Help us, help cancer patients. Last year's event sold out, purchase tickets early. Visit www.healingtherapiesfoundation.org or call (866) 862-7270.

Writing Club for Young Adults, ages 12-21, are invited to join The Writing Club at the Livermore Public Library, Civic Center. The Writing Club will meet once a month on Thursdays, February 23, March 29, and April 26, 2012, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., for a fun-filled evening of writing with author J.L. Powers. This free event will take place in the Storytime Room of the Civic Center Library, 1188 South Livermore Avenue, Livermore. Learn about publishing your works and how to expand writing horizons. Write and edit each other's work. For more information, please visit TEEN SPACE on the library's website: www.livermorelibrary.net, or contact Sandy at 925-373-5500, extension 5583.

Operation: S.A.M. "Supporting All Military" is a 501(c)3 non profit military support organization based in Livermore. S.A.M. has

been in operation since January 2004. It is dedicated to the continued support of deployed troops. Preparation of comfort packages takes place every other week - all year long. Providing morale support for those deployed. All information provided is confidential and is not shared for security purposes. To submit a name and address, inquire about donations or helping, please visit www.operationsam.org, email operationsam@comcast.net or call 925 443-7620 for more information and the calendar of events.

Free Diabetes Self-Management Classes, 6 to 7 week series will teach you how to manage your diabetes with exercise, health eating (including the foods you love) and medications, and answer all your questions about living with diabetes. Thursdays, February 23 through April 5 at the Pleasanton Senior Center. Class is open to adults of all ages (not just Seniors) with pre-diabetes or type 2 diabetes. Please call the Alameda County Diabetes Program at 510-383-5185 to register. Space is limited.

Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), Josefa Higuera Livermore Chapter, meets 9:30 a.m. first Saturday of the month from September to May at Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., Livermore. DAR is a women's service organization. Members are descended from a patriot of the American Revolution and are dedicated to patriotism, preservation of American history, and securing America's future through education. Contact Maris at 443-3087 or mhl3frog@yahoo.com.

D.A.R. Daughters of the American Revolution, Jose Maria Amador Chapter, Pleasanton. Meetings first Saturday of the month at 10 a.m. Group is comprised of descendants of Patriots of the American Revolution. It is a service organization that provides contests, awards and scholarships and events celebrating American history. For members, prospective members, and information on meeting location, contact Ann 510-507-5509 or anarisco@comcast.net.

Community Resources for Independent Living (CRIL) offers services to help people with disabilities and supports them to live independently and participate in their community for as long as they are willing and able to do so. CRIL maintains offices in Hayward, Fremont and Livermore to provide information and referrals and provide community education at senior centers and affordable housing complexes to residents of Southern Alameda County. The Tri-Valley office is located at 3311 Pacific Avenue, Livermore 94550 and can be reached by phone at (925) 371-1531, by FAX at (925) 373-5034 or by e-mail at abril.tamay@cril-online.org. All services are free.

RELIGION

Faith Chapel Assembly of God, 6656 Alisal St., Pleasanton, Sunday School for all ages 9:15 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m., Children's Church 11:15 a.m. Women's Bible study Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Intercessory prayer 1st and 3rd Wednesdays. Please call office at 846-8650 for weekly programs.

Trinity, 557 Olivina Ave., Livermore. Sunday worship at 8:30 and 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday school or Bible study for all ages at 9:45 a.m. Awana is Sunday at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday nights there is adult Bible study at 6:45 and NRG and Re.Gen for youth, and children's choir for kids. Child care during all events. 447-1848, www.trinitylivermore.org.

St. Charles Borromeo, 1315 Lomitas Ave., Livermore. Meditation groups following the John Main tradition, every Monday 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. For details, contact Claire La Scala at 447-9800.

Stepping Stones on Grief Journey workshop, bimonthly event. St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Dr., Pleasanton. 2nd and 4th Thursday at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 23, 2012 and March 8 & 22, 2012. No preregistration is necessary. These sessions are open to all, regardless of religious affiliation. Please call Mary Hagerty at 925-846-5377 for more information.

Catholicism, St. Michael Catholic Church in Livermore will screen all ten episodes of Father Robert Barron's groundbreaking "Catholicism" series, followed by a question and answer session led by Suzanne Slupesky, Catholic theology scholar. One episode will be featured per night for 10 consecutive

Mondays through March 12, 2012, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in St. Michael Parish Hall located on the 300 Block of Maple Street, Livermore, California. Admission is free. Learn what Catholics believe and why. Discover the full meaning of the faith. For additional information on Father Barron's series visit www.catholicismseries.com. St. Michael Parish, 458 Maple Street, Livermore, 925-447-1585.

St. Charles/St. Michael's Bible Study, Mondays through February 20, St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Community at 1315 Lomitas Ave., Livermore; 7:30-9:00 p.m. in the Pope Room. The topic for this session is Jesus and the Gospels. All are welcome, beginners to the experienced. For more information about this even contact Julie at 925-447-4549 ext 114 or at upcatholic@aol.com.

St. Innocent Orthodox Church, 1040 Florence Rd., Livermore. Sunday service at 10 a.m. For details please see our website at www.stinnocent.net or call Fr. Leo Arrow-smith at 456-0845.

Join in conversation about "The Shack" Wednesday evenings at 7:30 and Thursday mornings at 10:30. Pastor Chuck Johnstone will be hosting a discussion group on the most impactful Christian writing of our time. "The Shack" has sold over 15 million copies and tackles questions about God's role in human tragedy and how guilt, shame and issues of God's judgment shape our views about God. Drop-in participants welcome. Location: 4743 East Avenue, Livermore, for more information contact the church at 925-447-1950. Copies of the book available at the class. Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Avenue in Livermore.

St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton. Services on Sunday, 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. All are welcome and worship, whether or not you feel called to participate in any other way in the community. For more information call the church office 925-462-4802.

Ash Wednesday Services, Wed., Feb. 22, St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton. The first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday, is February 22. Worship services at St. Clare's will be: 6 a.m., 12 Noon, and 7 p.m. For more information call the church office: 925-462-4802.

Philosophers' Café/Culture Chat, an informal gathering to discuss ideas, will hold its February meeting Sunday, February 19 at 10:45 a.m. at Café Rumi, 799 Heyer Ave., Castro Valley. The topic is "How do we balance social responsibility with consumerism and convenience?" Philosophers' Café/Culture Chat is an activity of the Tri-Valley Cultural Jews, a Secular Humanistic Jewish community, but is open to the entire community. (Non-members are asked to donate \$5 per session.) Further sessions are scheduled for March 18, April 1 and May 6 with topics to be announced. For information, please contact (925) 240-5612.

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, 678 Enos Way, Livermore. Services on Sunday at 8am and 10:30am. Children's Sunday school during the 10:30am service. For more information call the church office at (925) 447-3289 or SaintBartsLivermore.com.

St. Bart's Episcopal Youth Group, 68 Enos Way, Livermore. Meets the third Sunday of each month in the Parish Hall from 5 to 6pm. The next meeting will be Sunday, February 19 at 5pm. Contact Abigail Plemmons at 925) 292-9252 or doctorabbypcbiz@yahoo.com.

Eckankar, "Awaken to Greater Spirituality in Your Life" is the theme of the next ECK Worship Service, Sunday, February 19 at 11:00 AM. The ECK Worship service is held once a month on the third Sunday at the Four Points Sheridan, 5115 Hopyard Road (about 2 blocks south of the I-580 Hopyard exit). For further information, Please contact <http://eck-ca.org/> by computer.

Shrove Tuesday Pancakes & Gumbo! Tuesday, February 21, 2012 - starting at 6 p.m. St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton. Shrove Tuesday (also known as Pancake Day) is the day preceding Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. St. Clare's will be feeding the hungry masses with the return of its gumbo and pancake meal. A simple \$5.00 donation (per person) is asked to help us cover the costs. For more information call the church office 925-462-4802.